

Balancing a Lifestyle on the Big Shoulders of Chicago



There are times when there is so much to tell, to explain, to write and reveal, prompting envy in the very hearts and souls of you, dear reader. I just returned from a visit to Ireland which is good enough in itself, except this was no ordinary visit. So hold onto your chair, walker, or skateboard and cruise along as I share my experience at the unforgettable magical posh Ashford Castle in



Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

County Mayo coupled with the added bliss of listening to three cultured Irish men lecture on the history of the Emerald Isle. Maybe you have little interest discovering what your Irish grandparents did, if anything, during the war of Independence? Maybe you don't want to know about IRA executions in County Meath in 1913, or 500 killed in County Cork. Maybe you just want to hear about the splendor of this historic castle that draws the rich and famous into its sumptuous deluxe space, take a walk in the gardens, a boat on the lake or a historic lecture in the Castle's thirty-two seat cinema facility. Really when was the last time you stayed in a hotel where bedroom walls were upholstered in pure silk, the food at every meal netting a 5-Star, the ambience provided a sense of giddiness and as Niall Rochford, the Castle's General Manager commented, "the restoration work had given Ashford probably the best hotel bedrooms in the country." I'll vouch for that! However, to reflect on the holiday investment, room rates have increased

by 20 or 30 percent. Several months ago invites from Ashford were sent to past visitors announcing a three day Irish History Lecture, combining it with a special priced two day stay. A dear friend sent a two word text asking "any interest," and off we were, an experience well worth the re-mortgaging of both our homes! Within walking distance from the castle grounds lies the village of Cong, where film director John Ford came

De Valera's reflective wrestling with every aspect of a political issue and could be standoffish. Dr. McCullagh noted that DeValera and Michael Collins lacked father figures. He also noted that DeValera led a tortured life: his apparently left, his mother met and married a man from Cuba. McCullagh also claimed that twenty-three United States Presidents can claim Irish ancestry.

Another segment of the Irish trip was a visit to Carlingford, a small village on the



A caretaker for the Quiet Man's little house on the grounds of Ashford Castle



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to County Mayo to shoot the film The Quiet Man, starring Maureen O'Hara and John Wayne. The village features book stores, a host of beguiling shops, restaurants and pubs, as well as the usual historic graveyard and a church.

Back at Ashford Castle Irish journalist David McCullagh delivered a significant history lesson on the long reign of Irish President Eamen De Valera co-mingling with his relationship with Michael Collins emphasizing the latter's impatience with

Irish Sea in County Louth. Across the water lie the famed Mountains of Mourne which do "sweep down to the sea" as the song warns. As we walked along the pier the wind howled, clouds darkened, not a soul was out prompting our swift walk back to the hotel. Carlingford boasts the distinction of winning Ireland's Tidy Town Contest most years. Once there, sitting in a pub we asked the bartender if more tourists drift into the village in the summer. "They do," says he, "they come by the dozens."

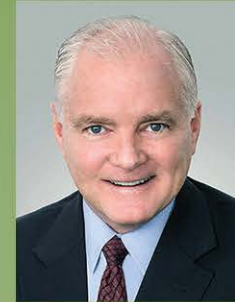


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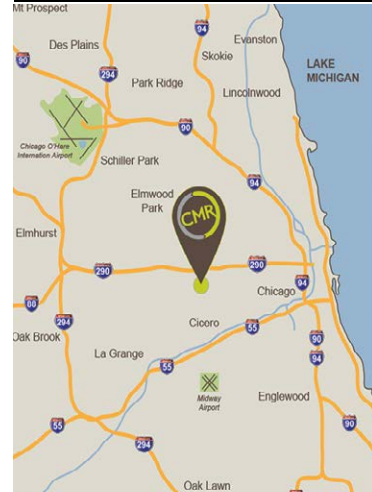


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Chicagoan, Orla Godley Crowned World Champion of Irish Dance for the Third Time!

Chicagoan Orla Godley, at 21-years-old, was crowned World Champion of Irish dancing for the third time in her life at this year's 50th World Irish Dancing Championships!

The dancing championships concluded in Belfast, Northern Ireland, following a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Godley competed in the Ladies 21 to 23-years-old category, where she competed against and beat more than 120 dancers from around the globe for the first-place world title. She previously won the World Championship title in 2014 and again in 2018.

To compete at the world's most prestigious Irish dancing competition, dancers must first qualify by achieving a high placement at their regional Oireachtas or National Championships. Godley qualified for the global competition by winning both the regional and national title.

"Dancing competitively used to terrify



me. The thought of merely getting on stage in front of a host of judges and an audience would bring me to tears so winning a world championship title never seemed like a reality when I was a kid

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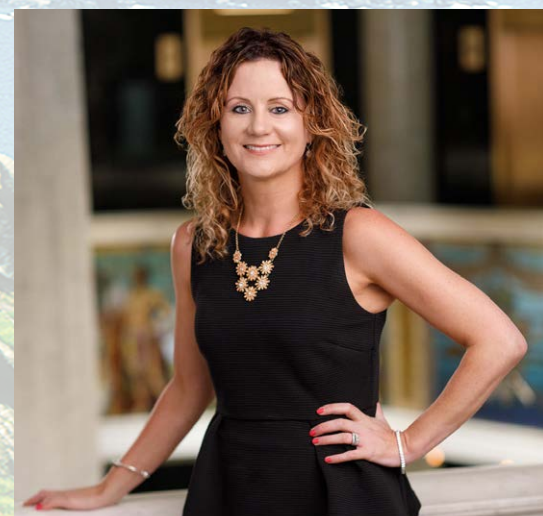
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Hailing from a working background Caroleann zealously represents all types of injured workers in the Workers Compensation Arena and is committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of people who are injured by the negligence of others."



Caroleann Gallagher

- let alone doing it three times," Godley said. "Through the years, I've grown to love every part of competitions, both the small local ones and the ones where you're on the world's stage."

Since she was a toddler, Godley began Irish dancing. Her Irish roots stem from her father who is originally from County Kerry and her grandfather from County Limerick.

She continues to train at Mullane Godley Irish Dance Academy in Edison Park, where she's taught by her brother, John, who also achieved his own World Championship title more than a decade ago. The school was founded by her mother, uncles, and aunt more than 35 years ago. The dancing school prides itself on a unique philosophy that all dancers - regardless of level or experience - are given the same amount of time, attention and care as a world-champion dancer would receive.

In the wake of her third world title, Godley, a Loyola University-Chicago junior, says she's going to return to focusing on schoolwork. Whether she attempts a fourth championship title remains to be seen but she has remained steadfast in her commitment to train up-and-coming young dancers who are interested in the sport.

"I want to continue to serve as a role

model for the thousands of women across the globe who are interested in Irish dance, be it competitively or just recreationally," said Godley. "The best part of Irish dancing isn't world championships; it's celebrating our rich culture and heritage and sharing it with millions of people across the world. That's what this is about. That's what I'll continue to do."

For information on Irish Dance classes, contact mullanegodleyirishdancers@gmail.com or (312) 286-7704.

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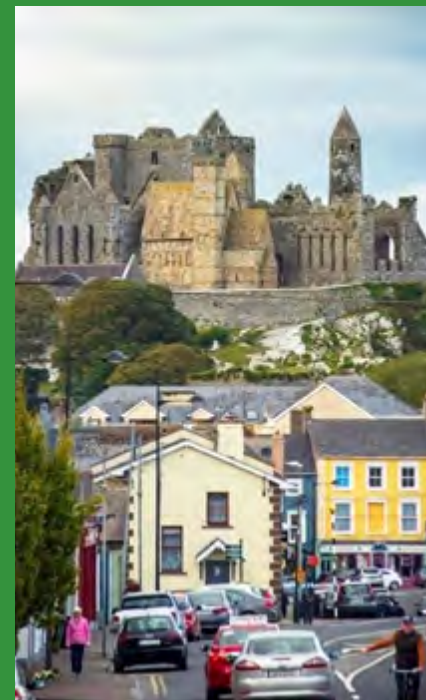
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Billy O'Callaghan's Novel: Life Sentences

At just sixteen, Nancy Martin leaves the small island of Cape Clear for the mainland, the only member of her family to survive the effects of the Great Famine. Finding work in a grand house on the edge of Cork City, she is irrepressibly drawn to the charismatic gardener Michael Egan, sparking a love affair and a devastating chain of events that continues to unfold over three generations.

Spanning more than a century, Billy O'Callaghan's weaves together the journey of an Irish family determined against all odds to be free. In 1920, Nancy's son Jer has lived through battles of his own as a soldier in the Great War. Now drunk in a jail cell, he struggles to piece together where he has come from, and who he wants to be. And in the early 1980s, Jer's youngest child Nellie is nearing the end of her life in a council house just steps away from her childhood home; remembering

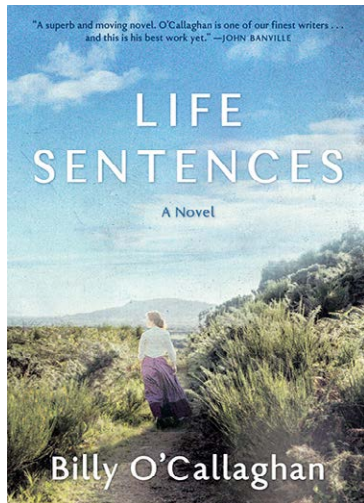
the night when she and her family stole back something that was rightfully theirs, she imagines what lies ahead for those who will survive her.

This moving portrait of life in Ireland is set in the village where O'Callaghan's family has lived for generations, and is partly based on stories told by his parents and grandparents. His writing is imbued with lived experience and hard-earned truths, creating a novel so rich in life and empathy it is impossible to let go of his characters. An ambitious and lyrical family saga, this novel confirms Billy O'Callaghan as one of the finest living Irish writers.

O'Callaghan writes with a bright, enlivening emotional palette and a penetrating eye for the details of family history. A deeply felt and distinctive work by a real craftsman.—Kirkus (starred review)

"A superb and moving novel.... O'Callaghan is one of our finest writers, in the tradition of John McGahern and Brian Friel, and this is his best work yet."

~ John Banville



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ENOUGH TO MAKE THE ANGELS WEEP

Based on a true story, an unsolved murder and a 150-year-old diary of an Irish soldier are inextricably linked to the past. Hired to investigate the murder of an 84-year-old widow, P.I. Joe Coopersmith hits one dead end after another in his search for leads. With few clues and no suspects, he nearly gives up, until he uncovers a connection to a bizarre plot to kill the descendants of Irish soldiers who fought for Mexico during the Mexican-American War. Known as San Patricios, they belonged to the St. Patrick's Battalion, an elite Mexican unit composed mostly of Irish immigrants. [Amazon](#)

When a well-preserved diary of an Irish soldier turns up, Coopersmith knows he's on the right track. He digs deeper into the plot, soon learning the identity of the man behind it and his warped motive for the cold-blooded murder of the elderly widow.



HOLDING HER BREATH

Eimear Ryan's debut novel HOLDING HER BREATH has been shortlisted for the *Irish Book Awards Newcomer of the Year Award*, being called "Whip smart" *Sunday Telegraph*, "Entirely fresh" *Irish Times*, and "A refreshing, accomplished debut" (*Irish Independent*).

Holding Her Breath is subtle, observant, and moving. It's about swimming, ambition, complicated love stories, and family secrets—and a young woman coming fully into her powers.

Suddenly free to create a fresh identity for herself, Beth strikes up a friendship with her English major roommate and soon finds herself among a literary crowd—who happen to adore the poetry of Beth's grandfather, Benjamin Crowe, who died tragically before she was born.

Beth's mother and grandmother rarely talk about what happened to Ben, and Beth is unsettled to find that her classmates may know more about her own family history than she does.

As the year progresses, Beth embarks on a secret relationship with an older post-doctoral researcher—and on a quest to discover the truth about her family's past.

[Available at Amazon](#)

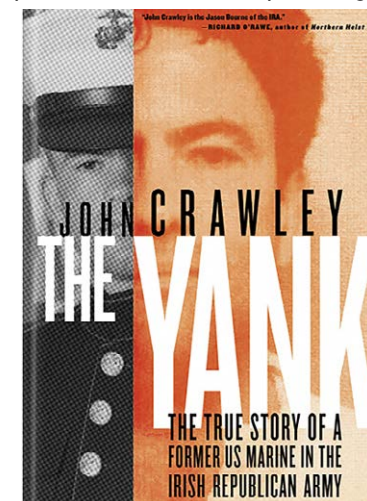
The Yank -A True Story of an American Marine in the Irish Republican Army

1975: A young Irish-American man joins an elite US Marine unit to get the most intensive military training possible – then joins the IRA, during the days of some of the bloodiest fighting ever in the Irish-British conflict . . .

The Irish "Troubles" were at a murderous fever pitch when John Crawley volunteered for the IRA. Bloody Friday, Bloody Sunday, the bombing of the British Houses of Parliament, and other deadly incidents had recently unfolded or were about to ... Civilian casualties were common as British soldiers, Republican militants (who wanted the UK out of Northern Ireland) and Unionist police and militants (who wanted to remain in the UK), engaged in gun battles and car bombing throughout Northern Ireland. The death toll numbered over 1,000.

The IRA split over how to react, and the new Provisional IRA – the Provos, mostly impassioned young men who were not hesitant to resort to violence.

John details the grueling challenges of his Marine Corps training, then how he put his hard-earned munitions and demolitions skills to use in service of the Provos. It will see him running guns with notorious American mobster – and secret IRA fundraiser – Whitey Bulger; running, under cover of night, from safe house to safe house, one step ahead of British troops; being cap-



tured, imprisoned, and being part of a mass escape attempt; fending off a recruitment offer from the CIA; and being one of the masterminds behind a campaign to take out London's electrical system.

Born in New York to Irish immigrant parents, he moved to Ireland to attend school. Inspired there by the struggle against British rule in the North of Ireland, he returned to America to receive military training in an elite, special forces "Recon" unit of the US Marine Corps. Afterwards,

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BOOK IT!

BOOK IT!

he returned to Ireland to volunteer for the IRA and conducted many missions, including gun-running from the US, working with Whitey Bulger. Crawley was captured and imprisoned twice, in Ireland and in England, while on major missions, done in both times by informers. He is retired, married, and lives in Co. Monaghan, Ireland. He remains committed to the ending of British rule in Ireland and the establishment of a united Irish Republic. [Available at Melville House](#)

SEA OF TRANQUILITY

"A simulated life is still a life"

(Gaspery, a character in the book)

By Emily St. John Mandel

Knopf: 272 pages, \$25

Review by Michael Corrigan

Emily St. John Mandel is a Canadian writer with a marvelous talent for taking old stories, i.e., pandemics, Ponzi schemes, or time travel, and making them fresh. *Sea of Tranquility*, Mandel's new novel, demonstrates this. Mandel is often labeled as an author of speculative fiction, science fiction, and auto-fiction. She can combine many plots and have multiple characters, some of them appearing from novel to novel, and yet she ties the threads together.

A single surreal incident is the core event of *Sea of Tranquility*.

In 1912, an 18-year-old Englishman named Edwin St. John St. Andrew, disillusioned with the British Empire, meets a mysterious stranger and then walks into a Canadian forest. Underneath a giant maple tree, he suddenly feels he is in some vast interior, like a train station or a cathedral. There are notes of violin music. Edwin is terrified by a combination of unearthly sounds. Is he going mad? In 1994, a young woman named Vincent is filming the same tree and sky and hears violin music and unexplained sounds. The same stranger is lurking in the forest.

Is time, itself, unraveling with one event bleeding into other time periods? Are there parallel worlds in everyone's personal story?

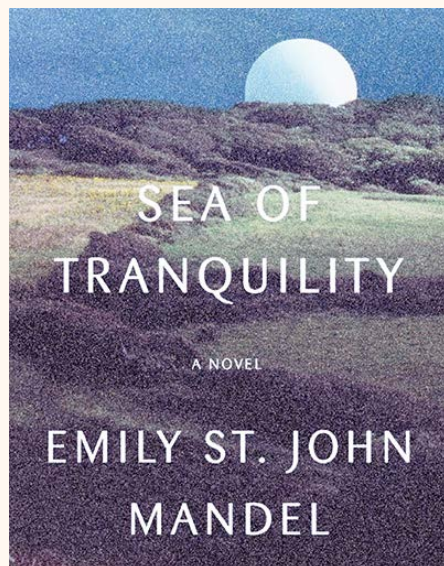
At a party, years later, Vincent meets a visitor who reveals her spouse is running a Ponzi scheme and that she and her friends will be ruined in a few months. In another scene, a writer named Olive Llewellyn—not unlike Mandel—is warned by the same mysterious visitor to cancel her book tour because something deadly (a pandemic) will soon happen.

The mystery man is a time traveler detective named Gaspery-Jacques Roberts living on the moon in the 25th century in a colony called the Night City. He works for a sinister organization called the Time Institute. Gaspery's assignment is to travel back into the

past and discover why separate incidents from different centuries are rupturing and overlapping into each other.

Here is where Mandel gets complex with stories within stories.

Mandel's fictional character, novelist Olive Llewellyn, has an individual named Gaspery in her bestseller *Marienbad*, which was released in the 23rd century. *Marienbad* is a dystopian novel she wrote on the brink of an actual pandemic. Ironically, this parallels Mandel herself whose huge hit, *Stations Eleven*—about a pandemic—was



published before the COVID-19 pandemic occurred. When it did, Mandel resented being called a prophet.

Eventually, Gaspery travels back in time to visit Edwin, now a disabled veteran from World War I, and explains to him what his 1912 encounter means. Edwin recognizes Gaspery as the weird stranger from his past. If Edwin is suffering from the war, at least the forest vision was not a hallucination caused by mental illness. This action marks Gaspery as an outlaw and eventual fugitive because he has violated a Time Institute rule of never revealing his purpose.

Critics have high praise for *Sea of Tranquility*. Maureen Corrigan of NPR had this to say: "Sea of Tranquility is a poignant, ingeniously constructed and deeply absorbing novel that surveys big questions about the cruel inevitability of time passing, loss, the nature of what we consider reality and, in the end, what finally matters."

Here is Laird Hunt: "Following a superb stylist like Mandel is like watching an expert lacemaker at work: You see the strands and later the beautiful results, but your eyes simply cannot follow what comes in between. As in her best work, including *Station Eleven*, she is less concerned with endings than with continuity."

Sea of Tranquility ends with an extraordinary reveal. [Amazon.com](#)

Sligo's Up-and-Coming Trad Harpist BRÍDÍN to Make Milwaukee Irish Fest Debut

By Mike Danahey

Up-and-coming trad harpist BRÍDÍN will be making her Milwaukee Irish Fest debut this coming August.

The appearance just might give the County Sligo native a chance to catch up with friends she made down the road in Chicago.

"I was over on my J1 Visa in Chicago twice and loved every minute of it," BRÍDÍN said. "I worked in Stanley's Kitchen and Tap as a waitress and have made lifelong friends through that (now-closed) place. I brought my flute and dancing shoes over with me and played tunes regularly at The Galway Arms with great friends."

These days, BRÍDÍN balances two careers, working in the family business as a funeral director/embalmer and writing and recording her original contemporary folk music.

"My dad, David McGowan, who actually lived, worked and studied in Chicago, came back to Sligo with the knowledge and skills that he learned there. One was building a modernized, purpose-built funeral home and preparation area."

BRÍDÍN said if she's having a tough time dealing with a tragic case, she can use her music as an emotional outlet.

"I love getting into the studio and just writing and playing my music. It helps me a lot," BRÍDÍN said. "I'm also hugely inspired by the nature that surrounds me in County Sligo."

Also serving as inspiration has been a supportive family, where music has been part of the home for generation upon generation.

