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October 21 - 22 - 23

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Gala Awards Dinner Friday 10-22 7pm

Theater: Gaelic Park Players in 'Bloomsday' Saturday 10-23 6:30pm

Full Program Saturday 10-23 (free admission) with Photography Exhibit by Kevin O'Donnell

Literary Salon featuring Larry Kirwan, authors, and storytellers every half hour

Exhibit #IAMIrish Presented by The Ireland Network and Irish Community Services (all day)

Panel Discussion *The Art of Being Seen* 3pm

Film Good Piping, with filmmaker Davis Watson in person 4:30pm

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**View
From Ireland**
By Maurice Fitzpatrick



politicians are obviously worried about something.

Three years ago, in September 2018, this column wrote that it was a student protest that inspired the occupation of a vacant house in Dublin City Centre in August 2018: 'the occupy movement has since then seized a second house and now a third one in the city...The good news is that rectifying the housing crisis is a doddle: build higher in the cities, instigate government forced purchases of land and mass social housing provisions in city centres

Affordable Housing for All?

On September 2nd, the Irish government launched a four billion euro per year plan to supply on average 33,000 homes every year over the next decade under the banner 'Housing for All'. The government claims that the programme will constitute the biggest delivery of affordable homes in the history of the state. In addition, the government will introduce a vacant property tax in 2022 to force the hand of those who are sitting on vacant properties in the midst of a housing crisis. Minister for Housing, Darragh O'Brien, also wrote to Catholic Primate of All Ireland, Eamon Martin, to encourage him to make the church's extensive portfolio of vacant land and property available to facilitate the government's plans. This all amounts to serious and concerted action. Our



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(parts of which have had vacant buildings for years) and introduce better tax breaks for young buyers. This would be instituting an Irish version of the New Deal—call it An Déil Nua'. The government is calling its plan 'Housing for All', but it amounts to something similar. But will it deliver sufficient housing to alleviate a crisis that has been decades in the making?

Over the past four decades a sharp division in property ownership has emerged in Ireland. As political scientist Aidan Regan has argued: 'In 1987, the middle to top 70-90 percent owned 50 percent of housing wealth. Today, it has declined to 35 percent. Meanwhile, the share of housing wealth going to the top 10 percent has increased from 20 to 32 percent'. Property ownership thus has become an index of political constituencies that have aligned to political parties accordingly. The very wealthy own an abundance while many young couples and families own nothing. It will take a great deal of adjustment to reverse that process and to de-politicise property in Ireland.

Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Housing, Eoin Ó Broin, has just published a new book on the property crisis, *Defects: Living with the Legacy of the Celtic Tiger*, in which he details to embarrassing effect the greed of developers (abetted by Fianna Fáil), disregarding home-owners who innocently bought shoddy housing during the Celtic Tiger: 'Families are living in fire-defective and structurally unsound apartments and houses across the state, and homes in Donegal, Mayo and elsewhere are literally crumbling apart as a result of mica and pyrite in defective building blocks'.

In promotional interviews for his book, Ó Broin availed of every chance to hammer the coalition parties in government. That parti pris stance is wholly expectable. It is less acceptable that

journalists failed to ask Ó Broin why it is that, if his party so fervidly roots for the 'ordinary people', it did not vote against the Northern Ireland (Welfare Reform) Bill the Northern Ireland Assembly on November 15th 2015. That legislation imposed swingeing welfare cuts in Northern Ireland. In the intervening years, since Sinn Féin espoused economic austerity in the North, the party has seen that the key to power in the South is the unambiguous embrace of affordable housing as its mantra.

Given that Sinn Féin has never been in government in the South, the other parties are accountable for the housing mess in a way that Sinn Féin is not. And those parties certainly are answerable for another major obstacle to a more equitable housing system in Ireland: the financialisation of property through the mass purchase of property by tax-incentivised vulture funds, which have been abetted by all the political parties and governments during and since the Celtic Tiger.

In 1973, a government inquiry into housing, The Kenny Report, recommended that local housing authorities be granted the right to force the sale of land in suburban areas, and that owners of such land should be compensated according to its agricultural valuation plus 25%. The failure to implement the Kenny Report (after the election and change of government that year) was to have dramatic consequences a generation later when the re-zoning of land became a national bait and switch operation in which Fianna Fáil and big developers procured fortunes and elections. (The electorate cannot claim to have been blameless in the process). Hence the Celtic Tiger and the exorbitant property prices. Ultimately, the bubble burst and the corruption of land re-zoning, whereby landowners were rewarded far beyond anything recommended in the Kenny Report, gave rise to the Mahon Tribunal.

Bringing sanity back to the Irish housing system (housing prices have jumped by 99% nationally since 2013) will take time as housing reform is a slow burn. It remains to be seen whether the parties currently in government succeed in enforcing their new policies and whether they survive in government long enough to reap any reward for doing so. They should be in no doubt, however, that housing will be the matter that determines the next election in 2025, if not before.



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Congratulations Thomas O'Toole!

Rich and Sarah Godley are over the moon as their cousin Tommy O'Toole won his debut fight as a pro in Boston on Saturday, September 25th.

Rich was there in person to catch the win which was a first round knockout, as O'Toole hopes to make the O'lympics.



2nd Annual Concern Global Gala 11-9

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public of Congo and Bangladesh.

We will celebrate in-person in and virtually - Friday, November 19th in-person in Chicago, and Tuesday, December 7th online. Our in-person events includes any elements guests missed last year from Seeds of Hope, Winter Ball and the Thanks-for-Giving Gala with cocktails, live music and a shared experience about the Power of Food. The health and wellbeing of the Concern community is our highest priority. To that end, vaccinations will be required for all attending the in-person event.



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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

Nightingales, Pagan Idols and Time's Last Gift

"It speaks to you, the past." I know what he means. It speaks to you. More and more, I find.

It doesn't take much to set me off down Memory Lane these days. One such item was the recent discovery of a 1600-year-old pagan idol in the wetlands of County Roscommon; of which, a bit more in a minute. Another was the mention of tadpoles, of all things. And with that passing remark up came such a clear vision, submerged in the similarly drowned wetlands of my subconscious mind for all of these decades. It was of my father, brother Donald and myself hunkered down over the warm breeding waters of a large pond and looking enthralled at dozens of the furiously wriggling little

creatures, hardly able to believe what dad was telling us: that these tiny alien-seeming things would in only a matter of weeks have been magically transformed into frogs.

He loved the natural world, my father did, dead now these many years. And to a degree he passed it on to Donald and, I suppose, to Tom who is certainly off camping in the wilds every chance he gets. My youngest brother, Kevin, I don't really know about, having lost touch for whatever reason. In 'The Last Rung on the Ladder,' Stephen King's hauntingly beautiful short story of sibling separation, he writes: "We grew up. That's all I know, other than facts that don't mean anything."

I suppose that sums it up for a lot of brothers and sisters, especially today when everyone moves around so much, leaving

forwarding addresses - sometimes - scattered behind us like so much confetti: we grew up; we moved on.

I hadn't seen my brothers in some years, not until my mother's funeral. Now it's more years since I saw them; but at least now Tom and I text each other on a regular basis and I talk with Donald on the phone for an hour every weekend. He is closest in age to me and invariably our talk turns to the past and shared - mainly hilarious - memories. He is definitely the one who most inherited dad's love of nature and often goes on long walks, being a very solitary man, as indeed I am myself. It was the lockdown that caused me to reconnect with the natural world and perhaps it has done that for introverts the globe over. Certainly, the past year and a half has been one of the happiest of my life, things finally slowing to a pace that I'm comfortable with.

As to that Iron Age idol I mentioned earlier, the wooden artifact was discovered by an archaeological team in Gortnacranagh, close to the prehistoric site of Rathcroghan, ancient capital of Connacht and seat of the mythological warrior and sovereignty goddess Queen Medb.

Dr. Eve Campbell, who directed the excavation, said: "The Gortnacranagh Idol was carved just over 100 years before St. Patrick came to Ireland; it is likely to be the image of a pagan deity. Our ancestors saw wetlands as mystical places where they could connect with their gods and the Underworld.

"The discovery of animal bone alongside a ritual dagger suggest that animal sacrifice was carried out at the site and the idol is likely to have been part of these ceremonies."

He would have loved that, the old man would have. He had this great instinctive feel for the vast interconnectedness of history and the passing of Time, with a lifelong interest in Native American lore. That feeling, that awe at Time as an almost living thing is something that I've always felt keenly myself. When I lived in Dublin I went often to the

prehistoric site at Newgrange in County Meath, with its magnificent passage tomb. As it slowly sank in that this was built in the Neolithic period of 3200 B.C. - five hundred years before Stonehenge or the Pyramids - I grappled in a dim fashion with how essentially unknowable the minds of these people would be to us, so pathetically tied to our wristwatches. For these people didn't think in our terms, didn't share our concept of Time. When they set out to build their monuments at Newgrange they knew that the work would not be completed in their children's lifetimes and possibly not even in the lifetimes of their grandchildren. What a people, these men and women toiling away at the dawn of Agriculture. And the folklore surrounding Newgrange is of such a richness, like a dark loam soil, that you can dig through it indefinitely.

Which brings me rather nicely to my favourite film of the year, which I have seen several times now and would dearly have loved to watch with the old man. 'The Dig' was briefly released to the cinema before going on Netflix. To my mind it is superb.

In 1939, at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk, England, Basil Brown excavates a ship that seems to be the burial site of an ancient chief or king and is convinced that it is an astonishing revelation that will push back certain theories. After the discovery of a Merovingian coin the archaeologist Charles Phillips exclaims:

"This is Anglo-Saxon! It's Dark Age, probably 6th century! These people were not just marauders, they had culture... They were not savage warriors; they were sophisticated people with incredible artistry."

Shining a light on the Dark Ages. What I find most moving about that sequence is that here we are discovering the remains of a people who were civilized at the very same time that the discoverers are preparing to embark on the savagery that was World War II. And in many ways this elegant period piece would seem to be commenting on our own quite savage era.

"It speaks to you, the past", says Basil Brown, played brilliantly by Ralph Fiennes. And for me this marvelous film has everything: Brown meets with dreadful snobbery despite being quite brilliant at what he does, because he left school at 12 and was self-educated through books as my father was (he left at 13). Some of the younger members of the team find themselves questioning their sexuality, sensing that with war and possible death imminent the social norms may be about to be swept away. The childless Basil finds himself cast as father-figure to a wonderful little boy with a boundless imagination.

And the landowner and boy's mother Edith Pretty (a superb Casey Mulligan) faces up to the fact that she is dying, but sees no hope of going on. After his fashion, Basil doesn't agree:

"From the first human handprint in a cave wall, we're part of something continuous."

As if all of that wasn't enough, one of the characters has this charming tale to tell:

"There's a wonderful cellist called Beatrice Harrison. In the summer evenings she used to practice in the garden. And one night she was playing a scale and a nightingale joined in. At first, she couldn't believe it; but she started to play a sonata and the nightingale accompanied her...she was so excited that she went to the BBC. They set up recording equipment and as she played the nightingale began to sing, rising and falling with the cello. But the really extraordinary thing is that other people who had been listening to the broadcast in their gardens reported that other nightingales started to sing."

And just to prove that the internet is good for some things, that BBC recording can be found on YouTube.

What do you mean, is that it? Do you want blood every time? I'm in a mellow, happy mood today. In the meanwhile, I have a Nightingale Sonata to listen to. charleybrady@gmail.com

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**Irish Books and Plays
in Review**

Frank West



An Occupied Grave

By: A.G. Barnett, Oddmoor Press

I want to share with my readers, the delight I had reading a Brock and Poole Mystery. I read *An Occupied Grave* written by A.G. Barnett. It has drama, intrigue, and humor, a hint of romance, and of course mystery. The solution to the mystery kept me guessing until the end of the book.

It has a plot like those written by Agatha Christie! It is an old-fashioned whodunit and it is a realistic police procedural. There is no psychobabble about serial killers, as there is in many books. It is sited in the picturesque English Cotswold’s. Anyone who has seen the *Father Brown Mystery* on TV knows what the area looks like. Some will say, “But we live in a city. How does this apply to us?” But human nature is the same in any part of the world.

What do Detective Inspector Brock and Detective Inspector Poole look like? Detective Inspector Brock is a tall man at six foot two. He has blonde hair and blue eyes. “He wore trousers that finished a couple of inches from his shoes, a white shirt that had noticeable wet patches around his armpits and a tie pulled so loose it hung like a necklace.” “Inspector Brock...had a gruff, irritable manner, but it seemed to be only a veneer. Below the

surface, was a kind and friendly stride.” Detective Sergeant Guy Poole had a “gangly figure.” “Poole’s frame was

made up of long, pointy limbs which seemed to jut out of his thin body.” This powerful mystery was written by A.G. Barnett. He is a middle-aged man, who lives in Oxford in the U.K. He lives with his wife and daughter.

For many years, he worked in the “charitable” sector of the health services where he disseminated health information online. Currently, he writes two mystery series; *The Brock and Poole Mysteries* and the *Mary Blake Mysteries*.

There are four books in the Brock and Poole Mystery Series: *Murder in a Watch Room*, *An Occupied Grave*, *A Staged Death*, and *When the Party Died*.

The main characters in *An Occupied Grave* are Detective Inspector Sam Brock and the sergeant who is assigned to work with him, Detective Sergeant Guy Poole. The mystery opens with a small group of people gathered around an open grave. It is drizzling—the minister is saying the final prayers. Someone cried out because the

rain has disturbed the dirt in the bottom of the grave and an arm pokes out of the dirt. To get a better look, the minister gets on his hands and knees at the edge of the grave. The dirt gives way and he falls in.

The people had been amazed that her grandson, Henry Gaven, had not come to the burial service. He had been released last week after serving a four year prison sentence. What had he done? After a night of drinking, he drove back to the village, “lost control of the car as he reached the village green...and veered up onto the grass...and killed a young man.” The young man was well-liked in the village and had several close friends there.

The body is exhumed and identified as that of Henry Gaven. His killing of the boy created many enemies. People in the village have long memories, but did anyone hate him enough to kill him? Detective Inspector Brock and Detective Sergeant Poole must find out. Inspector Brock says: “This accident has been hanging over the village for four years. It’s been festering like an untended wound, and that only ends badly. We need to find out who did this soon if we don’t, I think more people might get hurt.”



There are many suspects, actually everyone in the village is a suspect. Brock and Poole begin relentless questioning and interviewing to sort them out. For starters are the people who were directly hurt by Henry Gaven’s drunk driving and killing of Charlie Lake.

The parents of Charles Lake are interviewed. Brock says to Gavid Lake, the father of the boy, who was killed, Henry Gaven was murdered. He replies: “Well, life has a funny way of making sure you get what’s coming to you, don’t it?” Neither his son or his wife seem saddened by the death of Henry Gaven. His daughter Charlotte was a friend of Henry Gaven. She was so affected by the death that she moved to London—met a bad crowd there and died two years previous.

Other parents, the Paget’s, their daughter was so saddened that she took to drugs. The Vicar’s daughter, Sandra Hooke, was also a friend of his. She never recovered mental stability.

