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Photo by Cliff Carlson

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## Return to Violence in Northern Ireland?

Violence on the streets of Northern Ireland, particularly in Belfast, since early April has been devastating to witness. The riots, hijackings and burnings that have been mainly perpetrated by groups of loyalist teenagers is the worst since the end of the Troubles. However, there has been retaliation at 'interface' areas from republican teenagers and loyalist community leaders cite the fear of retaliation as a rationale for the loyalist violence. Enormous collective dismay throughout the North and beyond decries it all.

Politicians have been relentlessly warned about the prospect of this return to violence since the Brexit vote five years ago. To take one example in 2018, Chris Patten, the British politician who oversaw the new policing arrangements in Northern Ireland after the Good Friday Agreement, likened his party's slipshod approach to Brexit's impact on Northern Ireland as 'blundering into Northern Ireland with a policy which is clueless and deluded with a can of petrol and a box of matches in the other hand'. Now that can of petrol is on fire.

There have been sane voices and poi-

gnant reflections among political leaders. Speaking in the Northern Ireland Assembly on April 8th, Minister Nichola Mallon rued that working-class communities have been condemned to a cycle of violence for generations. She argued that the assembly 'should have been an example to people everywhere of what we can achieve by living for ideals rather than fighting for them. Instead of building partnerships, we have allowed division to occupy the heart of our institutions. It has affected and infected our politics in our communities. And, most unforgivably, it has placed a limit on the scale of young people's ambition'.

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leader Colum Eastwood in the House of Commons on April 13th asked the most senior UK Government

appointee to Northern Ireland, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Brandon Lewis, to reconvene the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference to discuss the crisis. Lewis declined. The British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference was set up as part of the Good Friday Agreement to provide a forum for the Irish and UK governments to consult on Northern Ireland. It has not met for nearly two years, and that is due to the British disinclination to participate, which is seen in Dublin as a dereliction of its duty to the North. It is anyone's guess why the UK government is so reluctant to do so, but refusing to do so does provide a mechanism for sidelining Dublin in Northern Irish affairs.

Since loyalism is intricately bound up with unionist political parties, the absence of unionist leadership has been fed the current crisis. Indeed, one of the triggering events for the violence was the Democratic Unionist Party calling for the Chief of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Simon Byrne, to resign. The Ulster Unionist Party followed suit even though they must have known that in Northern Ireland senior public servants almost never resign. Byrne duly refused to step down. So the police became targets for the rioters.

The expression of no confidence in Byrne stems from the recommendation that no prosecutions be made for Covid restriction breaches by senior members of Sinn Féin when they attended the funeral of senior IRA Intelligence man Bobby Storey last June. That finding is questionable, to say the least: the photographic and video evidence of the funeral show over 1,500 people not observing social distancing. When loyalists cite this instance of disregard for pandemic restrictions as evidence that there is one law for republicans/Sinn Féin and another law for everyone else it is hard to argue against the proposition.

This happens against the backdrop of the 'Northern Ireland protocol' being implemented since the New Year as part of the UK's Brexit deal. The protocol provides that Northern Ireland effectively has ongoing membership in the European Union single market whereas goods being imported from the rest of

## View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



the UK into Northern Ireland must be customs-cleared. That estrangement is deeply unnerving because unionists and loyalists perceive it as an entering wedge to forge a deeper chasm between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK.

Tragically, unionists are trapped in the delusion that the protocol can be set aside. David Trimble, who led unionists to sign the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 and paid a big price for that stance electorally, wrote in an op-ed in February that 'to honour the hard-fought economic, democratic and peaceful gains of the Belfast Agreement, the Northern Ireland protocol must not be allowed to stand'. The protocol will stand. Unionists can (and should) negotiate modifications here and there, but the protocol is now the defining feature of the Northern Irish economic reality and the sooner its antagonists face that reality the better off they will be.

However, in unionist political circles to even speak about the protocol from the presumption that it exists remains anathema. The overarching political paralysis in unionism is the same as the root cause of loyalist unrest: the bitter realisation that London is rapidly abandoning them.

The only other nation in the UK that interests the ruling class in England is Scotland. And, amid the tensions in Northern Ireland, it is easy to forget that a central outworking of Northern Ireland's fate is happening not in Belfast but in English-Scottish relations. Scottish First Minister Nichola Sturgeon is seeking a mandate for a second Scottish Independence referendum when the Scottish electorate goes to the polls on May 6th. Her party, the Scottish Nationalist Party, will almost certainly win the election well.

If UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is as good as his word (no jokes necessary) he will not authorise a second referendum which could see Scotland leaving the UK. However, he assured unionists in Northern Ireland that there would be no customs barriers between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK.

Could he perform another political somersault and allow a second referendum in Scotland? If he does, an existential threat to the UK structure will be on the ballot and rioting in Belfast will not stop it.



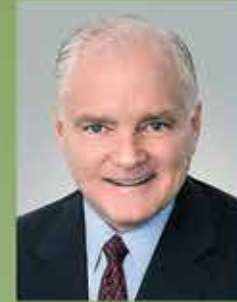
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**Classes**

Na Gaeil Chicago's Irish language classes return for the Spring 2021 term in late January and run through early May. Come connect with Irish culture, heritage, and new friends through the first language of Ireland in an informal and

the Fall 2021 term is your starting point. (The Spring term picks up where the Fall term leaves off.) You can email us at info@nagaeil.org with any questions and to be notified of Fall 2021 classes.

Although classes are usually held at The Irish American Heritage Center, all Spring 2021 classes will be online, through Zoom. All Chicagoland students are welcome. You will need a desktop or laptop computer, a video camera, and a microphone. We're looking



fun setting.

Registration for several levels of Wednesday evening, Thursday evening, and Saturday morning classes is now open!. Find your class on our Registration page.

Beginner and Beginner 2 classes are open to Fall 2020 students.

Intermediate classes and up are open to all Chicagoland students. (Check out the detailed class descriptions on their individual registration pages to determine which class is right for you, based on your current level of Irish.)

We're looking forward to seeing you!

If you have no prior experience with the Irish language, or otherwise need a Beginner-level class,

forward to being back with our friends at the Center, our home for over 35 years, as soon as possible. The Center has been hugely affected by restrictions on large gatherings, and could really use your membership and support.

Tuition for the Fall term is \$130 for new Na Gaeil Chicago students and \$105 for our returning students. Tuition includes books and materials.

[Email](#) us for more information, to join our mailing list for future classes and events, or for any other questions.

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**Last Month's Edition**

We failed to mention that Martin Jiminez, (pictured on the right) is the Head Chef at the Mystic Rogue Pub, and Restaurant, and that is why the food is so good!

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## Cathy Chambers Succumbs to Cancer April 22

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and the world lost a wonderful member on April 22nd. The beloved Cathy Chambers died after a battle with Cancer.



Visitation was Monday, April 26, 2021, at Curley Funeral Home, 6116 W. 111th Street, Chicago Ridge, IL 60415

The Funeral was Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 10:30 am from Curley Funeral Home to a 11:30 am Mass at St. Christina Catholic Church, 3342 W. 111th St., Chicago, IL 60655

The funeral was live streamed. Interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Chambers Family.

**Obituary:** Devoted wife of Thomas, for 44 years; Loving mother of T.J. (Sinead), Mike (Kate), and Kevin (Beth); Proud grandma of Kiera, Bree, Owen, and Abigail; Cherished sister of Margaret (Bill) Hosty, Richard Bourke, JoAnn Durkin, and Bill (Lisa) Bourke; Dear sister-in-law of John (Georgina) Chambers, the late William Chambers, Mary Eileen (Joseph) Laiter, Therese (Raymond) Rose, Michael (Kathleen) Chambers, and Elizabeth (Daniel) Egan; Beloved aunt, cousin, and friend to many; Proud teacher at Marist High School for over 20 years;

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## The High Kings Release 'Home From Home'

(The first 3 songs are available to view on YouTube):  
**Streets of London**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qBM8-06hzfs>  
**The Dutchman**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sO8LJZ2GT6w>  
**Wild Colonial Boy**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrteLeMwX6l>  
[www.thehighkings.com](http://www.thehighkings.com)

Recorded live at Concert Deck in Dublin, Home from Home is a journey through classic folk songs old and new. The High Kings say, "The idea behind this album was to bring our fans on a journey across the world, to some of the places we call home when we tour, by singing some of the songs that have inspired us." The High Kings are Finbarr Clancy, Darren Holden, Brian Dunphy and newest member and multi-instrumentalist,



Paul O'Brien. The High Kings continue to set the bar extremely high for Irish Folk music across the world and are widely regarded to be at the forefront of the genre. At a time when they can't physically be with their fans, The High Kings still wanted to bring them on this adventure. The band have always said that their huge army of loyal fans are like the 5th member of the group. "Each city, each tour, seeing familiar faces in the crowd, and the welcoming we get year after year - that is our home from home... and to be separated during this last year has been so hard for us" says Darren

Holden, "we decided to come together to record and film these songs for release at a time when we should be playing them live to our fans."

According to Brian Dunphy, "...this album is our effort to bring us all together until a time when we can meet in person again."

The album also features a guest appearance by Brian Kennedy on the iconic Irish folk song Carrickfergus.

1. Streets of London
2. The Dutchman
3. Wild Colonial Boy
4. Summer in Dublin
5. Farewell to Nova Scotia
6. Streets of New York
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9. Green Fields of France
10. Carrickfergus
11. Galway Races



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# Ireland Network Chicago

## Members and IAN Readers!

April was another busy month for Ireland Network Chicago!

We welcomed a great panel of experts to discuss the implications of Brexit on US- EU-UK relations and last week in conjunction with Irish Networks USA hosted a 2nd speednetworking event again online.

Looking forward into May we will host our **AGM Thursday May 20th**, again via zoom platform. While a lot of details are still to be finalized we are hoping to create a really interactive event with guest speakers and prizes to continue our membership engagement online. We will also be hoping to announce details of our first in person outdoor Summer event during the meeting.

Registration details will follow in the near future via our social media platforms!

Best regards,



Garrett Diamond  
IN Chicago President"



**For Membership and newsletter signup visit  
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## 'AVA' - Éabha McMahon Releases 'Wildflower'

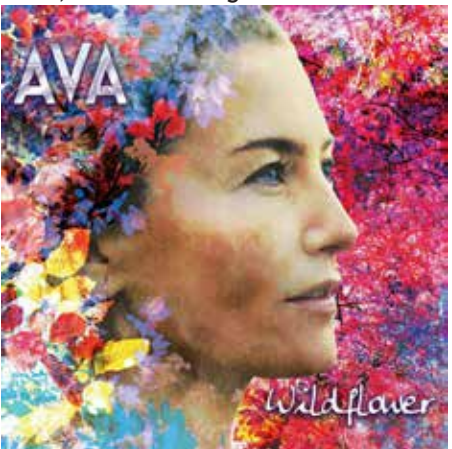
Former Celtic Woman Star Goes Solo -

First Single title song 'Wildflowers' out on March 19th

'Wildflower' is the debut album from AVA - the name under which Irish singer/songwriter Éabha McMahon is presenting her solo work and is the phonetic spelling of Éabha.

Éabha has garnered the world's attention for her stunning unique voice as principal vocalist with the globally successful Irish music collective Celtic Woman with whom she recorded five albums, filmed three television specials and performed sell out concerts in 20 countries across 6 continents. The group has been number one on both Billboard's World Music and Classical Charts and received a Grammy nomination.

'Wildflower' presents AVA's original songs that encapsulate the rhythm of the earth, the unwavering momentum of love



and loss and the global concerns we have for each other and for the world we call home. Contemporary with traditional Irish influences, the album sees AVA continuing the centuries old Irish tradition of storytelling through song, bringing her own modern style to the art. She seamlessly blends English lyrics with her love of the Irish or Gaelic language adding a poetic rhythm to her songwriting. She says, "I love writing lyrics that spark a memory, or a feeling. I write from my soul hoping that it will have the same cathartic effect on yours." AVA continues, "To be able to sing my own songs is like winning the lottery. It lifts my body and mind to a new place where I feel most like me. It's the greatest privilege to be able to make music and something that I want to do for the rest of my life."

There are 13 tracks on the album and of the title song and first single, 'Wildflower' AVA says, "As a child my grandmother would show me dried flowers that were delicately kept between two sheets of paper in an old book. They were so beautiful. Her mother would tell her the story of the wildflowers and how they ended up in this book. To me the flowers represent the passing of time, the beauty of nature and the love between mother and daughter."

The album is produced and arranged by Gavin Murphy, a Grammy nominated arranger, composer and producer. Born in Belfast and based in Dublin, in the Pop and Commercial music world he has worked with artists as diverse as Van Morrison, Harry Connick J., Andrew Lloyd Webber, The Corrs, Glen Hansard, Sinéad O'Connor, The Chieftains and Kodaline.

For more on AVA go to <https://www.avasinger.com/> Presale for the single 'Wildflower' is available on that site as well as the album!

## Consul No Longer Accepts Paper Passport Applications

The Passport Service is expanding services offered through the online passport application system for all applicants in the US - including first-time applicants. Further details are posted on our website. The Consulate is no longer accepting paper application forms. The Passport Service is now direct-

ing all Irish citizens to use the online system to complete their passport application.

Passport application processing is currently suspended in line with Level 5 of the Irish Government's National Framework on Living with COVID-19.

If seeking to renew a passport that has expired in the last 5 years for an adult or child, you must apply using the online service <https://www.dfa.ie/passportonline/> Please email us at [chicagocongen@dfa.ie](mailto:chicagocongen@dfa.ie)



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# On the Upbeat

By **Maryann McTeague Keifer**

Welcome to May, and with it, the hope springing eternal that some live music will be regularly returning to our lives! While you are waiting, and it is looking hopeful with fests regularly held in late summer and fall, Milwaukee, Iowa, La Crosse, and Michigan to name a few, tentatively setting up schedules and booking musicians,

there are an increasing collection of new albums debuting. One that you should especially pay attention to is LIVE by the band Full Tilt.

While the band may be new, the musicians who make it up are some of the best in Irish and Scottish music treating us to a mix of tunes and songs from Scotland, Shetland, and Ireland. World

known and respected Sligo fiddler Manus McGuire, Shetland fiddle ace Gemma Donald and guitarist and vocalist Brian Nicholson, and Fife's accordion master Alan Small came together and toured right before the pandemic hit. The resulting album, which is most of their touring tunes and songs, was released this year and what a balm for the music starved soul!

Manus McGuire has had a long and incredible career in music forming and performing with bands the likes of Buttons and Bows, Moving Cloud, and The Brock McGuire Band. Since retiring as a physician, he has been performing and recording solo, as well as with several other musicians. Raised in a very musical family from Sligo, Manus has won most awards out there, travelled extensively all over the world, and even has his own radio program now. With double digit albums to his credit, he has been in the forefront of the Irish Traditional music scene. One of his many talents is being able to play in the style of diverse genres, and in this album, you will believe he was raised in Scotland as he has their fiddle style down to an art.

Gemma Donald, who has been described by the iconic Aly Bain as "an incredible musician" has been playing fiddle and piano since she was in primary school. A winner of many prestigious awards such as The

Young Traditional Musician of the Year, and the Glenfiddich Fiddle Championship, she brings her strong Scottish/Shetland style to this album. She also is a noted

composer and you will truly enjoy her "Johnny Barton's Fiddle" set. You may even find yourself air playing along with her.

Fellow Shetlander Bill Nicholson is an internationally recognized guitarist who plays all kinds of music from traditional to rock, country, blues, and jazz. A member of several bands including the celebrated Maggie and Brian, his music is well praised and respected. In addition to playing, he is also an accomplished singer. Brush up on your listening



skills for the Scottish burr that is rich in his voice in songs such as "Farewell Tae Yell" and "The Isles O'Gletness."

Another major award winner, who still competes, is Alan Small who in the last several years has added an All Scotland Senior Traditional Solo Accordion Championship as well as several NAAFC Accordion Championships in a row. Like bandmate, Bill Nicholson, Alan is well entrenched not only in traditional music, but also classical and jazz. Many wellknown musicians have called him teacher and mentor.

There are many ways to describe their music - spirited, high powered, potent and definitely

diverse are just a few I'd use to give a word picture of Full Tilt. They play with a style that exudes the love of and need to share the splendor of their music. Musicians who are successful in their own right do not always come together with a consonance when playing with others as a group. Not an issue with these gifted instrumentalists. Listening to LIVE, you will believe they have been playing together all their lives. Their play is fluid, transitions are so good, you listen for them, and the energy is evident. They are able to merge in and out of each other's styles as if they were their own.

The album gifts us with a generous seventeen tracks, almost unheard of anymore, that include the opening toe tappin', dancin' till you drop "Lorna's Reel/Gemima/Barrowburn Reel" and then heads into "Taylor's Joy/The Thomas Fraser Memorial Waltz" a gorgeous waltz set you can't help but taking a spin around the kitchen with. Both Manus and Gemma are prolific composers and you'll enjoy several of each of their works. The "Howling At The Moon" set includes three tunes of Manus' that feature his fiddling, Gemma's keyboard work and lead into Alan's amazing accordion playing all held together by Brian on the guitar-pure magic! Those of us who know Manus can close our eyes and see his happy smile as he plays.

