

Andy Murray's New Book, Eat Drink and Be Murray Celebrates Family, Fun and Food

Story page 35



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A fervour to acknowledge wrongdoing and to apologise has gripped the political class in Ireland just now. Several recent public expressions of contrition and attempts at expiation are consequential and well worth examining as are the acknowledgements that fell short of full apologies.

Exhibit A came from the newly reinstalled Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, who spoke at a conference about four anti-Treatyites killed during the civil war 100 years ago. On December 8th, 1922, Rory O'Connor, Liam Mellows, Dick Barrett and Joseph McKelvey were executed in prison by the Free State. Varadkar acknowledged that the killings were unconstitutional since the four men were denied a trial and therefore the killings constituted 'murder by any definition'. That was an important statement from the leader of Fine Gael, since it was the government of Fine Gael's founding father, W.T. Cosgrave, that authorised the murders. It is also notable that the head of government can acknowledge that the first Irish Free State government authorised murder but has not, for the time being, offer an official state apology for it.

A state apology in the form of an exoneration was forthcoming for former Irish soldier, Dónal de Róiste, in December. As the Troubles began in 1969, a groundless accusation that de Róiste was involved with 'subversives' led to his being 'retired' from the army. 53 years later, Minister Simon Coveney apologised to de Róiste and acknowledged that he should have been 'afforded the most basic procedures of natural justice and the right to defend himself and his good name'.

Next came former government minister, Alan Dukes, who participated in a documentary television series that screened in December about Sean Quinn, once Ireland's richest man. Dukes' history with Quinn dates to when Dukes glided nicely from government into a top banking job. As former chairman of Anglo-Irish Bank, Dukes was part of a move to seize Quinn's businesses after a fatal investment decision by Quinn heralded the collapse of his empire a decade ago. The hostility between both sides endures and a form of culture war salts the wound: Quinn claims that a coterie of establishment figures, backed by the 'Dublin-based media', conspired

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



to topple a man from the economically depressed border region.

Dukes showed his hand in the documentary. He said: 'Border people have it in their blood. They are living in communities that have a long history of violence of different kinds. They are more easily turned to it than anybody else... whether they have Provo links or B Special links or whatever, it's something that is nearer to the way they think than it would be to somebody in south Tipperary'. Possibly this was Dukes' way of praising people from south Tipperary, but it went down like a zombie bank in the border region. The record of successive governments depriving the border region remains bitter and the former minister's insult is a neat encapsulation of the attitudes that informed such policies. To take a measure of how relatively acceptable Dukes' views are in Ireland, consider what the consequences would have been for Dukes if he had opined that an ethnic group is 'more easily turned to' violence. Dukes apologised: 'Those remarks were entirely unjustified. They offended a great many people and I apologise unreservedly'. He also helpfully added: 'I shouldn't have said it in the way that I said... I'm saying it [violence] happens more quickly in border areas'. So, Dukes now just needs to apologise for the apology and spend some time in the border counties.

Next up was leader of Sinn Féin, Mary Lou McDonald. She responded to Wexford hurling manager, Liam Griffin, whose father was a policeman killed by the IRA, and who lambasted the IRA as 'thugs and murderers' at a book launch. Avoiding the use of the words 'murder' and 'crime' per the Sinn Féin song sheet, McDonald extended her 'sympathy, my heartfelt sorrow, and on behalf of those who were hurt or harmed by republicans in any guise in any set of circumstances, to offer a heartfelt apology'.

Possibly the most consequential apology came from Sinn Féin's Spokesperson on Housing, Eoin Ó Broin. In September, Ó Broin said that the chief economist in the Department of Finance, John McCa-

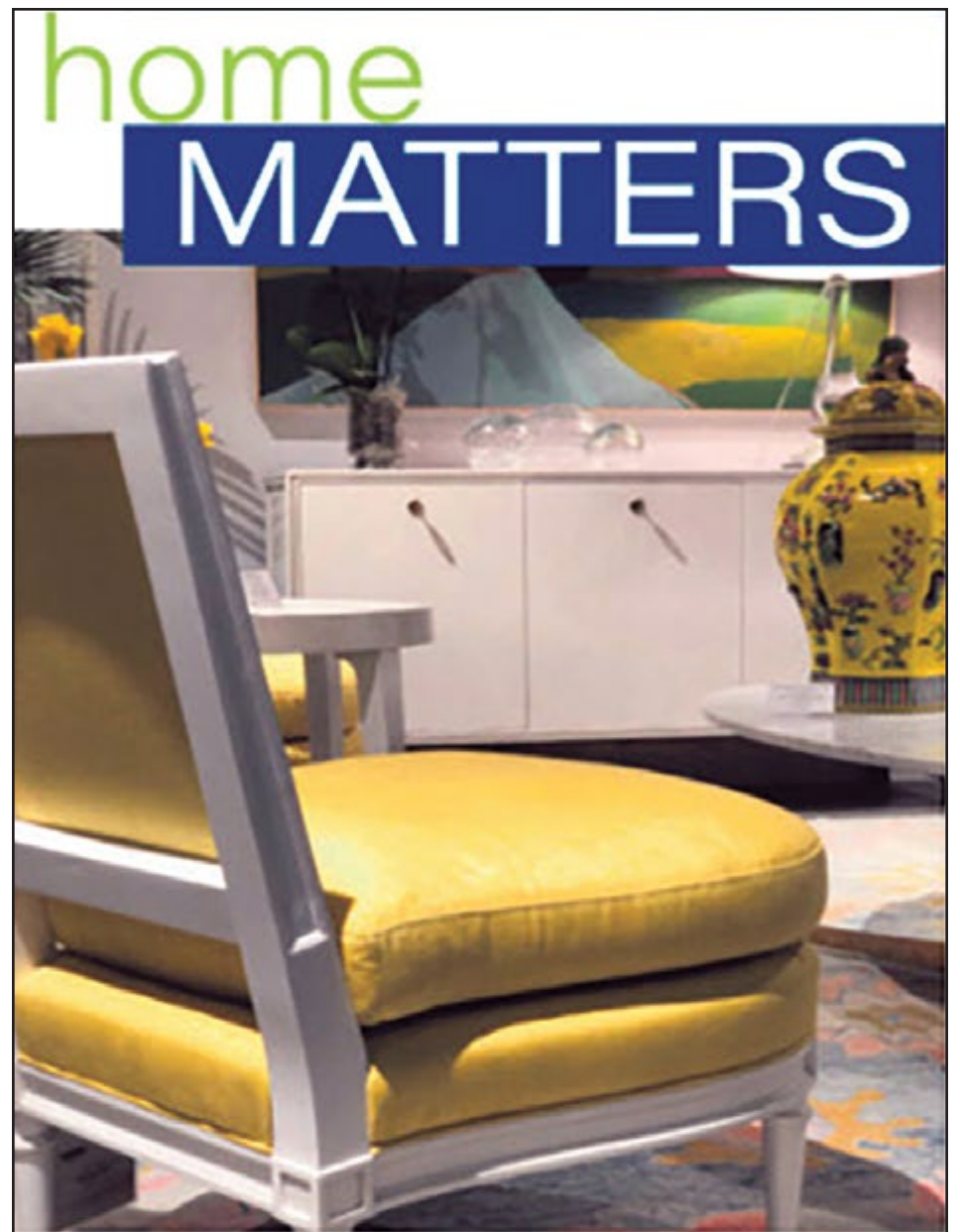
rthy, 'should be sacked'. A politician rounding on a civil servant is never a good look, but the timing was particularly bad. The public was aware of the penchant of the past two disgraced leaders of the Conservative Party in the UK, Boris Johnson and Liz Truss, for firing civil servants and then making disastrous decisions without advice. So Ó Broin paid doubly for his imprudence.