"My mother encouraged my sister and I to teach ourselves whatever we wanted. With some guidance from her, we learned tunes we picked up at sessions by ear. We would always play at a session once a week in my dad's family pub, McGowan's, in Easkey Co. Sligo, run by my aunt Roseann."

Family also played a role when BRÍDÍN's debut EP, *Ocean of Stars*, was released in 2021. To draw attention to the work, BRÍDÍN made a promotional video in an unusual setting - an out of commission

commercial Boeing 767 her father hauled up by barge from Shannon Airport to Enniscrone, Co. Sligo.

"It was so cool to launch my EP in the plane's cockpit, because it was also the first official event to take place in the plane. It brought so much encouragement and confidence that this will be a fantastic glamping site, music venue and more," BRÍDÍN said.

Past the repurposed plane, BRÍDÍN said she's been playing gigs, trying out new material. She plans to release a single, *Empty Room*, on May 26, then slow-release a yet-to-be-titled album over summer, with the full work out in September.

"I'm so excited to play for an audience again. There's a real sense of magic to it," BRÍDÍN said.

She noted that Ireland was very strict with quarantine and other protocols during the pandemic and even had a ban



for a time on live music after pubs and restaurants were back open.

"This was heartbreaking and has caused a lot of mental health issues from lack of playing, hearing or experiencing music. Music heals when you don't even realize it," BRÍDÍN said.

Of her coming to Milwaukee Irish Fest, BRÍDÍN said she was one of the performers selected to go by Templebar Tradfest.

"America will always be this big shiny place you always want to play in, so I'm really looking forward to performing to new ears and sharing my music, both old and new," she said.

In Milwaukee, BRÍDÍN will perform by herself, with harp vocals and loop and effect pedals.

"My loop pedal allows me to create a full band sound, even with just little old me," she said.

Thoughts For Finding A New Job

If you're looking for a job you're probably aware of the confusing employment situation. A lot of companies closed their doors. Other companies laid off many of their employees. Covid drove numerous companies into bankruptcy. Many people decided to rely on the "free money" that the federal government provided them. But clearly a lot of people are now returning to work of their own free will according to the federal authorities. Here are some thoughts to help you to succeed in your search.

Finding the motivation to launch a job search after being terminated can be extremely difficult. Numerous people will find any excuse to avoid the steps they need to take, probably because they don't really know what to do to find a new job. Maybe they think a job will simply appear if they wait long enough. Stop kidding yourself.



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Your old job is gone. It's not likely to come back, even if your company made a mistake in letting you go.

Don't feel sorry for yourself for too long. It's all right to be upset, frustrated, annoyed or disappointed for the first 24 or 48 hours. After that, such feelings will hinder your job search. If you were terminated weeks or months ago, put that behind you. You need to display a positive attitude in your discussions with potential employers. No one wants to hire an angry person, however unfair his or her termination might have been. There is no shame attached to your termination. Remember the loss of your job doesn't mean the loss of your dignity, no matter how poorly you might have been treated by your old employer. I have counseled thousands job seekers over the years. Typically the upbeat person finds a new job sooner than the person who displays his anger about being fired or laid off.

Resist the temptation to become house bound. Unemployment isn't the time to be running family errands or spending hours shopping for some new tool. Your time should be spent focused on your search. Don't allow yourself to get sidetracked doing incidental tasks. I once asked a job seeker why he could not meet with me earlier in the day; he told me that he had decided to drive his child to school.

Set a daily schedule and stick to it. Ideally you should prepare your schedule the evening before. Now that you're not catching the 7:37 a.m. train or fighting expressway traffic, it may be tempting to stay in bed



Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Of course, you need to review your financial situation, sooner rather than later. Accept unemployment compensation—it's yours, you earned it. Apply for it as soon as you can. Do you have

access to IRA funds that you can tap into or other savings? Can you reduce some of your regular monthly expenses?

Review your wardrobe critically. First impressions are important and a worn cuff or scuffed shoes may send the wrong message. It's amazing how many job seekers wear expensive clothes but fail to shine their shoes. Choose a reasonable date based on an evaluation of your marketable skills and your perception of the job market, then direct your efforts on reaching that goal. Having a target date tends to give your search a sense of direction. Outline the elements of your ideal job. Be specific and visualize yourself in the new job. If you don't know what you're looking for how will you know when you find it? You should also know the answer to the question—why should they want to hire you? What do you have to offer—can you tell them about three or four of your past achievements?

Ignore the crepe hangers. Decide to ignore gloomy news. Stay positive. Decide to limit programing that is focused on the negative. Listen instead to upbeat motivational topics. It's inevitable. You will find a challenging, responsible new job. The question is how long will your search take? Demonstrating a positive attitude and making yourself accessible to employers and networking contacts will shorten the time between paychecks. Finally, Dr. Thomas Murray, who ran the Career Transitions Center in Chicago for several years used to say, "Everyone can find a job if they do their homework and persist." I agree. *Carpe Diem.*

Other Thoughts: *The Best Leaders Are The Ones Who Have The Sense To Surround Themselves With Outstanding People And The Self-Restraint Not To Meddle In How They Do Their Job.* UNKNOWN. *Excellence Is The Result Of Caring More Than Others Think Is Wise; Risking More Than Others Think Is Safe; Dreaming More Than What Others Think Is Practical And Expecting More Than Others Think Is Possible.* UNKNOWN. **James F. Fitzgerald, Formerly the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates who has a long history in the field of employment. He retired from his business in December, 2020.**

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Malcolm O'Hagan's American Writers Museum Celebrates 5 Years With Inaugural American Writers Festival May 15

The American Writers Museum, founded by Malcolm O'Hagan, will host its inaugural American Writers Festival on May 15, 2022 in Chicago, coinciding with its fifth anniversary. **The free public event** will be held at Four Stages inside the Chicago Cultural Center and One Stage at the American Writers Museum, and feature more than 75 beloved contemporary authors, artists and playwrights. Participating writers will address their perspectives on many of today's most timely and controversial topics including immigration, justice, racism and equality by way of themes throughout their literature.

The American Writers Festival schedule consists of discussion panels and author signings with leading contemporary writers across various genres, including children's and young adult fiction, science fiction, history, biographies, poetry, and satire, who will share insights into their craft.

The mission of the American Writers Museum is to engage the public in celebrating American writers and exploring their influence on our history, our identity,

our culture, and our daily lives. The American Writers Museum is the first museum of its kind in the United States. The

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writers
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MAY 15, 2022



mission is to engage the public in celebrating American writers and exploring their influence on our history, our identity, and our daily lives. The museum is located at 180 N. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL 60601, and offers something for every age group including permanent exhibits and special galleries highlighting America's favorite works and the authors behind them. Tickets to the museum are \$14 for adults, \$9 for seniors, students, and teachers. Free for members and children ages 12 and under. To inquire about discounted rates for groups of 10 or more, including adults, student travel groups, and University students, visit AmericanWritersMuseum.org/visit/groups/ or call 312-374-8770. Hours are Thursday - Monday 10 AM - 5 PM. Visit AmericanWritersMuseum.org or call 312-374-8790

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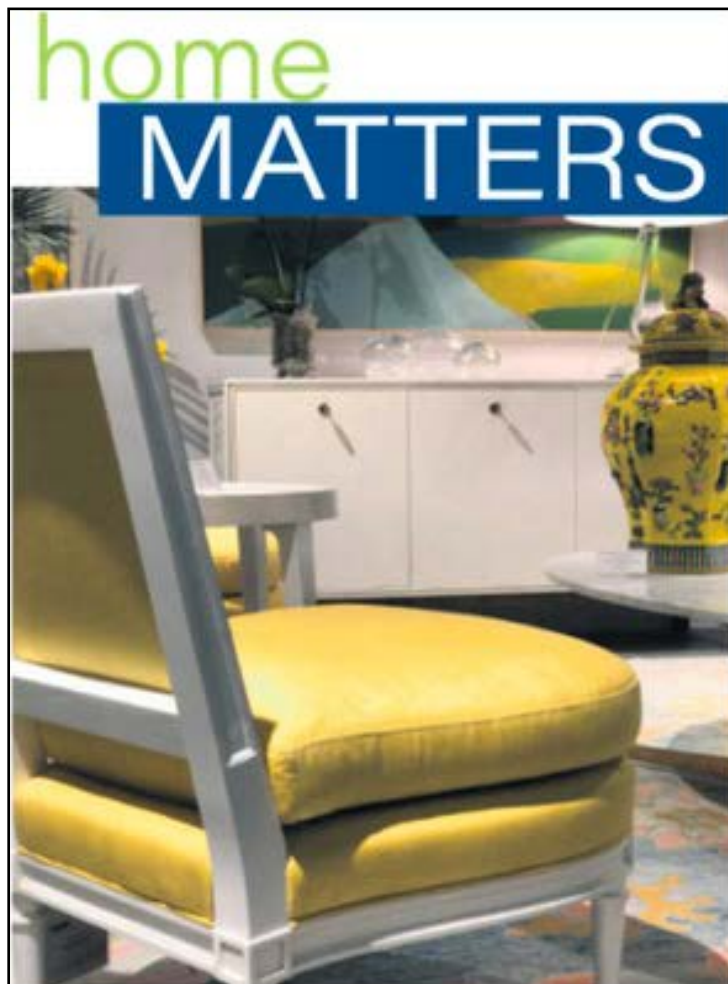
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There's A Brightness

By *Mattie Lennon*

As a child I remember small farmers
Being depressed at some times of the year,
With climatic conditions uncertain
Turning hopes of their harvest to fear.

Whenever they cursed the bad weather
As the elements failed to rescind
My father, with wisdom, would tell them:
"There's a brightness at the butt of the wind".

When teenage ambitions got twisted:
My identity crisis would loom.

Rejection and fantasy mingled,
Resulting in pictures of doom.

Then.....the Power of Good to the rescue
To counter each negative trend.

My thoughts would somehow be diverted
To that brightness at the butt of the wind.

Chorus;
When the weather of life it looks hopeless;
And dark clouds with disaster seem twinned,
Remember that God will send sunshine.
There's a brightness at the butt of the wind.

When the storms of anguish are beating
And I'm lashed by the gales of defeat
When the forecast of life holds no promise
It's still not the time to retreat
A fresh glow appears in my vision
Like a night sky by bright stars sequined.

Then I know then I haven't forgotten
That brightness at the butt of the wind
At last when I'll see the horizon
And that mist (self-deception) has cleared
I'll ponder the journey before me
And confront all the things that I've feared,
Expecting a turbulent crossing
As the Clergy point out that I've sinned
But knowing that Salvation is certain
By the brightness at the butt of the wind
Chorus.

(c) Mattie Lennon 2005

Gaelic Park Book Club Schedule

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September 2022-May 2023

First Sunday of the month (or *) we gather to discuss great Irish writers. Please join us! There is no fee. Even if you haven't read the book, all are welcome. Please contact me with any questions. Tina Butler-Leonard, email: Molanive@yahoo.com

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Oct 2 Complete Irish Mythology Lady Gregory
Nov 6 The Gathering Anne Enright
Dec 4 When All Is Said Anne Griffin
Jan 8 The Last September Elizabeth Bowen
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Embracing The Great Outdoors In Ireland

One of the joys of a vacation on the island of Ireland is the sheer unadulterated beauty of the place. For a small island it has just about everything: rugged cliffs overlooking dramatic seascapes, beautiful beaches and secluded coves, majestic mountains and lush glens, pristine lakes and inland waterways, ancient woodlands traversed by myriad paths and trails, all of which play host to a seemingly endless variety of flora and fauna.

The months of late spring, summer and early fall—when temperatures are comfortably warm and what rain there is tends to be ‘soft,’—offer the perfect opportunity to fill your lungs with the fresh Atlantic air and embrace all that the island’s Great Outdoors has to offer. There is something for everyone in this playground of adventure and discovery.

Coastal tours

Sometimes the best way to take in wonderful scenery is from the water. Take a tour around Clew Bay in County Mayo, once the domain of the Pirate Queen Grace O’Malley, and now home to a colony of 400 seals. From the sea, the views of Croagh Patrick, home to thousands of annual pilgrimages in honor of our legendary patron Saint, are unsurpassed. Or take a cruise along the Causeway Coast in County Antrim and explore the Giant’s Causeway, Bushmills Bay and get a bird’s eye view of Dunluce Castle. A Sea Safari awaits you in Baltimore, County Cork. Boat tours are also to be had around Bantry Bay in Cork, Dingle in County Kerry, Dublin Bay, and many other places. Bring your binoculars and be on the lookout for Atlantic grey seals, frolicking dolphins, basking sharks, and whales, as well as a host of seabirds native to the Irish coastline, including spot puffins, guillemots, and corncrakes.

Watersports

Ireland’s coastline offers fantastic opportunities for all kinds of watersports—surfing, paddle boarding, kayaking, and windsurfing, to name just a few. Whether you’re a hardened veteran or a complete beginner you can enjoy just about any of these as many places offer lessons tailored for all levels of expertise.

The west coast has become something of a mecca for surfing. Rossnowlagh in County Donegal, Easkey in County Sligo, and Inch in County Kerry draw visitors from all over the world to pit their skills against the roaring Atlantic breakers.

Inland waterways

Ireland’s many lakes, rivers and canals are also experiences not to be missed. Canal and river cruises offer a thoroughly relaxing way to enjoy Ireland’s great out-



doors. Imagine yourself floating down the River Shannon, sipping a glass of fine wine and devouring with your eyes the riverside ferns and reeds humming with birds and wildlife. Or heading out into the dark on a night kayaking trip on Lough Hyne, County Cork, where bioluminescence lights up the water. Or exploring the maze of bays, narrow channels, and islands around both Upper and Lower Lough Erne in County Fermanagh.

On dry land

For those more inclined towards the Terra Firma a great way to explore the most beautiful parts of the island is on Shanks’ Pony. Walking and hiking are two of the most popular pastimes on the island of Ireland, and for good reason. There is a vast array of trails, paths, and routes, for both the novice and the experienced walker. You can enjoy edge-of-the-world views and blasts of salty sea air on cliff-edge paths around Slieve League in County Donegal, the Causeway Coast in Northern Ireland, and Loop Head in County Clare. You can escape into the rich green beauty of undulating valleys such as the Glen of Aherlow in County Tipperary. And you can weave around the remarkable granite outcrops of the Mourne Mountains in County Down.

‘Greenways’ have become immensely popular across the whole island. Greenways are a network of off-road trails for cyclists and walkers that often follow the course of disused railway lines.

The first was the stunning Great Western Greenway in County Mayo, but since then the concept has grown to take in all parts of the island, with one of the latest being the 80 mile-long Royal Canal Greenway from Maynooth in County Kildare to Cloondara in County Longford. The Waterford Greenway crosses eleven bridges and three impressive Victorian viaducts before arriving at Dungarvan Bay. It features castle ruins, 18th century paper mills, historic viaducts, and welcoming villages. Other highlights include the Boyne Greenway, which begins in Dominic’s Park on the south bank of the River Boyne in Drogheda, County Louth, and ends at the Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre in Oldbridge, County Meath. It’s a short one, at only 1.1 miles, but has a lovely section along the Boyne Canal. The Comber Greenway takes in many aspects of Belfast’s unique history. It goes off-road close to the old Harland & Wolff shipyard (where the Titanic was built) and runs along an old railway line. A tranquil green corridor through the city eventually reaches open countryside, where you can spot Scrabo Tower in the distance.

Greenways are a truly elemental way to

travel: the countryside comes alive and you can stop to take it in at your own pace.

A leisurely drive around the coast, or through the countryside, will allow you to see many of Ireland's hidden treasures. The island is full of archeological sites, standing stones and tombs for example, many of which date back thousands of years. There are also reminders of more recent history, castles, battle sites and more.

Golfing

No discussion of the Great Outdoors on the island of Ireland would be complete without a nod to the sport of golf. There are over 400 courses on the island, including a third of the world's 'Links' courses. Whether you're a weekend hacker or single digit handicapper Ireland has the perfect course for you.

Links golf offers a very different type of challenge. Set by the sea, on the narrow strips of land that 'link' beaches, the golfer faces the added hazards of towering sand dunes and unpredictable sea winds. Perhaps the finest example of links golf is Royal Portrush, the scene of Shane Lowry's fabulous victory in the 2019 Open



From the top: Canoeing at Belcoo on the Fermanagh Lakes; Golfing at Royal County Down; Car Touring, Lough Tay, County Wicklow; Howth Head, County Dublin; Tullan Strand, Bundoran, County Donegal.

Championship. Other examples include Royal County Down, Waterville, Portmarnock, Lahinch, Baltray, Tralee, Doonbeg, Ballyliffin, Carne and Portstewart.

Inland there are hundreds of parkland courses that take advantage of the beautiful and lush countryside and scenery.

These courses truly have benefitted from nature's gift. Drumlin's, hillocks formed during the Ice Age, are an integral part of many courses. A seemingly endless variety of mature trees flank fairways and provide ample punishment for those off-center drives. There are water features, meandering streams, rivers and lakes. There are courses built on old country estates and even some in the shadows of medieval castles. The Old Head of Kinsale course is more heathland than either parkland or links but is a bewitching experience perched atop a promontory that stretches out into the Atlantic Ocean.

One thing all Irish courses have in common is the legendary welcome to be found at the nineteenth hole!

Whether your desire is to hit a small white ball around the Antrim Coast, or cycle around the Lakes of Killarney, or explore the 360 million-year-old geology of the Burren National Park, or do virtually anything else outside on the island of Ireland this year, it's time to press the Green Button and start planning your trip on:

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

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!

Working with seniors reminds me of my wonderful years teaching children loving, laughing, and appreciating the joys of life.

HAPPY SENIORS singing old favorite tunes is music to my ears. Now I get to continue doing what I love with a new generation.



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Late Nite Catechism - Special Anniversary Performance May 29

29 tickets available at the original \$8 ticket price

Late Nite Catechism turns 29 in the city where it all started.

A special anniversary performance takes place Sunday, May 29, 7:30 pm at the Greenhouse Theater, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago.

Chicago actress Rose Guccione will star as "Sister." Before joining the Nuns4Fun family, Guccione spent 20 years with the Lyric Opera and has sung extensively in Chicago, Europe, and South

Africa. She is a faculty member at Dominican University and has a singing telegram company called OperaGram.com.

29 tickets are available in May at the original 1993 price: \$8. and are good for any performance of LNC in May, available at the Greenhouse box office, or ThunderTix using code LNC29. All other tickets are \$35.

The role of Sister, the

wise-cracking character of LNC, was created by Vicki Quade and Maripat Donovan, both products of the Catholic school system.

Since opening at Live Bait Theatre, Late Nite Catechism has seen 3 popes, 3 cardinals, 4 presidents, 3 Chicago mayors, at least a dozen Chicago area theaters, 20 local actresses, and provided laughter to more than 3.5 million audience members in more than 410 cities,



playing in six countries on four continents. Worldwide, the show has grossed more than \$100 million in box office receipts.

The show has helped raise more than \$4 million for the retirement funds of various orders of nuns. Currently, Nuns4Fun Entertainment is raising funds for nuns in Poland and Ukraine, who are administering aid to Ukrainian refugees.

www.nuns4fun.com. 773-404-7336, or <https://greenhousetheatercenter.thundertix.com>.

We are delighted to announce that Tom Hughes will be joining our new service which will be launching shortly. He will be our first member who is residing outside of Ireland. Our



new service caters to Celtic Crafters from around the globe. We will be launching our new website shortly too.

Tom currently lives in Australia, but he was born in Dublin, Ireland. He has a love for all things Irish and Celtic traditions

Without further adieu, here is what Tom wrote about himself.