The Vicar, Mrs. Hooke, talking about the people directly involved, “His daughter, Sandra and Henry Gaven were friends... And Charlie Lake and Charlotte Paget. The four of them grew up together, playing around, the village from when they were knee high.”

Intensely observant while questioning them and with imagination, eventually enable Detective Brock and Poole to solve the mystery and find the criminal. I found that slow and methodical police work is entertaining, and even optimistic.

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On the Upbeat

By Maryann McTeague Keifer

Several weeks after being able to attend Milwaukee and Peoria Irish Fests, I still find myself euphoric at having been able to enjoy a great amount of live music. I witnessed others joy as well as the excitement of the musicians to be back onstage and sharing music with their bandmates and other musicians both onstage and at post day sessions. Grins were broad, faces flushed, and not just from the heat {Peoria, you outdid yourself here, LOL), but from pure en-

joyment. Many were masked, especially the musicians, others not, but the significance of having the music live again was lost on no one, and the hope that we would not lose this again was a constant topic of conversation. Please do your part!

Gaelic Storm has lost none of their appeal and had the crowd at Milwaukee rocking. Patrick's legs looked well healed, Katie was gorgeous and had the fiddle blazing, and the lads were full of energy onstage. Their new album ONE FOR THE ROAD was featured and promised to be released mid-Septem-



ber to their ever faithful fans' delight. An uptempo collection of many of our favorite drinking and foot stomping songs, it delivers the fun and energy we love and expect from them. Several of the featured songs include "The Irish Rover," "Whiskey You're the Devil," "The Wild Rover," and "The Night Pat Murphy Died." I was prepared to not like their 90mph version of "Lanigan's Ball," but it has proved to be a favorite. "Waxies' Dargle" is a hoot, and the tune set "The Frozen Pipe" will be a favorite.

I need to mention and give a huge shout out to Patrick who stepped up and did a major good deed Sunday evening at Milwaukee. Saturday night at the hotel, a session was going on in one of the meeting rooms off the hotel lobby. Finn Byrne of the Byrne Brothers was participating with his dad and brothers and having a grand time. He went out to get his guitar, and found that it had been, unfortunately, stolen. Hotel video showed a young man enter, pick up the only guitar amidst the cases and walk out. Needless to say, it was devastating and took away so much of the joy the family had been experiencing as they were one of the stars of the weekend amassing standing room only audiences. I was relating the story to Colin Farrell in the van on the way to the grounds Sunday morning when Pat hopped on and asked

who we were talking about. We told him, and after a few expletives and saying how wrong that was, simply stated, "I'm going to take care of this." We had no idea what he meant.

That evening as The Byrne Brothers were playing on another stage, with a borrowed guitar from Enda Reilly, at the same time as Gaelic Storm, Pat told the audience what had happened and said, "I think we should buy this young 15year old lad a new guitar," and asked the crowd to pass up to the stage anything they could afford to help out. Well, over \$2000 was donated and put into a box, and after sending a golf cart over to bring Finn and his Dad Tommy to the stage, the box was presented to the astonished and overwhelmed lad from the good hearted people attending. Talk about a roller coaster less than 24 hours of emotions—it was so heartwarming! After a couple more gigs, the family stopped in Nashville on their way home and a new guitar was purchased with the Milwaukee donations added to funds Finn had been saving. I have it from his Mom, Julie, that many hours are already on it. I am sure it will always be a very special instrument to him. Fair play, Pat Murphy, you deserve a massive high five!

We had a very sad happening in losing Eileen Carroll, Mom of Liz, suddenly on the first of September. She was such a beautiful person inside and out and loved the music. Born in Momemohill, Ballyhahill in Limerick and the eldest of 15 children, she came to the United States 72 years ago in 1949. She was an au pair, rectory cook, and worked at Stauffer's and Harris Bank. Most importantly, Eileen was a devoted wife to Kevin and mother to Liz and her brother Tom. She encouraged music with them as well as their friends some of whom are well known to you like Jimmy Keane and Marty Fahey, and many others. Those of you on Facebook should read the tribute Jimmy Keane wrote in her honor-no one could say it better! So many of us have such fond memories of sitting and having a chat with her. She was so kind and an absolute delight to listen to. Even if she didn't know you well, she made you feel like she truly cared about you and what you had to say. What a special gift she was to all of us. She will always be in our hearts.

Several concerts are firmed up and a few Irish bands have received the coveted OK from the American embassy, and hopefully, more will soon. Keep an eye out as things seem to change daily. Tickets recently went on sale for Irish Christmas in America at Old Town School of Folk Music with more to, fingers crossed, come. Sláinte

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Eileen Carroll



On the Law

Martin Healy Jr.

John P. Scanlon



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

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

A recent inquiry was made about repetitive trauma work injuries and diseases, as well as workers' compensation insurance coverage. This month's article responds to those specifically.

Are There Benefits Available If An Injury Occurs Over A Period Of Time From Both Work and Non Work Activities, but Without A Specific Accident I can Identify?

Repetitive trauma cases raise many issues. Most people recognize that if they have a specific accident on the job in which they suffer an injury, they are entitled to workers' compensation benefits. However, many people do not realize that if their job exposes them to injury not resulting from a specific accident, they may still recover benefits under Illinois law.

In some instances, if a worker suffers an injury that is not traceable to a specific date at work but is due to repetitive motions or overuse of a body part, they are entitled to workers' compensation benefits.

Under Illinois law, if work

activities cause or contribute to an injury, a worker may be entitled to workers' compensation benefits.

Many construction workers use vibrating power tools that after repeated daily use, can cause injuries such as carpal tunnel syndrome, cubital tunnel syndrome or other types of nerve injuries. Often, a worker notices symptoms such as tingling and numbness in the arm or hand even when not working. As long as the worker's injury can be traced back to an employment activity, he can assert a claim under the Workers' Compensation Act.

Working in many trades is hard on the body. In addition to a full workday of heavy labor, many workers stay very active in sports and around the home. Over time, all of this activity can put stress on the body even without a specific accident or injury. As

long as the ultimate injury is traceable to a repetitive activity on the job, a claim can be made even though non-work activities may also have contributed.

Most Employers Have Workers' Compensation Insurance - What Happens If My Employer Does Not Have Insurance?

Recent studies acquired by the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission estimate that 91% of Illinois employees are covered under the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act. Illinois law requires employers to provide workers' compensation insurance for everyone who is hired or whose employment is localized in Illinois. The typical employer has compensation insurance, but as an alternative, an employer may file a bond with the Commission to insure payment of claims.

If an employer fails to obtain workers' compensation insurance or file a bond, it can lose its employer protections under the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act. If an employee suffers an injury at work during the time an employer is uninsured, and un-bonded, the employee may pursue a remedy against that employer in circuit court. A civil court action against the employer will provide multiple avenues of recovery and may have additional benefits limited under the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act.

For example, if an employee is injured on the job where the employer does not have insurance or a bond, the worker may be able to sue his employer in court under theories such as

negligence of the employer or co-worker with no defense of contributory negligence and without the recovery limitation of the Workers' Compensation Act.

I Contracted A Disease But Without A Specific Accident On the Job. Can There Be Recovery?

A companion law to the Workers' Compensation Act is the Occupational Disease Act. The benefits under the Occupational Disease Act are similar to those under the Workers' Compensation Act. Occupational disease claims can arise when a worker is exposed to chemicals, pollutants or other types of contaminants that result in a disease.

Also, if an employee suffers hearing loss due to exposure to industrial noise over a period of time, as opposed to traumatic injury, the employee will have a claim under the Occupational Disease Act.

To establish an occupational disease claim, a worker must prove he or she suffered from a

disease that has been caused or aggravated as a result of exposure from the employment.

Occupational disease claims have arisen from floor refinishers who develop lung problems that are either aggravated or caused by the polyurethane chemicals they use. Similarly, workers who are exposed to diesel exhaust fumes may develop breathing problems and lung disease. Workers exposed to long term job noise resulting in partial or total hearing loss have valid occupational disease claims. Workers exposed to asbestos or silica dust may have both a claim against their employer and, potentially, a claim against the third-party manufacturer that sold the product causing the injury. Various cancers, hypersensitivity to chemicals, and other diseases have been found to be compensable under the Occupational Disease Act.

If you have any questions regarding a workers' compensation matter, kindly contact our office.

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Shannon Rovers Open a 'Window to the World' for Defacto Matriarch Noreen Loftus Boyle

By **Katie Iannitelli**

One of the most influential role models in my life is a bagpiper - not just any bagpiper, but the longest tenured member of the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band.

She is **Noreen Loftus Boyle** (pictured below). Standing five-foot-one, she's an adventure-seeking grandmother of eight who is as charitable as she is tough, as learned as she is down-to-earth, as feminist as she is traditional, and as worldly as she is a local.



Katherine Iannitelli

Rita, against more children, because she had suffered a pregnancy-related stroke that left her with a permanent limp, speech impediment, and no use of her right arm.

"As the story goes," Noreen says, "she talked to a priest. He said just to put her faith in God, and I was the one who was born next." After Noreen, her mom went on to have three more kids - amazingly, six in total - and used her good left arm to tote the babies around by their back overalls like a mother cat with kittens.

"I've grown to really admire my mother, more and more, with every passing year," Noreen says. "She taught me to be fiercely independent. She never complained. She never saw disabilities, she saw only possibilities. She lived her life as if (the stroke) never happened. She loved to go out, loved to get dressed up, loved to have a smoke and a glass of beer. She was on her way."

Not surprisingly, Noreen's own adventuresome spirit bloomed early, in spite of, or perhaps because of, a "no-frills childhood." If she and like-minded Frank weren't on roller skates, whipping around the poles in their basement, they were off in search of treasure.

"Back then, there was no reason to stay in the house. We barely had TV. So we were outside exploring," she says. "We loved to go junk picking. We'd go up and down the alleys, bringing things home and making things. When Superdawg had a fire, they threw out all the menus. We brought all that home. We had some old dishes, used dryer lint as food, and we made a restaurant in the basement."

Noreen, an avid reader, sated her curiosity about the world at the library, bicycling home with Frank, loads of books in tow.

"Up late in the night reading, I'd be with my flashlight," Noreen says, "and Dad would be yelling at me to go to bed. I always had books that were overdue, so I developed a system: I'd go into the library with my books and shelve them myself, so that when the next person took them out, I'd be absolved of my fines!"

Noreen's father Mel, a lifelong Chicagoan who spent a few of his youngest years in an orphanage after his mother died, was awarded the Purple Heart serving in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, a fact his family didn't know for decades until he was honored as grand marshal of the 1995 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

After his service discharge, Mel married Rita and joined the plumbers' union, going on to hold union offices and help run the parade for over forty years.

"Each year, my dad would take one of us kids to the corned beef and cabbage dinner at Old St. Pat's. When it was my year to

go - this was Old St. Pat's before it was remodeled - I remember the dingy old gym and the church hall - that's when I first saw the Shannon Rovers," Noreen says.

"The band was in a circle and they started a tune, and then all of the sudden the pipe major stops them right in the middle of the tune! Wasn't good enough, bad start. This is in front of all these people! He started them up again. I thought, 'wow, he's looking for perfection.' I thought that was really cool!" Her eyes twinkle, and it's plain to see that her sixth-grade-self's awestruck first impression of the bagpipes hasn't dwindled.

Now, with 57 St. Patrick's Day parades under her kilt belt, Noreen has bagpiped around the globe with the Shannon Rovers and, between her exceptional musical skill and her inimitable generosity, she is the band's de facto matriarch. Noreen credits the band, and the friendships she's formed, for having been her "window to the world."

"Tommie Ryan - Pa Ryan - was pivotal in my life," she says tenderly of the band's founder and her first bagpipe teacher. Ryan and his wife "were so giving, to bring me into their home. Back then, there were no schools to go to learn bagpiping. It was an instrument that was just passed down from one person to another. That was a gift."

As a young piper, Noreen played for Bob Hope on one of the band's many trips to Notre Dame. She played for the 1968 Democratic National Convention, for several



"Herself" reluctantly joins me on Zoom for an interview, purporting, "I'm not that interesting," but I'm not worried. With Noreen, it's only a matter of which will be more entertaining: the stories, themselves, or the twisting-and-turning, self-interrupting, laugh-at-myself-and-then-shed-a-tear-and-then-get-on-with-it style in which she delivers them.

Born to Rita McCarthy and Mel Loftus on Leap Day 1952 (she finally celebrated her "sweet sixteen" five years ago at the age of 64), Noreen grew up on the northwest side of Chicago: Gladstone Park, Albany Park, and then Edgebrook.

"I wasn't supposed to be," she states. After the birth of her older brother Frank, doctors advised her mother,



In full uniform on a Chicago St. Patrick's Day! (l to r): Danny Boyle, Maeve Boyle Bognanno, Noreen Boyle, Richie Bognanno.

presidents and for "every single mayor in Chicago since Richard J. Daley," not to mention for countless other celebrated people, venues, and cities all over the world. As the band celebrates its 95th anniversary this year, Noreen looks forward to the big 100 in 2026.

"You never know who you're going to meet or what's going to happen," she says of the excitement she feels playing with the band. "And when they start the parades, it never gets old when they say, 'By the right, quick, march!' and we step off and the crowd goes wild."

Arguably, the greatest gifts Noreen received from the Rovers were her husband, longtime tenor drummer Danny Boyle; their four children - Shay, Liam, Patrick, and Maeve; their children's spouses - Anne-Michele, Holly, Stephanie, and Richie; and their almost nine grandchildren: Molly, Shay, Nolan, Scarlett, Harlow, Quinn, Danny, Joey, and one on the way in October.

In her twenties, independent Noreen travelled by herself for four months across Europe. She caught an overnight ferry from Belfast to England; crossed through Checkpoint Charlie into Soviet-controlled East Berlin; and rode mopeds around Corfu. Her wanderlust was matched by her newlywed husband Danny, and they spent a carefully-budgeted honeymoon on the maiden voyage of a Russian

industrial-turned-cruise ship, sailing through the Caribbean to South America, where they celebrated Christmas, 1976.

"This was no love boat," Noreen laughs. "On the hull was a big hammer and sickle, and there were people at card tables checking us in. We get to our honeymoon suite, and it's got two bunk beds in it and army-green wool blankets on the bed."

Despite "abysmal food," and that the more affluent passengers disembarked and flew home at the first stop, Noreen and Danny, who've "never met a stranger," as their children say, embraced the experience with gusto.

"We had a lot of laughs and met some nice people. At one point, Danny was arm wrestling with one of the Russians on board. We saw a lot of cool things."

Years later, her nose in a Reader's Digest, a shocked Noreen came to learn that a ship found to be involved in cold-war espionage was the very same Russian ship they had honeymooned on.

As Noreen dove into the mothering years (I can still picture her telling me about chasing one of the boys round and round the dining room table), she developed a precious bond with the Boyle family and Danny's mom, Bridie, in particular.

