



Paddy Maloney RIP Chieftain

Glendalough,
Co. Wicklow, Ireland
Photo by Bill Finucane

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



dent, the title of the event was not 'a neutral statement politically'. So, he decided against attending the event, but this did not become known to the

public until September. When the news broke, the church leaders who organised the event expressed strong disappointment that the title was the sticking point. They claimed that they would have been happy to consider alternative wording. So, what we have is a breakdown in diplomacy? That is remarkable given that there is a team of civil servants who work at the president's residence, Áras an

Reflections & Hopes for Northern Ireland

By the time you read this, it will probably be known who attended the ecumenical service at St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral in Downpatrick, Armagh, on October 21st, entitled a 'service of reflection and hope to mark the centenary of the partition of Ireland and the formation of Northern Ireland'. We know that the Queen of England is scheduled to attend. It is safe to say, about whoever else is there, that their attendance will be consequential.

The reason that the service gained such prominence was the response of Irish President, Michael D. Higgins, to being invited. Higgins took issue with the title when he received the invitation in March, and he informed the organisers that it would have to change or 'I will have to wish you well'. For the presi-



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Uachtaráin, and that they report to a still bigger team of officials at the Department of Foreign Affairs. The DFA obviously has diminishing control over, and communication lines with, the president. That may not be the DFA's fault, but there is egg on their faces nonetheless.

That is far from the only diplomatic incident that sprang from Higgins' decision. Former taoiseach John Bruton rashly chimed in on the airwaves that Higgins is bound to accept government advice and to attend. He is not. Higgins has clear obligations to the government on constitutional matters. Accepting an invitation to attend a church service is obviously not an infringement of Article 13 of the constitution; it is not a constitutional issue at all. Bruton's criticism elicited a rebuke from Higgins: 'I have to take exception, quite frankly, to people who have suggested I have broken the Constitution. I find it a very extraordinary comment from the former prime minister and a member of the consulate of state'.

There was further sparring. Bruton maintained that 'this was one of the most important invitations he would have received as president — it wasn't an invitation to the opening of a credit union in Co Kerry'. Higgins responded by urging Bruton to 'withdraw his remarks about the significance of a credit union meeting in Kerry because I can't think of any more important organisation than the credit union movement'. In a country where royalism is anathema, Bruton's effusive response to the British royal family in the past is remembered, and his sneer about credit unions does nothing to dispel the perception that an admiration for royalty is bound up with contempt for less elevated people.

The most difficult critique for the president to read may have been from Denis Bradley. A former priest in Derry, Bradley has been clear-sighted in approaching the demons of the past in the North and attempting to facilitate dialogue between

the communities. Bradley illustrated in an article the reasons why a change of heart on Higgins' part would have constituted leadership at a time when Anglo-Irish relations have been terribly damaged by Brexit.

Colum Eastwood, leader of the SDLP, indicated that his party will send a representative and argued that Downpatrick is the ancient ecclesiastical centre of Ireland - creative thinking about decentralisation in Ireland is in vogue just now. Similarly, the party that calls itself 'the republican party', Fianna Fáil, will send representatives, including the taoiseach. Initially, Fine Gael seemed intent on sending Minister Heather Humphreys to the service. Humphreys hails from Drum, County Monaghan, just south of the border, a majority Protestant place which was designated part of the South when the border was drawn. Fine Gael will now send the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney, which highlights the difference between the government's policy and the president's view on this issue. Sinn Féin will not attend and Higgins' absence provides them with useful cover.

The DUP will be there with bells on and with good recording devices: from the moment that Higgins' decline became known the DUP never missed a chance to portray his decision as lacking inclusivity and generosity. The DUP is hanging in with a 13% approval rating so they are making hay out of the 'snub'.

It will now become harder for Higgins to invite unionists to Áras an Uachtaráin because even moderate unionists will find it harder to accept his invitation, and that is a pity. The president's home, particularly since Mary McAleese's two terms in office, has become a site of facilitation of intercommunal dialogue and, to adopt McAleese's mantra, bridge-building.

Higgins was a successful politician long before he was president. The presidency is allegedly 'above politics'. But a shrewd political commentator during the 1960s and 1970s, John Healy, was apt to write that as 'Above Politics'. Higgins knew he had the support of the people in not attending the church service in Armagh. A poll taken after the flare-up duly found that fully 68% of Irish people think he was right. Higgins is 80 years old and has secured his second term as president. He will not be seeking a mandate for public office again and, even if he were to seek one, he would not be damaged electorally by this episode. Unless, of course, there was a United Ireland and he had to appeal to unionists for a vote.



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Publication Title and Owner or Mailing Agent Name Irish American News Irish American News 5618 W. Fillmore St. Chicago, IL 60648	Primary/Contributor Registered Firm's No. 540 38 2021	Postmaster: Send this form to: Periodicals Mail Unit P.O. Box 3582 Palatine, IL 60069-0358
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 VIRTUALLY FROM HOME, 12/7

The 2021 Concern Global Gala: **Unite to Fight Hunger** will be 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.



PERIODICAL

ISSN #1085-4053 USPS #013454
 November 2021 Vol. XLV #11
 Founder Bob Burns
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 Cathy Curry Carlson
 Advertising Sales Cliff Carlson
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 Send address changes to
 Irish News, Inc.
 PO Box 7, Zion, IL 60099



PUBLISHERS STATEMENT

The opinions and statements expressed in this newspaper are entirely those of the authors, and do not reflect in any way the opinions of Irish American News.

Distribution 12,013 monthly

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Newly Renovated Clancy's Pizza Pub to Host Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfetones, Sunday, 11-21

Coming out of the pandemic, the southsides favorite Irish venue kept busy expanding and our staff working" says Proprietor Kevin O'Kennedy. "Tradesmen were also out of work so we took



improving. All set to go now, they will feature the legendary Derek Warfield & the Young Wolfetones once again on Sunday, November 21st at 7 pm. "Throughout the pandemic we were blessed with amazing support, not only for our take out and delivery business, but also sending meals to hospitals and first responders, keeping

was originally scheduled to play in 2020 when everything was put on hold. "We are pleased and excited to be back in America" says Derek, known worldwide for songs and stories of the Irish people and their struggle for freedom. Clancy's features a full family friendly menu including Irish fare. You can find traditional sessions hosted by the legend John Williams or the Murphy Roche school every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The

advantage by expanding into the next door segment adding 20 additional bar stool seats, TV's for sports, new modern restrooms as well as storage and kitchen facilities" adds co-owner Katie Clancy who has taken over the day to day operations. Derek, an original founding member of the famous Wolfetones band,

newer Clancy's 95th Irish Tavern, also in Oak Lawn is their new neighborhood pub featuring live music nightly.

Event: Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfetones, Sunday, November 21, 2021. Clancys Pizza Pub, 4624 w 103rd St., Oak Lawn. Admission \$30, seating is limited. 708-422-1110

Fiddlers Frenzy Hosts an Online Interactive Experience for Musicians of All Levels January 14-16

Fiddlers Winnie Horan (founding Solas member), Jessie Burns, Ellery Klein, and Katie Grennan (past and current Gaelic Storm fiddlers) have joined forces to host an online, interactive experience for musicians of all levels called Fiddle Frenzy on January 14-16 2022. They held their first "frenzy" via zoom this past

February and had over 100 fiddlers partake from around the world. This year, they are expanding the teaching panel this year to include additional guest fiddlers, including Chicago's treasure, Liz Carroll. "Frenzy's" goal is to build community and friendship among fiddlers no matter where they are in the world, while also

learning new skills/tunes. The weekend includes workshops, panel Q & A dialogues, group discussions, supplemental sessions on how to best care for your instrument, and more. Interested participants can find out more on www.eventbrite.com (fsearch for iddle frenzy) and sign up for day passes or full weekend registration.

Fiddle Frenzy

Cold Times Warm Hearts Hot Tunes

WINIFRED HORAN

JESSIE BURNS

ELLERY KLEIN

KATIE GRENNAN

JANUARY 14 - 16 2022

IAHC Library

Much work went into the library at the Irish American Heritage Center to make it a research library with the collection on World Catalog.

As a circulating library it is available to members of the IAHC.

The building was repurposed to accommodate the IAHC Library reinforcing the floors with steel beams to handle the weight of its many books.

The library is the vision of the many volunteers who had the foresight and vision to create such a contribution to Irish Culture.

The Books & Music

The collection is approximately 30,000 volumes comprised of archival books, Irish history, culture and literature. There is a large Irish language (Gaelic) book collection, including children's books. The music collection is comprised of 3000 LP's CD's and sheet music.



Genealogy

While much of genealogy is researched online, the library has an extensive genealogy collection.

Schedule an appointment to meet with a genealogist to assist with finding your roots! IAHC Library, 4626 N Knox Ave., Chicago, IL 60630 at 1.773.282.7035 x19 iahclibrary@irishahc.org

Chicago Scots Host 176th Annual Saint Andrew's Day Gala, December 3 'Feast of the Haggis' the Longest Running Black Tie Event In Chicago!

Held annually even in times of war, depression, and pandemics, is thrilled to celebrate Scottish identity and history at the Chicago History Museum, featuring a movable feast, a special award presentation, live entertainment throughout and Covid Careful!

The Chicago Scots, the first and oldest non-profit organization in Illinois, is proud to celebrate Scotland and Scottish identity by hosting their 176th Annual Saint Andrew's Day Gala, "The Feast of the Haggis", on Friday, December 3 beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the Chicago History Museum located at 1601 N Clark St.

Throughout the spectacular evening, guests will enjoy a 'movable feast' with delicious bites and cocktails under the direction of Celebrity Guest Chef Gary MacLean from Scotland, along with live entertainment throughout, a special award presentation to honor this year's Distinguished Citizen and access to the museum's two newest exhibitions. Allproceeds benefit the Chicago Scots' principal charity, Caledonia Senior Living and Memory Care in North Riverside. The Chicago Scots welcome everyone who is Scottish by birth, by heritage or simply by inclination! For more info DawnMiller@ChicagoScots.org



Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

AGOG in the 21st Century

A couple of years back, shortly after officially becoming AGOG (A Grumpy Old Git), I enthusiastically embraced the notion of avoiding as much as possible all dealings with the rest of my species. Especially the younger ones, who can be particularly irritating in the current Greta Thunberg/pretend to care about the environment / be offended by everything era.

Now as it happens this cheerful notion waltzed merrily through my poor suffering noggin at just the right moment in history. Total lockdown be praised! You were a Godsend. However, here we are, inching out of it, with Ireland presumably on course to open up again completely on October 22, five days after I write this. And in

truth a great many people found lockdown difficult, so it's a good time for them.

However, misanthropes are people too; and now we are facing - all alone, if that's not a contradiction in terms - the utter, mind-numbing horror of human interaction resuming.

It started for me in earnest this week. Wouldn't you know it? As if some malign, vindictive Deity of Misery - some Lady Queen of Pain - had looked down and noticed that I'd been enjoying the peace and quiet too much, a celestial decision seems to have been taken to drag me back to the world of debilitating white noise.

Not one but two - count them, two - 20-year-olds decided to lecture me on how we must save the planet; global warming; how my generation is to blame

for... oh, everything; and yakety-yakkety-yakkety-yak.

Now I've got a short fuse at the best of times, but when I get lectured to by the same entitled brats who pre-lockdown I would see regularly littering the streets with their junk and half-eaten takeaways after falling out of the pub... well, it gets even shorter again. Still, I try to remind myself that I was also 20 years old once and knew everything as opposed to being in my 60s where I find to my surprise that I actually know very little. So, these days I confine myself to simply saying that I have more than done my bit for the environment by deciding early on never to breed. Back when I was a teenager, in fact.

I won't be planting trees or any of that nonsense; but as far as I'm concerned, by the determined act of not having children, I have earned the right to fly wherever I damn well feel like it for the rest of my life and to do it business class if I possibly can.

But if you even just dip into this column very occasionally then you know I've felt like that since long before it became a matter of fashionable course for every useless brain-dead actor to start eco-preaching, not to mention look-how-caring-I-am politicians, sanctimonious rock stars hooking onto the latest trend, or members of the Royal Family telling the peasants and those in steerage how to live and what to give up. Or near to ex-members in the particularly pointless case of Harry Has-Been Dimwit and his leash-holder Me-Me Again Markle.

And of course, you will know that I reserve a particular loathing for the Irish Green Party, who have, with our recent Budget, backed the Greyhound Industry getting a nice little payment of 17.6 million. Yes, this WOULD be the same Greyhound Industry that the venomous Greens promised pre-election would be wiped out. You who voted for them, you deserve everything you get --although unfortunately normal people get shafted right

along with you. It's not as if they don't have a previous record of pathologically lying through their teeth. But it made you feel virtuous, it made you feel righteous, it made you feel Green.

Since you know my feelings let me instead bring in AGOG par excellence, Australian Alan Jones, the 80-year-old former broadcaster/ former Australian rugby league coach. Not a man to call a spade a gardening implement, he never holds back; and while I don't agree with all of his views, when he's on the ball I punch the air in delight. As an example, here he was after another moan from teenage eco-bore Theda Thunberg a couple of years back. And try to hear that great Oz accent in your head as you read. It makes it even better.

