



OCTOBER 2020
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Eamonn Cummins, back seat, with Jim Moriarty and Larry Cummins enjoying the Kerryman Bar and Restaurant on a top down kinda day in Chicago!

Who's Got Your Back?

I was raised with strong morals and principles. For that reason, the following article will make more sense to those who can relate. Covid -19 has made all of our heads spin, and it has hurt many businesses - and will shut down many more - in the coming months. Is it not always our responsibility as human beings to stand up for what is right and just? I am a big advocate of small businesses - being a small business owner myself - so in essence I felt it necessary to highlight how I have been let down by corporate America. Listen to this:

I have banked with a certain bank for my personal and business needs for several years, and I have never had any issues with my local branch staff to date. They have been wonderful to say the least and very supportive during this challenging time.

The reason I share this information is because I believe my business matters. I employ over forty staff members in addition to providing a much-needed service in the community; companion care to our most vulnerable population: our seniors. Having a bank that stands by me and my business is critical to say the least. We're supposed to be partners to both succeed, right? Is that not the basic need of all small business owner with their bank?

If there is one thing I found it is this: Read the small print in the documents they give you when opening any account!

You see, recently a check was recreated to resemble my business checks using an accurate routing and account number. Where did this thief get my business account number you ask? Not sure, but perhaps from our mailbox as bills wait to go out, a practice we no longer take part in. This is a separate scam to washing checks, I might ad. To those reading this article do NOT leave your mail in your mailbox for your mail carrier to collect if paying bills by check. Drop the mail directly at the post office or have a family member do it for you.

What has unfolded over the course of the last few weeks is astounding to me as I am sure it will be for you also, when I explain the facts. Here is what I uncovered.

When a fraudulent check goes through your bank you have a very specific amount of time to report it. In this bank's case, it is a 30-day window. According to their fraud department, your personal signature does not matter when fraudulent checks come through their system, it is your routing and account number that submit the check for payment against your account. The computerized banking machines do not have the capability to detect signatures.

The FDIC insurance that all banks are required to carry only covers a business account up to 250K per account.



Now, in my case, this fabricated check looked like my company check - however there were 7 differentiators, and my bank missed every single one of them:

- 1.It was not my signature.
- 2.The business address had no phone number.
- 3.The memo section was incorrect.
- 4.The logo containing a lock symbol was missing.
- 5.The seal around the lock symbol was oval instead of round.
- 6.The coding along the top of the check was incorrect.
7. The side bar coding was also incorrect.

The check that was cashed against my account was caught by my accountant 51 days after it was cashed for over \$3,250.00, and my bank simply stated, "Claim denied".

After weeks of calls with no one having the decency to return them, I decided to leave my bank and take my business elsewhere. Clearly, they are not customer focused. In these uncertain times where there is such a loss of business, one would

think that these bigger corporations would be hyper-focused on customers to retain their current customers. I think we all can appreciate that there is no new business transacting.

The moral of the story here is my former bank did not have my back.

No accommodations were offered to extend the reporting time despite the pandemic, nor an opportunity to have or discuss my displeasure with the bank. Even at the executive level where I spoke to the higher-ups and was promised a call back, there has been no follow-up from the executive office to me to date. The amount of the check is irrelevant - however, just imagine if there was another zero tagged on to the check the thieves cashed. I would have to close my doors, another small business gone.

At the end of the day it was not about the money but about the principle of the entire situation. In today's world it is important to stand your ground, and advocate for yourself and your business, and for those that depend on you. I have to stand by my principles. I need a bank who supports me and does not penalize me for bringing the fraudulent check to their attention 51 days after they cashed it against my account.

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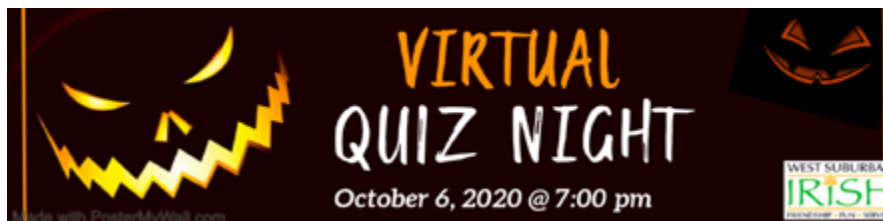
Join your friends from *West Suburban Irish* on Tues, Oct 6 at 7:00 pm for four rounds of trivia!

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Register your team* today to duke it out for prizes and a healthy dose of Quiz Night glory. Cutoff is Tuesday, October 6th at 6:15 pm. There's space for 25 teams so get that registration in sooner than later. wsirish.org for more info.

What's on tap for this month's

categories? Our Resident Trivia Nerds created four new ones: Creepy Characters, Trivia Tourist, Harvest Time and It Happened in October. What's in store for this month's prizes? Bags of candy and awesome stuff for the winners of every round and for First, Second and Third Place finishers! Teams can be from 1 to 10 people, which means if you want to go it alone



we support you 100%. No shame in that game. For more information check out www.wsirish.org or email Mike Reilly (mike.naperville@yahoo.com) or Cynthia Cieckiewicz (ccieckiewicz@gmail.com). Prizes for First, Second and Third Place finishers!

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Pictures of the winning teams will appear in *Positively Naperville* and or www.wsirish.org! Can we count on you to take ONE team pic and send it to us? * Email to ccieckiewicz@gmail.com.



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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell

Europe, Ireland, Corona and Politics

A cynic could point out that much of the Corona virus angst currently gripping Europe and North America is essentially First World Angst. The Virus has taken a swipe at the World's wealthiest countries and their comfortable living standards. Deaths from the Virus have mainly been among the elderly and those with "existing medical conditions" some of which at least, like Diabetes II, are predominantly down to First World diet and lifestyle. Elsewhere, where the Virus is now taking hold, most in those categories would probably have died sooner, one way or another, with the lower life expectancies and inferior health care systems in developing countries.

The restrictions on travel, on holidays, on bars, restaurants, hotels and nightlife, have in practice curbed the lifestyle and spending of disposable income by those fortunate enough to have some, again mainly in the affluent North. The economic "hit"



Europeans have taken has been considerably ameliorated by governments in Ireland and elsewhere throwing borrowed money at

and to subsidise their populations, something poorer countries cannot afford. What has happened has been horrible but for many worldwide it is worse. These simple facts seem to have passed over the heads of those affected here. And if indeed the Virus is a case of God tapping humanity on the shoulder, then it is but a small foretaste of what lies ahead for us all very soon over Global Warming.

The Corona Virus has now got its second wind in Ireland as elsewhere, with new cases rising in a flow that threatens to become a flood. We're not yet in the basket case category of Israel, which now has 190,929 cases and 1273 dead - up sevenfold fold in cases and four fold in deaths since 1 July. In the same period Ireland, which was roughly on a par with Israel for cases then, has had 8,000 new cases (to 33, 121) and another 33 deaths (to 1792). Nor are we as bad as Romania, again roughly on a par with us on 1 July but which has seen new cases quadruple to 113,589 and deaths more than double to 4458.

The Second Wave in Europe is under way,

worse than in Ireland. Alarms are ringing, with some countries, including the UK, warning of an imminent second lockdown - unless! In Ireland as elsewhere, the only scene that matters is the domestic one and here the perception is often more potent that reality. While we are doing well, with new cases far below those of last April, the 3347 new cases and 15 deaths since 7 September, combined with the accelerating rate of infections, have been enough to frighten the horses of the NPHEd. New restrictions, particularly for Dublin, with threats of more to come. However, after months of restrictions and regulations, a weariness is setting in and there seems little public enthusiasm for more of the same.

Currently there is still - just - public support for the new measures and trust in the medical experts, but if the measures are not seen to work quickly and definitively then this could change. The happy consensus is gone, with doubts now expressed about the efficacy and desirability of more lockdown, given the effects on the economy and public morale generally. There is a growing belief that even another total lockdown, while temporarily effective, will only flatter to deceive, and that the virus will remain, dormant but deadly, returning when restrictions are eased. Questions increasingly being heard are "to what end?" and "how often will this happen? and "when will it end?" The answer to the last is all too obvious - when a safe and effective vaccine is developed and readily available. Don't hold your breath.

One of Ireland's top political commentators wrote that the Coalition's honeymoon period was over. And how! The Corona Virus is threatening to take from the one major success of Martin's government to date - getting the schools back, which even opponents and critics have hailed. GolfGate was a spectacular own goal by the political Establishment, costing the Government its Agriculture Minister, Fianna Fail its deputy leader and Ireland its EU Commissioner. More importantly it did much to erode public trust and the belief that as a community we were "all in it together." The consequences of that loss of trust have implications not just for the struggle against the virus but for the fortunes of the Government itself.

Irish politics today has an eerie half-light feel. The Government is based on the results of last February's election, an election dominated by health and housing and a general feeling of dissatisfaction with the outgoing government's performance, including its failure finally to put to bed the legacy issues of the 2008 Crash. How remote

that now feels. One inglorious remark on the doorstep was from a gentleman who reportedly said he had had all he could take! Has Covid woken him up? February's stalemated result led to several months of interparty negotiations even as the Covid crisis unfolded, with the outgoing government functioning as a caretaker one, and perceived to have coped relatively well. The cheap shots that usually characterise Opposition attacks on the Government were largely absent, not through altruism, but because even the most blinkered ideologue realised that combatting the Virus was the major priority facing the country.

The new Government, cobbled together from Fine Gael, Fianna Fail and the Greens, took office on June 27. It has a safe enough majority - on paper - though there are already signs of strain with the Greens, something likely to exacerbate over the October budget and beyond as Green policies rub up against those of the two bigger parties. Emerging internal divisions within Fianna Fail are another factor. What may prove the glue holding it together is the Benjamin Franklin principle, and here the major imponderable is the Corona Virus. Can it be contained? How bad will it get, given Ireland's chronically under resourced health care system with, at the cutting edge, the lowest number of ICU beds in Europe, and a front line work force that has already been under pressure since March? How to react to hundreds more dead? Currently there seems a general optimism throughout Europe that the Second Wave will kill fewer people, since those increasingly infected are younger, fitter, and less likely to succumb, and because countries have learned how better to treat patients as well as how to isolate and protect the most vulnerable. Only time will tell how well founded this optimism is.

The major consequence of excluding Sinn Fein, marginally the largest party, from government has been to gift them the status of Main Opposition, the balance being a rag bag of small left wing parties and independents. Given that all the election issues "haven't gone away, you know," but are on hold and may fester, Sinn Fein have an unparalleled opportunity to criticise "constructively" and assume the mantle of the Government-in-Waiting. With the Virus, with the plethora of issues to be handled, with inter-party strains and internal problems among the Coalition partners, it will take some form of Houdini act by Martin and Varadkar to rescue this.

Sean Farrell is a retired Irish diplomat and former Irish Consul General in Chicago in 2006-2007.

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On October 10, 1871, the citizens of Chicago awoke to an unrecognizable landscape: where 48 hours earlier there had been a vibrant city of ornate civic buildings, grand hotels, and cultural institutions, now there was nothing but a smoking pile of rubble stretched for miles on end.

Many wondered: could the city possibly recover? And how did tensions between the city's elites and the immigrant poor lead to the wrong person being wrongfully accused of starting the blaze?

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publisher William Bross, Mayor Roswell B. Mason, a heroic Board of Trade custodian (and former slave) Joseph Hudlin, and a successful businesswoman named Catherine O'Leary.

The website will explore the causes, progression, and lasting repercussions of the fire, including how a terrible fire the previous day further depleted a woefully understaffed fire department. Animations, photos, illustrations, and interviews explore the connections between four eyewitnesses and themes that emerge from their stories: What was life like for Irish immigrants like Catherine O'Leary? How did the city rebuild? What buildings and relics still show the scars of the fire today? And what allowed Chicago to become a tinderbox waiting to catch fire in the first place? Video extras tour "11 Buildings that Survived the Great Chicago Fire" and "11 Objects that Survived the Great Chicago Fire."

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



The UK's Dying Sting?

On May 6th 2021 there will be a Scottish Parliament election. Absent a major upset, First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, will lead the Scottish Nationalist Party to an overall majority. Sturgeon's party may win as many as 80 seats in a 129 seat parliament. In the December UK general election, it won an extraordinary 81% of the Scottish seats in Westminster. Sturgeon has vowed to demand a second Scottish Independence Referendum in the lifetime of the next Scottish Parliament and to publish draft legislation for that referendum in advance of the election. So, in effect, an independent Scotland will be on the ballot next May.

Support for Scottish Independence stands at 53% as against 47% who wish to remain in the UK among those who declared their stance in a YouGov poll in August. That is higher than ever before and the number is growing.

Boris Johnson and his colleagues in the Conservative Party have consistently refused to countenance a second Scottish Independence Referendum since the independence motion was defeated in September 2014. In July of this year, Boris Johnson went North to explain to the Scots how blessed they are to be in a union with Britain. But Johnson's vapourings hold little sway in Scotland: only 20% of Scots think that he is a good leader.

Brexit is due to be fully implemented by December 31st 2020 and the prospect that there will be a trade deal in place with the EU by then looks increasingly remote. A no-deal Brexit, which Johnson likens to the deal that Australia has with the EU, would be catastrophic and would likely add huge support to

Scottish Independence. Even with a deal, by mid-2021 the disruption of Brexit will be a living reality in Scotland (where the electorate voted by a comfortable majority in 2016 against Brexit). Sturgeon will plausibly argue that the negative consequences of Brexit will only exacerbate with time.

In canvassing this perspective, Sturgeon is pushing an open door. The reason that the more and more Scots want to exit the UK is that staying means exiting the EU. Back in 2014, opponents of Scottish Independence maintained that Scotland should continue to enjoy the benefits of membership of both the UK and the EU—that is no longer possible. Today advocates of an Independent Scotland are bolstered by the fact that the EU will expedite an Independent Scotland's candidacy to join the EU.

Scottish Independence this time will likely mean a clean break with the sterling currency and the British monarch as head of state—unlike the timorous approach to independence in 2014, Scotland separatists would have to nail their colours to the mast properly in a much more meaningful vote.

Britain can only stymie Scotland from holding a second Independence referendum for so long. Pete Wishart, a Scottish National Party MP, stated in Westminster this July that his party would consider 'withdrawing from the apparatus of the UK state' if the Conservative Party continues to refuse. Wishart elaborated that such a boycott would include 'participation in institutions of the UK parliament'. That is fighting talk. It will be all the more potent when the SNP gains an overall majority in the parliamentary election next May.

The UK without Scotland is completely unsustainable. So, is this how the UK will disintegrate? Losing Scotland would bring down Johnson and his government and even destroy his party. The rise of an English nationalist party would likely fill the vacuum created by the Conservatives and the impetus behind Brexit would show its true colours.

Or will it all flop? After all, the union between Scotland and England is over 3 centuries old. It was born of English coercion and Scottish dispossession,

but attitudes and the economies North and South of Hadrian's Wall have coalesced considerably. Besides, retaining Scotland is a matter of huge pride to the monied and influential ruling class in England. The trauma of Brexit has not yet fully hit home, but when it does it could indeed cause a rupture. And it happens that Nicola Sturgeon is the most talented political leader that Scotland has produced for a very long time. It would be foolhardy to bet against her.

Right on cue, Boris Johnson managed to give the SNP even further justification in seeking independence. Brandon Lewis, the principal UK government appointee in Northern Ireland, announced that Britain would be breaking the Withdrawal Agreement it negotiated last year with the EU. As Lewis said in Westminster Parliament on September 8th: 'This does break international law...We're taking the power to disapply the EU law concept of direct effect required by article 4'.

Cascades of criticism of Britain's misconduct ensued. There is no way that the EU will tolerate this behaviour from the UK—even if it means export blockades next January. US politicians were equally scathing. As Speaker Pelosi said: 'If the UK violates that international treaty and Brexit undermines the Good Friday accord, there will be absolutely no chance of a US-UK trade agreement passing the Congress. The Good Friday Agreement is treasured by the American people and will be proudly defended in Congress'. Congressman Richie Neal won his primary and will run unopposed in November. So, Neal will remain Chair of the Ways and Means Committee in the US Congress, and that committee will decide whether or not to ratify a trade deal with the UK post-Brexit. Neal also chairs the Friends of Ireland caucus in Congress and his perspectives on Ireland align with Pelosi's. The UK government has managed to miss every warning over the past 4 years from Congress against its breaking treaty obligations with respect to Ireland and yet hoping for a good deal in the US Congress. Now the UK looks set to find out the hard way.

As The New York Times Editorial Board wearily wrote on September 11th: 'the Brexit serial is back'. Just don't expect it to cheer you up.

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Remembering an Extraordinary Music Man - Mike Kirkpatrick

Contributors: *Rachel Kahsen, David Callahan, Mark Howard, Katherine Iannitelli*

Pick up this glass, we'll down a round.

This night won't always be.

If hard times fall upon us all, I say it will not last.

For we shall see our good friends free.

Their love will tell the tale.

And all vain pride be left aside

when fortune turns her wheel.

These lines, written by Irish music composer and producer Mike Kirkpatrick nearly 30 years ago, read with terrible poignancy this week as the Chicago music community mourns the passing of the man who first came to prominence as leader of **The Drovers**. After a four-year battle with cancer, Mike finally raised his own parting glass on August 27.

Mike's family originated from Asheville, North Carolina. His father Jesse was in the Air Force, which sent the family to places like Mountain Home, Idaho where Mike was born, then to Germany, Great Falls Montana, and finally Tucson Arizona.

He was surrounded by music from an early age. His mother Ann studied music at Furman University and was a vocalist in the Great Falls Symphony Choir. She taught Mike how to play the piano and read music. One of the earliest songs his brother Rick remembers his mother teaching Mike was Steppenwolf's "Magic Carpet Ride." "It was interesting to see her and my brother at the piano learning a Steppenwolf song," Rick said.

