



Fail to Plan, Plan to Fail

Back in the day when I was growing up, I can still hear my mother saying, "If ever there is an emergency go next door to the neighbors." My parents were big planners and savers also and never lived beyond their means. In later years when I interviewed my mother, I asked her how she budgeted for things and she simply said, "I saved half and use the other half to run the household, I never wavered from this formula". A simple formula none the less one that obviously worked for them. My parents were big planners, always preparing for the rainy for the rainy day.

The question I pose to you is Does your family have an emergency plan? I am not just referring to having a few months' worth of cash in a safe place in case of an emergency, but I am referring more to a family emergency plan in general.

Since thanksgiving is fast approaching, and the assumption is that families will be together in some way shape or form. I thought I would give you some resources to get your emergency plan together. I see repeatedly all the things that go wrong because families are not prepared for any emergency that life throws at them. Many families scramble to find the necessary docu-

ments when a parent is hospitalized or dies both expectedly and unexpectedly. This thanksgiving when you are surround by family, have these discussions and put this plan in place." It most definitely is a difficult and many times awkward conversation to have, but a conversation that needs to take place none the less. For our families that are in their forties raising young children and adolescents, do not wait till you are older to put plans in place do it. Someone in the family must take the now, don't keep putting g it off, implementation of a plan will make things so much easier later on. You can update these plans along the way if needed. In regard to elderly parents it may be a simple conversation as to where the papers are that will be necessary to make medical and or financial decision later on when emergencies take place. When we are busy living, we never thing about dying tomorrow is not promised to any of us! I believe covid -19 has shown us all that one never knows what ahead, and the unexpected can change your life forever. Being prepared just makes it that little bit easier on those left behind. Here is a simple guide for you to read through an personalize to for your family's needs when considering



on hand for the person or first responders coming to the home. A flashlight, case of water, a battery powered radio, and blanket for storage in every basement, crawl space for power outages and inclement weather conditions. A small generator. Keep in mind that putting one's final plans in order is not a simple thing and takes months and months of preparation and a good attorney. This process takes time but should never be put off because you do not have time to do it. Having your plans in order will eliminate many headaches in the future when you may be thrust into an emergency situation and disabled at every junction to get the help needed.

For those who read last month article on the bank and check fraud here is an update. The local branch manager reached out to her manager and asked him if she could "Take the hit to cover the cost of my check against her branches profit numbers at year end "I was refunded my own money, however as I stated last month the initial response and lack of follow up highlighted to me it was time to switch banks. www.aishlingcare.com

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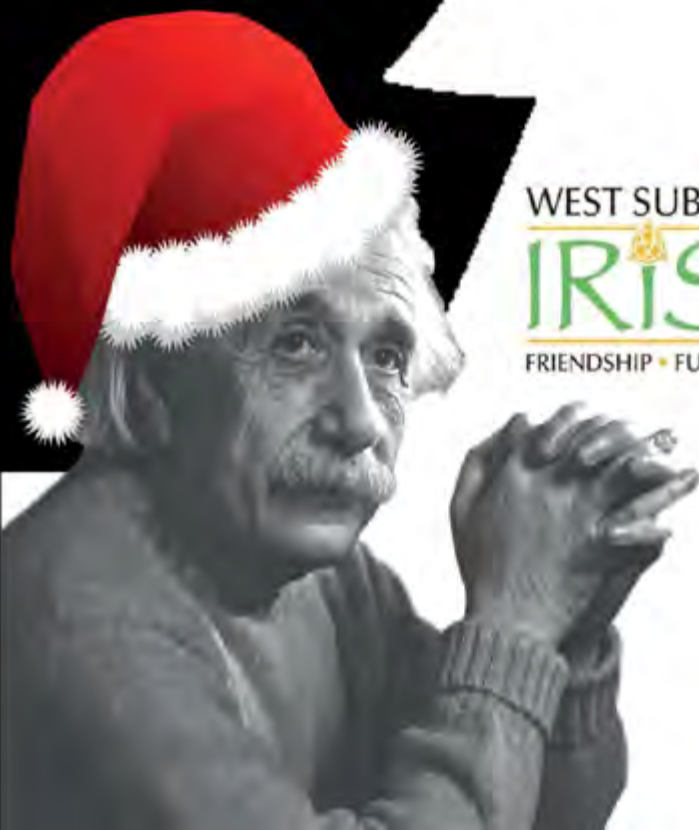
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A Pandemic Note

by Sharon Houk

So Arlene gets into the back of the ambulance yelling, "I left you a note." And off she goes in her orange fuzzy slippers and pink housecoat with a full-blown case of Covid-19.

I didn't see any note. And anyway, this was the first time she had spoken to me in two weeks. Look, after thirty-three years of marriage, you stop feeling like talking to one another. It hadn't helped that at the beginning of the pandemic we attempted to both work from home at same small kitchen table. After three days, I was fed up. She wanted her stuff everywhere. I wanted my coffee cup on the table. She had a rule no coffee cups on the "desk." I said that it wasn't a desk. She said it wasn't a table. It was a table. It was categorically a table. And I was trying to handle business. She was blathering. I needed space. She had two monitors and a printer. Her phone was ringing off the hook. How could I think straight? After a week, I moved into the living room onto a series of tray tables. I had my laptop balanced on one, my papers on another, my binders on another, and my office supplies on another. It looked as if my office desk had come home to play "train."

"Roote's Pest Control, Arlene speaking. How may I help you?" I heard this refrain all day long while I was trying to work. "Roote's Pest Control." "Roote's Pest Control."

The dinners she cooked were completely uninspiring. The cleaning was barely competent. And because I was home, she was constantly nagging at me: fix the toilet - it doesn't help if you jiggle the hook, close up the hole by the attic window, get the leaves out of the gutter, and so on. It was a never-ending flood of reasons why I didn't measure up. Well, Earth to Arlene: I don't measure up. I'm not ever going to measure up. I'm not ever going to be what you want me to be and I refuse to live the rest of my life as a sad shadow of myself. If a pandemic tells you anything, it's that you'd better

be happy now because tomorrow is not promised. So I decided that as soon as this pandemic was over, I was getting a divorce.

And then early summer she up and got sick. I think she knew she was sick long before she let on. All I know is that suddenly, one night, she couldn't breathe and was whisked off to the hospital.

"I left you a note," she yelled as she left.

Arlene landed right in the ICU on a ventilator. Just like that. Just like that I couldn't find anything in the house.

I found the first note inside the dishwasher:

Dear Ray, the dishwasher doesn't work. It last worked in 1986. The dishwashing soap is in the cabinet under the sink. Don't worry. You can do it. Don't touch my pink rubber gloves. Arlene

The next note was in the mailbox:

Dear Ray, your mother's birthday is next week. She might enjoy a card. The stamps are in the drawer under the microwave. Also, the water bill is high because the toilet is running. Arlene

Then on the inside of the attic door:

Dear Ray, the noise is raccoons. Fix. The. Hole. Arlene

In the freezer: Dear Ray, sucks to be you. Buy a cookbook. Arlene

Taped to the mop handle in the basement after a series of hard rains:

Dear Ray, please don't fall trying to clean the gutters. Pay someone. Arlene

In the laundry basket:

Dear Ray, if you wash your red shirt in warm water, all your underpants will turn pink. Pull knob to turn on; push knob to turn off. Arlene

Taped to the hose outside:

Dear Ray, Plants are people. Love, Arlene

In the fuse box:

Dear Ray, second down on the left. Don't run both window air conditioners at the same time. Arlene

In my winter hat in the closet, not because it was cold outside, but because I was looking for

notes:

Dearest Ray, if you find this note, I think that means I didn't make it. I'm so sorry, Ray. You know what I've never told you? I've never told you how much I respect you. I've always respected the work that you do. You work so hard. And when times were tough, you always figured out a way to keep us going. And I respect the man that you are. Everyone in the neighborhood knows they can count on you. It's just that things got odd between us. I don't know what happened. But here's what will never change: I respect you as a man and as a husband. Thanks for being my partner all these strange wonderful and woeful years. We were a pair, weren't we?

Be free, my friend, A.

And under her pillow:

I miss you, too.

As odd things happen during a pandemic, I took my own turn in the ICU at the same time Arlene got well enough to come home. Arlene is at home fine. I'm in the ICU, but they tell me that my case is not so serious. I need a bit of oxygen and a bit of watching over. I left Arlene a note taped to the kitchen table:

Dear Arlene, I got us a new dishwasher. Sent Mom a card. Evicted the raccoons. Ordered takeout. Fell off the ladder. Just kidding. Paid Palmer's to clean gutters. Am wearing pink underpants - proudly. Have been hot. Love and miss you. Plants are people. Oh,

and also, I didn't fix the toilet. It's old. It's impossible. It's pernickety. I'm sorry. You'll have to jiggle the hook.

Love you always, R.

While in the ICU, I got a note from Arlene:

Dear R., thanks for the dishwasher. The previous one was rather old and impossible, if I care to admit it. I'm sorry. And about the toilet, no problem. I'll be glad to jiggle the hook. A.



Sharon Houk

Sharon Houk is a writer and artist based in Joliet, Illinois and the official Poet of Day-break Center for the homeless. She's a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and is currently studying at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Sharon is a member of the WriteOn Joliet writers' group, Latitude 41 theater group, and the Irish American Society of County Will.



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FROM THE MOTHERLAND

By
SEAN FARRELL



Golden October, Somber November, Grim January

"Since Golden October declined into Sombre November..."

The opening lines of Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" strike a particular chord this year. Not that October has been particularly golden here, apart from a pleasant Indian summer. But there is little doubt that Sombre November is set to strike. Big time, as Ireland like a number of other European countries, struggles to combat the Second Wave of the Virus. With cases rising at over 1000 per day (now 54,476, almost double that on September 1)) we are in (virtually) Total Lockdown - until November 30. After that we revert to partial lockdown. And then: Who knows? Even the experts seem to accept that six weeks will not be sufficient to "kill" the virus. Pent up demand, frustration, shopping for Christmas, all threaten to generate another spike in cases with further lockdowns to come, this to continue until a

vaccine arrives. As if that were not enough, in the New Year "Destiny waits" ((Eliot again). There had been a pious hope that there would be a welcome start to 2021 when Ireland joins the UN Security Council. Any celebration of this is likely to be overshadowed by the situation on the ground as Britain finally severs its EU links. There are two possible scenarios, an optimistic one should the EU and Britain successfully negotiate a Free Trade Exit Agreement, a pessimistic one should Britain crash out in a No Deal departure. It's a serious situation for the EU, but particularly so for Ireland, the most exposed Member State by far to the effects of Brexit.

Even an optimistic outcome will pose serious logistical supply and bureaucratic problems for Irish exporters and importers alike. A No Deal outcome would be a nightmare with WTO tariffs and quotas suddenly falling due on a range of Irish agricultural and other exports. Where before there was a relatively seamless corridor for Irish exports into and through the UK (and vice versa) a new quasi-Luddite system of physical and financial barriers would be erected. Currently negotiations are proceeding with the inevitable posturing on both sides; so

we shall have to see.

A No Deal crash out also has the potential for damage to the Good Friday Agreement settlement in the North. By passing legislation to come into play should there be no FTA deal, Britain has already shown brazen disregard for the international agreement it had freely entered into to ensure there would be no hard border in Ireland. Currently British spokesmen brush the issue aside as hypothetical and irrelevant should there be a deal. A negotiating tactic? Again, we shall see.

It's worth reflecting that Brexit, essentially an assertion of English nationalism against the wishes of clear majorities in Scotland and the North, by its very nature cast at the least a spanner in the smooth functioning of the Good Friday Agreement. There was a clear tribal split in the vote in the North, as shown in the Constituency results, with the minority who voted for Brexit predominantly working class Unionist - a stark reminder that the division between the Communities remained, despite almost two decades of peace and lowering of tension. As in every vote in the North, the Border was an issue, but it seems clear that the same impulse to vote "leave" evident in working class England applied to some in the North also - alienation, a feeling that they were losing out and an aspiration to "take back control," a feeling perhaps given added spice by the evidently more comfortable and satisfied minority community.

That spanner will be exacerbated by the effects even a benign Brexit will have on the flourishing and growing economic and social links between the two parts of the island. The food industry has developed strong cross border links and integrated production while thousands commute to work daily in both directions. Whatever happens in the negotiations, there will be a shake-up, the extent yet to be determined. And here dovetailing, not at all neatly, with the Brexit event, Covid 19 intrudes.

There is simply no getting away from the ubiquitous Covid 19. The history of the Virus in the North was for long very similar to that on the rest of the island. Indeed for quite a time the North seemed to be doing dramatically better than its counterpart. During the first wave, from March to the end of May 2020, the North (with roughly 40% of the population) reported 4716 cases and 523 deaths, compared to 24,990 cases and 1649 deaths in the Republic, a substantially lower figure proportionately, even allowing for differences in reporting and recording. Indeed Northern Ireland's death rate from the virus, then and now, remains the lowest in the UK and below that in the Republic.

For the next three months the numbers of cases and deaths in both parts of the island grew only slightly, as it appeared that the measures taken were working. At the end of August Northern Ireland had 7245 reported cases and 560 deaths while the Republic reported 28,811 cases and 1777 deaths.

Then effectively the wheels came off, particularly in the North, as restrictions were eased and the second wave began to kick in - a pattern common to most other European countries (Nordics and Baltics and several others excepted). On 24 September the North had 9950 cases; just over four weeks later that figure has trebled to 31,034, while the Republic has also recorded sharp increases, though less severe, from 33,444 (24 September) to 54,476 yesterday. The North's rate of increase is now the highest in the UK and far outstrips that in the Republic. Thus far deaths have not kept pace - 634 and 1871 respectively - reflecting the trend elsewhere in Europe as the disease is now hitting younger and less vulnerable sectors of the population - though whether deaths will continue relatively low as the numbers infected grow remains to be seen.

The surge in the North has not developed asymmetrically. For whatever reason Derry and Strabane, closest to the Border, have seen the highest rise in cases, followed by Belfast, Mid Ulster, Newry and Mourne, all, interestingly, predominantly Nationalist areas. Significantly also, and proof that the Virus does not recognise borders, the areas worst hit in the South include the three adjacent Ulster Border counties, Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan. Clearly there has been spill-over, a reflection of the increased cross border contacts on the ground since 1998. This has led, naturally to calls for an all-island, all-Ireland approach to Covid control measures.

While there is close cooperation there is no sign at present of a single integrated approach. Indeed the DUP Agriculture Minister, Edwin Poots, has dragged Covid into the political arena by observing several days ago that infection rates in Nationalist areas were six times those in Unionist ones. Poots denied his remarks were sectarian citing "poor political leadership" by Sinn Fein, including attendance at the Bobby Storey funeral, had helped bring this about. Clearly community relations in the North have some distance still to travel. Poots, incidentally, is a "young earth creationist", rejecting evolution and believing the world was created around 4000 B.C.

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

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A Warm Thank You From Sheila Crowley

I want to take the opportunity to show my appreciation to all the good people who have reached out to me in this difficult time. You have given me an opportunity to reflect on my life from childhood

support you gave me whether you visited the web site, attended the Shindig or just gave a card or a phone call.

I want to thank all the Musicians who shared their time and their talent to make the Shindig so enjoyable Joe and Declan McShane, John Staunton, Peter Brady and Jimmy Moore, Paddy Holman, Chicago Reel. Shannon Rovers and Trinity Dance Company and to all that gave their voice to add to the merriment. I want to especially thank Sean Ginnelly and Katherine O' Sullivan for putting everything together. Finally I don't really have the words to fully show



(l to r): Sheila and Mary Beth Crowley

to now and all the people that have made it special. You have shared the laughter and the tears. You have made the bad times good, the good times better and the ordinary times extraordinary. It has been my great fortune to become involved in the Irish community where giving support to others is part of the fabric of life. I want to thank you for all the laughter, the benefits, the parades, the festivals, the music but mostly for the friendship. I want to thank you for all the love and

my appreciation, so I would like to share with you my favorite Verse:

*It is my joy in life to find
At every turning of the road
The strong arm of a comrade kind
To help me onward with my load.
And since I have no gold to give,
And love alone must make amends,
My only prayer is, while I live-
God make me worthy of my friends.*
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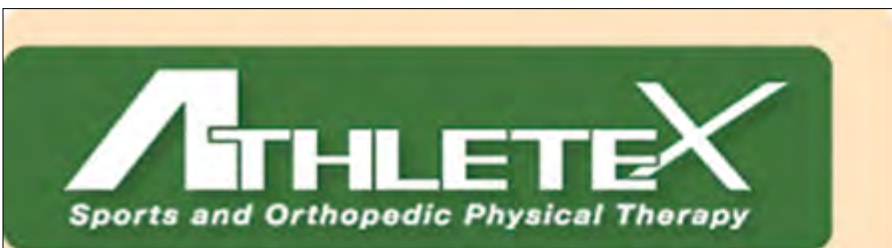
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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



The Supreme Court of Ireland

On August 19th, a group of Irish politicians as well as banking, legal and PR people assembled for the Oireachtas (legislature) Golf Society dinner in Clifden, Co. Galway. The event flouted Covid-19 restrictions and raised the ire of people throughout Ireland, who had been making huge sacrifices for the sake of public health for five months. Within 24 hours of the news breaking the following day, the Minister for Agriculture's head rolled: Dara Calleary had participated in the cabinet meetings which authorised the Covid-19 guidelines and yet he broke them. However, the logic of sanctioning the public figures who attended the golf dinner could not be applied to each in the same way. Some were elected representatives, some were senior officials. The presence of two people, in particular, became (and remained) controversial long after the dinner: European Commissioner Phil Hogan and Supreme Court Judge Séamus Woulfe.

Phil Hogan held the trade brief at the European

Commission, a crucial portfolio at any time and particularly so now that our nearest neighbour is leaving the EU. Hogan's role in Europe was independent of the Irish government. So when, on the weekend following what became known as 'golfgate', Taoiseach Micheál Martin and Tánaiste Leo Varadkar urged Hogan to consider his position, he ignored them.