Ó Broin emailed McCarthy: 'I wanted to apologise to you for comments I made at a debate on housing at a festival in Roscommon a number of weeks ago. The remarks were wholly inappropriate and I have publicly retracted them. I apologise for unnecessarily drawing you into this public debate and wish again to reiterate my regret that I made these remarks in the first instance'. McCarthy accepted the apology with good grace. However, the civil servant now has this apology in the bank since the would-be Minister for Housing has created a hostage to fortune.

If Ó Broin becomes Minister for Housing in a future government, and if he ever dared to attempt to fire McCarthy, it would surely be Ó Broin's head that would roll.

This is the same Ó Broin who this time last year said that former leader of his party, Gerry Adams, should apologise for a video he made in which Adams conflated the Christmas jingle (tra la la la) with the IRA's mantra tiocfaidh ár lá lá lá lá. Elected representatives of Sinn Féin whose sights are firmly fixed on forming the next government could do without reminders of that bloody past. Ironically, Ó Broin's call for an apology may have made it harder for Adams to apologise and the party leader, McDonald, said nothing. Apparently, a member of Sinn Féin publicly asking Adams to apologise is a step too far.

The political apologies of recent months in Ireland have ranged from full responsibility to acknowledgement, from avoidance strategies to weasel words. They tell us a lot about the exact parameters of the positions behind the apologies.



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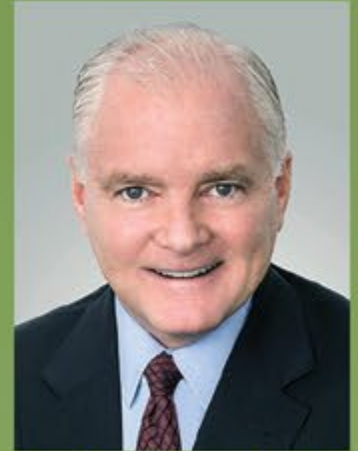


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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

A blight descended upon the Christmas Season. Covid reared its ugly head and despite inoculations galore friends and family were grounded and all festivities came to a halt. The plum pudding is wrapped and frozen for another year, no point in setting a dining room table if there are no guests, so it was ho-hum, sit by the fire allow the tears to fall, read a myriad of Christmas cards, weep some more and finally picked up Roddy Doyle latest novel A Star Called Henry. It helped.

So did a pot of Irish tea, a

slice of fruit cake with marzipan icing as well as an opportunity to bring up memories of Ireland and read the latest edition of *Irish American News*. Ironically I discovered in a box of previous writing a lengthy piece I wrote at age thirteen that surely will be of as much interest to the readers of *Irish American News*, as it was to me. Attending a girl's convent school in Dundalk we were smart pupils very aware of Irish politics.

We decided before the end of the Spring term it was all deValera's fault. He always had such a peculiar sneer on his face putting on airs as if he was better than the rest of us. The queer way he squinted through the small glasses, it was no wonder he was half blind. We decided the latter was his own concern. It was another matter entirely when Eamon DeValera decided that the best course for Ireland was to keep the country pastoral, Irish speaking semi-monastic and an aloof cultural jewel free from

British dominance.

It was not so much that we objected to his semi-monastic requirement, since God knows in a girl's convent school monasticism was the sum and substance of our lives. There wasn't an Irish man, woman or teenager who had come to the age of reason who did not agree that Ireland was a jewel. None of us argued with the idea of keeping England where she belonged.

What got us chocking was the movement to revive the Irish language. The adults often remarked deValera was a rare breed, not because he was born in Brooklyn in the United States of America, but because he went on to become the President and Prime Minister of Ireland and dominated the Irish political scene for half a century.

Mister Dempsey who clipped the hedges at our school said Dev was the best for he was the man who finally proclaimed the Republic and kept Ireland neutral in the war. Any arguments raised to the contrary renders old Dempsey roaring mad, and waving the clippers he'd threaten to cut the tongue out of the disagreeable pupil's head. However there was one obvious gaping flaw in deValera's government and it centered directly on the notion of forcing everyone to speak the native language. Those readers who have learned or

tried to learn Gaelic are aware of the difficulties but Dev was determined that Ireland revert to the Gaelic language. What was entirely unforgivable was his intention to use my generation of youth as the guinea pigs for the experiment.

We listened to him on the wireless, his voice low, his speech deliberate as he philosophized about the "new" Ireland and his dream of reviving the national tongue. When he spoke he threw



Kathy Scott

in Irish phases just like Sister Dymna the head nun at our school when she read the French gourmet menu presented to us in the pupil's dining room on the first Saturday of every month. She'd roll her tongue around Glace Malibou, the Melon au Contreau, the Sol Bonne Femme and the Sea Trout Meunière. She was just showing off like deValera calling everyone "Ma Cairde," as if we were his friends.

At the conclusion of his radio program he blessed the listeners with the Gaelic "Beannagatch de agar," which I think means God's blessings to you, or something akin to that as if anyone except Irish students and Gaelic League members understood a word of it.

Despite our annoyance, we prayed for Dev at the end of Mass every day and offered up the rosary for him at night when he lay in a Dublin hospital ward recovering from eye surgery. While others prayed for him my friend Una Dowell and I prayed that his scheme to send us to the west of Ireland to learn Irish would fail. Una said it would never happen that we'd be sent to the remote sections in the west to live for a summer in thatched cottages with old people who smoked clay pipes and burned turf in the hearth.

But, he claimed that these old Irish, untouched by modernization and still without electricity were Ireland's riches tool and called them into action to pass on not only their language but also their culture. He loved that these people in primitive Ireland were unspoiled and unsullied by modern advances.

And now we are bombarded by Kathy Scott, a woman who seems to suffer shame because she is not Irish speaking. She says she's finding a healing path back to relearning the language. I have not heard any updates, but this woman claims not knowing Gaelic is somehow traumatic and that trauma has to be healed in a delicate process of unlearning and relearning our relationship to



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our Irish cultural identity.

Kathy Scott grew up in County Tipperary and she loved Gaelic in school, but alas hide that love because it was considered backward and uncool. She eventually emigrated to London and was ashamed of her Irish identity. "I lived in a self-inflicted exile for many years not knowing where to call home. She has finally returned to her Irish roots and has found meaning in Irish mythology, music, theatre, poetry and art. She offers many routes to restoration and pathways to connection. "We can slow down, tell stories and sing songs", adding "we can dance and laugh, build community and be better ancestors in-training, and we can speak our mother tongue".