"To all the school kids going on strike for climate change: you're the first generation who've required air-conditioning for every class room. You want TV in every room and your classes are all computerized. You spend all day and night on electronic devices. More than ever, you don't walk or ride bicycles to school but you arrive in private cars that choke suburban roads and worsen rush hour traffic. You are the biggest consumers of manufactured goods ever and update perfectly good, expensive luxury items to stay trendy. Your entertainment comes from electronic devices. Furthermore, the people driving your protests are the same people who insist on actually inflating the population growth through immigration, which increases the need for energy, manufacturing and transport. The more people we have, the more forest and bushland we clear; the more of the environment is destroyed.

"How about this? Get your teachers to switch off the air-con; walk or ride to school; switch off your devices and read a book; make a sandwich instead of buying manufactured fast food. No. None of this will happen. Because you are selfish, badly educated, virtue-signaling little turds, inspired by the

adults around you who crave a feeling of having a 'noble cause' while they indulge themselves in Western luxury and unprecedented quality of life. Wake up, grow up and shut up."

That's my Alan!

I had intended to balance out my grouching by congratulating County Mayo writer Sally Rooney on her latest novel. At the age of only thirty she is a quite remarkable success story and it's always great to see that. However, just last week she referenced Israel as an apartheid state (a demonstrable nonsense) and said that she would not be allowing the novel to be translated into Hebrew. She has also declared herself to be a Marxist. Oh dear. Although that might explain why it's difficult to find a photograph of her smiling. For a wealthy and talented woman, she looks as if she has the weight of the world on her shoulders. Predictably, it will be a welcome decision in Ireland, where I find anti-Israel feeling quite baffling. The conflict there is complex in the extreme but we seem to have reduced it to the notion of Good Guys vs Bad Guys. Ireland's Jewish community is small and this slap in the face for them is not only disheartening but downright dangerous, considering how very influential Ms. Rooney has become. I guess you don't have to be on the other side of sixty to be a bit of a grouch.

So instead, I'm going to congratulate Donegal man Conor Maguire, who has been nominated for three global Big Wave Surfing awards on October 29. Last October the 27-year-old rode a 60 ft wave at Mullaghmore Head in County Sligo. I'm in awe of these guys.

And also a big shout out to actress Saoirse Ronan, who simply goes from strength to strength and is currently drawing rave reviews as Lady Macbeth on the London stage.

So, I guess that not all young people are to be avoided.

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**Irish Books and Plays
in Review**

Frank West



rest in hovels unfit for habitation, the mine owners, the investors, and the coal companies were reaping enormous

The Molly Maguire's

by Anthony Birba
International Publishers

I thought the Molly Maguire's were a secret organization composed of coalminers who resisted the brutal working conditions of miners who worked in the anthracite or hard coal area of Pennsylvania. I was surprised to learn that there was no organization like that! The mine owners made up that name!

In a book with many flammable topics, the author carefully and scrupulously documents each statement from the period. "Although at least nineteen men died on the gallows as Mollies during the 1870's, there was one organization by that name. Both the organization and the name were invented by the mine owners in order to provide a convenient label for any militant miners. "The mine owners proceeded to fasten this label upon all leaders of the miners they wished to get rid of."

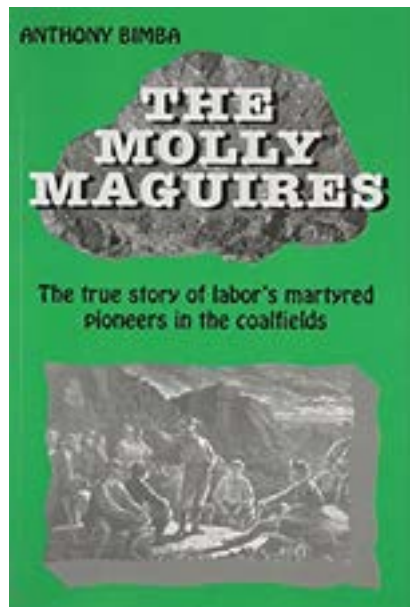
"While the minder crawled underground in mud and water, breathing coal dust and powder, smoke, emerging from the living hell below—if not blasted to death or mutilated—only to find

profits."

Most of the anthracite mines, and the vast adjoining land, were owned by the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. Its president was Franklin Gowen. It was he who invented the name of the Molly McGuire's. It was he who took the Pinkerton Detective Agency to the coal region, with its spies and provocateurs. It was he who made the Pennsylvania militia do his will and become his look eye. He asked that Federal Troops be called into a labor dispute for the first time in American. He asked courts to define unions. Courts defined unions as a 'malicious conspiracy.'

"AS it had in Ireland, the Catholic Church took an active part in the Pennsylvania Coalfields controversy. Gowen himself declared Archbishop Wood of Philadelphia was the only person to whom he confided his plans for imparting detectives and provocateurs..." Gowen and Wood walked hand-in-hand on the backs of the miners. "Most of the anthracite coal miners were Irish and oppression was a common experience."

"Foreign oppression, bitter exploitation, the theft of land and brutal poverty always in the shadow of the British hangman's noose, drove thousands of Irish workers to foreign lands. A great



many of them, baptized in the fire of class struggle in Ireland, emigrated to America. Many came into the coal region of Pennsylvania, where they found class war in a new guise, but class war none the less. Here, as in Ireland, were exploitation, starvation, the lack of the right to organize—and ethnic hatred too."

Over the door of many employment offices there hung a sign bearing these words: No Irish Need Apply.

As most of the miners were Catholic, "the operators and mine owners used the backing of the Catholic Church to the fullest advantage. The Irish coal workers, themselves good Catholic, were confronted with what was a terrible

threat. They were offered the alternative, of either giving up protests and their struggle against the mine owners or of being cursed and excommunicated from the church."

"The trial and execution of the Mollies was used by the employers to pick off the most militant of the Irish minders in an attempt to terrorize the rest into submission." The execution of the Mollies was the culmination of a class struggle in which the ruling class was the victor. The operators could paint the minders as assassins and murders and in giving their characterization a sense of reality because...the press and the state were instruments of theirs."

The miners "had to become prisoners in evolving, new methods, to fit the new situation. However, the background of the miners struggle in Ireland 'stood them in good stead.' They utilized on a large scale the policy of mass picketing, of opposing the power of the names to the concentrated power of the owners."

Despite the difficult conditions, the strength of unions grew slowly during the end of the 1800's. Today, we can see some of the results of the union movement—the 8 hour day, Saturday off, the dignity of workers, good pay, insurance coverage, etc.

The protection of unions by government laws and the goals of the union movement were not fully fulfilled until the New Deal of President Franklin Roosevelt in the 1930's.

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Jillian P.



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Hi, I'm **Annie Nestor**. I was born in Ireland and have family from Galway, Mayo and Kerry. I'm a locally owned Home Care Agency founded in 2015.

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Home is Where the Heart Is

By Aishling Kelly



receiving a “pass” which makes travelling simpler.

Upon arrival at the check-in counter you must open the app and show

Senior Advocacy and Consideration

On a recent trip internationally, I could not but notice an issue that seniors may encounter if they were to be taking the same trip I did. I’m not entirely sure how “computer-savvy” our baby boomer generation is, but in the spirit of transparency, I will share that I found the flying prerequisites, including the VeriFly app and other requirements somewhat challenging.

For those who have not traveled abroad yet since the pandemic began, there is an application called VeriFly that can be downloaded on your smartphone before travelling. This app is suggested to be downloaded prior to your flight both to Ireland and back. Flight details, vaccination status and dates, contact information, and destination addresses and phone numbers are all required to be entered into the app along with a picture of the traveller before

this documentation, and before leaving your destination to fly back to the United States you are required to have a rapid covid test- proof of which also needs to be loaded into the app. A PCR test that is taken no more than 72 hours before your flight time is required, allowing time for the test to be run and results emailed back before returning to the States. In other words, more documentation is required of those travelling back and forth.

While it may be necessary, there is a lot of documentation and “tech-savviness” needed to navigate directions, upload information, and use the app in order to complete the recommended procedure. It is a very well thought out process for those proficient on smartphones, but what about the folks or older generation who may not know how to independently use apps, smartphones, or have phones at all?

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I can remember when I was very young, my dad coming in a bit later from work than usual and saying, "Helen Marie, sorry I'm late. Stopped for a quick pint and the Horse gave a song." It was many years later after having the privilege of getting to know Jimmy Keane, that I realized my dad had stayed to listen to his dad, the Horse, sing. I can only imagine how, after a long day's work, his singing added enjoyment to that on the way home pint.

Jimmy Keane spent his pandemic isolation putting together an epic project that includes 192 tunes and songs along with 271 pages of liner notes, photos, and scores that give an enjoyable and



informative history of Chicago's and America's traditional Irish music journey. Titled HORSE, it is a heartfelt tribute to his father, an iron worker, who was taken from him too early in a construction accident while building the 900 North Michigan Avenue building in February of 1989 when only 60 years old.

Jimmy was born in London when his parents, his dad from Connemara and his mom from Kerry, had moved there for better work opportunities. They moved back to Ireland, then to Chicago, then back to Ireland before permanently settling down in Chicago in 1965. As those of our ages and older give where in Chicago we lived, he was from St. Sabina's and then St. Nick's. Jimmy started playing when he was very young and by age 13 was playing gigs in pubs. He took accordion lessons initially from CF Marsh, but then learned most of his music by ear.

HORSE treats us to and honors the beautiful sean-nos singing of his dad, and the progression of Jimmy's musical career via his narration in



On the Upbeat

By Maryann
McTeague Keifer



Jimmy Keane and Jimmy 'Horse' Keane, his father

in copious amounts. I was an occasional viewer; Jimmy lived this, and through this album, we also get to live these memorable times and events.

It is impossible to start mentioning favorites and highlights as they are all worthy. I have

replayed several times, The Horse singing "An Sagait O'Domhnaill" (The Priest O'Donnell), "Suilleabhain's Sean" (Sullivan's John), The "Little Cuckoo," and the concluding cut, "The Rocks of the Baun." Jimmy and Marty playing "Rabbit in the Field/Moomcan Jig," he and Dennis playing "On the Eve of Christmas," Bohola's "Piper on the Hob," Green Fields of America's "Hunting the Boyne/Maid of Galway," so many with Liz, and of course, "Horse Keane's Hornpipe/The Charleston Reel" will keep you mesmerized. Their talent is palpable.

Jimmy's, descriptions, history, and tales, both humorous and at times sad, fill the tome of liner notes he has included. If you know Jimmy, it is so special to read as you have his voice and manner in your head while you read the story that goes with each piece of music. Jimmy

has always told a captivating story, but who knew what a talented writer he also is? We live the times he, Liz, Marty and others spent in the 6511 Club and Hanley's House of Happiness. We can laugh again and again at the April Fools joke Liz Carroll played on he and Marty Fahey sending them to a supposed well playing political gig only to find it was Liz' wicked sense of humor, and led to his composing of a delightful tune in its memory. There is a collection of photos that help tell the story and keep it in your mind, and often your heart.

A five time All Ireland winner on the piano accordion, Musician of the Year, Decade, and so many more awards, Jimmy has been described as "the savior of the piano accordion," and "one of the true greats of Irish traditional music in the past 50 years." He has always been a person we go to for background and history. This project is an example of why we look to him. He is a wealth of information, experience, and love of the music. HORSE passes this onto us in spades. Delivered in a clever flash drive packaged in an old-fashioned cassette, it like its content, well represents the old merging with the new. Well done, Jimmy, and thank you!

I have to admit, I am not quite through the entire collection. I keep replaying so many of the musical cuts that are so exciting to hear. Some are from studio recordings, but many are from home or pub settings with occasional conversation in the background. It is fascinating! A few times when I was quite young, my grandmother took me to a couple of those house sessions. I remember well Eleanor's lovely dresses with skirts that twirled when she'd get up from the piano bench. She was always playing the piano facing the wall, but had a beautiful smile when she'd turn around. I was usually in the kitchen with my gram and others not playing watching the tea being made

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DECEMBER 2021

A Chairde,

We give thanks this month to you and to all our volunteers and staff. To you for your support and participation, including purchasing tickets for our \$100,000 grand prize draw. To our many adult and youth volunteers for all that they do for us throughout the year, and most visibly during our special events. And to our staff for their incredible efforts over the past year, with many of them doing the work of more than one person on a regular basis.

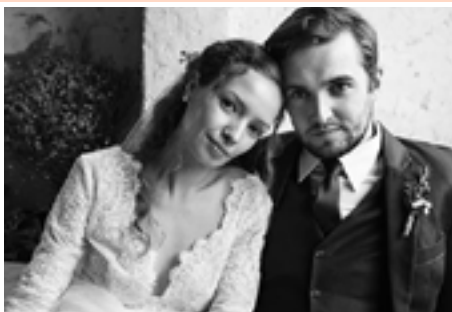
Now is a great time to do the following: register for the Carraig Pub Challenge 5K (November 28th) and do some training if you need to; make a reservation to join us to celebrate Thanksgiving; and, purchase tickets to see Jig Jam (the best Irish bluegrass band that is mostly from Offaly) on December 5th.

Go raigh maith agat,

Bill O'Sullivan

Book Club Get Together Nov 7th - 1pm to 3pm (all invited!)
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As such, we are asking for you to partner with us and become a sponsor for this important fundraising event. While a donation of at least \$200.00 is needed to place your name as a main sponsor on the back of our race shirts, any donation would be gladly accepted. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at 708-687-9323. Thank you for your consideration and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Mike Cooke

Gaelic Park Charities / Carraig Challenge 5k Coordinator

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PADDY MALONEY, Musical Chieftain, Has Died in Dublin at 83

By Tom O'Gorman
 1 August 1938-12 October 2021
 Long ago my educational re-
 finement in Ireland's magical
 rediscovery of itself was due to
 a mentoring uncle once at school
 with Sean O Riada, the man who
 dug up ancient Celtic traditions
 like treasure buried in
 a bog.