"His mom, she was something,"



Front: Danny Boyle (grandson), Patrick Boyle, Harlow Boyle, Scarlett Boyle 2nd row: Molly Boyle, Nolan Boyle, Stephanie Boyle, Shay Boyle (grandson), Liam Boyle, Quinn Boyle 3rd row: Shay Boyle (son), Anne-Michele Boyle, Holly Boyle Top row: Danny Boyle, Noreen Boyle, Joey Bognanno, Maeve Bognanno, Richie Bognanno

Noreen says and then takes a lengthy pause to collect herself. "She's been gone so long, and I still miss her. She'd appear at my door in the morning, she'd come just to help. Sometimes I was like, 'oh no,' because she'd always want to do laundry, and I was usually pretty far behind in my laundry. So I took to hiding laundry. And then, when she'd find it ... I'd come home, and she'd have it all out on the kitchen table, and she'd say to me, 'Noreen, I think you're taking it in!' She couldn't get over the volume."

Bridie was a staple in their

house, always lending a hand and taking care of the kids so that both Noreen and Danny were able to regularly attend practice and play out with the Rovers.

Hand-in-hand with Bridie's many kindnesses, Noreen remembers her wisdom. "One night we were going out. I was all dressed up, and I'd been burping whatever one of the kids was a baby," she says. "I could smell something. I went to look in the mirror, and I noticed that the baby had spit up, and it was all down the back of my dress. I'm getting so upset about it, and Bridie says to me 'Noreen,

a blind man would be happy to see that spot.' And I thought, 'You're absolutely right. What am I carrying on about?' Another time, we were going somewhere, and she said, 'Well, I can't go in with one arm as long as the other.' It took me a while to figure that one out. She always had her little sayings that would make me laugh."

As I listen to Noreen explain the marks left on her life by Bridie and her mother, Rita, I can't help but think of the mark she's made on mine - the many, many times - often life's tougher times - when Noreen appeared at my family's door, came in with a big smile, changed into her house slippers, and then quietly and unassumingly did what needed to be done: the dishes, the laundry, the cooking - all the while sharing her stories and her wisdom and her compassion. I'm just one of many, of course, as she seems to know and help everyone in the city.

Of late, Noreen spends most of her time helping her children (her "greatest achievements" as she calls them) raise their own children.

"We're doing a lot of babysitting now, during the pandemic," she says, "and I enjoy that immensely."

When I ask her what she hopes, as a mother and grandmother, to have imparted to her kids, the answer comes easily: the importance of family.

"The importance of being good to each other, of unconditional love, of accepting each other," she says. "I want them to understand that we all have our pluses and minuses and understand that we're all in this life together, and just stick together and stick by each other. So far, they're doing pretty good with that."



Noreen with Danny Boyle (grandson)



Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

In light of the current climate here and abroad there exists an abundant of topics to write about. As an Irish immigrant it is rare to focus on news and perspective about the east coast county of my birth, so bare with me as I pontificate in memory and reality about County Louth, the smallest, the wettest county fifty-miles north of Dublin, fifty-two miles south of Belfast. Makes sense that my place of birth is recognized in good times and bad, as the Gateway to the North. Dundalk, nestled forty kilometers south of the infamous border between north and south is literally riddled with mystical stories of warriors and powerful women book-cased between sainthood and mysticism. Saint Bridget, a fitting example of an Irish woman possessing a mystical sense. A beauty chased by a warrior on horseback with marriage in mind, she fled, on foot in Faughart, a country village located outside Dundalk, sporting a Grotto honoring her where pilgrims visit every year on her feast-day, February first. According to legend, when chased by the warrior she ripped out an eye, an effort to render her less attractive. She later headed an Abbey in County Kildare providing lodging and hospitality to traveling clergymen. It is also alleged in local folklore her ability to turn

her bathwater into beer for the pleasure of visiting priests!

The County Louth town of Ardee, features a large and impressive sculpture of two mystics, Cuchullian and Ferdia depicted following their epic fight. Cuchullian, the mystical champion of Ulster, Ferdia, his friend and foster-brother represented Queen Maeve of Connacht. According to legend the fight was a long battering, a vicious brawl spanning a day, a night, the two allegedly could not be separated, “and took lumps out of each other.”

Many years ago introducing a spouse and three daughters to the history of Ireland, lodging at the prestigious Ballymacscanlon Hotel on the outskirts of Dundalk, a slick, sophisticated historical brochure of County Louth was available in hotel rooms, produced by the Tourist Board. The mystical figures of Cuchullian and Ferdia were featured, reporting on page three Cuchullian was slain by Ferdia, a few pages later the allegation asserted the reverse, Cuchullian slew Ferdia. Obviously, a drastic mistake, prompting a letter to the editors recommending an edit of the brochure. Back in the United States, I was pleased to receive a response from the Tourist Board explaining that both warriors actually perished in the epic battle therefore

an edit of the brochure produced no errors. Unfortunately, the word edit was misspelled, prompting another letter!

One of the outstanding historic sights a few miles outside our town was a castle on top of a high mount surrounded by a moat. It was called Cuchullain’s Castle, a lovely place to stroll through the large gates and climb to the top savoring a wonderful view of the surrounding countryside. If it were possible to be out for a stroll with a boy, it was a nice place to visit. My Saint Louis Girls Convent School was located maybe a quarter mile from the Castle. The home across the road owned by the Quinn Family held the keys to the gates which necessitated ringing the doorbell asking to borrow them. Often that procedure was simply a decoy hoping that Cecil Quinn, a teenage boy our age would deliver the goods. He was handsome and in the current vernacular would qualify for “hot dude” status! A bright boy he became a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

The Battle of the Boyne was fought near Drogheda not far

from Ardee noted for its Mental Hospital, a huge building with a shady reputation unfortunately appropriate for a mental facility. As a child I often heard adults threatening each other yelling, “It’s up in Ardee you belong!” People half-daft died in that facility and as the saying went “if they weren’t daft when they arrived they soon developed daftness within its walls. The later is currently referred to as “Institutional Insanity.”

Elsewhere, breaking news heralds the soon-to-be released Irish film entitled Belfast starring Kenneth Branagh and Judi Dench. Trailers of the film were shown in Toronto and Telluride with an anticipated opening in the North of Ireland in early November. Criticism mounts however about the miscomprehension of the thick Irish brogues of the working class men and women in the North. According to reports, New York reviewers are stumped by the difficulty of the language. Having spent recent summers in the North I can attest to the difficulty of the Belfast twang, near impossible for American ears to

comprehend. Recommendations from tycoons in the film industry recommend the film would definitely benefit from subtitles. Particularly cited as difficult to understand is the young male actor Jude Hill. Judi Dench is featured as the boy’s grandparent. In defense of Irish accents, an unidentified Irish pundit recently drawled, “nobody from the remote fiefdom south of Newry should have much trouble understanding the heavy brogue!” The prestigious Los Angeles Hollywood Reporter has also made comment on the inadvertently trigger of the Irish accent most especially the Belfast accent in a film of the same name. Others recommending subtitles caution that reading can distract from the film. In the industry there have been attempts to present more anglicized

versions of the working class Northern Ireland lingo. The Netflix series “The Derry Girls” that garnered awards offers a prime example of the difficult accents that eventually spawned subtitles. Stay tuned!

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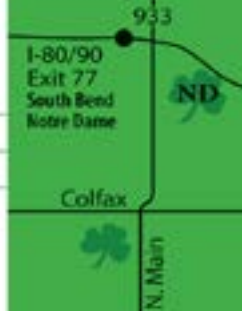
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Thur 10-21 Music Concert

Joannie Madden of Cherish the Ladies Presents *Joanie Madden and A Chosen Few*, a live concert to take place at iBAM! on Thursday, October 21, at 7pm in the Mayfair Theater at the Heritage Center. Tickets at www.ibamchicago.com. Seating is limited to 200.

Fri 10-22 iBAM! Gala Awards

The *Gala Awards Dinner* is Friday, October 22nd in the beautiful Erin Room on the 4th floor of the Heritage Center.

Tables are limited to 6 people, and maximum attendance is 180. Tables of six are \$750 and single tickets are \$125 each. To reserve a table or tickets visit www.ibamchicago.com, or you can call Cliff at 312-498-1337.

A fun addition this year will be [Poems while you wait](#). Four poets will be on hand at the gala to write poems for you and your table during the Gala.

iBAM! NPO is a 501 (c) 3 and the bulk of the proceeds go to help the Irish American Heritage Center, and the rest go to iBAM! NPO to help put on this program.

Honorees this year include:

Person of the Year:

Kendall Coyne Schofield

Performing Arts: Larry Kirwan

Visual Arts: Joe Hogan

Literature: Colum McCann

Music: Cherish the Ladies

Volunteer of the Year: Katherine Irene

Higgins-Hruby, & Harold Joseph Hruby



Person of the Year

Kendall Coyne Schofield's route to becoming an Olympian began in an outdoor ice rink in a southwest suburb of Chicago called Orland Park, Illinois. Today, that rink is indoors, and is known as the Championship Rink inside of the Arctic Ice Arena.

Over 20 years ago when Kendall first

donned a pair of hockey skates, the city of Chicago wasn't crazy about hockey like they are today. Many of Kendall's friends in school didn't know what hockey was, or thought it was weird that she was a girl playing hockey.

While she never let any of that bother her, Kendall was a multi-sport athlete as a kid. She played baseball, basketball, softball, track, and hockey. She was just as passionate about other sports as she was hockey.

From a young age, Kendall's speed always stood out among her peers. She loved to do everything fast whether it was skating, stealing bases, running around the neighborhood, biking, or talking. She loves to go fast.

Throughout Kendall's career, there weren't many other girls playing hockey so the majority of Kendall's teams were all boys and her.

As her love for hockey continued to grow, she asked her parents to try out for AA travel hockey. Kendall's parents agreed because they saw how much she loved the game. Kendall did not make the team, and returned to house league. The following season Kendall was determined to make a travel hockey team. Not only did Kendall make a travel hockey team that year, she made a AAA boys team, playing against players a year older than her. By getting cut the year before, Kendall used that as motivation to become a stronger player.

Kendall's youth hockey career continued to soar. She had to stop playing hockey games with the boys at bantam minors because the boys became a lot bigger than Kendall. However, she would practice with the boy's teams and play girls' hockey. She did this until she went to college.

At 15, Kendall got her first call from USA Hockey. She was asked to join Team USA's U-18 team. As the youngest member of the team, she was ecstatic to wear the red, white, and blue for the first time.

In 2009, at 18-years old, Kendall got invited to tryout for the 2009-2010 U.S. Olympic Team. After being cut, Kendall returned to Carl Sandburg High School in Orland Park, Illinois for her senior year. In 2011, Kendall made her Senior National Team debut, playing in her first World Championship. She also went on to play her college hockey at Northeastern University where she graduated with a bachelor's and master's degree. Since then Kendall is a 5-time world champion, Olympian and so much more.

Without love, passion, sacrifice, hard

work, and commitment, Kendall would not be where she is at today.

Performing Arts



Larry Kirwan was born in Wexford, Ireland and lives in New York City.

He was leader of *Black 47* for 25 years during which the political rock band played 2,500 gigs, released 16 albums and appeared on Leno, Letterman, O'Brien, Fallon and every major US TV show.

He has written five books - three of them are novels - including *Liverpool Fantasy and Rockin' The Bronx*, *A Memoir*, *Green Suede Shoes*, and *A History of Irish Music*.

His latest novel *Rockaway Blue* was recently published by Cornell U. Press.

He has written or collaborated on 19 plays and musicals including *Paradise Square* which began at the cell in Manhattan as *Hard Times* (produced by Nancy Manocherian, directed by Kira Simring). Lucky for us here in Chicago, *Paradise Square* will have its Chicago debut on November 3rd at the Nederlander Theatre through December 5th before it heads to Broadway!

He collaborated with Thomas Keneally (*Schindler's List*) on the musical, *Transport*, for which he wrote music and lyrics. It was produced at *The Irish Repertory Theatre* (directed by Tony Walton). His

political thriller, *Rebel in the Soul*, was also produced at "The Rep." He is currently adapting *The Informer* for stage. A political activist, he is an *Irish Echo* columnist and celebrity host of *Celtic Crush* on SiriusXM Satellite Radio. He was also president of *Irish American Writers & Artists* for five years.

Music

"It is simply impossible to imagine an audience that wouldn't enjoy what they do," says the *Boston Globe* speaking of *Joanie Madden and Cherish the Ladies*, (pictured below) the long-running, Grammy-nominated, Irish-American super group that formed in New York City in 1985 to celebrate the rise of women in what had been a male-dominated Irish music scene and has since toured the world, played the White House and the Olympics, recorded 17 outstanding albums including a live recording, "An Irish Homecoming," which was simultaneously videotaped for a Public Television Special that aired across America and won an Emmy.

Under the leadership of National Heritage Award winner and All-Ireland flute and whistle champion Joanie Madden, named by *The Irish Voice* as one of the Top 25 most influential Irish Americans of the past quarter century, these ladies create an evening that includes a spectacular blend of virtuoso instrumental talents, beautiful vocals, captivating arrangements, and stunning step dancing.

Their continued success as one of the top Celtic groups in the world is due to the ensembles ability to take the best of Irish traditional music and dance and put it forth in an immensely entertaining show.

The *New York Times* calls their music "passionate, tender, and rambunctious," and the *Washington Post* praises their





"astonishing array of virtuosity." They've won recognition as the **BBC's Best Musical Group of the Year** and were named Top North American Celtic Group at the **Irish Music Awards** and not to mention having a street named after them in the Bronx!

They've collaborated with such musicians as The Boston Pops, The Clancy Brothers, the Chieftains, Vince Gill, Nanci Griffith, Pete Seeger, Don Henley, Arlo Guthrie and Maura O'Connell as well as being the featured soloist with over 300 nights of symphony orchestras.

Since the start in 1985, Joanie Madden has been the leader and driving force behind the all-female Irish music and dance troupe, Cherish the Ladies.

As the group celebrates its 36th year, her devoted, tireless leadership of Cherish the Ladies has been crucial to that ensemble's growing global appeal. As the first full time all-female ensemble, she continues to break down barriers as she leads the group around the world to perform in the finest venues while representing the strong roots and pride as Irish-American ambassadors of Celtic music.

The Celtic Album, their collaboration recording with the Boston Pops Symphony led to a 1999 Grammy nomination for best classical crossover. Their reputation and popularity led to Bob Dylan requesting the band to perform for his private function following his sold out celebration of his 35 years in the music business held at Madison Square Garden.

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Buy Tickets to the Gala

Buy Tix to Gaelic Park Players new play, Bloomsday, Oct 23 6:30

Buy Tix to Joanie Madden & A Chosen Few,

Saturday, Oct 23, 8pm

www.ibamchicago.com

Visual Arts

Author, and basket designer/maker, **Joseph Hogan (left)**, has been making baskets at Loch na Foey in County Galway since 1978, and in that time has earned a reputation for making strong, durable baskets of the highest quality.

The colours in these award winning baskets are those of the natural willows which are grown at Loch na Foey.

Joe also makes indigenous Irish baskets such as the creel.

These are available at <https://www.joehoganbaskets.com>, and are described in his book, *Basketmaking in Ireland*, published by Wordwell in 2001.