Hi, my name is Tom Hughes. I am originally from Dublin (Ireland's capital



city), but I moved to Sydney and this is where I set up my art studio. I am self-taught in the craft of copper repousse. I have turned my hobby into a small, bespoke craft business called 'Celtic Copper Craft'. I work hard to preserve and celebrate the best of Irish traditions and cultures. My fine art copper sculptures are known and admired all over the world.

At the core of Celtic Copper Craft is a

real dedication to providing exceptional personal service to each of my clients, helping to connect them with Ireland's arts and culture. I try my best to keep the Celtic traditional art of copper repousse




alive in modern times of mass production. My copper artwork is best described as being traditional, rustic and organic. Just as in nature, there will be flaws. I tend to be drawn to the wear and tear as I find it infinitely more beautiful and far more interesting than the flawless perfection of manufactured pieces.

A few years ago, I was badly injured in workplace accident and unfortunately, this resulted in me being deemed unfit for work.



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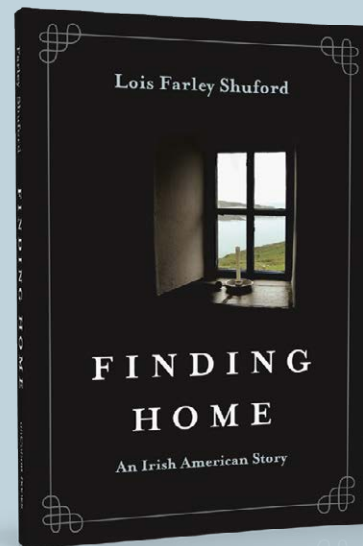


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However, I took it upon myself to retrain. To this day, I have achieved two diplomas in photography and another in graphic design. Additionally, I have successfully completed a number of art courses over the course of the last twelve years.

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He Shot! He Scored! Pat Foley Signs Off

By: Maureen Callahan

Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened. As the mother of three, it's a phrase I often use to coerce my young children home from the park or console them as a lost balloon floats skyward. But it's one I repeated to myself as the Blackhawks game ended last Thursday. The mic belonging to Pat Foley, voice of the Hawks, went quiet, closing a chapter that spanned the majority of my life.

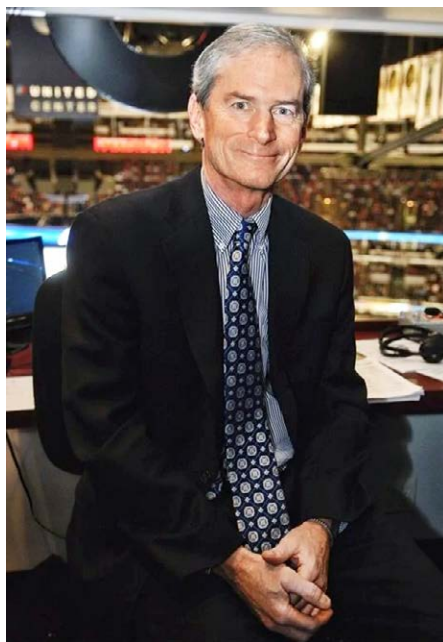
But I'm not alone. Watching Foley stand on the ice with his family, including his mother, Mary, before the game began, he delivered a heartfelt farewell to the team, organization, and fans before heading up to the press box to call his last game. "I'm the luckiest guy in the room," he stated. We're lucky, too. I doubt there was a dry eye in the Madhouse.

A few weeks previous, the legendary broadcaster took time to reminisce with my siblings and me over a couple of beers. He recounted a few memories of a wildly successful career that spanned more than three thousand games. We realized the first Blackhawks game this broadcasting hall of famer called, was also the first one I attended. I was six.

My family held season tickets for three decades. During hockey season, household and activity schedules were largely planned around the Blackhawks game schedule. For home games, at least. My whole growing up, Hawks games were almost always played on Wednesdays and Sundays. And come what may, my dad and whichever of his four children's turn it was to attend, were there. We rarely missed. Even on holidays, we would go after the family celebration. Unfinished homework was completed while zipping along the Eisenhower from the western suburbs, first to the Chicago Stadium, then later the United Center. Spelling words and multiplication tables had to be memorized before passing the giant, 70x40 foot

illuminated Magikist lips at Cicero Avenue, dutifully landmarking the three-quarter point in the journey.

We always arrived early, eyes carefully scanning the throngs of mostly male fans chain smoking in clusters in the low-lit corridors off the mezzanine. Those were the days you might have spied a player not on the roster that evening, just walking around the stadium. Carefully avoiding beer puddles on the stairwell up to our seats, we greeted the biweekly group of fans that was our section, 112. The Barton organ played as Steve Larmer and Dennis



Savard hurled their final warmup shots toward Murray Bannerman. Fans affixed homemade signs of encouragement (or disdain, if the Red Wings were playing), to balcony railings. A few minutes later, the fluorescent house lights went down as fans rose from their worn, black and red tweed seats to accompany Wayne Messmer in "The Star-Spangled Banner," the official start of the game.

As the lights came back on and the jumbotron horns blew, the game began. Pat Foley, the voice of the Chicago Blackhawks, was already at work in the press box above us, reliably accounting every play for fans tuned into WBBM. For the years before Hawks home games could be seen on TV, and for all away games, fans trusted Foley for a play-by-play account

of the action. And he delivered. Every time. President and CEO John McDonough accurately described him as "synonymous with Blackhawks hockey, with a voice that resonates loudly to our entire fan base."

Foley recounted a few memories:

I knew I wanted to be a sports broadcaster at ten years old. A sunny afternoon at Wrigley Field spent with Jack Quinlan and Lou Boudreau planted that seed. My father, Bob, owned a Buick dealership that sponsored the Cubs, hence the invitation to the radio booth that day. But that wasn't the only time my dad came through for me. He was instrumental in my getting the job with the Blackhawks. He got me to the right place at the right time.

I had called hockey and baseball games during college. After graduating from Michigan State, I was broadcasting for the Grand Rapids Owls, a former EHL (Eastern Hockey League) team. When the team folded in 1980, I was out of a job.

The Hawks announcer from that season had lost his voice, so they were looking for somebody. One day on

his way home from a routine car servicing at Foley Buick, Michael Wirtz found himself listening to a broadcast of me calling a Grand Rapids Owls game, which my dad had strategically placed in Wirtz's tape deck. Michael passed the tape on to his brother, Bill Wirtz, the owner of the Blackhawks. He said 'hey, there's this kid from Glenview who might be okay.' I had already secured a job with a minor league hockey club in Erie, PA, but I was thrilled to end up with the Hawks instead!

It's been a great run. I've seen lots of changes from the beginning of my career until now. When I think back to the schedule the team followed- we flew to games on Friday night on commercial flights (no charters back then), played the game on Saturday,

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then stayed the night. We got on a 6 a.m. bus for the airport the next morning. Guys would go home and take a nap, then get up and come down to the stadium to play Sunday night. It was crazy! And suffice it to say we didn't exactly stay in five-star hotels back in the day! (Foley laughed)

But make no mistake, I'm the luckiest guy in the room. I've loved calling the games. I always figured I worked for the fans. I hope people came away from my broadcasts not only having a good picture of the game, but maybe having learned something as well. Not everybody knows what 'off-sides' means. I'm happy to pause and explain it.

There's no doubt the games won't be the same. We're going to miss hearing his iconic, enthusiastic "he shoots, he scores!" and "Hawks win! Hawks win!" the phrases that have come to be his calling card. Two generations

of Hawks fans are grateful Foley himself, shot and scored.

My family always left the games halfway through the third period to beat the rush out of the parking lot on Madison. Our parking attendant, Jimmy, always had our car warmed up and ready to go, radio set to WBBM, to hear the last of the game as we headed west. "Drive safely, Doc," he'd always say to my dad. About the time we were passing the Ferrara Pan Candy sign on our left, Foley would be signing off. "We hope you enjoyed the broadcast. We KNOW you enjoyed the outcome." Yes, we did.

The writer gratefully acknowledges the time and effort put forth by her father, Richard Callahan, to teach and foster a love for the game of hockey to his family. Maureen Callahan is a freelance writer and Contributing Editor for Hinsdale Magazine Group.

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Global Irish Radio Personality and Chairman of Hibernian Media, MIKE "Houli" HOULIHAN is making his eleventh trek to Ireland this October. Houli says, "Eleven is my lucky number! Our annual pilgrimages are legendary, and the stories of our exploits in Ireland are only matched by the people who join us each year. This year looks to be the trip of a lifetime for all who join in, the craic will be mighty!"

Scheduled to join Houli this



October are The Chicago Garda Pipes & Drums Band led by Lyons Police Chief Tom Herion and a fine contingent of pipers and drummers ready to soak up the culture of Ireland. Also scheduled to join them is 10-time All-Ireland Champion fiddler-dancer-singer Eimear Arkins, who hails from County Clare and more than lives up to her nickname of "The Darlin' Girl from Clare!"

Houli says, "Eimear was with us in 2018 and many of our "usual suspects" on the tour remember her delightful music and personality. She's our secret weapon in the pubs and on the bus when she breaks out her fiddle and charms the entire group with

songs and stories of Eire.

The group is booked into luxurious hotels in Cork City, the Skellig in Dingle, and the Fitzpatrick Castle in Kiliney, just outside Dublin for our final stop.

For more information contact Brian or Emma at Specialized Travel Services at 1-800-664-7474.

Houli says, "If you're allergic to laughter and lively music, this ain't for you! So please join us for another rollicking ride to the old sod and your trip of a lifetime!"

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On the Upbeat

By **Maryann McTeague Keifer**

Spring has arrived and with it new albums are "springing up" weekly, and what a lovely thing that is after the drought of Covid! While each deserves its own column, I'll try to give a flavor or several in each of the upcoming columns.

If you are a lover of fiddle music, you will be ecstatic with INIS, Brid Harper's gift of music to us just released this past month.

Born in Castlefinn, County Donegal, Brid was raised in a musical family and took music lessons from the great Trad musician, Pat McCabe. Multiple All-Irelands followed as Brid developed the fluid style that marks her playing. A graduate of the Irish World Academy of Music & Dance in Limerick, Brid



BRÍD HARPER

INIS

now teaches and runs workshops all over the world passing on her talent to others.

INIS is a stunning collection of tune sets from Airs and Waltzes to jigs, reels, and barn dances. Accompanied, in a minimal and perfect way by Sylvan Barou on flutes and pipes, Nicoals Quenmener on guitar, and Ronan Pellen on cittern and viola, she reaches out with her bow and pulls us into the music by giving us an need to be one with it. It is that expressive and beautiful. I had a difficult time not replaying "Cuachin Ghleann Néifin/The Gold Ring" over and over and not getting to the next set—so beautiful, but all on the album are.

If you are not familiar with Brid's playing, do yourself a huge favor and take a listen. Those who are, already have ordered the album!

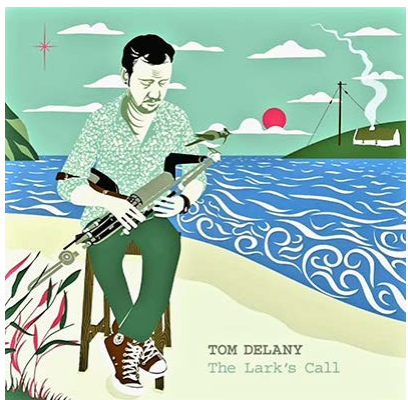
The first time I heard Tom Delaney's pipes was in Doolin on a trip to Ireland when Socks in the Frying Pan's Fiachra Hayes took us to hear some of his friends play at a session. It was a group that would become the band Four Winds, and I was immediately hooked. Tom, born and raised in France, whose father was an Irish musician and started him on the tin whistle, was reared with a love of Irish Traditional music. Tom began playing the uilleann pipes as a young teen and has never put them down becoming one of the most noted players of this generation. A long time coming, The Lark's Call is Tom's first solo album and it perfectly shows off his very personal style of play. Tom often starts off with a slower tempo tune and then builds to a toe tapping up tempo tune to bring the set to a close, having you wanting him to continue and give you more.

He is accompanied on this album by his wife, concertina ace Caroline Keane, Alan Murray on guitar and Bousouki, Camile Phiippe on mandolin, and Donogh

Hennessy of Lunasa on guitar and producer. His set list includes a wide variety stretching from the sobering "Wounded Hussar" to the bounce your knee "Pigeon on the Gate." One of my favorite sets is the closing cut "The Eavesdropper/The Morning Star/My Love is in America" which has your spirits soaring and calling for more.

After a vey successful Kickstarter campaign, The Lark's Call has just been debuted in Ennis and is now available through Tom's website and Facebook sites. If you are a lover of uilleann pipes and the tin whistle, this album is a definite "must have"!

Róisín O Reilly, who professionally goes by Róisín O, has



TOM DELANY
The Lark's Call

just this past week released her new solo album COURAGEOUS. O'Reilly, why does that sound familiar to you? Her brother is Danny O'Reilly, frontman for The Coronas, her mam is Mary O'Reilly who you know as Mary Black, so yes, she is also the niece of Frances and the Black Brothers, and cousin of Aoife Scott. If you thought the family had talent going for them already, wait till you hear Róisín belting out the ten songs on her new collection.

Starting out solo, and then becoming part of the band Thanks Brother, she has also appeared with The Black Family, her mam, plays keyboards occasionally with The Coronas, has accompanied the likes of Lionel Richie, and on and on... Dublin born and now living in Dingle, she has been playing and singing since childhood, although she will let you know that her folks never pressured she or her brothers into going into music. She admits they were more into sports and she is still a senior GAA player. She

says her parents would tell her about music, "Do it because you love it, because that's the only thing you can be sure of when it gets hard." You can be sure of one thing, she belongs singing, no matter whose family she if from—her voice is exceptional!

You may have seen the Covid video "GRACE" she put out with Danny and Aoife. It was a stunner. If you didn't, you will be enamored with the purity and clarity of her singing. Her voice takes the lyrics and sweeps you along with them. The opening track, "Stolen," tells of a missing love who is "in my head every night."

You can feel the pain and longing. The album goes through the stages of relationships from strong love, missing love and the ache of it to the final song and title track, "Courageous," where she sings of getting the strength to walk away. Róisín's lyrics tell the story, but its her voice that relates the love, pain, and strength.



COURAGEOUS

Also included on the album is "Heart & Bones" which she wrote with her brother Danny to be a Coronas song, but ended up perfect for her.

While none of the songs are "Irish," there is no group of people who better sing of love and its loss than the Irish. Róisín O does this in spades, and COURAGEOUS will be an oft played album in your collection.

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On the Law

Martin Healy Jr.

John P. Scanlon



This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. The articles 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.

Healy Scanlon Law Firm is comprised of eight trial attorneys and four "Of Counsel" attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 W. Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100) (overlooking Daley Center). www.HealyScanlon.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents. Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

Spring Brings New Construction Projects

With the changing of the seasons, there has been an abundant growth in new construction. We recently saw the Mayor's office announce three potential candidates for the City's sole casino license, which will bring billions of dollars in construction contracts and years of work for the City of Chicago. More recently, Mayor Lori Lightfoot announced the construction of a new food production facility on Chicago's south side on City-owned land that had sat vacant for over 15 years. The facility is expected to create over 250 jobs. Last month, the first of three tower cranes was erected to begin constructing The Obama Presidential Center. Additionally, there are currently over 130 Illinois Department of Transportation road construction projects going on in Cook County alone at the moment.

With all this, there is an abundance of increased activity in planning future construction projects and construction currently underway, not only on our roadways, but with the sight of our growing skyline. Unfortunately, with increased construction projects there is always an increased risk of accidents and injuries.

Construction injuries on the highway

As previously mentioned, a lot of the construction that has begun in the Chicagoland area in addition to new buildings is highway construction. Our already congested highways have been further strained by decreased lanes in many areas and increased traffic due to construction workers. When lane configurations are changed from

the usual pattern, a distracted driver may leave his lane of travel, possibly resulting in an accident.

The increased construction traffic can be dangerous for both drivers near construction sites and for construction workers on the highway. Noteworthy, the Illinois vehicle code requires drivers to yield the right of way to any construction workers engaged in work on the highway.

The construction site itself can also be the cause of motor vehicle accidents. Vehicles entering or leaving the highway from a construction site can be the cause of serious accidents. These vehicles do not use typical entry or exit lanes, and thus can create a problem for other drivers. In one case prosecuted by our office, a semi-truck abruptly stopped in traffic on the tollway in response to a signal by a flagger on a construction site to allow a truck to pull into one of the sites entrances. As a result, a vehicle behind the semi-truck also braked suddenly and was rear-ended causing significant injury.

If a construction company is negligent in controlling traffic around its work site and an accident results, the responsibility may flow to the construction company.

Workers' compensation claims for construction workers

Construction workers also have a number of remedies if they are injured while working. Primarily, a construction worker who is injured while working has the right to file a claim pursuant to the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act. Under the Act, a worker is entitled to receive 2/3 of his average weekly wage, tax free, while he is unable to work.

A worker will also receive all reasonable and necessary medical care related to his injury, as long as he stays within the chain of physician referral.

Depending on the severity of an employee's injury, they will have other rights under the Act as well. If the employee is unable to return to his former occupation because of an injury, the employer may be required to

hire a professional job counselor to help the employee find suitable work. If the only available work is at a lower rate of pay than the worker was earning before the accident, the employer may be responsible for paying 2/3 of the difference between the employee's current pay and his pre-accident pay.

Some benefits are limited by the Act. For instance, in most cases the employer will not be responsible for paying any "fringe benefits" for the employee, such as health insurance, union dues or pension benefits. Also, if the employer can accommodate the employee's physical restrictions, the employee must accept modified work from the employer.

For example, after an injury many employees are returned to work but the doctor tells the employer that the employee can only lift up to a certain weight restriction, such as ten pounds. For construction workers, this will likely mean they will be unable to return to their old job. However, the company may still take the employee back to work in a modified capacity, and give him a job as a watchman or a flagger.

Injured workers' may also have other claims

In addition to workers' compensation claims, an injured construction worker may have other claims. For instance, if a construction worker is struck by a car while working, he will have a workers' compensation claim against his employer as well as a potential lawsuit against the driver who struck him.

A common situation arises on a jobsite with multiple contractors. When an employee of one contractor is injured because of the negligence of another contractor, the employee may be able to file a lawsuit against the other contractor. Often times this occurs when one contractor negligently leaves debris or material out on a jobsite, causing an employee of another contractor to fall and sustain injury.

Conclusion

Although none of us enjoy sitting in construction traffic, construction is a way of life and a vital necessity to our economic and infrastructures development. Unfortunately, with construction can come dangerous situations. As can be seen from just this brief description, who is at fault for these accidents, and what an injured person is entitled to as a result of these accidents, is dependent on the factual situation of each case. If you are injured as a result of a construction accident you should contact an attorney as soon as possible to discuss what benefits may be available to you.

By: Neil Schelhammer



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The Irish Fellowship Club celebrated the 120th St. Patrick's Day Dinner on March 11, 2022. Chaired by Hon. Bridget Gainer, Cook County Commissioner and James T. Tracy, President, Chicago Firefighters Union Local 2, the 2022 Annual Dinner recognized former IFC Chairman, Hon. John Griffin, the Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Irish Consul General Kevin Byrne, the Guest of Honor. Over 800 guests enjoyed a spectacular evening at the Hilton Chicago.

After the Head Table Guests marched in behind the Shannon Rovers, Chairs Gainer and Tracy opened the program and invited Rev. Jack Clair, President & Executive Director of Misericordia to offer a blessing. The Club was pleased to welcome Irish Minister Patrick O'Donovan of the Office of Public Works to share remarks about the opportunities in Ireland today.