She clearly means business and has opened an Irish School, Scoil Scairte, offering a nine week immersion in Irish cultural heritage that weaves language, place, identity and wellbeing.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



And again, thanks to all of you who take the time to read these ramblings. I wish each and every one of you the very best for 2023.
charleybrady@gmail.com

The Long Day Closes Another One Begins

For various reasons, not least my long-established rule of leaving everything to the very last Christmas minute, this column will be a short one. Which ought to bring grief to absolutely no one on the planet. It’s also going to be a bit on the self-indulgent side since I want to bookend the old year before the new one starts.

Truth is, I’ve been feeling at the end of something for a while now. Like that old cliché of one door closing and another opening. And it has had me reflecting on a life lived, not always well and sometimes selfishly, but always with a certain amount of passion, I hope.

I also want to voice a very sincere thanks to all of you over the past twenty years (yes - twenty, how scary is that?) who have written to me. You’ll never know how much I appreciate the time that anyone takes to write. But it is always appreciated.

Those of you who became long-time correspondents - you know who you are and how much I’m touched, even when you don’t agree with me. So, I’ll only mention a few names. One is Joyce in Chicago, whose sense of humour and very funny emails and memes have often lifted me up when I’ve been in a blue fugue. Joyce, I hope to see you in Galway in 2023.

Also, to someone who became a real friend along the way: Cork ex-pat Mike Bowen. Mike and his son were on holiday here from Australia this year and both helped me to celebrate a very enjoyable birthday. And if you are interested in Ireland at a certain point in history then let me recommend Mike’s book, ‘[A Time of Secrets](#)’.

And just because she is a new correspondent, let me say thanks to Sharon, who has that rare gift of writing as I imagine she talks. Nice to meet you, Sharon. But really, just thanks to all who take the time to write.

I was in my mid-forties when I started ‘*Swimming Upstream*’ and now in my mid-sixties, and I’m not the same angry person I was (although there’s always something in Ireland to set your teeth on edge). So, I guess that the column has changed a bit over the years. But Cliff Carlson, the publisher-editor has never altered anything I wrote, even when he didn’t like it. Views on the presidency of Donald Trump come to mind. So, thanks for that, Cliff.

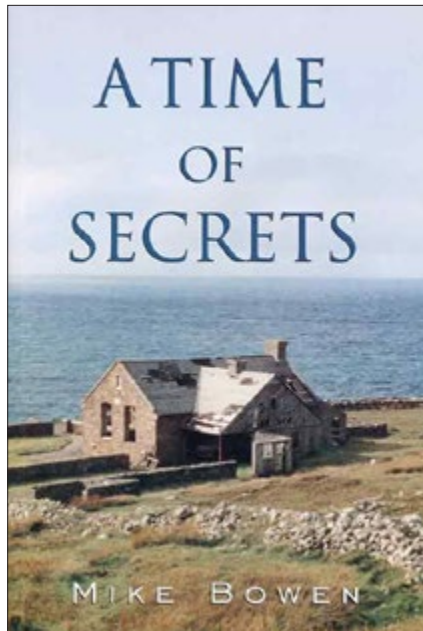
No life is lived without regrets and one of mine is that I didn’t stay at home a little longer. Indeed, it was only in later years that I got to know my late parents. And that was my loss. But I was seventeen when I left and you can blame a guy called Joe on that, even though he was a fictional character in James A. Michener’s ‘The Drifters’.

I wanted to knock around Europe and Africa as Joe did when he was dodging the Vietnam draft. And I never really went back. I was thinking yesterday of how fearless I was back then, as indestructible as any teenager - and I was thinking this as I slowly negotiated our currently icy pavements, worrying about breaking a hip! Down Time’s corridor I can hear that young man laughing at me. But it’s bookends again, isn’t it?

I’m one of those sad blokes who couldn’t hammer a nail and would be hard put to change a light bulb; but being able to string a couple of sentences together gave me the gift of traveling the world for several years and getting paid for it. And that is quite a gift, because this is quite a world.

Almost as good is that my ferocious love of books and films has let me travel even farther: I’ve gone to the far side of the universe with David Bowman; swung through the trees with Tarzan of the Apes and visited the centre of the earth with David Innes; scaled the walls of Castle Dracula with Jonathan Harker.

And now, thanks to Galway’s Silent Cinema I’ll be doing a Vlog for the first time, as well as various articles on silent cinema history - and in the new year beginning to plan a silent film festival. Check out their website, <https://www.silentcinema.ie/> I think it’s an exciting idea. Thanks for the invitation on board, Adam - you’ve given me a new lease on life.



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Game On! By Chris Wheaton



As I sit here writing this article for the upcoming January issue I am waiting for the start of the Argentina vs. Croatia soccer match in the semi-finals of the World Cup. It has been quite a tournament so far with upsets galore and drama at every turn. Who would have thought that soccer royalty like Germany would not advance to the round of 16 based on an opening match loss to lowly Japan, or that the semi-finals would be void of Brazil, Belgium and Spain? That being said, how is it that Belgium, the number 2 ranked team in the FIFA World Rankings did not even advance from the group stage but Australia, the number 38 ranked team did? Crazy stuff but it certainly has made for some great entertainment.

I'm not sure what I can even say about Team USA. They/we were knocked out in the round of 16 again but I suppose it is a moral victory that we advanced out of the so-called Group of Death, even though some other groups turned out to be much more difficult to advance from. The soccer pundits have started the post-mortem on what went wrong for the American side and frankly it seems to be the same conversation that is heard every four years. "We need a striker",

"we suck at set plays", "the coach has to go", are all common refrains when the US team doesn't live up to the fan's expectations. But are the expectations realistic? Is the US Soccer Federation doing everything it should be doing to develop our nation into a soccer power? It is estimated that somewhere close to 70% of boys aged 5-18 play soccer at some level in the United States. If that is the case why are we not winning more? The fans will say that we had the youngest team in the tournament and they needed to develop but what is the guarantee that will happen in the next four years? We have all seen this movie before, where America's team does well and creates hope and hysteria for the future only to fall on their faces again. I hate to sound cynical and pessimistic but the team's inconsistency was glaring. I know, the "experts" say that on the "right day" the US can beat any team in the world and although that may be true, they hardly ever win a match in which they didn't play well for the entire game.

At some point we have to face the harsh reality that soccer doesn't really matter to most Americans. There

are the diehard fans who get up early on Saturday and Sunday to watch the Premier League (I confess to being one of them), but soccer is woefully under reported in the media here. It doesn't have huge financial backing and frankly our athletes are a bit entitled. That's a topic for another day but until the day comes that major corporations and the big spenders get involved, soccer will always be in the back seat.