It was in Brussels that Hogan had to provide a full account of himself. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen made an extraordinary plea to Hogan to engage with the media (he had been hiding behind a spokesperson). She also demanded that he provide the complete itinerary of his summer visit to Ireland. Journalists soon identified gaps in his account—places he had visited that were not mentioned. By August 26th, Hogan resigned as the European Commissioner for Trade.

Hogan's downfall begs the question whether it was his attitude towards accountability and his concealments that did more damage than his decision to attend the golf dinner. It is an important question because Judge Woulfe made (and continues to make) comparable mistakes in his handling of the fallout from golfgate.

Until this June, Séamus Woulfe was the Irish Attorney General. Then, in July, he was appointed a Supreme Court Judge. Those roles involve a fundamentally different relationship with politicians. Whereas the Attorney General is in contact with politicians almost every day, judges instinctively keep away from political circles. There is no law in Ireland requiring a separation between judges and politicians in their social life. Instead, there is a tacit assumption that judges would be wise to act with discretion at all times. The aggregate of legal opinion expressed in the media on Woulfe's case inclines to the view that Woulfe should have adhered to that convention.

In Woulfe's execution of his previous role, the opinionating that accompanies politics appears to have rubbed off on him. While still Attorney General in 2018, he rather startlingly called a legislative bill sponsored by an independent minister 'a dog's dinner'. Is that not a rather apt description for the

dinner Woulfe saw fit to attend in Clifden?

Woulfe did apologise for his attendance, but his apology fell short of taking responsibility for his actions: 'my understanding was that the organisers and the hotel had satisfied themselves that they would be operating within Government public health guidelines'. Given that his new job is to form judgements based on the law that have far-reaching consequences for Irish citizens, his misjudgement in attending the dinner has not inspired the body politic with confidence in him.

Former Chief Justice Susan Denham held an enquiry to make recommendations on Woulfe's case. It was an exceptionally difficult case to immunise from political circumstances since it occurred after several politicians had been forced to resign or accept demotion for attending the dinner. No legal professional, however flintily independent, could have found the process easy. Moreover, there is the matter that Woulfe retained a barrister for his discussions with Denham and it was necessary that she was indemnified against libel.

If all of this were not bad enough, when Woulfe met with Denham he proceeded to dig himself deeper into the hole. Woulfe told Denham that he considered the media treatment of the event to be 'completely fake...it's like a Ku Klux Klan now'. Is such language not reminiscent of a certain perch in Washington DC? In a letter to the Irish Times legal and media commentator Colum Kenny argued that Woulfe 'should not be allowed to hear any case involving the media as there would always be a clear perception of bias'. The nub of this claim is the broader reality of a supreme court judge who lacks the public's confidence. That is attributable not only to his attendance at the ill-fated dinner. Woulfe has repeatedly been indiscreet, in word and deed. How can it be tenable that a supreme court judge remains on the bench given that a significant segment of Irish society has grounds to repudiate his authority?

Denham recommended that there is no case to remove Woulfe from the bench. (Had the Judicial Council Act 2019 been enforced by now, the judiciary would have been empowered to remove a colleague; as things stand, they do not). Even so, the political fallout for the court has been very considerable, and the loss of public confidence in the judiciary enormous.

On foot of Denham's published recommendations, the Chief Justice of Ireland, Frank Clarke, sought to meet Woulfe to conclude the matter. During his tenure, Clarke has led an attempt to alter the perception of Ireland's judiciary as being elitist and removed from the people. How delighted he must have been about golfgate and the fact that on October 15th Woulfe postponed his meeting with him for the fourth time. Now Chief Justice Clarke has made clear he will 'make alternative arrangements to convey his final views on the process to Mr Justice Woulfe'.

Scandals tend to last about a week in the news cycle. The longevity of this fiasco is indicative of how thoroughly the Supreme Court of Ireland has been devalued by it. The damage resulting from it will endure for years.

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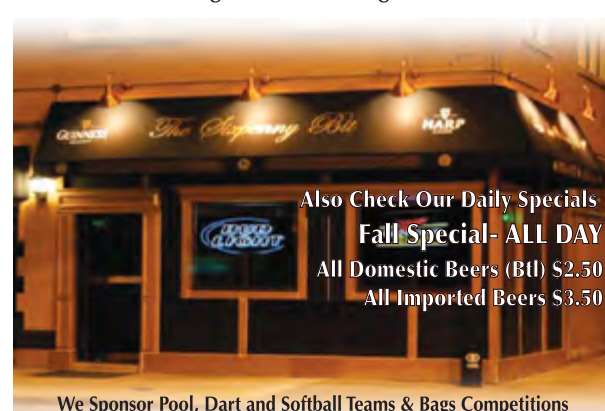
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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Cháirde

At Chicago Gaelic Park, we take the ongoing threat of Covid-19 seriously. We want our guests to stay healthy and to feel safe when they are with us. Many of you have been to events here or have joined us for food and drink on our patio, and you have complimented us on our safety measures and compliance. We will continue to make safety a priority, and our facility helps us to do so. Our large banquet rooms make it very easy for event organizers to spread guests out. With the pub opening on our spacious patio, we have been able to accommodate many customers,

and our heaters and vinyl curtains help keep patrons comfortable. The pub itself has been modified by the removal of many tables and chairs, and by the addition of clear acrylic panels, so that when the weather forces us inside, guests can be apart from each other. For pub guests that prefer additional space, an adjoining room is often available. We are glad that many of you feel safe enough to visit.

We give thanks for our relationship with you.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Is mise le meas,
Bill O'Sullivan

The Carraig Challenge Cross Country 5K

Because of Health & Safety issues this year, the Carraig Challenge will be a virtual run/walk.

Race information sheets with signup info will be sent out soon.



*Gaelic Park's Patio is open
for cocktails and dinner
Wednesday through Sunday*



Indoor/Outdoor Dining - Weather Sensitive

November Entertainment

Frank Rossi Thursday November 12th

Friday

Saturday

6th - Jerry Haughey 7:30pm

5th - Chris James 8pm

13th - St. James Gate 8:00pm

14th - Mulligan Stew 8:00pm

20th - Joe Cullen 7:30pm

21st - Bernie Glim 8:00pm

27th - Liam Durkin 7:30pm

28th - Kieran Byrne 8:00pm

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Thanksgiving Day

Thursday November 26, 2020

We are thankful for your support during these past eight months and unfortunately due to the ongoing pandemic we will not be able to celebrate Thanksgiving with you here at Gaelic Park as in past years.

**But we can help you celebrate
in the safety of your own home.**

**A Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner
Curbside Pickup only**

**- Thanksgiving Dinner for 4 -
Oven Roasted Sliced Turkey Breast, Baked
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Potatoes, Salad, Roasted Brussel Sprouts,
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Pre-Orders Only

Must be paid in advance

Pickup on Thanksgiving Day - 11am to 3pm

Last day to pre-order - Friday November 20, 2020

Cost \$80.00 (sales tax included)

Additional "Dinner for 4" packages can be purchased if needed.

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3rd thru 8th Prize: \$5,000 - Seller of Ticket \$500

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Meet Our Volunteers...



Eugene is one of the Buncrana McLaughlin's, a retired carpenter who has volunteered at Gaelic Park for the last 10 years. He started at the Park with the great Pat Quinn. Eugene is currently in Austin, Texas with his wife Gabrielle and looks forward to returning to the Park someday soon.



Eamon Donnelly hails from Tyholland County Monaghan and retired from his union carpentry job at age 64. Charlie Hughes persuaded Eamon to volunteer at Gaelic Park and Eamon started in spring of 2016. Eamon cuts the grass on the main pitch and trims trees and bushes and performs other jobs as needed but he especially enjoys putting up the Christmas Lights for the Holiday Season.



Bruce McShane, originally from Crossmaglen in County Armagh enjoys the routine of heading out to Gaelic Park each morning. Bruce says "although the destination is the same, I never know what to expect when I walk through the door; one day we could be cutting grass and the next day we could be building a trellis or stage for a special event." Bruce enjoys the hands-on nature of the work and his fellow volunteers. Bruce derives great satisfaction in helping to preserve Irish culture for future generations especially his grandkids.



Andrew Davey emigrated from Ballymote, County Sligo in 1979 and has worked in construction and land development since his arrival in America. "Volunteering at Gaelic Park is my way of giving back to the community and paving the way for the next generation of Irish Americans to appreciate and enjoy their Irish Culture" Andy and Maureen are married for 47 years and have 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

Come and See the New Improvements that are going on at Gaelic Park

Indoor / Outdoor Dining

Brand new wind curtains and patio heaters will add to your enjoyment while dining outdoors, or you can enjoy the comfort of the Tara Room for dinner while still staying socially distant.

We hope to see you soon!

Dining hours: Wednesday & Thursday 5pm-9pm, Friday & Saturday 5-10pm, and Sunday 3-7pm

The patio remains open about an hour or so after dining service ends.

Curbside Pickup Wednesday through Sunday 5-7pm



Landscaping Project



ATTENTION: ROAD CLOSURE

Starting Monday October 19th through Monday November 2nd entry to Gaelic Park will be eastbound only on 147th from Ridgeland Avenue or Oak Park Avenue

There will be no westbound access to Gaelic Park until after Monday November 2nd

Gaelic Park Book Club (Club Leabhar)

Library, 2nd Floor 1:00-3:00pm

September 2020 - May 2021

The first Sunday of the month we gather to discuss great Irish writers. Please join us!

There is no fee & we don't require perfect attendance.

If you have questions, contact:

Tina Butler at MoJanivn@vnihop.com

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Dec 6	An Irish Christmas	John B. Keane
Jan 3	Of Weddings and Wakes	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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Women Entrepreneurs "All in" as They Open Sweet & Tart Restaurant in Park Ridge

If you're in search of a low-key family inclusive munch location, a place to get drinks with friends for a quiet evening, or somewhere to have an authentic pint of Guinness paired with delicious velvet cake, look no further than Park Ridge's Irish-owned Sweet & Tart restaurant.

Located at 112 South Prospect Avenue in the Uptown Business District, this women-owned establishment was built and is run by lifelong friends and local natives, Meghan O'Neill and Jaime Kendall.

"As all good stories start, I was drunk in Brooklyn," laughs Meghan, as she recounts how this gorgeous idea began two years ago. "(I) went to a similar place called Butter & Scotch, and I was texting (Jaime) the whole time, in the middle of the night, showing her pictures of the menu. Then we just kind of went on a journey to modify it for Park Ridge, and made it our own."

"I was getting my degree certification to go back into the classroom," Jamie continues. "And I was actually about a month out from getting my certificate when Meghan reached out to me. We've been friends for 25 years, and she came back from this trip, and she said, 'I know what we're going to do together'."

"We talked for years about having a business together, we just didn't know what kind... Meghan and I have always enjoyed hospitality. And we grew up here. We wanted a place that people could come and enjoy, and that was the impetus behind it."

The restaurant, which specializes in small plates of savory food, desserts, and custom drinks, is set in a warm and welcoming location, designed by the ladies themselves, and boasting lovely details that include Chicago brickwork that was reclaimed from the 40s.

Although the original intention wasn't to be fully Irish, they do have 3 Irish cooks in the female-run kitchen, and serve a lot of Irish fare. They offer the proper 20oz pints of Guinness,

and on weekends serve a full Irish breakfast with Winston sausages and Irish scones.

Much like a typical Irish pub, the goal for these owners was to have a mellow atmosphere, with comfort food as a mainstay.

"Our vibe is not 'sitting around having shots all night'. We want to be more of a family inclusive place, but also where we can sit with our friends for drinks for a couple of hours and not feel like we have to do craziness with everyone around us," Meghan explains.

"When we would go out with friends, we would always either do dessert and drinks, or two or three plates that we could share, and we felt like there should be a place like that locally, where you could go out and have a few bites, have some great drinks, and just have a nice night out without having to go downtown, or spend \$300. We wanted something accessible and nearby," Jamie adds.

As the pandemic hit in the spring, throwing a few wrenches into their opening plans, the ladies made the necessary adjustments to bring the place into proper COVID protocols, and Sweet & Tart was

ready to open quietly over the Fourth of July weekend this year.

"We wanted everyone to get their feet under them, and make sure everyone knew what they were doing before it got too big," says Meghan.

The restaurant is set up for social distancing, with tables spaced properly, a large outdoor tent with electric heaters, vent filters that are changed every couple of weeks, and staff that is trained to be hyper-vigilant with masking and sanitizing.

"We've been through a lot to get here, a lot of chaos, and we've had to roll with the punches."

Whatever challenges or hurdles they've faced, this labor of love has been a great journey for these two entrepreneurs, one that has been entirely worth it so far.

"We love that word of mouth has been so positive," says Jamie. "We love that people are coming back and bringing friends, bringing neighbors. People come up to us so many times and say, 'My friend came (here), and she posted a picture of your cake on social media, and I had to come see it for myself.'"

They are a dessert place, but also offer other great food, and they have a terrific bar. Their savory menu includes dishes like warm pretzel dippers, a charcuterie and cheese plate, and an array of different paninis and they also sell Irish import candy.

The crowning glory, however, is their desserts. They advertise incredibly scrumptious treats such as cookies, cakes, and brownies, or you can try their best selling key lime pie, which is available for purchase whole or by the slice. Cakesicles are very popular as well.

"We want people to understand that there's a little something for everyone here, and we're not just one thing. This is an inclusive place," says Jamie.

Open Noon-10pm on weekdays, or starting at 8am on the weekends for their breakfast specialties, their food is also offered for pickup if you'd prefer to take your nibbles and treats to go.

You can find the Sweet & Tart website at Sweetandtartshoppe.com for a sample menu or more information call 847-518-5555 or email sweetandtartshoppe@gmail.com.

If you are looking for something positive to brighten your day, go visit and see what can be done when you let nothing get in your way!



(l to r): Jamie Kendall and Meghan O'Neill are more than ready to serve you!



Just enough cooks in the kitchen! (l to r): Imelda Kelly and Caroline Leonard.

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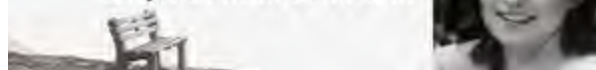
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GOOD GRIEF By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



Hello Everyone. Hope your all well or on the mend as my father used to say.

Our schools are not open yet but for our high schoolers its Homecoming week, you know when they have fun activities each evening after school. They have a bonfire. (yes they really do have a huge bonfire on the grounds of the school) At the end of the week they have the long awaited anticipated themed dance. Sadly this year everything is up in the air. However thanks to the ingenuity of teachers they were able to have a little bit of safe fun with a drive in movie night in the school car park. They also had a neighborhood scavenger hunt among other masked safe activities. All I know is that I didn't have my car all week!!! Big shout out to ALL our teachers and parents, students for hanging in there during these trying times. Everything has changed even Columbus Day. We are now celebrated indigenous people day which brings me to the story how a small Native American Indian Choctaw tribe in Oklahoma sent one hundred and seventy dollars to the people of Ireland during the worst travesty we have ever experienced. "THE FAMINE". The potato blight as it was called back then but you know we didn't just survive on potatoes alone we had corn and other resources that disappeared from our shores but I'm not going to get into the politics of it all. I just want to remember these wonderful people who thought about us in our time of need. Yes we all remember this from our history classes. For those who don't know or remember this is a quick condensed version of incredible generosity, compassion, empathy from people who had nothing. It was around the winter of 1845 when at a tribal meeting the Choctaw heard about the plight of the starving Irish. They already had suffered their own problems of disease and starvation losing several thousand of their people. Forced to move out of their home territory in the south east .They walked five hundred miles through harsh winters. They named that trail" The Trail of Tears. "Can you imagine they were ousted out of their land? Homeless trying to build new lives, plant food while still grieving for the lives of their families but did this amazing gesture for the starving people of Ireland.

The Irish always remembered the Choctaw generosity so in 2008 as a tribute they built a beautiful monument which stands in Middleton Bailick Park in County Cork (absolutely beautiful place I was there last year with my daughter) It is named "KINDRED SPIRITS."The magnificent memorial has nine giant stainless steel feathers shaped into an empty bowl. The artist Alex Pentak said he wanted to show the courage, fragility, humanity that the Chowtac had displayed to Ireland. They also set up an Irish scholarship program for the Choctaw youth. Wonderful isn't it.

Beyond the beautiful monument there are many other examples between the Irish and Choctaw tribe. Around the 1990's several Choctaw leaders were invited to Ireland to take part in the first annual famine walk in Doolough County Mayo (Also a beautiful scenic part I visited last year). A few years later Irish leaders flew to the States and walked the 500 mile length of the trail of tears Isn't that amazing gives me the chills. (That's on my bucket list when I get my knee done) Today most importantly Irish and Choctaw now work hand in hand to provide assistance for people in famine torn countries.

In my travels I have visited Native American reservations. Always a warm welcome especially the Athabaskan tribe in Alaska. I think I was just smitten with the beautiful children. It was 3 a.m. in the morning but it was still daylight and they were running around playing. I did wonder if they ever went to sleep.

I am still sewing masks for food pantries. Homeless and the Salvation Army .Right now I am doing a Sock drive for the homeless which I will include masks in each care package. Winter is on its way so these folks need any help they can get. My friends and neighbors have been ordering socks from Amazon and delivering to my home. If you would like to participate you can find me at Jocoleman58@gmail.com.

I have been sending masks to the Navajo Nation



these past few months. I would like to share some of the contents of the letters they have sent me. Dear Ms. Coleman. Thank you for sending Partnership with Native Americans the masks. They will be distributed to the Indian people living in the reservation communities in Dakota Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado and California. Thank you once again for showing the care and concern you feel for Native American people by your support of PWNA. Personally I don't need any thanks just showing you how grateful they are. I also would like to add that Ireland also reached out and sent much needed funds. For more log onto www.NativePartnership.org

I, like many others are continuing to do what we can. I am fortunate to have time as my children are older students. Perhaps you may talk about the Choctaw around your table. I wish you all a safe Thanksgiving. God Bless us all.