Mike's father had a bit of music in him too, with a sweet rendition of Red River Valley he would play on the harmonica. On a trip back to North Carolina to reconnect with family, Mike's fondest memories were of time spent with his cousin David Fullam, a Bluegrass guitar player and singer, who inspired him to pursue playing guitar.

I asked him which song he remembered cousin David playing that had initially moved him so much, and it was **Tecumseh Valley by Townes Van Zandt**. Mike became a music major at University of Arizona, and immersed himself in theory and composition. He and his peers were not only into the classical greats like Bach, Beethoven, Stravinsky, but also the jazz greats- Miles Davis, Charles Mingus, Duke Ellington, and also the fringes Mahavishnu Orchestra, Soft Machine, Frank Zappa. A dear friend of his at this time was renowned Tucson singer, song writer, and guitarist **Rainer Ptacek** (Giant Sand).

While working at the Record Bar in Tucson in the late 70's a friend happened to play him one of the earliest **Chieftans** recordings, and he was stunned, he had not heard anything like it, "never heard Irish pipes, never heard wood flute played like that, the fiddle player was great, everything about it had this kind of really raw

element to it, I knew it was the music for me," he said.

Mike was intrigued and tried to find more traditional Irish music, not such an easy task in those days, and in that town. He was initially only able at first to find a Boys of the Lough record. But shortly after, at the record store, a new box of promo records came in, he opened it up, "and it was this providential kind of thing" in his words. At the very top of the stack were the first two **Bothy Band** records. He had no idea who they were but saw they had jigs and reels, and were on **Mulligan Records**, telling him he had found some new Irish music. Mike chose to play the most recent record first, "Old Hag You Have Killed Me" and in his words "that was that", he was hooked.

He went out and found a tin whistle in D, and was able to teach himself a couple of tunes. He estimated that when he arrived in Chicago, he had worked out about 5 traditional tunes on guitar and whistle.

Mike reunited with his former girlfriend, **Mary Ward**,



who had invited him to move to Chicago with her. Mary was a part of the modern dance scene in Chicago at the time. Mike very soon began writing original music for her dance company, and many others. A culmination of their collaboration was a piece that was performed at the Civic Opera House, entitled **Ballydesmond**, with Mike's original music, a result of a trip they had taken to that town in Ireland.

Within a few weeks of arriving in Chicago, he had his first professional engagements as an Irish musician. After sitting

in on some sessions at the now famous **Heartland Café**.

He was invited to play with **Barry Foy, Kevin O'Dwyer, Billy Brown** and **Tommy Keane** from Dublin. They got a few gigs in Milwaukee, and some places around town, but then Billy and Tommy went back to Dublin.

Mike soon met **Ross Thompson**, and formed **Far Darrig**. He was starting to write his own compositions in strict attention to the Irish Folk tradition. A bit later, he joined **Samradh Music**, founded by his dear friend the late **Michael Donaghy**, with **Martin Dowling, Richard Pettingill**, and **Mary McFadden**.

A few videos of them performing back in the day:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffJe7ZBRsEA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0l1XNZW46E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G543AtTtRj8>

Mike really dove deep into the tradition and history, learning more and more tunes from the many excellent musicians around him. He was especially fond and honored of the time he was able to spend with **Cuz Teahan**. **Johnny McGreevy** was also an inspiration to him. **Liz Carroll** was another that he was a fan of from the beginning, and he was grateful for any opportunity to work with her over the years, including on his last recordings. Liz shared the following thoughts for the **Sun-times** article, "*Often his pieces were tricky, and I think he took great pleasure in my befuddlement over some of the melodies. Always when the arrangements came into place, of course, everything made sense.*"

Mike once shared, "I'd learn pipes tune after pipes tune, after pipes tune. Fiddle tunes are nice, but there is something about the pipes, and the drone of the low D on pipes that is similar on guitar. It is one of the reasons that I opted for this tuning (dadgad), because it is three D's, two A's, and a G. Then the 12 string guitar made more of a jangle, there was something about it that made it uncontrollable, allowing the strings to ring."

Another Mike quote, "I always considered myself a student of the music. That's why I'm always the accompanist, not the featured performer."

Mike met **Mark Howard** in the lobby of Lakeview's Century Mall where both his band **Far Darrig**, and **Mark's Trinity Academy of Irish Dance** were performing. An upcoming Irish festival had sent Irish bands and dance schools out to shopping malls to advertise the event. Mike and **Mark's** collaborations yielded early and fruitful success. Mike composed the music that helped **Trinity** become the first American team to win

the gold medal at the Irish Dancing World Championship in Galway, Ireland. These successes led them to partner up again for appearances at the Grand Ole Opry and multiple years on the **Tonight Show** Starring **Johnny Carson**. Mike composed the tune "**Johnny**" for **Mark's** choreography in honor of **Johnny's** retirement in 1991. They would go on to collaborate on several formative dances for the professional touring **Trinity Irish Dance Company**. Their work together was and continues to be celebrated by audiences world-wide--from Chicago's Auditorium Theatre,

to New York's Joyce Theater, to Tokyo's Orchard Hall--and has attracted critical acclaim from the *New York Times* to the *LA Times*.

Per Mark, "Mike Kirkpatrick is the reason why I choreograph dances in a performing arts setting. He's the reason why the **Trinity Irish Dance Company** exists. He was a true artist, creating music every day, continuing to listen and write through his final few. I was in awe of him. Any honest artist worth their salt knew they were in the presence of greatness. He was my friend, and he will be impossible to replace. 'All passes. Art alone endures' is a Milton line that must have been written for him."

The Drovers

The Drovers began in 1988 as a house pick-up band at the Hidden Shamrock on Halsted St., with a revolving cast of local musicians. At its center were drummer **Jackie Moran** and fiddler **Sean Cleland**, who after several months recruited Mike to play electric guitar with the group.

With his guidance and songwriting, *The Drovers* would

build a formidable reputation as a live act, packing houses from coast to coast, with a brutal schedule of near-constant touring. The sound was so original and fresh that, among Irish-influenced groups, the Drovers had a virtual monopoly on the alternative rock/college music circuit for most of the 1990s. They were also featured in two major motion pictures, *Backdraft* and *Blink*.

The band was paired on bills with acts like Yo La Tengo, Common and Ani DeFranco. "Mike's vision led us into really different territory for an Irish music group," says Drovers bassist and lead singer **Dave Callahan**. "That probably helped open doors for other Irish groups that were trying to shift into rock and pop."

Mike's songs mixed Irish dance rhythms with Beatles-esque pop structures and extended instrumental sequences that were influenced by artists as diverse as Charles Mingus and Soft Machine. The melodies were graced with his unique blend of poetry inspired by an eclectic range of sources, including Sappho, ballads of Irish emigration and fragments of conversation he would pick up in places like Chicago El platforms and bars where *The Drovers* were gigging.

Callahan lived around the corner from the **Hidden Shamrock**. An amateur busker, and a journalist by profession, Callahan would eventually join the group and become Mike's right-hand man.

"He was my mentor, a kind of big brother," Callahan says. "He inspired me to begin writing too, and get good enough to contribute songs to the band."

"I used to go down there to listen to them even before Mike joined. When he was recruited you could hear their sound change immediately. His guitar accompaniment had a way of lifting lead musicians so that you hear them in a different way. You heard their strengths and their

individual style better."

For many an Irish traditional musician in Chicago, Mike was already a favorite accompanist. Callahan says he thinks Mike really considered himself a dance accompanist.

"Back then, he always told the crowd, 'You know, **The Drovers** play nothing but dance music, so let's see you dance.' Stuff like that."

Aside from airs and ballads, Irish traditional music



is intended for dance. But there was more to Mike's thinking than that. "It was one of Mike's principles: that lively music should engage people viscerally," Callahan says. "It should make them want to move. Whenever we finished a gig and were going over whether we did well or not, his judgment always came back to whether the crowd was dancing."

Dave says that interaction with the audience was a top priority for Mike. "It was about getting them to dance but also connecting with them through the lyrics. He spent a lot of time chatting with people in the audience before and after shows. Some of them appear as characters in some of his songs," he says. "His songs were personal and impossible to stop thinking about, and they were always constructed around irresistible jig, hornpipe, reel and polka rhythms.

"They were absorbed into your heart and mind, and into your hips, arms and feet," he says.

Mike's ability to facilitate interactions between musicians was key to his success in blending not only the disparate elements of the Drovers, but in future projects where he recruited jazz musicians to work on genre-bending compositions that also involved Irish musicians.

"Another one of Mike's principles, which also finds its basis in Irish traditional music, was that playing music together is a social thing. Mike was really the first person I ever played music with, in a way that you have to do something original, not just cover a well-known song. I can't exactly explain why, though I know it's not because I'm a gifted musician (which I'm not), but when I first worked out a song with Mike playing guitar, I just knew what to do. Everything literally clicked. There was a communication that was immediate and I think it's because of the way he concentrated on me and how I was playing. He

listened to what I was doing as much as I listened to him.

"That's why he was a natural bandleader. Mike knew that each musician has their own unique voice with their instrument, no matter what skill level they're at. And he would zero in on what that is, what it can do, what are its strengths and weaknesses and how he could work it into the music.

"Mike was so good at hearing one's musical identity, that it naturally followed that he would become effective at putting together people - like the Drovers - who have nothing in common musically and make them sound like they belong together," Callahan says. "Maybe it was also because he was as fluent in rock, pop, jazz and classical as he was in Irish trad."

He would succeed at doing this again and again, for years after the Drovers came to a halt.

Along with the Movies *Backdraft* and *Blink*, Mike also has songwriting credit on the movie *Mafia!*, a 1998 comedy film spoof-

ing the *Godfather* and other mafia movies. He earned a nomination for Chicago's illustrious **Joseph Jefferson Awards** for his original compositions in the **Steppenwolf Theater** production of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*. Mike produced albums and composed songs for countless other musicians over the years as well. For some years he taught Irish guitar at the **Old Town School of Folk Music**. He was an inspiration, mentor, and teacher to so many.

Mike did not let his illness slow him down or prevent him from composing, playing, or recording. He formed an extension of *The Drovers* family called "*The Drovers Unlimited Orchestra*". This ensemble features some of the greats of traditional music, some of the greats of modern jazz. And some Drovers. Working with some of his favorite musicians was one of the highest points of his life. Some of the best from the tradition on these recordings knew him from the earliest days in Chicago, and included **Liz Carroll**, **Kevin Burke** (bringing his love of **Bothy Band** full circle), and **Martin Hayes**. His earliest love was jazz, and some of his all time heroes dedicated their time to him, including Jazz Masters **David Liebman**, **Billy Hart**, **Cecil McBee**, **Billy Harper**, **Nick Mazzarella**, and many others. Local musicians **Bob Palmieri**, **Larry Gray**, **Michael Zerang**, **Jason Stein**, **Ed Wilkerson**, **James Conway** to name just a few, also made their contributions. He was especially honored and thankful for the mentorship and support he received from **David Liebman**.

Quoting Mike again, "The rhythms for Jazz and Irish music are compatible. Both styles have a pronounced sense of swing, and a similar type of forward momentum."

Per **Bob Palmieri**, a dear friend, musician, and 26-year DePaul professor of jazz guitar who worked on *The Drovers Unlimited Orchestra* projects:

"Michael's later works were created for the expansive



Far Darrig

canvas known as the *Drovers Unlimited Orchestra*. These musical explorations are spectacular realizations of his wish to integrate Irish traditional music with the most advanced players and components of highly evolved modern jazz. Besides bringing in a stunning roster of some the greatest living practitioners of the modern jazz art, he found the need to integrate Middle Eastern and African percussionists, as well as a star in the world of modern classical flute to join top level pipe and fiddle players from the Irish music scene. And even with this level of individual talents, the whole handily exceeded the sum of these parts.

His unique blend of confidence and humility allowed all the players to quickly focus on Mike’s highly evolved concepts

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and deliver performances that took on attributes within the context that surprised even the players that created them.

Mike’s take was that all music can be world music, and benefits from open structures so players from every background can bring their best to the table, and not only have it fit, but elevate. He was able to embrace spontaneous events sparked by the interactions of the players. The results are wholly unique, beautiful, timeless, indescribable.”

This last sentence of Bob’s perfectly describes his last recording with the Drovers Unlimited Orchestra, which will be released very soon.

Mike may be gone, but his music lives on, in the recordings, and in the work of the many many musicians that he collaborated with, mentored, and inspired. He leaves us with a library’s worth of original compositions left still to be explored. His humor, kindness, and creativity touched all of those who had the fortunate opportunity to know him.

*From this valley they say you are going,
 We’ll miss your bright eyes & sweet smile,
 For they say you are taking the sunshine
 That has brightened our pathway a while.*
 [From the song, Red River Valley]

Photo (right) by Michael Donaghy on his last visit with Mike Kirkpatrick, and partner of over 20 years, Rachel Kashen



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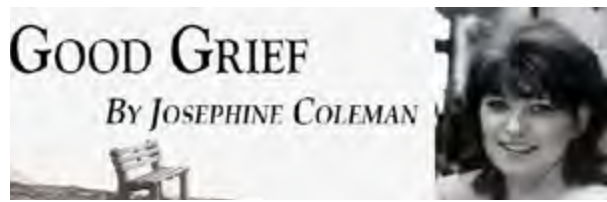
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Can you believe we are finally going into fall or autumn as we say back home. I have never wished a summer to be over as much as this one. I know we are all praying that our scientist who is working tirelessly and under tremendous pressure will get closer to a vaccine. Let's talk about Halloween my favorite time of the year. Our neighbors have a lot of fears about this upcoming Halloween which is very understandable under these present covid19 times. A lot of children really want to get out there Trick a Treating. They feel they have been following the rules and stuck indoors with online schooling. Big shout out to our parents and Teachers. Some families think it's dangerous walking the streets ringing on doorbells others say but you take your kids into stores shopping for groceries and clothes and drive through mc Donald's. Personally we are making up Goodie bags, drinks, masks. They will be placed on banquet tables on our driveway so no one has to touch doorbells. Safety for everyone right! Weather permitting we may light the fire pit on the other side of the driveway wave to the kids.

Halloween is my favorite time of the year. Growing up we would always dunk in basins of water for apples or father would tie strings on them and hang them from the ceiling. He really had fun with us kids he was like a big kid himself at times. We didn't have pumpkins in Ireland at least I never saw any. We had turnips that took hours of bleeding blistered fingers to gouge out those tough fibrous stubborn innards out. Painful but It was worth it to see its huge misshapen crooked smiley face light up our kitchen window. Mother would make sure we had lots of treats. We always had lots of fruits and huge assortment of nuts that we cracked open with hammers or any tools we could find in fathers shed. We never forgot the famous Barmbrack. Halloween was not Halloween without it.

Barmbrack or sometimes known as Bairin Breac. This may be from the Irish word bairin a loaf and breac. It

literally means a speckled loaf filled with sultanas and raisins not as sweet but more akin to sandwich bread

Barmbrack is the center of an Irish Halloween custom. The Halloween brack traditionally had various objects baked into the bread. And was used as a sort of fortune telling game. You could find a pea, a stick, a piece of cloth a small coin a ring. Each item, when received in the slice (while your mother hovered close by watching to make sure her children didn't choke.) Supposedly carried a meaning to the lucky person who was fortunate or unfortunate depending upon the item they choked on in their slice of barmbrack. The pea meant that person would not marry that year. The stick meant you would have an unhappy marriage or continue to be in disputes. The cloth meant you would have bad luck or be poor. The coin meant you would enjoy good fortune or be very rich. The ring you would be wed within the year. Other articles may include a medal with a saint or our Blessed Virgin Mary on it .Guess what that one might mean? Did you guess? Yes your right one may become a priest or a nun. I was going to give you the recipe for it but like me you can buy a raisin loaf and stick whatever you want in the middle. We never ate the Barmbrack we pretended to bite into it hoping to get the sixpence. Sausage rolls was another must around Halloween actually any parties called for sausage rolls. You may want to try this recipe. Tweak it with any meats you want.

INGREDIENTS Olive oil. one onion finely chopped. Pinch of sage. Half a cup of breadcrumbs. (you can use stuffing mix it's got all the nice sage and herbs in there) One egg. Milk for binding. Pinch of nutmeg optional. Six pork sausages take out of casing. Readymade puff pastry.

Dipping sauce. Chef or Hp sauce. You can find these in your local Irish import store.

METHOD Pre heat oven to 350 degrees. Cook onions in olive oil. Add sage then put on plate to cool.

Take sausages out of casing. (I use Irish sausages but you can use Italian. Polish whatever you want.) Put into large bowl. Add onions, sage. Mix in breadcrumbs scrunch together with your hands. On a floured work space roll out puff pastry into big rectangle as thick as two quarters on top of each other. Cut it length ways into two long

even rectangles. Roll your sausage mixture into sausage shapes and lay along the center of each rectangle.

Mix the egg and milk together brush edges of pastry then fold one side over wrapping the filling inside. Press down with your fingers to seal the join.

Cut the long rolls into the size you want. Space them out in a baking tray. Brush with the rest of the egg wash mixture and bake in the pre heated oven for twenty five minutes or until they are puffed and golden brown and cooked through.

I hope you may try this recipe or you can buy them ready cooked in our Irish import stores. Dont forget your Irish sauce. Wishing you all a safe and healthy Halloween.