I'm more than happy to be a part of the soccer loving minority and stay abreast of the top club teams (Up Liverpool), and to be honest it is sometimes better that way. Getting a seat at the pub for a big game is rarely a problem but we miss out on the fun and excitement of watching with like-minded fans. The exception was the USA vs. England match in the group stage of this World Cup. Quigley's Irish Pub in downtown Naperville was packed with an equal number of English and American fans. The atmosphere was electric and great fun was had by all except for the fact that both teams pretty much tried not to lose rather than win. It's sad to think that we have to wait 4 more years to experience anything like that again.

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↑↑ Artist Brian Boylan attended iBAM! 2022 in October 2022, and was so impressed with the Irish American Heritage Center that he donated this large, original painting, the Children of Lir, to the Center.

The painting has arrived at the Center and will be on the walls by the time you read this! Make sure you stop on over at 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago IL 60630. Brian can be thanked at boylan6@aol.com

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Irish American News would like to bid a fond farewell to Marian Ryan, who has retired as the General Manager of Gaelic Park! Here's to having fun without the obligations!

Mary Pat Flanagan
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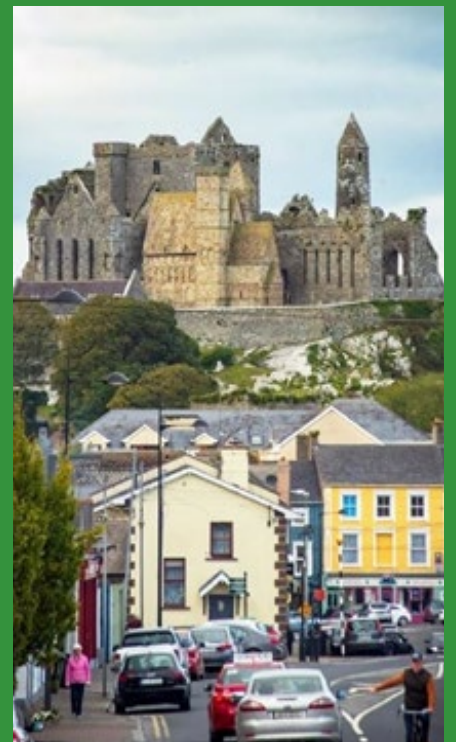
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Northern Ireland, A Front Burner Issue

Written for the Irish American News...

By Thomas J. O'Gorman
Recent decisions by President Joseph R. Biden have decidedly tightened the safety and security of Northern Ireland. I believe they also give the people of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland their brightest hope for a peace that arcs across the whole island of Ireland from Londonderry

to Bantry Bay. And from the Giants Causeway to the Cliffs of Moher.

I write applauding the president's appointment of a Special Presidential Envoy to Northern Ireland, former Massachusetts Congressman Joe Kennedy III. A name gilded with intelligent service to the our nation and

remarkable diplomatic sensitivity to complicated global difficulties.

The 42 year old Kennedy, a Stanford undergrad and Harvard Law alum, comes to his post with wide and refined understanding of issues that the six Northern Ireland counties now face.

With this important appointment, President Biden places the complex dynamics of Northern Ireland's future on a front burner at the White House.

The Kennedy appointment takes place amid the dangerous dilemmas caused by Britain's withdrawal from the European Union. An action that set in motion hard to control fractions in the life of Northern Ireland. And though the resulting sensitivity of the present moment offers difficult solutions at best, Northern Ireland's people and political leadership unequivocally know that they have the support and partnership of the United States of America in what lies ahead for them.

The appointment of Mr. Kennedy, a grandson of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy (D. NY) demonstrates a great defining act of hope in its people's ability to resolve the complexity of present crises. Even without the presence of a sitting executive in power.

I am reminded of a similar presidential appointment back in 1995 when President Bill Clinton chose Maine Senator George J. Mitchell, Senate Majority leader, to the newly created post of Special Envoy to Northern Ireland at a critical juncture in its history.

Mitchell held the post until 2001. A brilliant period of growing understanding and intelligent opportunities for peace. In 1998, his efforts culminated in the Belfast Agreement, otherwise known as the Good Friday Agreement, that still guides minds and hearts on both sides of the Irish border. It is fair to say that given now a renewal of the high priority that Northern Ireland continues to enjoy at the White House, Americans can expect no less hope that the promises already sown there will continue to grow.

In the almost three decades since the signing of the Good Friday Accords much has changed in the environment of Northern Ireland.

The armed conflict of the past has been buried and remains still.

The economic advantages of peace have ripened.

The population of Northern Ireland has radically changed from a Protestant majority to a Catholic plurality far different from its make up 100 years ago, when Ireland was given its independence from Britain. And a six county separate nation was convened.

Now not only is there a Catholic majority, but the political consequences of peace and leadership change have given Sinn Fein, once seen as a threat to peace, now standing in a dynamic leadership role in government.

These transitions and fundamental alterations to Northern Irish politics and culture have evolved in an environment of renewed understanding and respect

that is essential for the future.

The ensuing peace and stability has been a most needed impactful resource following Britain's historic decision to exit the European Union.

But the most immediate issue, of course, is the political and cultural fallout following Britain's leaving the EU. Deep concerns arise that after years of lowering the border of separation between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, conditions might cause those borders and checkpoints to be re-established for the sake of trade and tariffs.

Sadly, Britain believes Northern Ireland, as part of the United Kingdom, is also now a non-Europe member. But remains surrounded on all sides by an energetic and prospering EU member in the Irish Republic.

Many feel that the borders need to be raised once more. And that essential financial issues must be faced by Northern Ireland with a hard line. Such a regressive turn around puts an end to the reasonable progress of peace since the Good Friday Accords.

All this places the Republic of Ireland in a complex situation. No one on either side of the antiquated 1922 border has the emotional stamina and resolve to return to a system of border controls and checkpoints marking out national geographical separation.

Such past understandings appear counter productive following decades of peace, understanding and solid economic growth.

Britain, itself, now faces some serious restructuring of its fabled Commonwealth. Several nations now indicate their reluctance to continue recognizing the British monarch as their Head of State.

Some nations have already set the date for radical change. The recent death of Queen Elizabeth II after seventy years on the throne is itself an initiate for such change among many Commonwealth nations.

Questions are again being surfaced in larger Commonwealth nations like Australia, New Zealand and Canada to change the practice of the monarch, thousands of miles away, being the head of state. Much political emotion and power resides in this question that the new King, Charles III, must now accommodate.

Scotland has already declared itself a battleground with the demand for a vote of separation presently being studied and debated in court, parliament, homes, offices and pubs. The union of kingdoms appears to now have a limited lifespan. In Northern Ireland's case it is both timely and intensified by Irish history that holds many turns and curves.

All the emotion and the politics involved have a unique Irish set of reference and history. Any question regarding Northern Ireland's own unique position in the life of the kingdom must be asked with a dutiful understanding regarding the unusual circumstances in its creation, and its historic development. A steady diplomatic hand on the part of the United States

can sustain weary citizens and leaders. A personal envoy can ensure that the full details for complex solutions can have their exposure. A timely restoration of a personal relationship of competence is needed by the president. The teetotaling Kennedy is just the man.

After a century of stormy political life and disparaging economic progress, the reality of a second nation on the soil of Ireland's small island appears stranger than ever. The biases that first formed its unusual identity may no longer fit the contours of modern history.