Alan also has a composition on the album, and the arrangements of the traditional sets by all four are magnificent. You'll weave through reels, waltzes, aires, jigs, hornpipes, and songs. In addition to traditional and their own tunes, they have included tunes by greats such as Charlie Lennon, Donald Shaw, Nollaig Casey, April Verch, and David Munnely, to name a few. They include a fun "The Pink Panther Set featuring an electric guitar, but do not fear, the trad weaves in and out throughout. The closing tune is another trad woven piece which has a rich bluesy jazzy feel that will have you wanting to listen to the album once again. It is a stunner that you will want to add to your collection.

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## On the Law

Martin Healy Jr.

John P. Scanlon



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

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

### Spring is in the Air

With the Spring and Summer quickly approaching and the weather warming up, outdoor activities in Chicago are about to be in full swing. Different than last season, fans have been welcomed back to baseball games, in a limited capacity. While summer in the City brings with it many opportunities for fun in the sun, there are also a number of potential safety hazards unique to summer activities that everyone should keep in mind. There has been an increase in outdoor recreational activities as a way of social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, retail sales of powerboats increased 12 percent from the year before, reaching sales numbers not met since 2007.

### Watercraft Hazards

In the past, our office has represented individuals injured by some of these poten-

tial hazards. One of those hazards involves personal watercraft, or jet skis. The recent number of personal watercraft on our lakes and rivers has increased significantly, and with it, the number of accidents. Sales of personal watercrafts were up approximately 8 percent alone in 2020. Some of the risks are obvious such as the capability to reach very high speeds and make very sharp turns. No one without the proper training and knowledge should be driving them. One risk that many users of personal watercraft may not immediately recognize can result from the force of the jet stream. If a swimmer is near the rear end of the jet ski when it accelerates or if a passenger falls off behind the jet ski, serious injury can result. Personal watercraft do not typically have an exposed propeller. Instead, the jet ski is propelled by a very strong stream of water that pushes the craft through the water from behind.

When passengers fall off behind the watercraft, the closeness of a passenger to the jet stream as they enter the water creates a special risk. Water entering bodily orifices can cause devastating injuries to the bowel or other internal organs. Some of these injuries have required surgical repair, including colostomies. Our firm has represented individuals involved in jet ski accidents, including a female passenger who was injured when she fell backwards off a jet ski as the jet ski was accelerating. That individual suffered serious permanent injuries from the thrust of water.

As a result of litigation arising from these types of accidents, certain manufacturers have altered the design of their products and changed the warnings that accompany them. Many manufacturers now recommend that a wet suit should be worn when operating or riding on a jet ski to eliminate the potential for injuries caused by the strong thrust of water behind the watercraft. Additionally, 49 states, with the exception of Alaska, require all operators and passengers of a personal watercraft wear a life jacket.

### Pool Safety

Pool safety is another concern that is unique to the summer months here in the Midwest. A backyard pool can be a great way to stay cool in the sweltering heat of the summer, but extra care must be exercised, particularly if a homeowner is hosting guests who are unfamiliar with the pool.

In one case handled by our firm, a guest at an evening house party was lounging on the steps of an in-ground pool. The guest was sitting in what he believed to be the shallow end of the pool. The opposite end of the pool had a ladder for exiting the pool, and there were no markings indicating the depth of the pool. Just before the guest intended to leave, he got out of the pool using the shallow end steps, and walked toward what he believed was a deep end at the opposite side of the pool. He dove into the pool, but unbeknownst to the guest, the pool had two shallow ends and a deep middle. Thus, instead of diving into a deep end of the pool, the guest dove into water just over three feet in depth, struck his head on the bottom of the pool resulting in significant paralysis. Our firm represented the individual, an Irish immigrant against

the designers and manufacturer of the pool, and the homeowners resulting in a record multi-million dollar jury verdict.

Pool covers themselves also present an often-unrecognized danger. Teens or children may get into backyard pools at night and use partially-covered pools or spas. They can get confused or disoriented and become trapped under a pool or Jacuzzi cover. Covers with locks, and pools with high fences, lighting, and locks can help to keep out unsupervised users.

Consumer advocacy group, World Against Toys Causing Harm (W.A.T.C.H.), warns that water wings and inflatable rings can give parents a false sense of security when their children are in the water. Parents may be less vigilant, feeling that their children are safe when in fact they may not be. Larger pool toys, such as rafts, may also obscure a parent's view of their child. Around water, younger children must always be kept in sight and supervised.

Even baby pools can also pose a drowning risk to small children, who can drown in as little as two inches of water. According to W.A.T.C.H., between 2006 and 2010, 434 children under age 5 died, and 233 were injured from non-pool and non-spa related submersions. 92% of those injuries and deaths happened at home. In toddlers, the oxygen supply to the brain can drop in as little as 90 seconds without a breath. Thus, it is important to watch small children any time there is any amount of water.

### Enjoy Summer Activities - Be Alert to Hazards

Spring and Summer is a special time in Chicago, and many of us want to cram as many fun activities into those short months as possible. However, warmer weather brings with it its own set of potential safety hazards, particularly as it pertains to consumer products. Keeping an eye out for these dangers can help to ensure that you and your family enjoy summer safely. In a future article we will address some other warm weather hazards. Stay Safe.

By: Neil  
Schelhammer



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## Help Make West Suburban's Irish Fest a Huge Success!

This August is our inaugural Irish Fest! WSI is putting on two days of live music, Irish cultural activities, Hurling and Camogie games, food and more at Frontier Sports Park on August 6-7, 2021.

We'd appreciate your help to make it happen!

**Irish Fest Admissions Chairperson:** Responsible for coordinating with volunteer groups to staff various areas of Irish Fest.

**Irish Fest Staffing Chairperson:** Responsible for working with Lou Dog Events in overseeing the admissions process.

**On-Site Volunteers:** Help with beer slinging, event set-up and take-down and more on both days of the event. Choose the date and time that works best for you.

All volunteers will receive an Irish Fest t-shirt and a two-day pass to the event.

Click on the 'Volunteer Now' button to sign up. You don't even have to be a member of WSI to help out! Or email: [ccieckiewicz@gmail.com](mailto:ccieckiewicz@gmail.com)  
More opportunities will become available as we get closer to the date. [Volunteer Click Here!](#)



## Milwaukee Irish Fest Will Happen August 21, 22, 23!

Milwaukee Irish Fest is set to make its return to the Henry Maier Festival Park the third weekend in August. Organizers announced the 40th Irish Fest will take place Friday, August 20, Saturday, August 21, and Sunday, August 22. This year the festival will run for three days, compared to its normal four-day run.

Organizers are working with and evaluating input from the city of Milwaukee, the Wisconsin Health Department and the State, and are also monitoring CDC guidelines in order to produce a safe outdoor festival.

"We are moving forward with preparations for our 40th festival," said Mike Mitchell, Executive Director of CelticMKE. "We're going to do everything we can to ensure a safe environment. We will make any necessary adjustments to our operations and modify the layout to comply with regulations, restrictions, and recommendations put in place at the time of our festival." A plan is already in place to install sanitizing stations throughout the grounds and to enhance cleaning protocols.

"Our festival preparations center around prioritizing the wellbeing and safety of our patrons, volunteers, vendors, entertainers and staff," said Mitchell. "With the rollout of vaccinations, we feel comfortable taking the steps to create an Irish experience this summer for all to safely enjoy."

Irish Fest may be limiting the number of tickets sold both at the gates and online to accommodate the potential capacity limit. Admission tickets will go on sale on the Irish Fest website, [irishfest.com](http://irishfest.com) in the coming weeks. Organizers advise people to get their tickets in advance for a guaranteed entry to the festival.

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After 50 yrs in early childhood education and owning several child care centers, I decided to pass the baton. Our children are the third generation in our family to start schools and after seeing their success & passion I decided to venture into another area of caregiving, **seniors!** I thought, I'm not going to retire I'm going to RE-FIRE!

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## Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



### Through Streets Broad & Narrow

Gemma Jackson—  
Poolbeg Press

This novel is a triumphant expression of human inner strength and determination. It is charming, heart-warming, and emotionally intimate.

Gemma Jackson says this debut novel is a “fictional amalgamation of the stories I heard growing up in ‘The Lane’ in Dublin.” The Lane was an area of tenements near the elegant houses of Mount Street. Quoting Dubliner.com, Jackson comments about her book about the people in The Lane: They “are about Dublin, the city I was from and grew up in. It’s not my Dublin though. It’s the Dublin of my parents who knew all those hours of being told site there and shut up.”

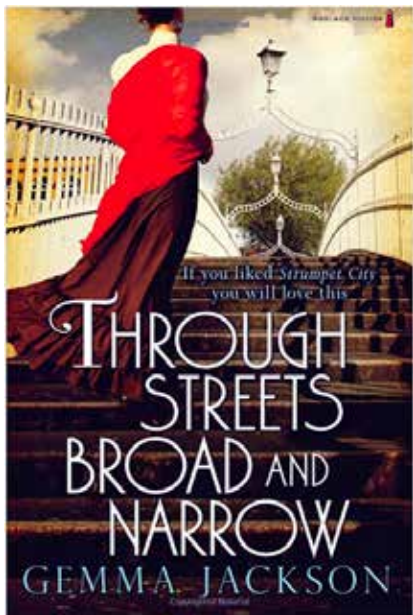
The novel is set in Dublin and begins on New Year’s Day in 1925. The main character is Ivy Rose Murphy. Ivy pays the rent and takes care of her often drunken father from the few pennies she earns for pushing “a pram around the well-to-do areas of Dublin.” She collects the discarded clothing of the wealthy, which she then sews “into items she would sell in Dublin’s markets.”

Her father got riotously drunk on New Year’s Eve and accidentally dies on the way home. The body is found by the police. A policeman, Or Garda, come to her house to hell her and kindly tries to comfort her. The Garda says, “Is there anyone I could call to be with you?” I could know on Father Leary’s door if you’d like.”

“He’d only be round here with his hand out! Ivy blurted out before slapping her hand across her mouth. I didn’t do it to badmouth the clergy in Holy Catholic Ireland.” She goes to

the local church to pray and to see the pastor of the parish. “I planned to see you about adding her father’s name to the altar list of the dead to be announced this Sunday.”

Fr. Leary answers, “See the assistant priest about payment for a Requiem Mass.”



“Father Leary didn’t like the ragged members of his parish to get above themselves.” And as she leaves the church, says to the priest, “Thank you for your offer of condolences for my grievous loss. It was very Christian of you.”

The death of her controlling father was sad, but it freed her to be herself. A friend tells her, “Times are changing...This country and everything Irish is changing and fast. We’ll soon have our own government and how’s that going to affect us?... We have to be ready or we’ll be left behind.”

The author gives this example of how far behind Ivy is. Ivy stops into an office and is astonished when she hears a telephone ringing. She says, “This must be one of them telephone things she’d been learning about. Wasn’t that a wonder? Without

a pause, the woman behind the desk put something against her ear and spoke aloud into the black thing she was holding up to her face. Ivy watched in stunned admiration.”

She encourages a man who lives in The Lane, runs a livery cab service. His horse and cab roam around the city to try to pick up fares. It is lonely, heart-breaking work. Out in all kinds of weather. Sometimes he gets a fare. And many times, he returns to the barn for his horse—but has no fares.

Later when Ivy is more confident in her abilities, she encourages the man to install a phone line. People who want a cab can call up to request one. This gives jobs to several young men who drive the cabs. And a job is made for a man in The Lane who is crippled from the waist down. He answers the phone and writes the address for the cab to go too. Ivy employs three girls and their mother to separate the woolen fibers into piles. Ivy puts dolls into a woolen blanket. They sell to everyone’s surprise.

The livery prospers. The drivers are pleased, as are its customers. Ivy says to the man, “Did you ever think nearly six short months ago at the beginning of the year, that we’d be sitting here talking about business?”

He observes, “I can’t believe the changes taking place in me livery. I have to stop and look around every morning to check I’m in the right place.”

Gemma Jackson develops several examples of success as Ivy develops her confidence. As we know from the history of Ireland—after the revolution, the leaders of the new state of Ireland were optimistic about plans for the modernization of Ireland. After the British were forced out, the Church took over their all-encompassing role. The Church was happy to keep Ireland poor and backward and totally dependent on agriculture exports to Britain. Just like before the Irish Revolution.

Ivy’s friend says about this,

“This country fought for its freedom from oppression, but it seems to me we are handing over our freedom to the Catholic Church. These men and women have too much power over us...I fear them. I fear the power we are giving to them...”

Even the constitution of

1937, old-fashioned, but must have pleased the Vatican. The only employment permitted for women was to stay home, become a nun, or be a primary school teacher. These and other restrictions were only changed and modernized in our time.

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# 100,000 Welcomes as Chicago Gaelic Park Gets Carefully Back to Normal!

A very Irish Caed Mile Failte awaits your return.

We checked in with the President of Gaelic Park, Bill O’Sullivan, to see how they were progressing into 2021. Here is the good news.

“We are on our journey to normalcy. The Carraig Pub was able to resume operations in February.

We were able to host indoor events in February, with limited numbers. We held the Carraig Pub’s annual St. Valentine’s dinner and it was a success.

We are starting to see small dance classes in the building and small organization meetings in the building.

We were able to march in the Oak Forest St. Patrick’s Family Parade on March 6th.

We were able to bring in entertainment for lunch and dinner on March 14th and 17th, with socially distanced guests in multiple rooms and on our heated patio. We are thrilled to have people around again!

Irish Community Services had their Spring Walk here March 27th.

We hosted an Easter Egg Hunt on March 27th. Lots of happy kids, parents and grandparents.

We are starting to see an in-

crease in booking more events as restrictions ease. People have been glad to get back to the Carraig Pub, with our strongest socially distanced crowds on Wednesday rib nights and Friday fish nights. The Pub is planning to work in more enter-

tainment in the near future. Tje Pub is looking forward to building on last year’s strong outdoor season

to take shape, including a day honoring first responders on June 20th. With entertainers not traveling and doubts about numbers



*This new and beautiful outdoor wedding, events, and ceremony area boasts running water where the bridge is, and a waterfall right in front of Gaelic Park.*

of people that will be allowed in May, we regret that we cannot host an Irish Festival on Memorial Weekend 2021. We are looking at other entertainment possibilities this year as restrictions ease.

People who have not been here in some time will notice our new look out front, which gives us a new space to use for weddings, ceremonies and events.

We wanted to bring some Carraig Pub music to people at home, and were able to broadcast some “Music From Home” shows on Facebook. (Joe McShane; Declan McShane and Laurence Nugent; Kieran Byrne)

General Manager, Marian Ryan, and the rest of the crew are ready and waiting to serve you.

So, start making your plans if you haven’t already returned. You might have forgotten what it is like to get together with friends, but it won’t take you long to get back in the groove! Book your event before the spots are taken.

Gaelic Park is located at 6119 W. 147th St, Oak Forest, IL 60452

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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*



# Chicago Gaelic Park

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



## A Cháirde

Cead Mile Fáilte! If you haven't been to Gaelic Park for some time, we look forward to welcoming you back. We have seen an increase in activity and we hope it will continue. Modest-sized meetings, dance classes and events are being held in the building and on the grounds. Mass and breakfast will be held on Mothers Day. Pub activity has increased both indoors and outdoors, and youth and adult GAA players have been training on the fields. We're thrilled that there will be a season this year for USGAA, here in the Central Division.

Warmer weather makes everyone more comfortable as the Carraig Pub offers patio seating on

more and more days. Kids are welcome before 10 PM, and they can enjoy our playground. Watch our emails and social media posts for food and drink specials, and for the evenings on which we have entertainment. When you think about Memorial Weekend, in addition to remembering the men and women who died while performing military duties for the USA, we hope you think about the 30+ years that we've been able to host our Irish Festival. While we are unable to host a festival this Memorial Weekend, we'll make sure that we have entertainment on the patio that weekend for our pub patrons. See you there? Is mise le meas,  
Bill O'Sullivan

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## Two Marian Catholic students are the recipients of the 2020-2021 Gaelic Park Irish Heritage Scholarship



*Pictured left to right is: Gaelic Park Board Member Brendan Houlihan, Kiernan McSwiggan '22, Roisin Walsh '22, Gaelic Park Board Member Barney Farrelly, Gaelic Park Board Member Colleen Reidy, and Sr. Judine Hilbing, OP, Director of Scholarship & Tuition Assistance for Marian Catholic.*

Kiernan McSwiggan of Lansing, Illinois and Roisin Walsh of Tinley Park, Illinois, members of the class of 2022, were selected to receive the scholarship in the award's inaugural year. Both are AP and Honors students and members of Marian Catholic's world-renowned band.

The purpose of the award is to support the advancement of education in Gaelic Park's greater community. Award winners have exemplary academic and disciplinary

records, demonstrate financial need, aspire to continue their academic pursuits after graduation, and are involved in school or community related activities. Additionally, preference is given to students of Irish American heritage.

The mission of Gaelic Park is to preserve and promote the culture and heritage of Ireland - the Irish national games, the music, dance, language, literature, theatre, art, and religion of Ireland.