As a young man in
 Ireland, late night
 post pub crawls were
 filled with listening to
 recordings of "new"
 music, as old as circled
 stones and dolmens
 on the landscape. My
 wise, lyrical Uncle,
 Tom Canty, taught me
 to listen to the un-
 familiar sounds that
 were ancient, twice a
 thousand years, to airs
 and dances hidden and
 lost in the treachery of
 foreign occupation.

Sounds unleashed by
 a sense of new Irish na-
 tionalism as demonstrative as the
 return of our ancient language.
 Europe's best cultural rediscovery
 since the Renaissance. Just in
 time for the 50th anniversary of
 the Irish final push to independent
 nationhood in 1966.

The sounds and melodies of
 that hidden, forgotten cultural
 tradition were visceral and
 intoxicating. They seized the
 imagination and patriotism of the
 nation and ushered in the dawn of
 a new Ireland. Well beyond the
 trappings of familiar immigrant
 culture. But revived a cultural
 imaging that has only grown.
 Now, another 50 years later, the
 traditions, once lost, have poeti-
 cally and politically transformed
 Europe's Irish tiger.

Around the scholarly O Riada
 was a coterie of young Celtic
 musicians whose artistic abilities
 were only matched by the re-
 stored understanding of real Irish
 traditions. Bronze Age rhythms
 merged with historic lyrical he-
 gemony. These lads lived a life-
 time after their mentor's early
 death. And congealed as "The
 Chieftains" for their transforma-

tive cultural expression.
 No one was more faithful and
 creative in that cultural pursuit
 than Paddy Maloney who now
 returns to God with gifts and
 accomplishments to make heav-
 en filled with envy. It's hard to
 imagine the cultural landscape of



Irish princes who knew dignity and
 freedom on Irish soil plundered
 by our foes. Paddy Maloney's
 contribution to Irish life is far
 beyond music making. He brought
 a critical renaissance to pass. In
 that we found the cultural power
 of the true ancient Irish arts that
 still can transform and renew
 our lives in the present. Paddy's
 personal friendship was a grace
 and a gift I will forever cherish.
 Made more life-giving shared with
 our pal Desmond Guinness. On
 Dublin streets. In West Cork pubs.
 Or in the great concert halls of

the world to which Paddy carried
 traditional Irish music. Such ro-
 mance and confidence told us we
 were more than shallow nomads,
 but rather the poetic chiefs of
 an ancient continent, even now
 transformed by our pipes and
 whistles to enduring tribal ways.

In ancient Irish poetry, Marbán
 the hermit, brother of Guaire,
 king of Connacht, says this about
 such music:

Fogur gáithe

fri fid fleascach,
 forglas néol;
 essa aba,
 esnad ala,
 álainn céol.
 Sound of the wind
 in a branching wood,
 grey cloud; river-falls,
 cry of a swan -
 beautiful music.

Paddy was laid to rest in Glen-
 dalough, Co. Wicklow, pictured
 on the cover.

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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

In mid-October we mourned the passing of Paddy Moloney, founder and leader of The Chieftains, a force to be reckoned with on the world stage. The Chieftains was also an American breakthrough prompted by releases providing an access point to traditional and folk music spanning a wide and international audience. The group's relentless work ethic and reputation were formally acknowledged as cultural ambassadors by the Irish Government. The performers also won Lifetime Achievement recognition and an award at the BBC Folk Project in 2002 including six Grammy awards. Moloney founded the Chieftains in Dublin in 1963 alongside the original lineup of Sean Potts (tin whistle), Martin Fay (fiddle), David Fallon (bodhran), and Mick Tubridy (flute.) Over the years Moloney's Chieftains worked with a wide range of artists, Mick Jagger, Elvis Costello, and Sinéad O'Connor. In 1980 Moloney recorded with Paul McCartney on the Tug of War album and in sessions in London with the former Beatle and producer George Martin the day after John Lennon was murdered in New York.

Living in Boston in the sixties I was a member of the Eire Society one of the city's oldest non-political Irish organizations that continues today promoting knowledge of Irish culture, encouraging study

in the arts, sciences, literature, language and history of Ireland. It also promotes the contributions to civilization made by the Irish and those of Irish ancestry. It's non-political. It was at one of the Eire Society of Boston events that I met Paddy Moloney. Of slight build, exhibiting a massive personality we were introduced. Upon discovering my surname was McCaffrey, (maiden name) he held my arm and walked me into a quiet corner.

Our conversation was pure magic. Did I know, says he, that he grew up playing the Irish tin whistle? He was six, and at the age of eight mastered the Uilleann pipes. Did I know that the one person in his life who introduced him to the musical nuances of the tin whistle was Brother McCaffrey from the Christian Brother's Secondary School in Dublin?

We chatted long, I learned the violin as a tiny tot from my father and went forward in my teens to play first violin in the Saint Louis Convent School award-winning orchestra. Maloney beamed, then performed for his Irish-American audience the sweetness Irish airs on the tin whistle, the sort of sound that creeps up your spine, eyes glaze over with tears and you pray the music never stops. Mister Moloney was attending this Eire Society event to ac-

cept its Gold Medal Award and its Citation written by Seamus Heaney. At the time he was a professor-in-residence in the English Department at Harvard University. The prestigious award recognized Moloney's enormous contribution to Irish traditional music, song and dance as well as the creation of a wonderful musical legacy. Maloney joined a long and prestigious group of past recipients of that Gold Medal including President John F. Kennedy, Maureen O'Hara, Seamus Heaney, George Mitchell and US Ambassadors to Ireland William W. McCormack and Jean Kennedy Smith.

The Chieftains played all over the world, a musical audience with Pope John Paul on his 1977 visit to Ireland, Queen Elizabeth on her Irish visit, dignitaries of the Chinese government and Moloney's band earned an invite from the Chinese government, the first Western band to perform on the Great Wall of China. The Chieftains were unstoppable. Their reputation led to collaborate with a wide variety of musicians

including, Willie Nelson, Sting, Tom Jones and The Rolling Stones.

Other Irishmen and women honored by the Eire Society in Boston included John Hume during a symposium entitled: "John Hume: His Vision and Legacy for Ireland, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. The event was hosted by the Center for Irish Programs at Boston College. One lengthy discussion focused on healing divisions within Northern Ireland, Civil rights, human rights and campaign efforts by John Hume. It was hailed as a framework for building "An Agreed Ireland" in power sharing and partnership.

Meanwhile, back in Ireland, word spread about the passing of Paddy Moloney. He was 83 years old. Irish President Michael D. Higgins offered a public tribute praising the diseased who he said was at the forefront of the renaissance of interest in Irish music. "The Irish music

community, and indeed the much larger community throughout the world found such inspiration in his work, and learn with great sadness of the death of the founder and leader of the Chieftains. He added that Paddy's legacy will remain with us "in the music which he created and brought to the world". On behalf of himself and the people of Ireland, President Higgins expressed deepest condolences to the Moloney's family and friends, and in particular to his wife Rita and his children Aonghus, Pdraig and Aedin."

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Ireland Network Chicago Celebrates 2nd Annual Golf Outing at Cog Hill

By Emmett Fitzpatrick

A year ago, the Ireland Network Chicago hosted its inaugural golf outing, which sold out as members were eager to come together for a rare in-person event during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's event showed no signs of losing momentum, as over 100 golfers descended upon Cog Hill Golf and Country Club on Friday, October 8 to support IN Chicago's mission of enabling members, partners, sponsors, and supporters to connect with and contribute to a stronger, more vibrant Irish community.

"The Ireland Network Committee and I were delighted to welcome so many supporters to Cog Hill for our outing," remarked IN Chicago President Garrett Diamond, "and we were pleased with the great weather that was had during the day. Who knew we would be treated to an Irish rainbow over the pavilion during the post round celebrations! I'd like to extend thanks to our signature sponsors Kerry Group for their support along with event and hole sponsors whose financial assistance help put these great networking events together! Many thanks as well to our raffle prize sponsors, including Aer Lingus."

James Sheehan, who formerly served as President of IN Chicago, and his teammates shot an impressive 12-under-par to capture first place. Chicagoan Matt Chandler, who matriculated at University College Cork, won the

closest-to-the pin contest, while Ireland native and past IN-Chicago committee member Joe McKittrick powered his way to winning the long-drive contest.

After the round of golf, participants gathered for a reception and dinner in a tent overlooking the eighteenth hole, where they were treated to live music performances from the Murphy Roche School of Irish Music and Gareth Woods.

In addition to the fun and merriment, the outing also featured a raffle that raised \$3,000 for Irish Community Services. Scott Brennan, member of the ICS Associate Board, was on hand to accept the donation.

"We are most appreciative of the Ireland Network's generosity in supporting our mission to serve, empower, and connect the Irish and Irish American community of the Midwestern United States," Scott remarked. "They have been a steadfast partner of us for a long time, and it was a great day on the links. My only regret was that Joe McKittrick narrowly beat me on the long drive contest!"

The golf outing was one of several events that IN-Chicago has hosted since the return of in-person activities in June, and membership has increased two-fold this year. Upcoming gatherings include a community service outing at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, First Friday social events in November and December, and the ever popular annual black-tie ball on February 12, 2022.



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Broken Love, by Meghann Scully

Irishman, and long time Chicagoan, Coley Newell, thought we should take a look at these two books by Meghann Scully. A poignant and honest book exploring loss and grief written by Millennial broadcaster, Meghann Scully from Ardrahan, Galway, Ireland. In her first book, wellness blogger with The Book Hub Publishing Group, Meghann Scully, candidly discusses the deaths of her brother and father whilst she was a teenager and how she has tried to navigate her way through her loss and grief.

[Buy Book Here!](#)

After years of reading, researching and putting plans into practice, I have developed the MEG Method. This is to help you achieve your goals and milestones in your life.

The bestselling book, 'The Secret' spoke of the Law of Attraction; you ask, you believe, and you receive. The Science of Wellbeing Course

something. Be truly mindful of what you want.

Then envisage that reality. You can use a mood board and have a physical representation of what you want.



Then Go get it.

[Buy Book Here!](#)

Practice the MEG Method every morning. Write down what it is you want and each morning read it out loud. This is where mindfulness also comes to play. Practice mindfulness as you visualise yourself getting that goal.

You can use this method for so many areas of your life. Some years ago, I made the decision that I wanted to travel as much as I could. In the space of twelve months, I visited a new city every month. It was incredible. It also taught me how to budget and save so I could afford each trip.

You can use such methods to attract love as well. You can also use it for your career. But you have to believe in the process as well.

Little Pocket of Love is a book of inspiration for you to take into 2021. Written by author and broadcaster, Meghann Scully, it aims to bring you calm in a hectic world.



from Yale University taught me about the WOOP technique, the wish, outcome, obstacle and plan methodology, which I have found particularly useful.

And in these pages, I present the MEG Method.

M = Mind

E = Envisage

G = Go

You must first set your mind to

The Armagh Rhymers Macha Literary Trail

There is scarcely a townland in all of Ulster which has not been touched by poet's pen or singer's tongue.

This vibrant culture has been passed down over countless generations, forging a relationship between people and place. Let our horse Goddess Macha take you on a virtual journey through Armagh as the Rhymers share the literary legacy in their hometown.



Based on an original piece of art by Dara Vallely, 'Macha, The Horse Goddess' forms a map, with each icon representing a different literary location around Armagh. Click through

to learn more and watch or listen to poems, stories & songs by The Armagh Rhymers influenced by, or featuring that location.

This project was developed as part of the [SpotLight EU](#) program aiming to grow the literary tourism sector

in the Northern Periphery & Arctic region by supporting the organisations and businesses in this culturally-rich region to grow collaborate and better engage audiences together.



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**Thought for Food**

No one will deny that we have had a fantastic summer extending well into the fall, but the leaves are starting to change and there is a chill in the air. Not to worry this is the perfect time for comfort food. Something warm, and soul satisfying. Food that puts a smile on your face and may even awaken



memories of your Mom, or Gran in the kitchen. Here are a couple of easy recipes your whole family will enjoy. The most important first step in any recipe is to read the recipe before starting and make sure you have all the ingredients prepped and ready to go. The French call this mise en place.

Here is a variation of the classic French onion soup. The addition of Guinness stout, Irish brown bread, and Irish Cheddar cheese, gives it a definite Irish twist.

French Onion Soup with an Irish Twist Serves 6

4 large onions peeled, cut in half and cut into ¼ inch slices

2 cloves of garlic peeled and chopped

4 tablespoons unsalted butter

2 tablespoons flour

14.9 oz can of Guinness

16 oz chicken stock

16 oz beef stock

½ teaspoon dried thyme

1 tablespoon parsley dried or fresh

¼ teaspoon black pepper

Salt to taste

Irish brown bread cut in ¾ inch rounds to fit bowl and toasted

1 ½ cups of shredded Irish cheddar or 12 slices

Optional 2 tablespoons cornstarch mixed with 2 tablespoons water

Melt butter in a large pot with lid. Add sliced onions a sauté covered over med heat for 30min-

utes stirring occasionally to make sure onions aren't burning. Onions should be golden brown. Add chopped garlic and continue to cook another 10 minutes. Stir in flour and cook uncovered for 5 minutes. Add Guinness and stir to prevent lumping. Increase heat to simmer and cook additional 5 minutes. Add both stocks herbs and black

pepper. Simmer uncovered for 30 minutes. Soup should be slightly thickened and onions should be soft.