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Dr. Ronan Tynan is a talented man from my home area Johnstown, Kilkenny but he was born in Dublin. His family home is in Kilkenny something I take great pride in. He is a singer (tenor), doctor, former Paralympic (with disability) athlete & gold medal winner. Tynan is part of the group, The Irish Tenors (Anthony Kearns, Declan Kelly) a singing trio they tour twice a year, Christmas & St. Patrick's Day. Tynan won both the John McCormack cup for Tenor Voice & the BBC talent show, Go For It. Tynan was born with phocomelia, birth defects in which the hands & feet are underdeveloped. (A side effect of taking the drug thalidomide during pregnancy) Tynan had a twin brother who died at only a few months old.

Some of you might remember Tynan singing God Bless America at sporting events. The song God Bless America was written by Irvin Berlin. Berlin's family fled Russia when he was a child. I think a lot of us right now are singing God Bless America.

Tynan has performed at many famous events & for several celebrities. He sang at former New York's Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's wedding, Ronald Reagan's funeral, George Bush's 80th birthday, St.



boy and girl were enjoying a pleasant afternoon playing outside together. The boy showed the girl his collection of beautiful marbles. In turn, the girl showed the boy the candy that she had just gotten for her birthday. The boy proposed that the two of them switch-he would give her all of his marbles if she handed over all of her candy. The girl agreed, as she found the marbles to be beautiful. The boy handed over all of his marbles, but kept one-the most exquisite one of them. The girl kept her promise and gave the boy all of her candy. That night, the girl was happy with the exchange and peacefully went to sleep. The boy, however, couldn't sleep, as he was up wondering if the girl had kept some of her candy, just like he did with the marble. The Moral: If you don't give 100% in your relationships, you will always assume your partner isn't giving 100% either. If you want your relationships to be built on trust, you have to be a participating factor in that. Honesty grows your character. By being honest in relationships, you're holding your partner accountable to do the same. It allows you and your partner to continuously think

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Patrick's Day reception with President Bush and former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern & George Bush's state funeral. He also sang at New York's Archbishop Timothy Dolans installation Mass. Tynan a great Catholic has appeared a few times on EWTN. (Catholic channel)

Tynan has an Autobiography titled, "Halfway Home" for any big readers.

I will leave you with this story. "A young

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Special Benefit for Noel Neylon

Noel Neylon from Kilkee, Co. Clare passed away within 3 months after a diagnosis of esophageal cancer, leaving behind his young wife Dympna McGuire Neylon, and four loving sons. Noel was a proud hard-working man, a self-employed contractor working hard to live the American Dream.

We all know how hard our men and women work in the construction industry, most times 7 days a week at this backbreaking work building our Chicago. Noel like many other self-employed contractors had no union pension or no union benefits. We know how finicky the construction industry can be, and with the latest recession and now COVID it has taken its toll on so many of us as much as it had on Noel and Dympna.

In April while most of us were worried about COVID, being quar-

antined, having to social distance, and having to wear a mask, Noel and Dympna were given the devastating news that he had esophageal cancer. COVID made it increasingly difficult for Noel to see any of his friends and family and in July

his loving sisters came from Ireland to say goodbye. Noel's American dream ended on July 9th, he was far too young and had so much more life to live for. Noel was a quiet gentleman, a treasured husband, father, brother, son, and friend.

On behalf of Noel and his family, we are calling on you all to do

what the Chicago Irish do best. Let us all help the Neylon family, ease some of their financial burdens and pray for their healing. "It's not about one person doing one big thing, it's about a lot of people doing small things that make a difference" so please donate what you can it will mean more than you can imagine to this young family.

Gofundme is up and running at gofundme.com/create/story/neylon-family-benefit

Checks can be made out to Neylon family benefit @ Signature bank

Check out our Facebook page "Neylon Family Benefit" to keep in the loop with all our events and updates.

Mark your calendars for the "Neylon Family Shindig" on December 6, 2020, at Emerald Isle in Edison Park. \$100 raffle tickets are

on sale now, First prize \$3000, Second prize - Lamb, Third prize \$500. We have a great lineup of music and entertainment and the drawing will also take place at this event.

For tickets and questions reach out to any of the com-

mittee members.

Mattie Lally 1 (630) 675 6399, Donna Staunton 773-771-6930, Joan Shine (773) 908-0847

Thank You, The Neylon Family Benefit Committee

Donna Staunton, Nora Delance, Helen Bracken, Joan Shine, Maureen King, Mattie Lally, Kathy Sweeney, and Vince McGuire.



On the Upbeat

By Maryann
McTeague Keifer

It has been a concept a long time in coming, to the point where many of us who have so longed for a solo album had pretty much figured it would never happen, and then as quiet and stealthy as his wit, he has lightened our pandemic burdened hearts with his new album simply titled Pat Broaders. Although he was very unobtrusive in putting it out that he had finished the album, it created a tsunami of interest from his many fellow musicians and fans. I have been inundated with requests for play on my show, and several listeners who downloaded it as soon as they were able are singing its praises, and very rightfully so.

Pat grew up in Dublin, a son of Wexford parents who nurtured his interest in music from the time he was quite young. At the age of eight, he was playing tin whistle and soon advanced to the uilleann pipes. His father was a well-respected singer and gave the desire to sing to his son. Pat followed his love, Sara, here to Chicago in the early 1990s, and we have been fortunate to have him in our midst ever since. A member of Bohola with Jimmy Keane, Open the Door for Three with Liz Knowles and Kieran O'Hare, as well as being half of a long time session partnership with Jimmy Moore, Pat has gifted us with quality Irish music for going on thirty years.

A devoted father, he has passed his love of music onto his children.

In addition to performing, Pat teaches and also owns Pipe Dream Studios where he works to bring other musicians' aspirations to fruition. He has a wonderful way with young bands, and they look to him for approval and inspiration. Whether he is helping them record or just putting them up with a bed and meal as they travel these United States, from the time he opens the door with a "Hey, what's the

craic?" they have a high respect for and lifelong desire for friendship with him.

Pat's rich and clear baritone has told many a musical story over the years and this is one of his greatest talents-being able to sing the story so that it is understandable and potent with meaning and feeling. The songs on this album



Pat Broaders

were specially chosen and have powerfully evocative lyrics that take the listener on a musical adventure through the tales he sings.

He opens with two Wexford rebellion songs, "Kelly, The Boy From Killane" and "The Croppy Boy," both well known and oft sung by notable musicians. Pat brings a quiet punch of meaning to both with his slower paced delivery giving us time to really hear the words and understand the meaning. After two heavily themed songs, he lightens the mood with a gorgeous tune written for his wife Sara who loves the Wisconsin "Merrimac Ferry." You can close your eyes and feel the relaxing ripples of the water as he plays.

His version of "Van Dieman's Land" telling of the emotions of being sent to the Australian penal colony, and the brutally sad story of "Rosemary's Sister," a tale of a young 5 year old girl's death during a wartime bombing blitz and its lifelong effect on her sister, allow us to feel the passion he brings to his songs. Again, after taking us

on a moving journey, he bounces you back up with "The Liz Effect," a tune written for two of his favorite musicians to play with, the inimitable fiddlers Liz Knowles and Liz Carroll. When onstage with these ladies, you may not be able to hear what he is saying, but you know he has his teasing wit going as his mischievous smile gets their eyes twinkling and head shaking laughs going.

Pat does a beautiful rendition of English folk singer June Tabor's "Reynadine," and follows it up with his version of "Farewell Lovely Nancy" with an intro you'll be playing over and over. It is magnificent!

His delivery of the David Francey song, "Where Harry Sat" describes the loss of a brother who will never be forgotten. My favorite, at this time, is his interpretation of "School Day's Over," an Ewan McCall song, well known for most of us by Luke Kelly. He slows it down and makes you hear the story of the young children being robbed of their childhood by being forced down

into the holes to work. You won't forget it.

Pat pays a heartfelt and special tribute to his father by finishing the album sharing a reel to reel soundtrack of his Dad singing "My Irish Jaunting Car," the Wexford accent strong in his voice. It is such a treat to hear and lightens the soul.

I am loving the cover of the album, a picture from the back showing the well worn neck of Pat's "bouzar," a hybrid bass bouzouki/guitar- simple and meaningful. You could probably say that about the entire album. It, like Pat, who is one of the most talented, fun and caring people to ever be poured into shoes, will stay with you, not because it is flashy, but because of its heart and soul.

It has been downloadable on his media pages, and by the time you read this, hard copies will be available.

It is as definite must have for your music library. The wait is over and it has been well worth our patience!

Thanks, Pat!

Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Let the Dead Speak

By: Jane Casey, Minotaur Books
"I'm Maeve Kerrigan. I'm a detective sergeant with the London Metropolitan Police. Do you mind if I ask you some questions?"

This is how this wonderful fictional detective introduces herself. She is gentle and respectful with suspects. But, she is also relentless in tracking down evil-doers. Maeve Kerrigan is the creation of Jane Casey.

Casey was born in 1977 in Dublin and grew up in Ireland. She is the author of many crime fiction novels. Some have even been nominated for the Irish Crime Book of the Year Awards. She is the author of 9 novels that feature Maeve Kerrigan. Casey studied English at Jesus College, Oxford and earned a master's of philosophy at Trinity College, Dublin.

She was a book editor in London until she met her husband. Now, she lives with him and their two children in southwest London. Her husband is a "prosecution barrister and a special constable. He worked with victims of domestic abuse, street violence, and traffic accidents. He is a mine of information, a real insight into how the police force works."

The plot and thoroughness of the police work are gripping. She has a wonderful ability to create believable characters and a talent for using beautiful words and language, as you'll see in the quotes.

Chloe Emery was a teenager who lived with her mother in West London. Kate Emery was her mother. Chloe's parents lived separate lives and even lived far from one another. They had been divorced for years. Chloe had gone to visit her father, but when she returns, she found that Kate was missing and that there was blood in many parts of the house. However, there was no body.

Maeve Kerrigan is assigned the case and sets out to find the body. She interviews many people, care-

fully takes their testimony and checks the truth of the suspect's alibis to see if anybody is lying.

No body is ever found, but we meet many characters as Kerrigan investigates. Casey draws those characters carefully and insightfully.

Maeve Kerrigan interviews a neighbor of Kate Emery on a very warm day. *"The green-painted door swung open to reveal a slim woman with light brown hair and a worried expression, which was fair enough when there were two police detectives on her doorstep. She was wearing a long-sleeved white blouse buttoned up to the neck and ankle-length skirt. I glanced down at her feet to see*



flat, round-toed shoes, soft blue leather, and buff-colored tights. I was wearing my lightest trouser suit over a sleeveless top and I was melting. I would have collapsed from heat exhaustion after five minutes in that outfit."

Maeve discovers that Kate Emery was a very strange person. Her daughter was slow, but not 13 interviews with mom and pop owners, 25 color photos, around the corner segments-for things to do near area dog stands, the Hot dog Quiz, and the Battle of the Hot Dog Mascots.

What others are saying . . .

Bob Sirott, WGN Radio: *"Keep this book in your car and you'll never be more than ten minutes away from finding a great city hot dog joint. How about an all-suburban edition next?!"*

Mark Brown, Chicago Sun-Times: *"The Streets and San Man rides again and he hasn't lost his snap. It takes a real tube steak to write the definitive book on Chicago's best hot dogs, and Dennis Foley is pure beef with a healthy splash of mustard."*

Patricia Ann McNair, author of And These Are The Good Times: *"No Ketchup, Dennis Foley's most recent love letter to Chicago, will leave you both hungry and satisfied, and eager to try every one of these hot dog joints and the delicacies they offer. Chicago's history of hard work and tenacity and the pursuit of happiness by way of the hot dog is told by the proprietors of these meat-based meccas, and Foley collects their stories and serves them up hot and with everything (except ketchup!)."*



No Ketchup by Dennis Foley

NO KETCHUP - Chicago's Top 50 Hot Dogs And The Stories Behind Them.

I had a blast returning to my Streets and San Man roots to put this book together. I hit most of these places over the years but returned to my favorites and took some suggestions from trusted dog fanatics like me and went on to eat over 50 Hot Dogs in 50 Days, as part of my "research."

Eating dogs was great but having the chance to interview some of Chicago's most iconic mustard slappers was the most fun. The book contains over 50 reviews,

specialized. She consulted many psychologists until finally finding one who would label her daughter, Chloe, specialized!

One psychologist who wouldn't condemn Chloe to specialized status made notes about the mother, observing, "She needed Chloe to need her. I had the impression that she enjoyed the attention she got because of Chloe being like she was. Ordinary wasn't good enough for her. She wanted extraordinary, even if it was in a negative sense of the word."

Maeve's thoughts looking at the

body of Chloe: "I never got used to seeing the utter absence that was death. The spirit that had made Chloe what she was had departed. It was why I couldn't reject the religion that had run through the tapestry of my childhood like a gold thread, even if it was fashionable to forget it, even if I didn't always agree with the specifics. There was a comfort and a certainty to it, a calm acceptance that life went on after the body faltered and fell. I stood by Chloe Emery's body and prayed for her soul."

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Tom Boyle



Bell & Howell. He moved with his parents to Grace Street and was very active in St. Viator's Parish.

After his parents died in 1999 and 2000 he moved to a condo in Niles and later Resurrection Retirement Community.

Many of the pictures in the archives are of volunteers at the Heritage Center, and were taken by John.

After 34 years I lost a great friend, John. He was one of the best. Past President of the Irish American Heritage Center, and the most willing volunteer you could ever meet. No job to big, to small, or too dirty.

Once in a while he would take a weekend off, and go on fishing trips with his friend, Clay Halston and others.

On Saturdays, John would often go out and buy cold cuts, bread and other essentials for the volunteers for lunch. This began after the women who used to cook a hot lunch gave it up, and the Center brought in hot lunches from the city of Chicago, which were ok if you were desperate!

Say a prayer for John. I'm sure he is already at the right hand of the Father. . .

CBS

The new promotion is saying, "True journalism. Honest fair and unbiased," which is a laughable slogan. I laughed hard at this one, especially the unbiased part. They relentlessly attack President Trump while they give Joe Biden a free pass.

Suckers and Losers

Democrats are all getting on board over

claims that President Trump dishonored soldiers that died in France.

More ambiguous horse crap! I think it was on "Meet the Press," they interviewed a retired Admiral. He said, "I have no first hand knowledge of that," but wanted to discredit President Trump. But what Trump said was that we were suckers for letting NATO not pay their fair share of the expense for maintaining a military presence in Europe.

President Trump fixed that problem. Now they all pay their fair share.

Jesse

Jesse Jackson showed up in Kenosha. I couldn't understand much of what he said, as he had a tendency to mumble. He reminds me of Whispering Joe Wilson, who used to announce professional bowling.

Now Jackson has gotten involved with a nurses strike in Chicago. What on earth does he have to do with the SEIU?

Congo

The Irish Brigade was a United Nations peace keeping force in 1961 in the Belgian Congo.

The Siege of Jadotville took place in September 1961, during the UN intervention in the Katanga conflict in the Congo, central Africa, when a company of Irish UN troops were attacked by troops loyal to the Katangese Prime Minister Moise Tshombe. The lightly armed and equipped Irish soldiers fiercely resisted Katangese assaults for six days as a force of Irish and Swedish troops attempted to fight their way through the siege.

Although the outnumbered Irish company was eventually forced to surrender after ammunition and supplies were exhausted,

and they were held prisoner for almost a month, none were killed, while the Katangese and their mercenaries suffered heavy losses. The siege marked the first time since the creation of the Irish Free State that an Irish Army unit went into battle against another nation's army.

Nobel Peace Prize

Norwegian politician, Tybring Gjedde, has nominated President Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize, "for his merit." I think he has done more trying to create peace between nations than most other peace prize nominees."

President Trump brought about the "Abraham" Peace Accords between Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel.

Irish Defamed

We are long overdue to form the Irish Anti-Defamation League. How long do you want to see yourself portrayed as a drunk swilling a glass of green beer? We can start by going after the greeting card companies like, Carlton Cards in Cleveland, Ohio.

If you are interested in getting an anti-defamation league started, send your contact info to: Irish American News, PO BOX 7, Zion IL 60099

The Catholic Thing

An article published by The Catholic Thing, Fr. Peter M. J. Stravinskis has written a book, Titled, *At the Mercy of One False Brother*

When the first hints of clergy sexual abuse began to surface in the late 80's, I served as an advisor to many of the good, new bishops being appointed. On this topic, I counseled the bishops:

First, do not call this pedophilia - because, for the most part, it is same sex activity between a cleric and a post-pubescent young man; that's the truth and, the truth always sets us free. "Pedophilia" conjures up images of ice and six year old boys. Further, if the sinful activity had been properly labeled, ironically, the secular media wouldn't have given it much coverage, since they always promote same-sex relations.

Since boys begin puberty around 11 or 12 and end around 16 or 17, the logic escapes me. "Same-sex activity?" Was it consensual? Or was it rape Fr. Stravinskis?

Columbus

Now they want to replace the statue of Columbus with a statue of indigenous people. Seems to me, there is plenty of room for both.

The Chicago Police Union has decided to support President Trump for President

Washington DC

Mayor Muriel Bowser, (D) brought together a commission to consider striking symbols of oppression. The committee, in a show of monumental stupidity, said they want to completely remove the Washington Monument and the Jefferson Memorial. Well, Mayor Bowser, you can go straight to Hell!

Halloween

Every year we celebrate Samhain, the Celtic New Year, while Mexicans celebrate the Day of the Dead.

Samhain was a liminal time, when you could move between this world and the other world.

The souls of the dead would visit their family homes on this night. Doors were left open and a place was set at the table and food was set out, everybody looked forward to the next day which was All Souls Day.

Biden

Joe Biden seems to be full of righteous indignation, and taking cheap shots at Trump, always saying things like, "When I'm President." Well, he's 77 years old and he's been in government for 47 years. He's the wrong man for the job of President. He's just not rugged enough.