Literature

Colum McCann is the award-winning author of seven novels and three collections of short stories. His most recent novel, *Apeirogon* became an instant international bestseller and has already won several significant international awards including the Prix Montluc, the Elle Prize, the Jewish National Book Award in the United States, as well as being short-listed for the Dublin Literary Award, the Orwell Prize, the Dalkey Book Prize, the German Peace Prize and the Greggor von Rezzori Prize. It was also long-listed for the Booker Prize. Movie rights to *Apeirogon* were bought by Steven Spielberg's Amblin company. The novel was a New York Times best-seller and, despite being launched just as Covid upturned the world, it hit the lists in Canada, Britain, Ireland, France, Germany and Italy. The book has already been translated into several languages, including Arabic.

Let the Great World Spin became a best-seller on four continents. His novel *TransAtlantic* was also an international sensation and became an immediate *New York Times* best-seller on its release in 2013. It too garnered several international awards, including the Mondello Citta de Palermo Prize in Italy.

McCann's fiction has been published in over 40 languages and has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Paris Review*, *Granta*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *GQ*, *Tin House*, *Bomb* and several other places. He has written for numerous publications including *The New York Times*, *the Irish Times*, *the Irish Independent*, *Die Zeit*, *La Repubblica*, *Paris Match*, *the Guardian*, *the Times* and *the Independent*.

McCann is an international artist. Born in Ireland, he has travelled extensively around the world. He and his wife Allison lived in Japan for eighteen months. He currently lives in New York City, where he holds dual Irish and American citizenship.



He is a member of the Irish Academy, Aosdana, and was awarded a Chevalier des arts et lettres by the French government in fall 2009 (making him one of a exclusive number of foreign artists recognised in France for their literary contributions: other recipients have included Salman Rushdie, Phillip Gourevitch and Julian Barnes).

In 2017 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

The territory of McCann's work is international in scope and geography - his topics have ranged from homeless people in the subway tunnels of New York, to the "Troubles" in Northern Ireland, to the effects of 9/11, to a poetic examination of the life and culture of the Roma in Europe. He is known as a writer of style and substance, hailed by critics and readers alike. Among his major influences are Michael Ondaatje, John Berger, Don DeLillo, E.L Doctorow, Toni Morrison, Edna O'Brien and the Irish novelist Benedict Kiely. McCann is known a "poetic realist" and a "literary risk-taker," a writer who is known to tackle the dark in order to get through to the light - "any sort of light, however compromised" - on the far side.

McCann is very active in New York and Irish-based charities - in particular organizations such as the global charity Narrative 4 (narrative4.com) which he co-founded with Lisa Consiglio in June 2013, along with several other founding artists. Much of his current teaching is through the Artists Network at Narrative 4, where he visits high schools along with fellow artists Ishmael Beah, Lila Azam Zanganeh, Ru Freeman and Terry Tempest Williams.

Let the Great World Spin received unprecedented international recognition on its release in 2009. McCann was awarded the Deauville Festival Literary Prize; the Ambassador Award; the inaugural Medici Book Club prize; Amazon.Com's "Book of the Year," 2010; the 2010 NAIBA "Book of the Year," given by independent book-sellers, and he was the overall winner of

the Grinzane Award in Italy. The book was short-listed for several other awards including Irish Novel of the Year. In 2010 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

The film rights for *Let the Great World Spin* were bought by J.J Abrams, the highly acclaimed director and creator of "Lost." McCann is currently adapting the screenplay along with Abrams. It is not McCann's first foray into film - his short film *Everything in this Country Must*, directed by Gary McKendry, was nominated for an Academy Award Oscar in 2005.

McCann was born in Dublin in 1965 and began his career as a journalist in *The Irish Press*. In the early 1980's he took a bicycle across North America and then worked as a wilderness guide in a program for juvenile delinquents in Texas. After a year and a half in Japan, he and his wife Allison moved to New York where they currently live with their three children, Isabella, John Michael and Christian.

He is the co-founder of Narrative 4, a global non-profit (narrative4.com). Led by artists, educators, students and community activists (including Lisa Consiglio, Terry Tempest Williams, Ishmael Beah, Rob Spillman, Lila Azam Zanganeh, Greg Khalil, Assaf Gavron, Tyler Cabot, Colm Mac Conlomaire, Sting and several others), Narrative 4 brings young people together from all over the world to "walk in one another's shoes." "It's an act of radical empathy," says McCann. "You tell my story and I'll tell yours. We've had incredible results from all over the world.

From Newtown, Connecticut to Belfast to Kentucky to Tampico, Mexico. From gang-land kids in Chicago to the streets of Limerick. What story-telling does is that it increases the lungs of the world. After the exchanges, these young people go back into their communities and begin to alter their worlds from the ground up. We're looking to develop a generation of truly empathetic leaders."

(Continued to page 18)

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Full iBAM! Program Saturday 10-23 Includes *Photo Exhibits* by Kevin O'Donnell and *#IAmIrish, Theater by Gaelic Park Players, A Literary Salon, Live Music, Authors, Vendors and More!*

(Continued from page 16)

Saturday 10-23

The iBAM! Program for Saturday includes Authors and their books, artists and their art, musicians and their music live and in person.

Photograph Exhibition

Kevin O'Donnell, the popular lead singer of Arranmore, is a fine photographer, and he will grace iBAM! with a display of his photography in the Art Gallery on the second floor of the Center, located in the Northeast corner of the floor. Opens at Noon.

Kevin has some amazing photographs of the beautiful Door County in Wisconsin and elsewhere.

He braves every kind of weather to get his photographs and it pays off with some incredible shots.

Exhibit and Panel Discussion

#IAmIrish Photo Exhibition

Following successful showings in Dublin, New York, London and a variety of locations throughout Ireland and the UK,

#IAmIrish comes to Chicago as part of the Irish Books, Art and Music Festival (iBAM!).

#IAmIrish is a collection of simple yet powerful portraits of Irish people. Each of the faces featured in the exhibition is a poignant and direct affirmation of the diversity and beauty of Irishness,

both on the Island of Ireland and throughout the global Irish

diaspora.

#IAmIrish will be on display during the iBAM! Celebration, Saturday 23rd October, 12pm to 8 pm.

#IAmIrish comes to Chicago through a partnership between Ireland Network Chicago, Irish Community Services and IBAM!, the Irish Books, Arts, and Music Celebration.

The Art of Being Seen Panel Discussion *In-person and online*

The Art of Being Seen—Visibility in Irish Arts and Media brings together diverse Irish creatives working across a range of artistic disciplines to explore racial representations of Irishness

in the arts and media. Drawing on their collective lived and artistic experiences, our panel will address the challenges, opportunities, and urgency of creating broader and more inclusive representations of being Irish.

Opening remarks will be provided by Consul General of Ireland to Chicago, Kevin Byrne.

Join us in person or online, Saturday 23rd October, 3 P.M. CST / 9 P.M. GMT

Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox Ave Chicago, 60630

Theater

The Gaelic Park Players will be hold a special performance of their play, *BLOOMSDAY* by Steven Dietz., at iBAM! on Saturday, October 23 at 6:30 pm. Tickets \$15 online at www.ibamchicago.com.

The play will be directed by Gail Lauryn who has directed several productions for the Gaelic Park Players.

Hailed by *WTTW* Theatre Critic, *Hedy Weiss*, as hauntingly beautiful, "...a breathtaking play about time, love, regret and fateful decisions, *Bloomsday* is a nostalgic look at what would happen if you could go back in time to talk to your younger self. The story is about Robert and Cait:

Robert returns to Dublin to reunite with Cait, the woman who captured his heart during a James Joyce literary tour thirty-five years ago. Dancing backwards through time, the older couple retraces their steps to discover their younger selves. Through youthful Robbie and Caitheleen, they relive the unlikely, inevitable events that brought them--only briefly--together. This time-traveling love story blends wit, humor, and heartache into a buoyant, moving appeal for making the most of the present before it becomes the past.

Celtic Women Intl Literary Salon

The CWI Literary Salon will offer a schedule of short cultural presentations beginning at Noon by authors, historians, artists, poets and musicians in

room 111.

Mary T. Wagner 12pm *Solitude and Silver Linings* (what a Pandemic experienter!}

<http://www.marytwagner.com>

Award-winning author of *Fin-nigan the Circus Cat* and *When the Shoe Fits*'

Mary Pat Kelly (via Zoom) 12:30 *Pat Hume Remembered - Irish America*

marypatkelly.com

Mary Kunert (recorded)1pm *7 Celtic Saints, 5 Celtic Nations*

Claudia Anderson 1:30pm *Women Creating Women, the Feminine Spirit*

Jessica McCann 2pm *Titanic: Irish Ship; Irish Experience*

Maureen Smith 3pm *The Moonan Big Brick House Project: Capturing the story of a Family*

Kathy O'Neill 3:30pm

I'm Just Trying to Match Your Energy

Larry Kirwan 4pm -

Larry (Black 47) will discuss his music, books, and theatre projects including Paradise Square opening at The Nelderlander, downtown Chicago on November 2nd!

5pm - Reception: All are welcome to grab a drink from the bar and then join us in the "Literary Salon" to mix and mingle.



Music in the 5th Province

1Noon - 3pm

Declan McShane 1:30 - 3pm Irish Musicians Association Featuring Jim Thornton, Tim McGuinness and Friends

3:00 - 5pm

Rory Makem

5:30 - 7:30 Pauline Coneelly Pauline Conneely, Jimmy Keane, Jonathon Whitall, Kathleen Conneely, 8pm TBA

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**The
Irish Rover**
By Jim McClure

Admiral Who Fired First Shot on 9/11

America was in shock, the World Trade Center's twin towers had been struck by a terrorist flown hijacked jetliner, were ablaze and then collapsed. And a third airliner crashed in rural Pennsylvania.

That third plane was likely headed to the White House or the U.S. Capitol, but it would have lagged behind the American Airlines jet that struck the west side of the Pentagon, killing 64 on the plane and 125 in the Pentagon.

Two hours later, a group of newspaper, radio, television and wire service reporters made it to a hastily called second news conference arranged by an Irish American who had commandeered a Citgo gas station and its two phone lines. His first impromptu statement 35 minutes before was that there had been "a full-on attack

on America." With his white U.S. Navy summer uniform contrasting the black billowing smoke a half mile down the hill behind him, a television pool cameraman took a brief look to assure all were ready behind a dozen microphones and said a terse "Okay."

Upon hearing that cue, the senior naval officer with gold shoulder boards briefly looked down with shoulders hunched, as if gathering a hundred thoughts in a thousand milliseconds. He blinked, squared his shoulders and strode forward two strides in front of a semicircle of national press eager to hear the first words from the nation's military on the attack at their core.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Rear Admiral Craig Quigley, I work in DoD Public Affairs... and I will give you what I can."

Craig Robert Quigley, then 48, was born in Winthrop, Iowa to a father who traced his heritage across the sea to County Mayo in Ireland.

As Quigley gathered his thoughts two Navy aircraft carriers, the USS John F. Kennedy and USS George Washington, were dispatched to Washington and New York

from their Norfolk, Virginia naval base. NBC News Chief Pentagon Correspondent Jim Miklaszewski reported live that their mission was "Combat Air control" (CAP), providing air cover as they would in wartime.

Because it was wartime.

Now 20 years later, I asked the former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs what was going on in that moment when he was gathering courage and focus.

"I knew exactly what I had to



say," said Quigley, who effortlessly ticked off his four main points in the exact same sequence as he gave them two decades ago, permanently captured on Associated Press archive video.

"Information as I'm sure you'll understand is very spotty right now. What we know is that Secretary Rumsfeld is in the National Military Command Center that is in the Pentagon. It is a fusion spot where information of significant military importance comes into the building and is then distributed worldwide to organizations that need it."

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, former G.D. Searle Chairman, Chicago suburban North Shore Congressman and Navy pilot felt the concussion of the impact and hurried outside to the West side engulfed in flames so intense it would take two more hours before arriving firefighters could get inside.

Seeing civilian and military casualties, Rumsfeld at first assisted in loading the injured onto stretchers. That's what a naval officer, any sailor is trained to do. Rush toward the threat that others run from. And then as more rescue

units arrived, he quickly headed into the Pentagon to direct the fight that ultimately would last until just one month ago, but in some ways continues.

At the scene Quigley continued:

"I know that he has a watch team of senior DoD officials with him, I do not know exactly who is with him. But his intentions are to stay in the Pentagon indefinitely keeping track of what we know."

It turns out Admiral Quigley had just gotten off the phone with Rumsfeld and Assistant Secretary

in and outside the Pentagon. It was brilliant."

And what of Quigley, a well-trained officer on destroyers prior to being a public affairs officer? Did he regret not being aboard a ship of war during Threat Condition Delta, the highest readiness in Washington?

"No," he says with resolve. "I knew at that time that I had been equipped with the means and skills to fight back doing just what I was doing—telling the world that America was ready to face the enormous challenge ahead."

"I think it's important to note that 20 years from now the generation that witnessed the 9/11 attacks will no longer be telling what happened."

Will our next generations still remember, tell, and learn from the day when in four separate terrorist attacks, 1,609 people lost a spouse or partner? And more than 3,051 children lost parents. And parents...their children.

Quigley feels, as do I, that President George W. Bush was also in the right place at the right time when he was needed to buoy the spirits of the nation he rallied from the White House and then at Ground Zero in New York City. I think one day History will find him to be the Harry Truman for the first and last of the Baby Boomers. A man maligned and underestimated yet still rose to the greatness...if only for a time...of leading America through its darkest hour from an evil that spanned the globe.

On November 11th, 2001 Mr. Bush said, and insiders said it was from the heart:

"Time is passing. Yet, for the USA there will be no forgetting September 11th. We will remember every rescuer who died in honor. We will remember every family that lives in grief. We will remember the fire and ash, the last phone calls, the funerals of the children."

In war and its remembrance, a future of freedom and hope is fostered and restored. Godspeed Admiral Quigley and may the road rise to meet you for 20 years and much more. Your first shot truly was heard around the world.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OCTOBER 2021

Fall is upon us again—my favorite season! This year is particularly special for me and my family, as we welcomed our newest member to the Irish-American community; my daughter, Sophia! I can't wait to bring her around the Irish American Heritage Center and share our culture, ancestry, and traditions with her and our next generation. Our hearts are so full, and we're so blessed to enjoy growing our family.

Let's talk about the good news! The Center will once again be participating in Open House Chicago in partnership with the Chicago Architecture Center. October 16 and 17 will be filled with music in the pub, art exhibits and Irish film in the Mayfair Theatre. What a great way to enjoy the building – and the pub!

This fall, we have quite a few fun events going on at the Center, and I hope you can join us for one, some, or all of them! We will again be par-



ticipating in Open House Chicago the weekend of October 16th and 17th. Join us for a tour of the building, or a pint with some new and familiar faces! IBAM is back in-person October 21st through October 23rd. This year's gala will be held in the Erin room, where awards will be presented to the 2021 honorees. Don't forget to mark your

calendars for November 19th when we host our Irish-American Hall of Fame trivia night! This night is always fun, and there are multiple opportunities to win prizes, raffles, and more! Call your friends and get ready to enjoy a fun night of friendly competition!