*Sunday May 9, 2021*

**Celebrate MOM at Gaelic Park's Mother's Day Mass & Breakfast On the Patio**

*(weather permitting)*

**Mass at 10:00am with Irish Breakfast immediately following**

**Irish Breakfast consists of:**  
Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Winston's Sausage, White Pudding, Black Pudding, Orange Juice, Coffee or Tea

**Adults \$12 / Children \$6**

**Reserve your family table now by calling 708-687-9323**

**Seating is limited - Pay at door (Credit Card payment accepted in advance)**



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# Back in the Rhythm of Irish Sports at Gaelic Park

**By Colm Egan**

Here in the USA the rhythm of the year is often mirrored by the Rhythm of Sports.

Fall and Early Winter are dominated by the NFL and College football Towns coming alive with American Football games.

Just as this season is ending the indoor venues rock with NBA games and Hockey pucks flying on the Ice.

College Basketball gets the month of March to playoff their championships, known as March Madness.

Baseball is the game of Summer

Interestingly many of these Adult men and women players are graduates of the youth program and are very accomplished players in their own right.

On the day each youth player had an opportunity to learn new game skills. We played full scrimmage games and each age group played fun games of Tug O War, Capture the Flag and every imaginable Skill learning games that our coaches could come up with.

What a great start to getting outside here in Chicago for our Spring and Summer games.

"Spring Training" has begun.

Here's to a wonderful Summer of 2021.

Youth Gaelic Games Practice

at Chicago Gaelic Park for Summer of 2021 will be on Monday & Wednesday @ 6.30pm.

More information can be

found @Chicago St. Jarlath's GAA - Youth Facebook page or Contact ColmEgan@gda.central.usa@gaa.ie



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and this season is prompted by all the teams going to "Spring Training." During the pandemic all USA sports experienced cancellations or "adaptive pauses" to major competitive events.

In our Chicago Gaelic Games world we were shut down in Spring of 2020 due to the Global Covid 19 crisis.

On the Saturday of Easter weekend this year we had a noticeable change. Chicago Gaelic Games Development held an Easter Irish Sports Day with 130+ young players attending, many trying our Gaelic Sports for the first time.

Taking the field with overjoyed children excited to be outside, we adult volunteer coaches. All the coaching on the day was done by Adult players from the Chicago clubs.



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**Rated "4 forks" by the Chicago Tribune**

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To learn more about Chief O'Neills and book your table for our Mother's Day Brunch, please visit: <https://www.chiefoneillspub.com>



**May, 9, 2021 | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Join Chief O'Neill's for our Fabulous All-You-Care-To-Eat  
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Adults \$50, Guests 12 and under - \$30**

**Reservations Required/ 2 hour seatings**

*\$4 surcharge this year for additional staffing necessary for contactless buffet service for everyone's comfort and safety. Additionally, all children must be able to remain seated at the table for the duration of the visit.*

**Celebrate  
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Assorted Salads/Peel & Eat Shrimp/Atlantic Salmon Wellington/  
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Born in Dundee, Scotland, Gus Noble received the 2021 National Tartan Day Award in April, presented by the Scottish Coalition USA. Gus heads up Caledonia Senior Living and Memory Care. The Chicago Scots is the oldest Non-Profit In Illinois [www.chicagoscots.org](http://www.chicagoscots.org). For more info call 708.442.7268.



Spring is a good time to plant the seeds for future growth.

This month has been an incredible month of growth for me. Not growth in business, or financial so to speak, but more personal. I have been blindsided at minimum three times by curve balls that I never saw coming. As I continue to push through obstacles and observe what is going on in home care, I wanted to share with the readers what unfolded this month for me. Let me set the scene by saying: everything I have worked toward for the past ten years was simply magnified and personified for me that home care is the right place for me, and I was born to do this! My path now, however, needs to go in a different direction to fulfill my personal mission in the home care space.

I have always said that home care is about the clients and I will say it again and again and again. The clients drive the business and relationship-building is key. It is the connections you make that matter. Service must be the very best that you can deliver to each and every family that enters your circle. As CEO of Aishling Companion Home Care and the Aishling Care Academy, I do not get involved in the day-to-day operations. I am out front, thinking five years ahead. On occasion, by happenstance, I am involved directly

with families, but it is very rare.

This month that happenstance turned into one of my curve balls. It occurred whereby a phone call was transferred to my extension and I was instantly face-to-face with a family member that my team had been working with over the course of a few weeks. A tragic story unfolded where the family of the client was out of the country trying to attend to their loved one's medical needs in addition to the coordination of his home care, his therapists, doctors, and the arrangements to transport the client back to Ireland. This was a monumental task the family had to deal with. Even though I had not met, spoken to, or even seen any of the family members or client for that matter, I now was personally involved in the case.

What was personified for me was the worry and the duress this family was under from the other side of the world. The concern, the love, the dedication, the determination, and the worry. I could hear it through the phone all the way across the Atlantic: the concern about shift changes from one caregiver to another for 24/7 coverage every 8 hours. The importance of all the therapy appointments, transportation, in addition to personal needs, nutrition, and medicine oversight. Magnified by a gap of personal, family

oversight for three days while family members switched places from Ireland to the US.

It only took a second for me to decide it was time to not be the tour guide but to become the driver. I decided to clear my calendar and become the caregiver simply because it was the right thing to do and assist this family through the multiple challenges they were experiencing. I had not been a caregiver in a client's home for over seven years. I'm not telling this story to gain recognition but more to repeat and address the elephant in the room. Every family is special and has the same basic requirement no matter how many hours of care are needed. Each family wants and deserves a QUALITY team delivering QUALITY care. This is where the home care industry needs to step up to the plate. We need to promote home care as a career path and not just a job. The training should be better so caregivers truly understand Maslow's hierarchy of needs and not just completing the care plan and checking off tasks. How truly fortunate we are to have the opportunity and privilege to be a part of clients' lives, no matter how tragic or natural. We need to focus more on the person and being the difference in his or her life, daily. How truly rewarding this work is. This is the next path for me: to educate about the importance of being the difference. Not because you want to, but because it is simply what is required each and every day in home care. Everything happens for a reason and I am so glad that I had the opportunity to do what I did, because it just magnified what I believe in.

*"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."*

-Maya Angelou

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## Keeping up with the ICS!

By Kelly McNichols

At the onset of the pandemic the ICS reacted quickly by converting all their in-person services to remote, effectively keeping the benefits these programs offer uninterrupted. They even found ways to create more virtual programs to serve our community and came up with a new way to fundraise as a response to having to cancel all their annual in-person fundraising events. Since the pandemic has dramatically altered the landscape in which we're all used to interacting with each other, the ICS has stepped up to the plate to ensure that the services they offer are digitally accessible and easy to navigate thanks to their website's new look.

Last year in response to the pandemic, the ICS made 620 wellbeing calls and mailed out over 800 cards, letters, facemasks and care packages to 120 senior members of our community. Using grant money, the ICS facilitated direct financial assistance to over 286 struggling families resulting in over \$464,600 of financial aid given to community members and local residents. Through their social services, immigration services and youth services, the ICS is predicting a recording breaking path for 2021 and are on track to serve over 1,779 individual clients this year—the most in the organization's history!

This outstanding statistic calls for the backing of an equally strong fundraising effort, so in response to the cancellation of last year's golf outing (the ICS's biggest fundraising event of the year) the ICS Associate Board put their heads together (well more like side by side over Zoom) to try to figure out how to fundraise while also staying remote. The fruit of their virtual labors resulted in Yarns! The game of Irish conundrums!

They created a laugh-out-loud card game filled with Irish riddles, mysteries and head-scratching problems that people could instantly download from the ICS's newly minted Etsy shop (head to [Etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com) and search for "Irish Community CHI" to buy the game). The ICS Associate Board launched their card game on Etsy the week of St. Patrick's Day and were able to pull in almost \$200 after only being online for less than a week!

Not only did the ICS get crafty with their card game but they also got colorful with the launch of their new campaign whose objective is to highlight the diversity in Chicago's Irish American community. In response to the protests and events that gripped the nation and the world last year, the ICS launched the Colorful Campaign as a way to

celebrate the people of color in our community and embrace the diversity they embody that enriches all our experiences of being Irish. Find out how you or a loved one can be featured in the next showcase of our Colorful Profiles series underneath the Youth & Family Services section of this article. Read on to find out more about how the ICS has rolled up their sleeves in the face of the ongoing pandemic:

### Social Services

#### **Emergency Support:**

In an effort to help those in financial need throughout the pandemic, the ICS obtained grant funding to form the Irish Community Covid Response Fund. This fund was broken down into three sections, 1) direct payments to individuals ineligible for local relief, 2) counselling and wellness services, and 3) outreach to vulnerable and isolated persons.

The ICS is also a participating organization in the **Illinois Family Support Project (IFSP)**. This program provides direct financial assistance to eligible community members who are not able to receive unemployment, the federal stimulus, or other local forms of financial support such as food stamps. The ICS assists applicants in applying for this program and, if approved, arranges to deliver the payment to the client.

### Mental Health Programs

The wellness events that the ICS facilitated last year were attended by over 101 people. Meanwhile on the social media front, their efforts to spread mental health information garnered them over 1,981 views on their wellness videos. Their two prominent programs, HeadTalk and Mind Yourself March, continue to empower the Irish American community to reach out to one another, look after one another and remove the stigma of mental health concerns—especially during this unprecedented time in history.

The ICS created **HeadTalk** to kick-start a community-wide conversation on mental wellness through a year-long education campaign focusing on informing the public about mental health conditions including ways to find help and recover. **Mind Yourself March** was a month-long community campaign that the ICS ran throughout March about wellness and self-care and featured pre-recorded yoga sessions to help calm the mind.

### Senior Memory Programs

For those in our community with mild-to-moderate memory loss, the ICS works to support

them by providing interactive group programs and formal support groups. Their unique Memory Cafes allow participants to engage in physical and mental activities designed to stimulate the brain. This support group runs in partnership with the Illinois chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

### Individual Case Management Program

(ICMP): The ICMP is a cornerstone of the ICS's social services programming that supports the vulnerable in our community as they navigate trying circumstances. The issues encountered by ICMP clients are varied and can include loss and bereavement, health issues, crisis returns to Ireland, mental health challenges, and financial hardships.

### Youth and Family Services

**COLORFUL:** While watching last year's protests unfold and keeping in mind their mission statement: "To serve, empower and connect the Irish and Irish American Community of the Midwestern United States," the ICS responded to the events that gripped the nation by launching **COLORFUL**. This campaign was created to honor and support the people of color in our community and to celebrate the diversity they embody that enriches all our experiences of being Irish. If you or someone you know would like to be interviewed for the next **COLORFUL** profile series, please contact Grace Odumosu at [grace@irishchicago.org](mailto:grace@irishchicago.org) or at 773-282-8445.

### Faite Youth Program

Through community meetings and engagement, it became clear to the ICS that isolation among the youth with intellectual disabilities was an increasing concern. In response to this, they created the **Faite Youth Program**. This group allows members to explore the creative side of their brain through Irish dancing, Irish stories and art, effectively helping members build social, emotional and creative skills through the Irish arts.

### Intergenerational Podcast

(Irish Memory Box): This unique program fosters a vibrant sense of community by connecting people of Irish heritage from different generations. It utilizes Irish culture and history to bring individuals both young and old together for storytelling, socialization, and visitation through an online platform. Check out the latest podcast of The Irish Memory box on the ICS's new website at [irishchicago.org](http://irishchicago.org).

### Immigration Services

**U.S. Citizenship Education Classes:** The ICS offers a free five week course comprising 10 hours



of class time to assist you with obtaining your U.S. citizenship. Topics discussed include: application process and eligibility, form N-400 review, reading and writing preparation, civics exam preparation, and interview practice. Call 773-282-8445 or email citizenship@irishchicago.org to register.

**Application Processing:** The ICS offers full legal consultation and U.S. citizenship pre-screening assistance. They can help you with application preparation, document collection, application review and process guidance. To book your application processing appointment, contact Hernan Prieto at 773-282-8445 or send an email to citizenship@irishchicago.org.

**Immigration Legal Clinics:** The ICS holds clinics twice a month (by appointment only) where they inform participants about immigration topics such as: green card renewals, family based immigration, travel information, temporary visas and more. 773-282-8445 or email info@irishchicago.org to schedule your appointment or to book a free 30 minute consultation with an immigration attorney.

**Irish services:** The ICS provides assistance for Irish passport applications and Foreign Births Reg-

istration applications as well as offering assistance to those seeking to return to Ireland permanently. Please contact Michael Collins at mcollins@irishchicago.org or call 773-282-8445 if you would like to schedule an appointment.

### How you can help the ICS? play golf or play cards!

The ICS relies heavily on donations garnered from their fundraising events, which were all cancelled last year due to the pandemic. In response to this, the ICS Associate Board created Yarns! The game of Irish conundrums!

This entertaining card game of Irish riddles, mysteries and head-scratching problems can be downloaded from their Etsy store—just head to Etsy.com and search for “Irish Community CHI” to buy the game! The Associate Board’s next goal is to print out the game and sell it at stores throughout the Chicagoland area. In order to do that, they would love to advertise your company as a sponsor on the boxes and cards of their official game. Your sponsorship would help cover their costs for printing. Please email info@irishchicago.org to find out how you can become a sponsor for Yarns!

The ICS is excited to announce that their annual

golf outing is back at Indian Boundary Golf Course! The golf outing is their headlining fundraiser each year and contributes greatly to their ability to meet the needs of our community. This year’s golf outing will be different; safety protocols prevent them from hosting a reception at the end of the event so each participant will eat on the course.

In light of the financial hardship that many businesses and individuals have endured this year, the ICS lowered the cost to participate in this event and are offering free sponsorship signs to previous sponsors who may be unable to donate this year.

The ICS will also provide a section where you can sponsor your friend’s business or your favorite local restaurant and they will feature their details at the event.

For those who are in a position to provide sponsorship, please contact Michael Collins at mcollins@irishchicago.org or call 773-282-8445. Sponsorship opportunities include a variety of mediums such as: sponsorship at tee boxes, representation in their ad book, your company logo on all event materials, and your company logo on each golf ball issued for the event (sponsorship form must be returned by May 19, 2021). Hope to see you there!

**COLORFUL**  
Irish Community Services is proud to showcase  
People of Color in our community

Introducing...

**73, African American  
Lancaster, PA**

## Lenwood (Leni) Sloan



**Tell us about yourself.** My name is Lenwood, Leni to friends. I am many things, I am an artist, an activist, an educator, and a change agent. A lot of African Americans have at least one Irish ancestor. There aren't a lot of places that we can claim that and be all that we can be. So I'm excited to speak with you. **Tell us about your Irish connection.** Great grandfather Irish from Kilkenny. I have actually been back to Ireland to visit Kilkenny, in fact I've been to Ireland 4 times, **What was it like growing up?** Rough being poor but stimulating being in the center of the Civil Rights movement. I loved to people watch when I was younger. I would take a public bus going no where in particular. I liked the fact that people got on and got off and seeing all the different characters. **What's your favorite way to celebrate your Irish Heritage?** PARADE. Dance, revel the usual ways but I also have a tradition that I would like to share with you. My great grand father came to American during the famine he was a supporter of Daniel O'Connell. They made a lot of noise, they were very political! He got in trouble in NY so his family decided it was time for him to move to MA. After joining the civil war he went down the river to Arkansas and he met a Black Cherokee woman. They got together and (Continued)

took a journey. They wound up in Pennsylvania and had 14 children. So my favorite way to celebrate is to follow that pathway. I used to every year, make that journey from NY to MA down the river in a river boat to Arkansas, by train back to PA. I used to try to recover and redraw his footsteps. **You are a member of the African American Irish Diaspora Network. Can you tell us about that?** We are attempting to discover the crossroads of two cultures and common ground in the conflict of cultures. Were the cultures connects is usually in the dance its also in the masquerade. The AAIDN's mission is The mission of the African American Diaspora Network is to foster relationships between African Americans and Ireland through shared heritage and culture. It will create a framework for people to strengthen their identity and connection with the Irish Diaspora, engage with Irish culture, business and issues, communicate with one another, and provide opportunities to travel to the Island to experience its rich beauty and history. **What hopes/wishes do you have for the Irish American community?** A moment to peace and an Acknowledgment of commonalities. Like the old song says we shall overcome. *'deep in my heart I do believe that we shall overcome'*. I hope in the days and weeks and months ahead that Black and Irish people remember what they have in common instead of what the differences are. **Do you have any advice for Irish America?** My advice would be to get help for the pandemic crisis of endemic hate. I hope that as everyone is working on conflict that we would find joy in each others music, laughter and dance. That we stay on what I call the dancing ground or the dancing crossroads. Its a dangerous time and everybody is talking us into hating each other. Embrace your mixed race children as new arbiters of peace, find that place at the crossroads.



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## Aer Lingus

ICS's annual golf outing is being held on June 19, 2021 at 12:00pm.

This year our event raffle is being sponsored by Aer Lingus. The main prize for our golf outing raffle is two round trip flights to Ireland.

You can purchase tickets to our raffle without attending the event itself, so don't miss your opportunity to see the Emerald Isle, purchase your tickets today!

**Purchase your raffle tickets at**

[www.irishchicago.org](http://www.irishchicago.org)

For questions please contact us at: [info@irishchicago.org](mailto:info@irishchicago.org) or call 773-282-8445. All proceeds to benefit Irish Community Services.