John O'Malley

John grew up in St. Mel's Parish on the West Side. He was in the service and served in Europe, and he was as Office Manager for



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Joe Reed (RIP) and John O'Malley (RIP), no job to big or to small or too dirty!

Murder at Duffy Hall Castle

By Babs L. Murphy

Nora Duffy from Chicago is a vivacious musician, dancer, and runner, as well as a soon-to-be doctor. She is small in stature, but her fiancé, Tom Barry, calls her his Irish warrior princess. Several mysterious attempts are made on her life, leaving Nora with physical and emotional scars. The Duffy family has a wealthy and eccentric uncle who lives at Duffy Hall Castle in a scenic Irish town called Sneem. When Uncle Cyrus dies, Nora is amazed at her surprising inheritance. She soon discovers that having money encourages the greedy and needy to want more than their share.

Chicago Police and Irish Garda search diligently for the culprit who's been threatening Nora on two continents, but to no avail. Nora should be focused on her work at the Children's Cancer Clinic and preparing for her wedding, but she becomes increasingly terrified and wonders who the would-be killer might be and why this is happening.

Nora is supported throughout the ordeal by her large family, loving friends, and her Irish wolfhounds. Bridie, the resident good

ghost at Duffy Hall Castle, has been trying to protect her, but the attacks continue. After a beloved family member is violently murdered, the suspense escalates. Nora continues to pray and play her violin and hopes that the mystery killer can be apprehended before he - or she - menaces anyone else she loves.

Amazon.com or GoodReads.com



About the Author

The book is set half in Chicago and half in Sneem, Ireland, home of her fraternal great-grandfather, John O'Sullivan. Sneem is one of the scenic towns on the famous Ring of Kerry in Southwestern Ireland. Murphy is a lifelong Chicago (Beverly) resident.

Athenry: By Cahal Dunne

I'm writing this review to tell you of a GREAT NEW novel, ATHENRY, 'An odyssey of sacrifice, survival, and love,' by author, CAHAL DUNNE. In this novel, besides husband and wife, 'love' also refers to family, friends, and culture. 'Survival' refers to several things: famine, oppression, extreme injustice, imprisonment, long dangerous voyages and more.

ATHENRY was inspired by a song familiar to many people of Irish descent: THE FIELDS OF ATHENRY, one of Ireland's best-known folk songs.

ATHENRY, is an 'odyssey' story -- a real one that actually happened to some historic individuals, and literally takes you nearly around the world and back again.

Desperate Irishmen were torn apart from their families, some, because they stole their landlord's food trying to feed their starving families. They were sentenced to the British penal colonies of Australia. These prisoners could be abused, even killed, by their assigned 'contract owner.'

The main character in this novel, Liam O'Donoghue, is one of these hapless Irishmen. Liam is determined to escape his fate. To say much more though, would be

giving away a great story.

Meanwhile, Liam's wife, MAIRE, and their son still had to survive somehow during the worst years of the Famine. This is another important part of the whole ATHENRY story.



Cahal Dunne succeeds in making the characters believable. His characters grow and change over time and events, as the best of us hope to do. His characters become stronger and smarter, and despite oppression, even more compassionate as they begin to see more shared humanity. One can't create

better characters.

In a great novel, the reader's imagination has been given enough detail by the writer to put himself or herself in the places in the novel. In ATHENRY, you can hear and smell the places where the main characters are. Hollywood would have to work hard to make this story come alive as well as Dunne does with his writing.

A great novel has believable characters, conflicts and plots, no idiot plots or subplots. A great novel has characters that readers recognize as human, with real obstacles to overcome.

Cahal Dunne went above and beyond the standard formula of a classic good and evil, hero and villain novel. He remembered that villains are human also, and even his villains have surprising complexity, and aren't pure evil as you might think.

This book reminds us of our common humanity and needs as humans, that are more important than our differences, and that all people deserve fair justice, compassion, and opportunities.

Cecelia Fabos-Becker Professional History Researcher
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To order the book, go to cahal-dunne.com \$15 + \$4 S&H.

On Seamus Heaney

by R.F. Foster

Book Review

By Katherine Fitzpatrick

When Joe Biden quoted Seamus Heaney's famous line about Northern Ireland - "where hope and history rhyme" - in his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, the Twitter-sphere went abuzz with mentions of the Irish poet who died in 2013 as "probably best-known poet in the world," as the Independent described him. Indeed, Heaney received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1995, and he is the subject of documentaries, books, and academic curricula at colleges and universities around the world. With all of this attention, one must ask, what more can be said about the man?

R.F. Foster answers this question in his book *On Seamus Heaney*, published by Princeton

University Press in August. An Irish historian and former professor at Hertford College at Oxford University, Mr. Foster is no stranger to writing books about famous figures in Irish political and literary history; he has penned biographies of Charles Stewart Parnell, Lord Randolph Churchill and W.B. Yeats. With his latest book, he succeeds in capturing a concise picture of Heaney's life, work, and legacy.

For better or worse, no account of Heaney's life could be separated from the historical setting of the Troubles in Northern Ireland; after all, the poet was born and raised in Derry, entered adulthood in the 1960s - at the same time that tensions mounted in the region - and rose to international fame as violence spiked in the 1970s and 1980s. Mr. Foster draws upon a wealth of primary source accounts from Heaney's contemporaries to show the complex

nature of the poet's relationship with the events unfolding as his literary career flourished.

On the one hand, Heaney clearly positioned himself on the side of Irish nationalists; as Mr. Foster writes, "simply being called Seamus, (Heaney) caustically pointed out, made his position on Northern Ireland very clear, as the name's Gaelic provenance implied a nationalist background." On the other hand, the poet recognized that his place as an artist provided a certain detachment from the historical struggle playing out in his homeland. Heaney "emphasized unapologetically that he was addressing an audience in Britain as much as in Ireland and - startlingly - that politics were indistinguishable from history, as far as he was concerned." Mr. Foster probes this fascinating dynamic, and the widespread, mostly positive reception Heaney received

from his contemporaries within Ireland. While Mr. Foster grapples with contextualizing Heaney's life and work within the backdrop of the political events of Northern Ireland, he also draws upon another dynamic that helps to define Heaney's legacy: that of his comparison to the most famous Irish poet of all, Yeats. The author tells readers in the preface that "the connections with Yeats form one of the themes of this book," and he makes good on that promise, referencing Yeats no fewer than 55 times in 200 pages of text. Indeed, the book traces Yeats's influence throughout Heaney's career, culminating in his speech accepting the Nobel Prize, where, Mr. Foster writes, "Heaney allowed himself to demonstrate the authority he had now achieved, notably by facing up directly to Yeats - as an 'example' but without the question mark he had added many

years before."

Fair warning: Mr. Foster wrote this as part of Princeton's "Writers on Writers" series featuring writers' accounts of other writers' lives and work; as such, the prose can easily drift into "academic" language. I suggest keeping a dictionary and Google homepage nearby as you tackle this important addition to the body of accounts of Seamus Heaney. Available online.

R.F. FOSTER ■ ON SEAMUS HEANEY





The Dorsey Brothers

To fans of jazz and swing, the Dorsey Brothers need no introduction. As musicians, composers and dance band leaders, they are inextricably linked with the swing craze during the big-band era of the 1930's and 1940's. Their numerous hits include "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You", "I'll Never Smile Again" and "Boogie-Woogie." In all they sold a combined total of 110 million records in their 40 year careers.

Born to Thomas Dorsey and Theresa Langton, the two brothers grew up in an Irish mining community in Pennsylvania. A self-taught musician himself, Thomas Dorsey resolved to keep his boys out of the mines, and instead ignited in them his own love of music. He even formed a band with them, the Way Back When Dorsey Brothers Orchestra. After Thomas Sr. quit the band, they became Dorsey's Novelty Six, later to be renamed Dorsey's Wild Canaries. The band performed throughout Shenandoah until they broke up in 1922 and Tommy and Jimmy joined the Scranton Sirens.

After two years with the Scranton Sirens, the brothers moved to the Jean Goldkette Jazz Band in Detroit, Mich-

igan. They performed with jazz talents Bix Beiderbecke, Joe Venuti and Eddie Lang. Jimmy began playing the saxophone and clarinet, becoming one of the finest players of his day, while Tommy took up the trombone, coaxing from it a velvety tone that would become his trademark. Tommy was a hot player at heart, having recorded a few hot sides by 1927 and he continued to play with smaller ensembles throughout his career.



Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey gave Elvis 1st TV spot.

The Dorsey's big break came in 1927 when the Paul Whiteman Orchestra of New York City hired the entire Goldkette band. This brought them radio and recording jobs and performances with singers like Bing Crosby and the Boswell Sisters. In 1934, Tommy and Jimmy formed their own band, the Dorsey Brothers Orchestra, with Glenn Miller on second trombone and another rising star Bob Crosby. However, the band broke up only one year later, after a dispute broke out between the two brothers during a Memorial Day weekend performance. The more exacting

and temperamental of the two, Tommy is generally blamed for the band's demise.

Over the next 18 years, the two went their separate ways. Jimmy led the original Dorsey Brothers Band, renamed the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, while Tommy took over a band from Joe Haymes, turning it into the Tommy Dorsey Band, a more jazz-oriented band that featured Frank Sinatra from 1940-42. Tommy and Jimmy enjoyed tremendous success with their respective bands. Both brothers compiled a healthy list of film and television appearances, and they reunited temporarily for the making of the 1947 film bio *The Fabulous Dorseys*.

In 1953 Jimmy's band fell apart and the brothers were reconciled. Jimmy joined Tommy's orchestra and they performed as Tommy Dorsey Orchestra featuring Jimmy Dorsey. The brothers performed together for the next three years, and in 1955-56 they enjoyed wide national coverage with their own show on CBS called *Stage Show*. It was on their show that Elvis made his first TV appearance.

Between their bands together and apart The Dorsey Brothers had 312 charted hits with 29 going to the #1 spot. In *Pop Memories 1890-1954; The History of American Popular Music* author Joel Whitburn lists the top 100 artists. Tommy Dorsey is fourth, while Jimmy ranks seventeenth. Number one and two are their peers and fellow musicians Bing Crosby and Paul Whiteman respectively.

The two brothers died in their early fifties less than a year apart, Tommy on November 26, 1956 and Jimmy on June 12, 1957. Two days before Jimmy died, he received a gold record for his greatest instrumental, "So Rare."



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A Cháirde

This month we will begin introducing you to some people who are very important to Chicago Gaelic Park. Our thriving Irish cultural organization relies on these individuals, and by helping us, they help Chicago's Irish

community. We are very grateful for their gift to us of their time. Please watch our pages for photos and information about some of our volunteers.

Is mise le meas,
Bill O'Sullivan

Meet Our Volunteers...



Kevin Cahill has been volunteering at Gaelic park for over 15 years and loves being around the guys and helping out in every way. Kevin embraces the volunteer spirit which built Gaelic Park and which still flourishes and is proud of the past and hopeful that future generations can derive as much satisfaction in the future.

Ken Hughes was recruited as a volunteer at Gaelic Park and says that he had no idea what to expect. Ken is a wonderful volunteer who quietly goes about many tasks and he enjoys being part of a talented and eager group who strive to make Gaelic Park a welcoming center for all.

Mike Moran has been involved with Gaelic Park since the beginning and first volunteered alongside Mike Finnegan, John Crean, Frank Dyra and Mike Gavin striking the brick on the original building. Mike gives great credit to the many smart unselfish people who started Gaelic Park and to all the directors who have continued the tradition. Mike has wonderful memories of being introduced to Gaelic Park by John Lynch, of setting refrigerators with John Martin Kenny and all the Festivals troubleshooting with Eamon Malone. Mike is quick to praise everyone but he is a beloved volunteer and continues to make new friends as his apprentice Tom Lally will attest.

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15th	Joe Cullen	7pm	16th	Taylor Street Band	7pm
22nd	Bernie Glim	7pm	23rd	Kieran Bryne	7pm
29th	Joe McShane	7pm	30th	No Music	

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Oct 4	Is it all in your head?	Suzanne O'Sullivan, M.D.
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Dec 6	An Irish Christmas	John B. Keane
Jan 3	Of Weddings and Walks	Alice McDermott
Feb 7	Stalking Irish Madness	Patrick Tracey
Mar 8	The Magdalen	Marita Conlon McKenna
April 4	A Celtic Childhood	Bill Watkins
May 2	The Billionaire Who Wasn't	Conor O'Clery

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Do You Need a Mulligan?

By Mike Corrigan

We have all been there. Gotten the call or heard the news that a friend or relative died suddenly. Way too early or too young. Or, a group text message goes out that so and so has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. Our hearts break. Our stomachs turn. We shed a tear. Our minds race with all kinds of thoughts that life is precious and can change in a moment's notice. "What if that was me?"

The recent video clips of the anniversary of 9/11 was a sobering reminder that "tomorrow is NOT promised" to any of us. That going to work in the morning is no guarantee that your going to come home at night.

When things go WRONG we have regrets. We didn't do the things we wanted to do. We put off or procrastinated. Life is busy. "I'll get to it!" "Should have hugged my kids more often". "Should have told her I loved her more often". "Should have saved more money". Shoulda woulda coulda... but didn't.

All of you have heard this or may have said this to yourself. When there are no longer choices to do the things, we wanted to do, the HOPE you had is out the window.

Our religious faith teaches us to have Hope and Faith. Well, unfortunately, Hope is not a strategy in the financial world when there are so many uncertainties. You can have CERTAINTY in your financial life. It just takes planning and education. Help is available. You just have to ask for it.

You know, I have been in the financial & insurance business for over 30 years and part of the many areas of my practice is facilitating and designing LIFE INSURANCE for families and business owners.

This is LIFE INSURANCE AWARENESS MONTH! The power of life insurance is not so much while you are alive—it's what it does when you die! You see, we are all



Mike Corrigan

going to live until we don't. It's part of life.

I have delivered many death claim checks to widows and surviving business partners. I get a pit in my stomach when I am asked at that point, "will we be alright?" "is it enough?"

The power & value of life insurance is often unappreciated UNTIL something goes

WRONG! An unexpected death, getting a bad diagnosis. Had good intentions, but NO ACTION. It's too late when you get that call or you hear that news. Schools out! There's NO MULLIGAN at that point on your way home from the doctor's office or funeral home.

My job & challenge is to help people recognize what life insurance provides. And not just for a period of time or to a certain age. No, it's there until you die.

Life insurance creates peace of mind and permission to live your life and spend your accumulated resources knowing that a tax free lump sum will be paid. It can sustain your family, or business or perhaps create a legacy.

Are you doing all you can? I challenge you to think differently than most people do. Pennies on the dollar can create certainty when things go wrong.

I'm Irish and I read the death notices. I would bet that most of you reading this article also check the daily "scratch sheet". There are always people in their 30's, 40's, 50's 60's & 70's that would like a MULLIGAN, if given the choice...to do something more than they did during their life. Will that be you?

What are you waiting for? A Mulligan is available for you. Don't wait too long to ask for it!

Mike Corrigan is the owner & president of Corrigan Financial Services, Inc. in LaGrange, IL. Mike and the Corrigan Family have a long Irish history of supporting the Irish American News

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CELTIC

AN IRISH JOURNAL FOR SENIORS



WELCOME

We recently learned a lesson in the importance of feedback. I received a message from a man who shared fulsome praise for **Celtic Magazine** but also wanted to offer a helpful suggestion. It seems we have left some of you scratching your heads by forgetting to the inc-

lude the solutions to the monthly crossword! Oops! The problem has been noted and resolved! If anyone else out there has suggestions as to how we can keep improving our magazine, please don't be shy. We'd also love for you to share your recipes or be featured in an upcoming issue. This month, we'll be meeting

some younger community members, including a recent intern who's returned to Ireland to start her careers and two members of ICS' Associate Board; Amy is sharing her favorite recipe in the **Celtic Kitchen** and Sharon offers tips for managing stress. Enjoy!

Paul Dowling

Front Porch Profiles

'Dropping in' on friends in a time of social distancing.

This month, we're going all the way to the southeast of Ireland to visit **Ella McHugh**, who last year spent three months interning with Irish Community Service before heading back home to finish her social work degree,

Where are you from?

Carlow Town, Co. Carlow.

Tell us about your time in Chicago.

I lived in Chicago during placement with ICS from Sept-Dec 2019. I miss the Windy City! I lived in Bucktown. I loved how



trendy and chilled it was there. **What have you been up to during the pandemic?**

I was busy writing my thesis at the start of lock-down and now I'm busy with my new job working in Dublin!

What have you learned from Covid?

The value of solidarity; everyone has to play their part.

Remote Wellness Session

Healthy Eating
for a
Strong Immune System



Wednesday 7th October - 10 AM

This **FREE** session hosted by Irish Community Services features a licensed dietitian from Swedish Covenant Hospital.

Join us by Phone or Computer

Join in Online

Go to the following website
www.zoom.us

Click on 'Join a Meeting' in the top right side of your screen.

Enter the Meeting ID below in the box titled 'Meeting ID of Personal Link Name'

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Click on the 'Join' button and you'll join the meeting and be able to see our performer.

Dial in by phone

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You will be asked to enter the meeting ID and then press #

Meeting ID - 884 0991 8529

You will then be asked to enter your participant ID or to press # to continue. Just press # and you will be joined in to the meeting.

SHARON RECOMMENDS



Sharon Curran – a native of County Sligo, Ireland – is an energetic young community member serving on Irish Community Services' Associate Board. Sharon works at National Louis University where she supports students with additional challenges to navigate situations they find overwhelming and stressful. Through her work, Sharon has learned how to offset the negative impacts of the kind of uncertainty we're all facing right now.