If you prefer a thicker soup you can add 2 tablespoons is cornstarch mixed with 2tablespoons of water mixed until smooth.

To serve place one round of brown bread in a rimless soup cup or crock. Ladle 6oz of soup with onions over bread. Top with ½ cup or two slices of Irish Cheddar cheese and place under a broiler until cheese melts and begins to brown. **Irish Brown Bread 24oz loaf**

5oz stone ground whole wheat flour (1 ¾ cup)

7oz plain white flour (1 cup)

1teaspoon salt

1teaspoon baking soda

½ oz wheat germ (2tablespoons)

½ oz wheat bran (1 ½ table- spoon)

½ oz whole wheat berries (1 ½ tablespoon)

½ oz cracked wheat (1 ½ tablespoon)

8oz unsalted butter

8-10 oz buttermilk

Unsulphured molasses or treacle

For topping

2 oz buttermilk

1teaspoon cracked wheat

1teaspoon rolled oats

Place White and wheat flour, salt, baking soda, an butter in a food processor and blend until butter is thoroughly incorporated. Put flour mixture in a bowl. Add grains treacle, and buttermilk and mix with a spoon or spatula until dough is formed. Do not over work the dough. Dough should be slightly sticky but not wet. Turn out on to a floured board or counter forming into a round adding flour if dough seems too wet. Using a pastry brush, brush buttermilk over surface of loaf. Sprinkle with cracked wheat and rolled oats. Cut a cross 1inch deep in the loaf a d bake in a 400 degree oven for 15 minutes then reduce heat to 350 and continue baking for an additional 30 min.

Remove loaf and place on a wire rack to cool

I prefer to use a digital scale for measurements when baking. This ensures accuracy and consistency. Question or comment,

jimaugustfood@yahoo.com

Jim August is co-owner of the Irish Shop in Oak Park, IL, and award winning local chef.



L to R: Bridget "BC3" Collins, Emma Strong, Lexia Kennedy, ciara Haran, Conor McJannett, Amelia Carnana Kiley. Standing: Delainey Schwarz and Molly Mendez. Foreground: Fleadhfest video directors Danny Carroll and Caitlin Ryan.

**Raquel Chole & Student Emma Strong
2nd in Irish Flute & Fiddle Slow Airs**



Irish music teacher, Raquel Chole, (r) was the runner up

for the All Ireland in Sligo in August in Flute Airs. Her student, Emma Strong, was also the runner up in her competition: fiddle airs.

Irish TV featured them in a 30 minute program, which is available now on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

Raquel had a serious accident in August and nearly lost her left arm. Wishing her a speedy and full recovery!



(L to R:) St. Patrick's Father's Golf Outing sponsor, Pat Riordan of Riordan Insurance was offering a Hole-in-One prize. Conor McHale and his father, Kieran McHale gave it their best college try but they didn't win it!. Thanks to Fr. Mick and the rest of his volunteers for a great day away from Covid and politics!



(R to L): Congressman chewy Garcia, Irish Council General of Ireland; Kieran Byrne, and chairman of Celts for immigration reform; Cyril Regan, at a meeting to discuss immigration reform, Brexit, and the strong ties between the USA and Ireland..

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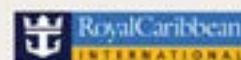


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Midwest Morning Man McGrath

God has blessed me with remarkable mentors, co-workers, friends and heroes like my public radio colleague and news director Dave McGrath who fits all those descriptions in my life.

The 73 year old announcer has no doubt professionally given céad míle fáilte, 100 thousand welcomes, in his five decades on radio, and does so to morning and noon public radio news listeners on Kenosha-Lake Geneva's WGTD-FM. He informs on-air listeners from Milwaukee's airport to the North Shore suburbs of Chicago below the Cheddar Curtain.

By way of the Emerald Isle.

Jim McClure: Dave, when did your people come to America?

Dave McGrath: My Grandfather McGrath came to the USA from County Wicklow, Ireland in the

early part of the 1900s and settled in Milwaukee. My brother Brian is doing the genealogy but there are many dead ends because of the infamous Penal Laws from that period instituted by Oliver Cromwell in 1649 and 1650. There are few if any official birth, marriage or death records because of that.

When did you get radio in your blood?

McGrath : I knew I wanted to be on the radio as early as 5th grade. My mother ALWAYS had the radio on when we were sitting in our kitchen on Oakland Avenue in Milwaukee eating breakfast and getting ready to go to school. She listened to WOKY Radio all the time. The morning man at WOKY while I was in grade school was a guy named Bill Taylor. He was slick; he was smooth; I thought he was cool. He got to play and talk about all those songs on the radio. It just seemed to me to be such a fun job.

I didn't know then how I was gonna do it---but---I knew I wanted to be on the radio.

My mother, Rita, was also a big music fan. She introduced me to her music through her collection of old 78s. I

took an instant liking to Rosemary Clooney, Frank Sinatra, Johnnie Ray, Perry Como, Frankie Laine and all those Big Band records she had, too.

The so-called British Invasion happened during my high school years at Messmer High School in Milwaukee. I was forever listening to the two Milwaukee Top 40 radio stations WOKY and WRIT to hear the latest music and news about The Beatles, The Hollies, The Rolling Stones, Herman's Hermits and all the others. I quickly became consumed by music. These two interests would collide to lead

of stuff doesn't happen to a star struck kid from the lower East Side of Milwaukee. But, it did.

I got into radio via WISN-TV 12 in Milwaukee. I began working in the TV station's mailroom after high school. I was drafted in 1968 and spent my Army tour of duty at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. I conned my way into a job as a weatherman at WAAY-TV in Huntsville.... \$10 a show. Augmented my \$90 per month Army pay!

I then used that experience when I got out of the Army to land a job at the old WRAC Ra-

Dave and Guida McGrath at the Cliffs of Moher



me to my vocation---radio---and my avocation---music.

One of the biggest American pop stars in the 1960s was Gene Pitney. His hits included "Only Love Can Break," "Town Without Pity," "(The Man Who Shot) Liberty Valance," "I'm Gonna Be Strong" and a host of others. I heard him on the radio all the time. I became a fan when the coolest guy at Saints Peter and Paul Grade School---Tony Logue---played a couple of his records on the jukebox at a restaurant where we were having malts and french fries after school one day. Tony told me that "Gene Pitney was cool." That was good enough for me!

Little did I know that 20 years later I would go into business with Gene Pitney. That's something you just can't comprehend. That kind

of stuff doesn't happen to a star struck kid from the lower East Side of Milwaukee. But, it did. I worked at a number of other stations in Racine, Kenosha and Waukesha before landing a job at WLTQ Radio in Milwaukee in 1985. That station was owned by The Hearst Corporation which also owned Channel 12. I had come full circle.

As is the case in radio I was fired from WLTQ in 1998. New ownership. In 1999 I landed the job as News Director at WGTD in Kenosha and I'm still here!

The Pitney connection led to business deals with other singers including Peter "Herman's Hermits" Noone and Dion "Run-around Sue" DiMucci. We are still out on-the-road with Dion every summer---except the last two summers---thanks COVID!

And you know a thing or two about running around!

McGrath: The US Army introduced me to running at Fort Campbell, KY in 1968. I loved it and began running competitively when I got out of the Army in 1970. I prefer half marathons (13.1 miles) I have probably done close to 100 of them. Now that I'm closing in on 73...my wife and daughter are trying to talk me out of doing them anymore. They want me to stick to 10 mile races as well as 5ks (3.1 miles) and 10ks (6.2 miles). We'll see.

Is radio still in your blood? Is it still a thrill to get up at 2 in the morning and to be on the air in your 70's?

I have been in radio since 1970 and I still love every day of it. It certainly helps that I love the sound of my own voice!!! I cannot picture myself doing anything else---but---that's because I have zero skill sets outside of talking, talking, talking. Even when I retire, I will likely work part-time---in radio.

So with all that, would you call yourself a newsman, music man or both?

McGrath: I'm a newsman who knows a lot about pop music and I'm a music fan who reads the news on the radio. I listen to music constantly at home, in the car, while I'm running and when I go to sleep at night. To back up a bit...I used my radio connections to contact Gene Pitney in a roundabout way...through his mother. Gene was very kind and we struck up a relationship which led to him asking me to go to work for him in 1985.

We formed Gene Pitney Music & Merchandising. We designed, produced and sold all of his tour merchandise like CDs, T-shirts, DVDs, etc until his untimely death in 2006. I had succeeded in the music industry with my teenage musical hero!!!

Next month we'll learn about McGrath's new book on Pitney. Like the broadcaster's three dimensional life it is an Irish American's work describing a fellow remarkable multifaceted man.

You can hear Dave McGrath from 5 a.m. to 12:30 pm live at www.wgtd.org Email Jim at IrishRoverJim@gmail.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE NOVEMBER 2021

Happy early Thanksgiving! Fall—especially around Thanksgiving time—is always the season to reflect on what we're grateful for. I want to thank all our members, volunteers, friends, and guests for your continued support of the Irish American Heritage Center! Whether through buying from the Gift Shop, visiting the Fifth Province, or joining us for one of our events, it is only thanks to the generosity of our members, donors, friends, and guests that we were able to get through the pandemic last year and still provide Irish culture virtually. It's also because of this generosity that we were able to re-open our doors last May and continue to have them open today; the work is ongoing. At this time, I ask that you consider donating to our Annual Appeal campaign, which is our primary fundraiser for the Center.

We continue to be a steward in the Irish and Irish-American community,

and for more than 40 years, we have hosted gatherings and events, dances, music, and cultural programs that bring our community together. Our building continues to be home to the IAHC and several of our partner groups. Additionally, our volunteers make our programming possible and make the IAHC a hub for Irish culture on the Northwest side. Your donation to the Annual Appeal will go towards maintaining our building and continuing the hard work of our volunteers.

Your contribution, no matter the amount, is an investment in our future and is a testament to the work done by our great community. Help us grow our cultural programming and keep the Irish American Heritage Center thriving in the future. We ask that you consider committing a gift to the IAHC



this year; your contribution now is more important than ever as we get back on our feet after the pandemic had us close our doors for more than a year.

There are a few ways you can contribute to the Annual Appeal this year: through check, online through the link provided here, or through our Annual Appeal GoFundMe, which we are circulating on our social media pages. No matter which avenue you choose, all funds will go towards the Annual Appeal fundraising total.

Help us reach our goal of \$100,000 for the 2021-2022 Annual Appeal and help continue the mission of the Irish American Heritage Center!

Thank you,

Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel
President
Irish American Heritage Center

CELEBRATION OF LIFE MASS

Join the Irish American Heritage Center for a Celebration of Life on Sunday, November 21st at 10:30am. We will gather to remember all of those that we have lost over the last 18 months, and to celebrate their memories.

Mass will be held in the Mayfair Theatre, with coffee, tea and snacks served after.

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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Thinking of booking that trip to Ireland? Planning to head home in 2022?

Ireland 2022 Raffle

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Winner picked on Oíche Nollaig na mBan on January 6, 2022. Winner need not be present to win.

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BACK WHERE WE BELONG

Putting Hard Times
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The Irish Heritage Singers have long awaited the days we could make music together and perform: the time is now! Music Director, Paul Matijevic, shares, "The Irish Heritage Singers, like most of the choirs in the world, have been away from singing for almost 18 months. The pandemic has been particularly hard on singers, since the science shows how singing creates super spreading events. But with the current remediations in place, we feel safe enough to come 'Back Where We Belong', which is on stage with our fans singing a collection of our favorites from the likes of Yeats, Percy French and Enya. And since we couldn't do this last year, we will round out our program with some Christmas tunes and a sing-a-long as well. We look forward to once again being with you, enjoying

the beauty of Irish music, and sharing our talents and time. We hope you will join us on November 21st in the Mayfair Theater." That's right friends, we have been rehearsing safely and soundly at the Irish American Heritage Center in preparation for our Annual Concert.

Prior to reuniting in person, the Singers would meet by Zoom and "perform" virtually utilizing professional audio tracks set to a video gallery of images from Ireland or past performances. Certainly not the same as the real thing, but a wonderful way to share our repertoire during these unusual times.

Longtime Irish Heritage Singer, John Mahal, jokes, "Coming back to singing after our long time off for COVID reminds me of Percy French's parody, 'Are Ye Right There Michael,' about

the West Clare Railway system in West County Clare. We had our stops and starts as we worked to get back together to practice in a safe manner and get ready for our November concert. The tie-in with Mr. French also relates to a member of the choir suggesting that I, with my developing horseshoe hairline, light gray hair, and scraggly mustache, look a bit like Percy! Well unlike Percy's train, the Singers have been working very hard to get back on track to where we belong, on

stage at the IAHC. So come to our concert (we promise to be on time) and join in as we put hard times behind. You might even hear about Percy's train ride!"

On Sunday, November 21, 2021 at 3pm in the Mayfair Theatre, the Irish Heritage Singers, resident choir of the Irish American Heritage Center, present their annual fall concert "Back Where We Belong: Putting Hard Times Behind Us". Purchase tickets at the door or online www.irish-america.org today!

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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.



The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago



Join the Irish Fellowship Club!		New Member Application	
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Or you can mail this form with a \$75 check for membership dues to:			
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P.O. Box 31604		Marital status: Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/>	
Chicago IL 60631			

Travel: The Forgotten Industry!