Thank you to all who have joined us in September at the pub for live music, drinks, and dinner; who have rented rooms from us; who joined us for a farmers' market; or who golfed with us in our annual Golfing Fore Green event! It's been great to see our members and guests back in the building enjoying all things Irish and Irish-American! And a special thank you to our sponsors who supported our Golfing Fore Green event; we had another successful turnout for this fundraiser and appreciate your extra contributions to help the IAHC!

Have a very happy Halloween and enjoy many of the traditions we

have that stem from the Celtic celebration of Samhain! Trick or treating, carving jack-o-lanterns, and dressing up all stem

from our Irish roots, and our ancestors brought those traditions over to America. If you get a chance, I encourage you to look up the history of Halloween and Samhain; it's fun to see the similarities in how we celebrate today compared to how it was celebrated in ancient times!

Until we meet again, have a great October, and I hope to see you around the IAHC for one of our upcoming fundraisers and events. Check out our social media or sign up for our newsletter for the most up-to-date schedule. Happy Samhain, and I hope your autumn is filled with an abundance of blessings!



Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER NIMBLE THIMBLES QUILT RAFFLE



We can't let 2021 go by without the annual Nimble Thimbles Quilt Raffle! Purchase tickets in person at upcoming IAHC events, online at irish-american.org, or mail in your purchase info using this form. Drawing will be December 6th.

Here is your chance to own this beautiful Floral Kaleidoscope quilt! It features kaleidoscopic blocks, each one a different variation on the large scale print border. It measures 91 x 99 inches, a "generous" queen size, and is washable. A quilt like this, hand made by our very own Nimble Thimbles, would be at least \$500 if purchased outright.



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Trained as a historian, Leslie Goddard, earned a Ph.D. from Northwestern University, specializing in U.S. cultural history, American studies and women's history. Her programs combine her experience as a teacher and actor with her background.

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Irish Fellowship Club To Host Annual Christmas Luncheon On December 3rd

The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago is eagerly anticipating the Annual President's Christmas Luncheon on December 3, 2021 at the Hilton Chicago. Said current Club President John Wrenn, "It will be a wonderful opportunity for the Chicago Irish to celebrate the start of the Christmas season and provide important financial support for our scholarships at Catholic high schools across the Chicagoland area."

Chaired by Board members Margaret Houlihan Smith & Michael G. O'Rourke, the afternoon promises to be a wonderful kick off to the Christmas season and a reunion of old friends. As is tradition, the Luncheon will honor past President Rose Doherty for her service to the Club. Executive Director Kathy Taylor comments, "Rose was an outstanding President during a difficult year for the Irish Fellowship Club. We are delighted to honor her this year and thank her for all of her contributions to the Irish community of Chicago." Ms. Taylor also explained that the Luncheon is the Annual Meeting of the Irish Fellowship Club where the membership will elect additional officers and new members to the board.

Irish entertainment is planned to welcome guests to the luncheon and continue after lunch in the Normandie Lounge. Cocktails will begin at 11:15am with lunch being served at 12:15pm. Tables of 10 will be \$900 and can be reserved online through the Irish Fellowship Club website: www.irishfellowshipclub.com.

The Club is also seeking sponsors for the luncheon. Please contact Kathy Taylor for more details at ktaylor@irishfellowshipclub.com or 312-858-0628.



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President Higgins Won't Attend Northern Ireland's Centenary Festivities--and Why Should He?

The gab of late is that President Michael D. Higgins, who serves as the Republic of Ireland's head of state, has declined an invitation to attend a celebration of the partition of Ireland, which occurred 100

years ago this year. That partition resulted in the creation of a divided Ireland, one that still exists today.

At the time of this writing, a reason for President Higgins' apparent snub has not been disclosed. Of note is that the Queen of England, Elizabeth II, is expected to make an ap-

pearance at the festivities. Unionists across Ireland have decried Higgins' decision as a "retrograde" and urged the President to reconsider. But, in all honesty, why should he?

For one thing, the past few years have been hell for Anglo-Irish relations. Britain's unilateral decision to withdraw from the European Union has jeopardized the already-fragile peace between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland that has been in place since the passage of the Good Friday Agreement in 1999.



Sectarian violence has already sprung up in Northern Ireland since the UK's withdrawal last year. Attending these festivities as if relations between the UK and Ireland are jim dandy would be nothing more than a farce.

Secondly, why should the head of state for the Republic of Ireland be celebrating the centenary of a partition that

only granted independence to some of Ireland? The Ulster Plantation's legacy is alive and well, as is Britain's legacy as a colonizer. It's impossible for me to say that we should simply force people from a place that their fam-

ilies have called home for generations. But I do believe that it isn't unreasonable for me to say that Northern Ireland is rightfully a part of Ireland. Higgins has as much of a right to mourn the 1921 partition as anyone else. It was a bittersweet moment in Irish history. The partition marked a great Irish victory against the British while simultaneously destroying any semblance of a united Ireland.

In response to Higgins' decision to decline the invitation to attend the centenary celebrations, the BBC has questioned whether he was motivated by complex politics or a simple scheduling conflict. To this I say: does it matter? The Head of State of a sovereign nation has the right to do what he thinks is best for his country. This one decision is not likely to define his tenure as President of Ireland. If nothing else, it may serve as a simple but effective way of conveying his displeasure with the current status quo as it relates to Northern Ireland and/or Anglo-Irish relations in general.

All of this is to say: good for President Higgins for doing what he believes is best. If his reasoning boils down to a simple scheduling conflict, that's totally reasonable! An event like this isn't a priority compared to other commitments that might pop up. If deeper-seated politics are at play, that's cool too. It's up to President Higgins to decide what is in the best interests of his country, and those interests won't be apparent to everyone. In any case, I support President Higgins, and I think you should too.

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Jane Buckley Novels: Everyday Life During 'The Troubles'

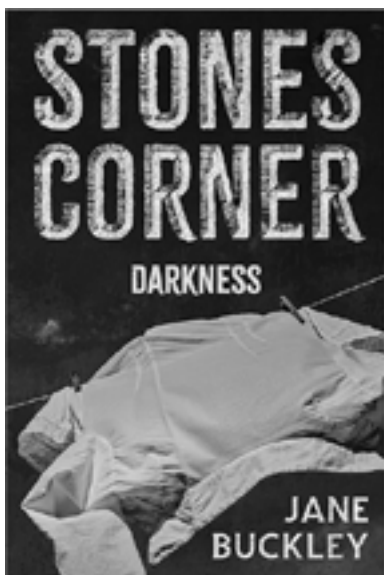
A self-publishing author has just completed the second of four novels, Turmoil, Darkness

(Light and Hope to follow 2022/23). These novels detail the everyday realities of life from the early dark days of The Troubles in the '70s through to the Good Friday Peace Agreement in April 1998.

The first volume of Jane Buckley's Stones Corner Turmoil has garnered rave reviews following its February 2021 release. First-time author, Jane self-published after her manuscript was turned down by UK agents 'wary' of the subject matter.

Says Jane: "Some blatantly admitted, 'Never have, never will have anything to do with the Troubles in Northern Ireland, good luck!' I had to get published - somehow - and so I took a considerable risk. I cashed in some of my pension, ordered 2,000 copies of Turmoil, and developed my paperback ordering platform. It allows me to sign my books and manage the whole printing and distribution process - which I love."

Jane adds: "Living in Derry in the '70s wasn't easy for any of us. It didn't get much better as an Irishwoman living in London in the 80s and '90s. One of my greatest frustrations was the lack of understanding from the people I met of why The Trou-



bles began or continued over the decades. Some were particularly biased in their views by what they'd heard or read in the media - sadly, some still are."

Jane feels committed to helping readers from all over the globe learn more about

The Troubles with her series of moving historically based novels. As 'factional books', the stories cover many issues encountered by both sides of the sectarian divide, including conflict, cruelty, divided loyalties, strong family ties, gallow humour

and star-crossed lovers.

"I'd never written anything like it in my life, but I knew I had to see it in its completed form. I've received terrific reviews for Turmoil, and many readers have ordered the second volume, Darkness. My goal is to write stories that will inform not just the younger generation but people from all over the world through historically based fiction. I hope they read and gain a better understanding of what it was like to live through those difficult days from both sides of the divide. I want everyone to know we are proud, not just as people, but as a country in the way we have evolved for the benefit of all following The Troubles."

Jane is 'determined' to promote and spread the word of her novels to change the perception of Northern Ireland. "I've friends from England and other parts of the world, who'd never been to the North before and who admitted they were afraid to travel here, now visit. The problem is since they've been, they keep coming back! They love it!"

After researching and then writing Darkness, I found it challenging to remain objective. As a

result, Darkness, like Turmoil, has proved to be a realistic tale based on actual events. hello@janebuckleywrites.co.uk

American Golfers Defeat Harrington's Europeans at Raucous Ryder Cup 43

By Emmett Fitzpatrick

Three years after the European team handily defeated the Americans in the 2018 Ryder Cup for their 7th victory in the prior 9 events, the U.S. team reclaimed the trophy in a hotly contested competition held at Whistling Straits in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

Padraig Harrington, whom Ambassador to the U.S. Dan Mulhall called "Ireland's greatest individual sportsman," captained a European squad that entered the matches

as a decided underdog, given the star power of the American team and their "home course" advantage. The favorites from the States did not disappoint, beginning by dominating the opening day's matches and holding off the European team's comeback attempts. The U.S. team featured several players competing in their first Ryder Cup, and these rookies were instrumental in defeating the more experienced competitors from the continent. Ultimately, the Americans prevailed with the

largest margin of victory since the current format of the event was instituted in 1979.

Ireland was well represented among the European team, with Rory McIlroy competing in his 6th Ryder Cup and Shane Lowry in his first. Playing on a course that was modeled after the windswept links courses of Ireland, McIlroy and Lowry managed only one win each.

"I've been extremely disappointed that I haven't contributed more for the team,"

McIlroy said, although he was not alone among his fellow Europeans in coming up short.

Despite the lopsided loss, Lowry rated his experience at the Ryder Cup as "by far the best week of my golfing career. I don't enjoy getting beaten. We came up obviously a long way short, but it has just been an incredible experience and something I'll remember for the rest of my life."

Perhaps the greatest champion of the weekend matches was the event itself. Originally scheduled for September of

2020, the Ryder Cup was postponed for a year to allow for a full fan experience, and the ambience did not disappoint. Spectators packed the course, beginning with the opening hole grandstand and continuing throughout the 18 holes, many of which stand directly on the lake. Each day, picture-perfect weather greeted the boisterous fans who largely cheered on the Americans in a festive atmosphere that more closely resembled a football game rather than a typical golf

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Emmett Fitzpatrick

tournament.

Conor Cunneen, the Irish keynote speaker, author, and business humorist, described the setting as "a fantastically well-organized venue on a beautiful course," although he was naturally saddened by the outcome. Meanwhile, Adam Evans of Oak Park served as a volunteer throughout the event, sharing that "the crowd was definitely pro-American, raucous but respectful, and surely provided a home country advantage. Watching all that golf made me all the more excited to hit the links in the Ireland Network Chicago golf outing in October!"

McIlroy summed up the magnitude of the event immediately following his final round of the weekend: "There's no greater privilege than to be a part of one of these teams. The more and more I play in this event," he said, "I realize that it's the best event in golf, bar none, and I love being a part of it. I can't wait to be a part of many more."

The Ryder Cup returns to Europe in 2023, where it will be held in Italy, then comes back to the U.S. in 2025. For those who like to plan their holidays far in advance, they might consider blocking off September 2027, when the matches will be held at the famed Adare Manor in County Limerick.

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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



This month I'd like to highlight a delightful lady & talented cook, Darina Allen. Before I expand on Allen, I'd like to name the current "top Chef" in Ireland. A man named Mickael Viljanen originally from Sweden, grew up in Finland and moved to Ireland in the year 2000 is considered Ireland's top chef. There are several talented cooks, in their own right, I'm not really into competitions, but I thought I'd include who's the leading chef at the moment. My husband bought me Allen's cookbook, Simply Delicious. Maybe in hopes I'd do something in the kitchen. Allen is from Co. Laois. (Queens country) The nickname is from Mary first queen of England only child of Henry VIII is known for burning Protestants. (she was Catholic) Allen is a chef, Irish Examiner (newspaper) weekend columnist and TV personality. She is a leader of the slow food movement (created in Italy, it's an organization that promotes local food & traditional cooking). She was involved in establishing a network of Farmers Markets in Ireland. She was a chef at Ballymaloe house and

gave cooking courses.

She has been voted cooking teacher of the year by the International Association of Culinary professionals. She is owner of Ballymaloe Cooking school in Co. Cork. She has won many awards which include the Irish book Awards, Honorary Degree from University of Ulster, Veuve Clicquot Businesswoman of the Year, (A champagne house in France), Waterford Wedgwood hospitality Award, Laois Person of the Year, Gilbeys Gold Medal for catering excellence & Fellow of Irish Hotel and Catering Institute.

My husband and I went on a road trip this past August. While we were driving into the West the Mayo/Dublin game was happening in Croke park, Dublin. We were delighted to listen to the match while in the car & more excited that Mayo won!

Also, this past August I volunteered at Gaelic Park's Cultural Camp as their Irish teacher. I had such a great time sharing what I know about the Gaelic language and culture with the kids. The atmosphere was energetic, encouraging, lively & well pretty Irish. I have tremendous pride in my heritage. I think it's important to host these events because the younger generations should learn where they come from. It gives meaning in our lives & and respect to the people that left everything they knew to immigrate.

Irish for the month

Food-bia, Cook-cocarail, cooking-cocaireacht, chef-cocaire

Farmer-feirmeoir

"The health of the soil, the health of the plant, the health of the animal and the health of the human are all one and indivisible" Darina Allen

Questions/comments email me: Molanive@yahoo.com

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Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler



When I came to Chicago in the 1960's the community that became my new home was full of Irish people like myself. When we came to the States, we knew it was for good and we weren't going back to Ireland. That thought was heavy at times and with a lot of mixed feelings. Some of us were very excited to start over again in a new place but homesickness was always there. Ireland was always on our minds and finding a construction site to work with lads from Ireland gave some comfort. But in those days fighting was very common in the pubs maybe the stress or tension of finding your place, finding work or feeling disrespected by your peers was bigger than in today's environment in the pubs. Thankfully it

seems fights are not as common however I am long past the stage of going to pubs, so I don't know for certain.

I was born in St. Luke's hospital on the Freshford Road just outside Kilkenny City on St. Bridget's day, February 1st. I am one of eight children. My father was a patient in the hospital at the time of my birth. He was suffering from varicose veins & they feared blood clots, he had massive swelling.

I went to St. Brendan's school in a village called Muckalee. St. Brendan was a sailor from Kerry. It was said, when they were digging out in New York for a skyscraper they found a stone that said "St. Brendan was here". However, Christopher Columbus got the credit for finding the New World...