For Booking: www.celticratpack.com

Aging—"the process of growing old". We all naturally want to age "well" or have a healthy aging process but for some it's harder than others. I don't see myself as seanhear. Growing older in America vs. Ireland has a few difference. I think being

able to slow down is a good thing for people. There's the famous saying, "you can't teach an old dog new tricks", but for some old dogs, they know enough tricks.

There are several different topics regarding aging, from pension funds, false teeth, walkers & canes, dementia, caregivers, wills, fall prevention, hospice, nursing homes, memory loss it's a huge subject and I am just introducing the topics.

What are the markers/benchmarks of aging? They could include turning 85 or some reports say 65, no longer able to drive, frequently forgetting things, is retired, has grandchildren, or can't live independently. 13% of people in Ireland are seniors (65+) in America 15% of population is 65 plus.

Getting old isn't as bad as people think it will be nor is it quite as good. On Aspects of everyday life varying from mental keenness to physical deftness to financial security what younger people think is different than the real experiences of older people.

For example: memory loss, inability to drive, a struggle with loneliness, chronic pain, dementia, and difficulty paying bills thankfully isn't as common as younger adults think. At the same time older adults report experiencing fewer of the benefits of aging that younger adults expect to enjoy when they grow old. Such as traveling or doing volunteer work. A serious question for the world is who should pay for the brunt of the aging populations? Best countries to live in if you're a senior citizen: Switzerland, Norway & Sweden. The worst countries to live in if you're a senior citizen Afghanistan, Israel & Mozambique. Countries with the oldest populations include Japan, Italy & Germany. Chinese children care for their parents in old age,

Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler



in Korea elders are highly respected and in India elders are the head of the family.

Some might argue that the elderly in Ireland are a resource, vital part of the family and respected more than the elderly in America. In Ireland senior citizens haven't used "Nursing Homes" as much as American senior citizens. I suppose for various reasons, people can't afford it, the family unit usually prefers to stay under one roof, loss of freedom/privacy or health concerns. In America Nursing homes have been around a lot longer than in Ireland. Also, it is a more accepted idea in America that "grandma/grandpa" will be going to live in the nursing home.

In Ireland, the older population might feel more loneliness at times than their American counterparts because their children more often have moved abroad. American children tend to live closer to their parents and can visit more often. There is unfortunately growing evidence that the family support system for aging parents is not as strong as it used to be. Meaning children may live closer to home in America for example but they are not offering support to their elderly parents.

In Ireland, the health care system is different than in America in that Irish health care is free for over a third of the country. In America there is no universal health care as there is in Ireland. When someone sees a Dr. in America, there are three possible ways payment happens, Medicare/Medicaid, insurance company, or the individual.

Sadly, the elderly everywhere in the world are subject to abuse, financial manipulation, and neglect. I think we need to put more effort into taking care of our aging population in Ireland & America. We all hope to live to a good age. We know to do this we need a good support system, savings, healthcare & prayer helps.

I think we know aging comes with some tough setbacks but I would like to stress the advantages which include: we don't care as much about what other's think, grandkids, happier outlook, senior discount, & the wisdom from all the years we've lived.

If you are a little older like me some of you may remember the "Ration Books" they were issued to everyone in Ireland around 1939-1951, the time of WW 2. Rationed items included: butter, tea, sugar, flower,

tobacco, soap, and clothing.

I will leave you with a joke about agism: "On their sixtieth anniversary Sean and Mary took a walk back to their old high school, holding hands all the way. The school building was not locked, so they entered, and wandered around the corridors and classroom, reminiscing about their happy schooldays together. On their way back home, an armored car passed them, and a bag fell out, practically landing at their feet. Mary quickly picked it up, but not being sure what to do with it, they took it home. There, she counted the money. The bag contained €50,000! Sean said, "We have to give it back." Mary said, "Finders keepers." She put the money back in the bag and hid it up in their attic. The next day, two garda detectives were canvassing the neighborhood looking for the money and knocked on their door. "Pardon me", the detective said, "but did either of you find a bag that fell out of an armored car yesterday?" Mary said, "No." Sean said, "She's lying. She hid it up in the attic." Mary said, "Don't believe him, he's getting senile." The detectives question Sean, "Tell us the story from the beginning." Sean began, "Well, when Mary and I were walking home

from school yesterday..." The first detective turns to his partner and says, "We're outta here." Questions, call me (708) 425-7021



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I open this month with a sincere hope that you are all healthy, Covid free, and surviving our isolation with the exceptional music our musician friends provide for us. The music is truly a healing balm in our house!

New albums are beginning to show up and are proving to be red letter productions. The first I'd like to talk to you about is Dublin based Kevin Meehan's Spanish Point. A brilliant tin whistle player, this is Kevin's first solo album, and it is over the top great! Kevin is able to take the simple tin whistle and give it life--pushing it beyond sounds you would ever imagine it could produce. Accompanied by several well know musicians including Four Wind's Robbie Walsh on bodhran, Cuig's Cathal Murphy on percussion, Boxing Banjo's Sean O'Meara on guitar, and Lunasa's Trevor Hutchunson on bass, Kevin takes us on a traditional musical journey of Ireland and Scotland.

From the first time I listened to Spanish Point, I have been addicted to both Kevin's playing

and his tune choices, several composed by him. As you listen to the title track, you can see yourself walking along the Kilkee cliffs and seashore of "Spanish Point" enjoying the salt air and then being uplifted by the powerful crashing waves of the ocean. "Nusa" and "I Have It Somewhere" are also upbeat get your toe tappin' tunes that will have you dancing in the kitchen. "Inches From Dublin," and "Living Bridge" are stunningly beautiful sets which pull you in



with quiet, slow beginnings that then transition into rockin' in your chair tunes! The

"Rockabill Island" will lift your spirits and have you hitting the repeat button continually.

This may be Kevin's first al-

bum, but his successful burst upon the Traditional Music Scene will assure us of more to come. Available on Kevin's website, as well as on itunes, Spanish Point is well worth your purchase.

Ashley Davis and her touring band comprised of Colin Farrell on fiddle and low whistles, David Curley on guitar, mandolin, banjo, bodhran, and vocals, Will MacMorran on guitars, bouzouki, bass, pipes, accordion, and percussion, and Duncan Wickel's strings, cello, fiddle, and guitar have put out their first album,



and it is a winner! How could it not be with such talented band members along with contributing musicians the likes of Mick McAuley, Kevin Crawford, John Doyle, Tim O'Brien, Shane Hennessy, and Heidi Talbot?

Ashley, a beautiful singer and talented composer, is a mentor and a special spark who pushes and encourages others to explore their creativity and work together to compose exceptionally unique tunes and songs. First with The Crannua Collective, and now with when



On the Upbeat

By Maryann
McTeague Keifer

the stars went out, the product of her collaboration with her fellow musicians is a brilliant collection of songs and tunes. She acknowledges on the album notes, the difficulty of hooking up to compose, arrange, perform, and record in our virtual Covid world, and also hopes this



album brings those listening "...the same shared joy that it brought its creators." That is a wish that is quite assured with songs such as "When He Loved Her, Too" sung with David Curley whose voice perfectly blends with Ashley's haunting style, and the tender "Not Today" beautifully paired with Mick McAuley. The brilliant idea of bringing Shane Hennessy in for "Lorem Ipsum" playing of how people can open up to each other, and Tim O'Brien's addition to "How Will I Live Out My Days?" to give an Americana flair were prodigious inclusions. "How 'Bout You" and "Here By My Side,"

cowritten with John Doyle add a richness to the album that listeners can't help but add to their favorites list.

The musical quality, both singing and playing, is truly outstanding, and will catapult this album to a top of the releases of this decade.

The third album I'd like to share with you was originally put out earlier this year as an LP release only by the iconic band Beoga. There was such a call for a CD version, that they have just released a limited edition disc of carousel. I was thrilled as I had just a year or two ago parted ways with our unused turntable, and at this point have not been interested in investing in a new one, but we'll see with the new interest in LP editions.

While Beoga has always pushed the boundaries of Traditional music, this album has stretched the limits to quite a degree. More a move into the pop/soft rock category following their collaboration with Ed Sheeran for his "Galway Girl" and "Nancy Mulligan," they have added electronic musical elements and invited a variety of singers and players of other genres to join them including Ed Sheeran and Foy Vace, Ryan McMullan, American singer songwriter Lissie, and British singer songwriter James Bay.

The song lyrics are a mix of heartfelt and heartbreaking expressing the feelings and emotions of these difficult times. What will be most noticeable to you is the electric guitar, keyboards, and the out front beat of the drums. It is intriguing with exceptional musicality, which we have come to expect from Sean Og Graham, Niamh Dunne, Damien McKee, Eamonn Murray, and Liam Bradley. I am looking forward to reactions from Beoga fans on this latest show of their expansive talent.

Have a good November and know that on Thanksgiving, I will be giving thanks for my music friends!

Winstons

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**Irish Books and Plays
in Review**

Frank West



**Athenry: A Brave Odyssey of
Survival, Sacrifice, Music, and Love**

Written by Cahal Dunne

This marvelous book features writing that has excitement, suspense, and great action. It was a pleasure to read. The book shows the years of Cahal Dunne's careful and meticulous research that went into its preparation. This reader thanks the author for his thoughtful addition of pronunciation of Gaelic names: like Marie is pronounced Moyra.

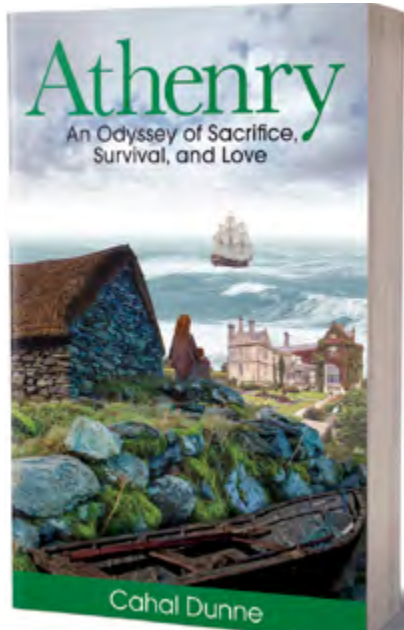
Probably everyone of Irish heritage knows the story of the Famine, or Great Hunger. However, Cahal Dunne makes that grim event come alive as he presents characters, Liam and Moyra. They grew up children of neighboring families, they played together, but now "see" each other differently. They fall in love, get married, and have a child.

What do Liam and Moyra look like? Liam O'Donoghue is "six feet two," with thick black hair and strong arms. His skin is "darker than normal." Marie (Moyra) Donnelly has auburn hair, green eyes. "This book is my tribute to the strength and forbearance of the Irish race," said Cahal Dunne, the author of this fascinating book, and a well known Irish entertainer out of Pennsylvania.

Who is Cahal? He grew up in Co. Cork. Then, he won Ireland's National Song Contest with his song, "Happy Man." "He is a composer, pianist, comedian, storyteller, and television personality." Dunne lives with his wife near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The British Penal Laws were forced on Ireland. The people were "dispossessed of everything they owned, lived at their master's whim in a small thatched cottage on a tiny piece of land allotted to them by their landlord. They survived on buttermilk, the annual crop of potatoes, and a few roaming chickens."

The Penal Laws "put into motion the downhill slide into the Famine...Everything the Irish might have used to be able to fight the



Famine had been taken from them." The potato crop failed in 1844. And failed for the next several years. "Without any meaningful English help, Ireland was now experiencing a merciless genocide."

The attitude of the English government is shown by Sir Charles Trevelyan. An official in the British Treasury Department: He "believed that the Famine ravaging"

Ireland "was the work of an all wise Providence. He believed that the judgment of God sent the calamity to teach the Irish a lesson..."

Many Irish families "had been evicted from their homes, mercilessly thrown out into the countryside for not paying their rent."

"As a last resort, they had gone to local workhouse in search of food. It was a miserable choice: die on the road, or die in those disease-ridden buildings. The inmates were forced to break rocks, build roads and rock fences to nowhere, and carry out many other pointless physical tasks."

In the work homes, "Men and women were immediately separated from each other, as were brothers and sisters, never to see each other again. Children were pulled from their mothers as young as two years old." Liam is moved by the unspeakable suffering he sees. He steals a bag of grain to feed his family. He is caught and sentenced to death.

A near riot in front of the court building is caused by Liam's brutal treatment. This causes his sentence to be reduced to a life term in Botany Bay, near Australia!

While waiting in England to be sent to Australia, he is put to work repairing ships. While there, "he began to realize that people everywhere had the same dreams and regrets, and, like everywhere else some people were good, some were bad."

His prison ship finally sails off

to Botany Bay. It is a four month voyage. He is surprised that the captain of the convict ship is humane and runs a clean, orderly ship. Liam meets a fellow convict, who is a kind-hearted and generous Englishman who teaches him to read and write.

The convict ship had a good library, and Liam became a voracious reader. His "favorite was Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist. It exposed the world to the awful workhouse condition for children deprived of food, warmth, and decent shelter in London...Liam identifies with Oliver, the hero of this classic tale of good versus evil, rich versus poor..."

The English government and upper classes "took it as their right-that as a modern, enlightened Englishman, they were superior to anybody beneath their class. "He will find that, even in Australia, the upper-classes worked together." Liam learned how all the nearby landlords back home share their farm equipment and even their tenants. Nothing's changed, thought Liam. They stick together where ever they rule, and everyone else be damned."

Toward the end of that four month journey, Liam had become a more self-confident...young man. Liam considered all that he had to be grateful for: the patience and generosity of the English convict,...his friendship with the pensioner guards exposing him to the beauty of classical music; and Captain Anderson's humane treatment.

When Liam arrives in Australia, he quickly learns that the class structure there, and ownership of the land, is the same as in Ireland. His adventures take him to several part of Australia. We accompany him as he meet many people who like his open, friendly personality. Liam befriends an aborigine who helps him at critical times. They decide to go to California to enjoy its social and political freedom, and to buy land for a horse farm. The end of the book is very dramatic. You'll greatly enjoy it.

Athenry fully deserves its subtitle: An Odyssey of Survival, Sacrifice, Music, and Love. The book fulfills Dunne's purpose in writing it; "This book is my tribute to the strength and forbearance of the Irish race." Thank you, Cahal for this great book!

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The Browning of America

In the not too distant future White (Caucasian) people will be in the

minority. That will not change the history of our country. The revisionist historians are already at work.

As the son of Irish immigrants and acutely aware of the Irish contribution to this country, from the canal diggers to the Irish Brigade, not to mention the political dynasties, the nuns founding hospitals and orphanages, Catholic Charities, and the Irish neighborhoods. Not to mention the character of the Irish and their work ethic.

ITALIAN ATTACK

The Chicago Public Schools have already changed the Columbus Day Holiday to Indigenous Peoples Day. The proud tradition of celebrating Columbus Day is in danger of fading away. We have celebrated the

culture, the music, the food, and the great Italian restaurants in this city.

As I stated last month, there is room for both. An Indigenous Peoples Statue and a Columbus Statue.

AMY CONEY BARRETT

Having spent some time watching the confirmation hearings, I believe Judge Barrett is extremely well qualified for the job.

Listening to the questions about her being a Catholic and whether or not it would be a conflict when Roe V. Wade comes before the court. After she explained the process of how a case comes to be heard before the court, there is not much doubt that her independent views would not come into play. Only the rule of law.

The same questions came up repeatedly and her reply was consistent.

Senator Lindsay Graham said, "Amy Coney Barrett is a woman who is unashamedly pro-life, and has embraced her faith without apology."

The Liberals are fuming. They wanted to discredit her, but couldn't find any fault. I don't understand how Senator Richard Durbin, and other Roman Catholics in the house and Senate can support abortion.

COVID COPING

It's tough to cope with the isolation and the lack of social interaction. Thank God for TV, the internet, and a few good friends. The end is not in sight, and we listen to the news everyday and they blame President Trump for the dilemma. If you have half a brain you know whoever tries to manage COVID we'd be exactly where we are now. Joe Biden can't do anything except make empty promises.

GROSSE ILE

When we reflect on our heritage and the Famine of 1845-1852, it brings to mind my visit to Grosse Ile in 1994. Grosse Ile is

the Irish Memorial Historic Site It was a quarantine station where the coffin ships left the Irish immigrants who contracted Tuiphus aboard the ships. I heard President Mary Robinson was to visit the island which is in the St. Lawrence River, South of Quebec City.

There was a group called Action Grosse Ile from Toronto who were working to prevent the island from being turned into a theme park. They were looking for people to join their group, so I did.

I decided to meet them in Quebec City and join them as they marched from Quebec City to Berthier-sur-mer where we took the ferry to Grosse Ile.

We saw the first class hotel, the remaining 'fever sheds' and the graveyard full of white crosses. Sand and seaweed had to be brought in to cover the graves so they looked like lazy beds of potatoes. It was the beginning for me and my development of a lifetime connection. I paid four more visits to Grosse Ile. I was there when President Mary MacAleese dedicated the new memorial.

IRISH MYTHOLOGY

"The salmon of knowledge swims only in the Boyne."

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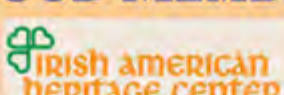
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Book Review: How Long a Shadow?

By Scott Powers

The easy part is saying, “I’d love to read it.” The hard part is when they come asking, “What did you think?”

When my uncle, Dan Powers, mentioned he was writing a novel, my reaction was the former. Then came the latter. In between, I worried a lot.

As a journalist and avid reader, I was excited to read his book. More than that, he’s family, and

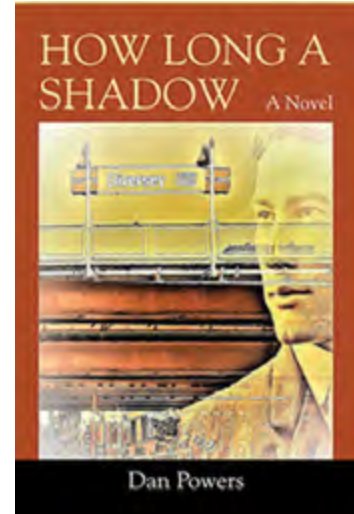
we’ve gotten somewhat close since my father passed away 14 years ago. We even traveled to Ireland together a few years back to do some genealogy research and share a few pints.