In addition to recognizing the honorees of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Club celebrated three of our former leaders with the Richard J. Daley Award. Former chairs Hon. John Griffin, Kevin Flood and Rose Doherty were honored for their service to the Club and dedication to the Irish community of Chicago. Said Executive Director Kathy Taylor, "We were delighted to be back in person to recognize all that John, Kevin and Rose have done for the Irish Fellowship Club. Each provided key leadership to the Club and Foundation during their years of service."

The St. Patrick's Day dinner raises important financial support for the IFC Education and Cultural Foundation which provides scholarships to each of the Catholic high schools throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago and grants to Irish cultural institutions in Chicago. Treasurer Jack Kane commented, "The generosity of our sponsors, members and guest provides essential support to the Catholic high schools. The Club and Foundation are tremendously grateful to all who supported the 2022 dinner."

Guests enjoyed the Irish music of David Dunne during cocktails as they mingled in the Grand Ballroom and following dinner, danced the night away to the Rich Daniels Orchestra. President John Wrenn proclaimed, "We were so pleased to be back in person to celebrate our heritage; honor several outstanding Chicago civic leaders; and gather our members and guests to enjoy the fellowship of the Irish community. It has been my honor to serve as President of the Irish Fellowship Club and I am excited about the year to come."

Save The Date for the Irish Fellowship Club's annual Golf Outing. This year's event will take place on Monday, July 18 at beautiful Ridgemoor Country Club. More information coming soon or visit our website at: www.irishfellowshipclub.com



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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



Greetings from Gaelic Park!

A Chairde:

3,000+ filled plastic eggs, larger than life Easter Bunny, an inflatable bounce house and inflatable slide, a good number of parents and grandparents, and hundreds of children. Put them all together, and they made for a very successful Easter Egg Hunt. The eggs were scattered across our Volunteer Garden out front and on the playground, and once the hunt started, the eggs didn't last long. We were glad to see so many enjoying themselves at Gaelic Park.

It was a very different crowd that enjoyed itself at our Un-Wined at the park wine tasting event, and the thirsty attendees were very enthusiastic. We thank everyone who joined us for the hunt, the wine tasting event, our Easter Carvery and the Byrne Brothers Concert, and thanks to everyone who helped us fill two trailers of donated goods for St. Vincent dePaul.

The weather is improving, we're starting to see Gaelic football and training happening on our side fields, and we look forward to a very busy GAA summer. We're also making great progress on the Pub's new outside bar. A very warm welcome awaits all who will be joining us in the beer garden. Stay tuned for our grand opening announcement!

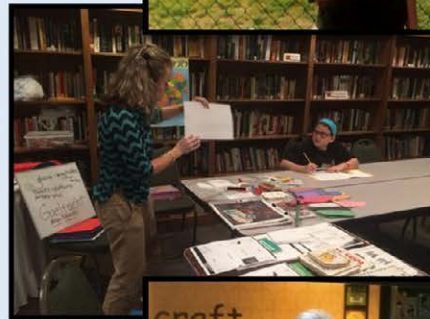
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Who was Dolores O'Riordan? She was an Irish singer from Co. Limerick. She was in the band The Cranberries. She was known for her signature yodel. She had one of the most recognizable voices in music, a lilting soprano.

She grew up singing in her church choir. When she was young her uncles took her to the local pub to sing. At a young age she learned the tin whistle, spoons, bodhran, accordion and piano. In school she won the Slogadh song contest almost every year. (held in Thurles, Tipperary) It's been said that her mother wanted her to become a nun but O'Riordan ran away from home to sing. She joined a band called the Cranberries in 1990. Her first solo album was about 2007. O'Riordan



GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

BY TINA BUTLER

appeared as a judge on RTE's The Voice of Ireland. She performed "Ava Maria" during the 54th International Song festival in Italy. O'Riordan performed several times at the Vatican's Christmas concert.

O'Riordan married a Canadian named Don Burton they had three children. They spent time between homes in Ireland and Canada. Unfortunately, O'Riordan suffered depression all her life and was diagnosed with bi-polar. She attempted suicide six



years before her death by alcohol intoxication. She was only 46 years old. It reminds us that no matter how much money you have it won't &

O'Riordan was one of the five richest women in Ireland. Gaelic for the Month Singer-Amhranai Rich-Saibhir Depression-Dulagar "I try to think about optimism I try to look at the beautiful things in life." O'Riordan

can't make you happy at least in the long run. Wealth doesn't guarantee happiness for anyone. They say people will always return to a baseline of happiness or unhappiness after a positive or negative life experience. From my experience being happy is something we have to constantly work at and decide to be every day.

I would like to mention, every Tuesday they have Ceili night at Gaelic Park. My dear friend, Mary Carmody, hosts the Ceili nights. Mary would like to encourage everyone to come out for some fun, fellowship & dancing. She can be reached at (708) 372-6227 or Mary.Carmody@cbexchange.com



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2011
ARTS & HUMANITIES

Maureen O'Hara
Eugene O'Neill
Chief Francis O'Neill

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Henry Ford

PUBLIC SERVICE

President John F. Kennedy
Senator George Mitchell
Mayor Richard J. Daley

SPORTS

Jack Dempsey

RELIGION

Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM

EDUCATION

Fr. Patrick Francis Healy, SJ

SCIENCE

Robert Fulton

2012

ARTS & HUMANITIES

George M. Cohan
John Ford
Tommy Makem

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Patrick G. Ryan

PUBLIC SERVICE

Senator Robert F. Kennedy
Mayor Richard M. Daley
Speaker "Tip" O'Neill
The Sullivan Brothers

SPORTS

John L. Sullivan

RELIGION

Fr. Edward Flanagan

EDUCATION

Loretta Brennan Glucksman
Emmet Larkin, Ph.D.

SCIENCE

Cyrus Hall McCormick

2013

ARTS & HUMANITIES: Arts & Humanities:

James Cagney
Harry "Bing" Crosby
F. Scott Fitzgerald

CONAN O'BRIEN

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Ambassador Daniel Rooney

LIZ CARROLL

PUBLIC SERVICE

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, R-NY
Senator Frances Xavier Warde, RSM

Business & Industry:

KATHLEEN KENNEDY

SPORTS

Gene Tunney

RELIGION

Monsignor
Ignatius McDermott

Education:

FATHER JAMES F. MAGUIRE, SJ

EDUCATION

Archbishop John Carroll

SCIENCE

Colonel Eileen Marie Collins

Public Service:

2014 AMBASSADOR JEAN KENNEDY SMITH

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Michael Flatley

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

George Meany

Religion:

MONSIGNOR JOHN "JACK" EGAN

PUBLIC SERVICE

Commodore John Barry
Mother Jones
Ronald Reagan

Science:

EDUCATION

Mother Mary Frances Blake, RSM

RACHEL LOUISE CARSON

RELIGION

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Sports:

SCIENCE

Major General
Michael Collins NASA

JOHN F. McDONOUGH

SPORTS

Connie Mack

Hometown Hero Award:

2015

ARTS & HUMANITIES

John Huston
Gene Kelly
Bob Newhart

JAMES F. COYNE

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Sr. Sheila Lyne, RSM

PUBLIC SERVICE

Justice Anne McGlone Burke

SPORTS

Ben Hogan

RELIGION

Fr. Jack Wall

EDUCATION

Senator Frances Xavier Warde, RSM

SCIENCE

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.

2016

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Brian Dennehy
Frank McCourt
Spencer Tracy

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Denis J. Healy

PUBLIC SERVICE

Governor
Edward F. Dunne
Thomas Francis Meagher

SPORTS

Nolan Ryan

RELIGION

Fr. Andrew Greeley

EDUCATION

Anne Sullivan

SCIENCE

Emily Hanrahan Warner

2017

ARTS & HUMANITIES

William James "Bill" Murray
Martin Sheen

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

John Fitzpatrick

PUBLIC SERVICE

Audie Leon Murphy

SPORTS

Maureen "Little Mo"
Connolly

RELIGION

Father Mychal Judge

EDUCATION

Lawrence J. McCaffrey, Ph.D.

SCIENCE

Mark Edward Kelly
Scott Joseph Kelly →

2018

ARTS & HUMANITIES

James T. Farrell
Doris Kearns Goodwin

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Charles F. Feeney

PUBLIC SERVICE

Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

SPORTS

Charles A. Comisky

RELIGION

Blessed Solamus Casey

EDUCATION

Ann Ida Gannon, BVM, Ph.D.

SCIENCE

John Philip Holland →

2019

ARTS & HUMANITIES

Pat Roche

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

James J. O'Connor

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dorothy Day
John McCain

SPORTS

Jack O'Callahan

RELIGION

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OUR MISSION:

The mission of the *Irish American Hall of Fame* is to recognize and honor the outstanding contributions of Irish Americans to society in the areas of Arts & Humanities, Business & Industry, Public Service, Sports, Religion, Education and Science. The *Irish American Hall of Fame* pays tribute to exemplary Americans of Irish heritage who have truly shaped the Irish American identity in the United States.

OUR VISION:

The *Irish American Hall of Fame* preserves and promotes the “story” of Irish culture by recognizing the contributions of individuals to the Irish American experience. Telling their story preserves our story. The *Irish American Hall of Fame*, a place where the shared story of the Irish in America will then be available to all with an interest in the bond between Ireland and America..

ABOUT US:

The purpose of the *Irish American Hall of Fame* is to preserve the “story” of the Irish in America, thus becoming a resource for all Americans or those interested in the development and history of America including, but not limited to, academic researchers, teachers and students of Irish and American history at all levels, those interested in genealogy, cultural historians and the general public. The *Irish American Hall of Fame* is national in scope operated under the auspices of the Irish American Heritage Center, a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization.

NOMINATION & SELECTION:

Founded in 2010, the *Irish American Hall of Fame* accepts nominations from July through September each year. More than 700 nominations have been received from individuals in more than 30 states, Ireland and across the globe.

The Hall of Fame Governance Committee along with the Screening Committee is comprised of esteemed individuals from the Irish American community from across the country including university professors, representatives from Irish organizations, publishers and business professionals. Nominations are vetted and reviewed and a select slate of candidates is put forth in an election each year. The 100+ member voting body of distinguished individuals from business, media, academia and government, as well as Irish organizations throughout the United States elect the inductees in January.

This evening, we introduce you to the eight esteemed members of the Class of 2020. We applaud their talents, courage, integrity and ingenuity as they become the newest inductees into the *Irish American Hall of Fame!*

IAHOF GOVERNING COMMITTEE:

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2020 IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME AWARDS GALA

ARTS & HUMANITIES:

Conan O’Brien

Liz Carrell

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY:

Kathleen Kennedy

PUBLIC SERVICE:

Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith

SPORTS:

John F. McDonough

RELIGION:

Monsignor John “Jack” Egan

EDUCATION:

Father James F. Maguire, S.J.

SCIENCE:

Rachel Louise Carson

HOMETOWN HERO:

James F. Coyne



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James F. Coyne



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CONAN O'BRIEN



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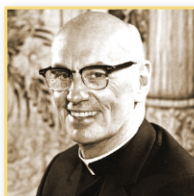
RELIGION

MONSIGNOR JOHN "JACK" EGAN



SPORTS

JOHN F. McDONOUGH



EDUCATION

FATHER JAMES F. MAGUIRE, S.J.



SCIENCE

RACHEL LOUISE CARSON



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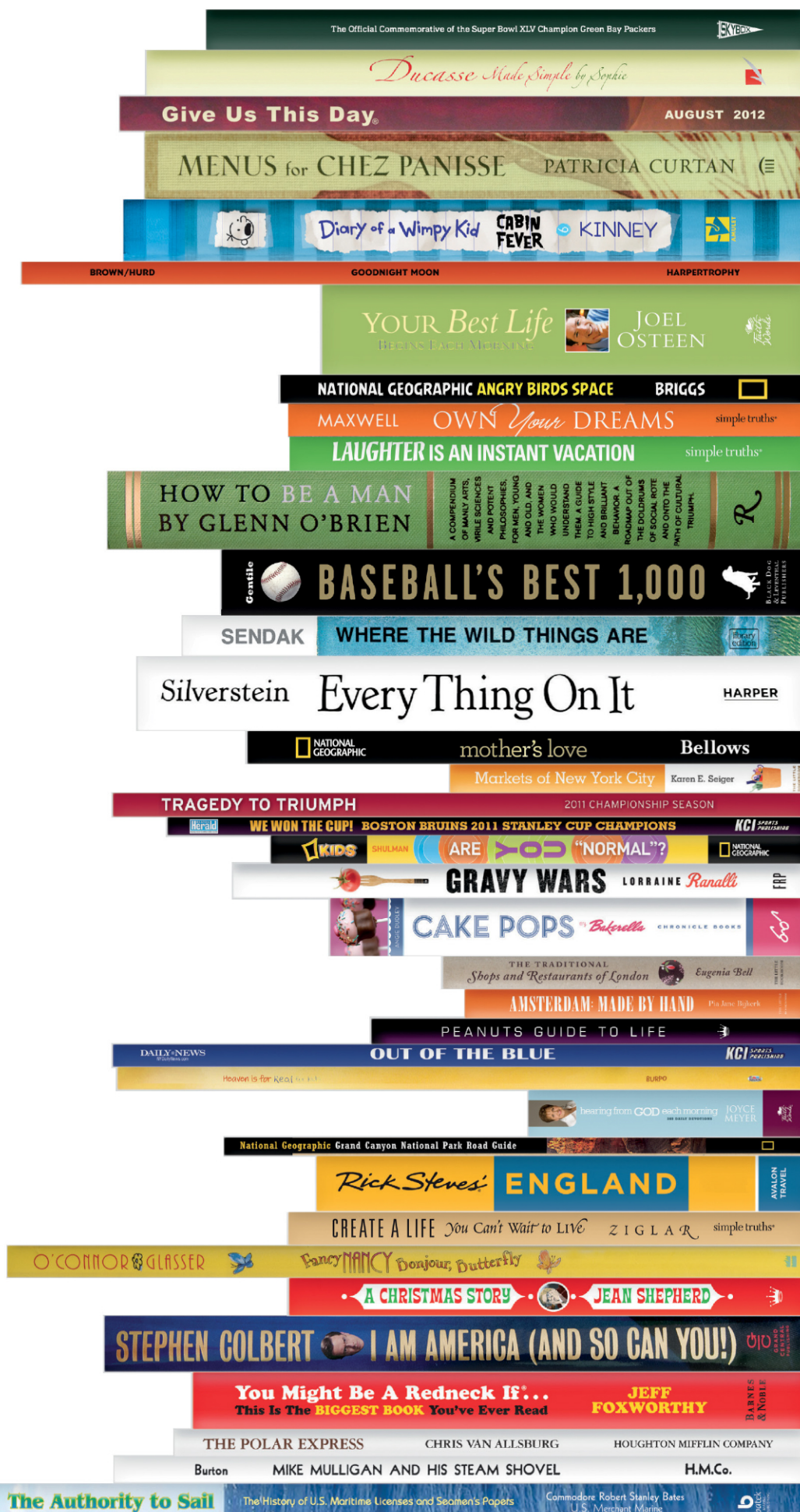
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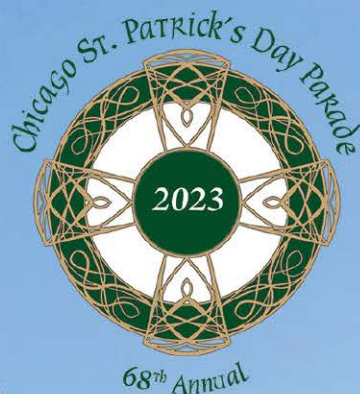
We honor the accomplishments of former Loyola President and Chancellor James F. Maguire, S.J., and congratulate all honorees on their induction into the Irish American Hall of Fame. Sláinte.



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Hall of Fame



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Education: Father James F. Maguire, SJ

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Science: Rachel Carson

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HOMETOWN HERO AWARD: JAMES F. COYNE

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THE IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME CONTINUES TO GROW!

In the past nine years, we have recognized 86 remarkable Irish Americans for their contributions to our country. This year, we add another 8 members for a total of 94 Inductees who continue to influence the arts and humanities, business, education, public service, religion, science and sports both here in the United States and throughout the world.



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PUBLIC SERVICE

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Senator George Mitchell
Mayor Richard J. Daley

SPORTS

Jack Dempsey

RELIGION

Sister Rosemary Connelly,
RSM

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Fr. Patrick Francis Healy, SJ

SCIENCE

Robert Fulton

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George M. Cohan
John Ford
Tommy Makem

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Patrick G. Ryan

PUBLIC SERVICE

Senator Robert F. Kennedy
Mayor Richard M. Daley
Speaker "Tip" O'Neill
The Sullivan Brothers

SPORTS

John L. Sullivan

RELIGION

Fr. Edward Flanagan

EDUCATION

Loretta Brennan Glucksman
Emmet Larkin, Ph.D.

SCIENCE

Cyrus Hall McCormick

2013 ARTS & HUMANITIES

James Cagney
Harry "Bing" Crosby
F. Scott Fitzgerald

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Ambassador Daniel Rooney

PUBLIC SERVICE

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan

SPORTS

Gene Tunney

RELIGION

Monsignor
Ignatius McDermott

EDUCATION

Archbishop John Carroll

SCIENCE

Eileen Marie Collins
Colonel, Space Shuttle Commander

2014 ARTS & HUMANITIES

Michael Flatley

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

George Meany

PUBLIC SERVICE

Commodore John Barry
Mother Jones
Ronald Reagan

EDUCATION

Mother Mary Frances Clarke,
BVM

RELIGION

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

SCIENCE

Major General
Michael Collins NASA

SPORTS

Connie Mack

2015 ARTS & HUMANITIES

John Huston
Gene Kelly
Bob Newhart

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Sr. Sheila Lyne, RSM

PUBLIC SERVICE

Justice
Anne McLone Burke

SPORTS

Ben Hogan

RELIGION

Fr. Jack Wall

EDUCATION

Mother Frances
Xavier Warde, RSM

SCIENCE

Francis S. Collins,
M.D., Ph.D.

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Brian Dennehy
Frank McCourt
Spencer Tracy

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Denis J. Healy

PUBLIC SERVICE

Governor
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Nolan Ryan

RELIGION

Fr. Andrew Greeley

EDUCATION

Anne Sullivan

SCIENCE

Emily Hanrahan Warner

2017 ARTS & HUMANITIES

William James "Bill" Murray
Martin Sheen

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

John Fitzpatrick

PUBLIC SERVICE

Audie Leon Murphy

SPORTS

Maureen "Little Mo"
Connolly

RELIGION

Father Mychal Judge

EDUCATION

Lawrence J. McCaffrey, Ph.D.

SCIENCE

Mark Edward Kelly
Scott Joseph Kelly

2018 ARTS & HUMANITIES

James T. Farrell
Doris Kearns Goodwin

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Charles F. Feeney

PUBLIC SERVICE

Vice President
Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

SPORTS

Charles A. Comisky

RELIGION

Blessed Solamus Casey

EDUCATION

Ann Ida Gannon,
BVM, Ph.D.

SCIENCE

John Philip Holland

2019 ARTS & HUMANITIES

Pat Roche

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

James J. O'Connor

PUBLIC SERVICE

Dorothy Day
Senator John McCain

SPORTS

Jack O'Callahan

RELIGION

Rev L. Scott Donahue

EDUCATION

Mother Mary
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SCIENCE

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*Congratulations to all of the 2020 Inductees into
the Irish American Hall of Fame!*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MAY 2022

I hope you had a great Easter and were able to celebrate with your family! We had another great month at the Irish American Heritage Center, and I hope you were able to join us for our Friday Fish Fries, music in the Fifth Province, or for one of our installments of Irish Arts in Practice series and our Spring Inspirations: A Biennial Visual Art Exhibit. Last month, we made bread with Manchán Magan—Irish writer, performer, playwright,

traveler and documentary maker, and we had tea with Mrs. Abraham Lincoln. We had another fun month in April, and there's no slowing us down!