(I heard a story that the crew on Columbus' boat included several prisoners and the first person to set foot on the land was from Ireland) When I was about 14 years of age I rode my bicycle, that had no breaks, down a steep hill. There was a T in the road one road led to Johnswell. That village had a well near the church that was said to have healing powers. The other road led to the city of Kilkenny. When I rode down that hill, I fell off my bike and hit a sharp rock. My dear sister Lizzie (Lord have mercy on her, RIP) found me and helped me by finding a neighbor to take me to hospital. I went into a coma. My poor father Michael came to see me in hospital the Dr. didn't have a good report, he said, "I might not make it". My father walked the long journey home. But thankfully I came back to everyone's surprise.

Soon after I started secondary school at the Christian Brothers in Kilkenny. My teacher (headmaster) was Thomas Tynan. The head brother at CBS was Brother

Tynan and those two were good friends. I was a good hurler in those days I would practice and play in Nolan Park. In the middle of a hurling match a lad named Jimmy Leahy (no relation to the famous Terry Leahy) let go of his hurl and hit me in the face. I had to go to hospital again.

In my twenties I came out to Chicago to join my brother Martin (eternal rest grant unto him) and his wife Gertrude/Catherine (O'Neil) from Galway. I would like to say hello to Gertrude & her children. Best wishes and I hope life is treating you with kindness.

When I got to Chicago, I took several different jobs. I landed a job at great lakes in Chicago one day they had me use electric jackhammer. The supervisor didn't know apparently where he had me drilling there was a live cable wire running under the concrete. The jackhammer hit the cable my hands immediately froze to the machine. I yelled for help I fell back on my back. At the

hospital the doctor said, "Tom you are one in a million to survive such a big shock".

I got another dangerous job at a place called, Chemtron, a chemical plant. I got several chemical burns from working at this place. Later I did various construction work and painting houses. I was your all-around experienced handyman. In the 60's the Irish all went to the dance halls and a lot of us met our spouses at one of them. A few of them included: the Holiday Ballroom, (Lawrence & Milwaukee) The Blarney Club, (79th Halsted) & The Keymans club (Madison & Cicero). In 1968 I married the love of my life Mary Mellett. She also left Ireland about the time I did she is from Mayo. She left behind her parents and four brothers. We had five children Michael, John, Tina, Steven, and Jimmy (Seamus)

Mary & I recently celebrated our 53rdth Wedding Anniversary and Please God, we will celebrate many more. If you have comments call. (708) 425-7021

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Hailing from a working background Caroleann zealously represents all types of injured workers in the Workers Compensation Arena and is committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of people who are injured by the negligence of others."



Caroleann Gallagher



Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



ee misclassification. Employee misclassification is often used as a tool by employers to avoid paying an injured person workers compensation benefits by classifying them as independent contractors when they really are employees.

The Illinois Supreme Court has set out factors to be used in determining whether a person is an employee or an independent contractor. Some of those factors are: (1) the employer's right to control the manner in which the work is performed; (2) whether income and social security taxes are withheld from the worker's compensation; (3) whether the employer dictates the worker's schedule; (4) the method of payment; and (5) whether the employer supplies the worker with materials and equipment.

No single factor is determinative, however, the employer's right to control the actions of the worker is the single most important factor. The more control that an employer has over the worker, the more likely it is that the worker would be considered an employee and vice versa.

For example, let's say that ABC Trucking Co., hires Joe as a truck driver to drop off and pickup loads of cargo. Joe signed an independent contractor agreement, filled out a 1099 tax form, and starts working. ABC Trucking Co., structures Joe's work schedule and supplies him with all of the necessary equipment, including a truck, a GPS, and

other tools customarily used by truck drivers. Joe is unable to set his own hours, deviate from the schedule given to him, and is given specific instructions detailing when to pickup the truck, when and where to make a drop off and pick up, which routes to take, and what to do with the cargo once picked up. While on a drop off route a few months later, Joe gets into an accident and he is rushed to the nearest hospital's emergency room. Unfortunately for Joe, he is diagnosed with a broken arm and is told by the Doctor that he will be unable to work for at least three months. Joe approached his employer regarding his unpaid emergency room medical bills and his required time off. His employer told him that because he is an independent contractor, he does not qualify for workers compensation and they are not required to help him.

This is a clear case of employee misclassification. Although Joe signed an independent contractor agreement, it is more likely that the Court would classify him as an employee given the amount of control that the trucking company has over him. First, the employer supplied Joe with all the equipment and tools needed for the job. Second, he had no flexibility in regards to his work schedule. And third, he was required to follow the employer's specific instructions throughout every work shift. Joe was never free from the employer's control in the performance of his job as a truck driver. Thus, Joe would most likely be classified as an employee and therefore eligible to receive workers compensation benefits.

If you suffered an injury at work and are being denied workers compensation benefits you may be a victim of employee misclassification. It is important that you speak with an experienced attorney like my colleagues and I, who will evaluate your claim and determine whether you are entitled to workers compensation benefits. My colleagues and I devote time to developing personal relationships with all of our clients. Our team has decades of collective experience in representing injured employees and we have the knowledge, experience, and resources to walk you through the process and obtain the most desired outcome possible. As always, all of our consultations are free!

**Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney now licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of personal injury law and Workers Compensation. Contact her at cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com or at (312) 782-7482.*

Employee Misclassification in Workers Compensation Cases

Although Illinois law requires all employers to carry workers compensation insurance, not everyone working for that employer is covered by that insurance. If you classify as an independent contractor or fill out a 1099 form once tax season rolls around, then your eligibility to receive workers compensation benefits depends on how involved your employer is with regards to the performance of your job.

Generally, independent contractors are ineligible to receive workers compensation benefits regardless of the severity of the injury. On the other hand, traditional employees, most of which receive a W2 at the end of the year, are eligible to receive workers compensation benefits. Even if you receive a 1099 tax form from your employer, you may be entitled to workers compensation benefits, if we can show that you are a subject of employ-

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Ireland Now Official International Travel Destination of Notre Dame Athletics

Tourism Ireland is delighted to announce it has entered into a partnership with Notre Dame Global Partnerships, which will launch before the Notre Dame football game against Purdue

South Bend, IN -- September 15, 2021 -- Tourism Ireland is delighted to announce it has entered into a partnership with Notre Dame Global Partnerships, which will launch before the Notre Dame football game against Purdue on Saturday, September 18th, with a sweepstakes for the chance to win a trip to Ireland for two.

"Ireland has always been a destination vacation for Notre Dame fans around the World due to its culture and incredible history," said University vice president and James E. Rohr Director of Athletics Jack Swarbrick. "Our new partnership with Tourism Ireland fits perfectly within the fabric of Notre Dame and our deep Irish heritage."

"Tourism Ireland is excited to join forces with Notre Dame Athletics to launch this new brand partnership," said Alison Metcalfe, Executive Vice



President, Tourism Ireland U.S. and Canada. "An initiative such as this allows us to further strengthen the long-established links between Notre Dame and the island of Ireland and to encourage fans and alumni alike to keep Ireland front of mind."

Metcalfe continued, "We look forward to being part of the special Ireland promotion at Notre Dame Stadium on Sep-

tember 18th and hope that by showcasing the best of Ireland's unique experiences throughout this integrated campaign that any Notre Dame fans and alumni will start planning a vacation to Ireland in the near future."

The campaign will run through April of 2022 and throughout the partnership, Tourism Ireland will bring the "Best of Ireland" to Notre Dame's loyal nationwide following across a variety of digital and in-person platforms as well as through game day promotions, radio and print media.

The partnership kicks off on campus on September 18th with a special game day promotion where Fighting Irish fans can visit the Tourism Ireland booth near the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore to enter for the chance to win a trip for two to Ireland. More information can be found at www.und.com/thebestofireland.

Additionally, fans of the

Fighting Irish can look forward to video storytelling and stunning photography from Notre Dame alumni and former sports stars on-location in Ireland. The ambassadors will travel to Ireland in Spring 2022 and share highlights from their journey as well as from their time at the University across Tourism Ireland and Notre Dame Athletics social channels.

The partnership with Notre Dame Athletics is part of Tourism Ireland's strategy to engage with non-travel brands to bring the island of Ireland travel vacation story to life and reach targeted audiences in new and innovative ways. Notre Dame Global Partnerships, a joint venture between Legends Global Partnerships and JMI Sports, facilitated the partnership.

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A Chairde,

We hope that you enjoyed Irish Heritage and Harvest Day as much as we did. The day started with a GAA hurling clinic and then went straight into the threshing demonstration and more. It was great to see so many of you here enjoying our non-technology day of culture and fun. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to make the day special.

Ireland's Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media visited us in September. We were pleased to welcome Minister Catherine Martin, and we appreciate the support and continued interest in our activities expressed by the Irish government.

This month we hope to see you in the pub, at book club and at other events. Remember the Mass and Breakfast is on the 10th and the family Halloween party is on the 29th.

Is mise le meas,
Bill O'Sullivan



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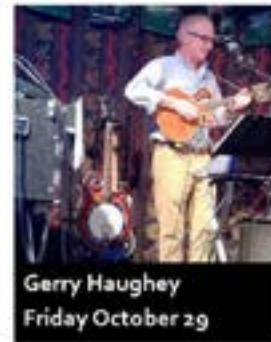
Nicky G.
Friday Oct. 08



Joe Cullen
Friday October 15



Bernie Glim
Friday October 22



Gerry Haughey
Friday October 29

Seth Mercer Saturday October 30

Pub food served Wed-Sat starting at 5:00pm

Heritage and Harvest Festival 2021

On the heels of the 20th Anniversary of 9/11, we have a lot of blessings to be thankful for and one of them is the Irish Heritage & Harvest Festival. Started by Eamon Malone and his family, this day is about gathering with family and friends to remember our culture through antique tractors, livestock, music, dance and sport.

Year after year, Eamon brings his threshing machine and antique tractors. These are museum quality machines but Eamon encourages everyone to get up close, sit on them and ask questions. We sometimes forget the effort it takes to set up, put on multiple demonstrations and take down 20+ tractors, a threshing machine and oats... it is weeks. It is a labor of love and we are the beneficiaries of all of Eamon's hard work and passion.

One lad told his father that he was looking at the tractors with his grandfather who was showing him one of the models he used to drive while working in England as a young boy. This lad gets to know some of the experiences that his grandfather endured and gets a peak into his life and upbringing. This is what Heritage & Harvest is all about. Eamon's passion for tractors and farm equipment provides many of us with the opportunity to revisit the Harvest with our parents and grandparents, hear old stories and for a brief moment, see the joy that it brings as the memories flood back.

If 2020/2021 has taught us anything, we should be thankful for all that we have and the opportunities that we get to come together as a community and celebrate our Irish culture. Eamon has been providing us these opportunities for years. He probably does not get to know the impact, the memories, or the stories that are told as our father's and mother's stop to reflect at the threshing machine or tractors, but they are many and appreciated.

Eamon, we appreciate your contributions, both seen and unseen, and look forward to many more years where we can celebrate the Harvest, hear old stories and become closer with our Heritage.



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Gaelic Park's November Luncheon

Wednesday, November 03, 2021

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Happy Halloween



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Book Club Get Together Nov 7th - 1pm to 3pm (all invited!)
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Game On!
 By Chris Wheaton



and out as sheer excitement. He attended with his three brothers and his nieces and nephews as GAA events are often family affairs. One of his nephews is on the Limerick U20 panel and is the proud holder of two Munster Minor Medals. Peadar himself has been involved in GAA sports for almost

Naperville Hurling Club's own Peadar Hurley was awarded tickets to the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship contested at Croke Park on August 22. Peadar, who hails from County Limerick and was a former player for Chicago Limerick was thrilled when he was notified that the Heartland Division of the USGAA had tickets for him.

Peadar was last at an All-Ireland Hurling Final in 1994 when Limerick was leading by five points with four minutes to play and ended up losing to Offaly by six. This year's result was a tad easier to stomach for the Limerick fan as the game was never really in doubt from the first throw-in. Although the match was described as men versus boys the excitement level was not affected. It was just recently that Croke Park started allowing fans back in the stands and although it was supposed to be limited to 42,000 people in the 82,000-person stadium, many more got in. Peadar described the atmosphere both inside the stadium



WHERE I BELONG

45 years and played for Limerick minor football with John Kiely in 1989. Kiely is currently the manager of the senior hurling panel.

I always like to ask my Irish teammates if they are surprised that Naperville has a hurling club and what draws them to us. Peadar expressed feelings that I have heard from many of our Irish-born. It is the spirit of the GAA that draws people together. Peadar spoke of the unity of our club and the fact that he participates in a sport that he loves dearly and can play it in his adopted home. Our club members realize that same unified bond and purpose of the GAA and feel it is the same no matter if you "tog out" in Ireland or America. That purpose is to proudly play an ancient Irish game and share it with as many people as possible. Similar sentiments have been expressed by numerous players who are sometimes amazed that GAA games have become so popular in the states. Hurling clubs are popping up all over the country and American born players are falling in love with the game, although they are sometimes at a distinct disadvantage to the Irish players who have played from the age of three!

According to Peadar the GAA sports are alive and well all over America with youth programs drawing hundreds of young boys and girls to numerous training clinics. Chicago's own Colm Egan has been instrumental in promoting the games and ensuring a future where kids with Irish heritage have an outlet to perfect the craft passed on from many generations of hurlers and football players.

September is a big month for hurling and Gaelic football in the Midwest with the Hurling Club of Madison hosting a tremendous tournament on September 18. Teams from all over will gather in Cottage Grove, Wisconsin to compete in hurling, camogie and both men's and women's Gaelic football. It is a wonderful day of sport, camaraderie, and Irish culture that Naperville Hurling and Camogie look forward to every year.

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GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



Hi everyone hope you all had a good summer, personally I look forward to the autumn or fall. Can you believe Halloween is upon us in a few weeks? Speaking of Halloween I think we are going to do the same as we did last year. We put banquet tables out in our driveway. One table I made goodie bags with fun masks (I made them all reversible so they could re-use them again) and drinks for little kids. The other table I left choices of wrapped candy and masks and drinks. I found some cheap plastic shower curtains and hung them over the entrance to our garage, comfy chairs and our gas outdoor fire. Yes we were able to see everyone who stopped by .The parents where so appreciative that we actually took pictures with them. We quite were surprised by the number of kids that stopped by .I think it probably had something to do with our neighborhood next door app you know the one where you can get information about your community and ask questions plus you can sell and buy stuff well. Anyway I saw someone in there asking if our neighborhood were going to accommodate the kids for Halloween as you know we were still are in middle of pandemic. No one was vaccinated at that time. A few people were throwing out ideas as no one wanted to answer their door. So I choose to sit in my garage nice and cozy and wave to the kids. I wonder if they kept the masks I made them last year. Back in the day when we were kids I don't remember getting sweets/candy. If I re call I think we got apples and oranges sometimes mixture of nuts in shells. What I do remember is the money .Yes people would give you money. Remember those huge big pennies and thrupenny bits. You were

made if you got silver which was very seldom maybe the odd sixpence or a shilling never a half crown. We never bought costumes as they do

today. I don't think there was anywhere available. I seldom bought Halloween costumes for my children. My daughter used to come up with the craziest ideas. I don't know who she thought I was. I think she had more faith in me to capture her little imagination. Example one year she wanted to be a money tree. I had to really think about that one as whatever I came up with she had to wear it in school all day. I found an old curly wig my nieces had used back in the day for Irish dancing. I purchased fake dollars, coins in the dollar store. I think I bought every single packet. I got a staple gun and started stapling the money onto the wig along with some small soft branches from my fir tree. I went through her closet for more ideas she had a brown zip up that she no longer wore and some leggings. I started pinning money all over them as well. The big day arrived and I painted her face brown she was delighted and off to school she went and got first prize. The next year she wanted to be a washing machine! I thought this child really believes in me I need to come up with something brilliant but simple. I searched the web found great simple ideas. My husband got me a cardboard box big enough to cover her little torso so in a nutshell I painted it white. Cut a hole in the middle glued a round plastic container for the door. Drew on some nob. Glued socks and small clothing items inside and out. She was delighted. OH yes I forgot she wore one of those black body suits that covered her from head to toe even her face. I didn't even ask her how she would manage to sit in class with it all day. The list goes on and on. My son the musician was way easier but that's another story. This is how we

did it. We would grab our fathers trench coats, working boots or wellies.