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**Wednesday, June 23rd**  
from 3:30pm - 6:30pm

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- **Ad Book - 1/2 Page: \$150**

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# CELTIC

AN IRISH JOURNAL FOR SENIORS



## WELCOME

Unpredictable spring weather means we're never entirely sure what to cook but because there's never a bad time for soup, that's what we've been tinkering with in the *Celtic Kitchen* this month. In the *Ambassador's Poem Pick* Ambassador Mulhall invites us to revisit one of Ireland's most beloved poets and one of his most notable and quoted works. Leah Comiskey offers the third of four *Technology Talk* articles defining common yet confusing technology terms, and our jokes and puzzles sections are sure to keep you entertained and occupied! We hope you enjoy the May edition of *Celtic Magazine* and spring has arrived to wherever you are!

*Paul Dowling*

## THE AMBASSADOR'S POEM PICK

### The Cure at Troy

by *Seamus Heaney*

For this month's Irish poetry selection, I return to one of our greatest poets, Seamus Heaney, who has left us a treasure trove of verses of the highest calibre. My current choice is from "The Cure at Troy", which has become a very famous poem in recent times, especially after President Biden used its sentiments during last year's election campaign when he posted on social media a video of himself reading it. The President has said that he does not quote Irish poets because he's Irish, but because they're the best poets. How could I disagree with that assessment?

This is not the first time "The Cure at Troy" has been used in a political context as I can recall President Clinton quoting it in some of his speeches. This is a poem like W.B. Yeats's "The Second Coming" that is likely to live on because of the power of its words and the ideas they

carry. Lines like "Believe that a farther shore/Is reachable from here" can be applied to so many situations that they have a natural appeal to politicians and speech writers. And the poem's most famous lines contain a thought that seems especially relevant to our times as we grapple with the adversities created by this pandemic.

*But then, once in a lifetime*

*The longed-for tidal wave*

*Of Justice can rise up,*

*And hope and history rhyme.*

The idea of hope and history rhyming is a compelling idea that is likely to stand the test of time and be a source of comfort to people for generations to come. It is a doggedly optimistic poem in its belief in "new life at its term". This is the kind of affirmation that ought to give poetry a place in our hearts. This Heaney poem, with its vision of a better future, can help lift our spirits at a time when we badly need such lifting.

**Ambassador Dan Mulhall**

### The Cure at Troy

*Human beings suffer,  
They torture one another,  
They get hurt and get hard.  
No poem or play or song  
Can fully right a wrong  
Inflicted and endured*

*History says, don't hope  
On this side of the grave.  
But then, once in a lifetime  
The longed-for tidal wave  
Of justice can rise up,  
And hope and history rhyme.*

*So hope for a great sea-change  
On the far side of revenge.  
Believe that further shore  
Is reachable from here.  
Believe in miracle  
And cures and healing wells.*

*Call miracle self-healing;  
The utter, self-revealing  
Double-take of feeling.  
If there's fire on the mountain  
Or lightning and storm  
And a god speaks from the sky  
That means someone is hearing  
The outcry and the birth-cry  
Of new life at its term.*



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## Technology Talk by Leah Comiskey

Our goal at Irish Community Services is to promote digital inclusion for all community members and break down any barriers that are in place prohibiting people from staying in touch with the world during the pandemic. Education is often the first step to creating accessibility. In this month's article you will find the third installment of a technology dictionary which provides easy-to-understand definitions for some of the technology jargon that many find confusing and overwhelming.

If you think this is useful for you, feel free to contact us here at Irish Community Services and we can send you a printed copy of the whole dictionary.

**Google:** Google is the most popular search engine on the internet and allows you to find websites and ask questions. You can visit [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) then type in some keywords to find out information. Someone might tell you to 'google' something, which means to look up information online.

**Hack:** An attempt to gain unauthorized illegal access to a computer or account.

**Hardware:** Computer hardware describes the physical parts of a computer, including the screen, mouse and keyboard.

**http/https:** Most web addresses start with 'http' or 'https'. It refers to how the information is shared over the internet. Make sure the website you're using starts with 'https' if you're entering personal or financial details. The 's' stands for secure.

**Icon:** An image or symbol which represent an app or function on your phone, tablet or computer screen.

**Inbox:** The virtual folder in your email account where any emails you receive are stored.

**Instagram:** Instagram is a popular social

media platform used for photo sharing. It allows you to create a personal profile where you can share photos with friends and family on your 'Instagram feed'.

**iOS:** IOS is the software that Apple phones and tablets (iPhones and iPads) use to function. It's known as a type of operating system.

**Link (or Hyperlink):** Text, an image or a button that you can click or tap on in order to access a website. The link may be blue in color and under-lined it may include wording such as 'click here for more information' or 'find out more'.

**Log in:** If you have set up an online account for anything including email, personal banking, zoom, or social media such as Facebook, you will need to use a username (often your email address) and password to access the account. This is known as logging in. It is a good Tip to write these down and keep them in a safe place in case they are forgotten.

**Malware:** Malware is short for 'malicious software'. A general term describing software that can cause harm to your computer through spreading computer viruses or accessing your personal information. You can have someone download software to protect your device from this Malware but this may cost a fee to do so.

**Online:** This refers to anything using the internet. For example, online shopping or online banking uses a website or an app, rather than doing the activity in person or over the phone. If you are using skype or Zoom, the word online next to someone's name means they are online and usually available to chat.

**PayPal:** An online account that you link to your bank account or payment card which allows you to pay for online purchases. Pay pal is a safe and secure way to pay fees online and quite easy to navigate.

**Pop-up:** A small window that suddenly appears (or 'pops up') on a webpage, usually an advertisement or an alert, You

can choose to block pop ups if you do not want to view them or find them offensive.

**Profile:** A description that may include your personal details and is used to identify you on a social networking website. This can be set as public (viewed by everyone) or private (only viewed by certain people). If you search Irish Community services on Facebook you will see our profile describing the organization and what it involves.

**Router:** A device that connects your computer, phone or tablet to a broadband-enabled telephone line and sends out your home internet signal. This is usually a small box in your home with your internet providers name on the front or side.

**Search Engine:** Search engines enable you to find websites and ask questions on the internet. Popular search engines include Google and Bing. You can type in some keywords to find out information or access websites. Someone might tell you to 'google' something, which means to look up information online using a search engine.

**Skype:** Skype is a type of video calling software. You can either install it as an app on your phone, tablet or computer, or you can access it through your internet browser.

**Smartphone:** A mobile phone which, as well as making calls and sending texts, can connect to the internet to do lots of different things, from sending emails, reading the news, playing games, downloading music or apps and banking or shopping online.

**Social Media:** Social media, or social networks, are online communities where you can connect with friends, family and other people who share your interests. Examples include Facebook, Twitter and Instagram which are all free to join.

**Next month we'll conclude our Technology Talk series with a final batch of definitions.**



# Comedy Club



My husband and I often laugh about how competitive we are.  
But I laugh more.

A cow in an earthquake is called a milkshake!

I recently decided to sell my vacuum cleaner as all it was doing was gathering dust.

Don't you hate it when someone answers their own questions? I do.

What did the mama cow say to the baby cow?  
**It's pasture bedtime**

What kind of shows do cows like?  
**Moosicals.**

Got a good joke to share? Our contact details are on the front page of the Celtic Magazine Section!



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## HOW TO JOIN OUR REMOTE SENIOR PROGRAMS

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

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------------------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------------------------

<b>From Australia</b> 02 8015 6011	<b>From Canada</b> 438 809 7799
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You will be asked to enter the '**Meeting ID**' below and then press the **# key**

**Meeting ID : 884 0991 8529**

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

### USE A COMPUTER OR TABLET

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

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

[www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)

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

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

**Meeting ID : 884 0991 8529**

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

# Think it Over

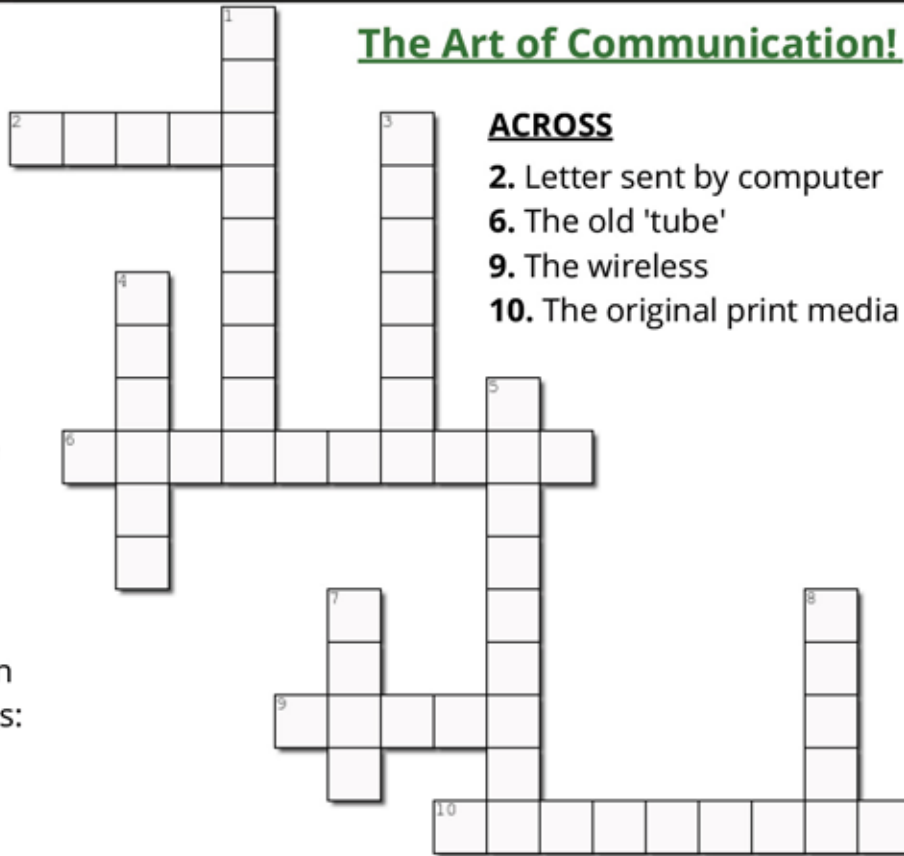


## The Art of Communication!

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

### DOWN

1. Invented by Graham Bell
3. Snail Mail
4. Bird that carries messages
5. Language of dots and dashes
7. An informal conversation
8. \_\_\_ signals: messages using fire



### ACROSS

2. Letter sent by computer
6. The old 'tube'
9. The wireless
10. The original print media

B	N	L	X	U	M	A	R	Y	H
O	D	D	O	K	E	I	L	U	J
M	A	R	G	A	R	E	T	N	S
W	E	H	T	T	A	M	P	N	I
N	J	Y	D	H	W	G	A	I	O
Y	M	A	K	L	R	U	T	V	B
R	R	U	M	E	M	Q	R	E	H
N	D	I	B	E	D	Y	I	K	A
E	I	A	J	N	S	O	C	V	N
H	I	G	I	K	Y	M	K	E	Z
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KEVIN	JULIE	SIOBHAN							
MATTHEW	PATRICK	HENRY							

# The Celtic Kitchen

Rachel Allen is part of the Irish culinary dynasty responsible for the famed Ballymaloe Cookery School in County Cork. Inspired by the rich foods and sometimes overlooked flavors available along Ireland's wild Atlantic coastline, she set off in 2015 on a foodie adventure to document the wonderful dishes on offer from Cork to Donegal. This month's Celtic Kitchen recipe is plucked from the pages of *Coast*, the book born of her culinary travels along Ireland's western edge.

## Irish Onion Soup & Blue Cheese Toast

### Ingredients

- 1oz butter
- 1lb 6oz onions peeled & cut into 1/4 inch slices
- 1 3/4 pints chicken or beef stock
- 5fl oz heavy whipping cream

For the Blue Cheese Toast

- 1/2 inch thick slices of sourdough bread
- 3oz blue cheese, crumbled

### Directions

- 1) Melt the butter in a large pan, add the onions and season with salt and pepper.
- 2) Turn the heat to medium-low and stirring ever few minutes, cook the onions

for 75 -90 minutes until they are a very deep golden brown.

3) Once the onions are caramelized add the stock and bring to a boil, turn the heat down and simmer for 15 minutes.

4) Add the cream, bring to a simmer and season to taste.

5) When ready to serve, preheat the broiler and toast the bread on both sides. Cut the toasted bread into smaller peices.

6) Pour soup into heatproof bowls and top with the toasted bread. Crumble the blue cheese over the top and place the bowls under the brolier for 1-2 minutes until bubbling.

Crossword Solutions:

DOWN: 1. Telephone, 3. Letters, 4. Pigeon, 5. Morse Code, 7. Chat, 8. Smoke  
ACROSS: 2. Email, 6. Television, 9. Radio, 10. Newspaper



## Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

### Looking Back on the Lady That is Limerick

It was one of those odd coincidences that make this wonderful old world of ours so interesting.

I had just read over the posting of my own article in this magazine for April, where in part I reminisced about the very happy days I had spent as a young guy in Limerick.

Writing it had brought back so many memories of wonderful times, wonderful people...wonderful city. And then I saw what had just appeared in Forbes magazine:

"Many folks think Ireland is all rolling green hills and five-star golf courses. But in the middle of the Irish countryside is a city called Limerick – known as the 'murder capital' of Europe..."

Really? Known by whom? I'd like to see the half-wits named, if you've interviewed them. But let's go on:

"Some bad neighbourhoods are even walled off by a dirty graffitied 10-foot-high concrete barrier, like the Berlin Wall. It's the kind of place, as my grandfather says, 'Where even the German shepherds walk around in pairs.'"

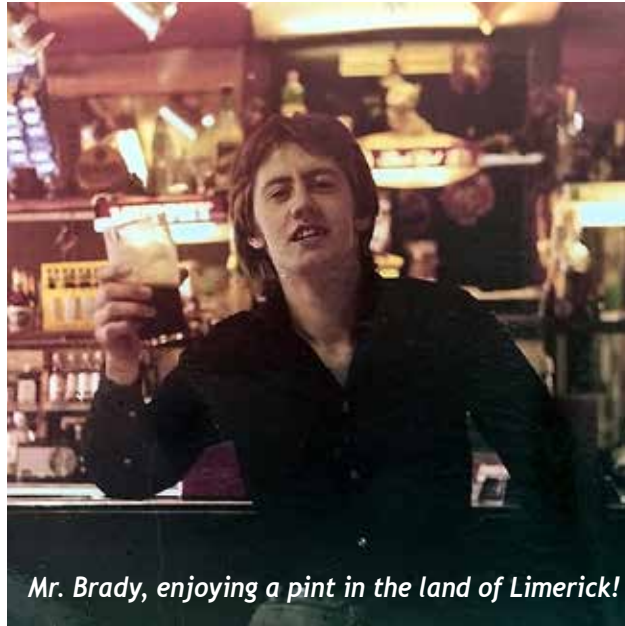
Like the Berlin Wall. Big barrier. I could feel the sweat coming out of me. Good God, if this was true (and who could doubt it, because it was in Forbes?) then it looked as if I had gotten out of Limerick just in time. I mean, if the German Shepherds were walking around in pairs, then it would follow that I would have to be walking around with a pair of German Shepherds. And I don't even like dogs. I'm a cat person.

So now I'm really worried; but it got worse. It was, said writer Stephen McBride, a 'warzone', where 'shootings, pipe bomb attacks and stabbings' took place on a nightly basis. Nightly. Every single night. Bombings. Drug wars. Murder Capital of Europe. How had I missed hearing about this on the news? Had Limerick been where the Mad Max movies were secretly filmed?

By God, if I was concerned before, I was just about fit for the rubber room now. But wait...what's this at the start of the article?

'Some call it stab city'. And then it all clicks into place.

a young Libyan man died in a stabbing. Hence the term 'Stab City' was coined and a tragedy was used to less and less funny effect on radio shows. In fact, it became a national pastime to give the place a kicking on a regular basis, helped along by Frank



Mr. Brady, enjoying a pint in the land of Limerick!

McCourt's 'Angela's Ashes', the film version of which would convince you that the city was treated to daily downpours that would have made Noah despair.

There were a lot of exaggerations written; but one of the very few balanced articles that stands out from that period corrected the more outlandish nonsense. It came from Gene Kerrigan, then as now one of the best journalists that Ireland ever produced.

Mr. McBride should check him out sometime (and I was genuinely surprised to see that he is himself Irish); because the problem with the Forbes article is not just that it is a tissue of smirking, nasty, gloating maliciousness NOW. It would have been the same if it had been written 40 years ago.

Because I lived there between the summer of 1979 and December of 1983 and I experienced nothing but good times.

It's tempting to think of the early 80s as a cultural wasteland in Ireland; but in Limerick, as a young fella obsessed with the arts, I was surrounded by people who loved music, theatre, cinema, literature. Yeah, this was down in Stab City. Where you could still go along to King John's Castle on the Shannon and be treated to an evening of music, song, dancing and the art of the

seanchaí - the professional storyteller.