Finding a sense of balance can be hard, especially now that our lives have been turned upside down due to the pandemic. Still, it can't be denied that putting effort into our social, physical, emotional and mental well-being can have a positive impact on our health and wellness.

But where do we start when our usual ways of satisfying these categories have been disrupted? I find that picking activities from four different categories throughout the day, week, and month can lead to a more balanced life.

Additionally, research shows us that goal setting and adding even a little structure in our routines can have a positive effect on our well-being. Structure and goals not only keep us accountable, but help focus our attention, build motivation and give us a sense of accomplishment when we meet a long-term goal or fulfill our daily intention. I'm sharing some suggestions for activities under the headings **social, emotional, physical and spiritual**.

Remember, choose whatever works best for you and set a day or time frame for doing it. The activities we choose and the goals we set are very personal and unique to each of us, but by putting some effort and thought into how we fill our days with activities, each of these categories can help us all get through 2020 a little happier and healthier!

Physical

Yes, any type of exercise is good, but don't forget the easy ways of improving your physical health! Try a simple exercise like the ones below to ease anxiety and feel calmer!

- Balance
- Stretching
- Regulate your breathing.

Emotional

Do something that brings you joy!

- Get creative; try a new recipe or DIY project
- Take a virtual tour! Many museums now offer online tours; Check these out:
 - o EPIC Ireland (www.epicchq.com)
 - o National Library of Ireland (www.nli.ie)
 - o Smithsonian (www.si.edu)
- Reminisce! Take a trip down memory lane by exploring Irish video archives (www.rte.ie/archives) or jot down an old memory or story.

Social

Being social is difficult right now, but there are still ways to engage with others from afar!

- Write a letter or postcard to a friend or grandchild!
- Play a game of scrabble or cards online with others or family! (www.pogo.com)
- Make a plan to call someone you haven't talked to awhile.
- Connect with Irish Community Services.

Spiritual

Spiritual wellness helps us connect with our values and to humanity at large.

- Connect with nature; go for a walk or plant some seeds.
- Laugh!
- Listen to music. Many concert venues are teaming up with musicians for virtual concerts (e.g. www.carnegiehall.org).
- Do ANYTHING that gives you a sense of well-being

PEP TALK

Words to inspire!

"You've got to get up every morning with determination if you're going to go to bed with satisfaction."

– George Lorimer

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."

– Arthur Ashe

Crossword Solutions

SEPTEMBER

DOWN

1. Swan
3. Owl
4. Magpie
6. Dove
8. Robin

ACROSS

2. Crow
5. Cardinal
7. Parrot
9. Eagle
10. Wren

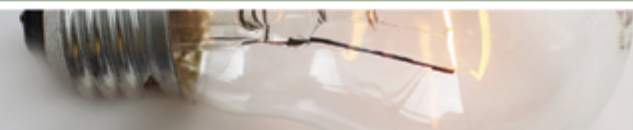
OCTOBER

DOWN

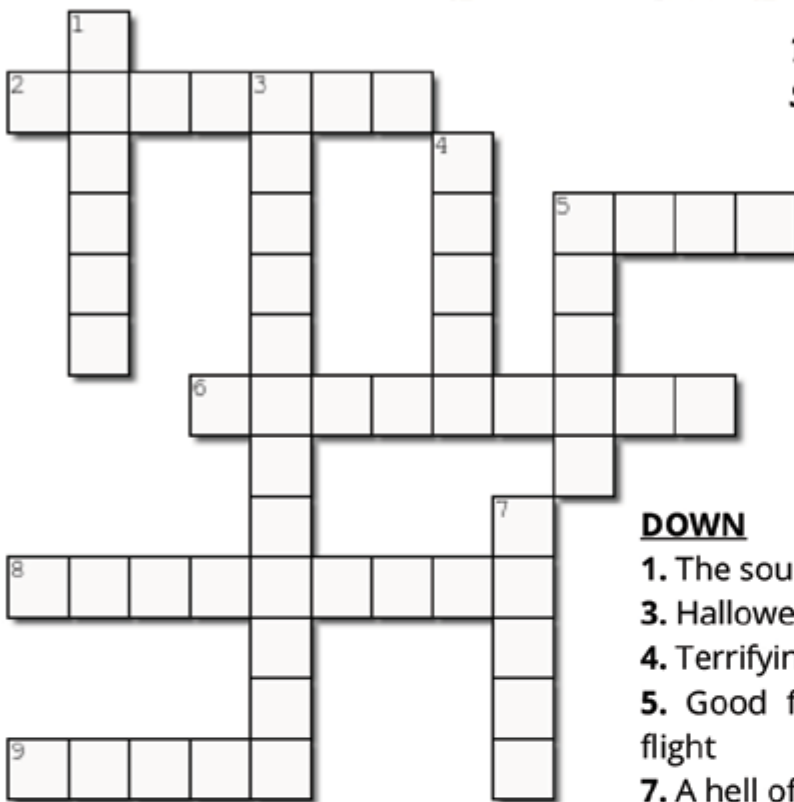
1. Cackle
3. Trick or treat
4. Fangs
5. Broom
7. Devil

ACROSS

1. Haunted
5. Bats
6. Tombstone
8. Afterlife
9. Ghost



Think it Over



*The theme is 'Halloween'.
Solutions on previous page*

ACROSS

- 1. Full of hangers-on
- 5. They're blind as a base-ball sticks
- 6. A record of one's life set in stone
- 8. Existence yet to come
- 9. He's dead but not gone

DOWN

- 1. The sound of the EVILY amused
- 3. Halloween ultimatum
- 4. Terrifying teeth
- 5. Good for sweeping when not in flight
- 7. A hell of a guy

Halloween Hunt

F	Q	B	G	O	P	T	H	S	N
M	W	C	H	A	U	N	T	K	F
V	V	N	O	O	M	L	L	U	F
G	R	L	S	A	W	C	N	A	M
I	A	F	T	I	S	I	A	B	W
Y	D	N	A	C	K	T	T	B	F
C	K	H	O	P	P	L	A	C	D
E	I	B	M	O	Z	P	J	Q	H
K	C	U	B	A	B	F	G	H	V
K	P	I	W	J	Q	A	D	V	C

CANDY
GHOST
WITCH

PUMPKIN
HAUNT

BOO
ZOMBIE
FULL MOON

THE AMBASSADOR'S POEM PICK

This is definitely a poem for our time. It was written by Derek Mahon, who was born in Belfast in 1941 and currently lives in Kinsale, County Cork. 'Kinsale' is the title of one of my other favorite Derek Mahon poems. Like 'Everything is going to be alright', 'Kinsale' has an optimistic final two lines: 'We contemplate at last shining windows, a future forbidden to no one.' This poem was written many years ago but, with its reassuring message that 'Everything is going to be alright', it has come into its own during the current pandemic. In the early days of Ireland's lockdown in March, the poem was read on Irish television's main evening news and was very well received by the Irish public who found it comforting at this

difficult time for Ireland and the entire world. The poet is gladdened by everyday things - clouds clearing beyond his window and 'a high tide reflected on the ceiling'. He refuses to be dogged by life's sadness and tells us that the source of his poetic inspiration is 'the watchful heart.' I love the lines: 'The sun rises in spite of everything/and the far cities are beautiful and bright' and the image of the poet who lies 'in a riot of sunlight.' Derek Mahon is one of Ireland's greatest living poets, although not as well-known as his contemporaries, Seamus Heaney and Michael Longley. His poems are highly readable and I can recommend them wholeheartedly.

Ambassaor Dan Mulhall

Everything is Going to be All Right

By Derek Mahon

How should I not be glad to contemplate the clouds clearing beyond the dormer window and a high tide reflected on the ceiling?
There will be dying, there will be dying, but there is no need to go into that.
The poems flow from the hand unbidden and the hidden source is the watchful heart.
The sun rises in spite of everything and the far cities are beautiful and bright.
I lie here in a riot of sunlight watching the day break and the clouds flying.
Everything is going to be all right.



Irish Abroad Online Counselling Service

FREE Appointments 7 Days a Week

What is Helplink

Helplink is an Ireland-based charity providing mental health support services. It offers online counseling to Irish people overseas through its Irish Abroad Counselling Service

Who can avail of the Irish Abroad Counseling Service?

Our service is available for all Irish passport holders living abroad in need of emotional support from trained counselors. Each person can avail of **6 free online appointments**. Appointments are available 7 days a week.

What kinds of issues can we help with?

Our Counselors have already been helping the Irish abroad for many years with various mental health issues such as

depression, sadness, difficulties adjusting to life changes such as bereavement or the ending of a relationship, eating issues, self-esteem challenges, and addiction.

How does online counseling work?

If you are eligible, please send us an email at helplinksupport@helplink.ie with the words 'Irish Abroad' in the subject line and your location in the main body of the email. Our administration staff will then ask you a couple of questions and offer potential appointment times if you are a suitable client for our services. All online appointments are facilitated through a video platform called VSee. To participate in counseling sessions, you will need to create an free account with VSee. Once you book your first counselling appointment, you will be provided with a thorough guide for instal-

ling and using VSee. We provide online counselling appointments 7 days a week (closed Irish bank holidays and Christmas /New Years Eve). We provide appointments at the following local times (CST):

Monday to Friday – 3 am to 3 pm
Saturday Sunday – 6 am to 12 pm

PLEASE NOTE

Helplink's Irish Abroad Online Counseling Service is **NOT** a crisis service. If you or someone you know is seriously contemplating suicide or in need of immediate help you/they should call 911.

Access to the internet and a computer is required. if you are interested in counseling but DO NOT have access to the internet or a computer, please contact Irish Community Service to make arrangements to use their equipment: 773-282-8445.

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We're Recruiting!

ICS is seeking an individual to
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This is a 20-hour per week **contract** position until June 2021
that requires considerable flexibility and a high level of
professionalism.

The successful candidate will work with the Irish AND Latino
community so must be fluent in Spanish to a standard where
they can conduct complex legal applications and trainings.

Health insurance and other benefits are **NOT** included.

A full description of the contracted position can be found on
the ICS website: **www.irishchicago.org**

Application Deadline: 5 pm Friday 16th October

ICS is an equal opportunity employer and does not and shall not discriminate on the basis
of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry),
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 - Interview Preparation



REGISTRATION:
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The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

By Sally Blount, Ph.D. (pictured)
I am honored to be the new President and CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago. As a social psychologist and educator by training, I have spent



my career teaching people how to build more effective organizations. I can't think of a more important enterprise to build and lead than Catholic Charities, or a more important time to join in its critical work.

Three things make Catholic Charities distinct in my mind. The first is our experience. As our region grapples with the

impact of a once-in-a-generation health crisis, Catholic Charities continues to respond with expertise, decisiveness and impact—all built over 102 years of service since our founding amidst the influenza pandemic of 1918.

We are a go-to partner for government and civic leaders alike in this time of need. Catholic Charities knows how to mobilize to feed people, shelter people and keep families in their homes; to invest in caring for children, seniors and veterans; and to

help those who need to find jobs. Whether it is remote counseling for people experiencing grief, stress, and depression, or money to allow a family to honor a deceased loved one with a proper burial, this is what we are called and know how to do - we provide charity, care, and support to anyone in need.

The second aspect that makes us distinct is our scale. We help hundreds of thousands of people each year in the Chicago region - regardless of their race, ethnicity or faith identities. We estimate that over the last century we have touched 20 million or more lives. Decade after decade, Catholic Charities has been there--on the phone, in church parking lots, in our offices across the city and throughout the suburbs, serving people. And that scale and impact add up over time. We are proud of our legacy.

The third, and most important aspect of Catholic Charities, is our Spirit - we are a Catholic organization. We believe in an all-loving and all-knowing God who

uniquely cherishes and accompanies each person's life. We know that He aches with us in the uncertainty, anxiety, and grief of this time, but He also offers a message of hope. We serve with the humility, confidence and hope that comes from our faith in God, the love of Jesus, the consolation of Mary, and the inspiration of the saints who have served before us across the ages.

In fact, our faith tells us that we are each called to be the hope for each other. We are the hands and feet of Christ, tending to the well-being of our brothers and sisters.

Southwest Suburban Widows/Widowers Social Club First Fridays in Tinley Park

You're invited to visit our social club the first Friday every month!

Our next meeting is on The first Friday of each month at 6:30 pm. at the Harold Viking Lodge, 6730 175th Street, Tinley Park

We meet once a month. Entertainment on most months.

Our club offers support to widowed of all faiths and ages. We know what you are experiencing in dealing with the death of your spouse as we've all been there.

Pope John Paul II taught us that we are to “practice mercy” in a spirit of “mutuality:” to transform the suffering of those in need and thereby transform hearts, both of those who receive and those who give. We are all givers and receivers of mercy in this unending circle of abundance.

Catholic Charities was born during a crisis, and here we are, more than 100 years later, rising to familiar but also entirely new challenges. As I begin to lead Catholic Charities during this extraordinary time of need, I ask for your prayers and support so that together we may continue to discern, “God, how can we help?”

The Southwest Suburban widow/widowers is a group of people caring, sharing and reaching out to one another in friendship.

Some of our activities include: Monthly General meetings, organized restaurant outings, trips, discussions, interaction meetings and newcomers get acquainted meetings.

For information Phyllis Peterson at 708-636-6534 or Bill Dolehide at 708-342-6820.



Ireland Network President, Garrett Diamond (right) presents Michael Collins, Executive Director of Irish Community Services, with a donation check. The Ireland Network and Irish Community Services thank those who helped to raise these funds by participating in the raffle at the Ireland Network Ball at the Drake Hotel earlier this year.

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Strangers in a Strange Land

I happened to be at an Irish Airport last year and I witnessed many people returning home for the holiday season to spend some time with their families. The young people had an aura of confidence and prosperity about them and it is great to be able to make the journey home with greater frequency these days. The exodus from Ireland has slowed down dramatically over the past decade and we are now being visited by other races and cultures rather than having to leave ourselves. This was not always the case, though.

Many of our people left their familiar surroundings for a life of hardship with the spade and hod to help rebuild Britain after the ravages of the Second World War. A dire economic situation prevailed in Ireland during the 1950's, and our greatest export during this decade was our people. Our policies and strategies were wrong, we thought that we could make Ireland self-sufficient internally, but the stark reality was much different. The Country was spinning out of economic control, and over sixty thousand people every year were leaving our shores.

After thirty years of freedom, the Country was almost going out of business by the mid 1950's. De Valera's vision of a self-sufficient Ireland, frugal and with comely maidens dancing at the crossroads was extremely flawed and very out of touch with reality. We were obsessed with putting people back on the land and this was never going to solve our bigger economic problem. The people were being suffocated by Irish Nationalism and the winds of change were beginning to blow strongly. As a Senior Government Minister from the 1940's onwards, Lemass was becoming increasingly worried about the way things were going. As a pragmatist, he knew that we

would have to look externally in order to bring us in line with the social and economic conditions of the other European countries.

He started to strengthen Bord Failte and he figured that the more people that saw the Country the greater the publicity we would get. We may not have had the best facilities at the time, but the people were generally very warm and friendly. Our tourist industry was built on the quality of our people. Lemass also encouraged a young Economist at the Department of Finance, Ken Whittaker, to see what was needed to give the country a kick start. Out of this strategy came the now famous 'Programme for Economic Development', published in 1958.



Even though De Valera's policies and beliefs lay in more insular solutions, he was practical enough not to stand in the way of progress. The new policies were also supported by the Opposition Parties. Any plan was certainly better than no plan at all. After this, there was no looking back. The Multinationals were encouraged to invest in the Country, and this, along with the emergence of free Secondary education in the mid 1960's, kick-started the beginnings of an economy that we are bearing the fruits of Today.

None of this would have happened without a visionary like Sean Lemass. He was certainly ahead of his time, any by his astute social and economic policies, brought Ireland out of a terminal decline and gave us hope and confidence as we headed towards the 21st century. Good ideas are not adopted automatically. They must be driven into practice with courageous impatience. Sean Lemass

asked if we had the confidence and belief in ourselves, and that we would have to take the future on board.

The emigrants of the 1950's arrived in England to a lifetime of back breaking labour, carrying with them proud Irish names, which 500 years earlier bore the names of chieftains and poets. The sword and the pen were now exchanged for the spade and the wheelbarrow and they made the best of their existence in these new, unfamiliar and sometimes hostile surroundings. Many parishes, and the country as a whole were very grateful for the money that they were able to send back home. This helped, in no small way, to becoming another piece of the mosaic which would eventually help us on our way to a greater level of prosperity.

It is heart breaking to see many of them alone, without hope, their bodies bent and arthritic after many decades of wettings on the building sites. We owe them one, and we need a greater level of initiative from our Government, by way of a sponsored fund, to bring them back to Ireland to live in comfortable accommodation for the remainder of their days. It was a social tragedy that people were forced by economic circumstances to leave family and friends and move to another country in order to make a living. In the days before we became part of the EU these displaced people supported their families at home with regular amounts of money, which made a great difference in those hard pressed days of another era.

This article is dedicated to all the people who left these shores over 60 years ago and managed to find their way back, but more especially to those who made the journey from the land of their birth and would never return home again. They were indeed reluctant heroes in an age that is now dimming into distant memory.

The phrase 'the men who built Britain' was more than an idle boast. It was a statement of pride in the reputation for industry and capacity for hard work earned by our people - President Michael D. Higgins

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OCTOBER 2020

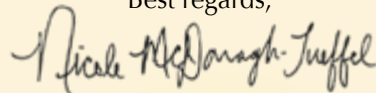
Happy fall! I would like to start off by thanking our volunteers and employees who are helping keep the Irish American Heritage Center running through these unprecedented times! We've really had to come together to navigate these new waters, and we are truly blessed to have such wonderful people in our organization to lend an extra hand and help us out!