Maybe paint on a moustache with soot from the fireplace. My sister would take my mother's wrap around apron (remember those) wrap a towel around her head and grab a bucket and mop. (Ena Sharples Coronation st) You had to be inventive with whatever you could forage from your home you made it work. We planned all year long as the money was always the incentive. One year we threw on oversized turtle neck jumpers/sweaters and went as Beatniks' I remember the jingle of the coins in my pocket in my plaid trousers with the elastic under the foot.

I think maybe I just dated myself but I think Beatniks started around 1950-70's. I don't think this look went down too well. Some thought it a scruffy bohemian look. My parents were still wearing collar and ties and hats and gloves, black patent kitten heels.

Whatever you dressed up as it was exciting to go home to join the family festivities. Father had us dunking for apples or tied them on a string from ceiling. There was always an abundance of goodies to eat as my mother had a sweet tooth.

Till next time .Stay well. Don't forget the candy for the kids.

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Riverdancers Land Starring Roles in Paradise Square

By Mike Danahey

As Garrett Coleman and Jason Oremus recall it, Chicago was the first place the two performed together, in a touring company of Riverdance.

"That was about 15 years ago," Coleman recalled. "It was the first time I took the stage as the lead dancer in that production," Oremus said.

About a dozen years ago, the two former Irish dance champions from different corners of the world went on to form their own Brooklyn-based dance troupe - Hammerstep, which melds Irish dance, tap, hip hop, stepping, martial arts and occasionally a touch of sci-fi into its distinct style.

Coleman and Oremus currently find themselves back in Chicago lending their talents as dancers and choreographers to the musical **Paradise Square**. The production plays the James Nederlander Theatre Nov. 2 - Dec. 5, before its Broadway debut at the Barrymore Theatre, with opening night set on March 20.

Pittsburgh-native Coleman has another tie to Chicago.

"I was the male lead dancer with Trinity (Academy of) Irish Dance. That was a long time ago," Coleman said.

Paradise Square takes place an even longer time ago, in the slums of Lower Manhattan's Five Points neighborhood during the 1860s.

The musical grew out of Irish rock band Black 47 frontman Larry Kirwan's play **Hard Times**. Kirwan's work focused on Irish who had fled the famine for America, and Blacks, a good many who had escaped enslavement in the South and sought a better life in the North. It explored how the two communities got along, intermarried, raised families and socialized, most notably in local dance halls.

The Five Points residents were looked upon derisively by nativists, and the Draft Riots of 1863 shattered the community.

The riots happened after conscription laws went into effect, drafting a good portion of white men. Men could legally buy their way out of being drafted, and Blacks were not drafted as they weren't counted as US citizens.

Past the violence and acrimony, a positive part of American culture created in those Five Points dance halls lives on today. For when Irish steps met moves with roots in Africa and oppressive plantations, the interaction spawned tap dancing.

There's where Coleman and Oremus come into the picture. The two had seen **Hard Times** at The Cell Theatre off Broadway in New York. Around the same

time, with their Hammerstep troupe, they performed at the same venue in another musical featuring Irish characters, **McGouldrick's Thread**.

That led to Coleman and Oremus striking up a friendship with Kirwan, whom they consider a kindred soul.

"Hammerstep has a punk rock spirit like Larry does," Coleman said.

It turned out Oremus, who hails from Sydney, also had pre-information about Kirwan. He had toured some with the Irish trad band Cherish the Ladies, who used the same sound man as Black 47. Over pints, Oremus heard stories of Kirwan's rowdy rock times.

Flash forward about five years ago, when Kirwan began working with Broadway producer Garth Kaminisky and others on turning **Hard Times** into **Paradise Square** on its initial production at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre in the San Francisco Bay area in late 2018.

Kirwan recommended the Hammerstep founders to Tony-winning choreographer, Bill T. Jones, as the guys who could help conceive Irish dance steps from the 1860s and how they interacted with Black styles of dance.

"Hammerstep is about collaboration across cultural lines," Coleman said. He noted that **Paradise Square** choreographer Jones embraced Irish choreography and dance styles.

Coleman and Oremus researched the era in which the musical is set. They learned

that in the dance halls, dancers would challenge and compete with each other to come up with brilliant moves.

"There were open dialogues of dance and a freedom to respond," Coleman said.

Coleman noted that enslaved Blacks

more rigid over time and was freer in body movement in the Civil War era. With dance battles in Five Points, the Irish and Black communities found common dialogue, he said.

"Through a communion of circumstances, the communities grew united by being

outcasts," Oremus said. Out of that commingling of cultures, in the shared language of dance, sprang the form of tap, the men said.

As such, movement plays a significant role in **Paradise Square**. Oremus estimated well more than half of what takes place on stage involves dance.

So, the show is keeping Coleman and Oremus busy as they assist with choreography and are both in the production, too. It's a first time for either to be involved with a Broadway show, and the two have had to learn a bit about acting and singing as well.

Being involved with staging a Broadway-bound musical these days also means chal-

lenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The show has a Covid safety manager. Performers wear masks unless singing or acting, and we're all being mindful of each other," Coleman said.

Oremus said that with a large cast, producers had to find spaces big enough to work on various aspects of the show while keeping pandemic protocols in mind.

Cast and crew are all vaccinated, tested weekly, and can be tested more so at the discretion of producers, Coleman said.

Whatever protocols may be in place come time to perform before an audience, Oremus noted there is nothing like the real, direct human experience of theater

"It's hard to replace heading to live theater," Coleman seconded.

As for **Paradise Square**, the men feel its message is one that should resonate during these troubled times.

"I think there's a hunger right now for unity, a need for positive news," Oremus said.

"**Paradise Square** highlights something good that happened before and can happen again."

Coleman said, "The show is about the promise of what America could be."



(l-r) Jason Oremus, Garrett Coleman in **Paradise Square**



Front, l-r - Sidney Dupont and A.J. Shively; Back, l-r - Jacob Fishel, Daren A. Herbert and Madeline Trumble in **Paradise Square** at Berkeley Rep. Photo_ Kevin Berne_Berkeley Repertory Theatre

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hello Everyone,
To continue with the rest of the story from our visit to Tuam, I'd like to mention some of the

people (not by name) we met that day in August, this year. We met four survivors all together and it was really heartbreaking

to hear about their experiences. There were three men and one woman and you could feel that they really wanted someone to share their story's with. Two of the men were brothers and one of them didn't remember being at the Mother and Baby Home but the older one did. He was seven when the two boys left the home for adoption, (with two separate parents) and he remembered everything. These children never got to spend time with their maternal mother, other than to be breastfed, have their nappy's (diapers) changed and that was it. No kiss, no hug, no sweet words to help give them confidence for their futures. They never knew the taste of chocolate or cake, only the taste of beatings and insults from the nuns. "The regular children" were not allowed to mix with these kids. When the other children went to school, they went later than the other

children. They left school earlier in the afternoon before the other kids got out of school. For punishment, the "regular" kids were told if they did something wrong they would be put together with the "home babies". One of the survivors told us that years later when they found their biological mother that their mother would come on a Friday every week to get them out of there. The nuns would close the door in her face. The

places. Some of them lived out a great part of their natural life there, never seeing the world outside. I really wish and pray to My God there is someone in either the religious or government department with the guts to address this, another horrific part of our history.

The song I picked for this month is a song I wrote about my cousin, Miceal. His birthday was in September, he would have been forty years old. He was

'He Loved To Drive The Trucks'

Written by Joe McShane

Verse 1

She grew up like her mother, a heart of solid gold
Dreaming of the day she'd have a family of her own
Then one day she was married and three daughters came along
Happy and contented then god sent to her a son

Verse 2

She named that young boy Miceal and her family was complete
He was kind and always wore a smile as he played around her feet
The years flew by and like the rest, he grew up before her eyes
He dreamed of trucks and motor cars that someday he would drive

Chorus

He was his mother's angel and she loved him oh so much
And everyone who knew him would be forever touched
His nature always shining through would give your heart a tug
Young Miceal, a loving son who loved to drive the trucks

Verse 3

One Sunday evening with a smile his mother filled his lunchbox
And laid out his clean overalls his work boots and socks
Then lay awake like mother's do until her son came home
It was getting late and then she heard the knock upon the door

Verse 4

Then her world began to crumble as she heard the cruel news
And she held on to a lunchbox that never would be used
Miceal was a passenger in a speeding car that night
Another senseless accident stole away that young boy's life

Last Chorus

Now gone this mothers angel who she loved so very much
And everyone who knew him will be forever touched
His nature always shining through would give your heart a tug
Young Miceal, a loving son who loved to drive the trucks

healthiest of these babies (boys more than girls) were sent to America for adoption.

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killed in a car accident when he was twenty. I dedicate this song to his mother, my first cousin, Mary, and her three daughters Louise, Bernie, and Catriona. He was a genuine, and gentle soul. The song is called 'He Loved To Drive The Trucks'. R.I.P. Miceal, you're forever in our hearts.

As always, be good to one another.

Joe

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Fall Events for Seniors

At the Irish American Heritage Center

Monthly Musical Gathering

Every month—usually on the **first Wednesday**—we host the **Monthly Musical Gathering**. Through live musical performances, we celebrate our shared Irish heritage. The **Monthly Musical Gathering** always takes place at the **Irish American Heritage Center**. There is no charge to attend and **ALL** are welcome. Refreshments are served free of charge.

The Front Parlor

This group gathering is named for the room in old Irish houses where people came together for important guests and special occasions. Once each month—usually on the **third Wednesday**—we meet to share our Irish heritage and our love of Ireland through cultural and educational programs. We meet at the **Irish American Heritage Center**. There is no charge to attend. **ALL** are welcome and refreshments are served free of charge.

Monthly Musical Gathering

Irish American Heritage Center
Wednesday 6th October
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Live Music with Ray Gavin

Join us for a morning of good cheer and great live music with our friend Ray Gavin providing the tunes! Remember, there's no fee to attend and we offer refreshments!

The Front Parlor

Irish American Heritage Center
Wednesday 20th October
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Ireland's Haunted Castles

Ireland has over 30,000 castles. Theresa Choske joins us to share which ones might be housing otherworldly guests!

At Chicago Gaelic Park

The Get Together

There's nothing like a good get together! Twice each month—usually on the **second and fourth Wednesday**—we host **The Get Together** at **Chicago Gaelic Park**. We express our Irish heritage through an engaging variety of educational programs, cultural performances and lectures, and fun activities. There is no charge to attend and **ALL** are welcome. Refreshments are served free of charge.

The Get Together

Gaelic Park
Wednesday 13th October
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

A Morning of Storytelling

Our friend and professional storyteller Margaret Burke is back to captivate us with some spooky Irish stories. Come get into the Halloween spirit with an Irish twist!

The Get Together

Gaelic Park
Wednesday 27th October
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Samhain: Halloween's Roots

Dr. Jenny Butler, a folklorist and lecturer at University College Cork, will teach us about the connection between the Gaelic festival of Samhain and Halloween.

Staying Safe at Our Gatherings

ALL attendees will be required to sign in and provide contact details for the purposes of contact tracing. We ask any attendee who later finds out they have been exposed to a person infected with Covid to inform ICS as soon as possible. We are requesting **ONLY FULLY VACCINATED** people attend out senior group meetings. Our masking policy will reflect city and state mandates at the time each meeting takes place. If you have symptoms of Covid-19 or any other infectious condition, please do not attend our group meetings. If you have questions about our pandemic policies please contact us by calling 773-282-8445.

Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Can We Learn Anything From The Disaster Of Kabul?

I try to keep these columns focused on events or trends or insights that might prove to be valuable to the reader's career. But the recent tragic events in Afghanistan cannot be ignored. There were great examples of bravery and leadership displayed by our active and retired military personnel there.

The courage that the American soldiers on the ground showed in the wild setting of the Kabul airport should be honored by all of us. Anyone watching this debacle had to see that our military personnel were steadfast in carrying

out their responsibilities. Think for a moment of the incredible pressure that the pilots had to face when they had people hanging onto various parts of their planes, even while the aircraft were racing down the runway.

Clearly ex US military personnel also showed great moxie in helping Afghans find ways to escape from Kabul. They risked their lives, careers, and pensions to help people who had helped Americans perform their tasks over the last 20 years. Their mindset seemed to be that of a very dear military friend of mine,

Tom; to quote him, "I help people who are incapable of helping

themselves."

Think for a moment of the courage it took for that Marine Lt. Colonel to speak his mind about the inept way our leaders have been deploying our military assets in Afghanistan. He is not a "pencil pusher," his chest is full of medals that were earned in combat. But speaking his mind may cost him his life's work, the job he loves, the United States Marine Corps. There is talk about sending him to a military prison. Coming from a very military family, I am well aware of the "chain of command" he violated. A smart commander would have given him a stern chewing out for violating the code, and then asked him for his advice on to deal with the combat situation his marines were facing. But as the saying goes, they had to show him who was in charge. Generals don't win battles, the grunts do. Great generals ask their troops for their advice; there is an old adage, if you want to know what's going on, ask the sergeants.

You might ask, how does this apply to me? Speak up when your organization needs someone to talk to the "powers!" I have worked with a wide variety of organizations for a very long time and I have found that more often

than not, if the boss/supervisor asks for some input, he won't get much, if any. He will probably have to drag it out of his team. Most of us will NOT challenge the boss. We need more genuine leaders at every level throughout our society. Rather than walking away, cursing under your breath, speak up in a thoughtful way and suggest another way to solve the problem. Effective bosses welcome good ideas.

As a youngster, I was strongly advised to be respectful of my teachers and I complied with that approach. But I was also advised by my six siblings to question my teachers if I didn't understand what they were saying. But I always felt that I had the right to have my opinions heard. Maybe the reluctance to speak up is born and bred in all of us; good manners tend to be appreciated. In my way of thinking I am convinced that compliance sets in early in our lives. Our society celebrates those who agree with the reigning themes of the day. We don't challenge people who hold views different than our own. But the old adage says that two heads are better than one should be considered. There are a lot of smart people in this world and just maybe your "adversary" is a

person who has a better answer than you.