Limerick had four mainstream cinemas with audiences that knew their movies, as well as a very challenging film club that showed some of the more interesting films of the day. Just as an example I remember seeing Bernardo Bertolucci's notorious trilogy of 'Last Tango in Paris', '1900' and 'La Luna' there, uncut.

In the centre of the city a wonderful theatre came into existence in 1981. Called The Bell Table, it was there I was introduced to Chekhov and it was there that I sat mesmerised by a thrilling, provocative and downright disturbing production of Peter Shaffer's 'Equus', with its final 15 minutes of full-frontal male and female nudity. Nor do I remember any pickets placed on the theatre. Strong Catholic ethos though the city had, I got the feeling that it was reaching a maturity that said no one was forcing anyone to buy a ticket.

And it was -and is - a heaven for those who are into sports. My first flatmate - Philip Ryan from Tipperary -- even got a heathen like me along to his first hurling game.

Of course, it's the same as any city in that there are bad areas and bad characters. And for a certainty the scourge of drugs

and all that goes with it are in every city, town and village now. But I think that what riled me most was the almost cartoon-like, finger-waving manner in which Forbes portrayed Limerick. Nailing my own prejudices to the wall, it's a publication that I've never liked, it's gloating and distasteful 'Rich List' being a personal hate. But in fairness to them, it's not aimed at guys like me and I accept that. I also acknowledge Forbes' tacit apology in now having removed the article from its website.

But half a century ago my Old Man had it drilled into me that you never forget where you came from, you never forget what your origins are. And for a publication that comes across as ever so slightly up itself, it should maybe reflect on its own origins before judging so harshly the city of Limerick. Because the now-respectable Forbes clan became immensely wealthy through the trafficking of opium. That is the origin of their loot.

Interestingly, Phyllis Forbes Kerr has confronted this head on, whilst other family members prefer that it stay in the shadowy corners of History. Her collected correspondence from her trafficking ancestor can be found in her book 'Letters from China'.

To be honest, I wish that it had been this remarkable lady who had written the piece on Limerick.

I've no time for this nonsense about judging people of another age by the standards of our own; but I think that whoever passed that ludicrous article as fit for presentation should have likewise reflected on the fact that the city was being presented in words and imagery that very much belong quite literally to the previous century.

It did, however, have one positive effect: as soon as lockdown ends, I must revisit a city that holds for me so many marvellous memories. [charleybrady@gmail.com](mailto:charleybrady@gmail.com)

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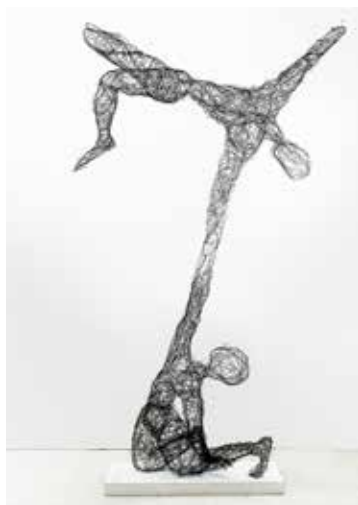
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# Crafters of Ireland

Glenn Gibson is a professional Irish artist creating & teaching wire sculpture in Galway. Renowned for his Connemara hawthorn sculptures, Glenn's work explores themes of interconnectedness and Celtic Lore. Glenn's workshops take place in physical and digital formats, and "create a comfortable and inviting atmosphere that allows each student to explore their inner artist in a way never experienced before".

Glenn is the Creative Director for Art in Mind. Art in Mind is Galway's artist led non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting wellbeing and mental health through creative practice. Art in Mind spans several buildings



everyone. Glenn ships his handmade work internationally.

### Background

I was born in Ireland but as a family we travelled a lot until I was 10 and we returned to Ireland. I set off again traveling as soon as I was able and spent a long time working my way up the corporate ladder in America, became completely disillusioned by the primary focus

being a ladder. Family circumstances saw my return to Ireland in 2008 where I had my first solo exhibition. It took another several years for me to take the leap and go artist full time.

I started Art in Mind in 2019 with a few other artists. The mission of Art in Mind is to promote mental well being through creative practice. We operate studio and



in the Liosban Industrial Estate, composed of offices, studio space & a gallery.

With a career spanning over two decades, Glenn's work inspires awe and creativity. Often working on a commission basis, his bespoke sculptures are showcased internationally. With prices ranging from just 30 euro to the tens of thousands, there is something for

gallery spaces in Galway Ireland. My

experience is that art has a huge benefit on my mental wellbeing. In life's most stressful situations I always found myself deep in creative practice as a way to give my mind space to find calm. It never solved the situation in hand but it always gave me a clearer and

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more focused vantage point.

Through community collaborative projects we bring people into that creative 'flow' helping them to understand the benefits to their mental health.

I am humbled to think that my work is part of private collections all over the world. It is nice to



think that all the energy that went into each piece is now giving pleasure to those who see them. Creating sculptures for a living is fantastic but the teaching aspect of my work is very rewarding. With the current global situation, it is nice to think that even people far away can dial in to a workshop online and experience the benefits a creative practice can have first hand.

## Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

By Angel Gutierrez, Vice President of Institutional Advancement

I have always considered mothers to be the quiet heroes of our lives. There is truly nothing like a mother's love. I credit my own mother with so much good in my life, right down to my career choice.

We did not have a lot of money growing up, but Mom was generous with the little we had. She was genuine in her desire to help others, reaching out to anyone in need. She taught me about community and compassion through her everyday actions.

When I started working at Catholic Charities more than two decades ago, she was thrilled—and so was I. I am fortunate to be a part of the Catholic Charities community where I can live out my faith and the values instilled in me since birth. What I love most about Catholic Charities is that all we do is a true community effort. Our staff, board members, volunteers, donors, and parish partners all play import-

ant roles in improving lives.

Nearly 60 percent of the people served by Catholic Charities are women. During this past year, my heart has swelled with even greater esteem for mothers, as the responsibilities and stresses of motherhood have increased tenfold. Keeping family members healthy, fed,

people already facing poverty, food insecurity, mental health challenges, and a lack of health care has been devastating, particularly for women of color, who have experienced higher rates of infection, more loss of life, and greater job losses.

My dear mother passed away in 2016. I can't help but think about how her generous spirit would have responded to the great community needs brought on by the coronavirus crisis, and how she would implore me to ensure Catholic Charities continues to be equipped to act.

Your gift to Catholic Charities Mother's Day Collection will help us do just that. Contributions can be made during the second collection in your parish, at catholiccharities.net, or by mailing your gift to Catholic Charities, 721 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60654.



on-task with schoolwork, and supported amidst fear and uncertainty has been an intrepid undertaking.

For the women we help at Catholic Charities, the challenges have been even greater. The impact of the pandemic on

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## It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hello Everyone,

Here comes the summer, and hopefully a change in our way of life. I think if I've learned anything from the last almost two years, it's to be more patient. I thank God for my musical instruments, and love of music. It's been like a friend guiding me along a rocky road.

Not many of us have escaped that dreaded knock on the door or a phone call to tell us we've just lost someone close to us. In Ireland, we have a 'Wake' for our loved ones, but even that wasn't really possible because of the pandemic. I know there are a lot of people that don't understand or even appreciate the power of a 'Wake'. It is a most sacred and spiritual way to help our families and neighbors, and ourselves, to get through the pain of losing a loved one.

On a happier note, it seems like things are starting to change for the better, and I look forward to standing up on a stage or sitting down in a music session again. I have never danced much in my life because I was happy to play music while the people did the dancing. And that is a wonderful sight. I may have to do a little dancing myself when they let us all loose. My Mother taught me how to waltz in the kitchen, and my cousin Mary taught me how to jive. I am pretty sure I am more than a little rusty now. As the famous John Glenn (of John Glenn and the Mainliners Band) used to sing "We Start The Fire And Someone Else Puts It Out". By the way, John, congratulations on your 45th anniversary in the music business.

This month's song is one I wrote last week. I woke up around 3 am from another crazy dream. Then, I started thinking about how fragile life is. Sometimes we don't get to say goodbye or, I love you, and it hurts. So, I wrote these simple words down. Sometimes simple is better.

I must congratulate my son Declan, as he graduates high school this month. Like his brothers and sisters, he has grown into a fine young person and a very accom-

plished musician. When Declan was a little boy (I have to look up to see him now) he said "Dad, will I be as good as you when I grow up?" The answer is "Declan, you are way ahead of me, and I learn a lot from you". Congratulations! Buddy...

As always, be good to one another. Joe

### 'Love Them While You Have Them'

Written by Joe McShane

Chorus

Love Them while you have them

Turn them into golden memories

Take the time to enjoy it all

And they'll stay with you through the years

Verse

There'll be sorrow when they come to mind

Sometimes in dreams, you'll drift back in time

Life will go on when you lose someone

It will take a while but once again you will smile

Chorus

So, just love Them while you have them

turn them into golden memories

Take the time to enjoy it all

And they'll stay with you through the years

Verse

You won't know you won't understand

You'll miss the warmth of that loving hand

There's no way round you must go through

Before sweet memories come back to you

Chorus

So, love Them while you have them

turn them into golden memories

Take the time to enjoy it all

And they'll stay with you through the years

Joe McShane

[Website](#)

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## Because I Could Not Stop

Most people are familiar with Emily Dickinson's famous poem about death. The narrator's sudden realization that life is short and death is inescapable hammers home the central message to live life to the fullest. It's perhaps hard for us to think of living out our carpe diem dreams while in the throes of a pandemic but there is no better time for us to contemplate our mortality. Millions of people, worldwide, have died because of infection. We've watched politicians flounder, businesses go bust, witnessed the best and worst of humanity, and, there's been very little we could do about any of it. The unseen virus has reminded us daily of how fragile life is.

With fear and wonder, we've seen how this tiny, significant lifeform, has resisted our best efforts to stop it, mutating to optimize its survival. Covid-19, like ourselves, is remarkably resourceful in its ability to adapt to threats,

and, like ourselves, fights for continuation. However, unlike us, the virus is equitable in its attacks. Covid does not target a particular race, creed, or gender. The virus is equally indifferent to whether its victims are rich or poor, morally upright or reprehensible. It is without any moral compass. It is neither ruthless nor malignant. There is no conscience to appeal to, and it cannot be reasoned with. We deem it an enemy because it attacks our defense system and threatens our existence as a species. In just over a year, this new lifeform has radically changed us in ways we could never have foreseen. We are more than ever faced with the reality that we are expendable.

Dickinson's poem invites the reader to 'stop' and think. When faced with the inevitability of death, we can make some profound changes to our lives or not. The realization that death is our final end can provide us with opportunities become better people. Scrooge is perhaps one of the best examples of how one man when faced with his selfish life is given another chance to do good. It's a heartwarming tale with a warning for us all, live for yourself and die alone. Of course, Scrooge's ghosts (past, present and future) become a reality check for a man who refuses to 'stop' and contemplate his existence, and, as such, embodies Plato's unexamined life that is not worth living. When finally, he is faced with his own gravestone, as with Dickinson's narrator is, the effect is palpable. The shock of having to face his own final resting place is a last reprieve for Scrooge, whereas for Dickinson's narrator it's too late. Scrooge is saved because he has been forced to stop and reckon with his selfishness.

We have all heard the saying to stop and smell the roses. In today's world, it's the antiseptic smell of a hospital that might be the thing to bring us to our senses. A vaccine is not a cure, but it can stop the virus from being deadly, and may prevent hospitalization. In one sense, this advancement is a cause for hope, but it's not a certainty. We may have escaped death this time around but have we learned anything from it. Will we, like Scrooge, amend our lives and find fulfillment in investing in others, or we will face our demise like Dickinson's narrator unchanged. The key to what makes us different to the indiscriminate, amoral, nature of the virus is our ability

to reason and contemplate.

We, as human beings, can do remarkable things to better our world. There are countless examples of people who have unselfishly changed our societies for better. Motivated by love and concern, they have improved the lot of their communities. Conditions in hospitals, jails, schools etc. have been attributed to the work of individuals who have set themselves to leaving an impression on this world long after they've gone. Some of them we will remember, most of them we will not. My father was one of those people who will not doubt be forgotten in time but who, as a recovered alcoholic, changed the lives of many. Known locally as the body snatcher, my father would take the worst alcoholics from the streets and deliver them to a rehab centre. He was not a young man when he began his work but his age was not a deterrent.

The pandemic has made those of us who are older or physically challenged reluctant to do much to put ourselves in danger. However, now with an ever-increasing number of vaccinations we are in a position to make a difference. There are many charities who have suffered the loss of volunteers during the worst of the pandemic that are in serious need of our help. When I retired, I was determined to not to simply let my life waste away. I was now free to do more of what I valued. And, it was with this thought that I wrote the following poem. If I were to add to it, I would write 'don't let a pandemic stop you from doing good'. We have faced our mortality and survived. Let's make the best of it.

## Be Not Still

By Terry Boyle

Be not still heart of mine,  
Resist silence and beat your big drum, Loudly,  
Stomp, shout, scream a vibrant anthem,  
And, when hoarse with time  
Let the chamber music of your soul echo  
Through those life-giving arterial routes,  
Let me feel the swell of your rage,  
Deafen me in arias, tragic and sublime,  
Play no requiem, nor dirge, while you throb,  
Pulsate, when the breath of God shakes  
The very temple of your being.  
Do not slow down when time races,  
Keep from the great sleep that bewitches us all,  
Don't stumble when loved ones' lull and pause  
Pray for life, not subsistence, vigor and hope,  
Stifle the anger inside your passionate breast,  
Lap for lap, give time its lead but do not follow  
Passively in its wake,  
Ignore the diminishing road behind, look forward,  
Face the finish line with the breath of God  
Still burning in your lungs.  
Do not let the youth make you feel a stranger  
When you have never felt at home,  
Make your strangeness sublime, intricate and foreign,  
Speak the language of tomorrow, not yesterday,  
Do not let the courtesans of today make you disappear  
Into a pension, dignify you with platitudes, or bully you  
Into silent retreat,  
Never relinquish, nor resign to the last gasp  
Dance through the creaks and aches of your bones  
Until the breath of God parts the red sea before you.

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## Stephen Foster

Stephen Foster is by far America's most well-known composer. His lyrics and melodies are still in the mainstream today 140 years after his death. Stephen Foster's great grandfather Alexander Foster had come to the States from Co. Londonderry, Ireland about the year 1725. They settled in an area of Pennsylvania that was mostly Scotch-Irish. The family associated with other Irish families such as the O'Hara's, the Butler's, the Collins's, the Nevilles and the Kirkpatricks. He was born Stephen Collins Foster, the ninth of ten children on July 4, 1826. Since both sides of his family had been in the states for over 100 years they were truly Americans. Stephen had many family members that had made a name for themselves in the Revolutionary War.

Since the Fosters were a middle-class family Stephen was privately tutored and then sent to private academies. He was an avid reader and it was clear early on that he had some musical talent. One of his childhood past-times was singing in an all-male secret club that met at his home. Stephen would be the song-leader and composer during these meetings. It is thought that Oh! Susanna may have been written for this group. His first published song was in 1844. In 1850 Oh! Susanna became a hit and Stephen

launched his career as a professional songwriter. He also married Jane Denny MacDowell in 1850 and moved to Pittsburgh where he would call home for the rest of his life.

At first he wrote parlor songs and ballads and dances. After The Christy Minstrels had such a huge success with Oh! Susanna he decided to write for the minstrels which was by then the most popular form of entertainment in America. He wrote exclusively for fellow Irish-American E. P. Christy who in the 1850's was the most popular entertainer in America. Ethiopian songs were the most popular hits in the 1850's. Prior to this partnership the Christy Minstrels music was demeaning to African-Americans (Ethiopians) by being coarse and using buffoonery. Foster found this offensive and his songs reveal a sensitivity to the subject. He humanized the characters and was never trashy or offensive. He eventually dropped the "negro" dialects in his songs all-together. Old Folks at Home and Nelly Bly reflect his advanced thoughts on the subject well.

Stephen worked very hard at crafting songs and he often labored over the smallest details. He studied various poetic and musical styles to fit his songs. His intention was to write the people's music. He wanted his music to be understood by all groups of people. He was a pioneer. In 1850 there was no music industry in America and Stephen Foster would pay the price. He would only receive a small



amount of the royalties from his songs that sold millions. During his lifetime he averaged only \$1,371 a year, while many publishers, entertainers and others made a living off of his work. It is also not uncommon to find some of Foster's music published with other names listed as the composer. He only received \$100 for writing Oh! Susanna.

The list of great songs written by Foster goes on and on. Beautiful Dreamer; My Old Kentucky Home, Goodnight; Jeanie With The Light Brown Hair; and Hard Times Come Again No More are but a few. Like so many musical geniuses

his life was not easy. He had sold of his future rights to his songs to pay off debts. His wife and child had left him and he was drinking heavily. Because he was not a performer he was still not very well-known to the public. Even during his lifetime his songs were thought to be old American folk songs and were not credited to him. After moving to New York he became ill and trying to get out of bed he hit his head on a washbasin. He died three days later with only 38 cents in his pocket and to his name. He was only 37 years old.

Stephen Foster's honest expression of real emotion in his songs is the life blood of art. His songs are uniquely American yet have a universal appeal. He was courageous in the fact that there was no such thing as a song-writer during his lifetime. His songs will be with us for generations to come.