The flip side of that was my concern over the novel’s quality. I knew he was intelligent and could put together a few sentences as a former schoolteacher, but this was a novel. They’re a lot harder to land than grading someone’s essay. They require a way with

He ultimately made the decision easy on me. His novel, “How Long a Shadow,” was good – actually, really good. I even found myself somewhat jealous. It’s a book I don’t think I could have written, and that sort of hit a raw spot for me. Family or not, there’s a competitive streak in me I can’t extinguish. He had written the first great Powers novel.

That’s why I’m here today promoting it and making my return to the Irish American News, a publication I’ve loved for so long and first contributed to in 2005. Cliff Carlson was nice enough to allow me this space again. Slainte.

So, what is my uncle’s novel



about? Well, it’s about Martians who invade Chicago, and the only way to get rid of them is to force-

feed them Chicago-style pizza between 10:03 p.m.-10:17 p.m.

I’m joking!
Which brings me to another item of my list of anxieties – writing a book review. How do you do a book justice, especially a family member’s, when explaining it to others? Soon, I’ll be the one asking him, “What did you think?”

His book is about family, the family you know and the one you don’t. His main character, Kevin Cullerton, searches for the missing pieces to his family history and ultimately uncovers things he never expected – about his family and himself. There were a few surprising turns I never saw coming, and they’re the ones that kept me reading beyond my bedtime. It’s that element of reading I love and hate. I love devouring a book and getting lost in it. I hate myself in the morning knowing I stayed up too late. I think I read this book in three sittings, and the second and third ones lasted hours.

The book has a notable hook for this audience. It’s based in Chicago over many generations and includes some Irish genealogy. The book isn’t based on my uncle life, but it includes a number of topics he’s very knowledgeable on.

My main complaint with him and the book – and I’ve voiced this to him – is that it’s self-published. He didn’t want to go through the process of attempting to get it made by a legitimate book publisher. I do get it. There’s a chance no one would have bitten on it. Great work isn’t always rewarded, especially in a timely fashion. One of my favorite books, “A Confederacy of Dunces,” was rejected time after time and was only published years after the author had died.

So, you won’t be seeing my uncle’s book at your local bookstore. But, thankfully, we live in a time where self-publishing isn’t a dead end. It’s just a matter of getting the word out and having people find it. It’s available at NovelBay-Books.com, Amazon and Barnes & Noble in paperback or on Kindle.

I promise you won’t regret it. It’s worth your money and time. I told him I’d love to read his novel, and that ended up being the truth. I loved it, and I think you will too.

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Bloody Sunday Massacre Centenary Commemoration November 21

A centenary commemoration of the Bloody Sunday Massacre in Dublin 1920 will be held on Saturday, November 21 at the James Connolly Memorial in Union Park, Chicago.

On November 21, 1920, a Gaelic Athletic Association football match was held at Croke Park between Tipperary and Dublin.

British forces stormed the field with an armored vehicle and opened fire on the crowd of spectators.

Fourteen innocent people were murdered including one Tipperary player, Michael Hogan.

Bloody Sunday marks a defining moment in the Irish War of Independence.

In addition to Bloody Sunday, other heroes of the War of Independence will be commemorated, including Dublin Brigade Volunteer

Kevin Barry who was executed by British forces in Mountjoy Gaol on November 1, 1920. He was the first Irish political prisoner executed by the British regime following the executions stemming from the 1916 Easter Rising. 2020 also marks one hundred years since the hunger strike death of playwright and Lord Mayor of Cork, Terrance MacSwiney.

The commemoration will honour the patriot dead and the victims of British oppression during the Irish War of Independence and will be led by Clan na Gael.

The James Connolly Memorial is located near the corner of Ashland and Warren Boulevard in Union Park. Those in attendance must adhere to local health guidelines including social distancing and the wearing of face coverings. Call or text 708.790.8900.

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Eddie Cochran

Though he died at a very young age, twenty-one, Eddie Cochran left a lasting mark on early rock and roll as a pioneer who helped map out the territory with such defining songs such as "C'mon Everybody," "Something Else," "Twenty Flight Rock," and "Summertime Blues." Cochran epitomized the sound and the stance of the Fifties-bred rebel rocker. His twangy guitar riffs and the defiant attitude of his songs made him an icon for several generations of rock and rollers, from the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and the Who, to punk-rockers like the Sex Pistols.

It was a song of Cochran's that initially brought John Lennon and Paul McCartney together in June 1957, when the McCartney taught Lennon the chords to "Twenty Flight Rock" at a church picnic where Lennon's Quarrymen were playing. In the late Sixties, both the Who and Blue Cheer cut memorable versions of "Summertime Blues," an anthem of teen disenchantment.

Edward Ray Cochrane was born on 10-3-38 in Albert Lea, Minnesota. The family then moved to California in 1951. In high school Eddie played in a Country trio and his main influence at that time was Chet Atkins. In 1954

he met and teamed up with Hank Cochran, (no relation) and they called themselves the "Cochran Brothers," with Eddie dropping the e from his name. By the time he was 16, Eddie was recognized as having lightning-fast hands and phenomenal dexterity. Despite their success it was clear that the two individuals had different tastes. Hank's heart was always in country music but Eddie was fast becoming engaged in the new rock and roll sounds that emerged at the time. They broke up in 1956. (Hank had continued success as a country singer and songwriter, he co-wrote the song I Fall to Pieces, made famous by Patsy Cline)

A quick learner Eddie seemed to be the perfect musician for a session guitarist. He soon was recording demos for songwriters. He teamed with Jerry Capehart and their partnership was one of the most professional in early rock and roll. They soon had a significant amount of songs and Eddie was contracted to appear in the rock and roll movie The Girl Can't Help It. An Elvis type role, this movie put him in the national limelight. Ironically, although his wild, seemingly untamed image and unique sense of style are evident in the film, as he performs "Twenty Flight Rock," Eddie was a different kind of performer from Elvis. He was a thorough professional. Eddie could play drums & bass and was proficient on piano as well as his obvious guitar skills.

His first hit reached the charts in March 1957. Through the next two years he would have seven hits with "Sum-

meritime Blues" reaching #8 in August 1958. One reason for the continued popularity of Cochran's music, apart from the songs themselves, was the sheer vibrancy of the recordings. They were exceptionally clean. Recorded with few overdubs in well-miked sessions that captured the action of the instruments with beautiful clarity. He named the backup band the "Kelly Four" in honor of his Irish ancestry.

Eddie dated Sharon Sheeley who was also Irish-American. She co-wrote Eddie's hit "Something Else" with Eddie's brother Bob Cochrane. She also dated Don Everly and is known for writing "Poor Little Fool" one of Ricky Nelson's smash hits. She also co-wrote many early rock hits with Jackie De Shannon.

Like so many stars during this time Eddie was more popular in Britain and Europe than in America. By 1960 it seemed that in America the early rock and roll craze had softened and now was being smothered by over-produced schmaltz. England was still treating Eddie and all the other rock and rockabilly stars as almost Gods. Eddie found his playing respected and appreciated. After a long extended tour in England Eddie was scheduled to return to the States. On April 16, Eddie, Sharon and Gene Vincent, another early rocker, set out for Heathrow Airport at 11:00 p.m. A tire blew out and they smashed into a lamp-post. Eddie died a few hours later. Sharon Sheeley & Gene Vincent were seriously injured but recovered.



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International Media Reviews

“Despite only recently being released, there has been a lot of love for this sweeping Irish/Viking saga since its publication last month, with a mega melange of media coverage, including feature articles, author interviews and glowing reviews... told better than most in its genre with well-crafted characters, absorbing dialogue, a minimum of detailing, and a soaring narrative arc.” **Celtic Life International**

“An exciting new novel by Thomas J. Howley shines a spotlight on the mysterious hero from Irish history known as Wolf the Quarrelsome...offers an exciting look into the tumultuous chapter in Irish history when the Irish fought back the Vikings and helped to preserve the learning and culture of continental Europe and Christianity. History meets espionage and intrigue in this riveting work set in the 15 years leading up to the Battle of Clontarf” **Irish Central**

“.. Howley focuses on the international dimensions of Clontarf to tell an expansive imagined tale of global reach. His Battle of Clontarf, which was at the time a significant world event, encompasses exotic cultural visitors in tolkienesque fashion.... an epic tale of tragedy, resilience, subtle romance, and triumph against all odds” **Gript.ie**

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A Measured Thread by Mary Behan

Looking back on her life, Maggie O'Connor is rightfully pleased. Fifty years ago she left Ireland with a single suitcase and a dream. After a long and satisfying career, she is enjoying retirement on her farm in rural Wisconsin



— until she falls.

Determined to regain her independence, she hires Isobel, a young woman who is also an immigrant. Helping Maggie clean house, Isobel discovers a cache of letters that Maggie wrote to her parents those many years ago and



Is Genealogy Destiny?

Door County author Dan Powers' novel tells the story of three generations of men in the Cullerton family as each struggle to face fatherhood

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begins to read them aloud to Maggie.

But the letters contain a secret, one that Maggie has kept for fifty years. A secret that threatens to destroy her life and that of the people around her. With little time left she must make a choice — give up or face her past.

A Measured Thread is a powerful story that explores questions of guilt, abandonment, redemption, and the consequences of the choices that we make.

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Covid-19: Much Like the U.S., Ireland Still Not Out of the Woods

Much of 2020 has been dominated by the omnipresence of the coronavirus, which, at the time of this writing, has taken the lives of over 1 million people worldwide. The US, which has had almost 8 million confirmed cases of the virus, has consistently reported 25,000+ new cases nationwide every day since June. In Ireland, the virus has had a much smaller impact, but new cases have recently begun spiking.

It seemed that daily new cases in Ireland peaked on April 16th, when the country reported 1,040 new cases. Over the summer, new cases plummeted to just double digit numbers, but have slowly begun climbing back as of late. On October 14th, 1,084 new cases were reported in Ireland, breaking the previously held record. The virus shows no signs of slowing down: on October 15th, 1,205 new cases were reported, according to the Irish Times.

As a result, measures are being taken by the Irish government to contain the virus. Under the government's Plan for Living with COVID-19, five levels with different restrictions associated with each, have been outlined by the government to stop the spread of the coronavirus. As a result of the recent spike in cases, Level 3 has been enacted across the Republic, except in counties Cavan, Monaghan, and Donegal, which are at Level 4 as of midnight on October 15th.

Life Under Level 3:

Prohibits visitors to the home or garden, with exceptions for essential purposes, specifically caring for the elderly or providing support to those who live alone.

Citizens are asked to remain in their county except for essential purposes such as work or health.

Weddings and funerals may proceed, but with a maximum number of attendees set at 25.

Bars and restaurants may remain open for takeout and delivery.

Public venues (museums, libraries, etc.) will be closed

Public transportation capacity will be at 50% to ensure safe social distancing

Religious services moved online while

places of worship will remain open for private prayer

By the time this article is published, however, many, if not all, of the counties in Ireland may be placed under Level 4 restrictions. Given the current trend in daily new coronavirus cases, the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Simon Harris, has come out and said that it's "likely, though not inevitable" that the rest of the Republic will go to Level 4 restrictions.

Life Under Level 4:

No visitors from outside a household will be allowed.

Citizens must remain in their county of residence except for essential work and health

Weddings may proceed with up to 6 guests in attendance for a ceremony and reception

Bars and restaurants will remain open for takeout and delivery

Public venues will remain closed

Public transportation will be reduced to 25% capacity

Religious services will remain online, and places of worship will be open for private prayer

Visits to nursing homes will be suspended except in essential and immediate instances

Like the United States, Ireland has been having trouble managing the coronavirus. Unlike the U.S., however, it seems that its citizens haven't made the pandemic a political issue. After Donald Trump was discharged from Walter Reed Medical Center after having the coronavirus earlier in October, he immediately went on a campaign of misinformation in an effort to continue downplaying the virus' effects on the United States. What Donald Trump can't downplay is the fact that over 200,000 Americans have died of the coronavirus, and that the rate of infection shows no signs of easing up.

As we as a people continue to quibble over the threat of the virus, how many lives it's taken, and whether or not it even EXISTS, more Americans will continue to fall ill and perish. This isn't a seasonal flu. This isn't a hoax. Perhaps it's time that we took a page out of Ireland's playbook and take this virus seriously. If we don't, thousands more people will die.

CELTIC

AN IRISH JOURNAL FOR SENIORS



WELCOME

As the pandemic drags on and forces Irish Community Services to rethink how we stay connected with you all, we've given ourselves a new mission: to break through the technology barriers that prevent seniors from participating fully in this new age

of meetings and events that take place almost exclusively online. Being unable or intimidated to use technology is just another hurdle - of which there are many - that can exclude and isolate older people. To address this digital divide, ICS is launching **Zoom School** to teach seniors the basics of online meetings.

We are extending **The Open Invite** to Irish seniors all over the world, which we hope will provide a little encouragement for them to sit down at the computer and join us for our fall senior programs, which are all online this year. Find out more about these initiatives overleaf!

Paul Dowling

THE AMBASSADOR'S POEM PICK

An Irish Lake by W.R Rodgers

The poet, W.R. Rodgers (1909-1969) grew up in Belfast and served for a number of years as a Presbyterian Minister in Northern Ireland. He was also a broadcaster with the BBC and spent some of his final years teaching at Universities in California. I like his poem, 'An Irish Lake' for a number of reasons. First, it is beautifully descriptive: "Dark birds, pink-footed, dab and pick/Among the addery roots and marrow stones, And the waves blink and hiccup at the lake's lip." He also describes how "the bright snail-line/Of clouds

along the sky all day unendingly." This is descriptive poetry at its best. For the poet, the lake at which he sits is a refuge from the cares of the world. That is the second reason why I value this poem, for I admire poems that connect the consolations of nature with the troubles of the world. In our day, these troubles are generated by the coronavirus. In Rodgers' case, it was the traumas of the Second World War from which he was trying to escape, for this poem was written in 1941. As "night rounds on Europe", he needs to leave the lake behind before "its hostile faces peer and pour/Over the mind's rim enveloping me." We would do well to take his advice to relax as "sounds and sights and scents sail slowly by".

AN IRISH LAKE

There is a hard light
Dark birds, pink-footed, dab and pick
Among the addery roots and marrowy stones,
And the blown waves blink and hiccup at the lake's
Lip. A late bee blares and drones on inland
Into a cone-point of silence, and I
Lying at the rhododendron's foot
Look through five finger's grille at the lake
Shaking, at the bare and backward plain, and
The running and bending hills that carry
Like a conveyor belt that bright snail-line
Of clouds along the sky all day unendingly.

There, far from the slack noose of rumor
That tightens into chocking fact, I relax,
And sounds and sights and scents sail slowly by.
But suddenly, like delicate and tilted italics
The up-standing birds stretch urgently away
Into the sky as suddenly grown grey.
Night rounds on Europe now. And I must go.
Before its hostile faces peer and pour
Over the mind's rim enveloping me,
And my so-frightened thoughts dart here and there
Like trout among their grim stony gazes.



Ambassador of
Ireland,
Washington DC.

The Celtic Kitchen

Emily's Minestrone Soup



Last month, Emily - a former Irish dancer and current trainee dietician at Swedish Covenant Hospital - presented at our online senior program. Emily provided tips on how we can use carefully chosen foods to boost our immune systems. We asked her to share one of her favorite recipes that supports the body's defenses. Emily suggested a great soup recipe that's packed with all kinds of nutrients, especially iron and protein.

Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped
- 2 medium carrots, peeled & chopped
- 2 medium ribs celery, chopped
- 1/4 cup tomato paste
- 4 cloves garlic, pressed or minced
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano

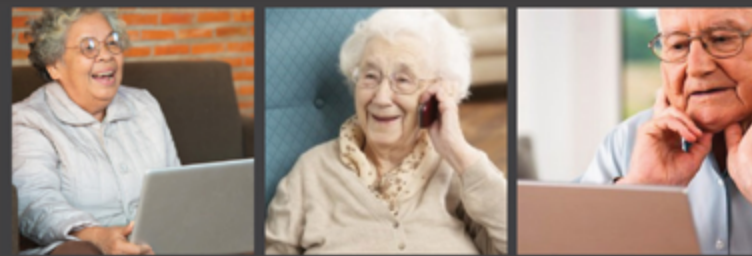
- 2 cups chopped seasonal vegetables (potatoes, yellow squash, zucchini, butternut squash, green beans or peas)
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- 2 15oz cans diced tomatoes
- 4 cups (32 ounces) vegetable broth
- 2 cups water
- 1 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 2 bay leaves
- Pinch of red pepper flakes
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 cup whole grain elbow or small shell pasta
- 1 15oz can Great Northern or cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 cups baby spinach or kale
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- Freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Directions

1. Warm 3 tablespoons of the olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the chopped onion, carrot, celery, tomato paste and a pinch of salt. Cook, stirring often, until the vegetables have softened and the onions are turning translucent, about 7 to 10 minutes.
2. Add the seasonal vegetables, garlic, oregano and thyme. Cook until fragrant while stirring frequently.
3. Pour in the diced tomatoes, broth and water. Add the salt, bay leaves and red pepper flakes. Season generously with black pepper.
4. Raise heat to medium-high and bring the mixture to a boil, then partially cover the pot with the lid.
5. Reduce heat to maintain a gentle simmer. Cook for 15 minutes, then remove the lid and add the pasta, beans and greens.
6. Continue simmering, uncovered, for 20 minutes or until the pasta is cooked al dente and greens are tender.
7. Remove pot from heat, and remove bay leaves. Stir in the lemon juice and remaining tablespoon of oil.
8. Taste and season with more salt and pepper, garnish with Parmesan.

Remote Possibilities!