Our September events were a huge hit, and we had many people join our "Chicago's Sweet Candy History" and "Zelda Fitzgerald" historical presentations. We also partnered with Gaelic Storm for their Halfway to St. Pat's Day party on September 17th with The Hight Kings, Carbon Leaf, Trinity, and other guests for a celebration of all things Irish. Our event, "An Evening Under the Stars," took place in the parking lot of the IAHC, and it was so great to see our members and guests in a socially distanced manner! We shared food, drinks, and enjoyed *The Commitments* on a big screen outdoors; it was a fun evening with our friends and community!

We had an eventful September, and we are not slowing down as we head into October! This month, we'll be hosting a golf outing as a fundraiser for the Center, and I encourage you to join me in supporting the IAHC with a friendly round of 9-hole golf on October 17th! Our golf outing will be at Tam Golf Course, and a round of golf with a golf cart is \$65 per person. Grab your golfing buddies and join us on the greens to support the IAHC, and to get out before the cold weather is her to stay!

Through October 20th, we're also running a special on our brick sales for commemorating family and family memories. If you purchase a brick during this promotional period, your brick purchase will come with an individual or family membership gift of one year. After the new bricks are installed into our *Plaza of Names*, we will host a Facebook Live event, and we can celebrate their unveiling together while we're apart! For the most up-to-date information on what events we have and what's going on with the Center, please follow our social media pages on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and sign up for our newsletter, "IAHC Insider Update." Until we meet again, enjoy the changing colors of the leaves and the harvests that autumn brings.

Best regards,



Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel, President



Take advantage of the IAHC's growing virtual programming by visiting the Irish American Heritage Center Facebook page, or by going to irish-american.org, where you can find offerings like these:



Memoirs and Creative Writing with Virginia Gibbons
Every Tuesday • 1pm, **Sign up on irish-american.org**



Fridays in the Fifth Facebook Live Performance by Ross Donegan
10/2 • 6pm, **View on Irish American Heritage Center Facebook page**



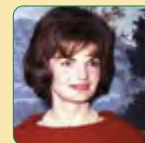
Starting October 5th, enjoy "Tunes from the Fifth," a weekly Facebook live music event on Mondays, featuring Sean Cleland and Jesse Langen, 7pm
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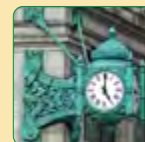
Portrayal of Emily Dickinson by Actress Paddy Lynn
10/8 • 7pm - **Sign up on irish-american.org**



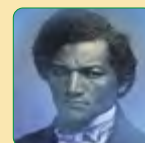
IAHC Golf Outing: Tam O'Shanter Golf Course
10/17 • 10am - **Sign up on irish-american.org**



America's First Ladies Virtual Lecture with Visuals by Leslie Goddard
10/28, **Sign up on irish-american.org**



Remembering Marshall Field Virtual Lecture with Visuals by Leslie Goddard
11/16, **Sign up on irish-american.org**



Razz Jenkins recreates his successful IACH portrayal of Fredrick Douglas in a live virtual performance
12/10, **Register under Upcoming Events at irish-american.org**



History of the Formal Tea Virtual Lecture with Visuals by Leslie Goddard
12/23, **Sign up on irish-american.org**

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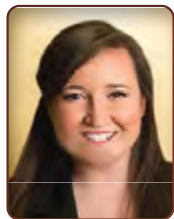
Or Mail Checks and Info to IAHC

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Fall is upon us, during one of the most challenging years that any of us can remember. Milestones and events are still happening, but how do we celebrate them? How do we acknowledge life-changing people and moments during a time when we can't gather?



The purchase of a permanent brick on the Irish American Heritage Center *Plaza of Names* on Knox Avenue is the perfect way to honor your family memories. The *Plaza* offers the perfect opportunity

to create a loving impression of your pride and affection for those you love. A memorial brick is a lasting tribute for all to see as they walk into our building. It's an opportunity to celebrate in a time when we cannot gather.

Almost 600 bricks have been installed in the Center *Plaza of Names*, creating an almost living tribute to our Irish American Heritage Center and to the members who's purchase of bricks both join their memories with our beautiful building and help to support it. Now is the time to purchase your brick.

Between now and October 20th, the full-priced purchase of a brick will come with the gift of a one year individual or family membership. A way of thanking you for your support of the Irish American Heritage Center.

This fall, after installation, there will be a Facebook live event to acknowledge everyone honored on the *Plaza of Names*. A video for families to save to remember their loved ones and events during this trying year.

Select your wording, descriptions and narrative on the attached form to place your order.

Thank you for your continued support of the Irish American Heritage Center!

Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel

Best regards,
Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel, President

Create a lasting impression and be a part of the Irish American Heritage Center's Plaza of Names



1 MARY - PAT O' DEA Example

4 x 8 BRICK: Non-Member \$100 • Member \$100

1													
2													
3													



3 lines x 14 characters (maximum)

8 x 8 BRICK: Non-Member \$250 • Member \$200

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2													
3													
4													
5													
6													



6 lines x 14 characters (maximum)

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7													
8													
9													



9 lines x 18 characters (maximum)

- Bricks are installed once a year.
- Location of bricks is at discretion of installer.
- Maximum 14 characters per line, (18 characters or f12" x 12") including spaces, dashes and apostrophes.
- Boxes shown are the maximum allowed characters. All boxes need not be filled in.
- Ask about adding



Mail form to:
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PURCHASED BY: Non-Member Member 8" x 4" 8" x 8" 12" x 12"

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Cash Credit Card Check Amount enclosed: _____

Visa MasterCard Discover

Credit Card #: _____

Expiration: _____ Security Code: _____

Wind And Sun

With September only half gone, October surprises were already flying like witches in an Autumn wind. Leftists identify as "progressives"; but progressing toward what? The goal appears to be a carrot dangling on a stick, forever unattainable. Carrots on sticks are meant to coax a mule from point A to point B. But progressivism accepts no point B as sufficient. The mule must march ever forward. It's the left's version of the capitalist catechism. As the billionaire lusts to be a trillionaire, so does Democreligion drive the left, like Ahab pursuing the pale whale toward a Gotterdammerung justice, hunting and destroying pillars of civilization evolved from mammalian ancestors: gender, family, society. Despite the egalitarian aims of these political priests, they are often hoist on their own petard. Take the transgender movement which, by dominating women's sporting events, disproves its own theorem of equality.

No, Hilary: It doesn't take a village; it takes a family. 60% of black families are fatherless. By contrast, the figure for whites is 25%. I'd wager a large percentage of the violent whites and blacks engaged in rioting are from broken homes. The breakup of the nuclear family is a goal of "The Movement" which is, by intent, composed of many separate splinter groups. On its "What We Believe" mission page, Black Lives Matter declares: "We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and 'villages' that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable." The word "fathers" is deliberately omitted.

The big money to organize the Marxist inspired demonstrations is donated by globalist corporations. Collecting and distributing those millions is the "charitable" organization Thousand Currents, which lends it tax-exempt status to BLM. Most interesting, Thousand Currents erased the board of directors' and financial statement pages from their website after investigative think tank Capital Research Center revealed in June that Susan Rosenberg is vice chair of its board, soliciting and directing incoming cash to BLM.

So, who is Susan Rosenberg? If you watch only leftist outlets like Zuckers CNN, or ATT's online Yahoo News (compiled by Hans Vestberg's Verizon) or read the Sulzberger's NY Times, you likely wouldn't know. Incidentally, did you watch Vestberg's online commencement address June 12 featuring Bill Clinton, who reminded the nation's youth graduating into a Summer of street demonstrations that "George

Mick

Mike Morley

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Floyd's life was squeezed out of him"? Clinton ended: "Most important: what are we prepared to do about it?"

Speaking of Floyd, despite recent amphetamine use and having heart disease, his blood tests showed Fentanyl (25-50 times more potent than heroin and now the most common cause of death among U.S. drug addicts) in a concentration 3-4 times amounts known to be fatal. Had police arrived ten minutes later, would they have found Floyd dead of an overdose? Would months of rioting have begun anyway for some other incident? Will the trial of four policemen involved even begin before the election? Will the fact that former Democratic National Committee Deputy Chair Keith Ellison is Minnesota Attorney General have any bearing on the course of prosecution?

You likely won't remember

member in the bloody alliance of the Weather Underground and the other BLM - Black Liberation Movement. Unlike fellow Weathermen Bill Ayers, Obama advisor and current U of I professor, and his wife, Bernadine Dohrn, professor at Northwestern, Rosenberg did not escape prosecution. She was 16 years into a sentence of 58 years for weapons and explosives charges.

Manhattan Democrat Rep. Jerrold Nadler, current Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee who presided at the recent partisan impeachment hearings, ferried Rosenberg's pardon file to the White House. Asked in 2011 about Rosenberg, Nadler downplayed her guilt: "She was accused of involvement in the Brinks robbery, in which a couple of cops were killed. She proclaimed that she was innocent of that... Meanwhile, she

was caught red-handed in possession, and of having transferred over state lines, dynamite and small arms, and other stuff. For this, she was sentenced to 58 years in jail, which was a hell of a sentence, you know, 59 months for this stick of dynamite, 59 months for that stick of dynamite." Those "sticks" were 640 pounds of explosives, enough to level a city block. Similarly, when asked last July about the violence in Portland, Nadler declared "That's a myth".

And those "couple of cops" Nadler mentioned offhandedly were Edward O'Grady, married with three children -- the youngest 5 months old -- and Waverly Brown, father of a 17-year-old son and the first black man ever to

serve on the Nyack police force.

Nadler's been Congressman of Manhattan's West Side 8th district (now renamed the 10th) since 1992, serving with no meaningful opposition for 12 consecutive terms. That district's been a Democrat fiefdom lacking political diversity for nearly 100 years.

As of writing we are now hearing about Boogaloo Bois, apparently right-wing revolutionary products of our public education system who oppose the much larger Antifa, yet are fully in sync with their belief that police need to be eliminated. An Air Force sergeant with alleged "links" is charged with murdering two police officers.

When I was a kid, if my dad wasn't out on a second job with his group (Mike Morley and His Minstrels) playing music for dances, or tending bar, I'd often bargain the "head to bed" request, asking he'd take a break from reading his evening paper or practicing his music, to tell a story. He didn't often read from a book. Instead he'd ad lib stories in his soft Mayo brogue about woodland creatures: rabbits, foxes and the like, and their lives and interactions. If the tale was short, perhaps because he needed to get back to practicing, I might ask for more; and he'd just conjure up another few minutes. He also enjoyed relating the fabulous moral tales of Aesop. One fable described an argument between the North Wind and the Sun over who was stronger. As they argued, a Traveler passed along the road wrapped in a cloak. "Let us agree," said the Sun, "that he is the stronger who can strip that Traveler of his cloak." You know the story: the more the North Wind blew, the tighter the Traveler held his cloak. But the warmth of the Sun finally led the Traveler to remove his cloak and head to the shade of a tree.

Persuasion wins over force. Seems simple enough.

Logical... but only if the Traveler is compis mentis.

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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

Covid-19 swept the globe creating a pandemic that changed our lives. We grew accustomed to the daily tally of deaths, thousands of men, women, children, doctor's, nurses and elderly. We isolated, remained indoors, worked from home, school children on lockdown from shuttered schools. We adjusted to upheaval of daily living, wore masks and feared exposure to a deadly virus.

In the weeks and months that followed, Ireland provided colossal entertainment highlighting abundant talent in the Emerald Isle. Actors produced short hilarious video segments featuring the new life from home with children, parents, dogs and cats. I watched over and over a five year old Irish girl berating her mother for preventing her to go to the pub. She was five. Her friend was six and she went. Couldn't she go for just one night? Mother in background smothering laughter held her ground, explaining her friend was allowed to enter the pub for her father's birthday. The young one, a spit fire fought on finally declaring she would not accompany her mother to the weekly bingo game. She ended the short piece gushing: "For God's sake I'm five, I should be allowed to visit the pub!"

Women meanwhile were dealing with their own difficulties. House bound, many working from home, ditched their bras. Irish headlines read: "A Bra Furloughed by Irish women." The evidence spilled forth and the anti-bra movement traveled the land. Women divulged they felt uncomfortable with the confinement and going without spelled freedom. Bra folklore surged into the mainstream. The backlash was swift. The garment was hailed as supporting not just breasts, but also the back. To the latter claim women shouted it isn't so. Irish females have been labelled, bold, brazen, brash and

confrontational. Women shunned the criticism seeing it as the chalice of all that is fine and right in womanhood. As one unidentified young woman well endowed physically told a reporter, "If they don't like that we jiggle when we walk, don't look! Brings to mind a comment made by screen tycoon Steve Martin. Walking on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles, he said if you spot a woman whose breasts are moving, they're REAL!

Once upon a time, as a pre-pubescent Irish lass, launched at an early age into Irish step-dancing, mandatory for boys and girls to master jigs, reels and hornpipes. As skills developed we entered competitions in surrounding country towns earning and collecting medals for our performance, usually strutting our stuff on the back of a lorry. Medals pinned to the shoulder of dancing costumes distinctively embroidered in colors and designs reflected in the Book of Kells. Galloping out a hornpipe, the medals jiggled as did spouting breasts. Self conscious, uncomfortable, embarrassing, Irish dancing at the time required a stiff upper body. Pubescent bodies did not comply. To bring up the issue at home was not an option. No one noticed I was sprouting. I feigned colds, ankle pain, sore toes, toothache, and shoulder pain to avoid the summer's dance ritual. I never returned to dancing again until it was revolutionized by Riverdance followed by Lord of the Dance. Sat in the front row at the first concert in Chicago, marveling how dancers moved their bodies arms swinging, hips moving seductively, costumes fit for Hollywood, while the footwork remained the same. Purchased the music, practiced the steps perfectly at home, mature flesh confined by an expensive lace brassiere, a French product. Invited guests for cocktails and an Irish step dancing show. I danced

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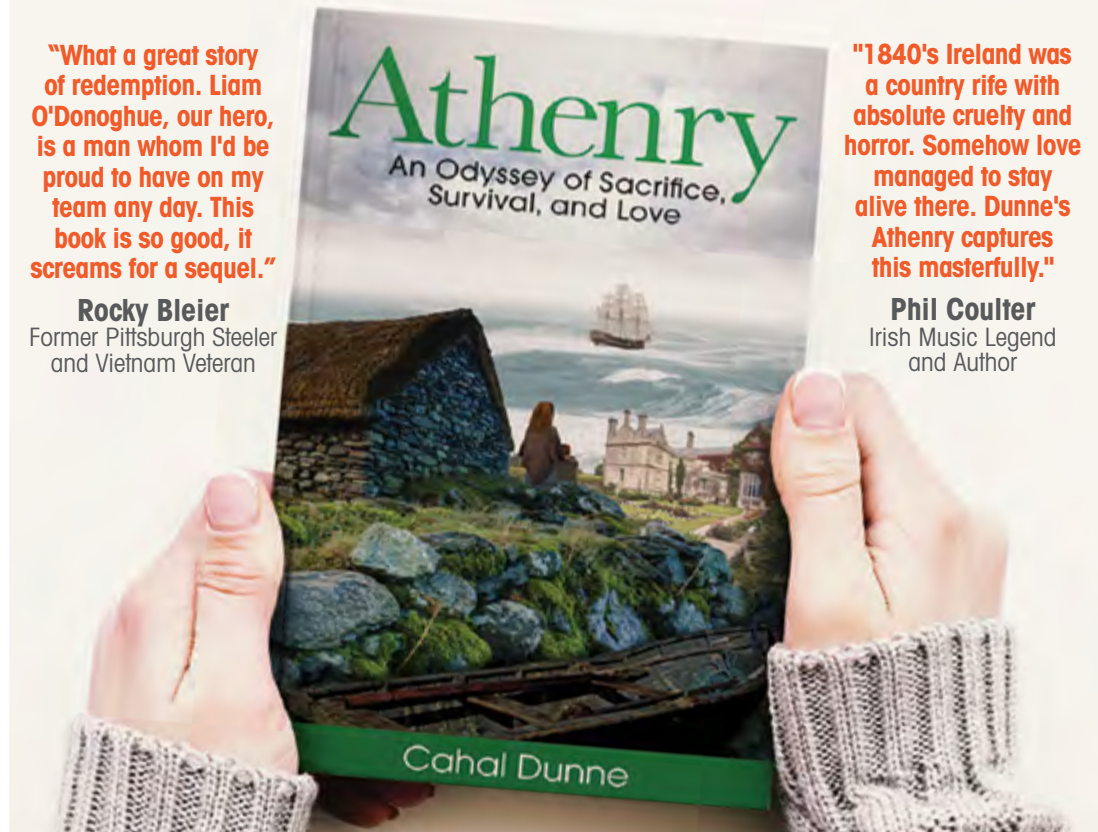
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to music tapping the rapid footwork of a perfect hornpipe and broke my ankle!

Meanwhile, another month surges toward the end of a tragic pandemic year, likely to continue into the next when an effective vaccine is available banishing the havoc wrought by Covid-19.

The economy dragged, although Halloween presented early in big box stores and speciality shop. Fields of harvested pumpkins displayed on front steps of homes, faces carved, transforming pumpkins into jack-o'lanterns, a tradition that actually began in Ireland. In a move as fast as flash forest fires in California, Halloween gear was pushed off the shelves by an abundance of Christmas inventory, so early it's offensive, raising

consumer tension layered on top of covid fatigue. The question arises, is it wise for children to dress on the last day of October, seeking gifts of confections, trick-or-treating around neighborhood homes? Is it safe this particular pandemic year?