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## Michigan Irish American Hall Of Fame Names 2021 Members

The Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame recognizes Irish Americans who have made important contributions in various fields in Michigan life. Here are the inductees into the 2021 Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame!

### Public Service:

#### Timothy Francis Hughes

A Detroit native, Timothy Hughes traces his roots to County Cork, Ireland. He spent more than 40 years in various roles in Michigan's legislative process, including Senate Democratic Communications Director 1973-1983; Legislative Director, Michigan State AFL-CIO 1983-2003; Legislative Director for Governor Jennifer Granholm 2003-2010; Legislative Coordinator, UAW International Union 2011-2015; Legislative Consultant, Michigan State AFL-CIO 2015-2016. He was highly respected by legislators and government officials on both sides of the aisle during his long career of public service.

### Business and Industry:

#### Charles J. Rogers

Born 1890 in County Cavan, Ireland, Charles Rogers immigrated to Detroit at age 16, and became a U.S. citizen at age 18. After fighting in the U.S. Army during WWI and returning to Detroit, he founded the CJ Rogers Construction Co., which grew into one of Michigan's largest excavation and road construction contractors. The CJ Rogers Construction Co. built many of the highways and freeways in southeast Michigan. Charles Rogers died in 1971, and he is being honored posthumously. The State of Michigan has named an interchange on I-75 in his honor. He was a prominent member of the Detroit business community and Irish community.

### Arts and Entertainment:

#### Erin Shannon Quinn

A native of Battle Creek, Michigan, Erin Quinn's Irish immigrant father introduced her to Irish dancing at age 5. During her dance career she placed highly in dance competitions in Ireland, the U.S. and Canada. She also was a member of the Riverdance tour, and danced at the White House. In 2001

she founded the Quinn School of Irish Dance, which has locations in Kalamazoo and Lansing. Many of her students have earned high rankings as Irish dancers, and she brings her students to many festivals and dance competitions. For several years she was a co-leader of Western Michigan University's study abroad



Timothy Francis Hughes



Charles J. Rogers



Erin Shannon Quinn

program in Ireland and Northern Ireland. She is a Registered Nurse and is also pursuing a veterinary medicine degree.

### Education:

#### John H. McGarry

A native of West Virginia, John McGarry came to Muskegon in 1990 as Director of the Lakeshore Museum. Over the next 25 years he grew the Lakeshore Museum and its exhibits and educational programs into one of the most respected community museums in the U.S. He was a founder of the Michigan Irish Music Festival, and a well-known historian of both Irish and American history. He was a popular folksinger and story-teller of Irish and Civil War tales. He was an

influential community leader for Muskegon in many areas. John McGarry died in 2016, and he is being honored posthumously.

### Sports:

#### Elaine Crosby

Elaine Crosby, whose maternal grandparents were from Ireland, is a Jackson native and attended the University of Michigan, where she was member of the women's varsity golf team. In 1980 she won the Bowling Green Invitational Championship, and in 1981 she won the Michigan Women's Amateur Championship. She qualified for the

LPGA Tour in 1985, and for the next 15 years she was a top level player, winning two tournaments, and in many others finishing 2nd, 3rd, or in the top ten. Her accumulated winnings exceeded more than 1.5 million dollars. After retiring from the LPGA Tour in 2000, Crosby won back-to-back Michigan Women's Opens in 2001 and 2002. In 2004 she won a tournament on the LPGA Legends Tour. In 2018 she competed in the inaugural U.S. Women's Senior Open. For 18 years

starting in 1999, Crosby hosted the Wendy's Charity Classic at the Jackson Country Club, which raised

over \$3,000,000 for children's charities. During her long career, her fellow LPGA members elected her to

leadership positions within the LPGA. She is a member of the U of M Athletic Hall of Honor, the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame, and the LPGA Legends Hall of Fame.

### Sports: Phil Regan

A native of Wayland, Michigan, Phil Regan graduated from Wayland High School with varsity letters in baseball, football, and basketball. Soon after he was a pitcher for the Detroit Tigers (1960-65), for the Los Angeles Dodgers (1966-68), for the Chicago Cubs

(1968-72), and the Chicago White Sox (1972). He was named Come Back Player of the year in 1966, and was also named Reliever of the Year in 1966 and 1968. He pitched in the 1966 World Series, and was named to the All Star Team of 1966. After retirement in 1972,

he was the Head Baseball Coach at Grand Valley State University until 1982. He also played for the championship amateur team, the Grand Rapids Sullivans. He next was a pitching coach for several major league teams and the U.S. Olympic baseball team of 2000. He was the manager of the Baltimore Orioles in 1995 and the West Michigan Whitecaps in 2002-2003. Presently at 84 years of age, in the winter he is the pitching coach of the championship team of the Dominican Republic Winter League, and during the regular season he is the Minor League Pitching Coach Supervisor of the New York Mets.

At a later date an event will be announced for the induction of the new members into the Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame.

The Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame was founded in 2012 by the Muskegon Irish American Society. The Hall of Fame currently has 49 members, and is permanently displayed at Hennessy's Irish Pub in Muskegon and on the Hall of Fame website. A digital exhibit of the Hall of Fame is being planned to be available in locations across Michigan. To see the members of the Hall of Fame, please visit the Hall of

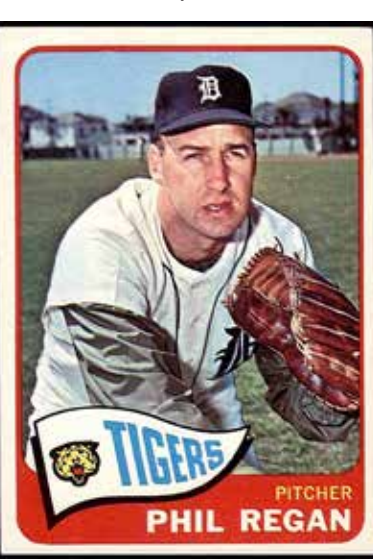
Fame website [Here!](#) Nomination forms for membership in the Hall of Fame are available at the website.



John McGarry



Elaine Crosby



Phil Regan



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MAY 2021

May is here, and so is the warmer weather (and hopefully here to stay)! The feelings this spring and summer definitely have more hope whispering in the winds than this time last year, and I'm excited to announce that we will be reopening the Fifth Province Pub this month! We're getting everything ready to open our doors back up for a pint and a bite, and will share our open date and more information around the pub reopening in our newsletter and on our social media pages! If you're not signed up for our newsletter, you can do that on our website, [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org), or give us a follow on Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter. As the weather warms up, we're excited to offer more events in-person at the Irish American Heritage Center, and all event updates will be shared on our webpage, our newsletter, and on our social media sites.

Along with reopening the Fifth Province, we're equally as excited to announce that the building is open for rentals, private events, and private parties! For safety, all rentals and events will adhere to the current Chicago pandemic guidelines, and we've got the perfect spot to host your party! To inquire on rental space, please email [roomrentals@irishahc.org](mailto:roomrentals@irishahc.org) or call 773-282-2035, ext. 21 for more information, capacity, and prices. We look forward to helping you throw the perfect event or party!

Active members may be eligible for 10% off room rentals, so don't forget to renew your membership to take advantage of this discount! Along with room rental discounts, there are other advantages to be-

coming a member, such as discounts to events, member only events, a subscription to the Irish American News, and so much more! It's a great time to renew, gift, or purchase a membership to take advantage of all the perks that come with

being a member of the IAHC!

We hope to see you this month at the IAHC with some spring in all our steps! We're looking forward to reopening the pub and finally sharing that pint we've been waiting for since March of last year! I'm so looking

forward to seeing you all when we meet again!



Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel, President



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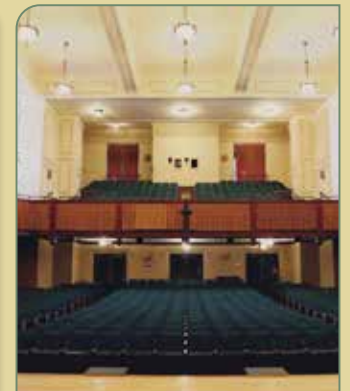
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## Irish Ballads/Songs & Their Meaning

Do you remember a song by Little Richard, "Tutti Frutti (1950's) well that is exactly the opposite of a song that I am going to explain in this article. A ballad is a poem that is sang, it's usually passed down orally with each generation. There are countless songs out there, some don't seem to have much to say, and others tell a true story... I am going to describe some Irish songs & ballads; these are meaningful and tell a story. If you know the story behind the song, I think, it gives more depth and meaning. Songs are a way to remember events or learn about events in history. I will continue this topic on songs a few times.

A famous American song, titled, "This land is your land is a meaningful song (Woody Guthrie about inclusion/equality)

In my first installment of songs,

they will include: The Fields of Athenry, "The Rose of Mooncoin", "Molly Malone", "Wild Rover", "The Town I loved so Well", "Sunday Bloody Sunday", "Michael Gaughan" & finally "Grace".

From Galway, "The Fields of Athenry" is a song written by Pete St. John and Set during the Great Famine of the 1840s, the lyrics feature a fictional man from near Athenry in County Galway, who stole food for his starving family and has been sentenced to exile in an Australian penal colony.

From my home county, Kilkenny, "Rose of Mooncoin" it was written in the 19th century by Waterford schoolteacher and poet; Watt Murphy, who met and fell in love with a local girl called Elizabeth, (known as Molly), and

set in Mooncoin, Kilkenny. Elizabeth was just 20 years old, and Watt was 56, but the difference in age didn't matter to either of them. However, Elizabeth's father, who was the local vicar, did not approve of their relationship, and she was sent to England. Watt was brokenhearted and wrote the song in her memory.

From Dublin's fair city, "Molly Malone", the song tells the fictional tale of a fishmonger (a woman who sells fish/double meaning a loud woman) who worked her trade on the streets of Dublin and died young, of a fever. Some people might think the song referred to a specific Molly, but it was just a tale/metaphor.

From any county we have in Ireland, "Wild Rover", the song tells the story of a young man who has been away from his home for many years. Returning to his former alehouse the landlady refuses him credit, until he presents the gold which he has gained while he has been away. He sings of how his days of roving are over and he intends to return to his home and settle down.

From Derry on the Foyle, "The Town I loved So Well" is a song written by Phil Coulter about his childhood in Derry. The first three verses are about the simple lifestyle he grew up with in Derry, while the final two deal with the troubles, and lament how his serene hometown had become a major military outpost, tormented with violence. The final verse includes a message of hope for a "bright, brand new day", saying "They will not forget but their hearts are set / on tomorrow and peace once again".

Another Derry Song, "Sunday Bloody Sunday" by the band U2. One of U2's most political songs, its lyrics describe the shock felt by an observer of the troubles.... Thinking on the 1972 incident in Derry where British troops shot and killed unarmed civil rights protesters. A sad and very true story....

From Mayo, my wife Mary's county, we have Michael Gaughan, (IRA) who died in 1974 in prison on hunger strike, on the Island of White (off s. coast of En-

## Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



Who is Fionnula (white shoulders) Flanagan? She is an actress, a writer, an Irish icon. (79) She has the most striking feline blue eyes. She has performed in movies, TV shows and on Broadway. Just a small explanation of what "Broadway" is, it's the theatrical area in New York, 41 professional theatres, each one with 500 seats located in the theatre district along Broadway in Manhattan. Most Broadway shows are musicals, making NYC, in the opinion of many, the cultural capital of the world.



Flanagan was in the "The Ferryman" & Brian Friel's "Lovers". She is also a gifted violinist. She grew up in Dublin. Flanagan's parents were not Irish speakers but they wanted Flanagan and her siblings to learn Irish, so she grew up speaking English and Irish.

She trained at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. It's also called the national theatre of Ireland. One of Ireland's leading cultural institutions it opened in 1904. (founders William Butler Yates & Lady Gregory) Flanagan has two children Turlough (name might ring a bell harpist Turlough O'Carolan) & Matthew with her late husband Dr. Garrett O'Connor. (Cousin of Carroll O'Connor `tv

gland) Gaughan, the eldest of six children, was born in Mayo.

Lastly Grace, a song about Evenly Gifford Plunkett an artist who was active in the Republican movement. She married her fiancé Joseph Plunkett in Jail only a few hours before he was executed for his part in the 1916 Easter Rising. I have several more songs I would like to describe until next time...

"When we die, we will turn into songs and we will hear each other and remember each other" Rob Sheffield.

If you have any questions, please call: (708) 425-7021

show archie bunker) Flanagan is a nationalist, she joined then Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams for some lectures across America supporting Irish unity. The current Sinn Fein president is Mary Lou McDonald from Dublin. Sinn Fein is a political party founded in 1905.

Flanagan is a familiar face on American TV. She's made multiple appearances on Murder She Wrote and Star Trek.

She is the voice of several audio books some include all of Maeve Binchy's books. Flanagan is the recipient of a variety of awards: Maureen O'Hara award, she was nominated for a Primetime, Emmy & Tony Award In 2020 She was listed as one of the *Irish Times* greatest film actors. She also won the iBAM! Performing Arts Award in 2018. "People think we are such great talkers, but there is so much silence in Ireland about certain issues." *Fionnula Flanagan*

### Gaelic for the Month:

- Actor-aisteoir
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Our great & talented friends Karen Reshkin & her husband Mike O'Regan are Irish language teachers & musicians. They offer language classes over zoom but look forward to resuming their in-person class at the Irish American Heritage Center. You can find their class information on their website: info@nagaeil.org

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It occurred to me that the events of January 6th had an interesting predecessor in a novel by Stephen Coonts titled "Under Siege."

Published in 1990, the book inner cover plot: "President George Bush is severely wounded by a hired assassin. Vice President Dan Quayle assumes the responsibility for directing the fight against a criminal army that now rules the streets."

In the novel, faced with a D.C. out of control, Bush shot down in a decoy Marine helicopter, Quayle calls out the National Guard to protect the Capitol while protagonist Navy Captain Jake Grafton does his usual derring-do.

Quayle was more than a character in a novel to me. I was on the TV news night beat in the 80's in Evansville, Indiana. My nickname among the press corps was The Senator, in part because my blonde forelock and blue pinstriped Joseph A. Bank suit led to me being confused on more than one occasion for the son of a Huntington newspaper publisher and a National Guard vet as he worked the evening rubber chicken fundraiser and news conference circuit.

Quayle was a naturally warm and friendly man and as we got to know each other he would drape a big brotherly arm around my shoulder as we'd duck out of a crowd to grab a quick soundbite or two for the camera on the news of the day.

Some politicians seem more genuine than others. It may have been my cub reporter naivete but he seemed much more straightforward, intelligent and down to earth than many pols I would report on and get to know in years to come.

Yes, I said intelligent. I knew Dan Quayle. Dan Quayle was a source of mine. And yes, he kinda

was Jack Kennedy.

Five years later I would watch with a bit of insight (and a rusty Notre Dame political science degree) the 1988 vice presidential nominee debate with Democratic Senator Lloyd Bentsen. The debate Bentsen won saying Quayle was no Jack Kennedy

NBC newsman Tom Brokaw pressed Mr. Quayle on how he would handle taking over in an emergency, just like in the novel.

Quayle: 3 times that I've had this question—and I will try to answer it again for you, as clearly as I can, because the question you're asking is, "What kind of qualifications does Dan Quayle have to be president," "What kind of qualifications do I have," and "What would I do in this kind



of a situation?" ... I have far more experience than many others that sought the office of vice president of this country. I have as much experience in the Congress as Jack Kennedy did when he sought the presidency. I will be prepared to deal with the people in the Bush administration, if that unfortunate event would ever occur.

Judy Woodruff: Senator Bentsen? Bentsen: Senator, I served with Jack Kennedy. I knew Jack Kennedy. Jack Kennedy was a friend of mine. Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy. (Prolonged shouts and applause.)

Quayle: That was really uncalled for, Senator. (Shouts and applause.)

A career ender except for the fact that Bentsen won that battle but lost the election to Quayle.

Quayle was lampooned and ridiculed by the national press. Once a Washington press corps stereotypes a politician one need merely sit back and wait for the gaffes that EVERY national candidate makes in the course of five flights and 20 speeches a day.

If I'm not mistaken Thomas Jefferson was the last vice president hailed for being intelligent.

After leaving TV news in 1988, I found myself at a major Chicago marketing communications firm working their rookie account, The Better Business Bureau.

Give me an A++ BBB rating for stumbling into escorting former Vice President Quayle as the keynote speaker for the 1996 Bureau annual meeting. I reported to the Hyatt Regency Chicago and was led up a private elevator to the Presidential Suite (A 25th Amendment accommodation?)

Exiting the elevator I walked down the long corridor and Quayle's longtime aide Anne Hathaway met me after I knocked on the door. Inside Mr. Quayle was hunched over a briefing book and a ginger ale studiously going over a briefing book and his speech notes.

"Good to see you again, Sir, we're a long way from Evansville."

"We're a long way from a lot of things, Jim, no camera tonight?"

It was my turn to put my arm around his shoulder as we got caught up on our mutual ambition diversions and headed down to the ballroom. I explained as matter of factly as possible that I was taking him and Anne through the kitchen underneath the Hyatt to get him quietly and privately to the ballroom.