By Avril C. Winkle

I was born and raised in Northern Ireland and came to the U.S. when I was 29. I wanted what every immigrant wants, "to experience the American Dream." I was always mesmerized by the airport when I was a child. We lived close to Belfast International Airport and my dad used to go to the airport on a Sunday afternoon and watch the planes come and go, and even pack then I knew I would make travel my business! Now a days, most travel agents have a specialized expertise. My specialty is selling vacation experiences back to my homeland on the Island of Ireland. I love my country and I love nothing more than to share that love, along with my knowledge and expertise with those who want an authentic Irish vacation experience. There's nothing more satisfying than turning my clients travel experiences into lifelong memories

I have owned and operated my award-winning business for 16 years, a solely female owned business, and a business that I love. I have a team of experienced staff and a loyal client following, who have become almost like part of my family, they trust me to do what is right for them, which brings them back again and again.

So, fast forward and add a Global Pandemic. How has COVID-19 impacted my business? Being in the travel industry during a Global Pandemic has been a mind-altering experience. I can't even begin to explain the emotional rollercoaster it has put on us. Every business in the country has been impacted by COVID-19 in one way or another. But few sectors have been as hard hit during this crisis, or face a longer road to recovery, than the travel agency industry.

I listen to the news reports daily. I have heard all about the restaurants, the pubs, the car industries BUT I have not heard mention of my industry, my business, THE TRAVEL AGENCY.

If you've ever wondered what "a day in the life of a travel agent is like", here's a little overview of what we're all about. After our initial consultation, we do our research, make vacation recommendations based on our discussion, we confirm the booking, take payments, add tours and other components based on the type of vacation experience the client seeks, take final payments, answer questions, add special requests, deliver documents, do a final run through, and then follow up after their return. These are just a few examples of what is involved with a typical vacation booking. Since Covid-19 began (January of

2020) I and many of my coworkers have been cancelling trip after trip, taking care of multiple changes due to Covid-19 restriction, keeping abreast of the ever-changing protocols.

Some of these vacation bookings we have been managing for over three years. Working in a service industry is a stressful job, one where we wear many hats. What many consumers do not know about our business is, if a trip is cancelled, we do



not get paid; our compensation is only received after a client has travelled. As an example, in the past week I have had 3 cancellations on bookings that go back as far as 2018. After managing every aspect of those reservations, including sitting on hold for up to 8 hours and sometimes longer, it ultimately resulted in a cancellation and all our hard work equaled to ZERO income.

In the early days of COVID-19 we were available 24/7 for our clients, getting them home from countries, keeping them calm and offering reassurance that we will take care of them as well as their needs and knowing that we do so without getting paid - We do this because we have made a commitment to our clients, and it is the right thing to do. To my knowledge, unless you are a not-for-profit, there are not many businesses that give their time and work for free! Many on-line agencies shut their phones off in the early days of COVID-19 and were not available or the consumer had to sit on hold for many hours to try and get their situation resolved.

What we offer is something an on-line agency does not, WE CARE! My clients have my personal cell number, they know that they can reach out at any time. I always have their back, I'm the one sitting on hold myself for hours at a time while they can continue doing what they need to do without worrying, knowing that I will do what's best for them.

The popularity of booking travel online has tried to decimate our industry, but a competent travel agent is a great asset, and that's why we have survived. Certified

travel professionals have an edge over the digital world. We work for our clients to ensure they get the best deal for their needs, dreams, and desires and we back up their bookings with personal service that can't be achieved when booking online by yourself.

We find ourselves in an interesting situation - Thanks to fast changing COVID-19 testing protocols, border restrictions, shifting airline schedules, rental car scarcity, and limited hotel inventory, I think the consumer is re-thinking their DIY vacation planning. In my view, we are faced with two roads, one is to stick our head in the sand and continue as best we can and keep doing what we've been doing OR two, to see the current situation we are in as an opportunity for growth and renewal. This article is not to be boastful or to try and change a consumer's mind on whether to book on-line or use a professional travel advisor, but as a source of education. Being a "Travel Agent" may be one of the best jobs in the world, but it's the most misunderstood profession around. In a world with tons of on-line planning tools, you would think - why are we needed? We certainly get strange looks when we tell someone what we do for a living, you know the look - It's kind of like a "wow, I thought you were extinct", we're still seen as a profession from the dinosaur age. Well, I'm here along with many other professional travel advisors to tell you that we are not dinosaurs, but we are successfully navigating our way around


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the world, and I see myself as a version of the modern-day Fairy Godmother who design and craft experiences for our clients, creating memories for years to come. Personally, I think we are the hottest new thing that never went away! Remember, saying you don't need a professional travel advisor, because you book on-line, is like saying you don't need a Dr. because you use WebMD.

Simply put, "We make good vacations great!"

Avril can be reached at
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Show & Tell!

By Cathy Cooney-Millar



Late Nite Catechism is Feisty & Fun!

If you have been lagging on your catechism studies, don't miss this hilarious comedy act! Grab your friend and family so you don't miss this witty, participatory event with lots of laughter! LATE NITE CATECHISM is reopened at the Greenhouse Theatre Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago. And Sister is eager to flex her ruler!

Call it Loretta Young meets Carol Burnett with a little Whoopi Goldberg thrown in. The show part catechism class, part stand up comedy routine. Written by Vicki Quade and Maripat Donovan, its an interactive comedy, one of the longest running shows in U.S. theatre history.

Second City Actress Jenna Steege joins the cast as "Sister". Steege is a graduate of the

Second City Training Center's House Ensemble, Conservatory, and Musical Improv programs. She is also a founding member of STACKED: All female Musical Improv, which has toured comedy festivals internationally.

Now celebrating 28 years, LATE NITE CATECHISM opened in 1993 and has been running ever since, only forced to take a break during the pandemic.

In addition to Jenna Seege, the role of "Sister" will also be played by long-standing actress Mary Zentmyer and Liz Cloud at the Greenhouse.

The show has raised more than \$3 million for the retirement funds of various orders of nuns.

In addition, Nuns4 Fun Entertainment will reopen its Halloween comedy, HOLY GHOST BINGO

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in October 2021, and reopen its holiday classic, CHRISTMAS BINGO for the holiday season, both at the Greenhouse Theatre Center.

Tickets are \$35 available online at: greenhousetheatrecenter.thundertix.com or by calling the box office at: 773-404-7336.

COVID precautions: The Greenhouse Theatre Center and Nuns4Fun will require all ticket buyers be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus, or show a negative COVID test within the past 24 hours. Ticket buyers who prefer to wear masks may do so during the shows are welcome to do so. Tickets holders with any COVID-19 symptoms, or who have been exposed to COVID-19 in the past 14 days at the time of the performance, should contact the Greenhouse Theatre for ticket exchange or refund options. www.nuns4fun.com

Hall of Fame Trivia Night 11-19 at Heritage Center

There is still some space available for the Trivia Night Fundraiser for the Irish American Hall of Fame held at the Irish American Heritage Center is back!

I hope you will consider joining us again this year. And to those that have already registered...thank you!

Irish American Heritage Center, Erin Room, 4626 N. Knox, Chicago, IL 60630

Date: Friday, November 19th

Time: 7:00pm

Team size: No more than 6 people

Fee: \$150 per team

[Register Here!](#)



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\$2,000 grants are available to eligible immigrant families in Illinois affected by the pandemic.
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THE IRISH MEMORY BOX AN INTERGENERATIONAL PODCAST

The Irish Memory Box is an intergenerational podcast that captures the memories of the Irish community. A podcast is a recording that can be accessed at any time on the internet.

The Irish Memory Box is a way for the youth and elders in our community to connect by telling stories and asking questions. It is a place to immortalize real Irish lives and share lived experiences.

You can find the **Irish Memory Box** online on a number of podcast platforms such as Apple Podcasts and Stitcher, or simply by searching for it on Google.

ICS is committed to capturing as many Irish memories as possible. If you or your loved one would like to be involved, please call the ICS office at (773)-282-8445 or email info@irishchicago.org.

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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 3rd November
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Live Music with Terry Byrne

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

The Front Parlor

Irish American Heritage Center
Wednesday 17th November
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Man's Best Friend

Canine Therapy Corps will be joining us today with some furry friends. This is a chance to learn about animal therapy from the experts over a cup of tea!

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 10th November
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

A History of Irish Chicago

Author and professor, Sean Farrell joins us to discuss the history of the Irish in Chicago. Sean will highlight some lesser-known figures as we delve into the rich stories of the Irish in the Windy City.

The Get Together

Gaelic Park
Wednesday 8th December
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The Big Irish Christmas Cracker

Missing Christmas in Ireland? Today, we share songs and stories of an Irish Christmas from those living abroad. We'll hear from Irish people in Chicago, Leeds, Liverpool, and Manchester.

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 our 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.



Brookfield Wi. -- Navy League Cadet Daphne Ryan, age 10, told IAN that "I'm an Irish American and I should be in your magazine!" Yes Ma'am! League Cadets are age 10-13 and are part of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets program, which gives teens age 13-17 the chance to get a taste of life in the sea services. For more information contact Lt. j.g. Jason Baltutis at (414) 940-2895 or visit the Cruiser Milwaukee Division website: www.cruisermilwaukeeacadets.org Nationwide: www.seacadets.org

Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler

Getting to know the Irish-Tina Butler

This month I'd like to feature a few Irish ballerinas. I know you might be thinking Ireland & ballet those hardly mix. Or it is as rare as a hen's tooth. Misty Copeland is an American ballerina, you probably heard of her, she plays in the movie, "A Ballerina's Tale", worth watching. Another famous ballet dancer, Mikhail Baryshnikov who comes from Russia. Russia has been famous for ballet for hundreds of years. It's said ballet is a national treasure synonymous with Russian culture. There is the world-famous Bolshoi Ballet theater in Moscow.

Ireland indeed has ballerinas a few include Monica Loughman, Melissa Hamilton & Joan Moriarty. I will start with describing what ballet entails and detail the careers of these leading dancers.

Ballet is an artistic dance form to music using precise steps and gestures. Classical ballet originated in Italy. It's characterized by light, graceful and fluid movements and the use of pointe shoes. Ballet can be very theatrical, and dancers sometimes use costumes and scenic design. It can be magical, provoking, exciting or even sad. It usually tells a story.

It is very physically demanding and hard on a dancer's body, especially their feet. Most dancers get what they call, dancers' fracture, a break on the long bone on the outside of the foot. I have heel spurs, so I had to



pass on the ballet career! More importantly writing is my favorite thing to do even if it's just a thank you note to the mailman. Back to ballet. Ballerinas have to be persistent, have a lot of stamina, athleticism, spatial awareness and discipline if they are going to survive as a ballerina. Ballerinas have intense training and risk injury all the time. Bottom line is it takes a staggering toll on the body in this industry.

Monica Loughman (Dublin) is a ballet dancer, teacher, writer and TV personality. She established a network of ballet schools and has featured on the TV show Ballet Chancers. She trained in Russia for many years. She has co-written a book with Jean Harrington, The Irish Ballerina.

Melissa Hamilton is a ballerina from Belfast. She is the first Irish soloist with the Royal Ballet. Different ballet companies have created roles just for Hamilton. She was a gold medal for the International Seoul ballet competition. What I admire about Hamilton is that when she was 16. She enrolled in Birmingham Ballet school, and they told her she would never catch up and basically to give up. She didn't give up and she won a gold medal.

Lastly Joan Moriarty was a ballet dancer, Irish dancer, choreographer and teacher from Co. Cork. She was a vital figure in the development of professional ballet in Ireland. She argued to bring ballet to all areas of Ireland. She grew up in England but returned to Ireland as an adult to set up her first dance school. Irish theater ballet was founded by Moriarty in the 1960's. There is a documentary called, "We are Moving".

The highest paid ballerina in the world is a French woman named, Sylvia Guillen and she is almost 50 years old.

Gaelic for the month

Dance-damhsa Ballet- baile
Story-sceal Russia-An Ruis

"You've never felt pain until you've walked into a dancer's shoes"

This Thanksgiving I'm thankful for my husband, my health, my family, inspiration & you readers.

If you have any questions/comments please email me: Molanive@yahoo.com

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This past summer we were on the edge of our seats as we watched the All-Ireland Football match between Co. Mayo & Co. Tyrone. Naturally, at our house we were all shouting for Mayo to win since my wife is from Co. Mayo but unfortunately Tyrone beat them (2 (goals)-14(points) mayo 0-15) I'd like to showcase the previous Tyrone manager Mickey Harte (2020) & Brian Cody, the co. Kilkenny manager. The current joint managers of Tyrone are Feargal Logan and Brian Dooher Harte currently manages the Louth team. Harte managed Tyrone from 1991-2020. He is the most successful senior manager in the country's history. He is admired by opponents and peers. He is a teacher by trade. He earned an honorary doctorate degree.