Often times it is confusing. Factionalized. Wrought with sectarian fears and tribal wounds. A personal envoy is a critical necessity for any hope of careful understanding.

A fresh Presidential Envoy has the chance to help aid in such critical national discussions. And can allow the true nature of its truth to remain front and center.

A Presidential Envoy has the capacity to speak with freedom and truthfulness. And has the mandate to keep America's Chief Executive well aware of the patterns of dialogue and the geography of needed assistance.

The impact of such a vigilant observer of unfolding national realities is profound. Beyond the boundaries of Irish sentimentality, or even poetic Irish romanticism. It stands as a reminder, every day, of the need for accurate and clear thinking in any assessments. An activity at which members of the Kennedy Family excel.

The personal envoy keeps in focus the ultimate goal of sustaining safe and successful citizens in the six Northern counties with equal access to their history. And equal access to their culture.

There is no place for the religious and cultural biases of the past. Embracing the consequences and opportunities of European life is a birthright of all Irish citizens on both sides of the border. Should such behavior return, the President must be in a position of recalibrating its discussion accurately and offering immediate alternatives.

President Biden, long a supporter of the Irish cause, needs eyes and ears on the Irish soil he can both clearly understand and trust.

In 1998, Senator Mitchell was awarded the Liberty Medal. Accepting it, he echoed a dynamic hope in the possibilities of courage and change in the bitterness and mayhem in both Northern Ireland and across the world. Today, his words lend a particular ripeness and urgency to the Kennedy appointment. So filled with the possibilities of the great embrace of fresh opportunities for a new generation.

"I believe," Mitchell said, "there's no such thing as a conflict that can't be ended. They're created and sustained by human beings. They can be ended by human beings. No matter how ancient the conflict, no matter how hateful, no matter how hurtful, peace can prevail."

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Like most Irish people, their parents and grandparents, who travelled to the great city of Chicago to find new opportunities for their families and establish a new life here, I can still recall the emotions I felt in leaving my small village in northern Mexico and the new bike I had gotten for Christmas to join my father in Chicago in February of 1965.

Boarding the train with my mother and siblings, embarking on a journey to a new land I felt scared yet hopeful and I had no way of knowing the future ahead of me.

When I first arrived in the Pilsen neighborhood, I was struck by the freezing wind and the feeling of isolation that came with not being able to communicate with the people I would come to know as my neighbors. But as time went on, I became thankful for growing up in such an incredible community.

It was on those blocks on the lower west side of Chicago that I not only learned to speak English but also about community organizing, the Civil Rights Movement, and the farm workers' movement. It was where I had my political awakening.

What struck me the most was the opportunity to celebrate and bring to bear our unique cultural identity to our public duties. I found in Chicago, a city that celebrates diversity and that held out a welcome to all nationalities.

Like the many great Irish public representatives that have proudly served our city, I recognize our similarities and I am proud that that I can call on our shared experiences to best represent the people of Chicago. I will always be grateful to the people of Chicago and the great nation of the US to make my home and afford me the privilege of representing them as US Congressman. I am proud of the great Irish team that have come together to support my campaign for Mayor of Chicago. I am also proud of my work in supporting all communities and funding

for community projects. Recognizing the challenges of building a new life for your family in this great country has given me particular insight into the plight of the undocumented in Chicago and



Chuy Garcia

the hurdles they face. As a strong advocate for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, with direction from myself as Mayor and the many other Democratic Mayors of our major cities, I believe that under President Biden we have the opportunity to provide greater rights for the undocumented.

With the inclusive input of the Irish members of my team, I am proud to have supported Welcoming State, Welcoming County, and Welcoming City and the Driving License Bill for the undocumented. I am running to be the next Mayor of the City of Chicago because I believe in a Chicago for everyone. The same Chicago that welcomed me as a 9-year-old

immigrant boy from a small village in Mexico and gave me a chance to dream big. Throughout my career, I've been lucky to give back to the community that raised me as a community

first Black Mayor and chart a new course for our city.

When my friend and mentor, Rudy Lozano, was assassinated and my community once again felt robbed of its hope, we came together. My neighbors drafted and elected me to the Chicago City Council, where we ended a period of division we call the "Council Wars." We replaced division and hostility with unity and collaboration. We ushered in a new era of a City Government that worked for all Chicagoans.

Then I took the fight to Springfield, where I served as State Senator and worked to advance the rights of the immigrants across our state. With the advice and guidance of my advisors on my team,

After serving in the Illinois Senate, I returned to community organizing and founded the Little Village Community Development Corporation.

As Executive Director, I worked to establish community school and violence prevention programs, pro bono legal representation for immigrants, and more local public schools for communities on the Southwest side of Chicago.

In 2019, Chicagoans sent me to Washington, where I continued to deliver for Chicago's working families as one of the first Mexican immigrants sworn into the US Congress.

In Congress, I supported the Irish E3 Bill and helped author the President's Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan to upgrade our crumbling infrastructure and create good-paying jobs in our communities. I fought to pass the Inflation Reduction Act, emphasize energy savings for families and fight climate change while reducing the budget deficit.

As your candidate for Mayor, I recognize the shared experience of our communities. Now, I'm ready to come home and build a brighter future for our city – together.



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THANK YOU JESSE WHITE:

Dear Jesse, I want to thank you for being what I consider a shining example of the way to live a life.

I have always respected your professional demeanor, and your work with the young tumblers. I imagine a majority of the kids you mentored have led productive lives. All most of us need is respect, and you have delivered that in our business dealings & every time I saw the Jesse White Tumblers perform.

As far as I know you have dealt from the top of the deck your entire life.

I was saddened to hear you were kept out of a career in baseball by one person who was bigoted. Baseball's loss was Chicago's gain. Whomever helped you succeed in the political arena deserves kudos as well.

I also heard on WBEZ, 91.5 fm that you ran into bigotry in Chicago's Southside Parade, and that you haven't appeared in it since.

It is my hope that you would reconsider, as there are an overwhelming majority of folks who probably feel as I do, and you would be most welcome.

Here 's hoping you have much success and fun in your well deserved retirement!

Cliff Carlson, Publisher, Irish American News

Neil Patrick Jordan

Who is Neil Patrick Jordan? He is an Irish film director & screenwriter. He is the Steven Spielberg (the billionaire from Cincinnati) of Ireland. Jordan was born in Sligo (Yeats county). I think a director must have great multi-tasking power, creativity, visionary leadership skills, and excellent time management.

Jordan has said he was brought up Catholic and very religious at one stage of his life, but his faith vanished. He said, “God is the greatest imaginary being of all time. Along with Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity (based on the idea that massive objects cause a distortion in space & time, gravity) God is probably the greatest creation of a human thought”.

I am highlighting Jordan this month but his views on religion don’t align with mine. I believe the total opposite. I know the topic of God is a real debate, it leads to wild arguments and different shades of opinions.

I feel there is plenty of evidence that God is real and exists. For example, think of your life, did you ever experience a miracle?