The Irish celebrated Halloween in my youth as a light hearted day, a far cry from its ancient origins when people believed it was a night when the dead literally returned to the land of the living. Bonfires now burn all over Ireland on Halloween, and in my childhood we stayed home, bobbed for apples contained in a basin of water. Apple tarts concealed a ring, whoever discovered it was tagged with the prospect of an early marriage! There was also the traditional comfort of a fresh baked loaf of barn brack

sliced served with Irish butter and hot tea.

It's been estimated that Americans last year spent \$377 million on halloween costumes for adults, children, even pets. Most countries participate in halloween, although Mexico stands out as families celebrate the Day of The Dead from October 31st to November 2nd. The tradition is tied to the Christian holidays of All Saint's Day and all Soul's Day. It's a spiritual meaningful three day festival. Families erect altars to welcome back the souls of departed loved ones, believed to return to earth for a brief period. Families scatter flower petals on pathways to front doors leaving food to nurture returning souls. In Ireland, All Saint's Day is a holy day of Obligation. estelleshanley@aol.com

Irish Fellowship Club 2020 Golf Event at Ridgemoor Country Club



The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago

The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago held a very successful Summer Golf Event for the first time ever at Ridgemoor Country Club, and it was very well received.

The 47th Annual "Irish Open" sold out quickly this year, and the participants enjoyed a first class outing and beautiful weather. Thank you to our outstanding Golf Committee!

If you are not a member, maybe now is the time to think about joining. You can't let these folks have all the fun! Membership is \$75. Mail a check for that amount to:



The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago

**C/O Kathy Taylor
P.O. BOX 31604,
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and tell them to mail it to your home or your business, whichever you prefer! Or, you can fill out the form below and send it the same address.



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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

The Texan Celtic Twilight of Robert E. Howard Part One

"This land of Texas we shared along with its own monumental legendry, though I don't ever recall the two of us talking about it. In our very blood ran those epics of the lariat as well as the Alamo story which so shadows the mass psyche of Texans. But during those years when I knew Bob Howard, our minds were fixed on the hills of Wicklow that we had never seen, rather than those peaks of Callahan County we both knew. We wrote to each other about Brian Boru and Bob's alter ego, Conan, rather than Bill Travis or that bumbling, if Irish-descended Quixote, Jim Callahan, who had been my grandfather's Ranger commander and for whom the county was named."

So wrote Robert Ervin Howard's fellow writer Harold Preece in 1968, in an utterly engrossing essay called The Last Celt, where he remembered and eulogized so beautifully his friend, who had died 32 years previously.

There are a small number of artists that I discovered and fell in love with at an early age. And I never grew out of my interest - sometimes bordering on obsession - with them. To this day, forty-eight years after seeing him direct Steve McQueen and Ida Lupino in Junior Bonner, Sam Peckinpah remains my favourite film director bar none. To me there is just no one to touch him; and even his weakest, drink-sodden, cocaine-addled efforts (I'm looking at you, Convoy) remain of at least some interest.

I was thirteen when I saw Junior Bonner in 1972, but a year or so later I was able to smuggle myself into the Orient Cinema through a side door where I sat with jaw dropped and no doubt a little drool of saliva coming out of my slack mouth as I watched the X-rated Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid.

Oh man; after all these years I still get a tingle down my spine just thinking about it. There was cool-as-bedamned James Coburn as Garrett and - are you kidding me? - Kris Kristofferson, who I would see in concert many times over the coming years, as the Kid. Yeah, of course, a donkey's age older than Billy ever was, but I got what Peckinpah was trying to do here.

And of course also starring and with a soundtrack by none other than Bob Dylan, not yet a grumpy old git but enigmatic and with those beautiful cheekbones that made Cate Blanchet the obvious, if daring, choice to play him years later. What was his character? Well, Alias of course: Alias whoever you please.

And there was the darker side of Peckinpah even then. Chickens that were buried in the ground exploded in a welter of blood and slow-motion feathers as Billy and Pat took potshots at them; and since this was 1973 these were real chickens. Mad when you think about it now, really. Just the same as when you see those horses crashing to the ground and kicking in the dust we know now that the director was using trip-wires.

I moan about things changing for the worst; well, sometimes they change for the better and thank God that

barbarism against animals on a film set would never be allowed today.

My dad hated Peckinpah. He just detested this kind of film and of course at fourteen that made me like them even more. There was a kind of poetry to Sam's movies - yes, even to Straw Dogs - that I just didn't see elsewhere. I liked the fact that these guys were flawed, that they weren't John Wayne, that there were moral ambiguities. Not that I could have put it into those words back then but I felt it instinctively: that we were living in a world - Vietnam was still going on, for heaven's sake! - where the old values were being replaced by... what?

Dad had seen Sam's masterpiece The Wild Bunch in 1969 (I was too young) and he nearly had a heart attack when William Holden shot a woman in the back. He loved William Holden, thought he was a real man's man. I still remember his quiet enjoyment when he took me to a rerun of The Bridge on the River Kwai. Now to him that was a movie. So he really wasn't crazy about Holden as Pike Bishop.

The only thing that saved him from dismissing Peckinpah was his appearance on the Barry Norman film show for the BBC, where Peckinpah was obviously so proud of his ancestors coming from County Tyrone. Being proud of your Irish background on an English show was a big thing to my dad.

I'd like to think that another of the artists who became a lifelong favourite to me - the pulp writer Robert E. Howard (1906 - 1936) -- would have enjoyed Peckinpah's movies. Certainly there is that feeling of moral ambivalence that I mentioned; but more than that, there is this wonderful lyricism with which Howard's circle of Irish-Texans spoke and wrote. No matter how much I pore over these old letters, they still astonish me.

Here is Bob Howard to H.P. Lovecraft in 1931, writing about the death of a certain way of life:

"Well, they have gone into the night, a vast and silent caravan, with their buckskins and their boots, their spurs and their long rifles, their wagons and their mustangs, their wars and their loves, their brutalities and their chivalries; they have gone to join their old rivals, the wolf, the panther and the Indian, and only a crumbling 'dobe wall, a fading trail, the breath of an old song, remain to mark the roads they travelled. But sometimes when the night wind whispers forgotten tales through the mesquite and the chaparral, it is easy to imagine that once again the tall grass bends to the tread of a ghostly caravan, that the breeze bears the jingle of stirrup and bridle-chain, and that spectral camp-fires are winking far out on the plains. And a lobo calls where no wolf can be, and the night is dreamy and hushed and still with the pregnancy of old times."

Would Howard have loved the elegiac poetry of Peckinpah's movies? Oh yes; I have no doubt. There's a yearning for the past with both these men and I wonder what Peckinpah would have made of his unfinished project at the time of his death -- The Texans, in which a boy learns about life during a cattle drive.

It's the lyricism that gets me with these Irish-Texans, though. Get a load of this from Harold Preece:

"Far away and long ago it all seems now. As far away as Texas whose rhythms yet run in my veins. As long ago as those legends of Ireland recounted by Bob... All [of us] probably required, during those years of impatient early youth, some feeling of belonging to something that might be beyond those gargantuan, often smothering, dimen-

sions of our native state. For Bob and myself, that extra entity became Ireland, which we believed to have been the apex of a great Celtic domain once extending across most of Europe."

Next month, if I haven't fallen off the twig and joined the dear departed, I hope to talk about Robert Howard and what he has meant to me over the decades.

*And with heartfelt thanks for this column to the great Bob Howard scholars Rusty Burke and Mark Finn, whom I had hoped to finally meet in 2021 at the Howard Days festival in Cross Plains, Texas. Looks as if I'll have to wait until Covid-19 gives us a break. charleybrady@gmail.com

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Remembering Our Neighborhood

By Theresa Choske

When my sister Betty got married in 1962, she moved with her husband, Maurice, to a first floor rental apartment at 1444 W. Diversey Pkwy., in the Lakeview area of Chicago. The next year, my Dad, and several of my sisters and I, moved into the same building, renting for \$95 a month, three bedroom apartment above my sister, Betty. Back in the early '60s, the neighborhood around St. Bonaventure Parish had a mixture of people, but from my recollections, the majority were Germans and Irish. The apartment building we lived in was owned by Germans, but all the renters were Irish, namely, the Duffys, Byrnes, Sharkeys and O'Haras.

Around us there were single family houses and some small businesses were across the street from us. There was a family owned store in back of us on the corner of Greenview Ave. This store was good for an emergency purchase, but for all our other needs, we had easy access to our favorite shopping haunts at Lincoln, Belmont and Ashland.

Our top choice store to buy clothing was Mason's, where my shop-a-lot sister, Maura and I, bought sweater sets, dresses and winter coats. We also loved this store for their fancy lingerie and Babydoll sleepwear. Goodness knows, we weren't trying to impress anyone with these sheer, ultra-feminine wearables - we just liked them. Kerry's store, which was family owned and had sales people who were very persuasive. Of course, the shoes always had to match any dresses or outfit we bought and, if they didn't match, we dyed them a matching color. White satin heels were the easiest to dye and, the higher the heel the better. We wanted to be stylish, whatever it took. Maling's Shoe Store and O'Connor & Goldberg's (also known as O.G.'s) was where we bought these stiletto shoes.

Maura and I both worked in the Merchandise Mart in the early '60's, she for Illinois Bell and I, for Westinghouse Electric. Working in this beautiful, imposing and box-like building probably diluted the good common sense that we were born with. Neither of us stopped to think that all our money was on our backs and not in a 5% interest savings account!

We were not making exorbitant amounts of money, but that never kept us from dropping a week's pay on a single outfit.

Our Dad, a very practical and conservative man, only went shopping when he had a purpose, and for him, Wieboldt's located on Lincoln Ave., was the place to go for a birthday or wedding gift and was the store he could depend on for quality goods. At least, we told ourselves, we were getting quality because we knew we couldn't shop at Marshall Field's, so Wieboldt's for us, was the next best thing. When household furniture was needed, he went to a store called Fish Furniture, also on Lincoln Ave. Since our Dad did not drive, we walked or took a bus wherever we went. We didn't much like to go places with Dad because he had a very long stride to his step and we had a hard time keeping up with him. He was a great walker and we felt like idiots taking four steps to his one. Grocery shopping was done on Saturdays, and we took the two-wheeled shopping cart up to the National Food chain store on Belmont Ave. Dad knew exactly what he wanted and never did much lollygagging or reading labels in the store. With four brown paper bags of groceries, the bill would come out to about \$35. A few years later, as his family nesters were slowly leaving, he would complain about the fierce price he had to pay for groceries and, "wasn't he taking home less bags."

Sometimes, he would do special shopping at the Kuhn's Delicatessen, which was German owned, but they catered to the Irish community, selling Irish jams, breads and pounds of salted butter. Buying these items connected us, in a small way I suppose, to the country we had come from. We didn't patronize the German bakery, Dinkels, very often, because all my sisters and I knew how to bake. Flour, eggs and butter were always included on our shopping list. Cooking and baking were taken for granted as something everyone routinely did. We had to admit that our sister, Betty, was a weenie bit

better at cooking than the rest of us. Dad would still pick up pound cake and vanilla sandwich cookies from the National Tea store, just in case, any family members were not in the mood to bake that week. He knew the store-bought items wouldn't go to waste in our house, as there were enough 'chaw-hounds' around to deplete them.

What was great about buying things in the 1960's was the fact that stores offered layaway plans if you didn't have the entire amount at the time of purchase. The catch was the store would hold back the item until it was paid in full. Dad would reluctantly opt for that method of payment, but only when he had to make a big purchase, like a suit of furniture or new carpeting. He was diligent about making the layaway payments on time, and it never would have crossed his mind to forego or renege on this kind of commitment. He drummed it into our heads that we shouldn't be buying things if we didn't have the money to pay for them. Of course, it was good advice, but who was listening to him? The layaway plan to my sister Maura and I meant that we could now buy two dresses instead of one.

The Lakeview Bank was located on Lincoln Ave. Maura and I, started Christmas Club accounts there. But that money didn't stay in the account very long. We could hear the holed-up cash calling to us, and then after a guilty withdrawal, found some flimsy excuse for it to burn a hole in our pockets. Maura, through her job, joined the Credit Union, and it was another easy excuse for her spendthrift ways. We would model our newest fashions for Dad, who could be found, as usual, sitting in his favorite chair in the kitchen. He would look up at us over his glasses, give a faint smile, shake his head, and go right back to his newspaper or his crossword puzzle without saying a word. Why he was never interested in giving us his opinion we never understood.

Our Aunt Mary Tobin, who was married to our Mammy's brother Pat, lived at Seminary & Diversey, which was walking distance from us. When we emigrated to Chicago, we spent a lot of time visiting them and their three boys, our first cousins. We were definitely intimidated by Aunt Mary's personality, but not about her cooking abilities. We were never against sampling any of her magical creations. She worked for many years as a cook for the priests at St. Alphon-

sus Church located on Lincoln & Wellington. She did not have to be encouraged to talk about cooking. It was so automatic with her that our brother Joe would say, "boy, she would talk recipes to a donkey". She lived for cooking. Recipe reciting was poetry for her, and she had every half pinch ingredient for all her recipes indelibly printed in her Donegal memory. In the summertime, on our way to take in a movie at the Century Theatre on Clark & Diversey, we would pass Aunt Mary's house. There were times we would see her on her front porch, cooking a turkey or roast in her outdoor cooker. That would inspire us to say to each other that on our way home, we could pop in to see her. For no other reason, of course, other than to say hello and ask her how she's doing.

Everything wasn't always hunky-dory in Lakeview back then. There were several front page incidents that shook and shocked the neighborhood. In the wee-hours one Saturday night, a would-be gangster, being chased by the police, ducked into our gangway, only to be shot dead when apprehended. All the commotion was heard and seen by our sister, Betty. Another time, she herself became a victim, when she came face to face with a robber in her kitchen. Surprised at seeing her there, the intruder struggled with her. She picked up a kitchen chair and hit him with it. Later on, when she got over her fright, she said, "begor, he left in a hurry when I swung the chair at him". Her son, Jimmy, who was four at the time, on hearing his mother's screams, had come running in from another room. He ran over to his mother, clung to the back of her skirt, and kept hollering at the attacker to, "leave my Mommy alone".

In Betty's retelling of how she escaped with her life, we couldn't help but laugh to think of her hitting that guy with a chair. She wasn't a towering woman, by any means. She was the one person in our family who would say she didn't have the strength in her fingers to open the lid on a pot of jam and would ask one of us to open it for her. It was no wonder we laughed.

Another headline incident was when the Central Bank on the west side of Ashland was held up. I don't remember what year this was, but the robber told the teller he had a gun and asked her to put the money in the brown paper shopping bag he had. She complied and when he left the bank with the bag of money, he went directly to the Lakeview Bank across the street, on the east side of Ashland. When the jig was up, he told the police he wasn't there to rob the bank, he only wanted to deposit the money into the Lakeview Bank across the street.

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O'Brien Running for Cook County State's Attorney

By Mike Houlihan

I'm scared.

I don't feel safe in Chicago anymore.

Earlier this year I looked into buying a gun.

I haven't been downtown on the train or the El since early last March. At my age, (72 this December), I just feel like I'm no longer the "bad-ass" I once was. After many years of being mistaken for a cop, I'm just too old and vulnerable now to be any kind of a threat to a criminal who might want to bash my head in or kill me and rob me. I've become a "mark".

It wasn't always like this in Chicagoland. But lately criminals have grown much bolder in assaulting and killing people on the streets of our once great city. That's because there are no longer consequences for criminal behavior in Cook County. Every weekend it's a bloodbath in the city, often with innocent young children, sometimes even babies, slain in our streets.

I can't blame the police. I do blame our elected officials, particularly our Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot. Both are police haters and are willing to stand by and watch as our civilization goes up in flames in order to achieve some strange, obscure philosophical political goal.

I've been hosting a radio show for the last eighteen months, Hibernian Radio, dedicated to Irish First Responders and I've met many of our great Irish warriors who lay their lives on the line every day to help protect us and our families. They certainly deserve our respect and admiration. I've learned in that time through interviews and conversations with these Irish heroes that Cook County is in a very bad way because of the inept, and criminal advocacy of our leaders.

Maybe you've read or heard about the famous Jussie Smollet case where Kim Foxx refused to prosecute the gay actor who had faked a homophobic attack on himself to gain publicity for his TV show. Maybe you read Special Prosecutor Dan Webb's report on that case, where he revealed that Kim Foxx repeatedly lied to the public and authorities as she continued the coverup of this hoax to protect her politically connected pal.

Did you know that State's Attorney Kim Foxx has released over 130 accused murderers onto our streets with no criminal prosecution or jail time? These are individuals that the police arrested for murder, but Foxx let them go free with no charges! They're on the street now, murderers in our midst, waiting to meet you on the El or outside your neighborhood pub.

Foxx just won't prosecute criminals and they are released on low bond or on their own recognizance mere hours after committing these crimes, free to break the law again and again and again. According to Judge Pat O'Brien, "She's made the system a joke." And the joke's on us, the law-abiding citizens of Cook County.

According to the Chicago Tribune, (August 10, 2020), "A total of 25,183 people had their felony cases dismissed under Foxx through November 2019." This is madness and it's just going to get worse if Foxx continues in office.

Please help stop this dangerous politician. Vote for Judge Pat O'Brien in this election, for our safety and protection.

Pat grew up in Resurrection Parish on the West Side, attended Ignatius, Loyola, and then DePaul Law School

Judge O'Brien has an impressive record, including his time working as Felony Trial Supervisor, the Bureau Chief of the Criminal Division and Chief Deputy of the State's Attorney's Office. He has handled some of the biggest criminal cases in Illinois and he's greatly respected in the field. Kim Foxx is not.