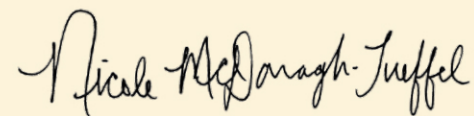


We also inducted our 2020

class to the Irish American Hall of Fame, and what a lovely night that was! We celebrated the induction of Conan O'Brien and Liz Carroll under Arts & Humanities; Kathleen Kennedy in Business & Industry; Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith in Public Service; Monsignor John "Jack" Egan in Religion; John F. McDonough in Sports; Father James F. Maguire S.J in Education; Rachel Louise Carson in Science; and James F. Coyne as our Hometown Hero! The evening was filled with ways our inductees contribution to America and Irish Americans' legacies.

We've had such a rocking and busy couple of months, and have more events being added all the time! Be sure to check out our website, www.irish-chicago.org, for the most up-to-date events. You can also sign up to join our newsletter on our website to receive reminders of what's going on at the IAHC.

Hopefully the weather starts to warm up around Chicagoland; until we meet again!



Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel, President
Irish American Heritage Center

I MEMBERED UP BECAUSE...

It's important for me to be connected to my roots. The IAHC is the closest thing for me for the sound and taste of Ireland... and a place where one can get support from fellow Irish and seek advice from those who made it in this country.

—Barry Butler, *Photographer*



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- 2 Tickets to the Irish American Hall of Fame Gala
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Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



WORKPLACE ATTACKS

Workers compensation involves benefits that are owed to an employee that is hurt while on the job. Initially, most of the injuries that come to mind fall under the context of "workplace accidents" such as slip and falls, machinery accidents, or being struck by an object. However, workers compensation benefits are not limited to "accidents" that occur while on the job. It is important to know that workers compensation benefits are also provided to those that are hurt on the job as a result of intentional, physical acts of another person.

Workplace attacks can happen in a number of ways. An employee may be physically assaulted by

a customer, patient, co-worker, supervisor, or a third party unrelated to the business. Regardless of who committed the attack, an employee is entitled to workers compensation benefits if the attack occurred while at work. Those benefits include payment of medical expenses for the injury, recovery of compensation for the time missed from work as a result of the injury, and a lump sum payment for permanent disability that resulted.

An attack is covered by workers compensation if the following 3 elements are met:

1. The attack occurred while the employee was on the job;
2. The employee was performing their job duties at the time of the

attack; and

3. The attack was not caused or provoked by the employee.

It is important to know that a worker's compensation claim would be denied if the injured employee was the aggressor. A case may also be denied even if the employee was attacked first and then became the second aggressor. The best way to think about this is that it is okay to defend yourself if you are attacked on the job, but it's not okay to run after the attacker, which would make you an aggressor yourself.

What should you do in the event that you are attacked at work?

The first thing that you should do is secure your safety and call the police and security. You should also treat your injuries by going to a hospital or clinic to obtain professional medical care for any injuries you receive.

As soon as you are safe and medically stable, you should report the incident and your injuries to your supervisor or manager as soon as possible. As mentioned in previous articles, providing notice to your employer of the injury is mandatory to recover workers' compensation benefits. Notice (oral or in writing) must be done within 45 days of the incident per the terms of The Illinois Workers Compensation Act.

Treatment for your injuries are important to ensure that you obtain the maximum amount of recovery possible.

Last but not least, the next step is to determine what legal options and remedies you have available to you and pursue your claim(s).

It is important to have an experienced workers' compensation attorney, like my colleagues and I, who will better ensure that all

your rights are represented, that you receive every benefit owed to you, and that you are not being taken advantage of.

If you are a victim of a physical attack that occurred while at work, you may be eligible to receive workers' compensation benefits. My colleagues and I devote time to developing personal relationships with all of our clients. Our team has decades of collective experience in representing injured employees and we have the knowledge, experience, and resources to walk you through the process and obtain the most desired outcome possible.

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

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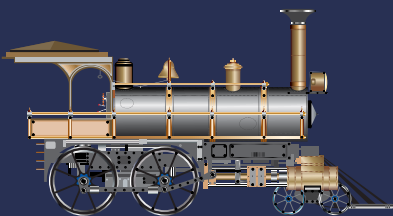
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Thursday, June 9

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Everett Dean & The Lonesome Hearts (**Retro Rock & Roll**)

8:30-10:30 PM

Think Floyd USA: #1 Pink Floyd Tribute

Friday, June 10

6:30-7:45 PM

Heart To Heartbreaker:
A Salute to the Women of Rock

8:30-10:30 PM

Kashmir: The Led Zepplin Concert

Saturday, June 11

11 AM-12:30 PM

Mr. Myers (**Caribbean/Jimmy Buffet**)

1:15-2:45 PM

One Of The Boyzz (**Rock & Soul**)

3:30-5 PM

Chicago Tribute Anthology: Celebrating The Band Chicago

5:45-7:45 PM

Of Perception: The Doors Tribute

8:30-10:30 PM

Hello Weekend (**High energy dance party**)

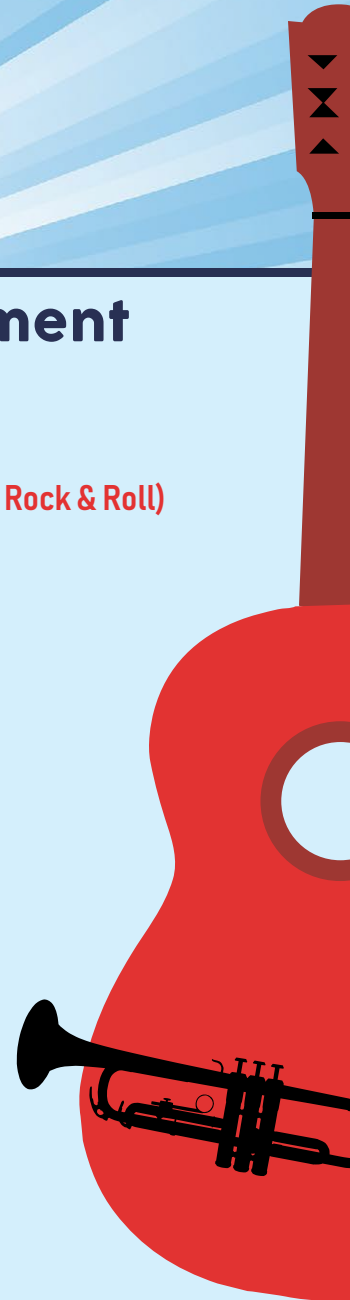
Sunday, June 12

1-2:30 PM

Marcus Band (**Polish music and songs**)

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Joe Rendon & Friends (**Latin Jazz/Santana**)





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Senior Events for Spring

At the Irish American Heritage Center

Monthly Musical Gathering

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

The Front Parlor

This gathering is named for the room in old Irish houses where people came together for important guests and special occasions. Each month—usually on the third Wednesday—we meet to share our Irish heritage and love of Ireland. There is no charge to attend. ALL are welcome and refreshments are served free of charge.

Monthly Musical Gathering

May

Wednesday 4th May

Doors: 10 a.m. Music: 10.30 a.m.

Live Music with Terry Byrne

Another morning of friendship and great live music provided by Terry Byrne.

June

Wednesday 1st June

Doors: 10 a.m. Music: 10.30 a.m.

Music with the Dulcimer Ensemble

A warm Irish welcome, great music and wonderful company.

The Front Parlor

Wednesday 18th May

Doors: 10 a.m. Program: 10.30 a.m.

Annual Fraud Update

This seminar hosted by the Cook County Sheriff's Office will teach us about common scams and dealing with fraud when it occurs.

Wednesday 15th June

Doors: 10 a.m. Program: 10.30 a.m.

Wellness Update

We host Swedish Covenant to learn more about keeping healthy.

At Chicago Gaelic Park

The Get Together

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

May

Wednesday 11th May

Doors: 10 a.m. Program: 10.30 a.m.

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Today we welcome author Honore Nolting who will share how they choose laughter and blind hope in the face of her husband's cancer diagnosis.

Wednesday 25th May

Doors: 10 a.m. Program: 10.30 a.m.

Annual Fraud Update

This seminar hosted by the Cook County Sheriff's Office will teach us about common scams and dealing with fraud when it occurs.

June

Wednesday 8th June

Doors: 10 a.m. Program: 10.30 a.m.

Live Irish Music

All are welcome to join us for another morning of traditional Irish Music. Today we are excited to have Joe McShane back to perform all your favorite tunes!

Wednesday 22nd June

Doors: 10 a.m. Program: 10.30 a.m.

Understanding Memory Loss

Learn positive and effective approaches to coping with Alzheimer's and Dementia that focus on what those with the condition CAN do!

Mothers Day Tribute

Mothers Day for an Irish Clare woman

For my mom Eileen Murphy it was about the roses and flower gardens, tea, sweets, cakes and going to Mass. My mom was fine with the gift of going to mass on that day. The best of the flowers and sweets were always a part of Eileen Murphy's mother day. But it wasn't because she asked for these things, or received them as gifts. It is because to her it was the day she planned and planted her garden.

Writing on scraps of paper and the back of envelopes, she looked through garden catalogs for what she wanted. Saving quarters, dollars, and nickels in tins hoping to get everything on her list. She would leave large hints around the house and we made sure she got it all!

My brother Rodger always bought her beautiful new rose bushes. She would get her tools and hose ready for Mothers Day. To

her it was the best planting day of the year. She would tell us kids she didn't need anything for Mothers day, just love and us. But she was secretly so happy when projects and cards came home from school.

Dad always bought mom the best dozen roses in the shop. She would show them to everyone who came to the house. Later, she would put them in between her books as bookmarks to save forever.

When I had a little baby, my mom walked with a cane, her fingers were twisted from arthritis, and she needed oxygen. But she was still able to do a little surprise garden for my little girl Bridie. She wrote little signs that said "Nana's garden this way", and Bridie's flowers." It is one of my favorite memories. To this day in the back of the house there are still roses from my brother Rodger.

Also flowers she got from her friends, the Doyles and the little tiny flowers she planted for Bridie. The Rhubarb she planted for me and my nephew years ago is still there. I cherish her garden. I guess she always knew mothers and children are closer to God in the garden.

One of my fondest memories of her was eating American cheese cake and baking apple tarts, and cupcakes because on

GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



special days like mothers day you needed good cakes and tarts.

I hope Irish women everywhere, especially my mom, in heaven are enjoying God's garden, tea, and cake.

From your loving daughter, Rita Conor
My Mother Joan Walsh O Keeffe

I lost my mom in 2015. I was very fortunate to be with her in her final hours. Our song was A Mothers love Is A Blessing. She loved that song but I found it a sad song. The goodbyes were always tough so now it is a very special song for me. I think of my mother everyday, I smile a lot thinking of the kind, sweet, generous lady she was. I find some of my positive actions and behaviors to be credit to my mom. Happy Mothers Day forever in my thoughts, Conner.

My Mothers from Mary

I was blessed with two mothers. My mom Nancy Heslin Finerty a five foot nothing spitfire of creativity and imagination. Also, my lovely mother in law mama, Joan O Keeffe. These two could not be more different. One advised me to learn to swear in foreign

languages (I'll let you guess which one) yet they were instant friends. Both adored my husband Conor. I learned so much about patience and giving of oneself from both of them. I picture them now

up in heaven filled with joy having a laugh and maybe just maybe teaching St. Peter a few new Irish words.

Love you forever moms,
Your loving daughter Mary.

Happy Mothers Day in Heaven from Betty Roarty

My mom was a diabetic but she worked very hard raising my brother and I. She kept a beautiful home and kept us well fed. We had a wonderful childhood playing with neighborhood kids. We still have lunch with many of them today. I love you mom and miss you very much, Betty

Happy Mothers Day Mum in Drogheda

On March 9th 1997. It was Mothers Day when I came to Chicago from Drogheda. Thinking back now it was a terrible day to be leaving but my beautiful loving mum went upstairs and hung the Irish flag out of my bedroom window and waved goodbye to me in between her tears. She shouted, Good luck Mark, we love you son. Then I heard her singing Ole Ole Ole Ole Ole. I knew she was okay. Love from your favorite son, Mark.

Happy Mothers Day to my Galway mum.

The love and kindness you gave me mum I will cherish forever. Your loving son, Andrew Coleman.

A Mothers Love's A Blessing
By Thomas P. Keenan

An Irish boy was leaving his native home. Crossing the broad Atlantic once more he wished to roam.

And as he was leaving his mother, who was standing on the quay.

She through her arms around his waist and this to him did say

"A mothers love's a blessing no matter where you roam.

Keep her while she's leaving, you will miss her when she's gone."

This was one of my mum's favorite songs. Mary Josephine Roarty Gallagher from Donegal.

When I came home she would ask me to get my guitar and have a sing song in the "good room" just like we did growing up. We had so many great Saturday nights singing from the Irelands own green song pages. So this one's for you mum you were so right. A mother's love is a Blessing and I miss you so much. Jo xx

Happy Mothers Day to all our mums past and present. Till next time.

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I Hope everyone had a great Easter. It's one of the Holidays that our whole family celebrates together. In our family everyone usually takes turns hosting a holiday. Whether it is Easter, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, or Christmas, I always do Memorial Day and Christmas. Christmas is a seven to eight course dinner that is different every year. The River Forest Memorial Day Parade goes right past my house so a barbeque on Memorial Day is kind of a no brainer. It becomes an all day party for family and friends. Plenty of beer and food to kick off the unofficial start of summer.

It is also the weekend that Gaelic Park holds their annual Irish Fest. There was a time when we would drag all our goods from the Irish Shop out to Gaelic Park, set up and breakdown every day, and hope it didn't rain. This was also a family event. The Craic was great but it would take a week prior to the fest to get organized, and



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a week after to get back to normal.

Back to barbecuing. The most popular items are chicken, burgers, hot dogs, ribs, and sides like, corn on the cob, potato salad, coleslaw, vegetable, and green salads, a variety of dips, and a whole array of condiments served buffet style with everyone helping themselves.

I imagine that everyone has their own special recipe for a number of these dishes which is great. These are the things that create memories for us and our families.

I always try to think out of the box and add elements and ingredients to elevate each dish and preparation. Try adding a little orange juice, brown sugar or honey, and chipotle chiles to your favorite BBQ sauce. You can also kick it up a notch with a little of your favorite whiskey. I like Jameson but Jack Daniels is another option. Brining your chicken for 4 hours adds flavor and results in a juicy a breast or thigh.

You can also brine thick cut pork chops. Be sure to pull the thin membrane off the back of ribs before cooking. I prefer the St Louis spare ribs over baby back ribs. Rub your ribs with a spice blend of salt, pepper, granulated garlic, cumin, coriander, brown sugar, smoked paprika, and chili powder. Slow roast or braise, until tender and baste with BBQ sauce to finish the ribs. If you add the sauce too early it will burn because of the high sugar content.

I feel that the choice of bun for a burger is as important as the meat you use. A good brioche or firm bun or roll that will not get soggy is what you should look for. Burgers should be 80/20. 80% meat 20% fat. The leaner cuts tend to be too dry especially when cooked well done. I like to add just salt and pepper to my burgers but you can add any seasoning you prefer. Making a small indentation in

the center of the burger helps keep it flat when cooking. This is where the fun begins. Choose your favorite cheese and toppings. Here are a few examples. Bleu cheese, bacon and caramelized onions, lettuce, mayo.

Pepper jack, guacamole, Pico de Gallo, crispy tortilla strips chipotle mayo.

White Cheddar, bacon, avocado, lettuce, tomato, mayo, crispy onion strings.

Mac N' Cheese, American cheese, lettuce, tomato, mayo. The possibilities are endless. Use your imagination because just about any combination will work.

Hot dogs are not just for kids. Use a good bakery style bun. My favorite is a ¼ pound dog slit, stuffed with



American cheese, wrapped in bacon and grilled. You can make a chunky topping using mustard, salt, relish, tomato, cucumber, celery salt, and sport peppers, all chopped and mixed together.

Grilling fresh corn in its husk is an excellent way to cook this BBQ favorite. Peel and serve with butter, or slather it with mayo, Chile powder, and cotija cheese Ala Mexicana

For potato salad I use 3lbs red potatoes cut into 1 inch pieces, and cooked in the jackets, ½ cup chopped celery, salt, pepper, ½ cup mayo, ¼ cup sour cream, ¼ cup whole grain mustard, 6 chopped green onions, ½ pound chopped bacon, 3 chopped eggs, chopped parsley, paprika, ½ diced red onion, 2 tbs apple cider vinegar. Cook potatoes 8-10 minutes until just tender. Drain and add red onion and vinegar. Cover and cool potatoes to room temperature, add remaining ingredients, chill 4hours.

1 lb. finely shredded cabbage, 1/3 cup each mayo with sour cream, 1 julienne cut red pepper; 2 carrots julienne cut, 4 green onions chopped, 2 tbs chopped cilantro, 1Tbs apple cider vinegar, ½ tsp celery seeds, ¼ tsp salt, ¼ tsp cumin, ¼ tsp cayenne pepper. Combine all ingredients. Place in colander and drain. Refrigerate until ready to serve for a spicy coleslaw.

Water melon is summer staple. Slice it for the kids and cut it into chunks and season with a little salt, Chile powder, lime juice, and crumbled feta cheese for the adults

The most important thing is to enjoy the day with your family and friends. Kick back and relax with a summer shandy or beverage of your choice, and don't forget to use as much disposable service ware as possible. You don't want to be cleaning up all night. Casual is OK.

I'd love to hear what some of your favorite BBQ recipes are. Send them to me at jimaugustfood@yahoo.com. Have a safe Memorial Day.



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October 4	Sixth Page	135	150	175
November 1	Fifth Page	165	175	185
December 3	Quarter Page	300	325	350
Publishing Dates 2023	Third Page	350	375	395
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February 1	Full Page	900	975	1000
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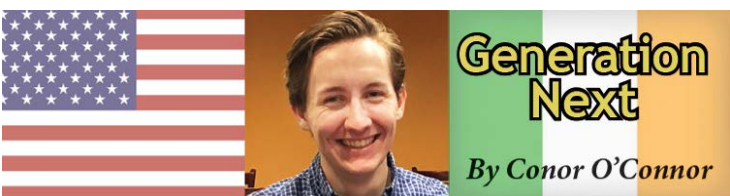
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Primary Season is Here- Don't Forget to Vote!

For many, Spring is a time of new beginnings-an opportunity to spread seeds in one's garden, or perhaps to clean house. But an oft-overlooked part of springtime is the lead-up to the primary elections in June.

Participating in your party's primary election is the best way to make your vision for the future of the party a reality. In these elections, voters pick the candidates they believe have the best shot of winning in the general election against the opposing party's nominee. During presidential election years, primaries are thrust into the spotlight as Democrats and Republicans across the country whittle down the list of candidates until they coalesce behind the person they believe best represents the party's values and who has the best shot of winning a general election. In 2016, Democrats believed that person

was Hillary Clinton, and Republicans believed that person was Donald Trump.

But between presidential elections, many people tend to push government affairs to the back of their minds. Sure, you might see an occasional campaign sign in your neighbor's lawn, but let's be honest: who has time to keep up with everything going on in the political world? After all, there are so many layers to understanding the latest happenings on the local, state, and federal levels of government.

I definitely understand the impulse to simply ignore politics in the little downtime we get between presidential election cycles. But, lest we forget, midterm elections are equally as important (if not more important!) as presidential elections. This year, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker is up for re-election, as is U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth and the entire U.S. House delegation from Illinois. Longtime Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is wrapping up his final term in office, and the race to replace him has at times already been contentious. Illinois General Assembly members are now kicking their re-election campaigns into full gear. And, on the local level, county board officials, assessors, and city council seats are all up for grabs.