Think of extreme cases of abuse that people witness but don't do anything about it. Once on a suburban train, everyone in our car was subject to the loud and ignorant rant of a fellow passenger on the upper deck. Clearly nearly everyone was annoyed by this person's conduct. Finally one passenger on the lower deck said in a very loud voice something like: "Shut up, we have heard enough of your trash talk". The foul mouth guy was silent for the rest of his ride. The "good guy" did not threaten the loud mouth in any way other than his verbal admonition of the guy's conduct. Foul Mouth had passed the line of civility.

It would be interesting to know how our generals reacted to the President's wishes. Did he get any honest counsel from his inner circle? Anyone in a position of authority needs to listen to his/her colleagues. If the boss is not willing to listen to his counselors why are they on the payroll? Dictators commonly do not listen to their advisors or they will only listen to a few of their close allies.

I was deeply saddened by all the abuse, pain, anger and violence at the Kabul airport, but maybe we can learn some stark lessons. Such as: We must speak up when our rights are challenged and degraded.

Remember that professionals build the Titanic, but amateurs built the ARK.

Hopefully the lunacy that occurred at Kabul will awaken our willingness to speak up with good ideas. Carpe Diem.

Thoughts That Might Be Helpful To You: Don't think people at the top of their professions have all the answers. They don't. Not known. You're betraying your whole life if you don't say what you think and you don't say it honestly and bluntly. Charles Krauthammer

James F. Fitzgerald was the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates of Naperville, IL for many years. He retired from his human resource firm at the end of 2020.

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Life Doesn't Always Turn Out as Planned: Remembering Fr. Jim Close

By Maureen Callahan

"You know, life doesn't always turn out the way you think it will. Remember that," Fr. Close smiled, as he leaned back into the leather chair behind his desk on a sunny afternoon.

It was the spring of 2005. Trying to find my life's path, I was there to interview Fr. Jim Close, then-president of the Mission of Our Lady of Mercy, known familiarly around Chicago as Mercy Home for Boys and Girls. Or just "Mercy Home." I was hoping to launch a writing career. Fr. Close was somewhat of a Chicago icon. I would interview him as a Father's Day piece, and sell it to the Trib. Then I would be a "real" writer.

Despite my efforts, that article was never published. I did, however, get much more than I ever bargained for - a chance to work alongside Fr. Close in his last few months at the helm of Mercy Home. A couple months after the interview for the article that never sold, I got a phone call. Mercy Home needed a staff writer. I accepted the job, and a new direction to my life.

Any non-profit worker knows you never wear just one hat. In addition to writing, I never knew from day to day if I would be helping kids with homework, hearing about their day over dinner, or assisting with an event.

Fr. Close fell sick and eventually succumbed to cancer. This month marks ten years since his passing. Below is the article I had hoped to publish in honor of Father's Day, all those years ago- in recognition of Fr. Close's role as the honorary father to scores of Chicago kids:

Someone once told me that no one stands as tall as when they stoop to help a child. If that's the case, Mercy Home's president, Fr. Jim Close, stands about 134 feet tall. One foot for each kid.

The big house, known as Mercy Home, stands at 1140 West Jackson Blvd. It is a complex of buildings that occupies the better part of a city block. A pioneer in its inception, Mercy Home opened in 1887. The more publicized Boys Town, in Nebraska, did not open until 1917. Since the beginning,

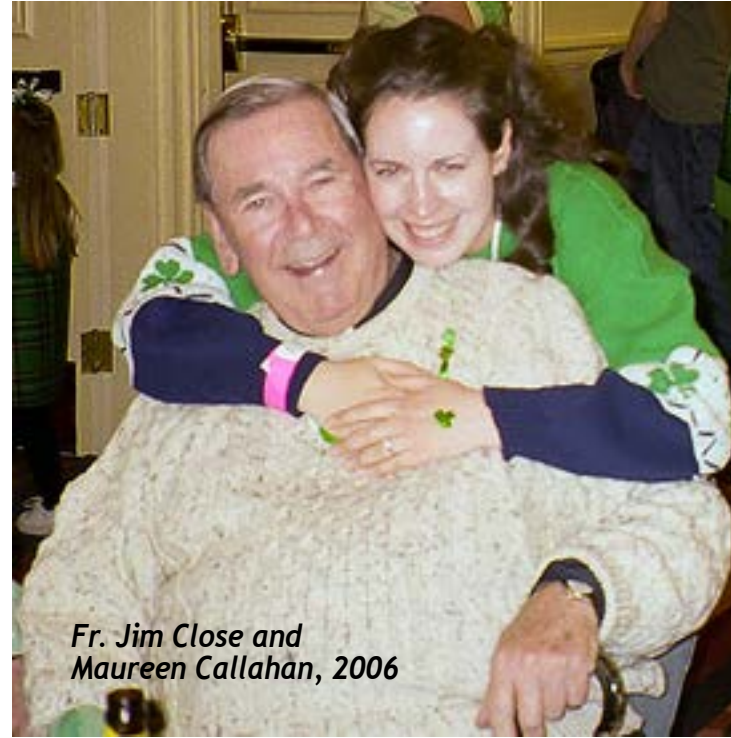
more than 22,000 Chicago youths have found a home in this west side safe harbor. These days, it's home to 94 boys, ages 11-21. Some were formerly in the care of DCFS. Their parents are either permanently gone or temporarily unable to care for them. Most are out of options.

Like a dad, Fr. Close offers a secure and loving home for his charges, complete with rules and regulations. Kids too young for outside employment have responsibilities around the house. Housework is everyone's job. Raising kids is expensive and budgeting can get tricky, but come what may, "if a kid needs counseling, we have it. If he or she needs braces, we arrange it. It's not always easy, but we usually find a way," Fr. Close said. 98% of Mercy Home's funding comes through private donations.

Walk east on Jackson Blvd past the bronze guardian angel statue and enter through the heavy oak door. Upon the wall to your left is the succession of priests who have served as superintendents of Mercy Home since its beginning. The list, which sounds more like an Irish immigrant ship registry - Fr. Mahoney, Monsignor Quille, Fr. Cooke, Monsignor Kelly - shows Fr. Close as the seventh in line. Fr. Louis Campbell originally founded the organization as St. Paul's Home for Working Boys, in the basement of Old St. Pat's Church. The Irish connection is still evident, as Fr. Close proudly displays the coats of arms of Antrim and Galway, from which his parents emigrated. "I'm the first American-born President of this mission," Fr. Close, (originally a north sider), proudly revealed.

When asked what inspired Fr. Close to come to Mercy Home, he replied "nothing. Cardinal Cody told me on a Tuesday that he wanted me to take over as superintendent here. The next day I told him I'd thought about it and wanted to stay in parish work. He said he had thought about it, too. By Thursday, I was moving in," Fr. Close chuckled. "So, it wasn't a job I went seeking, but it's a job I love."

That was August of 1973. When Fr. Close arrived, there were 79 kids sleeping in an open room on metal-racked bunk beds in an Oliver Twist-like orphanage. Through decades of mass fundraising, he brought the house up to date. A state-of-the-art home opened in September of 2003. Nowadays, kids live in eight "homes" -areas



Fr. Jim Close and Maureen Callahan, 2006

of three-story buildings that accommodate between eight and ten people each, with 24-hour supervision. Each house has a kitchen, living room, study area and bedrooms. Everyone has a roommate. The older kids look out for the younger ones.

Another big addition made by Fr. Close was Mercy Home for Girls, which opened in 1987. 40 girls currently live in the former Walgreen mansion in the south side Beverly neighborhood. "We didn't want to have to split families up, so we had to get going on a house for the girls, too," Fr. Close stated.

Good dads expose their kids to a variety of learning experiences. Fr. Close is no exception. Each summer, thanks to generous donors, Mercy Home kids go to camp. This year, it's off to the Boundary Waters of Minnesota. Trips are offered twice a year to various U.S. destinations as incentives. Community service earns a spot

on the outing.

Kids eventually grow up and leave their parents. Lucky ones can look to dad for help getting started in life. When Mercy Home kids turn 21, "most move on with their lives," Fr. Close said. "If they're not enrolled in college, we help them with job placement." There's also the Aftercare pro-

grams, founded under Fr. Close's watch, for some needing more time. Aftercare residents live in apartments behind the main buildings and pay a nominal rent, which is stored away for them for later. "They know there's always someone to turn to here. We don't just cut them off," Fr. Close stated.

When asked if Fr. Close considered himself a dad to these kids, he replied "I often get Father's Day cards. I've got wonderful

kids. So, I guess the title 'Father' works in more ways than one. Most [dads] don't have such a fantastic staff behind them, though. So, I'm lucky." The kids are lucky, too. "They know this is home for them. They get a fair shake here," Fr. Close smiled. Sometimes luck surprises you. The interview for the article that never sold resulted in my favorite job. I honed my writing skills, learned the ins and outs of non-profit organizations, and worked alongside Fr. Close at the end of a 33-year stint at what he had transformed into a national childcare model. Later, I moved on to an opportunity I had always hoped for at The Field Museum, thanks to the recommendation of Ann Kisting, a Mercy Home co-worker. Fr. Close's ordination anniversary mass introduced me to Holy Family, a nearby historic church, where I would eventually get married and baptize my three children.

You just never know which way will lead you on the way. Thanks, Fr. Close. For everything.

From making Saturday morning pancakes with the kids in the early years, to weekday afternoons shooting pool or playing cards after homework, to offering advice to kids starting out in life, Fr. Close was the only father many Chicago kids ever knew. It's been said that you make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give. For more than three decades, giving was Fr. Close's life.

A business card from my time at Mercy Home recently resurfaced on my desk. You can bet I put it in a place of honor.

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Crafters of Ireland

Orla O'Rourke, Ceramic Designer at Stable Door Pottery

My life as a ceramic designer began from my final year in secondary school back in my home town of Dunmanway, West Cork. My art teacher guided me towards working with clay as I had a natural flare for making things.

I was at a loose end and I didn't know what direction to take as a career once leaving school, so with my art teachers guidance I applied for the Ceramic Design course in Crawford College, Cork City. To my amazement I got accepted and so I took the course, my other choices were working with horses and dogs and to this day I am very lucky to be working with all three!!



I took to this like a duck to water and so once I finished college I took the leap and I went out on my own as a Ceramic Designer. At my home place in the town of Dunmanway, we had a few stables and a shed and my father converted them all into one big working studio space. That is where my business name came from 'Stable Door Pottery'. I happily worked here for many years but when the downturn in the economy happened around 2008 everything ground to a halt for me and my business. I am quite a shy, reserved person so I said to myself what will I do now, will I just quit and take a different path or take a gamble and move lock, stock and barrel and give my love of working with clay another go.

So I decided I'd take the plunge and re-locate my business to the renowned home of pottery production-Shanagarry East Cork. It took me a while to build my work back up again but in this time I developed my range, creating functional yet decorative ceramics for the kitchen and the home. It was a great suc-



cess. My work evolved using bright colours influenced by the wonderful berries that grow on the wild Irish hedges and country gardens. I incorporate the hessian fabric into each piece to give it its unique rustic feel and this mirrors my love of this country and animals. I also branched out into making little ceramics for frames and these can be personalised too for that



Mike's latest columns can be found at:
<http://irisheye.us/new.html>



special gift occasion. Throughout this time in my new studio space I fell back into sculptural work, which was a real reward. My trusty dog 'Arnie' has been there by my side and has kept me company through many a long night of making.

But then, who knew that the World would fall to a halt when Covid hit. Everything had to stop, human protection was paramount and everyone had to do their part in beating this pandemic. What this meant



for my business was devastating, doors were shut, orders cancelled, no classes, nothing to make or to look forward to. But every cloud has a silver lining even do it felt like history repeating itself. The step back was good, I had a baby myself in June 2020 and the time out from work was welcomed.

I began re-evaluating my product range, cutting some existing items out and developing new ideas. I made some tall vases and I quiet like, as they have characterful faces! I am also developing a new website and I hope to have this live soon. I will be adding to my framed ceramic selection and hopefully (fingers and small toes crossed) introducing a thrown range, so watch this space

I hope you enjoyed my story and please feel free to look up my work on www.stabledoorpottery.com

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My course was four years in duration and throughout those four years I gained experience in sculptural work and glaze techniques. During my final year I worked part time with an Australian potter, she taught me all about slab work and how to manipulate clay in a different manner.





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The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

By Hector Rivera, Director of Youth and Family Therapeutic Services

When I began my career in therapeutic counseling more than 30 years ago, I chose to work at Catholic Charities because I deeply believed in the agency’s mission to care for others in a manner worthy of their God-given dignity. We work “one heart at a time,” offering not only our professional services, but also genuine mercy and hope as we accompany individuals on their journey to wholeness, health, and well-being.

Our staff of dedicated, professional counselors and social workers strive to be on the cutting edge of human services, ensuring that we provide evidence-based interventions that strengthen and empower people and families, and the communities in which they live. In recent years, this has meant a growing emphasis on the vital importance of mental health services, and especially what is known as trauma-informed therapy.

Trauma-informed therapy recognizes that past negative experiences, or traumas, can influence an individual’s functioning. Children are most affected by trauma because the young developing brain is

particularly vulnerable to excess cortisol released by prolonged stress and fear.

The longitudinal Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study, conducted jointly by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Kaiser Permanente, provides important research-backed evidence that adverse experiences in childhood, such as physical or sexual abuse, homelessness, death of a parent, divorce, domestic or community violence, can, without proper intervention and support, lead to negative behavioral and health outcomes in the future. This can include drug and alcohol misuse, suicidal ideation, poor school performance, mental health issues, anti-social behaviors, and numerous health conditions such as heart, lung, and liver disease.

Though the ACEs study confirms our worst fears about the potential impact of childhood trauma, it also gives us great hope for a clear road map for change, lighting the way to proper social and emotional supports to help people lead healthier lives. While we can’t erase the past, therapeutic interventions can “interrupt” the negative cycle by teaching proper coping mechanisms, improving familial and community rela-

tionships, recognizing and nurturing inner strength, and building resilience. We can’t take the trauma away, but we can help people carry it with them—restoring dignity, encouraging peace, and opening the door to joy and improved daily functioning.

Through our many counseling programs, Catholic Charities is honored to accompany people on this careful healing journey, not only improving the lives of those served, but also fostering a powerful ripple effect throughout the communities they live in.

Expanding the availability of trauma-informed therapy is exactly what we need at this time in history. To be sure,

the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated traumatic experiences for many, but especially for those living in under-resourced neighborhoods that have seen the most job losses, most illness, most deaths, most violence, and have the least access to mental and physical health services. As the pandemic and its effects linger on, Catholic Charities is counting on our donors and volunteers to help us bring trauma-informed therapy and other needed support services to the people and places who need us most. With your help, we can and will make a difference—changing lives and communities one heart at a time.

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