The speech was workmanlike but well-received. I sensed a perhaps personal feeling of bitterness that this was probably about it as far as either of us would go despite wider ambitions as young men.

I walked the vice president and Ms. Hathaway out to a waiting limo on a cold rainy March night. "Would you like to join us on the

way to the airport?" Anne asked.

I replied that I had a train home to catch and got a firm handshake goodbye from both. Less firm. More friendly.

The evening prompted me to go to Marshall Field's to get his 1994 autobiography from a couple years before titled "Standing Firm."

One reviewer wrote:

"In this eye-opening autobiography, America's 44th vice president offers his personal story of the Bush administration and his own career, including how

he persevered against unprecedented ridicule from the media. A revealing look at possibly the most misjudged figure in modern political history."

In case you wonder, Acting President Quayle won the day against the rioters in the novel "Under Siege." He quelled the riots and saved the Capitol just in time for President Bush to rally from his wounds and thank him.

He won that battle, too. All by standing firm. E-mail Jim at IrishRoverJim@gmail.com

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## Matriculation Misinformation

During two weeks following the May 25th death of George Floyd last year, supporters of Black Lives Matter and ANTIFA in Democrat-controlled cities across the country caused an estimated \$2 billion damage. That doesn't include the cost of further mayhem inflicted over another 100 days to at least 140 cities including Portland, Kenosha, New York, Rochester, Chicago, and Philadelphia. May 28th Gov. Tim Walz of Minnesota activated the National Guard. "Let's be very clear," he said. "The situation in Minneapolis, is no longer, in any way, about the murder of George Floyd. It is about attacking civil society, instilling fear and disrupting our great cities." By June 1,

the National Guard was activated in 23 states, plus DC.

America's largest corporations also stepped up to the plate to help. Centrist news site Axios reported in June: "the 100 largest U.S. companies have so far committed \$1.63 billion". Amazon, Pepsi's Gatorade, Microsoft, Warner Records, Intel, Bungie of Xbox, Microsoft Games, Nabisco and Uggs all pledged funds... to Black Lives Matter Global Network.

The media hopped on board too, as they always do when incidents suit their agenda. Reprising their approach to the Rodney King beating, they reran ad nauseum the dramatic portions of a cell phone video showing police officer Chauvin, calm, his knee on the struggling Floyd's neck, pinning him to the ground. The press in many cases told viewers what they were seeing was a "killing" or "murder". The cause of death was decided. A white officer had killed a "gentle giant". With each newscast, the riots grew in intensity. But unlike the dramatic video, when the autopsy report was later released indicating fatal doses of fentanyl, along with cocaine and other drugs, it was afforded minimal screen play and comment.

How much more responsible it would have been had the press treated Floyd's death as it did the horrific Knoxville murders of Channon Christian and Christopher Newsom in January 2007, a month before Obama announced his run for the presidency. In that case, a tight media lid slammed down, that kept news of the murders confined to Knoxville. Without the internet, it's unlikely anyone outside media circles would have heard of the slaughter. In fact, when the defense, fearing publicity, later asked that a jury be vetted outside of Knoxville county, they had no trouble empanelling jurors from Nashville, only 180 miles away, with little or no knowledge of the case.

Do those who scream "fire" in a crowded theater bear responsibility for the resulting death and destruction?

Patrisse Khan-Cullors explained starting the BLM movement along with Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi: "Myself and Alicia, in particular, are trained organizers. We are trained Marxists." Khan-Cullors training included working with lifetime activist Eric Mann. After the 1992 Los Angeles riots Mann joined with Urban Strategies Group which founded the Bus Riders Union with a group of Black and Latino bus riders. They drafted a civil rights suit, charged Los Angeles County with "transit racism", and won \$2.7 billion in improvements for bus riders.

Born to Russian immigrants in Brooklyn, New York in 1942, Mann earned a BA in Political Science from Cornell (minor in Industrial and Labor Relations) and joined Students for a Democratic Society as leader of the SDS Weathermen faction. He moved along to the Weather Underground and the Black Panther Party, helping lead the Columbia University student strike in 1968. Mann believes in "continuous resistance" against "institutions and policies of corporate capitalism". He was arrested in 1969 for direct action against the Harvard Center for International Affairs and sentenced to two years in prison, charged with conspiracy to commit murder after shots were fired into the Cambridge police headquarters. Mann was then hired as a full-time journalist, writing for Boston After Dark, the Boston Phoenix, and The Boston Globe.

BLM demonstrates Marxism can be profitable. Khan-Cullors has now spent \$3.2 million buying four high-end U.S. homes, including a \$1.4 million property near "the

boo" (Malibu) and is eyeing beachfront property in the Bahamas as well. Khan-Cullors and spouse Janaya Khan also own a fourth home — a "custom ranch" on 3.2 rural acres near Atlanta, featuring a private airplane hangar with use of a runway for small planes.

We mentioned last month that Jerrold "Jerry" Nadler, Congressman for New York's 10th District petitioned Bill Clinton to release Susan Rosenberg, who was in charge of BLM financing last year. Rosenberg, a Communist and Weather Underground member, took part in the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Capitol Building and had been imprisoned for murder. In the final 15 minutes of his final day as President, and 16 years into her 58-year sentence, Clinton quietly released Rosenberg.

Nadler was also behind Clinton's August 1999 release of 12 jailed members of FALN, a group that from 1974 to 1983 had exploded more than 130 bombs around the U.S., killing six and injuring many more. Both the House and Senate drew up resolutions condemning Clinton's action. One day before the House vote, it was announced that 11 of the 12 would be released from Federal prisons in 48 hours. The following day, September 9, Nadler took the floor to defend Clinton's action and the FALN, despite four of their members having been convicted for bomb-making and a fifth for killing with a bomb. The group had also claimed credit for the 1975 attack at Fraunces Tavern that killed four and injured 60, in Nadler's own lower Manhattan district. That gerrymandered district includes the West side of Manhattan and parts of Brooklyn. Out of 436 U.S. Congressional districts, it's the second-smallest. It is 3rd in income per capita, 6th in residents with college degrees and just 4.2% of its residents are black. Prior to his election as Senator, the 10th district was represented by Chuck Schumer. It was headed earlier by Congressman Emanuel Celler, who championed and introduced the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act which, among other provisions, mandated lowering U.S. immigration from Northwestern Europe in favor of other ethnic groups. In 1960, Pew notes, 84% of U.S. immigrants were born in Europe or Canada. In 2017, European and Canadian immigrants totaled 13.2%

Nadler, who played a prominent role in the opposition to and impeachments of President Trump, just introduced a bill to add four Supreme court justices during Biden's term. True to form, he claimed to be doing exactly what he was not: "Some people say we're packing the Court. We're not packing the Court; we're unpacking it." Nadler was accompanied by Georgia Representative Henry "Hank" Calvin Johnson Jr. who famously declared during a House hearing on the U.S. military installation in Guam: "My fear is that the whole island will become so overly populated that it will tip over and capsize".

Old-time Dixiecrats were also prone to bizarre statements. It's said one candidate on the stump would shock his audience, telling them that up North, schools even allowed boys and girls to matriculate in the same room! If that politician were alive today, he'd be astounded to hear his own party now supports all-gender "matriculation" in all public places.

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## We Get Letters Michael McDonough Remembered

Michael was a plumbing inspector and a photographer for Plumber’s Local 130 UA for events like the St. Patrick’s Day Parade and union meetings, and for Mayor Richard Daley.

He was at all the union meetings, conventions and events.

He was blessed with great health until he had his first stroke. His second confined him to a wheelchair.

Soon after a hospital bed arrived and he directed it into the living room. He endured years of agony without complaining.

Family, friends and neighbors never deserted him. He kept the faith and listened to Sunday Mass for shut ins. On one occasion a knock came to the door, and Michael asked, “who is it?” “It is God,” exclaimed his wife Joan. Mike laughed until he cried.

A great family man, he was the manager of the McDonough Family Singers. He loved music and instilled that value in his children. He enjoyed camping and boating with his wife and children. Michael was a devoted Catholic and a proud Irish-American.

He would take his boat and go camping and fishing with his children.

He loved politicians and topics, and he had the whole family ringing door bells for a particular candidate and then make sure they had donuts and coffee etc.

He loved his job and co-workers.

He advised his children to be vigilant and hardworking and he was proud to be a real estate agent as well.

His camera was always by his side and he took many pictures of his children along with politicians and celebrities, making sure his wife, Joan, got a picture with the Mayor.

Mike shook hands with Hillary Clinton and Joan shook hands with Bill Clinton at one of those parades.

A telegram arrived from Rome on their wedding day giving the couple an apostolic blessing.

He and his wife, Joan, were married 63 years. He passed on August 22, 2020.

He joined his deceased son, Gregory and Grand Daughter, Eileen Madison in Heaven. His 7 children, 20 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren miss him.

Joan would like to say, “Good-Bye Michael!”

## The Best Solution for Making Charitable Contributions After Age 70 1/2

**By Brendan Houlihan**  
Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

ARE YOU TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS TAX BREAK? Are you withdrawing Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your IRA accounts? If you are donating to a qualifying charity and you meet certain requirements, this could be the perfect solution.

Ideally you could make a charitable contribution from your IRA to a qualifying charity, such as Chicago Gaelic Park Charities, and satisfy your RMD while not increasing your taxable income. It is a WIN WIN!

A QCD is a distribution from an IRA that transfers monies to a qualifying charity and is not counted towards your taxable income. So, you can take a required minimum distribution (or more) from your IRA without increasing your taxable income while still realizing your standard deduction as well. Here are the details:

- Donor must be age 70 ½ plus at time of the distribution and donation.
- Both spouses can do separate QCD’s

from their own IRAs.

- \$100,000 can qualify for QCD each tax year.
- Can be made from IRA, inactive SEP or SIMPLE IRA, not allowed from employer plans.
- Must be a direct transfer to a qualifying charity.
- Must be a qualifying charity, 501c-3: Chicago Gaelic Park Charities, local church, etc.



- QCD can satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution.
- QCD reported on Form 1099-R.

If you are charitably inclined plus older than 70 ½ and taking distributions out of your IRA... this is a good fit. It is a no-brainer!

Just make sure you do it the right way! I can assist you with

the process.

Save more for tomorrow, TODAY!

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

For information on Brendan Houlihan’s business, visit his website at [bfhwealthmanagement.com](http://bfhwealthmanagement.com), call him at (708)280-8753, or contact him by email at

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No Whinging!

### The Axe

As the Oughterard Supporters Bus headed to Castlebar for the Intermediate Football Final on Saturday 16th November 2019, Mary Kyne, of the Oughterard Culture & Heritage Group and local neighbour Martin Lee had a brief chat. In the course of this conversation Martin happened to mention that he had come across what looked like a few old objects over the years. Mary then said that the replica archaeological material would be

on display in The Courthouse on the following Wednesday, in preparation for a film shoot by the Museum Of Country Life in Castlebar. Martin agreed to come along.

True to his word, Martin arrived in the door on the Wednesday morning, carrying a bag. The first object he showed us was a large molten limestone rock with an impregnated shell fossil. I had a couple of similar ones on display already and told Martin that this fossil was approximately 350 million years old. I also explained that when that particular fossil was formed, Oughterard and indeed all of Ireland, was submerged under a warm tropical and coral sea close to where Australia is now



situated. Martin then said he had something else to show us, and as he reached into the bag again, the day would take an unexpected but very exciting turn!

In the earlier part of this year I had been researching the Neolithic period (4000 - 2500 BC). This was the phase that heralded the beginnings of settled agriculture and the building of the megalithic monuments. I was convinced, during my research, that the origins of the Neolithic in Oughterard was roughly in a line from the Peaks of Rusheeney (the Cloosh hills), along the fertile uplands of Maghera and onwards towards Lough Corrib in the area around Gortrevagh and Aughnanure Castle. As the research progressed, I was able to find solid evidence for a Neolithic presence around Aughnanure, and have already unearthed some potential monuments in Maghera/Raha that I also believe to be of Neolithic origin also. However, I was a bit light on evidence around the Peaks of Rusheeney/Cloosh, even though I knew it had to be there. I wondered would this evidence ever come to light to substantiate my original theory. I wasn't too hopeful, possibly not in my lifetime anyway!

Back to Martin's story, and as he reached into his bag for the second artifact, and slowly drew it forward, the hairs literally stood upright on the back of my neck. I just couldn't believe what I was seeing. In his hand, Martin was now holding a most beautiful polished stone axe from the Neolithic period, and I finally had the evidence I was looking for! Martin told me he has found it when he was building his house, many years ago, and had kept it all this time. This unexpected find is of major significance and importance to the Oughterard Heritage Group, and finally gives us hard evidence for a Neolithic presence in and around the Cloosh Hills.

The axe itself (see accompanying image) measures 11cm x 5cm, potentially 4000 to 5000 years old, and the polish and smoothness of its surface is as good as the day it was made all those millennia ago. It has a brownish colour after being soaked and buried in the



brackish bog water for many thousands of years. The material used in the axe manufacture is a very sharp stone called flint or perhaps the even sharper porcellanite. However, flint/porcellanite is only found in the North-East of the country, in and around Antrim, and this demonstrates that there was extensive trading going on across the island of Ireland all those years ago. We are deeply indebted to Martin for preserving this beautiful artifact for so many years, and for also recognising its inherent archaeological value to our local landscape.

'Stone Age. Bronze Age. Iron Age. We define entire epics of humanity by the technology they use' - Reed Hastings.

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Hello Everyone. Hope this finds you all well. I'm recovering from knee surgery.

It was with great sadness that we attended the funeral of one of our dearest friends, Dominick Sharkey, who was also great friends with my husband's family who left Chicago when their boys were toddlers. He and his lovely wife Peggy would drop in for a cup of tea during their visits home and bring news from Chicago. Dominick is also Godfather to our daughter. She was very taken with the beautiful eulogy that his wife Peggy had written so eloquently and so full of love and pride. I asked permission to add it to my column as present day circumstances meant a lot of you couldn't attend. Many thanks Peggy! Our thoughts and prayers are always with you. x

**Authored by Peggy Sharkey**  
**Dominick J. Sharkey 1930-2021**  
 Dominick was born in County Roscommon, Ireland in 1930. He was the oldest of 7 children. Because of Ireland's depressed

## GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



economy in the 1940s, anyone who was able to work and could find a job was sent to work earning a few pounds to help out the family. Dominick went to work raising turf at age 14. He came to America at age 17, with his sister, Agnes.

Shortly after arriving in New Jersey, Dominick was drafted into the Marine s. He served from 1951 until his honorable discharge in 1953 during the Korean conflict.

After basic training, those whose names were in the first half of the alphabet were sent to Korea into combat, the second half were sent to the Mediterranean engaging in mock invasions. It was called the Mediterranean Cruise, and if the new Marines had any grandiose illusions about being on a cruise, it didn't last very long. Dominick first realized he was not on a cruise when he had to disembark from a ship in the Mediterranean ocean carrying his belongings on

his back. He had to climb down from the ship on a rope ladder and then swim to shore. Because of the rocking movement of

the ladder and the waves in the Mediterranean, everyone got seasick. The marine on the rope step above Dominick vomited down on him, and Dominick vomited on the Marine below him, on down the ladder. Since that time, Dominick was not a fan of cruises. One day he realized that it was Sunday and that there was no mention of going to Mass. He panicked, went to his drill instructor and said "I have to go to Mass!," forgetting all the protocols he had been taught in basic training. For such a serious breach of the rules, he was severely punished physically, verbally, and then physically again. Dominick visited 13 countries during his deployment, including Italy where he had an audience with Pope Pius XII.

After his discharge, he was united with his sisters, Jennie and Mary, in Chicago.

He was blessed in that he didn't

have to serve in Korea. Sadly, some of the Marines who were sent to Korea paid the ultimate price and came home in caskets draped in the American flag. His childhood friend was one of them. His body was returned to Ireland draped in the red, white and blue. Dominick was grateful and proud to serve his adopted country, while at the same time, He longed to be with his family in his own native land; unfortunately, Ireland could not provide him with a means for making a living. Thank God Ireland is a prosperous country today.

At that time, he realized he needed a high school diploma for work so he took evening classes at Austin High School and graduated. He began working at Illinois Bell Telephone Company in 1954 and worked for 38 years. He married his wife, Peggy McGarry, in 1958. He presented her with her engagement ring on Thanksgiving Day in 1957 at mass at St. Mel's Church. They were blessed with 3 children, Patrick (Deceased), Marian, and Michael and one grandchild, Brendan Sharkey.

God blessed Dominick with

a merry personality which was enhanced when he did Irish celtic dancing -- he loved to dance. He and Peggy went dancing twice a week. Also, important to Dominick was the rosary. He went to the Staunton's Monday nights for the rosary meeting for years. After he retired, he formed a weekly afternoon Rosary meeting that met in his home. He and Peggy spent 20 winters in Florida. Dominick continued to host the rosary there, sometimes having 20 people in their condo.

When Dominick's parents married in 1929, his mother gave his father a beautiful silk maroon handkerchief. He treasured it and put it away in a safe place. When Dominick was leaving Ireland to go to America; his Father gave him the handkerchief. He treasured it and put it away in a safe place. When his son Pat died in 2012, Dominick put half of the handkerchief in Pat's pocket. The other half is in Dominick's pocket. As of today, the complete handkerchief is in All Saints Cemetery as Dominick and Pat lie side by side. God rest their souls.