Remember: the people running for these positions could be in a place 2 or 6 years from now to run for President of the United States. Look at Ronald Reagan, who launched his presidential bid after two terms as governor of California. Freshman U.S. Senator Barack Obama was a little-known figure in the political world until he dazzled Americans on the primary debate stage with his charisma and charm.

Primary elections can also serve another function: to oust incumbent members of the

party constituents are dissatisfied with. Take, for example, U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski. In 2020, after 15 years as a congressman, Lipinski lost a primary election to now-U.S. Rep. Marie Newman. The people of Illinois' 3rd congressional district decided that Rep. Lipinski no longer shared their vision for the community and instead nominated Newman to face the Republican nominee in the 2020 general election. She went on to win that election, and is now a Congresswoman.

Additionally, Illinois has taken great strides to make voting easier for its citizenry. A recent law signed by Gov. Pritzker allows County Clerks to give their voters the option to permanently sign up to receive mail-in ballots for all elections. This means that, after filling out one initial application, voters will receive a mail-in ballot for all future elections until they opt-out. DuPage County has already implemented this system, meaning that voters can apply today and receive mail-in ballots for all future elections they are eligible to vote in.

Voting by mail gives citizens time to research candidates with their ballots in front of them and has the added benefit of providing an avenue for full-time workers to fulfill their civic duty without giving up a cent of their pay.

Given all of the above, I urge all of my readers to vote in the Illinois primary election on June 28th. For those of you who are not registered to vote or don't know if you are, visit www.ova.elections.il.gov. To find out more about early and absentee voting in your area, visit the website of your county clerk. Democrat or Republican, we all have an opportunity to make a difference in our communities this year. So go out and vote!

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Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

By Kevin Fitzpatrick, Senior Director of Annual Giving

When I began working at Catholic Charities last November, I was thrilled to join an organization rooted in faith tradition. Over these past months, the dedicated staff I have met and the outstanding services I have witnessed have only increased my excitement about working for such a dynamic and mission-driven organization.

One of my duties at Catholic Charities is to oversee our annual Mother's Day campaign, which provides critical funding for our most needed services. That role has turned out to be a personal blessing for me because I've learned about the numerous and impressive ways Catholic Charities serves mothers facing challenges at all stages of the lifecycle. I've also developed an even greater appreciation for what some mothers endure, including my own mother.

When I picture my mother, I think about her unyielding faith, her resilience, and her quiet strength. She has weathered a storm of adversity in her life, yet has always been there for me. I think many of us are accustomed to seeing mothers as pillars of strength—unshakable and formidable. Steadying our first steps, healing our wounds, nourishing our bodies and spirits, launching us in our careers, supporting us as we start families of our own...Mothers are there for us through every season of our lives...but who is there for them?

Especially in these challenging times, many mothers have had their resilience tested in more ways than ever. Getting through the height of the pandemic was challenging enough, and now they must confront the economic and health repercussions of the pandemic—most of which are disproportionately affecting mothers of color, single mothers, and those living on a low income. Many mothers who were

struggling before the pandemic are now facing even greater challenges.

Catholic Charities is honored to be there for mothers in need. Nearly 60 percent of the people who seek help from Catholic Charities are women, most of them mothers and grandmothers. Whether we are helping a mother who unexpectedly loses her job, copes with the death of her spouse, escapes an abusive partner, struggles to provide food and safe housing for her children, or endures a health crisis, Catholic Charities is there. From helping pregnant mothers deliver and care for healthy babies to supporting aging mothers and grandmothers, Catholic Charities offers a full range of services across the lifecycle.

In my short time with Catholic Charities, I have been wholly inspired by the quality of our services and the personalized care given. Steeped in our faith tradition, Catholic Charities shows each person who walks through our doors—including and especially mothers—the mercy and support they and their families need to live with the dignity God intended for them. Our professional, comprehensive, and customized approach to working with people and communities makes Catholic Charities uniquely equipped to help mothers during all seasons of life.

As we honor and celebrate mothers and motherhood, consider making a contribution to Catholic Charities Mother's Day Collection. Your gift can provide strength and comfort to mothers in great need. Contributions can be made during the second collection in parishes on Mother's Day, anytime at www.catholiccharities.net/donate, or mail your gift to Catholic Charities, 75 Remittance Dr., Dept. 1623, Chicago, IL 60675-1623. Mothers support us through every season of our lives.

Let's support them through every season of theirs.



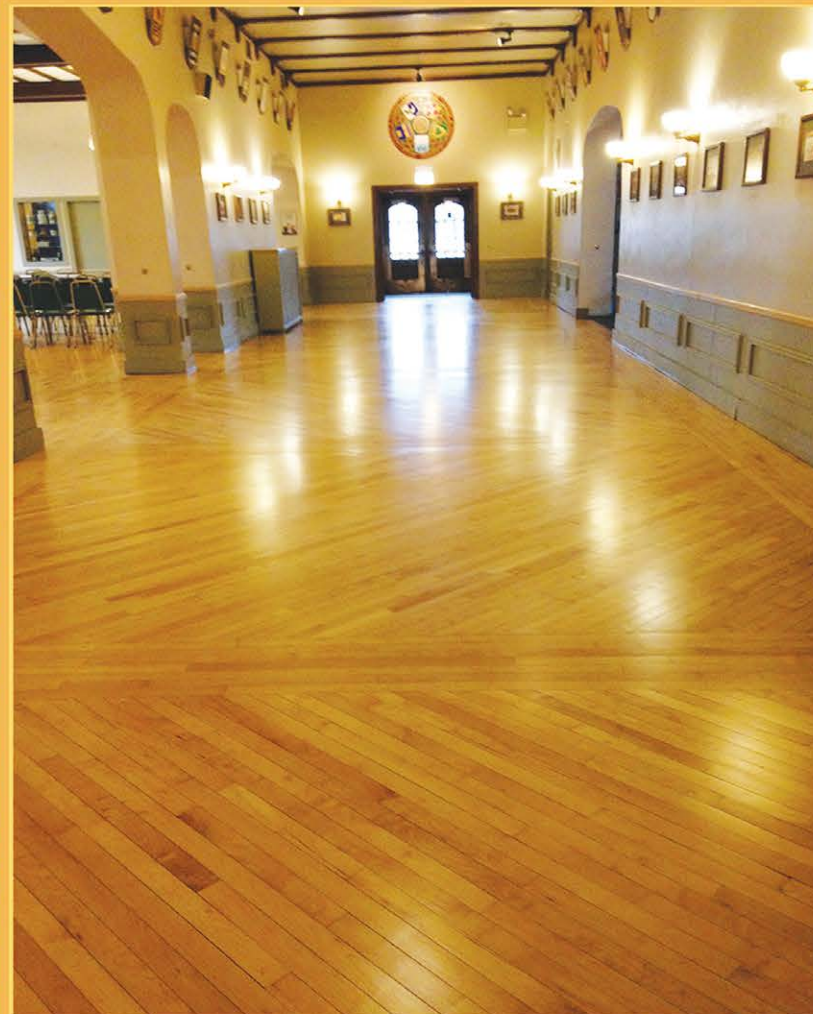
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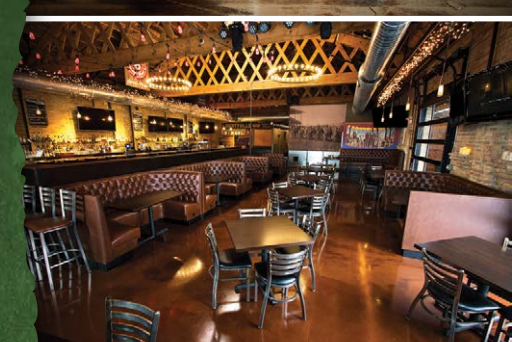
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Financial Literacy: Impacting Our Children and Future Generations

By **Brendan Houlihan**

Our kids are always learning in elementary school and high school. The core subjects teach the fundamentals that are critical to their educational foundation. History, mathematics, science and social studies all play major roles in developing their future!

What about financial literacy?

Let us not forget financial literacy, the skills and disciplines of understanding of how money affects our lives is always a timely lesson to pursue. Financial literacy taught at an early age benefit not only adults, but it can also have a profound impact on the younger generation too.

As an after-school program at Saint Michael's School in Orland Park, I challenged the students with the "Learn to Earn" class.

I introduced and instructed kids from 5th grade to 8th grade on the basics of financial literacy. The goal was to create an interest and understanding of topics that will come to play in their lives.

This program initiates conversations and discussions not only in the classroom but also in their homes as well. Moreover, these are the same discussions I have

in client meetings in my financial advisor role. This jump start for these children is

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- Understanding inflation.
- Impact of early spender vs early saver.



- Roth IRAs.

It is hard to play the game if you do not know the rules!

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. Member of Ed Slott's Elite IRA Advisor Group.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

Lest We Forget: One Night in September, 1982

Tragic it most certainly was. A truly awful incident that left a 31-year-old man, Declan Flynn, bleeding his life away in Dublin's Fairview Park.

However, it must not be construed as murder. When the case came to trial and the five young men who had beaten Mr. Flynn with fists, boots and sticks until the blood came spraying out of him, stood before the Judge, Justice Seán Gannon was at pains to point that out. It was not murder.

"It's important the public should know it could never have been murder, although it was an appalling thing for Declan Flynn and his family", he said. Well, at least he recognized that it was an appalling thing. It's not much, but at least he recognized that; although it didn't stop him from letting all these upstanding young men walk free.

They weren't really that bad, anyway. The local priest and GAA official had both stepped boldly forward to attest to their 'good character'. Shame on them.

Just...shame on them.

But at the end of the day, what harm had they done, really? It was only what they thought was a steamer that these alpha male heroes had beaten to death. It was only a bender. Doesn't matter that they may have gotten that detail wrong. It was only high spirits. And, of course, it was a crime to be a bender or a steamer in 1982, so sure, what harm?

They came from good homes - yes, that hoary old chestnut - and there was "no element of correction required", the learned Judge emphasized, adding: "While I must demonstrate the abhorrence of the community by imposing sentences, I don't think it necessary to be served immediately by detention."

Again, the learned Judge got one thing right - the abhorrence of the community, although that was also something he woefully underestimated.

Declan Flynn's killing took place in 1982, forty years ago. I was working in Limerick at the time, in another life. Yet the shock we experienced when those five walked free is as fresh in my mind today as it was then.

'Outrage' is used so prevalent-

ly now that it's a word that has almost lost all meaning; but the outrage then was cold and pure and clear and showed no sign of dissipating in the weeks and months that followed. For these fine men of good families showed absolutely no remorse whatever. Indeed, they had already admitted to at least 20 other beatings being dished out in the previous six weeks. They would go into the park with their girlfriends but if they were 'working' that night, the girls would go home early.

Yes, it really is mind-boggling.

When they celebrated on the evening of their release, having gotten away with murder, one of the triumphalist songs they danced to was Freddy Mercury's 'We Are the Champions'. Ironic that they were dancing to the music of a gay man when that was what the beatings were about.

'Queer-bashing' it was known as then. Up there with 'Paki-bashing' [Pakistani or Indian people]. And gays themselves were known as 'queers' or 'steamers' or 'benders'. God knows where such an ugly phrase had originated - London or Glasgow or Manchester, I suppose - but by 1982 it had well and truly arrived in Dublin.

And let's not kid ourselves. We're beyond that, surely. Let's not lie to ourselves. There was a tacit approval among certain sections that there was nothing wrong with a few steamers getting a good hiding to teach them a lesson. Sure, beating one to death might be going a BIT too far but youthful high spirits and all that.

The 5 who were responsible for the death of Mr. Flynn and the beatings of 20 others were known as The Rollers and seem to have seen themselves as some sort of vigilante group out to hurt those who were different. Teach them a lesson, like. And just as their girlfriends knew what they were up to, reading back through the statements, it's obvious at least some of the parents did as well.

How proud you must have been of your offspring, especially the lady - and I use that word advisedly - who told her son to cover his ass when it looked like a murder charge. Charming.

Judge Gannon again: "Apparently your decision was made with some degree of haste, and there is doubt about your assessment of the situation". Take a moment to get your head around that one, if you would. Because I'm going to be honest with you and say that I can't understand at all what he was saying.

"Assessment of the situation?" Are you joking? Seriously, was this utter clown of a judge ever for real? These hoodlums were not assessing anything. This was not one of your debating society chinwags at Trinity, this was a man being kicked to death.

For the record, these fine young men that Gannon seems to have been so enthralled with were: Anthony Maher (19); Robert Alan Armstrong (18); Patrick Kavanagh (18); Colm Donovan (17) and - horrifyingly - a 14-year-old who was never named for legal reasons.

Armstrong (who along with Maher was in the Air Corps): "A few of us had been queer-bashing for about six weeks before and battered about twenty steamers. We used to grab them. If they hit back, we gave it to them."

I'm not a learned judge; I never had the education that Judge Gannon had. But that would have been enough for me to determine Armstrong's character.

Nor did this pig stay out of trouble. Several years later he and a thug called Paul Davis waited until the husband of a 7 months pregnant woman was at work. Then they broke into her home and threatened to kick her stomach in if she did not submit to rape.

They fed her children sweets to keep them quiet. It's little details like that which keep me awake at night.

If Gannon had locked Armstrong up when he should have, that horror would have been averted. Armstrong got ten years this time (a miserable amount in my opinion; I'd have gone for castration without anesthetic, but that's just me); but I suppose it's just as well it wasn't Gannon who was in court. He would probably have argued that just as murder wasn't murder because it was only a steamer, this wasn't really rape.

Snapshots from long ago: -

Association of Garda Sergeants following the non-sentencing: "What is the use of sending them back to their parents when parental control has obviously broken down? What sort of control is being exercised in their homes if 14- and 18-year-olds can beat a man to death?"

Banner displayed during demonstration march through the areas where the killers lived: "Parents of gays love their children."

Killer and rapist Robert Alan Armstrong: "There's not much to think about when you've just killed a bloke, except what's going to happen and when they'll come for you."

As I write this on Easter Sunday, 40 years after Declan Flynn was murdered, there are 19 wars going on across the globe, including the new one in Ukraine. There's nothing we can do about that; we are a sick, twisted and warlike species and nothing will ever change that.

But also this week in Ireland one man was beaten and hospitalized in Dublin; and another two were murdered because of their sexuality. And maybe that's something we CAN do something about. Because if you are hurting people because they are having consensual sex, well...that's insanity, isn't it?

Judge Seán Gannon was 65 when he let the killers of Declan Flynn walk out of his courtroom. He always refused to comment on the case. However, he does seem to have gotten tough on crime. Several months after freeing Mr. Flynn's killers and some years before Armstrong would rape a pregnant woman, he came down hard with a straight to jail card for a rather unfortunate and strangely sad person who had stolen a handbag.

He died peacefully in his sleep in 2011, surrounded by children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Quite a contrast to Declan Flynn, bleeding out on a lonely night in September, 1982.

It's a funny thing, the law. charleybrady@gmail.com

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We've Always Been Green!

By Anne Marie McIntyre

'We've Always Been Green', is the slogan of *Irish American News*. The color green is most often associated with Ireland and the Irish, the term green is also used to refer to anything that benefits the environment. Environmentalists and activists encourage people to "go green" promoting the preservation and the responsible use of natural resources. Recycling, reusing and reducing resources are key actions to help make a positive impact on the environment and human health, for example repairing or mending rather than buying new are simple ways to be green.

Lately, the concept of a 'sustainability' has expanded the green movement by focusing more on future impacts of being green. Sustainability presumes that resources are finite and includes long

The Beat Cop

The remarkable story of how modern Irish music was shaped and spread by one brash Chicago police chief.

"A thorough and sometimes surprising lens into how Irish music in the US came to be codified and understood."

—*Library Journal*
Irish music as we know it today was invented not just in the cobbled lanes of Dublin or the green fields of County Kerry, but also in the burgeoning metropolis of early-twentieth-century Chicago. The genre's history combines a long folk tradition with one man's curatorial quirks: Francis O'Neill, a larger-than-life Chicago police chief and an Irish immigrant with a fervent interest in his home country's music.

Michael O'Malley's *The Beat Cop* tells the story of this singular figure, from his birth in Ireland in 1865 to his rough-and-tumble early life in the US. By 1901,

term goals and priorities on using resources wisely. Sustainability is a holistic value that reflects environmental, social and economic concerns. Simply put, sustainability is about how we will leave the world to our children and grandchildren.

This column is dedicated to all things green and sustainable highlighting Chicago and Ireland, and will feature people, businesses, organizations, products, news and events that have made a commitment to being sustainable.

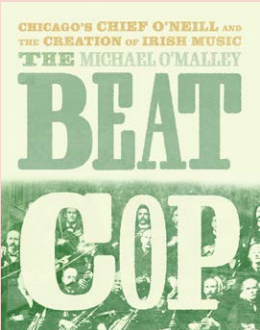
Earth day is celebrated annually by more than a billion people as a day of action to change human behavior and create global, national and local policies to protect our planet.

2020 was the 50th anniversary of the mobilization of Earth Day,

O'Neill had worked his way up to become Chicago's chief of police, where he developed new methods of tracking criminals and

recording their identities. At the same time, he also obsessively tracked and recorded the music he heard from local Irish immigrants, enforcing a strict view of what he felt was and wasn't authentic. Chief O'Neill's police work and his musical work were flip sides of the same coin, and O'Malley delves deep into how this brash immigrant harnessed his connections and policing skills to become the foremost shaper of how Americans see, and hear, the music of Ireland.

"Vivid, eloquent, and highly engaging, *The Beat Cop* sparkles with insights about immigration, community, and popular culture."—Kevin Kenny, author of *The American Irish: A History*
tmcgaughey@uchicago.edu
[Buy Book Here](#)



with Covid 19 restrictions in place, many events were delayed or cancelled, including the 2020 Irish American Hall of Fame Gala. In April the Class of 2020 was recognized, and on the list of very notable inductees is Rachel Carson, a scientist of Irish descent

She was a marine biologist for the US Bureau of Fisheries who, in the 1950's, began writing about conservation and the environmental problems caused by synthetic pesticides. Her deep passion for nature inspired the bestselling book, *Silent Spring* (1962) which ultimately led to a reversal in national pesticide policy and the banning DDT and other pesticides. *Silent Spring* is also credited with inspiring the modern environmental movement, and to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970.

In 1966, in cooperation with the State of Maine, The Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge was established along 50 miles of coastal Maine and includes over 5,300 acres of protected New England forests.

A contemporary Irish woman who has also made significant strides in climate justice is Mary Robinson, the first female President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. She is a passionate advocate for gender equality, peaceful human dignity and climate justice.

Mary Robinson is a globally recognized voice on climate change and frequently highlights the need for drastic action from world leaders, among her many accolades and achievements, in 2018 she published *Climate Justice -Hope, Resilience, and The Fight For A Sustainable Future*. She relays engaging stories of unlikely activists, mostly women, whose communities have experienced firsthand the devastating effects of global warming and have made extraordinary accomplishments. The resounding message throughout the book is that small local actions of the least powerful can grow into a global movement for positive change.

One might compare the global sustainable/green movement to the old tradition of cooperation

in Ireland where farmers turn to each other at times of harvest to lighten each other's load, known as a Meitheal (meh-hill]). On this Earth Day let's recognize the importance of a global Meitheal for amplified action on sustainability.

The City of Chicago recently updated its Climate Action Plan with goals to reduce carbon emissions increasing household savings, advancing environmental justice, and improving community health.

For more information and to read the 2022 action plan visit: www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/climate-action-plan/home.html.

Learn more about Earth Day and ways to participate at www.earthday.org.