While pandemic restrictions have stopped us getting together with our friends and family nearby, we have been reminded that technology creates possibilities to connect with loved ones and new friends far away. Excited by these possibilities, Irish Community Services is extending an invitation to EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE! Join our senior programs by phone or computer to enjoy educational classes, cultural events and a warm Irish welcome! Be sure to invite your friends to join us!



THE OPEN INVITE

A SERIES OF PROGRAMS FOR
SENIORS ACCESSIBLE FROM
ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD

WHEREVER YOU ARE, YOU'RE WELCOME HERE!

FIND EVENT SCHEDULE &
INSTRUCTIONS ON OPPOSITE PAGE

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:

DOWN: 1. Joints 3. Artery 4. Fat
ACROSS: 2. Blood 3. Appendix 4. Femur 5. Skin 6. Guts 7. Heart 8. Eyes



SENIOR GROUP PROGRAM

NOVEMBER

Since the Covid-19 outbreak, our senior group meetings have undergone something of a forced technological transformation. This fall, all meetings will take place remotely using an online platform called **Zoom**. Zoom is very versatile and allows participants to join an event by calling in using their phone or using the camera on their computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone to join a video meeting. The choice is yours! To the right, you will see the fall schedule for senior programs. All times listed are

Central Standard Time. Below, we have included details on how you can join our senior programs. Decide whether you want to participate using your phone or computer and follow the relevant instructions. Our programs can be accessed from anywhere in the world so invite your friends and family to join us wherever on the planet they may be! This fall, because all programs are remote, all our presenters and performers will be coming to you live from Ireland! Be part of our new remote adventure!

A Step Back in Time

**WEDNESDAY 4TH
10AM (CST)**

Sharing stories, recipes, and Irish expressions from her recent book on rural Ireland, Angela Burke takes us down memory lane! Prepare to be filled with nostalgia!

An Irish Workout!

**WEDNESDAY 18TH
10AM (CST)**

Maryclare McMahon invites us to move our bodies & calm our minds with seated yoga and guided meditation. The resistance bands we recently sent many of you will be useful for this session!

DECEMBER

Holiday Party

WEDNESDAY 9TH - 10AM (CST)

While our holiday party will be a little different this year, we've got a great line up of live music from Ireland, special guests and a few festive surprises!

HOW TO JOIN OUR REMOTE SENIOR PROGRAMS

DIAL-IN BY PHONE

A few minutes before the program is scheduled to begin, call;

From the US 312 626 6799	From Ireland 01 653 3895	From the UK 131 460 1196
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From Australia 02 8015 6011	From Canada 438 809 7799
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You will be asked to enter the '**Meeting ID**' below and then press the **# key**

Meeting ID : 884 0991 8529

After you've done this, you will be asked to enter your participant ID **OR** press the **# key**. Just press the **# key** and you will be joined into the call!

USE A COMPUTER OR TABLET

For online meetings, we use a platform called **Zoom**. When you join our programs using a computer, laptop, tablet or smart phone you can hear and see other participants. Remember, even if you don't want others to see you, you can still join using your device and choose to switch off your camera.

A few minutes before the program is scheduled to begin, use your internet browser to go to the website listed below.

www.zoom.us

Click on '**join meeting**' at the top right side of your screen.

Enter the Meeting ID listed below in the box titled '**Meeting ID or Personal Link Name**'

Meeting ID : 884 0991 8529

Click on the '**Join**' button and you'll be joined into the meeting!

Hear about the actor who fell though the floorboards?
He was going through a stage!

Hear about the Claustrophobic Astronaut?
He needed a little space!

Where are average things manufactured?
The Satis-factory!

Watch our Comedy Club videos online : go to www.youtube.com and search for 'Irish Community Services'



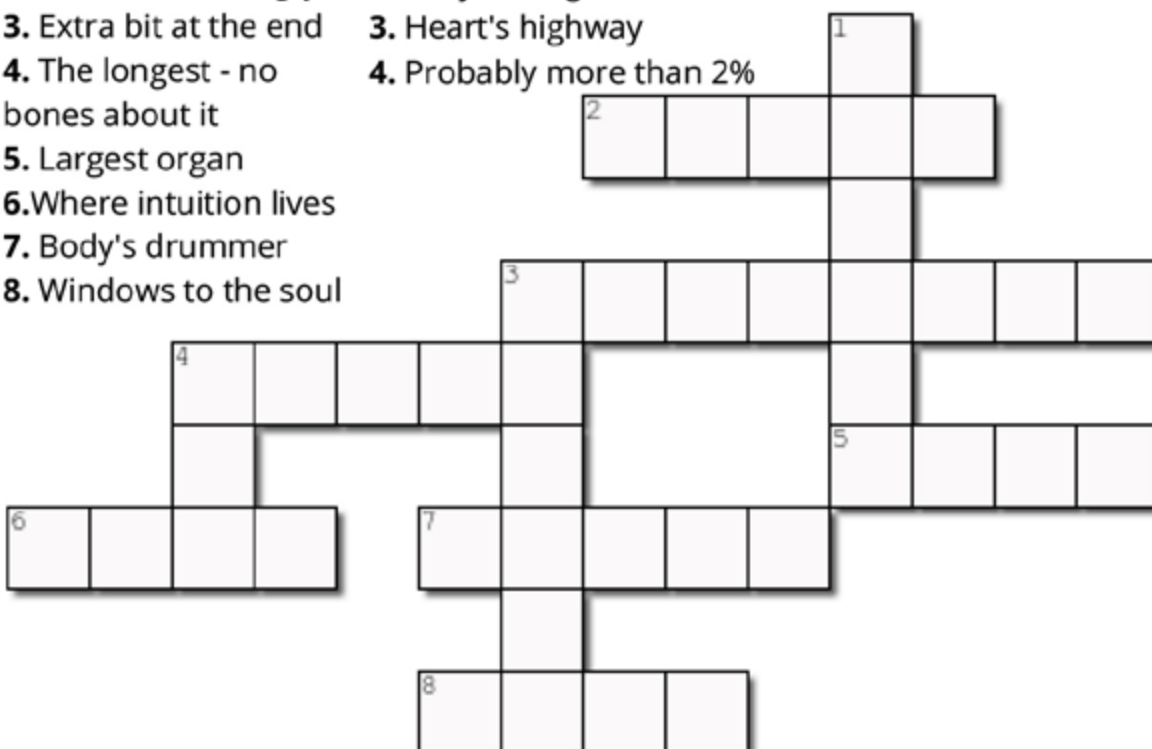
Think it Over

ACROSS

2. It boils when angry
3. Extra bit at the end
4. The longest - no bones about it
5. Largest organ
6. Where intuition lives
7. Body's drummer
8. Windows to the soul

DOWN

1. They're singin' before the rain
3. Heart's highway
4. Probably more than 2%



Insides Out



- | | | |
|--------|----------|----------|
| HEART | MUSCLES | LIGAMENT |
| KIDNEY | PANCREAS | LIVER |
| | LUNGS | BONES |



Front Porch Profiles

Ellen Casey

Where are you originally from?
Nenagh, County Tipperary!

What 2 words best describe how you've felt during the pandemic?
1) Trapped 2) Depressed

What have you been doing to stay busy?
Keeping in touch with family back home in Ireland.

What are you most looking forward to once Covid is over?
Visiting Ireland again after 38 years away!




LEARN TO USE A COMPUTER TO JOIN ONLINE MEETINGS AND EVENTS!

Zoom school is an in-person but socially distant class for up to five seniors. You will learn the basics of using ZOOM to participate in video calls and online meetings.

Location : Irish American Heritage Center
Date: determined by demand

CALL PAUL TO FIND OUT MORE
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November 18th

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2020

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- Reading and Writing Preparation
- U.S. Civics Questions Review
- Interview Preparation



REGISTRATION:
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872-227-7099



2Blades Works to End the Disease that Caused the Irish Potato Famine

By Mike Kelleher

A tiny spore from a water mold was on a journey to change history and science, beginning in the Toluca Valley, just west of Mexico City.

There it drifted on a light breeze, floating from a wild potato to a farmer's potato plant, infecting it with a disease called late blight. Soon the pathogen hitchhiked on potatoes headed to the US, causing damage to potato fields along the way.

Finally, in 1845 an infected potato was loaded onto a ship bound for Europe and Ireland, and when it arrived this water mold became a cold-blooded killer.

And it kept on killing for five long years.

It triggered suffering throughout Europe, including starvation and political upheaval, since so many depended on this productive crop.

Brutally Efficient Pathogen

In Ireland the opportunistic pathogen, until then unknown to science, was brutally efficient in its destruction. A few days after infecting a plant its leaves would melt and turn sickly brown. The tubers rotted into a reddish-brown slime, giving off a dank odor that foreshadowed the death of both the potato crop and the people that needed it to live.

During previous decades, potato crop failures were a regular occurrence in Ireland, but these were usually regional and temporary.

This year would be different.

The moist spring of 1845 was a favorable environment for late blight, and it quickly wiped out a popular variety called the Lumper, which many Irish poor depended on for sustenance. But it killed all of the other varieties, too. Then it laid dormant during the winter in tubers and sprouted in the spring, continuing to infect (via wind and water) the neighboring potato plants, which were poorly tended since few survivors were left to do the work.

The Irish Potato Famine (in Ireland it's called The Great Famine) lasted from 1845 through the early 1850s, when at least one million people died of starvation and disease. Many others were forced off their land, pressed into workhouses, or lived in the streets. Over a million Irish emigrated, seeking refuge in Canada, Australia, and the US (my great-great grandparents among them).

A Compassionate US Response

In 1847, Congress commissioned a volunteer captain and crew to sail a US warship to Cork, Ireland with relief. Stripped of its guns, the USS Jamestown carried 8,000

barrels of food donated by citizens moved by the suffering of the Irish.

Most of the food on board was provided by ordinary folks in Boston, New York, Chicago, and from small towns like Ottawa Illinois. Farmers, factory workers, and churches gave generously, as did our most vulnerable--including African-American slaves in Virginia, Choctaw Native Americans in Oklahoma, and young orphans in New York. Over 100 more relief ships followed, and their contributions inspired us then, and now.

This was among the first examples of



<https://2blades.org>
(l to r): Dr. Alex Barekye
and Dr. Marc Ghislain

disaster assistance from one nation to another--an act of US compassion and leadership which a century later helped lead to the creation (by an Irish-American President) of the US Agency for International Development and the Peace Corps.

Science Grows Out of Catastrophe

The crisis profoundly changed Ireland (where its population has yet to reach its pre-famine numbers), but it also spurred the creation of the science of plant pathology.

At the time, many believed that late blight was the result of spontaneous generation from decaying vegetation, the wrath of God, or even "locomotives traveling the countryside at devilish speeds of up to 20 miles per hour and discharging electricity harmful to crops they went by."

Reverend Miles Berkeley, an amateur biologist from England, suggested the mold

on the leaves was the real cause, a revolutionary idea that wasn't quickly accepted by his peers. His work was later verified by German scientist Anton de Bary, who gave late blight (an oomycete) its Latin name, *Phytophthora infestans*, meaning "plant destroyer." (The name is certainly apt since during World War II both the US and Germany studied late blight as a possible biological weapon.)

The work of these early plant pathologists contributed to Louis Pasteur's germ theory over a decade later, forever changing the way we look at our health and the

world around us.

Recently, scientists studied the dried leaves of Irish potato plants from that era to follow the forensic trail of the pathogen. They learned that its DNA is twice the length of its relatives, explaining its adaptability and virulence.

Still a Looming Threat

Yet 170 years after the Irish Potato Famine, with all of our remarkable advances in science and technology, we still haven't beaten this persistent little microorganism, which continues to evolve and evade our efforts. It's resurgent in Europe, and the threat is expanding in Africa.

Today, potatoes are the world's third-most important food crop, with production doubling in the past 25 years, mostly in East Africa. Potato plants produce more nutritious food more quickly, on less land, and in harsher climates than any other major crop.

However, in Kenya and Uganda, where over 1 million smallholder farmers grow potatoes, late-blight disease can destroy up to 70 percent or more of their harvest, costing farmers in the developing world \$10 billion each year, and threatening their families' income, nutrition, and health. This is even more concerning as COVID-19 creates unprecedented challenges for food systems in developing nations.

After 40 years of intensive efforts, growers have abandoned conventional breeding to combat the pathogen because it always adapts to overcome the feeble resistance in new varieties. Growers in wealthier nations spray their potatoes with chemical fungicide over a dozen times a season, a method unavailable or unaffordable to farmers in most developing countries.

Today late blight is becoming resistant to fungicides, and farmers everywhere--in the US, Europe, Africa, and the rest of the developing world--are worried and looking for solutions.

A New Hope for a Disease-Free Potato

But now we are on the cusp of an historic breakthrough. After two decades of patient research in Peru, Kenya, and Uganda conducted by intrepid researcher Marc Ghislain and his colleagues from the International Potato Center, we have a durable and safe solution for late-blight potato disease.

Partnering with USAID, researchers used a cisgenic modification of local African potato varieties to add three genes from wild potato relatives which are resistant to late blight.

With additional support from The 2Blades Foundation, this new disease-resistant potato has been tested in Ugandan fields for the past five years and "consistently displayed complete resistance, not needing a single drop of chemical fungicide," tripling yields and potentially increasing farmers' incomes by up to 40 percent.

Farmers are eager to try the new variety, which will require less land, water, and chemicals.

Marc Ghislain's current goal is to bring this disease-resistant potato variety to market, gathering data from field trials and preparing the potatoes for bulking and distribution.

He is the face of 21st century development assistance, and an essential part of the global value chain for food security if we are to feed the 2 billion additional people who will live on the earth by 2050.

No famine is without political and social complexity. Yet one clear lesson from the suffering of the Irish is that we can -- and we must -- use science to achieve food security for all.

Spring and Fall

BY GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS

to a young child

*Márgarét, áre you gríeving
Over Goldengrove unleaving?
Léaves like the things of man, you
With your fresh thoughts care for, can you?
Ah! ás the heart grows older
It will come to such sights colder
By and by, nor spare a sigh
Though worlds of wanwood leafmeal lie;
And yet you will weep and know why.
Now no matter, child, the name:
Sórrów’s springs áre the same.
Nor mouth had, no nor mind, expressed
What heart heard of, ghost guessed:
It is the blight man was born for,
It is Margaret you mourn for.*

ment seem especially magnificent in this year of the puff- pandemic and the howlingly dull roars of the revolutionary poseurs of the American elites. The visual delights of autumn white pine, the hemlock and green, blue and black ash, as well as the many maple, black walnut, birch, dogwoods, cottonwoods and hawthorns drown out the concocted audibles from the television, radio and street-pulpit opinionators to great effect. Alas, all shall shortly become a world of ‘wan wood’ (fallen leaves) and leaf meal lie as opposed to merely piecemeal. The sweet green leaves of Summer have turned, as do we all.



pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



Zorba. Mind you, I exercise great restraint and have no desire to have a net tossed over me. My spirit soars like Elon Musk’s Space X Falcon, but my feet remain locked in a stout pair of Johnson and Murphy wing tips.

Take flight on Route 12 from the steel mills east up to and through Berrien County, Michigan. Who needs a trip to the Red Planet, when one has the Red Arrow Highway? Take some side trips to Heston, Rolling Prairie and New Carlisle, Indiana and make sure to travel Fail Road up over the Indiana State Line to Three Oaks. This road is a particularly magical one and leaves you with the impression that you are passing through a Green, Gold, Red and Brown tunnel.

Life is evident and you soul will get juiced. Take in the ash, aspen, elm, and

oak trees and come Spring hunt up morel mushrooms in their shade.

Unlike Margaret who grieves over the fallen leaves, we who have known loss and disappointments as well as the joys and triumph of living a studied life, you will be energized and stoked to pull in tomorrow’s wonders.

Get in the car and keep your eyes open . . . and on the road.



The great Jesuit poet and wordsmith Gerard Manly Hopkins inked my favorite line in the canon of English Literature, Though worlds of wan wood leaf meal lie.

Sound and sense in a single sentence! Worlds of wan wood leaf meal lie - I am aging, but also aged. Well, past intimations of my own mortality and I have survived many brushes with the old Reaper to make the End all too kindness.

What is more real than knowledge that “I too shall pass from this life” is the fact that life imposes itself more powerfully than front pages loaded with COVID 19 alarms, or scores of black people gunned down every day in Englewood, Gresham, or Lawndale.

I know that I am going to die and could care less. Life is so much more interesting, pleasing and salubrious. Relatives have passed home to Christ. Old friends the same. However, the intimations of God’s eternal plan break through all of the personal disappointments with each morning’s sky full of sunrise and the majestic orange colored skies that are only bested by the pink and purple hues over Lake Michigan.

This Fall, the change in the Indiana and Michigan foliage available a very few minutes east or west of my Michigan City apart-

Yet, the beauty of fall has not yet peaked here in Northwestern Indiana and Southwestern Michigan. Things are getting mighty pretty!

The prettiness abounding this season stands proof that God exists and exists to make us want to be happy, delighted and generous. We do our damndest make things otherwise. The nonsense and rhetoric of the times strangles our senses and starves us of universal beauty that can only drive us to universal truth. When we are delighted by sounds, smells, sights and sensations that cost us not a dime, something pumps the milk of kindness through our otherwise clotted arteries and somehow allows us to greet our fellow strugglers with benevolence and even charity. Can’t get that watching Fox, CNN, or Rachel Ray.

If a cynical old south sider can be sparked and reassured of God’s happy plan and design universal, imagine what a sensitive soul might discover above the noise and deep within the fibers of life itself. Food tastes better. Dogs and cats make me laugh longer. The smell of baked goods and boiling shrimp awaken the trencherman and sounds of Michigan waves lapping the sand north of Route 12 make me want to dance like

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The End of the Innocence

Along with many other parents, I attended my daughter Sophie's sixth class graduation ceremony from Primary School at Eglantine School in Cork back in 2006. All in all, it was a very enjoyable and moving occasion. It started off with some messages from the graduating girls, followed by Mass and then each of the three classes entertained us with their respective musical productions. Canon Crowley was very participative and Ann Ryan and her staff are to be congratulated on the quality of the occasion and for allowing us, as parents, to be part of this great event. Refreshments were also provided afterwards for the benefit of both pupils and parents.