He also writes a weekly column for the Irish News. In the 2010 Catholic churches year for priest's tribute Harte contributed to a DVD in praise of priests. He is a faithfilled man and is outspoken on his religious views. His daughter Michaela McAreavey was a teacher. She taught Irish and religion classes. She won the Rose of Ulster. Devastatingly she was murdered on her honeymoon in Mauritius. May she rest in peace. Brian Cody has been the manager of the Kilkenny hurling team since 1998. The longest serving manager known and the greatest manager in the history of the game. A native of Thomastown Kilkenny (stones throw from my village of Muckalee) a trained Principal & teacher

He has written an autobiography titled, "Cody", co-written with Martin Breheny. I hope you enjoy this story: Daniel Paris -California Dropout ---this was on the pbs news hour "Learning disabilities frustrates students but also puts them at a disadvantage if they are not diagnosed. Daniel Paris was one of these students. In fact, Paris struggled so much at school that he ended up dropping out sophomore year. Paris became homeless, living on the streets where he was involved with drugs and gangs. Paris partook in destructive behaviors until his friend was killed. This reality shock sent Paris to an education program where he completed his high school degree and received proper treatment for dyslexia, (ADHD) and depression. Although Paris never planned to go to college, he started dating a woman attending college, so he decided to enroll in a psychology class to spend more time with her. After taking a course, Paris decided to apply to the University

of Southern California as a sophomore transfer student. Paris had a rough start until he sought help for his learning disabilities where he received help from counselors and software that translated textbooks into audio files he could listen to while reading. Paris also had help from a psychology professor, who worked with him on his thesis. Paris ended his undergraduate career in high regard and was not only placed upon the wall of top students at

the university but also received a \$10,000 graduate scholarship. He graduated with a B.A. in psychology and then went on to Harvard University Graduate School of Education where he earned a master's in education. Today, Paris is back at USC as a learning specialist where he is assisting students with support and advice." If you have any questions, please call (708) 425-7021 Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

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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



with their life and/or business without having to think about a lawsuit or the threat of one being held over their head for an indefinite period of time.

Importance of Filing in Time

Filing a lawsuit within the time limit is extremely important. Failing to do so means that the injured person can be forever barred from ever bringing the lawsuit. Even if negotiations have started to resolve your claim, a Defendant can ask the court to dismiss the lawsuit entirely if not filed within the time limit. If the time limit is missed, there really is no way to recover and making sure you are aware of your time limit is extremely important.

What are the Time Limits?

Generally, the statute of limitations, or time limit, to file a personal injury or wrongful death claim in Illinois is two years from the date of the injury or death. For example, if you were injured in a car accident on December 24, 2021, you have until December 24, 2023 to file a lawsuit in the State of Illinois. However, as we'll explain in more detail below, this can be changed depending on a number of factors.

The most common exception to the general statute of limitations is if the injured person is a minor (under

18). Generally, a minor has two years to file a lawsuit from the date that they turn 18, or up until their 20th birthday.

Filing a Lawsuit Against a City, County, or State

Illinois law sets the statute of limitations for filing a lawsuit against a city or County at one year. That means a lawsuit must be filed within one year from the date of the injury otherwise you will be barred from doing so forever. If you have been injured as a result of negligence on the part of a City, County or Municipality, talking to an experienced personal injury attorney as quickly as possible is absolutely crucial given the short one year time limit applicable to these cases.

Time Limit in Medical Malpractice Cases

In the state of Illinois, the statute of limitations gives a patient two years from the date of discovery of the negligence or malpractice to file a claim against a doctor or hospital. In other words, the statute begins to run when a person becomes aware of the injury or otherwise should have become aware of the doctor or hospital's negligence in connection with the injury. An important caveat to this rule is that an injured person has only four years from the date of the malpractice to file a lawsuit, regardless of when it was discovered.

If you suffered an injury, you may have questions regarding your eligibility to file a lawsuit or whether you have a case to begin with. It is important that you speak with an experienced attorney like my colleagues and I who will evaluate your claim and determine whether you do have a case and whether you are eligible to move forward with filing a lawsuit. 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 persons and we have the knowledge, experience, and resources to walk you through the process and obtain the most desired outcome possible. Please call us if you have questions. 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, medical malpractice, nursing home abuse and neglect, auto accidents, construction accidents and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com or at (312) 782-7482.

Time Limit On Filing A Personal Injury Lawsuit

Illinois law sets a time limit for filing a personal injury lawsuit. That time limit may vary depending on what type of injury you have suffered and who you intend on filing a lawsuit against. The legal term for time limits for filing a lawsuit is called the "Statute of Limitations" and throughout this article we will go through different types of personal injury lawsuits and the time limits set for filing those lawsuits.

Why Are There Time Limits?

Gathering evidence for a lawsuit is increasingly difficult as more time passes. There is a greater risk of evidence being lost, stolen, hidden, or otherwise deteriorated. Memories of those involved or those who witnessed the injury take place tend to fade as well. The weaker the evidence, the weaker the case may be. Additionally, time limits allow defendants to go on

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Catholic Church Should Stay Out of Ireland’s Politics

Ireland’s relationship with the Catholic Church is long, complex, and tumultuous. Everyone knows the legend of St. Patrick and how he drove the snakes out of Ireland while evangelizing the pagan Celts who lived there. The sectarian violence that shook N. Ireland during the 20th century was largely fought along religious lines; both Catholic Republicans and Protestant Unionists wore their faiths as badges of pride.

Over the centuries, Catholicism simply became a part of the Irish way of life. Attending Church was a weekly, community ritual. Schools, orphanages, and even mental hospitals were all governed by the doctrine and dogma of the Catholic Church. Unfortunately, many spiritual leaders took advantage of their

positions of power in Irish society to exploit lay Irish citizens. In other cases, these people even used Church teachings to justify outright cruelty.

Take, for example, the recent revelations of the injustice thousands of unmarried mothers and their children experienced at Catholic and state-run “mother and baby homes.” Under the guise of offering much-needed resources to this marginalized group, administrators stood idly by as an estimated 9,000 infants and children died while in their care. The discovery of mass graves and unmarked cemeteries on the former property of some of these homes has led to calls for both justice and reparations. And, to put in perspective just how recent these atrocities occurred, the last “mother and baby home” in Ireland closed in 1998.

Thankfully, Ireland has taken many steps to secularize. In 1996, a referendum passed legalizing di-

vorce. In 2015, same-sex marriage was legalized. In 2018, abortion (before 12 weeks of pregnancy) became safe, legal, and accessible to everyone.

These are all important steps on Ireland’s journey to extricate its government from the hardline views and teachings of the Catholic church. But this column isn’t meant to demonize anyone who is Catholic; rather, it is meant to shine a light on precisely why it is so important that affairs of church and state remain separate. When they become intertwined, moral

questions can only be answered one way. Cruel people can use their faith to justify their horrific behavior. And, ultimately, the marginalized only suffer more.

It is undoubtedly tragic and disconcerting that acts of such nightmarish proportions occurred in communities across Ireland. But there is reason to hope: the Irish people have taken steps to put themselves in positions of power while simultaneously keeping a wary eye on their religious leaders. This is the best way for a democratic society to function,

and I believe Ireland is a success story for crumbling theocracies to

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Review YOUR IRA Distribution Basics

By **Brendan Houlihan**

Money cannot remain in an IRA forever! Yes, RMDs have returned for tax year 2021!

Either you are preparing for your retirement, or you are currently enjoying it. In 2020, Congress waived all RMDs due to the enactment of the CARES Act because of the Coronavirus. Now it is important to remember to satisfy your RMD requirement for tax year 2021. Moreover, nobody likes penalties!

Let us review the rules for 2021 and how it may affect you and your family.

RMDs At age 72, remove your RMD (required minimum distribution) from your qualified retirement accounts (traditional IRAs and employee-sponsored plans). If you turned age 72 this year, April 1, 2022, is the deadline to take the First RMD. Are you older than seventy-two? If so, you must continue to take your RMD by December 31st every year. Conversely, remember that Roth IRAs are not subject to RMDs.

Calculating your RMD

1. Determine the distribution tax year.
2. Find the IRA balance.
3. Look up the life expectancy factor.
4. Divide the account balance by the life expectancy factor.
5. Remove the RMD before yearend.
6. Repeat this process every year.



Beneficiaries who inherited IRAs must take RMDs into consideration. Certain designated beneficiaries will be able to take RMDs over their life expectancy. Other beneficiaries will have to liquidate the inherited IRA account within 10 years. Special rules are applicable to inherited Roth IRA accounts.

Do you need your RMDs to support your living expenses? If not, think about reinvesting your distributions into a taxable account to take advantage of continued growth. Or consider qualified charitable distributions (QCDs)!

Finally, do not miss taking your yearly RMD. The IRS penalty is 50% for that mistake! If you need help or advice with retirement accounts, please let me know.

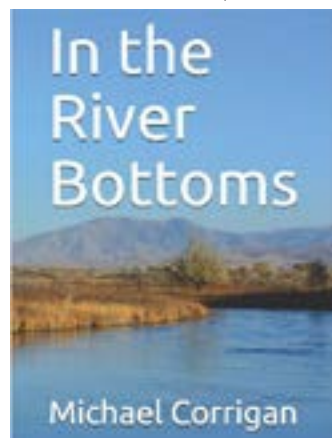
--Brendan Houlihan, a fiduciary, is Financial Advisor at BFH Wealth Management and Learn to Earn Investment program for children.

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

In the River Bottoms

By **Michael Corrigan**

When white skydivers fly over contested Indian land and a lucky shot from tribal members on the ground brings down their plane marked with a Confederate flag, a violent cycle of revenge begins. Jack Garth has lost his father and uncle in the crash and wants the shooters to pay. Drawn into a pending range war between white supremacists and Shoshone-Bannock members is former teacher and insurance claims adjuster, Max Gibson, searching for a missing student, an Irish Indian woman named Colleen O' Connor, one of the shooters and Jack Garth's classmate. A wild card is Seamus O' Connor, a retired Irish Republican Army assassin and fugitive from justice who will avenge any attack on his daughter. Angry Indian water spirits, a female tribal oracle, and a second chance at love with a



woman named Rita Flynn inform Max Gibson's story as he finds himself caught between two powerful forces.

About the Author

A San Francisco native, Michael Corrigan received an MA in creative writing from San Francisco State. He is actively involved in theatre, and worked with several theatre and film

artists, including Sam Shepard and Peter Coyote.

He attended the American Film Institute to study screenwriting, worked as a teacher of speech communications and English. He has published 13 books, including Mulligan and a road novel, Down the Highway. They are also available through Kindle.

He has written extensively about the Irish American experience, and received a Pushcart Prize nomination for the story, "Free Fall."

Alex Hyde-White narrates the audiobook of These Precious Hours and Mulligan, a novel about, in part, the Irish in the Civil War.

Confessions of a Shanty Irishman, The Filmmakers and A Year and a Day are also available as audiobooks. A play, Letters from Rebecca, was broadcast on NPR and is an audiobook. His recent novel is Brewer's Odyssey, about a reluctant psychic facing a dark future. [Buy Book Here!](#)

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CORK & KERRY



Game On!

By Chris Wheaton



Why in the world would someone try and start a hurling club in a Chicago suburb rich in soccer and football tradition? The obvious answer is because they are crazy and yes, the founding father of the Naperville Hurling Club is a little nuts at times but it is the good kind of wacky. The kind of craziness that comes from a labor of love and a burning desire to see something succeed.

Kevin Pearson first saw hurling on a vacation to Ireland in 1996. After a second trip in 2012, he enrolled his kids in a Cùl Camp where he met Eoin

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O'Donovan, an accomplished hurler from Co. Cork. Eoin spent a few days teaching Kevin to play while Colm Egan was teaching his kids. Eoin convinced Kevin that, even at age 46, he could probably join the Cusack hurling team as a sub and to participate in their training. The Cusack's won the National Jr. B Championship that fall and, in a state of naïve euphoria, Kevin thought that it could work in Naperville because of the large percentage that claim at least some Irish heritage. He acted on his crazy plan in the fall of 2013, just 5 months after picking up a hurley for the first time. In 2014, the club attained its 501(c)3 Not for Profit status and registered with the USGAA. Kevin struggled to recruit the requisite thirteen players needed for registration but with a little arm bending of his neighbors Naperville Hurling Club was born.

As the current President of the club, I would like to say it has been an easy road but that is not how these things usually work. It takes a lot of blood, sweat and tears along the way but the fun and the relationships that are formed along that rocky road make the travails seem inconsequential.

One of the highlights of those early years was the club capturing the 2017 USGAA National Championship in San Francisco. Naperville eked out a victory over longtime rival and all-around good guys Hurling Club of Madison for the Jr. B title. That was quite a feat for such a young club and a testament to Kevin's steadfast belief that he could make it work. Only four members of that championship team are still playing with the club today but that does not mean that Naperville Hurling is not alive and well.

The year prior to the pandemic was slim pick-

ings and to be honest it looked like the club was in trouble. So many players had moved from the championship team and general recruiting for a sport that most people have never heard of is difficult. I remember training sessions when we had only four people attend and how excited we were if we had 8 and could play a little 4 on 4 match. The love of the game kept us going and we knew with a little Irish luck we could build the club to where we wanted it to be.

At the height of the pandemic a lad from County Clare by way of Boston and Houston showed up on our doorstep and Naperville Hurling was reborn. Gerry McNamara became the coach that the club needed at the time. His presence created energy that we never had and although the training sessions were intense and at times relentless, we became a better team and a closer group of players in the grand tradition of the GAA. Somehow word got out about this crazy group of hurling players and the numbers started to grow. Soon we had 20-30 players at training and close to fifty players registered for our weekly Pub League. Just like that, Naperville Hurling was legit. With numbers came skill and with skill came success. Soon we were beating clubs that we should not have even shared the pitch with in the preceding few years. New sponsors appeared, our kit got better, and our hurling community became a family.