Have a green or sustainable business, product, or event you would like to be highlighted here? Reach out to Anne Marie McIntyre at anchaintghlas@gmail.com with your information.



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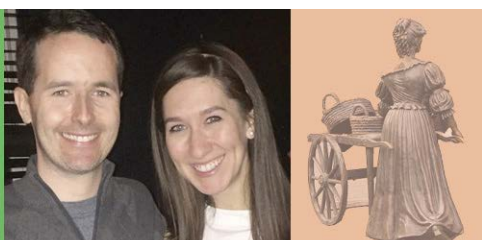
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Coffee Success Rests on the Big Shoulders of Tim and Pat Coonan

Big Shoulders Coffee is known for their freshly roasted artisan coffee and welcoming cafes. But behind the eponymous brand are years of experience, talent and passion brought to bear by Chicago couple and co-founders, Tim and Patricia Coonan.

"I've always loved Chicago's roll-up-your-sleeves attitude," said Tim. "Let's get something accomplished, let's get it done."

But let's back up. Tim's journey as an entrepreneur begins as the classic Irish immigrant story. His paternal grandfather left Cork after WWI for the U.S. He landed in Newburgh, New York and worked on the Hudson River docks until his death in the 1950s. Tim's father moved from New York to Indiana to play

early 20s and completed stints in prestigious restaurants in France and Italy. After returning stateside, he attended culinary

"You absolutely as an entrepreneur have to believe that you're going to find success. Dive in with both feet first and believe in what you're doing. It's like being in love - you're either in or you're out!"

Tim Coonan

school at Johnson & Wales University, finally arriving to Chicago in the late 80s.



**Co-Founders of Big Shoulders Coffee
Tim and Patricia Coonan**

college baseball, later moving to Fort Wayne for a coaching job. And there, in the heart of the Midwest, Tim was born and raised. He grew up on a farm with a deep appreciation for local ingredients and flavors, and early aspirations to become a chef.

Tim moved to Europe in his

"If I wanted to be in the Midwest and continue to grow my skillsets, Chicago was really the place to go," said Tim. He served as a Sous Chef at Gordon and later became Chef-de-Cuisine at Spiaggia, where he met Patricia and stayed for nine years until P.F. Chang's recruited him as a partner and regional chef.

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"What I learned from P.F. Chang's was more of a balanced lifestyle," said Tim, who made the conscious decision to be more present when his daughter Kate was born. "Also, I learned how to manage a business."

But his secret weapon? Co-founder Patricia, who spent 12 years as CFO of LFP Restaurant Management. "There's no mom-and-pop business our size

that has her experience and knowledge," said Tim.

Together, the Coonans grew Big Shoulders Coffee from a hobby into a recognizable and popular brand. Their headquarters and roastery is located in Pilsen and they have four active cafes (down from seven pre-pandemic) in West Town, Gold Coast and the Loop in addition to a presence at Mid-

Irish Art Exhibit at Notre Dame's Snite Museum Ends 5-15

The year 1922 marked a turning point for Ireland: the modern Irish state was essentially founded with the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty; James Joyce's novel *Ulysses* was published; and the Irish Race Congress, a conference with an accompanying art exhibition that aimed to redefine Irish identity for an international audience, took place in Paris.

One hundred years later, **Who Do We Say We Are? Irish Art 1922-2022** explores the connection between some Irish artists working today and their counterparts presented in the Exposition d'Art Irlandais, the exhibition of Irish art held in Paris in 1922.

Paintings from the O'Brien Collection by Seán Keating, Jack B. Yeats, and Paul Henry—artists who participated in the 1922 exhibition—are juxtaposed with works by contemporary artists Patrick Graham, Hughie O'Donoghue, and Diana Copperwhite, among others, to explore issues of national identity rooted in the diaspora and landscape. An "In Dialogue" presentation of the Snite Museum's recent acquisition of Walter Osborne's

painting *At the Breakfast Table* (1894) rounds out the discussion of home and homecoming. And, expanding into the realm of photography, a selection of Ireland's rural landscapes by Amelia Stein, RHA, engages epic legends and folkloric memories to reveal history and an evolving culture.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue published by the O'Brien Collection with contributions by Billy Shorthall of Trinity College Dublin, Roisín Kennedy of University College Dublin, Aileen Dillane of the University of Limerick, and David Acton of the Snite Museum. New recordings of Irish music inspired by the art complement the exhibition. The virtual recreation of the 1922 Exposition d'Art Irlandais that



WHO DO WE SAY WE ARE?

Irish Art 1922|2022

way Airport. The family lives in Ukrainian Village, their daughter is now 15 years old, and they are as busy as ever.

"You absolutely as an entrepreneur have to believe that you're going to find success," said Tim. "Dive in with both feet first and believe in what you're doing. It's like being in love - you're either in or you're out."

In the end, he said success comes down to providing the best product and service to the customer and community. "It's chopping wood and carrying water - doing that every day, day in and day out."

Best of luck to the Coonans from Cork.

Beyond their brick-and-mortar cafes, Big Shoulders Coffee is also available for order: <https://www.bigshoulderscoffee.com>.

will be available online through Trinity College Dublin is a notable contribution to Irish studies and a welcome resource for scholars and enthusiasts alike.

This exhibition is made possible through the support of the Kathleen and Richard Champlin Endowment for Exhibitions, the



Image. Hughie O'Donoghue (British b. 1953), Revolution Cottage, 2014, Oil on canvas

Milly and Fritz Kaeser Endowment for Photography, and the Irish Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Decade of Centenaries programme. Special gratitude is extended to The O'Brien Collection, lenders to the Exhibition and The Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish studies, Exhibition and Programming Partners.

<https://sniteartmuseum.nd.edu/exhibitions/upcoming-exhibitions/who-do-we-say-we-are-irish-art-1922-2022/>

Larry Kirwan's Bright, Shining, Dancing, Moment - A Review of Paradise Square on Broadway

Paradise Square at Ethel Barrymore Theater, 47th St/ Broadway, NYC, 3-26, 2022
By Bill Nevins

Paradise Square, the big-time Broadway production which has evolved from Larry Kirwan's acclaimed 2012 off-Broadway play *Hard Times*, is a rousing musical extravaganza full of dancing, loving, singing, freedom and joy! And fierce defiance of bigotry and repression! Black 47 fans (like myself) who fondly recall the band's blissful 25 years of dancing-rock concerts and Larry Kirwan's roof-raising anthem "Five Points" from the Green Suede Shoes album will feel comfortably back at home in Nelly O'Brien (Joaquina Kalukango)'s Paradise Square pub ensconced in the heart of the early 1860s Five Points lower-Manhattan slum. Indeed, seated in the lux-



urious Barrymore Theater front row, we could scarcely keep ourselves from leaping up and dancing along. And when Kalukango brought the house down with her fierce, show-stopping rendition of "Let It Burn!", the entire audience was on its feet applauding and there was nary a dry eye in the place!

Yes, the Five Points may have been attacked and partially burned-down during the 1863 Draft Riots, but the hard-bitten, good-humored cross-cultural communal spirit that had been birthed there lives on in the joyous imaginative vision of *Paradise Square*, a sort of working-class variation on Camelot—"for one brief shining moment" deep in the darkest hard-times of old New York City and America's Civil War that just might reignite and illuminate our troubled America and world today. This play is a glorious celebration of that shining moment.

The Broadway production is a grandly collaborative achievement. Christina Anderson and Craig Lucas share book-writing

credits with Kirwan, while Jason Howland wrote most of the play's music with additional music by Kirwan inspired by Stephen Foster. The play's lyrics were penned by Nathan Tysen and Masi Asare. Moisés Kaufman directs the play and

Garth Drabinsky is the producer. Bill T. Jones brilliantly choreographs almost-constant dancing

which contrasts and blends Irish leaping step-dance with beautiful West African rhythmic moves. This play's essential emotional impact is conveyed via phenomenal dancing and singing. The cast is very large, and like the gracefully rotating sets, they seem to be in almost perpetual motion. It's a true thrill-ride!

Lead dancer/singer roles include war-widow Nelly O'Brien (Kalukango), her confidant Annie Lewis (Chilina Kennedy, brightly played by understudy Kennedy Caughell at our performance), Irish immigrant and draft-resistor Owen Duigan (smashingly danced

by A.J. Shiveley), defiant refugee from enslavement Washington Henry (Sidney DuPont, danced heroically by Jay McKenzie at our performance). They are supported ably by Matt Bogart as the misled demagogue Lucky Mike Quinlan, John Dossett as the evilly-plotting politician Frederic Tiggens, Nathaniel Stampley as Underground Railroad conductor Rev. Lewis, Gabrielle McClinton as the beautiful "Gentle Annie" Angelina Baker and so many more fine actor/dancers.

The character of the drunken piano-man "Milton Moore" (played by Jacob Fishel) is an assumed identity for song writer Stephen Foster, who has a shakey and unintentionally-treacherous standing in the Five Points milieu. Foster's "Camptown Races" and "Gentle Annie" drift into the show in eerily re-heard contexts. Misapplied cultural appropriation is a revealing sub-text here as the pathetic voyeur Foster distorts work songs and genuine sufferers' laments into noxious parlor entertainments.

Over a post-performance pint of Guinness at Rosie O'Grady's upscale saloon on 7th Avenue at 52nd Street, Larry Kirwan recalled that he conceived of Nelly O'Brien's powerful, resilient pub-mistress when he recalled the strong women of color who often managed the Manhattan after-hours socializing and dancing clubs Kirwan and his literary and musical pals

frequented during the 1970s and early 1980s. "All kinds of people came in there, of whatever skin color or social status, and not all of them were the most sober or tamest sorts, yet no one ever got into fights and the party rolled on, great fun, grand craic. And those strong women in charge kept things peaceful and friendly," reminisced Kirwan, adding that "as I thought about those New York clubs later, I had a very clear vision that such a safe and friendly place might have existed as a pub even in the heart of the rough, rowdy Five Points.

Kirwan's artistic-historical conception of *Paradise Square* stands in sharp contrast to the warring-tribes Five Points scenario presented in Martin Scorsese's film *Gangs of New York*. The Five Points of *Paradise Square* is a place where folks of divergent origins, skin colors and social status—black, white, Irish, German, African, immigrant, free-born

or escaped from enslavement by Southern planters or British colonialists.

Larry Kirwan, over his many creative decades has always given us clear-eyed political and historical revelations along with liberating musical revelry.

His Broadway hit play is no exception to that tradition. And in this time of uncertainty and war, we need such clarity and glimmers of resurgent hope. One hopes the good people of Ukraine will find their way to a place of peace and camaraderie like that to be found in Kirwan's warm pub-refuge. Do yourself a favor and get tickets for yourself and your loved ones. The craic is mighty at Paradise Square! <https://www.paradisesquaremusical.com>

(a nice interview video at *Metrofocus*, March 31, 2022)

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Connemara Daly

By Bill Daly

Soaking Up the Knowledge *Remembering early Schooldays in the West Waterford Deise*

It all began on one early September morning in 1963 when I said goodbye to my Mother in Tircullen, and headed off to Kilwatermoy School in West Waterford for the very first time. This was the start of a journey of learning, which would culminate twenty years later, when I graduated from UCC in 1983.

I started school that day with Catherine Coughlan from Bally-

hamlet, and we walked there with her older brothers, PatRick and Tony. Catherine and I would walk home together, as we finished earlier, and we were the only ones at that time coming back in the direction of Ballyhamlet and Tircullen. Over the years as we journeyed back and forth, we would meet many people along the road like John Parker, John O'Connor, Jim and Biddy Morrison and Paddy Tierney, who were always interested in how we were getting on and also enthralled us with many wonderful stories.

We entered the school building for the first time, Catherine and I

were separated to different sides of the classroom! This was a bit of a shock for me, as I didn't know anybody else in the unfamiliar room on this particular morning.

On that first morning, I sat beside a blonde haired young boy with a smiling face, and he told me his name was Gerard Peter Geary from Sapperton. I was familiar with Sapperton as my Dad (Charlie Daly) worked in Maxwell's and he would often let me steer the 'David Brown' and 'Nuffield' tractors. From this day onwards, we sat together in Kilwatermoy School, Tallow School and in Lismore CBS. We remained good friends until his untimely passing in June 1989 at the much too young age of 31. It hit me hard at the time, and I still think about him with great warmth when his birthday and anniversary comes around each year.

Mrs Neville, from Youghal, was

the Headmistress, and our first Teacher was Miss Courtney. She was a young teacher and rode a Honda 50. She smelled of oranges in the afternoon when she would lean over us to keep our letters between the two blue lines. I also remember she had an accident on her bike at Power's Cross, and I'm not sure if she returned after that.

Mick Curley turned up at the school one morning to take a few of us to the School Dentist at the Dispensary in Tallow. I got four teeth extracted and I was in severe shock afterwards. It took me the best part of 20 years to visit a dentist again in Cork after the initial trauma. A few weeks later, I fell off the school wall and fractured my wrist, and the sling was just removed in time for my Holy Communion in 1965.

One afternoon, not long after we started, another young pupil (going in a different direction to us) produced a box of matches and set fire to the furze in the wood across from the school. When Catherine and I arrived at school the next morning there was a fairly hefty black spot where the furze used to be. Mrs Neville wasn't too hard on us and the other pupil in question took the brunt of it that day!

On Winter mornings the open fire would be lit in the classroom to keep us warm, and on break times we would make toast in front of it, and wash it down with Fry's cocoa, from the distinctive yellow tin. From time to time, we would get to go across to the wood (or what was left of it at this stage) to collect some kindling and twigs for the next morning.

Fr. Nugent came in to talk to us about the changes to the Mass that had been agreed during Vatican 2, we hadn't a clue what he was saying to us as we were too young to take it in. However, we noticed the change afterwards when the Mass changed from Latin to English, and he didn't have his back to us anymore. We liked Fr. Nugent, who looked kind to our young eyes as he prepared us for our first Confession and Communion.

When we were all coming home at the same time, we would meet

Davy Kelly at the top of the hill. He promised me sixpence if I would give Catherine a kiss. I wasn't having any of it, but he kept the pressure up every time he met us. On this particular day, there was a good crowd of us going up the hill after school, and I spotted Davy in the distance. I finally gave in and gave Catherine a kiss and Davy pushed the coin into my hand and closed my fingers around it. As I opened my fingers to the anticipation of the sixpence and everything that I was going to buy with it, staring back at me was a rusty washer! Davy had got me properly that day. I would remind him in the years afterwards that the sixpence was gathering interest and he would have a big bill to pay eventually! It was all good fun on the roller coaster of being young and foolish.

Catherine and I disappeared off the face of the earth one Winter afternoon when we were walking home from school. A senior pupil, who was accompanying us home, had the bright idea to keep us inside Kilwatermoy Church, praying and lighting candles for hours on end, until the Church was in complete darkness. Catherine and I were getting a little worried ourselves, not to mention hungry. Our parents must have been extremely worried, especially at a time when there were little or no telephones in our part of the parish.

A search party was organised in the locality and they eventually found us at the bottom of the dark Church. Whenever I go to Kilwatermoy Church now, this memory always comes back to me as I look at the candleholder in the left hand corner. The senior pupil in question may have been well intentioned, if not a little misguided. It could have been worse, nobody died, and everybody was friends again a few days later.

That was over half a century ago, and time seems to be slipping through my fingers like fine sand, and there is nothing I can do to slow it down. Blessings to all those lovely people who were with me all those years ago in Kilwatermoy School as we began the process of filling our brains with the serious business of learning!

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What a week it has been! First my beloved Bayern Munich gets eliminated from the Champion's League with a stunning home draw against Villarreal, yes, the same Villarreal that currently sits in 7th place in La Liga! It was an embarrassment to say the least and it is time for Bayern Munich to take a long look in the mirror and make some big moves, starting at the very top. Claiming the Bundesliga title every year is not the great feat that the Bayern management team would want you to believe. Mediocrity in the Champion's League is the flavor of the day now and the fans are getting fed up. Time will tell if effective changes are going to be made and whether or not they satisfy the huge fan base.

The next bit of distressing news I got was when I read an article in the *Irish Examiner* about the great Patrick Horgan, the pride of



Game On!

By Chris Wheaton



the Glen rovers and the County Cork Senior Hurling squad. The article highlighted the fact that Horgan will be turning 34 next month and although he is still at the top of his game and is not even speaking of retirement, that day will be coming sooner rather than later. It caused me to reflect on my own career or lack thereof, and really question how much longer I can continue to play. Rest assured my highest level of skill would still be considered far below even the lowest level in Ireland but I am not trying to win an All-Ireland Championship. I would be perfectly content with capturing a medal in Junior D at this year's USGAA Championships to be contested at Gaelic Park in August.

As I creep closer to another "milestone" birthday in June I know that I am closer to the exit than I am to the entrance so I have to make the most of every opportunity. At next year's National finals I will probably be roaming the sidelines in more a coaching role rather than mixing it up on the pitch. With the youth movement and the great young talent Naperville Hurling has discovered in the past year that last match for me might be sooner than I want.

The last bit of bad news I turned up relates to the tools of our trade; the hurley. The Ash Dieback Disease in Ireland and England is expected to kill 90% of all Irish ash trees. This dreaded disease, caused by a fungus makes the ash tree useless for the production of hurleys. We know that the lifeblood of the hurler is his "ash stick", made to his own specifications including length, weight, shape, etc. When demand starts to exceed supply where are we to turn? The first major casualty of the disease

is Canning Hurleys going out of business. You guessed it, Canning Hurleys shares the same name as the exceptional hurler from County Galway, Joe Canning. It is his family's business who has been making top notch hurleys for 11 years and due to the dreaded disease and insurmountable supply chain problems they will be forced to close their doors.

The demise of ash trees will leave the hurling community with few options. Bamboo has been popping up as an alternative to ash and some county level hurlers seem to like them but as a traditionalist I will find it difficult to get away from ash. Synthetic hurleys are also quite common but that to me is like using an aluminum bat in major league baseball; it's just not right.

Next month we can get back to some normalcy, the weather should be better, training sessions should be in full swing and hurling tournaments will be abundant. Greener pastures await us!

Tailspin

By John Armbruster

After 75 years, the story of the World War II tail gunner who fell four miles without a parachute and lived is finally being told.

Tailspin tells the story of Gene Moran, the Wisconsin farm boy who fought in history's greatest aerial conflict and survived a



four-mile fall without parachute. But after his capture by the Germans, his ordeal was just beginning.

VIROQUA, WI - For nearly seven decades, Gene Moran (above) kept his story to himself. Friends and family in his hometown of Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin, whispered the basics of the story: bomber plane tail gunner . . . shot down by the Nazis . . . no parachute . . . fell four miles, crashed into a forest, prisoner of war.

Enter debut author John Armbruster. When John, at the time a rookie social studies teacher, learned of Gene's story, he immediately planned for classroom visits and lessons featuring the local war hero. But one of Gene's daughters warned him, "We don't go there."

Years passed. Gene and John became friends but never talked about the war, even as family, friends, and other veterans urged Gene to share his story. In the end, he

finally agreed to a book—but only if John wrote it. John initially refused. He had a journalism degree but hadn't written professionally in 20 years. He also had his own fight ahead: his wife, Carmen, was battling Stage IV breast cancer. Eventually, author Ben Logan, a mentor to John, convinced him to take on the project before Gene took his story to the grave. And so, *Tailspin* began.