It was a watershed moment for the young girls, now moving away from their primary incubation nest, after having spent eight of their twelve years here. For the past four decades there have been close on a half a million pupils participating in primary level education in Ireland. The general aims are to enable the child to live a full life as a child and to realise their potential as a unique individual. They are also taught to live and interact with others while also being prepared for further education.

At the beginning of the ceremony, one of the girls happened to mention 'ni bheid ár leitheid ann arís' (you'll never see the likes of us again). This struck a chord with me as I had come across it previously in the literature of the Blasket Islands, who were lamenting the loss of their particular way of life at that time.

How right the young girl was. We are all made unique, and there is nobody like us on the planet. We all leave our mark, maybe written in the smaller history books, and we will all be missed. That is why murder is such an evil act, as we are taking the life of a unique entity that can never again be replaced.

It can be a wonderful world out there from the vantage point of youth, and there is always the prospect of opportunities and the unexpected being around every corner. Imagination is more important than knowledge, and should always be cultivated. One of the advantages of being very young is that you don't have to let the

facts get in the way of your imagination. It's going to be both a challenging and interesting world out there to absorb their talents.

Rolling the film forward, Sophie is now 26 years of age, is Manager of a shop in Cork, and is also expecting her first child. A brand new adventure is just around the corner for both mother and child, and may they bring each other the purest of joys in the years ahead.

'The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge, but imagination' - **Albert Einstein.**



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE NOVEMBER 2020

Can you believe it's already November? As I look back at the year, there are many challenges we all were presented with that we might not normally have had to overcome; however, there are still so many things to be thankful for. I'm grateful for family, friends, our wonderful essential workers that keep our communities up and running, the technology that allows us to stay connected, and so much more! In the context of the Irish American Heritage Center, I am thankful for the continued support from our members, our community, the great job our staff does, and all the wonderful things our volunteers do!

A huge thank you to our committees and fundraisers who have organized events that allow us to continue the mission of the IAHC! We've enjoyed Fridays in the Fifth sessions online. Last month we were joined by Ross D from Kildare (who was kind enough to sing me happy birthday!), and Joe and Declan McShane in our most attended virtual session to-date! We had the privilege of hosting an evening with Emily Dickinson for a virtual reading of *The Belle of Amherst*, and we learned about some of America's First Ladies. Please continue to look to our virtual platforms for more in the future.

Along with our virtual events, we hosted a golf outing, "Golfing Fore Green," at Tam Golf Course in Niles. I had such a great time catching up with our members, donors, and sponsors, and it was wonderful to see everyone who was able to join us! A huge thank

you to everyone there: our golfers, our sponsors, our volunteers, and especially to our golf committee who organized such a fun event!

This month, I hope you're able to join us for one of our virtual events, and if you haven't done so yet, have to opportunity to purchase tickets to win one of our raffles. Our Nimble Thimbles Quilt Raffle will draw a winner on December 6, 2020; there's still time to get your last-minute tickets! You could win a beautiful, hand-stitched quilt, which is the perfect gift as we head towards colder weather. (Or you can win and keep the quilt for yourself!) You could be the big winner of our Ireland 2021 Raffle, where Aer Lingus has partnered with us with two round-trip airfares to Ireland. Let us help you travel to the Emerald Isle!

As always, the most up-to-date information on events and what's happening at the Center can be found on our social media pages and through our newsletter, "IAHC Insider Update." Until we meet again, I wish you a very happy Thanksgiving!

Best regards,

Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel, President



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Take advantage of the IAHC's growing virtual program-ming 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



Every Wednesday at Noon, get centered with a weekly virtual yoga class!. Register at irish-american.org.



Friday in the Fifth with Danny Burns
11/6 • 6pm, Irish-born hitmaker Danny Burns joins us for a Friday in the Fifth performance featuring new and original music.



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



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



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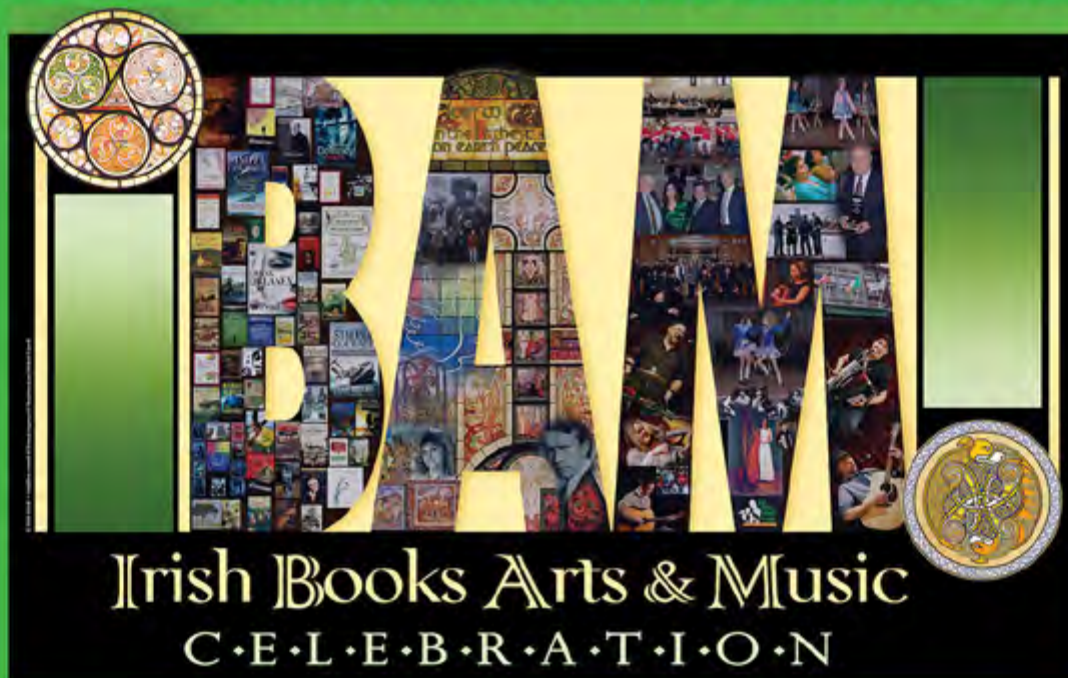
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Disappeared

14 years ago, I wrote a column in this space titled: "Naughty Mary Whist Yer Gob". It concerned an inspiring book released in 2004: "The Road From Ardoyne, The Making of a President". It's a biography of Mary McAleese, first ever Irish Republic President born in British-ruled Northern Ireland. I don't recall where I'd heard of it; but looking back, it's surprising I'd heard a whisper at all.

Mary Leneghan, oldest of 9 children, was raised in the Ardoyne, a poor North Belfast Catholic neighborhood that's suffered many 'pogroms' by pro-British Orange mobs over the years. In 1969 when Mary was 18, the Ardoyne was attacked by Protestant mobs escorted by Royal Police (RUC) and armed "B-special" quasi-military police units. Entire blocks of Catholic families were burned out of their homes, and 17 residents shot. Mary's father packed the family up and drove down to Dublin. They eventually returned, but had to flee a second time when Ardoyne came under repeated attack.

Ardoyne is home to Holy Cross School for Girls where, day after day during 2001 and 2002, Royal Police stood by while Protestant "neighbors" and members of pro-British UDA and UVF paramilitaries pelted Catholic girls and their parents with abuse, spit, bags of urine and fireworks as they walked their daughters to the grade school.

I thought Mary's book would be a great read, but Borders had never heard of the title, nor was it in their online search files. I had the same result at other American book chains. I asked my public librarian. "Never heard of it" she said, but came up with a single copy in the Illinois system, in the Irish collection at the U of I, Urbana. I had it sent up. I then asked Irish American News' durable and dedicat-

ed book reviewer, Frank West, but it wasn't on his radar then either. I called the Irish Consulate, Chicago, where the secretary contacted both consul and vice-consul. They'd heard of it and suggested I try Eason's in Dublin.

On a trip over, I stopped at several Dublin booksellers, including Eason's: Ireland's large, venerable bookstore on O'Connell Street. They too had no idea the book existed. And Shannon had great stacks of bios by both Clintons, but McAleese could not be found.

Standing in major bookstores asking to buy a copy of a biography of, and by, the current president of the nation that you're certain is in print, while eliciting confused, blank stares from staff and management- that was a strange déjà vu-like experience, like being in a time warp, or the TV series



both consul "Dark", searching for an event that hasn't yet occurred.



But, of course, it had occurred; and Mary's biography had simply been "disappeared". Apparently fiery attacks by armed police and Klan-like religious vigilantes were not fit for discussion, particularly by the country's President. Nor was McAleese's account

of her time reporting for government-owned Radio Television Ireland (RTE) during the hunger strikes, a period she describes as "the most difficult, the darkest, the worst time of my life". McAleese compared it to working for the East German secret police.

Former staffers claim that up to 15 members of the Workers Party or Official IRA held key positions

at RTE. They were anti-Republican, anti-Nationalist, and courted the Unionist point of view in their programming.

McAleese (in her diary): "RTE journalists...never did their research, never did their homework. They would come to Belfast and head straight for the bar of the Europa Hotel. They used to get their information, or a version of the information, from the RUC Press Office." "H-Block coverage is biased at worst, misguided at best."

I'm guessing Mary was warned her book had not passed imprimatur and had been indexed by powers greater than she. My calls to her staff at that time were not returned. I did find a few used and new copies at Amazon, all apparently emanating from 2 small UK booksellers, one at the British Parliament, one at the Scottish. UK leaders needed to be kept informed.

Years later I ran into someone connected with the biography and I was told "there were some problems" with the book's publishing. I had camera gear with, and asked for an interview. The subject promised to return a half-hour later; but failed to show.

When I began broadcasting my Irish TV program in 1987, I soon discovered not only that news reports from Ireland are either censored or altered in the American press to toe the Crown line, but also how sensitive the powers on both sides of the pond are to any questioning of the official line. It dawned on me: that situation cannot be unique to the UK.

Many clandestine activities like surveillance of phone lines and street cameras have migrated from our former "mother" England over the years. We've suffered 4 years of a U.S. administration hobbled by a "Russia collusion"

narrative fueled by fraudulent warrants and backed up by a Russia-oriented British spy. Even now the left has resurrected the debunked Russia theory to control the Biden-China alleged scandal.

Vandals, empowered by globalist corporations, including media, spent last summer rampaging across America, spreading nihilism in "peaceful" looting, burning, rioting, and leaving we taxpayers with a \$2 Billion check to settle. Most all U.S. media now leans left; and the concentrated flow of misinformation increased exponentially in the final weeks of the presidential race. But, unlike the McAleese media blackout, there are some reliable sources that contradict the left's line. Sadly, not many Americans choose to compare sources before deciding.

As of writing, the 2020 presidential race is pivoting into a dangerous, uncharted course. Journalist Tucker Carlson confirmed that incriminating files describing under-the-table quid-pro-quo deals and meetings with Communist Chinese leaders found on a laptop computer unequivocally belong to Hunter Biden, and they indeed sync with meetings his father Joe had with Chinese operatives. It appears to be a smoking gun. If that proves true, then short of a coup, many in Washington are in for an extended penance of sackcloth and ashes. Influence peddling, taking money from a foreign country, no less one as huge a threat to U.S. interests as Communist China, and while negotiating an end to creation of offshore military islands and the theft of American technology: it's beyond the pale.

If he wins: Biden, will also have to deal with a divided party. The radical left will have an easy path to total control. If he loses, the radical wing will continue marching to dominate, or might even split from the party. Either way, the wheeler-dealers of the party and their big media enablers will find it harder to avoid serious scrutiny without total information lockdowns. © 2020 Michael P Morley

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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

Back in the mid-eighties Chicagoans welcomed the Joy of Ireland, an Irish import store and tearoom, located on Michigan Avenue. Co-owned by Richard Kosmacker, it became the go-to place for wedding, christening or birthday gifts, meet a friend for a chat over a pot of Irish tea served in Belleek china teacups. A posh setting! It was also the era of the late novelist Maeve Binchy, who entertained a standing room only crowd at the Irish American Heritage Center. A time when the Bridget Award was established as a fundraiser for Concern Worldwide to honor distinguished women of Irish Heritage. Chicago, as it is now, was a place where Irish immigrants thrived and contributed mightily to politics, literary groups, academe, music, drama, medicine and business.

The late Dr. Rory W. Childers comes to mind, a pillar of the Cardiology Faculty at the University of Chicago for fifty-years. A raconteur, a man steeped in Irish history, physician to the novelist, poet, activist and controversial Brendan Behan. Dr. Childers was the son of Erskine Childers who entered Irish politics in the early fifties, elected in 1973 as the fourth President of Ireland. Childers grandfather, also Erskine, was executed by the Brits in 1922 during the Irish Civil War. Rory and his wife Michelle were movers and shakers, front and center in all Irish activities in Chicago. He regaled listeners with stories about Irish culture, history, literature, religion, societal richness and Irish humor, deliciously off-color. How often did he declare when Dail Eireann was in session it provided immense theatre and when friends visited Dublin he made a point to introduce them to the workings of the Irish Parliament. "Ireland never lets you down," he was fond of saying.

And yet, in so many ways it did. Was it the Potato Famine, starvation, death and the lethal grip and torture of British landlords who literally drove the Irish out of Ireland? Liverpool provided a quick getaway out of misery and starvation to a job, despite posters that read, "No Irish and no Dogs need apply." It was America and the Statute of Liberty whose welcoming promise of a new life served as a magnet for the Irish. Australia received its share, but it was the US open borders and Ellis Island beckoning the Irish.

Born in Ireland, I was ten, the oldest of two siblings when our father died. He was forty-five, our mother thirty-two. I discovered that Ireland could not support us, pulling our Mother away to Boston nine months following his death. Her sister became our guardian and American dollars provided our upkeep. Nonetheless, Ireland failed us, a reality that so often raises its ugly head. Despite living in the US for decades, providing me the right to vote last week for a new president and a life of fulfillment, opportunity, achievement and success, the failure of Ireland to keep us together clings like a ripe barnacle. And yet, I've learned that grief is the highest price for love, and Ireland has a strong emotional pull on all of her immigrants. It was folly to believe gold nuggets could be found on US streets, yet it was the land of opportunity. The Irish played a major role in the melting pot combining the richness of nationalities from sea to shinning sea.


It took nineteen years before I set foot in Ireland. That clinging barnacle was a reminder I had to assimilate to US ways. I smile recalling what Freud said about the Irish: We

were the only people who could not be helped by psychoanalysis, adding "there can be no doubt of one thing: the Irish will never change." It's appropriate to follow this up with the comment uttered by George Bernard Shaw: For the Irish, contentious is better than loneliness."

It was the month of July during the Bicentennial year when I agreed to visit Ireland with my US husband and three young daughters. At the time, Boston offered charter flights to Shannon and Dublin on Aer Lingus, and although I dragged my feet pledging I had no intention of visiting my home town of Dundalk, County Louth. Two rooms were booked at the Shellbourne Hotel, still my favorite, and we slept off jet lag intending to take a tour of the city. I opened my eyes and announced "we're vacating the hotel this morning and driving to Dundalk". An unfamiliar passion seized my innards. In that instance it was emotionally consuming that I get to the town of my birth fifty miles away. Puzzled spouse continued to probe why the change? It was inexplicable. On the Dublin to Belfast road I saw the first Dun Dealgan (Dundalk) sign and wept with a deep familiarity. Growing up in a border town a safe harbor for men who fought relentlessly for a united Ireland, a town where mothers and fathers took turns riding bicycles for a day of smuggling



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crossing the border to Newry the first town in Northern Ireland. Goods were cheaper in the North, essentials like whiskey, cigarettes, butter. Smugglers faced a heavily guarded British Border to return home. Adults had ways of stacking cigarettes under tweed caps, or jammed into women's knickers with nary a hitch. Few were caught.

Reaching the town I marveled how close were the mountains. We drove unannounced to my aunts house. Shock, delight, a cup of tea, a scone, a garden for the girls to roam in, my cousin Patrick delighted to see us "home from America." Aunt May was determined we tour the town for so much had changed. It looked the same other than a new modern Catholic Church. Once inside I met Father Sweeney who plagued my teen years summoned when I questioned how Mary and Joseph could have the baby Jesus when they were not married. He'd take me into the parlor to preach supernatural beliefs, faith and charity while I stifled yawns and boredom.

He invited me in for tea, saying I was ahead of my time. I refused his offer inviting him instead to the Ballymacscalon Hotel for a drink. I was home and I was in charge! Reuniting with my roots, friends and family was a gift of life! I reach out for that Irish fix regularly! estelleshanley@aol.com

One-of-a-Kind Crafters of Ireland Now Online at www.craftersofireland.com

WHILE Covid-19 has affected the livelihoods of many of Ireland's artisans, a new, unique and bespoke service for crafters and designers who produce exquisite handcrafted goods is aiming to redress the balance.

A website (above) has been set up—www.craftersofireland.com—to allow the crafters to sell their products to the UK, the US and Europe, which they hope will allow those who wish to buy a beautifully designed handmade in Ireland product.

The Crafters of Ireland was founded by **Bernadette Clancy**, who worked for many years, designing, and delivering workshops for business development. It was through her mentoring sessions and business advisory clinics that she met a multitude of crafters, artists and designers who made one-of-a-kind, bespoke items. However, these Irish based micro businesses sometimes struggled with visibility, sales, and growth.

Prior to the set-up of the website, online options open to the crafters until that point were to join Etsy, Market Place or many others. Now the artisans are provided with a greater opportunity to sell and make a living through their products. The website

is centred on the crafters and aims to provide a bespoke service with a genuine personal touch.

"We created a platform that is bespoke, personal, and different to what is currently on offer," Bernadette said. "When a craft-



Despite the Angels

Have you ever felt you know someone already, even though you only just met? Maybe you knew them in another life.... Lucy and David, who live in modern Dublin, first knew each other in Ancient Crete. They had a baby girl, but disaster struck, and their guardian angels have been trying to reunite the little family for 4,000 years.