Next year the USGAA National Championships will be hosted by our own Gaelic Park. I am not sure how Naperville Hurling will fare, but I do know that they will show up in force, compete well, be stewards of the sport both on and off the pitch and will continue to promote the great sport of hurling throughout the Chicagoland area.



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GOOD GRIEF

BY JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



Hello there again. Hope this finds you all well and looking forward to thanksgiving. Someone asked me if I had any good Christmas cake recipes. My mother (R.I.P) was a great baker maybe because she had a sweet tooth. I loved her treacle bread with a splash of plump currants through it and her date and walnut squares, her fairy buns too. I can remember walking up the lane from school getting the waft of her baking and knew we were in for quite a few treats. Okay so I have my mother's recipe but also one from Nancy who did the bake of competition. If you grew up in an Irish home you know that fruit cake is comfort food for us with a nice cup of sweet tea. I think it was Johnny Carson. Yes remember him the late night show host who was quoted saying 'fruit cake is the worst Christmas gift you can give anyone' Today our fruit cakes are lighter with less fruit. So between the two recipes this is what I came up with. Yes I did make one and ate most of it myself. I omitted the cherries. Okay here goes. First prepare your baking tin. I use nine inch round. Line it with grease proof paper. Measure and cut a circle for the bottom do not forget the sides you will never get your cake out if you forget to paper the sides. Do not forget to warm up your oven. I baked this around two hundred and fifty Fahrenheit. Yes I know its low but the lower the better it will take six to eight hours so I suggest you may want to make a few for friends or take this opportunity to make your sweet mince pies. I hate just baking one item.

Two pounds of mixed fruit. (Sultanas, raisins whatever you fancy) Half a cup of diced glacier cherries. Jigger of whiskey or brandy or sherry. Zest from a lemon or orange. One Teaspoon of nutmeg. Ginger and Cinnamon (I use few teaspoons of all spice instead

it still tastes yummy but it's up to you) One and a half cups of dark brown sugar. Five eggs. One and a half cup of plain flour. Two sticks of salted butter. One tablespoon of syrup or I use treacle which you can buy in the Irish import stores it also makes great tasting treacle scones with a handful of sultanas. I like to add a half cup of chopped walnuts but you can use any of your favorites.

Be prepared as this takes a while to get everything ready. First in a large bowl add the zest with all your mixed fruits and liquor of your choice or if you don't want alcohol add quarter cup of orange. Let it stand for a few hours. The longer you can let it sit the better. I do mine the night before. Do not add your spices to this. Add spices to your dry flour.

Cream your butter and sugar together until nice and light and fluffy. I remember doing this as a child with the wooden spoon until my arms went numb but today we have electric mixers. Beat your five eggs in separate bowl. Add a little at a time so they don't curdle alternate with the flour and spice mix until it's all gone. Add your treacle or syrup. Finally here is the good part. Add the fruit that was soaking for hours it should have all plumped up. Fold in gently do not beat it's now pop it in the oven. I use a metal or kabob skewer to test if it's done. If your stick comes out dry its cooked. Take it out and let it stand until its absoloutly cold. Think about how you want to decorate your master piece. My mother

would roll out almond marzipan (hated that stuff) over the entire cake then cover with royal icing. She had a knack to making the peaks stand up you got to work fast as it hardens so quickly. Next came the fun part. She would let us help place the silver edible balls all around the edges. Everyone who is Irish knows about those silver balls. You were special if you got to put on the little miniature tree along with the little Santa. Then it was placed in a biscuit tin until Christmas day. If you think this is way too much work or you're short on time please

visit our Irish import stores they always have an abundance of Christmas cakes. Sweet mince pies. Irish plum pudding for dessert. Don't forget the Irish custard to pour over the top. Well I hope you enjoyed this recipe and remember it doesn't have to be Christmas to make yourself a nice slice of fruit cake with a nice cup of tea or coffee around a nice cozy fire sharing your childhood memories with your friends and family. Hope you have fun with this recipe. Happy Thanksgiving to you all. Stay safe and well till next time.



Alot of business goes on at the back of a truck after a successful golf outing! (L to R): Ed Garvey, Martin Woulfe, Jerry Kavanagh, Liam Nugent, and 'Smokin' Joe Thompson enjoying a beverage after golfing at the St. Patrick's Father's outing last month.

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Have you 'Pressed the Green Button to go to Ireland Yet?

By RYANNE GALLAGHER JOHNSON
Ireland is an incredible place to venture to, stretch your legs, and break out of the melancholy of the last couple of years!

Ireland is once again open and ready for tourists, and the country's Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media

is here to encourage Americans to hop across the pond for a visit once again!

"We are open!" says Catherine Martin, deputy leader of Ireland's Green Party, and Minister for all things tourist-related and exciting on her recent visit to Chicago and other cities around America. "I'm



Gaelic Park Players in Bloomsday, (L to R): Peter Michael Piante of Bolingbrook (Robert), Bridget Christianson of Midlothian (Cait) and Maria Zoia of Chicago (Caitheleen). See dates below!

here launching Ireland's Green Button Campaign. The clear message is: Press the Green Button.



We're asking our close friends in the U.S. to come visit Ireland again. We are open, our hospitality businesses are open, our restaurants are open, our music scene is back on."

Thanks in large part to the country's vaccine program, Ireland is up and running, and people are getting back out and enjoying life's pleasures.

"The music has just reopened in the last month, and that's because of a really successful vaccination rate. 90% of our adult population is fully vaccinated in Ireland. That's what's led to this reopening of (the country). If you

come to Ireland, you can have the authentic visitor's experience of attractions, outdoors, food, and our music festivals."

Whether you're wanting to enjoy the country's excellent food and drink, experience the gorgeous landscapes while walking, hiking, or cycling, or enjoy a round of golf on a scenic course, all of your post-pandemic vacation dreams can come true in Ireland.

Golf, in particular, is a big draw for the tourists, and with good reason.

"What a place to play golf in!" Says Martin. "One third of the world's golf links are in Ireland. In golf rankings recently, we have five of the top ten courses. A lot of them are situated in spectacular places, like Adare, which will be hosting the Ryder Cup in 2027. It's one of our most beautiful manor house estates, with 840 acres of glorious Irish parkland. And the golf course itself has a reputation for its perfection."

With the lockdowns and social distancing and everything that has come with the COVID-19 experience, getting out in the fresh air and taking an adventure outside

of the U.S. is going to be a huge draw for Americans. Ireland is an incredible place to venture to, stretch your legs, and break out of the melancholy of the last couple of years.

"It is just breathtaking scenery. Really family friendly and safe, and along the coastline is just spectacular. You also have it in Waterford, with the beautiful greenway there, and you can cycle safely along the canal in Dublin. We have the hidden heartlands, the nine counties that hug the river Shannon. Really beautiful boating and hiking opportunities in this area as well. It's a very unique landscape we have."

Whatever you're looking for in a vacation, Ireland has it. And the great news right now is that flights are currently very cheap!

"At the minute, leading airfare rates start at \$359 for a direct flight from Chicago to Dublin. From an affordability and convenience point of view, it's worth booking your ticket now to come to Ireland. There will be a lot of cooperative marketing campaigns between Tourism Ireland and Aer Lingus, Delta, United, and American Airlines. And of course the Tourism Ireland Press the Green Button campaign is a multimedia campaign, so we expect millions of Americans to hear and see and read about the reasons to come to Ireland."

The U.S. and Ireland have always had a very friendly relationship, especially where tourism is concerned, and they're eager to get Americans back over there.

"What's great about visitors that come from the U.S. is that they spend quality time in our country. It's really quality tourism. When they come to Ireland, they take the opportunity not just to visit what urban Ireland has to offer, but they go into many of the regions, and they get a real flavor and sense of Ireland, and I think that's why so many of them come back again.

A really important market for us is the U.S. Tourism market and we are welcoming you back with open arms!"

For more information on the Press the Green Button campaign, and to start planning your vacation now, you can visit Ireland.com

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By Steven Dietz



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From Kilkelly To South Carolina

By Mattie Lennon

Michael Gerard Kenny (pictured) was born and raised in Kilkelly Co Mayo. He now owns a successful machinery business in South Carolina. He got there via Galway, Limerick, Cork, and Dublin. He Left Ireland in 1980 to work overseas for a mining machinery company. He worked in U.K. then briefly in US before spending 4 yrs in Southern Africa and then moving to US again in 1985 with Powerscreen Intl. He then set up his own company which he runs today with his American- born sons Adam and Eoin.

Amid all the hard work and success he had a burning desire to write a book. Not just any book.

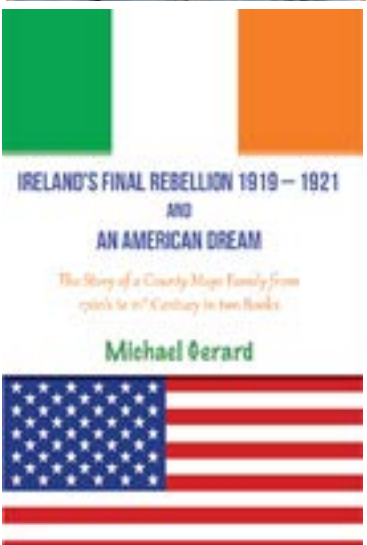
Ireland's Final Rebellion and an American Dream is based this book on his father's life and his involvement in the Tan War of 1919-1921. Kenny senior was an unassuming, tall and straight tailor, who always wore a shirt and tie and smoked Carroll's cigarettes and made suits for the males of the district and did alterations. He was fifty-seven when Gerard was born. He had been an active fighter during the 1919-1921 Irish War of Independence, and he received a small state pension for that.

He did not like to talk much about the war and deflected Gerard's questions about The Tan War, saying he would tell him more when he was older. Michael Gerard says, "I did hear enough in family-circle conversation and from listening in on the regular get-togethers of his Old IRA comrades at our tailor shop to form my own picture of his life.

"Michael Gerard's father was born in 1897 and grew up in a turbulent period of Irish history. He was very close with his Grandmother who lived to be almost 100. She filled his head with the feats of the mystic warrior heroes of Irish Legend. He became active in various resistance movements (the IRB, Irish Volunteers and Sinn Fein) perhaps, partly, as a result of his grandmother's influence. After the 1916 executions he became a full-time IRA fighter on the run during the 1919-1921 campaign and fought without capture up to

the declaration of the Truce.

His son says," He was vehemently Anti-Treaty but chose neutrality during the Civil War rather than take up arms against



his former comrades." He went back to his tailoring, until he was arrested and imprisoned by the (Free State Army). During his incarceration he went on hunger strike and was close to death when the hunger strike was called off. He died suddenly in April 1969 and Michael Gerard says, "I was left with only memories and unanswered questions. One of those memories was that of his expressed regret at not having em-

igrated to America like many of his war comrades did. At his funeral I decided that I would make good on his missed opportunity - I would someday emigrate to America."

Michael kept that promise. Despite being a busy business man he has left us two well-written and informative books. In 'Just one of the Boys' the author uses the fictional Kane family to portray events in n Irish history that propelled ordinary Irish men and women to take up arms in 1919 and fight the oppressor. In Book 2 'An American Dream'. The fictitious Sean Kane shows the author's own journey from Kilkelly to where he is today. In it the reader finds that Michael Gerard Kenny has really realised the American Dream.

I spoke to some of his fellow-Mayo men and amid the excitement of the All Ireland Final and Tyrone winning they made time to discuss it with me. John McGrath was impressed by the accuracy of the detail on growing up in rural Ireland in the 50s and 60s. John was also overwhelmed by the writing style which he described as being "somewhere between American and Irish. "

Des Garvin from north Mayo went through the book(s) with a fine-tooth comb. He is not bothered by the absence of any real identity as to where the battles took place as he knows the place like the back of his hand.

Ireland's Final Rebellion and An American Dream was published through Amazon KDP in early March 2021 and is available as both an E-book and paperback on; www.amazon.com. Readers comments are always welcome.

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IRISH UNITY Sinn Féin

Dolphin Song, an Irish Fantasy Novel

by Tom Richards

"Is it possible to love someone so completely they never die?"

When she loses her family, Dawn's pain goes on and on...and then a miracle occurs.

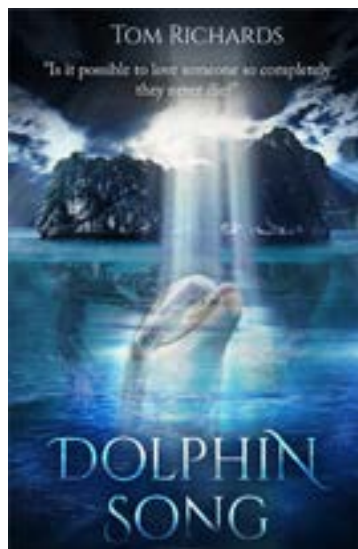
Dolphin Song is a sweeping tale that follows the journey of an Irish-American family caught up in a storm of tragedy.

Bostonian Dawn McCarthy's life is shattered following a profound double tragedy. Michael, her Irish husband, drowns in a fiery boating accident off the southwest coast of Ireland. Their only child, Jason, who has witnessed his father's death, is diagnosed with traumatic mutism and retreats into a silent world of his own. Following a series of failed therapies, Dawn believes her son will never talk again.

Rejecting the doctor's advice, Dawn returns with Jason to the remote Irish fishing village of Kilcastle where her husband had lived and died. There, along the wild Irish coast, she hopes to find a cure for her son. But it is not an easy return for Dawn. She faces daily reminders of what might have been.