Tailspin is much more than an incredible war story. It's a compassionate portrait of an aging veteran finally revealing the traumatic memories he kept inside for more than 60 years. It's also the story of the author's own trial: raising two young sons as he lost his wife to cancer, all while trying to tell Gene's story before it was too late. *Tailspin* is a heartwarming testament to enduring the worst that history and life can deal to ordinary men and coming out on top.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Armbruster has taught American history and government at the middle and high school levels for 29 years. Before becoming a teacher, he wrote for public radio and newspapers after graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He lives on a small farm outside of Viroqua, Wisconsin, in the



heart of the Driftless Region. His late wife, Carmen, died in 2012 after a long fight with breast cancer. They have two sons: Matthew and Joseph.

He is a winner of the Disney Teaching Award for outstanding creativity and innovation (2005)

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I recently spoke to my niece Mary Doyle who lives in Kilkenny and every time I speak with her, I feel close to home. I have written about all the counties, but I would like to review some things about Kilkenny because it's been a few years. Co. Kilkenny is in the province of Leinster and has a population of roughly a little over 100,000.

In sport I believe Kilkenny holds the most hurling titles in the country. Kilkenny hurling team is known as the Kilkenny cats.

I was born in St. Luke's hospital which is on the Freshford Rd. just outside Kilkenny. I went to St. Joseph's Christian Brother High School, and I played hurling with them. We used to practice at Nowlan Pk. Many is the time that I put a ball on those blue roofs that are just outside the park behind the goal posts. My two favorite players from Kilkenny were Lory (Lorenzo) Meagher a goalkeeper & Sean Clohessy. In the 1947 All Ireland final in Croke Park Kilkenny & Cork were tied at 14 points each with a 1/2 minute to go when Terry (Thaddeus) Leahy was in a battle around the Cork goal. When out of the far side of the field was Jim Langton of Kilkenny, Langton sent the ball into the Cork square there was Leahy who lost his hurl in the battle, however he managed to put the ball over the bar to win the 1947 All Ireland for Kilkenny.

I played hurling with Muckallee where I attended school. I will never forget those fond memories. Master Tommy Tynan was my teacher. Tynan in his day was the most famous hand ball player in Ireland. They put up a three-walled ball alley in Muckallee in his honor. Also, my teacher attended the funeral of Patrick Pearse's Mother, which was held in Pheonix Park, Dublin. Patrick Pearse was one of the leaders in the 1916 Easter Rising. He was also an Irish teacher, barrister and writer from Dublin.

A few years ago, I visited my son Mike who lives in Dublin. We went to dinner at Chicago pizza in Dublin. Mike asked me if I would/could move back to Ireland. I do have another son in Ireland that lives in Mayo. It's a tough question to answer because for anyone that has lived abroad for

50 years know how much things have changed and most of the people you knew aren't there or living anymore. Kilkenny will always be my home (but also home is where the heart is) Ireland is where I grew up and I still have close family living there, TG. I often think of my hurling days, O'Faolains & Lanigans, the castle and of course church at St. Canice's and Ballyfoyle church. However, to move back at this age/stage of my life would be difficult not to mention the expense and exhaustion of all the new things I would have to learn as a million things have changed since I left. The Ireland in my mind lives in me I know it's not around anymore. And a part of me knows that reality and it's too heartbreaking to face. I like to think that Ireland is as I left it and go for a visit from time to time.

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen

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Helter Skelter

"Undue haste, confusion, or disorder" easily describes the pace of current events that bring news of ever-worsening crises arising almost daily. By definition, that's helter skelter, a name that disappointed, desperate and drug-addled lyricist/composer Charles Manson, who once lived with and pitched tunes to The Beach Boys, chose for his vision of an apocalyptic black vs. white race war which he believed it was his destiny to lead with his Death Valley "family", because his role was affirmed by the Beatles in their White Album. But Beatle power was an illusion, and Charlie's bloody race-hoax path to revolution led only back to prison.

Far less murderous was the race hoax dreamed by Jussie Smollett in 2019- white supremacist attackers roaming solidly Democrat downtown Chicago wearing MAGA hats- an idea so ludicrous that local black radio hosts cracked jokes about it even before two black accomplices were identified and questioned, admitting that Smollett hired them to help stage his anti-Trump "hate crime".

But Jussie had more than Beatle lyrics to support his dream. He had powerful political friends like the Obamas, and following his indictment by a grand jury, Cook County's new State's Attorney Kim Foxx surprisingly dropped all charges. It took two years of expensive legal wrangling before Jussie was finally found guilty and handed a rather mild sentence (5 months on 5 counts of disorderly

conduct) in March by Judge James Linn, who admonished the arrogant gay actor: "You're just a charlatan pretending to be a victim of a hate crime".

But reacting to the verdict in a Chicago Sun-Times op-ed, Kim Foxx mocked Smollett's criminal trial as "mob justice" by a politically motivated "kangaroo prosecution." Smollett spent just six days in custody before being released pending appeal of his conviction that, based on confessions by paid accomplices and clear video evidence of pre-planning, would have been a slam-dunk for most any other defendant.

So, the farce must play on because the leftist standard is "win by any means necessary"; and the left now makes political hay leading with the race card and spewing racial division once exclusive to Nation of Islam leaders. Labeling opponents as "racist" and working-class whites as "deplorables, insurrectionists and white supremacists" is currently the norm in Democrat politics. The drums of hate in America today have grown louder than Lambegs in Londonderry. President Biden states confidently: "terrorism from white supremacy is the most lethal threat to the homeland today, not ISIS, not Al Qaeda- white supremacists."

Arguably, a far more successful hoax was orchestrated following events on Monday, May 25, 2020 when a man passed counterfeit currency in a Minneapolis store and when police were called, died of an overdose after he allegedly "hid" evidence of drugs by ingesting them. Or was he murdered?

When George Floyd, a large, muscular man, was helped from his car, he appeared disoriented, sleepy. He slumped to the sidewalk. Police bodycams showed pills scattered in the vehicle. A few minutes later officers walked him across the street and placed him in a squad car. He began to thrash around, complaining of claustrophobia and difficulty breathing. He was let out of the squad car but continued struggling mightily. It took three officers to control him and bring him to ground. Paramedics were called. One officer held the panicky man down using a 'neck restraint' technique detailed in the Minneapolis Police Department's training manual.

A bystander's video clip of the white officer, his knee to the neck of a black man on the ground pleading "I can't breathe", was the perfect icon for an anarchic leftist agenda. It was played for weeks repeatedly across the world's tv screens, often accompanied by fiery editorials citing "white supremacy" and demands to "defund police". Protests began. Police reacted with restraint. The following day (May 26) the four officers involved in Floyd's arrest were fired by Medaria Arradondo, Minneapolis' first black police chief. By Wednesday night, May 27, protests morphed into rioting, looting, burning, and spread to other cities. Thursday night rioters set the Minneapolis Police Department's Third Precinct building ablaze. In that city alone over 1500 businesses were looted and destroyed. Repeated in cities nationwide the riots were the costliest ever in U.S. history, with nearly \$2 billion in losses. 15 people died; several seriously injured.

Derek Chauvin, the officer seen in the video with his knee on Floyd's neck, was arrested Friday, May 29 and charged with third-degree murder and second-degree

manslaughter. But that same day, a preliminary report on Floyd's autopsy done by Minnesota's Hennepin County Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Andrew Baker was released. It "revealed no physical findings that support a diagnosis of traumatic asphyxia or strangulation." Baker was to officially sign that report on Monday, June 1.

As government offices closed and anarchy plagued the streets, attorneys for the accused officers contended that other important events, ones not sensationalized in newscasts, let alone replayed for weeks, transpired over the weekend. Baker allegedly received a phone call Friday from former Washington D.C Medical Examiner Dr. Roger Mitchell who testifies as "an expert on deaths that occur while in the custody of law enforcement". Mitchell allegedly suggested that Baker "should fire his public information officer" for issuing the preliminary autopsy report. He allegedly called Baker again on Sunday, telling him: "neck compression has to be in the diagnosis" and issuing a veiled threat to release an op-ed in Bezos' Washington Post critical of Baker's autopsy findings.

Also on Sunday, Governor Walz made an unusual decision, appointing state Attorney General Keith Ellison over the County attorney in charge of the prosecutions. Walz said he made the decision after talking to the Floyd family. "They wanted the system to work for them." Ellison was the first Muslim elected to Congress and the first African American representative from Minnesota. In 2016 progressives backed senators Sanders and Schumer who wanted Ellison as chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Moderates opposed the nomination, citing Ellison's affiliation with the Nation of Islam and his alleged abuse of a former girlfriend. Ellison quit Congress and ran for Attorney General of Minnesota. He won, supported by Alexander Soros, heir to his father's fortune, who donated nearly half the total funds collected by an Ellison election committee.

The autopsy report that Baker signed Monday afternoon now showed that besides "fentanyl intoxication; recent methamphetamine use" and heart problems, "cardiopulmonary arrest complicating law enforcement subdual, restraint, and neck compression" had been added. Baker admitted that with the amount of fentanyl in Floyd's system: "If he were found dead at home alone and no other apparent causes, this could be acceptable to call an OD... That is a fatal level of fentanyl under normal circumstances... I am not saying this killed him."

Besides taking action on a dream, winning at revolutions appears also to require an actively supportive media and liberal amounts of political cash.

As of writing, Frank James, a man who's long been absorbing and spouting anti-white rhetoric: "O black Jesus, please kill all the whiteys... I really want to kill them because they're white", finally took action, firing off 33 rounds and injuring 29 Anglo, Asian and Hispanic men, women and children in a New York subway already terrorized by an increase in deranged and homeless people in the subways that has commuters huddling in entryways and hugging platform walls lest they be pushed under trains. According to N.Y. Police records, 461 felony assaults were reported on the subway system in 2021, of which 30 involved a person being pushed onto the subway tracks.

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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



'Stout John'

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Verse 1

There's a man called John McManus, a local violinist
He's famous for great music and drinkin' pints of Guinness
Since that record book began way back in 55'
He never made the pages and I always wondered why

Verse 2

One day a tractor hit poor John and sent him cross the ditch
As he sank down in the shuck, his life was at great risk
To everyone's amazement, he came crawling through the hedge
When a bus came round the bend and put him in the shuck again

Chorus

He fiddled and he riddled he riddled and he fiddled
And such yarns would come out of his head
He never hurt nobody he just murdered pints of Guinness
The legend that we call Stout John McManus

Verse 3

Every day poor John was tested and he took it like a man
I forget how many times he was knocked down by the bread van
No one could ever figure out how stout John did survive
He said it was the Guinness and the vitamins inside

Verse 4

So come on book of records, give this man a shout
The greatest man in Ireland for drinking pints of stout
After drinking 40 pints He'd be smiling like a baby
And after 43 he'd say I feel a wee bit hazy

Bridge

Great auld craic we can't forget a legend walked among us
You'll go down in local history as great Stout John McManus
Chorus

He fiddled and he riddled he riddled and he fiddled
And such yarns would come out of his head
He never hurt nobody he just murdered pints of Guinness
The legend that we called Stout John McManus

I traveled to Ireland recently on the same flight as Rory Makem (Tommy Makem's R.I.P. Son) in late March. Rory was doing a tour of Ireland with a busload of people from New York, Boston, Chicago, etc. He is very like his father, full of humor and good craic. We chatted away at the airport on both sides of the Atlantic. Then picked up our instruments in Dublin and parted ways. Rory and his guests were heading for his first gig in Waterford but, before we parted, he said "if you want to come to see us in Newry, in the Canal Court I'll leave tickets at the door for you." Newry is only about 12 miles from me so, I said "I would love to". I brought two of my neighbors along with

me, Eamonn and Marie. Rory was performing with the son of Liam Clancy R.I.P. Donal Clancy. I was blown away by their music. It was a journey back in time to the original Makem and Clancy Brothers. Memories came rushing back and it would be almost impossible to tell the difference between fathers and sons. My neighbor, Marie, texted me and said "Joe, I can still hear the music going around in my head." I felt the same, such a wonderful experience. It's hard to explain the feeling of reliving the Makem and Clancy Brother's experience. If you get a chance to see them together, you will be treated to a musical feeling that you thought was gone. Tommy Makem and

Liam Clancy will never be gone while these 2 sons are around.

When I got back to Chicago, I got a message from Chloë Agnew (of Celtic Women) Chloë invited my wife and me to the 'Celtic Women Show' at the Rosemont Theatre, Rosemont IL. She had been a part of the original show at the age of 15, and is now doing the Anniversary tour with them. We first met and became friends on Nathan Carter's North American tours which I was so lucky to be one of the crew. Many great nights were spent on the tours as we traveled from coast to coast. I thoroughly enjoyed the show at the Rosemont and for me, Chloë is most definitely the shining star. Her natural voice flowed through the theatre and won the hearts of everyone there. I put Chloë in the same class as singer Celine Dion, with a great personality into the bargain. Wishing you continued success Chloë, and I am enjoying watching your career blossom.

As promised, the line-up is now complete for the 'Nicky James Country and Irish Weekend' next year. Here are some of the entertainers that will be performing at the Savoy Hotel, in Blackpool, UK. February 24th, 25th, and 26th - Stephen Smyth Band - Trevor Loughrey - Ryan Turner Band - John Rafferty - Olivia Douglas - Shaun Loughrey - Dave Sheriff - The Hayley's - Paul Wright - Merv & Maria - Joe McShane. For bookings call from US 011 44 1553 617546 - UK 01553 617546 - ROI 00 353 1553 617546. Or you can email <info@mervandmaria.com>. The price is just £235 for the whole weekend

Tim Brophy, Executive Director of the Irish American Society of County Will, shown here working at the Manhattan Irish Fest in early March 2022 which had a great turnout.

Next to him are the buttons for every year the fest has run.

Tim is also a candidate for re-election to the post of Will County Treasurer.

and includes three nights in the hotel, breakfast, evening meal, all of the shows plus a late-night jam session in the bar with the performers on Saturday night. It will be a great experience for everyone. It's also a way to carry on what my brother Nick R.I.P. started all those years ago.

This month's song Jordan Moge and I wrote is a humorous look at two gentlemen rolled into one. One is a neighbor of Jordan's 'John' from Antrim, and the other is a neighbor of mine, 'McManus' who passed away. We put the two stories together to make one song. Jordan was telling me about John and how he was a rare

character, and McManus certainly was a rare character. I often sit at my local bar, Donnelly's in Silverbridge, Armagh, and we talk about how the craic is not quite the same anymore without these local people who would light up the atmosphere with their great humor. I don't think they even realized how funny they were. All we can do now is mention them in conversation, and repeat some of the crazy tales about these men that once graced us with their presence. **As always be good to one another, Joe**

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Walking With Ghosts

Walking with Ghosts is Gabriel Byrne's recently published memoir of his life and work. It is told episodically, interweaving stories across time, revealing Byrne's personality through encounters he has had throughout his life as well as in his stage and film career. The book is replete with dialogue from those encounters coupled with the reflections of the actor today, now in his seventies.

Byrne's family is central to his narrative. His mother, a quiet strength and encouragement to him, raised six children and dealt with a husband who was fond of tipples (Guinness employees had a good supply at their elbow). Even so, in a deeper dive that is typical of this book, he describes a moment when his mother has had it with the demands of carrying the family—she intimates that she is leaving, before quickly changing her mind. Years later, as a famous actor, her son looks back and sees that she too may have had unrealised ambitions to act. Byrne portrays his father fondly in the book: the Da quips, after his son lands an early acting role, that he did not need to watch it, since he could see him for free any day of the week. Even today, television audiences of a certain vintage recall Byrne's emergence in Irish public consciousness

through his role on The Riordans, a television series in the 1970s. From the first, his talent was clear. Byrne manages to capture the interiority of a role and display profound sensitivity in his delivery.

Writing about his time as a teenager in a seminary in England, Byrne relates: "One evening, when I returned to study hall from dinner, I was told to go to the priest's room...The priest opened the door in a red dressing gown". You do not need to have read The Fern's Report, or have seen Spotlight, to anticipate what happens next. Byrne already spoke about this incident on 'Conversations with Eamon Dunphy' on RTÉ Radio on 21 June 2008. Back then, however, he held back, referring to lines that were crossed. In Walking with Ghosts, he recounts what happened in full—to the extent that he can. While he relates the sordid innuendo of the priest who sits Byrne on his couch, at a certain point the whole memory disappears: "Even years later it feels like the night has been concreted over. I've been picking at it with a pin ever since, afraid to use a jack-hammer, afraid of what's buried in there". It is striking, given that the memoir form is an excava-

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



promoting this book: "That's why I went to America—because I didn't feel labelled or identified there". It was the right move.

A sequence in this book that will stay with many readers is of Byrne at the Cannes Film Festival where

he was catapulted to superstar status after The Usual Suspects opened there. He has an attack of anxiety and exits the festival to stay in a hotel for days. It is a vision of the troubles that beset him, which he attempted to drown in alcohol. His drinking led him to a profound personal crisis, to blackouts and waking up in ignominious situations. Yet he faced down his alcoholism. A great success of this memoir is how he recounts his confrontations with such demons and the clarity with which he expresses his journey. One of his celebrated recent roles was in the HBO series, In Treatment, in which he plays a therapist; Byrne brings elements of the therapist's scrutiny to bear on his own life in this work.

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This is Byrne's first book but there is likely more to follow. His facility for writing, and the fulfilment he evidently took from writing this memoir, suggest so. Byrne's lifelong search for his own voice in acting roles fuses in this book with his journey towards finding his voice as an author. He writes himself as he is rather than as he would wish to be seen. He has the courage to write disjointed sentences, to write episodically, and to portray the ways in which he let people down and behaved dishonourably. The portrait is richer for those struggles and his acceptance of himself.

This book brings the reader, by turns painfully and joyfully but always authentically, into the mind and heart of one of the very finest actors Ireland has ever produced.

tion of memories, to encounter a memory that remains so sealed off to the storyteller. Byrne interpolates that trauma with another sequence, earlier in life. The circumstances are that he is sent to bring food and drink to a group of young men who are working the land. When they have finished eating, they pick on him and the bullying turned sexual. Again, this recalls the film Spotlight, which centres on a group of Boston Globe journalists who broke the story of systemic child abuse and the protection of its perpetrators in Boston. As one outsider character in that film says: "If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a village to abuse one". The abuse Byrne suffered pervaded the culture from which he came, and this memoir stands as a rebuttal to claims of ignorance about it, a fig leaf for Irish communities that colluded in children's suffering. As a lad, Byrne heard stories from boys in his Walkinstown estate about other boys who had been dispatched to 'industrial schools' in Connemara. He recounts hearing about the explicit acts they were made to perform.

After a spell on the Dublin stage and on RTÉ, Byrne was a jobber actor in London. That experience had a catalytic effect on him, as it did for other actors of his generation—Stephen Rea comes to mind. As with Rea, the opportunities that opened up in London for Byrne were bound up with moral and artistic constraints. Byrne grew weary with offers of roles to play a priest or an IRA man. As he said in an interview

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Clare McWilliams, (green jacket) was honored recently at the Celtic Legal Society Luncheon. Pictured with friends and family (l to r): Steneil McWilliams, Nancy McWilliams, Kathleen Parker, Steve Parker, Clare McWilliams, Carol Anderson & Meghan Finley.

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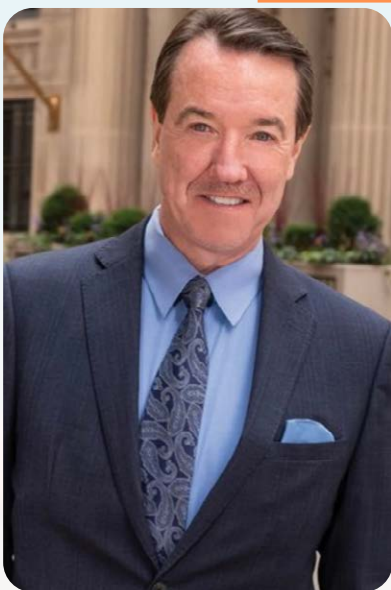
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