Jordan is also a short story writer; his first book was *Night in Tunisia*. Jordan created, *The Borgias*, TV series. He worked for RTE. Jordan has received many honorary doctorates. He has donated



GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

By Tina Butler



several of his movie archives to the National Library of Ireland. A few of Jordan’s famous films include *In the Company of Wolves, The Crying Game, Greta, The Butcher Boy, The Brave One & Byzantium*.

There are several famous directors/producers who have been accused and or convicted of sexual harassment such as Woody Allen, Roman Polanski, & Harvey Weinstein. Weinstein was sentenced to 23 years in prison. Woody Allen was never charged however; most would agree he is a pedophile. I think, some men, not all, in powerful positions “think” they can do what they want

and there won’t be any consequences. They abuse their power to manipulate and take advantage of situations. Some very wealthy men/women play the system by doling out cash and settle suits with victims and settlements to buy their silence. Also, abusers have bankrolled political candidates and they make it more complicated to get the truth out. The deafest ears are often found in the legal system.

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BOOKS by Irish Authors or About Irish Subjects!



Books in Review

By Michael Corrigan



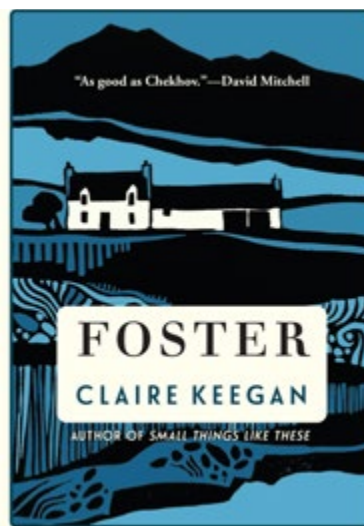
a lengthy literary epic. Keegan’s fiction arrives in slim volumes. Her 2020 novella, for example, called Small Things Like These, was shortlisted for the prestigious Booker Prize at 116 pages, the shortest work of fiction ever to be nominated

Foster was originally published in the New Yorker in 2010, and finally, Claire Keegan is seeing her work published for a wider audience in America.

The story of Foster is simple enough. An unnamed girl is sent to stay at a farm with relatives, John and Edna Kinsella, while her mother gives birth to yet another child. Her father drops her off and is often brief and dismissive of her, hoping she isn’t an embarrassment to her family at the new foster home. His last words to her are, “Try not to fall into the fire, you.”

The girl tells the story from her limited viewpoint, and we pick up on many subtle nuances. Much of the short novel describes the simple chores of rural Irish life: Edna bathes the unkempt girl, gives her clean hand-me-downs to wear and together, they pull rhubarb, make tarts, paint the skirting boards, take all the bedclothes out of the hot press and vacuum out the spiderwebs. The girl begins to relax and feel less self-conscious.

There is one disturbing clue. A closet holds hand-me-down children’s clothes, some given to the visiting girl. What happened to the child? The reader



later discovers the Kinsella family has lost a son in a tragic accident. It is also interesting the novel has no time given, though there is the mention of a hunger striker dying, linking the story to a 1980 conflict in Ireland.

Keegan’s prose is simple, clear and lyrical. Here is an example:

When the girl accompanies Edna to milk the cows, she thinks, “I can hear them pulling the grass up from the roots. The breeze, crossing the rim of the bucket, whispers sometimes as we walk along. Neither one of us talks, the way people sometimes don’t when they are happy – but as soon as I have this thought, I realize its opposite is also true.”

The beauty of this novella is that despite no obvious drama, there is a gradual awareness in the girl that the Kinsella family genuinely cares for her and offers genuine love, something she has not experienced, before. At one point, John Kinsella holds her

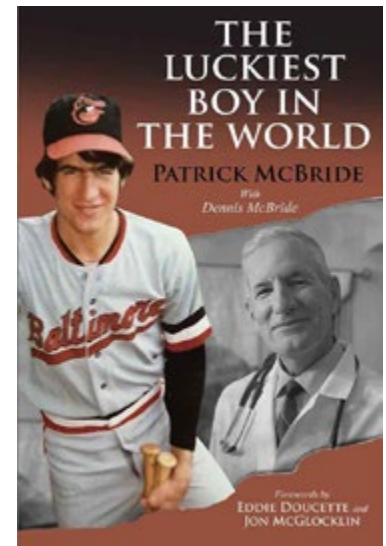
hand, something her insensitive father would never do. (I should mention, there is no suggestion of pedophilia in Foster. The love for the girl is genuine.)

There is one scene where she is taken to a wake where mourners place their drinks on the closed part of the coffin while discussing the latest news, including the price of sheep dip, the kind of story I heard many times growing up in an Irish family. A nosy neighbor, Mildred, agrees to take the girl outside and immediately assaults her with personal questions about Kinsella and Edna. Does he drink, does she drink, do they use butter or margarine in their pastry, etc. Mildred is furious when the girl can’t answer her prying questions.

NPR critic, Maureen Corrigan, captures the Keegan gift in one sentence: “Keegan is a writer who revels in the suspense of the unspoken, the held breath” (NPR).

The summer comes to an end, the girl has a new brother, and the Kinsella family must turn over the girl to her father. Only a truly fine writer could make the final farewell and hand over so heartbreaking.

I hope this literary gem finds American readers.



The Luckiest Boy in the World

Is written by Patrick McBride and Dennis McBride.

The authors have taken a subject that is dear to any young boy’s heart, and even many adults’ hearts, and written how baseball, basketball, and football can help youngsters find themselves and learn to be better people, especially when working behind the scenes in the dugout and clubhouse with the players.

The authors have written with such sensitivity, care, and honesty without destroying anyone’s good names or letting secrets out when they had access to the locker rooms, dugouts, clubhouse, etc. when working with the Milwaukee Brewers, Green Bay Packers, and Milwaukee Bucks.

The book takes the reader on a beautiful trip, both historical and personal. All the characters - famous, infamous, and just ordinary people - have a very important place in the telling of this wonderfully insightful and thought-provoking story. Available on Amazon & others.

Foster by Claire Keegan

Grove Press, \$10 I remember a writer friend asking why Irish writers seem to dominate the literary field. In the 20th century, the very people who had their Irish language

extinguished—at least for a time—produced four Nobel Prize winners: William Butler Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett and Seamus Heaney. Claire Keegan, who grew up on a farm in Ireland, has written a short novel, Foster, that is more a long story than a short novel, but it has the power of

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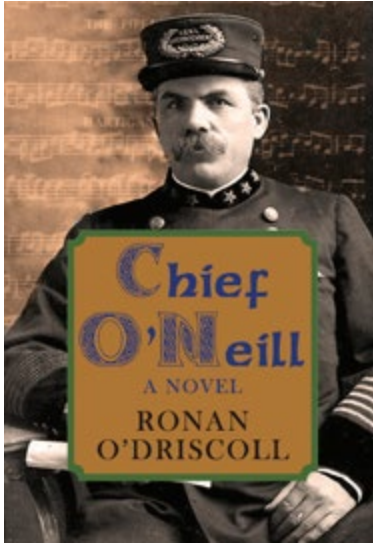
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BOOKS by Irish Authors or About Irish Subjects!