Despite the angels' attempts to be understood, humans often do not hear, and unwittingly can waste whole lifetimes....

Now in Dublin things are still not going to plan - Lucy is too young, and David is marrying someone else. Angels are opti-

mists, so they are re-organising, but - Humans must listen to their angels. **Book Available at Amazon**

Madeline Ann Stringer was born in Dublin, living there all her life. Her other love is France, which appears in her book as one of the historical 'flashbacks'.

She trained and worked as a doctor, in womens' and alternative medicine. One of the alternative



modalities, hypnotherapy, introduced her to the concept of past lives. She always enjoyed playing with words, in fact winning a prize at about 11 years old, in a competition to finish a story, run by the "Puffin Club" (Puffin is the children's section of Penguin Books). Later she started to write more seriously, and finished *Despite the Angels* about 7 years ago. Her next novel should be published later in 2020, or early 2021.

Writing is a much better fit for her than being a doctor, She can get totally lost in her characters' lives, in fact they become real, and sometimes take over! The human characters in *Despite the Angels* are fairly typical of the Dublin middle-classes, and the book gives a good feel of that part of Ireland in the 1990s.

Madeline Stringer has also written one-act plays, two of which have been successfully performed in amateur competition in the All-Ireland One Act Festival, and Bray One Act festivals. The plays are called *Rhyme for Reason*, and *Two Wrongs*. More information on these can be found at madelineannstringer.ie.

internationally.

"There is nothing in the world quite like Ireland's most talented crafters who are inspired to create," Bernadette added. "We carefully selected some of the best crafters we could find in Ireland. We sell beautifully designed, handmade, award-winning products such as crystal produced by a master craftsman, formerly of Waterford Crystal who has worked for the last 44 years as a master cutter and engraver, exquisite handmade chocolates, luxurious skincare, soaps and grooming products made from pure, natural ingredients, bespoke gift boxes, mythical fairy houses, unique apparel, authentic weavers and quilters, one of a kind Celtic greeting cards and much more.

"Our crafters want you to have the highest standard of handmade products Ireland has to offer and pride themselves on designing their goods that guarantee you great value and choice that appeals to all tastes, for all occasions, including custom designing items for you. Watch out for promotions and giveaways too and please check us out on social media, visit our site." www.craftersofireland.com and like them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/craftersofireland>.



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Texan Celtic Twilight of Robert E. Howard Part Two

I can hear them now as clearly as I did then: the voices of my dad and brothers echoing down Time's corridor as they called for me to put that book down and join them in the ocean.

I love the sea and would normally have been splashing about and making big waves with the rest of them; but on that shining, swelteringly hot day in 1971 I was all of twelve years old and lost in the literally fabulous high adventure of a tale called *The People of the Black Circle* by Robert Ervin Howard (1906 - 1936). This was full-blooded, in-your-face writing - writing that took on a life of its own and tore screaming from the page - set in an imaginary world that supposedly existed before recorded history began. It was of a type of fiction that became known as 'sword and sorcery' or 'high fantasy' and would find its most popular incarnation as mainstream entertainment with George R. R. Martin's *Game of Thrones* series. But Howard was the original and he was the best.

And that twelve-year-old kid thought that someone had set his brain on fire!

I had to find out more about this guy, no easy task in those pre-internet days. But I had a bit of pocket money and I was working Saturdays from seven until seven as a van delivery boy, so pretty soon the shekels were being spent on ordering books and scouring the amateur fanzines. And that's how I knew that Howard hailed from Texas, spent most of his life in the small town of Cross Plains - which even today only has a population of 1,000 - , looked more like a barroom brawler than a writer and had died at 30, which seemed to me then a good age.

I liked the fact that he was a big bruiser like his characters and his love of boxing and weight training gave me an interest in the same. But while that eventually faded, my keen curiosity about how the man had lived never did. And I was rightly chuffed to find that he and some of his friends took great pride in their Irish heritage. As previously pointed out, in the

words of Harold Preece, 'our minds were fixed on the hills of Wicklow we had never seen.'

Lord, how I would have loved to have been at one of their drinking and brainstorming sessions! I'm not normally one for any kind of paddywhackery nonsense, but - imagine! - just to have joined in their talk of history, pseudo history and plain old tall tales:

'...my memories of him are still so keen from that evening when we first met to that last time, some months before his death, when I ran into him in the Alamo Plaza of San Antonio on St. Patrick's Day, with an enormous cloth shamrock sprouting from his chest. [I can just picture him!]

'From Bob I first learned so much of the Celtic Mythos which would later figure in my folklore. From him, also, I learned the legend of the Heather Ale - he was the only man I met who had my absorption in Irish history... He believed - it is partially true perhaps - that the Celts had come into Europe during the Stone Age and that their language was as old as that period itself.'

One remark of Howard's that puzzled me for a long time was his assertion that 'the last Celt should have died a thousand years ago'; but Preece has as good an explanation for it as I've come across:

'I think he was expressing the impatience of Ossian, coming back from underground revels - you know the incomparable Tannhauser myth - to find the land of the Fianna become a country of canting piety.

'His Ossian was Connaire, or Conan. Whether or not such a demi-god ever actually lived seems to be rather unimportant. But it is immensely important that Bob Howard lived and created - and pinned his own fantasized adventures on this somebody from some never-never pantheon. Nietzsche used the legendary Zarathustra in the same manner...'

If Bob could come back today and see the way that we've rolled over to successive corrupt government chancers then I've no doubt that he would have doubled down



Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

on his wish. But...let's keep it country, folks. Calm down, Brady. Onwards.

The other writer I had stumbled across in that same period was H. P. Lovecraft (1890-1937) and you can just imagine my delight when I discovered that they were correspondents. On the surface this is astonishing as it's hard to



imagine two more different men.

Quite apart from their physical differences Lovecraft despised the Irish as much as Howard loved them. He also had quite a thing for the Roman Empire, another of Two-Gun Bob's many pet hates and I get the feeling that Lovecraft liked winding him up in that annoyingly bloody superior way he had. Certainly he knew who he was riling because the Texan wasn't exactly too sane and even-tempered at the best of times and never met a grudge he couldn't hold forever, leading to one slightly OTT moment when he declared that if he ever found out he had a single drop of Roman blood in his veins he would take a knife and let it out.

Uh yeah, Bob; steady on there. I can see a remake of *The Odd Couple* with these two.

Yet their mutual respect for the other's work combined with their vast philosophical differences was good for both of them, as Lovecraft later admitted.

Each could be equally entrenched in their thinking and to my mind the long correspondence between them - they died within a year of each other - was the most interesting either man had, although they never met in the

flesh. Perhaps for the best, eh?

Quite apart from the work, I could read Howard's letters all day. I just

loved the way in which the past was as real to him as the present and the manner in which he would suddenly take off and go haring down a sidetrack like a mad thing:

'Another town I went through was Paint Rock, in Concho County, so named because of Indian paintings on rock cliffs near the town. It was to John Chisum's ranch on the Concho River that the survivors retreated after that bloody fight on Love Creek, where five hundred Texans fought three thousand Comanches for a day and a night in 1864. It was from Concho County in 1867, that John Chisum started for New Mexico, with ten thousand cattle, and though he did not know it, the shadow of the bloody Lincoln County War went with him, and the stalking shadow of Billy the Kid.'

Such names! Paint Rock, San Luis de Las Amarillas, the Lost Bowie Mine.

Sam Peckinpah - mentioned in the first part of these musings - also loved putting such towns and names in his films and you can almost hear both men rolling the sounds on their tongues.

When that twelve-year-old kid on the beach thought that Robert Howard had 'had a good innings' because he made it to thirty, he couldn't have imagined nor would he have believed that when he was more than twice that age he would still be reading the Texan's stories, tall tales and the overlooked, often quite brilliant poetry. For such a young man he left an enormous wealth of material behind.

I've neither space nor inclination to go into it here, but Bob Howard - always given to extremes - shot himself dead on June 11, 1936. He had moved away from the fantasy field the previous year and I have no doubt that he would one day have written a sprawling epic of Texas or perhaps a novel set in an idealized Ireland, as were several of his short stories - but we'll never really know.

He was a commercial writer,

doing it for money during Depression years and as a consequence much of his stuff is forgettable (if always interesting); but when he was at the top of his game and had something that grabbed him, he touched genius. Certainly to me, Beyond the Black River deserves to be classed with the best of James Fennimore Cooper. It's also the story which contains the bleak dictum he'll probably be remembered for: 'Barbarism is the natural state of mankind. Civilization is unnatural. It is a whim of circumstance. And barbarism will always ultimately triumph.'

Those empty elitist souls who decide these things have taken it upon themselves to decree that he doesn't deserve the academic attention that has been given to his old metaphorical sparring partner, Lovecraft; but I would argue that any examination of the correspondence between them would show that Robert Howard is at least as worthy of that consideration; and it's certainly past time for a reconsideration of the poetry.

As to the stories themselves, I am fully behind Mark Cerasini, who believes that he properly belongs with the 'hard boiled' writers and should be mentioned along with Dashiell Hammett and Raymond Chandler. What we are lucky enough to have, however, is a rather wonderful film called *The Whole Wide World*, starring the great Vincent D'Nofrio, pitch perfect as Howard; and with Rene Zellweger as Novalyne Price, his only known love interest. So he is a rare example of a pulp writer getting a fair and even treatment of his life. Little enough thanks for sparking the imagination of a small boy on a long ago beach.

'...he saw the beautiful around this old country of stunted postoaks. His agile imagination transformed that drab old country into beautiful landscapes. He saw beautiful skylines along the low squat hills down in Brown County. He often gazed at them from our home and talked about them to me... But to most people here he was just a story writer.'

— Dr. I. M. Howard, Robert Howard's father.

charleybrady@gmail.com



I'll Be Home for Christmas? Immigration Considerations for Holiday Travel to Ireland

At McEntee Law, our team has been fielding questions about holiday travel since the beginning of the pandemic. "Can I travel?" is a quick question to ask, but not a quick one to answer. In the past several months, we have seen how rapidly international travel restrictions can change, and those changes may be to an immigrant's detriment after they leave the U.S. "Can I travel?" is a perfectly reasonable question, but it doesn't have a one-size-fits-all answer. The answer may depend on your immigration

status and on your specific circumstances.

If you are planning to travel to Ireland, you may have heard about the "COVID Travel Ban(s)" which bans individuals who have been physically present in Ireland (and the U.K., among other European countries) at any time in the 14 days prior to attempting to enter the U.S. These travel bans are based on physical presence in Ireland, or one of the other countries, and not on citizenship of that country. Even a connecting flight in a country subject to the travel

Suburban Widows/Widowers Social Club First Fridays in Tinley Park

You're invited to our next meeting The first Friday of the month at 6:30 pm. at the Harold Viking Lodge, 6730 175th St, Tinley Park We meet once a month. Entertainment on most months.

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The Southwest Suburban wid-

ow/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 call Phyllis Peterson at 708-636-6534 or Bill Dolehide at 708-342-6820.

ban will potentially make you subject to that ban.

Avoiding international travel is always the lowest-risk option, but sometimes family emergencies make travel inevitable, and we can certainly understand the desire to be home for the holidays. Isolating in a non-restricted country for 14 days prior to re-entering to the U.S. may also be an option, as opposed to trying to travel directly from Ireland. However, given the rapidly evolving nature of the pandemic, there is always a risk that the third country could experience an outbreak and travel restrictions could change.

There are also specific exceptions to these travel bans which we'll outline here. Others may qualify for a National Interest Exception (NIE), such as healthcare researchers, students, investors, and specific professionals who support the U.S.'s economic recovery from the pandemic. However, the first and most important considerations are your status, your travel documents, and your risks. We'll break those down too.

This article is not legal advice. It contains basic information about travel restrictions for Irish green card and visa holders to consider before making any travel plans. The information in the article is accurate as of the date of pub-

lication. Things are changing so rapidly that the information in this article may change by the time it reaches you. The only way to get advice on your specific situation is to speak with an experienced U.S. immigration attorney, but we hope that this general information is helpful.

Do you have a valid green card?

Lawful permanent residents (LPRs or green card holders), spouses of U.S. citizens and LPRs, and parents of minor U.S. citizens and LPRs are exempt from this COVID travel ban. However, their entry may be subject to increased scrutiny due to the pandemic. They may also be subject to state and local quarantine and testing regulations when they return to the U.S. More information on that is available through local department of health websites.

Green card holders with cards close to expiring, or those with any pending case, really need to consult an attorney before considering international travel.

For those with pending green card cases, avoiding non-emergency international travel is generally recommended. However, should an emergency arise, the immigration attorney for the case should be able to give specific advice on travel.

Do you have a valid visa stamp?

In addition to travel restrictions, the pandemic has also caused U.S. embassies and consulates around the world to suspend and restrict routine visa services. As of the date of this article, the U.S. Embassy in Dublin has not fully resumed routine services, so those who need a new visa stamp may have trouble getting an appoint-

ment. Without a valid stamp, re-enter to the U.S. may be impossible. For specific advice, we highly recommend reaching out to an immigration attorney.

Can you qualify for a National Interest Exception to the Ban?

Student visa holders (F-1 and M-1 visa) may be permitted to enter the U.S. without seeking an individual national interest exception (NIE) waiver as their entry may be generally deemed to be in the national interest. However, we would always recommend contacting the international students' office in the university/college prior to departing/re-entering the U.S. to ensure travel is recommended.

Our office has also been successful in getting National Interest Exception (NIE) waivers from the U.S. Embassy in Dublin for some clients. This option may be available to some ESTA/Visa Waiver travelers and some visa holders including H-1B visas, E-1 and E-2 visas, L-1s, academics, and J-1s. In order to qualify for the NIE, we must prove that it is in the national interest of the U.S. to allow these individuals to enter the country despite the travel ban. The U.S. government has broad discretion over the adjudication of these waivers and, in the interest of putting your best foot forward, we recommend that you seek the assistance of an experienced immigration lawyer.

To conclude, while we would love to tell you that you can definitely go home for the holidays the reality is much more complex. While leaving the U.S. may be easy, returning may be a different story. If you have an immigration attorney, or if the employer who sponsored your case does, it is in your best interest to reach out to them, because they know you best. If you would like to chat with our team at McEntee Law Group about this, we would be happy to hear from you.

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For Irish Heritage Singers, November is our second favorite month (March being our obvious first), as we host our annual fundraising concert in the spectacular Erin Room of the Irish American Heritage Center. Although we will not be singing live and in person on Sunday November 22, at 3 p.m. as scheduled, we will offer a virtual concert through the Irish American Heritage Center's Facebook page. Like and follow the IAHC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/IrishAmericanHeritageCenter>) and subscribe to their email list for details. Please consider donating to the Center the cost of your ticket for attendance; every little bit helps.

Each November's concert program is thoughtful and thematic with a wide variety of traditional to contemporary Irish choral pieces. Paul Matijevic, Irish Heritage Singers music director, shares with us the concert themes from 2015 to 2019.

"In 2015, we presented a concert entitled "Songs of Heroes and Homeland." This program featured some unique and interesting songs commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Rising, such as "The Row in the Town" and "Foggy Dew," as well as songs heralding Ireland's involvement in the Great War—"Take Me Back to the Bank of Killarney" and "Go Over the Top with Reilly." We also performed a few works by the great Irish songwriter Percy French.

"In 2016, we performed "Good People All—From Dublin to Wexford and Beyond the Emerald Isle." As you might have guessed, we performed a beautiful setting of "The Wexford Carol" in our Christmas set, and a moving musical setting of three poems by the acclaimed Irish author James Joyce. In addition, we performed arrangements of three poems by the great Thomas Moore.

"In 2017, we departed from the norm to perform "Letters from Ireland—Love, joy, and sorrow in music and memory." This choral suite arranged by Mark Brymer featured the reading of actual letters from Irish-American immigrants to their families in Ireland, interspersed with classic Irish musical interludes like "The Rocky Road to Dublin," "Molly Malone," "Skibbereen," and "Muirsheen Durkin."

"In 2018, we presented a concert entitled "Rising from the Mists—A thousand years of the Irish soul." This challenging program featured a transcription of an Irish manuscript dating back to the mid-12th Century. We also performed three works in the sean-nós style: "Fill, Fill a Rún," "Thugamar Féin An Samhradh Linn" and "Mo Ghile Mear." This concert also featured musical settings of the poetry of William Allingham and Oscar Wilde, and an arrangement of tunes from the music-infused Irish film "Once."

"And last year in 2019, we performed "Dancing with the Moon—Music of the Irish heart from Yeats to U2." In this concert, we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the publishing of Yeats' work "The Wild Swans At Coole" by performing four musical settings of poetry from that extensive work. We sang a setting of the title piece, a lovely setting of the poem "An Irish Airman Foresees His Death," an original musical setting written for the Irish Heritage Singers of the poem "Memory," and a playful

arrangement of the text "The Cat and the Moon." We also performed a rousing set of U2 works which brought the house down!

"As I write this, it brings a tear to my eye to think that we will not be seeing you in person this year. My wish is that you all stay healthy, and that we meet again in the Fifth Province to raise a glass in honor of all the wonderful music of Ireland!"

Needless to say, the Singers are desperate to gather and create music together. Until then, we will independently rehearse and look back at our repertoire with affection and pride. We hope you enjoy our virtual concert of some of our 2018 selections, which was professionally recorded and mixed. Join us on Sunday, November 22nd at 3pm on IAHC Facebook LIVE!

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Nimble Thimbles Makes Holiday Stockings for Our American Troops

For the past 3 years, Nimble Thimbles at the Irish American Heritage Center have made hundreds of Christmas stockings for the military. The effort is organized by Patricia Dziedzic, one member of this group of sewing and crafting women. Pat heard of the OSOT (Operation Support our Troops - America) from a friend, and brought the idea back to the Nimble Thimbles. It was discussed, and thought to



Patricia Dziedzic



be a highly worthy cause for the sewing efforts of this talented group. Much of the Christmas fabric at the center has been donated, and is readily available.