Listen to Pat O'Brien on the Hibernian Radio podcasts of July 11th and August 29th at hibernianradio.org

You'll have an opportunity to hear him make his case and tell his story to an Irish audience. Get more information at obrienforcook.com

Nuns4Fun "From the Archives" Series in October

Nuns4Fun Entertainment is providing a new streaming collection of its religious comedies called, "From the Archives," starting with a very special performance of HOLY GHOST BINGO: GOD, GOBLINS, & GAMES!

Created last year and a huge hit at the Royal George Theater, this Halloween-themed comedy is perfect for the fall season! The show features the talents of actress Liz Cloud as our favorite bingo caller: Mrs. Mary Margaret O'Brien, a former nun now working for the archdiocese to raise funds.

Nuns4Fun will be making performances to continue entertaining its fans until this pandemic is over and



Nuns4Fun can get back to live entertainment.

Holy Ghost Bingo will be on sale through October 31. Tickets will be \$20, and this performance will be sold on Eventbrite, made available through Vimeo.

A portion of every ticket sold will go to help fund the retirement needs of the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago.

The show was filmed at the Royal George Theatre, but you can watch and laugh from the comfort of your own home! For more information on this and the From the Archives series, go to www.nuns4fun.com.

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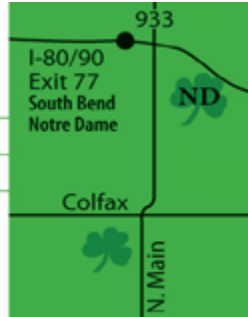
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IASCW Slate of Officers/Directors for 2021 Announced

The Slate of Officers and directors for 2021 are hereby published for the membership review:

President, Jim Lawler
VP, Bettie Komar

Secretary, Brian Conroy
Treasurer, Dan Maher

2023 Director, Mary Whelan Johnson
2023 Director (OPEN).

Those remaining on the board include:

2021 Director, Tim Broderick

2021 Director, Mary Beth Gannon

2022 Director, Beth Brophy Starceovich and

2022 Director, Dave Maher.

The following committee chair positions are open and to be appointed:

Cultural committee;

Membership committee;

Public Relations; and Scholarship.

Interested members are encouraged to contact IASCW Executive Director Tim Brophy to volunteer--815-791-6424, or tmb777@aol.com.

Images (from top left) 1. Sisters of Providence and loyal IAN readers Joyce Brophy and Ann Sullivan of St. Mary of the Woods, Indiana. 2. IASCW Founding President Robert Emmett Brophy, Jr. and Founding Director Robert J. Blackburn, circa 1983. 3. IASCW Exec. Director Tim Brophy with Rachel Yetter in Newbridge, Kildare March 2019 visiting with Gerry Murray, unofficial Mayor of the town. 4. Remembering better times at the 2019 Will County Celtic Fest are L-R, Rob Brophy, IASCW Past President Mic Brophy, IASCW Board member Beth Brophy Starceovich, and IASCW Exec. Dir. Tim Brophy.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TO GO VIRTUAL

Due to the current pandemic-related restrictions, the annual meeting of the IASCW membership scheduled for Sunday November 1, 2020 will be virtual. Members are encouraged to join the meeting. Specific meeting instructions will be emailed to all members in October. Members without access to necessary hardware or software to attend the virtual meeting should contact IASCW Executive Director Tim Brophy (815-791-6424) for alternative arrangements.

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Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



Thank You Justice Ginsberg

As I write October's IAN Column, the body of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg lies in repose in the Supreme Court of the United States, Washington DC. It was with a heavy heart that I learned of the passing of the Notorious RBG last week.

As a female lawyer and even more so, as a female lawyer who wanted a career and a family, I owe a lot to Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

This month I felt compelled to honor her memory and reflect on her legacy on this Country, it's Constitution and its people. She was born to Russian Jewish Immigrant parents, Joan Ruth Bader on March 15, 1933, in Brooklyn New York. Her older sister died when she was a baby and her mother died from cancer, the day before Ruth graduated High School. She earned her bachelor's degree at Cornell University where she met and married the true love of her life, Marty D. Ginsberg. Ruth said of her Husband that he was "the only young man I dated who cared that I had a brain".

After they married and had their first child, they both, desirous of becoming lawyers, attended the prestigious Harvard Law School, with Ruth taking a seat in a law class of 552 men and just eight other women. During her second year at Harvard, Marty was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Ruth cared for him, their daughter Jane, took her classes and also ensured Marty was up to

date with his classes, so he would not fall behind during his illness. At times she worried about managing the school's rigorous coursework, a sick Husband and young child but heeding advice from her Father, that "if you really want to study law, you will stop worrying and find a way to manage child and school", she persisted and found a way.

Upon graduation, Marty who was year ahead of Ruth at Harvard, accepted a position in New York and she moved with him finishing out her law degree at Columbia Law School, where she graduated top of her class.

The couple supported each other's respective careers fiercely, with each taking on child care responsibilities when the other's time was more focused on other matters. One of my favorite quotes of Justice Ginsberg is when she stated that "Women will only have true equality when men share

with them the responsibility of bringing up the next generation". Once when their Son James got into trouble at Grade school, the headmaster made a call to Ruth, who gave him a well deserved earful by pointing out "This child has two parents. You must alternate the calls from now on, starting with this one".

After law school she entered academia initially as a professor at Rutgers Law

School and thereafter at Columbia Law School, teaching civil procedure as one of the few women in her field. In 1972 she co-founded the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), later becoming a member of its board and then its General Counsel. In this role she argued

6 gender discrimination cases before the United States Supreme Court, winning five.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter appointed her to her first judicial post at the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. She served on this position until 1993 when she was appointed as only the

second female Judge on the Supreme Court of the United States, by President Bill Clinton. Through her advocacy as a litigator and later as a Judge, Ruth Bader Ginsberg revolutionized the law and made incredible progress toward gender equality in this Country.

As a Judge, Ginsburg was considered part of the Supreme Court's moderate liberal bloc, presenting a strong

voice in favor of gender equality, the rights of workers and the separation of Church and State. In 1966, she wrote the Court's landmark decision in United States v Virginia, which held that the state supported Virginia Military Institute, could not refuse to admit women. Despite her reputation for restrained writing, she quickly gathered considerable attention for her dissenting (disagreeing with the majority) opinions.

Married for 56 years, Ruth lost her beloved Marty to cancer in 2010. Marty, before his death provided a reason for their long and successful union, "My wife doesn't give me any advice about cooking and I don't give her any advice about the law".

While on and off the bench Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg worked tirelessly for the equality rights of women. Her brilliance and bravery inspired and paved the way for so many. She sacrificed a well-deserved retirement and battled various forms of cancer numerous times, all the while displaying a steadfast commitment to her position on the highest court of the land.

We must honor her legacy by continuing her fight for justice, equality and inclusion for all women, regardless of race, class or religion. And we as female lawyers, have a particular ability and responsibility to do so. Thank you Justice, today we mourn you, tomorrow we get back to work.

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



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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hello everyone,

It was really good to get singing at Gaelic Park, lately. It's really strange not performing these days. Declan and myself were also very honored to play at the benefit for a dear friend, **Sheila Crowley**. Sheila would always come to support us at the Curragh, when we used to do Sunday nights there.

The benefit was organized by another dear friend, who unfortunately is going back to Ireland, and that man is **Sean Ginnelly**. Sean kept us entertained for years, every Saturday, with his radio show 'Good Morning Ireland'. He also played a big part in booking local musicians at the Curragh Pub, Edison Park. He has been involved in countless benefits, a very humble man, who will be our loss and Ireland's gain. So I'm sure I speak for us all when I wish Sean good luck when he goes and in whatever he does. I know we will miss him.

I was overseas from February as my younger brother passed away. So I never got to say goodbye to two other dear friends, **Kara and Jerry Eadie**. They were an outstanding duo and just a pure pleasure to know. We played together as a wedding band for quite a while. I think at one stage there were about seven in the band. We had a lot of great times and made some wonderful memories. So good luck to you both, and hopefully I'll make my way down to Wexford and meet up with you guys in the future.

Pauline Conneely, Gerry Carey, Larry Nugent, and a host of other musicians were able to keep the session going in Park Ridge in the garden at the **Harp and Fiddle** and Declan and I got to play a few of the nights. I'm so happy that Declan has such a love for music, especially Irish music. Hup!

On my arrival back to Chicago, I heard that **John McDonagh** is leaving the **Corrib Pub**. John was another man that kept the live music going, and ran some great

sessions. Some new people taking over the pub, and they're Irish! So, I'm sure they will carry on the tradition. Good luck to you for the future John, and thank you for the gigs my friend.

It's hard to know right now with all that's going on or not going on in my case, what the future holds. Maybe I'll end up back in the South Armagh hills. My heart never really left there anyway. I'm thinking when I kick the bucket, at least they won't have far to haul my butt to my resting place in Cullyhanna. Hopefully there'll be a bit of room for me there, I'm not that big!

My sincere condolences to **Gerry Haughey**, on the loss of his brother Brendan, who was a fellow musician. I never had the pleasure of meeting Brendan, but I know from hearing and reading about him, he was very much a veteran of the Irish music scene and a sad loss R.I.P. Brendan.

A couple of nights before my son Declan arrived back in Ireland (he had already been over for his uncle Nick's funeral along with my wife Margaret). I was sitting alone in the home place in Silverbridge, and I was pretty lonesome for my brother. So, words came to mind and I got a pen and wrote them down. Words about how I was feeling and just really missing my best friend, Nick. Then I picked up my guitar and in about fifteen minutes I had written a song called 'A Little Feeling'. I will make it the song for this month, as he would have turned 63 years old on October 19th, and actually looked about 39 years old. I recorded it on my phone and sent it to a man I'm sure anyone that's been on the **Gertrude Byrne Cruises** would know. His name is **Stephen Smyth**, one of my brother's many great friends. Stephen called me and said "Joe, I'd love to record a track for the song in my studios". He then added "before we go any further, I want to do it for you and

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because I loved your brother Nicky so much, and I will not take any money for it, just let me do it". So he did it was a really wonderful track, the man is a musical genius. I went up to his studios in Portaferry and put down the vocal. Then he said he would love to do a video for it and the same thing applies, "I will take no money", were his words. I was overwhelmed. Stephen coaxed me through the song and the video. We had to keep stopping so I could compose myself. It was the hardest vocal, emotionally, I've ever done. Thank you Stephen and your lovely wife Sharon for everything. **Friendship is a great thing**, they are the best words I can think of right now.

Until next month as always, be good to one another. "Happy Halloween" everyone. Joe

'A Little Healing' Key C

© Written by Joe McShane Verse 1

Dreams of starry nights and yesterday
And some old friends we lost along the way
So many storms, we've been through
But there's nothing in this world, compares to losing you
Chorus Sometimes I reach out for the phone
Then I realize you're gone

If you know from where you are tonight, how I'm feeling
Send me down a prayer, so I can do a little healing

Verse 2 If I could only see you one more time
To let you know how much you're on my mind

I hope before you left me here you knew
You were such a part of me, now my sky is not so blue

Chorus Sometimes I reach out for the phone
Then I realize you're gone

If you know from where you are tonight how I'm feeling
Send me down a prayer so I can do a little healing

Instrumental Key change C#
Chorus

Sometimes I reach out for the phone
Then I realize you're gone

If you know from where you are tonight, just how I'm feeling
Send me down a prayer so I can do a little healing

Tag Send me down a prayer, to help me with my grieving

Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Do We Quit Too Soon?

During our visit to Lithuania a number of years ago, I learned a valuable lesson. While my wife was shopping in a large supermarket, I was waiting outside just watching other shoppers going in and out of the store. It was there that I witnessed an interesting example of PERSISTENCE. As customers entered or exited the store, a woman asked them for some money. I would estimate that 10% of the individuals solicited gave the woman something. She spoke directly to the individuals in such a quiet voice that I could not hear her words. If you were watching her face you couldn't tell if the individual had given her anything. She just seemed to mumble something. No one asked her to repeat herself.

Her appearance left a lot to be desired. Her face was very worn, perhaps by the sun or the elements. She was chewing on something the whole time. She was dressed in shabby garb. She was a person of small stature. She lacked any style or sense of presence. But she was collecting some money from 10 out of every 100 people passing through the doors of that store. I found her success to be very instructive. Her persistence was paying off at a level that seemed to work for her.

Over the years I have spent untold hours trying to convince job seekers that the secret to finding a job is an appropriate display of PERSISTENCE similar to this lady asking for a hand out as people passed by. A job seeker needs to confront people and ask for their help. Very few people will actually OFFER to help, but some people will help if asked.

The lady was proving my point, persistence works. I had three separate occasions to watch her "work". I found myself wondering how much more successful she could have been if she had a better prepared "story" to tell. Again in my mind the old truism is golden, "Ask and you shall receive", but somehow many job seekers don't get it. A lot of job seekers will say "No one's hiring, why bother trying?" If you believe the government statistics, there are 100,000 new jobs (or pick a number that works for you) developed each month. Who fills these jobs other than people who are asking to be hired?

Many employed people might advance their careers if they followed the example of the woman at the supermarket, namely ask for the order, so to speak. You may never know if you don't ask. Even

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if your supervisor turns down your request for some additional responsibilities, you have set the stage for future consideration. How are your superiors to know if you are interested in advancement unless you tell them? There are a lot of people who are quite satisfied with their current level of responsibility and more or less the associated salary. They don't want any additional cares or concerns. A person I spoke with a few weeks ago said he was quite content with his current role as a long time "grunt." So do the smart thing and let your supervisor know you are very interested in advancing if that's the case.

Are there growth opportunities within your organization that you might like to be considered for? This concept seems so obvious. If you are looking for a higher level job, ask about the availability of a promotion. Perhaps you need to prepare yourself by enhancing your skills in order to be seriously considered, or it might even be that you need to upgrade your appearance. You want to overcome the natural tendency to hide your talents under the proverbial basket. Woody Allen says that 50% of being successful is just showing up. If you are not happy with your current job, perhaps you should give this concept a try. Virtually every supervisor feels that there are not enough people looking for additional responsibility and challenge.

Imagine how much more successful you could be if you believed you could succeed. Your commitment to this view of the world will inspire you to go that one additional step. Make that one additional phone call or make that last call of the week late Friday afternoon. You need to convince yourself that success is just around the corner. Give yourself those additional chances at being successful. Some people would call this PMA or positive mental attitude. I call it persistence or the positive belief in your ability to achieve.

The old adage says if at first you don't succeed, try and try again. Unfortunately others of us say "Gee, I haven't reached my goal. I will just quit this endeavor and try something else." Let me suggest a different approach. Try to go that extra step for the next 30 days and then assess your achievements for the month. Have you enjoyed yourself more this month due to your achievements or recognition? If you don't sense an improvement in your circumstances, you now have a choice. You can go another 30 days or consider other options within your current employment. Or you can begin a search for a different employer who would ideally encourage your progress and growth. Life is too short to stay in a job that has no future growth.

It is clearly up to you. Remember it's your choice. CARPE DIEM/SEIZE THE DAY FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

Retain faith that you will prevail in the end regardless of the difficulties and at the same time, confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be.

THE STOCKDALE PARADOX.
James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., a Naperville, IL- based senior executive coaching and career transition firm. Jamesffitzgerald.com jamesffitz37@hotmail.com

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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



Who is Mark Pollock? He is an explorer, a champion rower (sport you see in the movies at Harvard/Yale) motivational speaker and author from Co. Down. He is also blind and in a wheelchair. I only discovered him by browsing some Ted Talks as we all might benefit from some positive messages nowadays. He astonishingly became the first blind man to race to the South Pole. He has run several marathons (with a sighted partner) including across the Gobi (Mongolia/China) desert.

He lost his eyesight in one eye at a young age and later lost eyesight in the other eye. Tragically right before his wedding day he fell out of a window breaking his back and splitting his skull which resulted in paralysis/incapacity.

I can't imagine the amount of suffering and heartache Pollock has been through and yet he continues and is thriving with what he does have. 15% of the world lives with blindness. One of my favorite singers is blind, Andre Bocelli.

About 350,000 people in America are living with a spinal cord injury, it is very expensive for treatment. (maybe one could get assistance from the Affordable Care Act)

I have had heel spurs for the past fifteen years and at times I can't walk because of the pain. I can not imagine how Pollock feels every day of his life. We should thank God daily for our precious health. "Calm mind brings inner strength and self-confidence that's important for our health." Dalai Lama

Pollock hosted the documentary series, "Yes I Can", on Setanta sports. He has been honored in different ways including an honorary degree from Trinity College, Honorary Doctorate from Queens University Belfast and he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Pollock was honored with a Rehab People of the Year Award.

Pollock is inspiring and has found inspiration along the way. He quotes Nietzsche, "He who has a why to live for can bear almost any how". Pollock also likes Victor Frankl. An Austrian Neurologist psychiatrist & Holocaust survivor. "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." Frankl

November is around the corner & it is Epilepsy awareness month. Epilepsy (falling of sickness in Ire) is a disorder in which nerve cell activity in the brain is disturbed causing seizures. Epilepsy can develop in any person at any age. (1

in 26 people will develop Epilepsy in their lifetime, Mayo Clinic) There is no cure only treatment. My grand uncle Martin Butler had epilepsy. (His twin was my grandpa Michael Butler) He went to the shop to get flour and never made it home, he had a seizure on the road in Kilkenny and died, he was only 18 years old. My grandpa found him laying in a small puddle of water. I hope they are both resting in peace, gone but not forgotten.

Gaelic for the month
Blind-dall
Suffered-d'fhulaing
Wheelchair-cathaoir rothai
Explorer-taiscealai
Health-slainte

"The higher we soar, the smaller we appear to those who cannot fly." Nietzsche

If you have any questions or comments please find me: Molanive@yahoo.com



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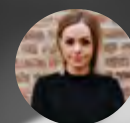
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