The Chicago Police Chief Who Saved Irish Music

Size: 296pp
 Format: Paperback
 Genre: Fiction/Historical
 His books of Irish music are famous worldwide, yet the amazing life story of Francis O’Neill (1848-1936) is not as well known. At sixteen he became a sailor, leaving Cork to travel the world. By twenty, he had circumnavigated the globe having many adventures, including surviving shipwreck on a remote tropical island. He settled in Chicago with his new wife Anna. They joined many immigrants looking for work just as the city was visited by catastrophe: The Great Fire of 1871.

play music in the house again. He retired from the force and buried Rogers in the family mausoleum a year later. Subsequent generations of Irish musicians, to this day, openly admit their debt and gratitude to the man who saved Irish music.



He struggled in those early years working as a packer in the cruel conditions of the Chicago stockyards. Tragedy visited the young O’Neill family: of their ten children, only four survived to adulthood. In 1873, he received a break when hired as an officer on the burgeoning police force. He was only a month on the job when shot by a criminal he still managed to arrest. He carried the bullet lodged next to his spine for the rest of his life. He went on to serve twice as police chief, all the time gathering tunes and musicians, some of whom he hired to the force.

In 1903, he published his first book: O’Neill’s Music of Ireland. He was to follow this first book of tunes with several more. However, this musical and professional success was tarnished by terrible personal loss. In 1904, his only son Roger died at eighteen from spinal meningitis. Grief-stricken, Francis swore he would never

he graduated with a Masters in English literature. Ronan currently lives with his wife and children in Nova Scotia, Canada. Like O’Neill, Ronan found Irish music an important way to keep connected with his roots. It was through learning fiddle tunes that he came to know of Francis O’Neill’s compelling story. Chief O’Neill is his second novel.

“A magical blend of history and fiction that encapsulates the life of one of Ireland’s most remarkable musical diaspora.”— Michelle Walsh-Jackson, novelist and travel writer.

“Ronan O’Driscoll’s lyrical prose is breathtaking in its dedication to the details of the moment. Chief O’Neill is the story he was meant to tell.”— Gerard Collins, novelist.

“A great book that can be recommended to anyone with an interest in historical adventure and travel fiction, or maybe anyone just looking for a good story” IRISH ECHO New York
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The Author
 Originally from Kerry, Ronan O’Driscoll moved to Chicago as a teenager in the 1980s. He returned to Ireland to study at University College Dublin where



Enjoying the American Ireland Fund Gala, Dec., 6, 2022 (l to r): Nick Nicholas, Sarah Keating, Meghan Lee, Katie Fitzpatrick, Bridget Conway, and Paul Dowling

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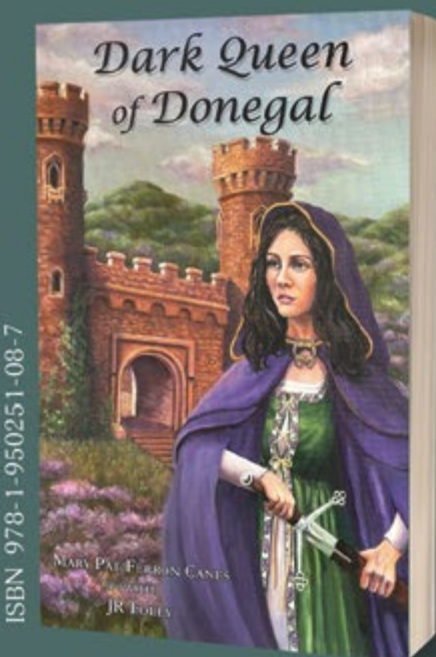
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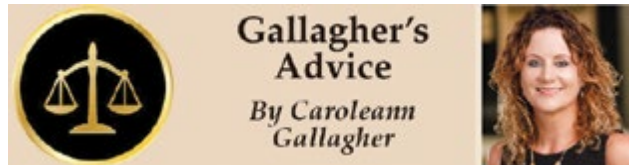


Riveting, action-packed, historically authentic, *Dark Queen of Donegal* tells the story of Ineen Dubh, a Scotswoman who became a Queen in Ireland and pitted herself against Elizabeth I to rescue her son, Red Hugh O’Donnell, from prison in Dublin to make him king in Ulster.

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 —Mary Pat Kelly, bestseller *Galway Bay*

“...will draw you into Ineen’s perilous life as queen, warrior, politician, wife, and mother of seven children...”
 —Maureen Stack Sappéy, *Letters from Vinnie*

“...portrays Ineen Dubh as a strong and at times ruthless leader driven by the solid belief that hers is the son of an ancient prophecy to liberate Ireland from growing foreign rule...”
 —Amb. Francis O’Donnell, *The O’Donnells of Tyrconnell—A Hidden Legacy*



**Gallagher's
Advice**
By Caroleann
Gallagher

Do I Have to Sign an Arbitration Agreement?

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy during these colder months. The colder temperatures are bringing a lot of colds and sickness to many families, and I hope you and yours are safe and well. A lot of families have suffered this past year by the sweeping aftereffects of the Coronavirus pandemic and an increasingly difficult economy which has seen all things in life become more expensive. It has been well reported that nursing homes and their residents have been particularly hard hit by this deadly virus and other illnesses common in the Winter months.

Despite the worrying trend, placing a loved one into a nursing home is still a reality for many families and my focus this month is an attempt to educate IAN readers who might be faced with this step. During the admission to a nursing home, serious discussions will be necessary and many papers will be placed in front of you and/or your loved ones and you may be unsure what they mean or what to do with them. The admission papers to a nursing home include admission contracts, health authorizations, Medicare documentation, Power of Attorney forms and Do Not Resuscitate Directives, to name but a few. This month I will focus on the increasingly popular phenomenon of presenting residents and their families with arbitration agreements as part of the Nursing Home admission process.

No one enters a nursing home imagining that he or she will be mistreated or neglected there. Unfortunately, even in the best nursing homes, things can and do go wrong. If they do, residents can get hurt and harmed or worse. Our elderly population are some of the most vulnerable members of our society and we absolutely need to protect their rights to seek a remedy if they suffer harm, injuries, and losses as a result of neglect and poor care at a nursing home. Often times at the beginning of a

nursing home admission, the facility will ask the resident and/or their family to sign an Arbitration agreement or clause as part of the admission process. The primary purpose of an arbitration agreement or clause takes away the rights of residents and their families to seek justice in the court system. The purpose of this article is to advise you at the outset, please know you DO NOT HAVE TO SIGN an arbitration agreement or arbitration clause to be admitted into a Nursing Home.

What is an Arbitration Agreement/Clause?