In 2020, the Nimble Thimbles donated more than 300 hand-made Christmas stockings! Here is a link to Operation Support Our Troops - America

www.osotamerica.org/

Their home page says:

"Our mission is to support

the morale and well-being of American forces by providing comfort, resources and education to them and their families both while they are deployed in harm's way and after their return. Engaged in the longest war of our country's history and with our servicemen and women completing multiple tours of duty, we are committed to showing them that "We Have NOT Forgotten."

Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

By Sally Blount, Ph.D.

It has been a time of extraordinary need and extraordinary generosity.

As we approach the end of this year, we at Catholic Charities are saying prayers of gratitude for all of you—our donors, volunteers, parish partners, board members, and staff. So many people have stepped forward to help ensure that Charities is able to meet the unprecedented levels of hardship amidst the pandemic.

Whether through extending hours at our food pantries, raising funds for housing assistance to help families stay in their homes, providing people with the means for a dignified burial for their loved ones, or counseling those struggling through the added burdens of trauma, depression, or substance use issues, we continue to serve.

And this season of extraordinary need is not over. A recent University of Notre Dame study estimates that the number of people living in poverty in the U.S. grew by more than 8 million between September



and May. A recent Wall Street Journal article by Nicholas Christakis predicts that the aftermath of this crisis will be with us for years to come.

So we ask that we each continue to keep our hearts

open—to each other, to God's call for mercy, and to the special gifts we have to share during these

extraordinary days. Let us not become overwhelmed by the challenges around us, but instead be witnesses of compassion, grace, and our shared humanity. We at Catholic Charities are here to help you do that, to be your partner in mercy. It's what we are called to do, and what we have been doing for over a century. Together, we can fulfill our sacred mission to care for one another.

This year, the face of need is our neighbor. The face of hope is us.



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Hibernian Media’s Optimism Shines Through Pandemic

By Izzy Cusack

Empresario Mike “Houli” Houlihan can’t wait to put 2020 behind him. “Thank God the Year of Living Dangerously will soon be over!”

Houlihan founded his public charity in 2013 and dedicated their work to “telling stories to enlighten future generations while honoring our ancestors”. He’s an evangelist for Irish culture and up until last March his Hibernian Media was hitting them out of the park, with their Annual Irish American



Aldermen Jim Kearns

Movie Hooley film festival at The Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago, and a fistful of endeavors to preserve and promote Irish and Irish American culture.

“Since founding Hibernian Media, we’ve produced almost a thousand radio shows, featured over 800 guests and musicians, dozens of exclusive film screenings, many world premieres, a trinity of PBS television premieres, oodles of impromptu pub concerts, with eight annual trips to Ireland including 198 guests on those trips, a million laughs and yes, a few tears, the good kind.”, he says.

When his PBS TV show, *OUR IRISH PUB*, premiered for the second year in a row on WTTW in late March, over 34,000 households tuned in as the Tribune raved on St. Patrick’s Day. Hibernian Media was poised to close a deal for global syndication, broadcasting the show all over the world.

But Covid ain’t for sissies. Since welcoming the Mayor of County Cork to their radio show last March, Hibernian Media has cancelled their Fall film festival, cancelled a special “Skinny & Houli Return to Ireland” tour during the Galway film festival scheduled in July, and thrown in the towel on their weekly radio show from Lizzie McNeill’s Irish Pub. Any deal for *OUR IRISH PUB* syndication was strangled as pubs all over the world went dark.

“There were moments back in May when I felt like I was crackin’ up, as I taped our radio show at home into my phone with reruns of old guests and new Irish obits that seemed to get longer every week.”

But this cultural warrior has more stories to tell. Houli’s muse was reawakened recently with a generous grant from the Consulate of Ireland for his film *IN SEARCH OF WEEPING JIM*, filmed over eight years of Ireland tours and inspired by a friend’s search for his grandfather’s legacy, starting in Inishcuttle, Kilmeena, County Mayo and into the Chicago City Council. It’s the story of a 13-year-old Irish emigrant lad (Jim Kearns) who transformed America in the early nineteenth century in Chicago. Hibernian Media will finish filming *WEEPING JIM* in late October in Chicago, adding music and narration, and weaving a story to inspire Gen X’ers while honoring those who came here before us. More info at weepingjim.org

In June Houli took his Hibernian Radio Hour on the road

all over town on their “Police Pub Tour”, interviewing Irish cops in the midst of a summer of social unrest and finally settling into The Cork & Kerry Irish Pub for what looks to be an extended residency on the ol’ south side of Chicago.

Cameras were rolling all along the way and a new documentary is in development as Hibernian Media “backed the blue” in enlightening interviews with “the good guys”, as a nation was torn asunder by BLM, Antifa, and violence in our streets, leading up to one of the most consequential elections in our history; Hibenian Radio told the real story.

Today Houli is hard at work on his third book of short stories, “Southside Irish Mythology”, with tales both tall and true about some of the most unforgettable characters he’s met in his old neighborhood over the last 70 years or so. Look for it in bookstores for Christmas.



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Ask if all this is the power of positive thinking and Houli laughs, “I just wanna give 2020 an extra kick in the ass as it walks out the door!”

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KJ Foster winner of long drive for men.



Mike Lee winner closest to pin on 9th hole.



(l-r): **Rich Godley** with winning team! **John Staunton** also won closest to the pin 5th hole, **Tom Philbin**, & **Eddie Ryan**. Not pictured **Joe McDonagh**.



(l to r): **Rich Godley**, with **Kelly McDonagh** Dreamtown Realty Sponsor, **Sarah Godley**, and **Mary Joyce**.



(l to r): **John Stummer** & **Mike Conneely** of sponsor, **Blankenship Moving Co.**



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(l to r): **Mary Avery**, **Chris Hutchinson**, **Tony McHale** and **Mike Lee**.



(l - r): **Kevin Connell**, **Maria Connell**, **Bridget Kelly**, **Joe Kelly**, Winners of Best foursome score. **Bridget Kelly** won Long Drive for Woman



The Kelly and Gray clan enjoying the round.

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Kevin was tortured so brutally, his arm was broken from being pushed so far up his back. The jailer recalled Kevin listening to all

Hello everyone, Well this is the big election month (God help us). I don't get too involved with politics, so Happy Thanksgiving! The turkey's are safe from me this year, I'm now a full Vegan. If it's got a Momma, I don't gobble it (no pun intended).

Thank you to the Irish American Heritage Center, for having Declan and I do a virtual online show. I hope we get to do another one, we really enjoyed it. Even though it's an online show, to us it's like a live show. There's a certain amount of nerves and adrenaline going through the body. And that's what we miss so much these days. You can practice your music all day and night in the house, but, until you play in front of an audience, it's just not the same. And, you realize that playing live is where you really learn. So, thank you Meg Buchanan and Mike Shevlin,

and anyone else who is involved in the live Friday night shows from the Heritage Center.

On the first day of November (All Saints Day) one hundred years ago this month, Kevin Barry was hanged on the grounds of Mount Joy Jail, Dublin. I read about a jailer who spoke up after the execution of Kevin. He was regretful about being there. He recalled how Kevin Barry was taken to the gallows the day before his execution, where he was offered passage to America, so he could finish his studies. He had already won a merit based scholarship by Dublin Corporation to become a student of medicine. The British offered him a lifetime pension and college in the US, if he would inform on his comrades.

the offers that were made to him, and then said while looking at the hangman's noose "I think it will hold my weight, now take me back to my cell". Kevin was hung the following day. Kevin Barry R.I.P. Just days before this Tomas (Terence) MacSwiney R.I.P. the Lord Mayor of Cork died on hunger strike.

I was chatting on the phone with my friend, fellow musician, Stephen Smyth, a few weeks back. He said "how are things in America". Stephen lives in Portaferry, Co Down, and we've been doing some songwriting together lately. I had just watched the weather channel and I said "according to the forecast, there's a cold spell coming in from Colorado". Stephen said "and I heard California is burning". So, all of a sudden, as songwriters will do, and that's never let the words get away, in case you would lose them. So, we wrote a song called 'Where's A Man Supposed To Go'. It's a song about the times we're living in right now, with a little humor thrown into the mix. So, we'll make it the song for this month. Happy Thanksgiving!

Be good to one another, Joe

'Where's A Man Supposed To Go'

Written by Joe McShane and Stephen Smyth

Verse 1

There's a cold spell coming in from Colorado
While California burns in the summer sun
There's a friend of mine real sick just down the block
His life on hold with each ticking of the clock
The Mississippi's banks are overflowing
In Chicago there's a cold wind a blowing
A hurricane is coming through the Gulf of Mexico
Where in the hell's a man supposed to go

Chorus

Where's a man supposed to go
It looks to me nobody seems to know
20-20 vision came a little too late, and a-way to slow
Tell me where's a man supposed to go

Verse 2

They laid me off my job, last Monday
I cancelled my vacation yesterday
So I'm sittin' on my front porch just a rockin' in my chair
I'm out of beer, does anybody care
This new normal ain't normal to me
Can't believe what I'm seeing on tv
Will I ever get to see another live country show
Tell me where's a man supposed to go

Bridge

I can't go to my local dancehall
Milwaukee might run out of alcohol
In church we'd stand together we'd sing and we'd pray
Hoping to see a brighter day

Chorus

Where's a man supposed to go
It looks to me nobody seems to know
20-20 vision came a little too late, and a-way to slow
Tell me where's a man supposed to go
(tag) Where's in the hell's a man supposed to go

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Did You Ever Hear Of Robert Collier?

I remain totally convinced that there is a great number of very bright, competent people in the world but most of us know nothing about them or their wisdom. Robert Collier, an avid early self-help advocate, was such a person. He wrote about a wide variety of issues;

abundance, faith and personal development. He was a forerunner of the current day motivation research. He died in 1950. I first heard of him through a weekly publication of quotes, one of which is shown below:

"We can do only what we think we can do.
We can be only what we think we can be.
We can have only what we think we can have.
What we do, what we are, what we have.
All depend on what we think."

The above quote sounds so simple, but it contains great wisdom which will probably become apparent as you read it several times. In fact, using this quote as a mantra could be a valuable tool to solve a variety of problems.

•Mr. Collier wrote some highly regarded inspirational books in the early 1900s. He was a prolific writer who believed strongly that happiness and abundance are achievable by all of us. He sold over 300,000 sets of his books entitled the Secret of the Ages. So even after 70 years, he continues to inspire with his wisdom. A number of his books are available on Amazon. I want to share a handful of his thoughts with some of my own commentary.

•An essential thought is the need to know what you want. Most every one of us has been asked time and time again, what do you want to do? Where do you want to be? It sounds like such a fundamental question. Then why do we struggle so much with it? It appears to me that many of us are uncomfortable making a decision. It is almost like being undecided is better than taking a position that might be subject to criticism. One of the most common questions for people of all ages is, what are you going to do when you grow up? We may try to make light of it, somehow we see it as an ultimate decision. Here's a suggestion: study the problem carefully and thoroughly then make a tentative decision. Work like heck to implement that decision, if the decision turns out to be wrong, drop it like a hot potato and move on to a better decision. Life is so short, why waste time spending months or years at a job or on a project that you don't like?

•The first principle of success is desire i.e. knowing what you want. Desire is the planting of your seed. Do you have the desire and the fire to plant the seed for the future? You can hear a lot of people talking about what they really want to do. However, they clearly haven't done anything to implement that desire. It

simply becomes an unfulfilled dream or wish. Just think of the people who have shared their dreams with you, but have never achieved them.

•Take the first step, and your mind will mobilize all its forces to you. But you must take that leap of faith. Once you are engaged, all that is within and without you will come to your assistance. I have spent many years assisting people in the job search process. Many people simply struggle trying to overcome their inertia. A lot of people live in the world of "gonna". They are gonna stop in and learn more about that conveniently located company or potential employer. They are gonna prepare a resume one day soon, but they don't. They are gonna organize their job search soon.

•There are little differences between people, but that little difference makes a big difference. That little difference is attitude. The big difference is whether it is positive or negative. Haven't you seen the difference manifested in people's attitude when challenged? Some people thrive on challenges; it may mean that they are quicker to take a risk than the rest of us or their belief (aka attitude) allows them to focus on a positive outcome. Have you encountered people like that?

•Your chances of success in any undertaking can always be measured by your belief in yourself. I will let some scholar decide whether attitude is belief in one's self or belief in something else. One's attitude is a lot like the concept of leadership, when we see it we know if it's genuine. A phony attitude is often easily spotted and recognized. You can do anything you think you can. This knowledge is literally the gift of the gods, for through it we can solve every human problem. It will make you an incurable optimist. It is the open door.

•Visualize that which you want, see it, feel it, believe in it. Make your mental blueprint and begin to build it. Many highly successful executives and big name athletes will tell you the same story. They don't focus on their mistakes, but rather they focus on the things they did correctly. They don't consider the possibility of future mistakes. They direct their attention at doing the right thing. If you are a professional football fan, think of Tom Brady; he has won countless games that others had considered lost.

I hope you can apply one or more of these thoughts to your life and career. **CARPE DIEM.** If you don't seize the day, perhaps one of your colleagues will.

FOR YOUR FURTHER CONSIDERATION:

The best leaders are the ones who have the sense to surround themselves with outstanding people and the self-restraint not to meddle in how they do their job. Unknown.

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc.; a Naperville, IL based senior executive coaching and career transition firm. James-fitzgerald.com james-fitz37@hotmail.com

Hibernian Radio Police Pub Tour! Recording Live at Cork & Kerry Irish Pub

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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



What is the Celtic Calendar? It is a collection of a pre-Christian Celtic system of timekeeping. It includes the Gaulish Coligny calendar used by Celtic countries (Wales, Scotland, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Brittany-France, & Ireland) to define the day, week, month, seasons and festivals. This calendar was in use almost 2,000 years ago, we clearly do not use it today but it's worth knowing that it existed.

Today we use the Gregorian calendar (named after 16 century Pope Gregory XIII) and most of the world uses it too. However, a few countries do not use the Gregorian calendar today, which include Nepal (Bikram Samvat), Afghanistan (Solar Hijri), Iran (Solar Hijri) & Ethiopia (Ethiopian). The Hebrew calendar is used for Jewish holidays and the Lunar Hijri (Islamic calendar) is used to determine Islamic holidays.

I have been thinking of time

& calendars, because as we all know during this pandemic our time & schedule has maybe permanently been altered. Psalm 39 in the Bible says how our days are numbered: "O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!" The Rolling Stones have a song, "Time is on my side" I am not so sure anymore.

The Gaulish Coligny calendar is the oldest known Celtic lunar ritual calendar. The original calendar was a plate it endures in fragments. The calendar was an attempt to reconcile the cycles of the moon and sun. Among the Celts the year was divided into a light half and a dark half. The day was seen as beginning at sunset so the year was seen as beginning with the arrival of the darkness around November 1st (Samhain) The light half of the year started on May 1st. (Beltane) A number of Celtic

terms survived the approval of the Christian Calendar such as Samhain, (November-Winter) Imbolc, (Spring-St. Bridget's Day) Beltane (May Day festival) and Lughnasadh (harvest season). The calendar reflected an agrarian society maintaining & producing crops.

I wish all of you loads of time & kind people to spend it with. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone! It is my favorite holiday, although I'm a fulfilled vegetarian. I have a portobello mushroom and acorn squash with walnuts on this bountiful Holiday. I am entirely thankful to all of you who send me kind messages, I enjoy every note.

Gaelic for the month:

Calendar-feilire

Year-bhliain

Month-mhi

Week-seachtain

Day-la

"The way we spend our time defines who we are." Jonathan estrin

"Time is more valuable than money because time is irreplaceable" John Maxwell

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

Money Saving Tips for Young Adults

By Brendan Houlihan

There is no better time to start saving more for tomorrow, than today!

Saving money can seem like an impossible task! However, putting money aside every month can have a profound impact on your future financial security.

What do you value more?

For young adults, saving money can present one of the greatest challenges. And remember that persistence and discipline will help you on your path to future financial success. Get the most out of your saving your hard-earned money by following these five guidelines.

FIVE MONEY SAVING TIPS:

1.FORM A BUDGET. Generalizing and sticking to a budget is an ideal way to save your money and understand your inflows and outflows. Budgets

are not meant to eliminate the fun in your life. Budgets help you create responsibility with your spending decisions. You will be able to see where your



money is going each month and allocate funds to saving, bills and recreation.

2.PAY DOWN YOUR DEBT. We know depositing money into your savings is a proven benefit to practice for your future. Equally concerning is paying down on your debts. Create a plan to aggressively pay off

your debt. Take control of your credit cards and save on interest charges. Have the discipline to pay off your credit card bills every month.

3.DON'T DELAY: SAVE AND INVEST NOW. The sooner you become a saver and investor, the better! This may seem like a challenge to begin saving money, but this action will make a consequential impact on your future nest egg. Understand that compound interest works in your favor. When your money makes money, you win. Does your employer match in your company retirement plan? Find out!

4.CREATE AN EMERGENCY FUND. Many financial projections can get interrupted by unexpected expenses. It could be car repairs, family crisis or job loss. Emergency funds are money set aside to cover these out of budget expenditures in

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a time of need. The goal is to have this emergency money readily available, so you do not have to rely on your credit cards, high-interest debt, or retirement savings. Start funding your emergency fund today!

5.INVEST IN YOURSELF. Investor and entrepreneur, Warren Buffet claims "the best investment you can make is an investment in yourself". I agree! You owe it to yourself and your family to learn to save more for tomorrow, today! Take the time

to craft your retirement goals and increase your financial literacy. It will pay you dividends!

-Brendan Houlihan, a fiduciary, is Financial Advisor at BFH Wealth Management and creator of the Learn to Earn Investment program for children.

For more information on Brendan Houlihan's business, you can visit his website at bfhwealthmanagement.com, call him at (708)280-8753, or contact him by email at brendan@BFH-WealthManagement.com



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