The sudden appearance of a wild dolphin delivers newfound hope. In the days that follow, Dawn witnesses a powerful bond grow between Jason and the dolphin as the boy takes his first small steps toward healing. It is only then that she suspects the enigmatic mammal is much more than she had at first supposed.

A stunning tale of romance,



Irish legend and magic, *Dolphin Song* takes readers on an unforgettable voyage where those we have loved and lost are not gone forever. Instead, it only takes a leap of faith to find them again.

Readers say: "...spiritually uplifting. A thought-provoking, inspiring and intriguing story. I will recommend *Dolphin Song* to my book club and anyone interested in Ireland."

"If this was a film, I'd describe it as *The Big Blue* meets *Lorenzo's Oil*. A compelling mix of Irish legend, the magic of dolphins, tragedy at sea and a final twist of eternal love."

"This is one of those books you never want to end."

"A powerful narrative of hope. Today's world needs such a story."

The book is available in Kindle eBook and Paperback Print formats at www.tomrichards.ie U.S. customers click Here!

Water Beneath the Walls

A gripping history chronicling the fits and starts of American special operations and the ultimate rise of the Navy SEALs from unarmed frogmen to elite, go-anywhere commandos—as told by one of their own.

How did the US Navy—the branch of the US military tasked with patrolling the oceans—ever manage to produce a unit of raiders trained to operate on land? And how, against all odds, did that unit become one of the world's most elite commando forces, routinely striking thousands of miles from the water on the battlefields of Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, even Central Africa?

Behind the SEALs' improbable rise lies the most remarkable underdog story in American military history—and in these pages, former Navy SEAL Benjamin H. Milligan captures it as never before.

Told through the eyes of remarkable leaders and racing from one longshot, hair-curling raid to the next, *By Water Beneath the Walls* is the tale of the unit's heroic naval predecessors, and the evolution of the SEALs themselves. But it's also the story of the forging of American special operations as a whole—and how the SEALs emerged from the fires as America's first permanent commando force when again and again some other unit seemed predestined to seize that role.

Here Milligan thrillingly captures the outsize feats of the SEALs' frogmen forefathers in

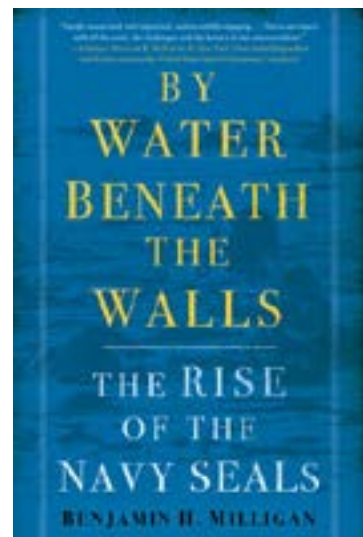
World War II, the Korean War, and elsewhere, even as he plunges us into the second front of interservice rivalries and personal ambition that shaped the SEALs' evolution.

In equally vivid, masterful detail, he chronicles key early missions undertaken by units like the Marine Raiders, Army Rangers, and Green Berets, showing us how these fateful, bloody moments helped create the modern American commando—even as they opened up pivotal opportunities for the Navy.

Finally, he takes us alongside as the SEALs at last seize the mantle of commando raiding, and discover the missions of capture/kill and counterterrorism that would define them for decades to come.



Written with the insight that can only come from a combat veteran and a member of the book's tribe, *By Water Beneath the Walls* is an essential new history of the SEAL teams, a crackling account of desperate last stands and unforgettable characters accomplishing the



impossible—and a riveting epic of the dawn of American special operations.

About Benjamin H. Milligan

Benjamin H. Milligan became a US Navy SEAL in 2001. He is a recipient of the Bronze Star and other awards. A native of Indianapolis, he currently lives in the Chicago area and has three sons.

Hardcover | \$30.00

Published by Bantam

Jul 20, 2021 | 640 Pages

ISBN 9780553392197

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Praise for the Book

"Deeply researched, well organized, and incredibly engaging, *By Water Beneath the Walls* is one of the finest histories I've read about the formation and rise of the Navy SEALs. This is our legacy with all the warts, the challenges, and the heroics in one concise volume."—Admiral William H. McRaven, former commander, United States Special Operations Command, and #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Make Your Bed*

"Fascinating . . . Written with gusto and based on years of research, this history spans eight decades. Fast-paced and packed with colorful personalities and close-quarters gunfights, it vividly details the lineage of the SEALs. This tour de force confirms what we all suspected: SEALs are slightly crazy, and our nation is safer for it."—Bing West, #1 New York Times bestselling co-author of *Call Sign Chaos*.

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John Gallagher learned the craft of tuckpointing while in his late teens. His father, a first generation Irish immigrant and construction worker, encouraged his son's entrepreneurial spirit. John earned a business degree from Loras College, and soon he founded Shamrock Tuckpointing
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The Way We Were

One morning, many years ago now, as I attempted the dreaded school run, I was stuck in the usual traffic chaos at the bottom of Maryborough Hill in the Douglas suburb of Cork City. As the cars whizzed by from all directions I started to notice the local skyline punctuated by Douglas Court, the Watergold Building, Mc Donald's and various apartment blocks all around. I reflected that Douglas is quickly crystallizing out of its suburban shell to take on the spreading wings of an urban city. The drivers seemed tense at that time of the day and many had that 'hunted look' as they thought of confronting their employees and peers at the morning meeting and

also what might be in the E-Mails received from the corporate overlords across the pond.

Amongst all of this modern turmoil, there is a house at the fingerpost roundabout with a stone wall that leads on to Tramway Terrace. Inside this stone wall, there is a vision of Ireland's past, a small vegetable garden with rural characteristics nestled in an urban landscape, almost defying time. I noticed it last summer when the potatoes were shooting above the ground and there were cabbages, onions, carrots and lettuces in abundance also. These gardens are a rare sight in urban landscapes these days and they have started to tail off in the countryside also in recent decades. These have, in most

cases, been replaced by timber decking and BBQ areas.

They are part of another era and conjure up images of, rising to the potato drills, the big barrel of bluestone mix to prevent the blight, which was replaced by the yellowish looking dithane in the latter years. Shaking the spuds out of the stalks and digging a trench

in the ground, this was covered over with straw and clay to ward off the severe winter frosts.

In days gone by, especially in country areas, the vegetable garden was a necessity. The wages were generally low and it helped the household budget along enormously. If the family provider happened to lose their job, at least

the family could continue to eat in the interim. These gardens have rapidly disappeared over time as people became more affluent, had less time on their hands, and as the large stores and supermarkets started to spread their commercial web across the landscape.

Well done to the people in the house at the fingerpost who are continuing with this tradition and hope you will keep it up for many years to come. If we could have the benefit of the crystal ball to visualise Douglas in 2031, we would possibly see a proliferation of high rise apartment blocks and offices, with the smaller dwellings on Tramway Terrace and Douglas West sucked into the vacuum of progress. Change is advancing towards us at a rapidly accelerating pace, and we will be lucky to cling on to any semblance of life in other and simpler days. We tend not to see the changes from day to day and no one notices the customs of the past slipping away.

'There is a nobility in hard work, traditional values' - D.B. Sweeney

Ireland Network BALL 2-12 2021

Garrett Diamond, President of the Ireland Network has announce that the popular Ireland Network Ball will be back at the Drake Hotel again on February 12th in the ballroom. For information or tickets email: irelandnetworkchicago@gmail.com



Eastern Promises

Asymmetric warfare, like 9-11's Sunni Muslim sneak attack to destroy

American symbols of dominance, often achieves spectacular results at relatively little expense by commanding the enemy's own resources. In that event it was American planes against American targets. CBS estimated the total cost to the U.S. through 2050 will be \$4 trillion. The recent months of billion-dollar nationwide business-busting, statue-smashing riots and looting by BLM and ANTIFA cells over the death by overdose/police restraint of George Floyd was peanuts by comparison. But the 9-11 Commission estimated the total monetary cost to the plotters was less than \$500,000. For what was arguably the biggest act of icon-smashing since Henry VIII.

Ruthless from the get-go, just two days after his coronation Henry arrested two of his father's ministers, charged them with high treason, and had them executed. Yet his spiritual politics remained intact awhile. He wrote a book against Luther, "Assertio Septem Sacramentorum", supporting the Church and papal supremacy and Pope Leo X awarded Henry the title "Defender of the Faith" (a title still retained by English monarchs). Later, having drained his treasury warring with neighbors and needing an heir to his throne as well, Henry, in an asymmetric strike designed to fulfil both his needs, rolled the dice against moral authority. He suppressed and looted England's monasteries, distributed their properties to supporters, beheaded those who disagreed (during his reign, over 72,000 people in England were executed) bought himself a navy, and established the British Empire.

In 1992 another asymmetric gambler, George Soros, shorted the British pound, broke the Bank of England and raked in a fortune without so much as firing a shot. He then set about dismantling the American Republic to suit his dream of an Open Society world government. Spending small



amounts of his large fortune in key races, he placed subversive politicians in key power positions. His funding of big-city district attorneys has distorted their justice systems. Soros even has a close family friend in charge of the world's most powerful foreign affairs post, Secretary of State, Antony Blinken. (See last month's column <http://irisheye.us/bidens-bayofpigs.html>)

Identity politics has grown in popularity with leftists since the 1980's. The idea is that people of a different genders, religions, races, social backgrounds, classes, etc., develop different political agendas because of those identities, based on their interactions with systems of oppression that affect their lives. By that measure you can say that people with family roots in Eastern European cultures would likely have different political agendas than those from the West. People like John F. Kennedy (Ireland) or Donald Trump (Germany, Scotland), would likely develop different political agendas than Chuck Schumer (Russia) or Antony Blinken (Hungary) because the goals, the promises of their birth cultures, differ. Do roots in the Russian Empire tend Attorney General Merrick Garland to autocracy? Hard to say definitively, but identity politics would suggest so.

In February 2015 Vice President Joe Biden sat next to Cuban-born Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and spoke of meeting with former Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew on his trip to China and asking him: "What are the Chinese doing now?... And he said to me... 'They're in America looking for the buried black box... They're looking for that secret that allows America to constantly be able to remake itself, unlike any other country in the world.' And I said, 'I can presume to tell you what's in that black box, Mr. President (sic). I'm old enough now.' I said, 'One is, that there is in America, there's

an overwhelming skepticism for orthodoxy.' From the time a child, whether they're naturalized or they're native-born, they – think about it, a child never gets criticized in our education system for challenging orthodoxy, for challenging the status quo. I would argue it's unlike any other large country in the world. I said, 'There's a second thing in that black box – an unrelenting stream of immigration, nonstop, nonstop.' Folks like me who are Caucasian, of European descent, for the first time in 2017 we'll be in an absolute minority in the United States of America, absolute minority. Fewer than 50% of the people in America from then and on will be white European stock. That's not a bad thing, that's a source of our strength."

Comparing the U.S. to Communist China, a country with extremely prohibitive immigration rules and its population 90% from one ethnic group, Han Chinese, is bizarre enough; but Biden needs as much schooling about today's schoolrooms as he does about the border if he really believes "a child never gets criticized in our education system for challenging orthodoxy".

What caused Democrats to panic in 2016 and launch repeated frantic attacks and anything-goes hoaxes against Donald Trump for his entire time in office and beyond? In large part it was because their party that once won elections appealing to a "Solid South" anti-black voting base realized that Trump had a magic wand to set free their new "solid city" voting base from dependence on their company-store welfare bureaucracy.

A 2020 NBC exit poll revealed Trump received "the highest percent of nonwhite voters of any Republican candidate in 60 years. Despite 4 years of bashing by leftist elites and media supporters Trump also doubled his support in the LGBTQ community, and his support from black voters rose by 4% over 2016. Hispanic/Latino support for Trump in 2020 was 32%, up from 28% in 2016.

His Asian vote increased 2 points to 31%. That would explain their frantic 180° flip-flop on illegal immigration ("Illegal immigration is wrong, plain and simple", Schumer, 2009) and their rush to welcome anyone swarming the border from anywhere for any reason, lured by promises of amnesty, free health care, free education and citizenship. After all the jobs lost to Covid and peaceful protest/rioting, and all those that will be filled by non-citizens, the jobs they care about losing are their own political offices.

What's wrong with political monopoly? Remember Ma Bell? If you had a complaint, who cared? Who could you call when Bell was the only game in town? You took what Bell gave you or yelled out the window to communicate. What finally killed Ma Bell was bureaucracy and its government-backed monopoly.

ATT President Vail decided a government-regulated monopoly was more profitable and preferable and to competing with independents. Vail lobbied state governments to require independents to interconnect with Bell. He offered them low cost connection, making attempts to build

their own long distance intercity connections unprofitable. Government regulation also made AT&T's equipment subsidiary Western Electric a monopoly enforceable by law.

Unlike governments, no business with competitors can deliberately reduce prices to one group of customers while overcharging others. AT&T maintained lower residential rates by constantly raising the cost of long-distance and business services. Residential users command more votes in state and federal elections than do long distance and business users who were really being taxed, with Ma Bell as tax collector, to subsidize residential service. As residential subscribers began making more long-distance calls, the gap grew so large over time that the public monopoly had to be broken.

A new wrinkle: aside from all the other charges of vote fraud, we're now told that NGO partisan nonprofits funded by Mark Zuckerberg "likely" swung the 2020 election to Biden.

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