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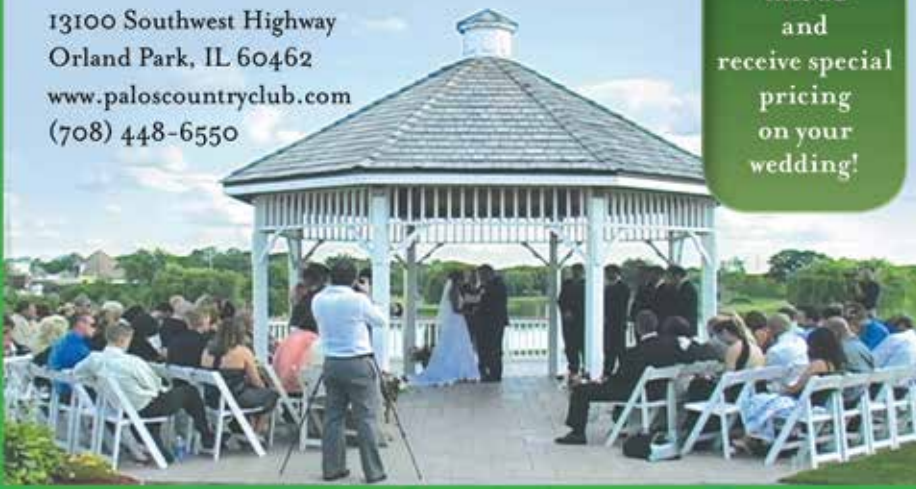
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## Want Some Advice For Life And Career?

Several years ago, I wrote a paper on this subject for the Career Transitions Center of Chicago. Recently I came across the paper in my files. I have updated it slightly and I believe the thoughts are still relevant.

As you reflect on these suggestions, consider how helpful they could be in your day to day work life. We all like to deal with thoughtful, courteous, intelligent and well-mannered individuals. Think of this article as a refresher.

1. Be courteous to everyone.

First of all, it's the right thing to do. You also never know when some discourteous conduct is observed and will later haunt you. We often gauge things or people based on one or two (almost incidental) observations. So being courteous to a waitress or a clerk, or driver can affect how you are viewed by your "fellows". Conversely, a courteous person tends to be appreciated by everyone. Be respectful of everyone regardless of their station in life. I have been told by several executives over the year that they turned down a potential employee because of the way he treated a

## Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything".

5. Seize the moment; take the initiative. When an

opportunity presents itself that will allow you to advance yourself, take the risk. We have become a very risk adverse society. Some studies say that our failure to take risks adversely affects our success. As General Colin Powell's Leadership Primer states "Don't wait until you have enough facts to be 100% sure because by then it is almost always too late."

6. When an opportunity surfaces that will allow you to help someone, take it. Most people find giving assistance to someone in distress is quite invigorating and satisfying. Haven't you found this to be true?

7. Maintain your honor. "Always tell the truth" does not mean that you have to immediately blurt out a criticism about some dreadful act. Rather it could mean that you should carefully develop what to say so that the truth is seen as that, not an indictment of the other person or of their views.

8. Listen to your critics; their counsel can be invaluable, even if it is unwanted by you. Consider this rule; examine everyone's criticism of your actions, because after a thorough consideration, you might decide that the criticism is warranted.

9. Be mindful of time for meetings. Be prepared for meetings; do your homework before the meeting, not during the meeting. Develop your own agenda; what are the points that you want to share. Bring a positive idea or two to every meeting; do not arrive empty handed. Start your day with a list

waitress or driver.

2. However good your communication skills are working, continue to work on improving them. The impressions we create in our conversations with others are often determined by how we express an opinion. Stay away from negative comments; find ways to state negative thoughts with a positive halo around them. And by all means stay away from vulgarity; it is not normally appreciated. Think, even if for just a moment, before you respond to a significant question.

Re-read every one of your emails before dispatching; given the incredible speed of your mind and the relative slowness of your typing fingers, often critical words are left out of the message. The result is an

inaccurate and/or confusing message.

3. Follow the advice of Kenny Rogers; know when to hold and when to fold. Sometimes we insist that our position on some matter is unquestionably correct. Please consider the possibility that you could be

wrong; adjust your tone accordingly. You need not be disagreeable when you really only mean to simply disagree.

4. I would also recommend the quote attributed to Thomas Jefferson, "In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock". The real challenge is to learn how to "stand like a rock" without conducting ourselves as rock heads. As someone else said, "If

of the most important tasks you need to accomplish.

10. Learn how to sell your ideas or programs rather than bulldozing them through. This demands that you spend the time to develop and articulate a point of view. It's critical that you learn how to gauge the interest level of the other person.

11. The title of the song "Put on a Happy Face" constitutes great advice. No one likes to deal with a sour puss. A smiling face will often facilitate a discussion; plus you are signaling that you are a receptive person looking to solve problems, not create them. In brief, be positive, be positive and finally

be positive.

12. Nothing is boring; only people are boring because they can't see the value or beauty of something or somebody. Your personality can be enhanced by your reading habits. If you read broadly you might well be seen as an exciting and interesting person to be around.

Try to be aware of these twelve thoughts for the next several weeks; hopefully you find your life more fulfilling. *Carpe Diem.*

**Other Thoughts For Your Consideration:**

*Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it, boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Goethe*

*Mediocrity is self-inflicted, genius is self-bestowed.*

Unknown

*James F. Fitzgerald was the President of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates for the last 24 years. He retired on 12/31/20. His Naperville based firm specialized in Executive Coaching & Outplacement. #630-420-0362*

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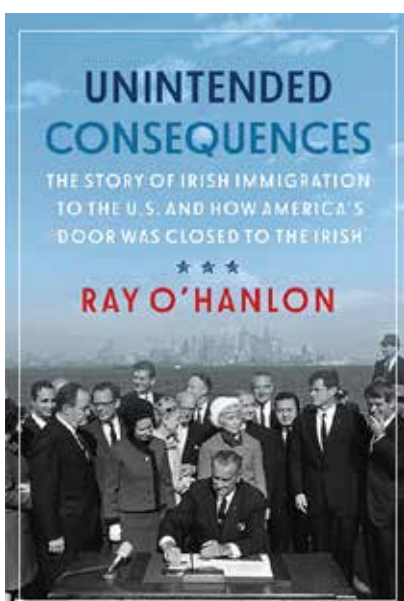


## Unintended Consequences by iBAM! Awardee, Ray O'Hanlon

The 2020 iBAM! (Irish Books, Arts, and Music Celebration) Awardee for Media/Journalism, Ray O'Hanlon, has published a new book that is available now on Amazon.com.

Unintended Consequences reveals how America's door closed on legal Irish immigration in the 1960s, and how America's Irish mounted a counterattack when nation-changing political forces were sweeping the country during the era of civil rights, political assassinations, and the Vietnam War.

This book looks at the full historical background to Irish migration across the Atlantic, how it helped shape the young republic, and how the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 brought a near total halt to this westward flow. Nevertheless, the Irish would not be denied and continued to make the journey, no longer into the light of a full and legal American life, but rather into the shadows of an undocumented existence. Successive organisations championed the undocumented Irish, and the fight continues to this day, but this is a new America, where, in recent years, there has been growing hostility to immigrants of every nationality. Ray O'Hanlon has spent over three decades reporting on battles over comprehensive U.S. immigration reform, and Unintended Consequences is the story of the Irish past, its present, and most uncertain future in the 'land of the free,' now in the presidency of Joe Biden, a man who fully embraces his Irish immigrant family story. Through Biden, the great Irish of America story continues, and with renewed hope.



### Praise for Unintended Consequences

*'Ray O'Hanlon takes an unflinching look at more than 100 years of American immigration policy broadly and how it affects the Irish specifically, particularly since the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. With clarity and context, he provides an essential chronology of the many battles waged to correct the 'consequences' of that legislation and its impact on Irish America. His assessment is as eye-opening as it is sobering, squarely assigning credit and blame for the results where they belong.'*

**Linda Dowling Almeida, author of Irish Immigrants in New York City: 1945-1995, Glucksman Ireland House, New York University**

*'Ray O'Hanlon remains the preeminent chronicler of the Irish American experience, in large part because for him it has never been purely an academic exercise, but a lived one, experienced first-hand as an Irish person who made his home and his life in America. His grasp of history informs a nuanced understanding of the modern, real-time Irish America.'*

**Kevin Cullen, Boston Globe**

*'Ray O'Hanlon plays the role of historian and fly-on-the-wall journalist in this well-re-*

## Irish Movie News May 2021

*by James Bartlett*

The 93rd Oscars have just finished, and alas the excellent Irish animation *Wolfwalkers* lost out to *Soul* in the Best Animated Film category, as did *Onward*, *Over the Moon*, and *A Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon*.

Directors Tomm Moore and Ross Stewart stayed up into the early hours, standing in front of Kilkenny Castle, to learn that their company, *Cartoon Saloon*, had missed out yet another nomination after *The Secret of Kells* (2009), *Song of the Sea* (2014) and *The Breadwinner* (2017) and short *Late Afternoon* (2019). Hopefully it will be sixth time lucky!

There were some memorable moments: Frances McDormand equaling Meryl Streep and Ingrid Bergman's record of three Oscars (Katherine Hepburn is still ahead with four), Anthony Hopkins a rather surprising win for Best Actor in *Father*, and Glenn Close unexpectedly doing "Da Butt" dance.

The set has been disassembled now though, and crews are back on the streets and in the studios already - observing all social-distancing protocols and rules of course - and there's plenty of news.

Firstly, Dublin-born Eoin Macken is to play the male lead opposite Natalie Zea (*Justified*) in NBC's new drama series *"La Brea"*. Zea stars as Eve, a mother whose family is ripped apart when a massive sinkhole opens in Los Angeles, separating her and her son from her estranged husband Gavin (Macken), and daughter (played by Zyra Gorecki). How will they survive?

Secondly, *The Good Neighbour*, a remake of German

*searched narrative about immigration, politics and culture. It is an Irish story and an American story, told by one of Irish America's foremost observers.'*

**Dr Terry Golway, journalist, author, historian, and editor of Being New York, Being Irish**

*'Unintended Consequences provides an essential chronology on the history of U.S. immigration policy as it pertains to the Irish. Full of fascinating insights, O'Hanlon's journalistic style makes it an engaging read about an era that has been rather understudied to date.'*

**Miriam Nyhan Grey PhD, Global Coordinator for Irish Studies, Glucksman Ireland House, New York University**

*'Unintended Consequences is meticulously researched and beautifully written. The legislation that systematically closed the door to Irish immigrants is skilfully juxtaposed against multiple delightful vignettes that remind us of the humanity and diversity of the emigration experience over the last seven decades.'*

**Professor Christine Kinealy, Director, Ireland's Great Hunger Institute, Quinnipiac University, Connecticut**

**About The Author**  
Ray O'Hanlon is the editor of the New York City-published Irish Echo newspaper. A native of Dublin, O'Hanlon has reported from four continents in a newspaper career spanning forty-one years. In addition to his work as a reporter and editor, O'Hanlon has been a frequent contributor to US, Irish and British media outlets reporting on Ireland, Irish American affairs, and Anglo-Irish relations. His book *The New Irish Americans* (1998) was the recipient of a Washington Irving Book Award, and *The South Lawn Plot*, his first fiction work, was published in 2011.

*thriller Unter Nachbarn*, will see another Dubliner, Johnathan Rhys Meyers, starring alongside "The Man in the High Castle" star Luke Kleintank. They're currently filming on location in Latvia, and the story centers around two new neighbors, David and Robert, who are bonded together when the sister of the victim of a hit-and-run incident arrives.

Also, currently filming in a church graveyard in Millisle, County Down, is new BBC crime series "Hope Street." The series is set in the fictional town of Port Devine on the Northern Irish coast and will focus on Alimah Khan, the mysterious new police detective - and first Muslim officer - in the town's history, and will deal with a crime in each episode. The cast also features Brid Brennan (Brooklyn), Des McAleer ("The Crown") and Ciaran McMenamin ("Primeval").

Something to look forward to next year is Emmy and Golden Globe-winning actress Jane Seymour, who will star and executive produce in a new AMC Irish mystery thriller series about the eponymous "Harry Wild".

Seymour, who we know from "The Kominsky Method", "Dr. Quinn: Medicine Woman" and even James Bond classic "Live and Let Die", will play recently-retired English professor Harriet "Harry" Wild, a woman who cannot help taking an active interest in the criminal cases assigned to her police detective son, Charlie.

Set in Dublin, the eight-part series is based around Harry's discovery that the murderer has followed the story from a well-known play, and when she catches the killer, she finds a new lust for life. The series is created and written by David Logan and Jo Spain, and will premiere in 2022 on Acorn TV in the USA.

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## Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

It chafes to count the years. Can it be forty-years since Bobby Sands drew his last breath after sixty-six days on hunger strike in the Maze a notorious section of Belfast's Long Kesh Prison?

They're watching me now. They're watching me through that little slit in the cell door. They won't give me peace, but what peace can I find? I'm so scared. I wish I was at home. I wonder what the family are doing now. Sitting around the fire in a nice, warm room having tea. Jesus, it's getting colder. My feet are blue. I wonder what they are thinking. What would they think if they knew what is to happen to me. They won't break my spirit. I won't let them do that. They can do what they will with me, but I won't concede my spirit. Yes, that's it. Calm down, fight back, show them your spirit, settle down, and get ready for them.

These were the words written by Bobby Sands from the Maze Prison in 1979. He died at seventeen-minutes past one in the morning, Irish time, May 5, 1981. His family kept a vigil by his side for sever-

al days, present when he gasped his last breath. He was the 17th man to die from hunger strike in

plunged ahead, refusing food in a show of determination and solidarity. In Ireland it is not uncommon for men and women to give their lives for their country. They are revered as heroes, embellished in songs and poetry. Sands and his companions

while cars and trucks burned around them their faith obviously stronger than the stench of gasoline fumes. There was nothing normal not in, Derry in the north and Newry to the south. Security at the Europa Hotel, jammed with journalists from across the world was tight. The outside separated from the street by barbed wire fencing, every visitor first entered a well staffed security hut before being allowed into the courtyard or lobby. The hotel had been firebombed twice in two years, but on this occasion there was a feeling of security. It is Belfast's largest hotel, now a distinguished thriving expensive Five Star property.

Reporters feel a heightened sense of responsibility and self-importance covering an international story. For me, Irish born living two miles south of Belfast, I was reared with the history of the IRA and the continual strive in the North. The risks and looming danger render the work heady but difficult. Editors and publishers only concern is well-written stories deliv-



ered on time. Such are the cold hard requirements of the job.

As the life ebbed from Bobby Sands, two of his comrades at the Mesh Prison were already on hunger strike. Patrick O'Hare and Raymond McCreesh in their forty-eight day of fasting. Meanwhile, Patrick Hughes entered his fifty-eight day without food deteriorating at an alarming rate, losing his eyesight. Meanwhile, revolutionary Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, ironically a member of British Parliament, issued a statement: "We hope to show the British Government and Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey that we have large support and solidarity, our people standing shoulder to shoulder. We're also going to show that we're not taking no for an answer from the British." Gerry Adams, then Vice President of the IRA's Political arm of Sinn Fein also issued a statement: "Another hunger striker is there and there will be another and another." Meanwhile British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told a conservative party rally "the challenge of terrorists must be resisted and turned back if peace and reconciliation are to be reached in Northern Ireland.

The burial of Bobby Sands was historic followed by an assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II. Immediately the world press packed up, leaving Belfast for Rome. Journalists are like prostitutes. We go where the action is. Nothing matters but the story.

removed swiftly into the highly respected realm of martyrdom.

I'm so isolated. Fear is a terrible thing. My spirit will survive. I shall resist. It's only natural that I should be afraid. Who wouldn't. It must be nearly time.

Bobby left school at sixteen and became an apprentice steelworker. At eighteen the IRA gave him a job, and executing it he was arrested, charged with possession of firearms, sentenced to five years in jail. Sands served a half term, released in April 1976. The IRA provided another job, a furniture warehouse was bombed. The Brits raided his home, discovered a gun connected with the shootout and beat him as his young wife Geraldine looked on. He was sentenced to 14 years for possession of firearms.

There are a million stories in Belfast where the ugly drama of terrorist warfare unfolds, where hatred and grudges, both sectarian and historical have been passed from one generation to another. A million stories in a city so desolate that its inhabitants learned to close their eyes to it all and with a fierce pride claimed the community as their home. Belfast, Derry, Irish hamlets, towns, villages took to the streets in a raging force. The first hunger striker had died, seven, maybe eight prisoners ready to follow. Men and women oblivious to the cold and misting rain recited the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary for the repose of Bobby Sands soul. They prayed for their own sons

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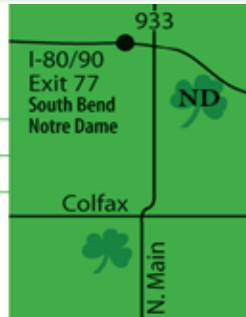


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