Arbitration agreements take away your rights to pursue a nursing home for negligence or wrongdoing, in a court of law and instead sets out alternative ways to deal with complaints of wrongdoing or negligence, which will deprive you of your right to a trial by jury. Generally, arbitration agreements heavily favor the nursing home against the interests of the resident. They will generally entail a provision that any dispute will be heard by an Arbitrator, not a Judge and often-times, the nursing home will be the entity to choose who the Arbitrator is. Generally, they will not allow a matter to proceed before a jury and your inherent basic right in that regard will be lost. Often times an arbitration agreement will state that final decisions are binding with no right of appeal and the decisions are almost always confidential so the facility's wrongdoing or negligence will remain a secret. Sometimes Arbitration agreements take the form of an actual separate agreement, which is easily recognizable but other times, the language of an arbitration Agreement can be buried deep within the rest of the nursing home resident's admission documentation - which can be confusing and difficult to spot when you are presented with so much paperwork to sign. Thus, the admission process should not be rushed, and you should be given sufficient time and space to look over and understand everything you or your loved ones are being asked to sign.

What Are Your Rights?

If presented with an arbitration agreement or if you notice an arbitration clause within the nursing home admission paperwork your attention should be awakened

and you should not proceed any further without fully understanding what you are being asked to sign. Fortunately, Federal guidelines do give residents and their families a number of rights that will protect you when confronted with such an agreement. Some of these are set out below:

- You HAVE the RIGHT to REFUSE to sign the agreement. Just say No!
- If the arbitration clause/paragraph is buried within your admission contract, CROSS IT OUT. Put your initials by the crossed-out section and date it.
- If the arbitration agreement is in a separate form on its own, just refuse to sign the actual form.
- A Nursing home CANNOT DENY your admission or discharge to a nursing home because you refuse to sign their arbitration agreement.
- Nursing homes are required to explain to you the arbitration agreement and its purpose. Often times they will ask you to sign a piece of paper to confirm that they did in fact explain the arbitration agreement to you. Be careful when you are signing this, so as to ensue you are not actually signing the arbitration agreement, in lieu of just acknowledging that the nursing home explained it all to you.
- If you do sign an arbitration agreement, you must be allowed thirty days to rescind or undo the agreement.

My colleagues and I here at Coogan Gallagher are always happy to discuss any questions or concerns you might have if you are facing the difficult decision to enter a nursing home or place a loved one in a nursing home. As always, our consultations are free and we would be happy to discuss any of your concerns in this area. I wish you all the best for the coming year and may 2023 be kind to you and your loved ones.

**Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney now licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of personal injury law - including nursing home litigation, medical malpractice law, wrongful death claims, transportation injuries, premises liability claims, defective product claims, construction site injuries and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at cgallagher@cgtrial.com or at 312-543-4642.*

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Midsize: The Truths and Strategies of Marketing in Midsize Firms

by Julia Fitzgerald

After working in both large and midsize firms across various business sectors, Julia Fitzgerald came to realize that the size of a firm does indeed matter when looking for your dream job. And now, post-pandemic, we are experiencing what's being called the "great resignation." Employees across multiple sectors have come to the conclusion that they weren't satisfied with their work, the typical corporate mumbo jumbo and red tape. So...they left.

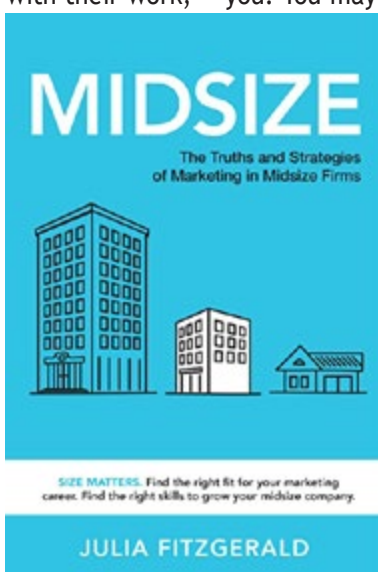
Midsize gives readers an insider's look at how the organization size can impact the work experience for marketers. This book is the guidebook for those just charting their path in marketing, CMOs who are evaluating their best fit, and CEOs of midsize organizations who are evaluating their marketing team and growth strategies. Candid and witty, Julia is a clear voice of experience in marketing and management. Midsize provides a collection of stories from Julia and other leaders in the marketing space providing readers with growth strategies to use for their own midsize teams. Smart,

scrappy, digital, and savvy, this is a no-nonsense read on how to get big impact with limited resources.

If you are a marketing professional looking to switch careers or move into management, or if you are feeling unfulfilled at a big Fortune whatever company with an impressive brand name, this book is the one for you. You may just find that a midsize organization is the perfect size for you.

About the Author

Julia Fitzgerald is a chief marketing officer and senior executive with over 20 years of leadership experience, specializing in strategic work that reinvents brands and drives growth. Fitzgerald has led successes with American Lung Association, Thermos, Sylvan Learning, Sears, Kmart, Vtech, Hallmark, Azek and Timbertech, always choosing brands that seek dynamic, creative marketing pivots.



Fitzgerald's experience spans CPG, retail, franchising, non-profit, and B2B business models. She develops collaborative, high-performing teams, leads consumer centric brand-positioning, communication plans, and digital transformations. Fitzgerald has consistently delivered growth in revenue, market share, and EBITDA, as well as creating unique, memorable campaigns. She's a proven force in the digital arena, learning the ropes of omni-channel campaigns as chief digital engagement officer at Sears Holdings and then bringing pragmatic digital plans to midsize organizations. She launches high-conversion sites, CRM programs, content strategies, and AR/VR applications to drive leads, loyalty, and e-commerce. Fitzgerald's role as CMO at the American Lung Association gave her the opportunity to drive critical high-profile communications strategies on COVID education and youth vaping.

She earned her MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern, and a BA in Spanish and a BS in International Business at The Ohio State University. She serves as a director on the Kellogg Alumni Board, is a public speaker on marketing and leadership, and mentors young people starting their careers. Available on Amazon.com



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How I'm Helping Bring Biodiversity Back to Chicago

By **Conor E. O'Shea**,
Founder, *Hinterlands*

Hinterlands is an Irish American owned landscape architecture firm that designs biodiverse urban landscapes for a changing climate. We provide the following services: residential landscape architectural design (like backyard lawn to prairie conversion); commercial landscape architectural design (like pollinator-friendly streetscape and green roof design); industrial-scale design (like low-maintenance planting plans for large warehouse properties); and public park design (such as neighborhood pocket parks, urban plazas, and large regional parks).

I founded the firm in 2014 after

completing graduate school and moving home to Chicago and in 2019 I received landscape architecture licensure in the State of Illinois. In 2019 moved into a storefront office in the Ukrainian Village. I am also an Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where I conduct teaching and research, experiment with the latest design software and technology, and help educate the next generation of landscape architects.

I grew up in Chicago near the Montrose Blue Line stop, just a few blocks from the Irish American Heritage Center. When I wasn't dancing with Trinity or taking tin whistle and flute les-

sons from Kathleene Keane or Shannon Murphy, I spent the hours of my childhood creating habitats for insects, reptiles, and amphibians. I did this in our family's backyard and basement in Chicago, and during summers on our family farm in Ireland. I eventually translated this passion for insects, plants, and the built environment into a career in landscape architecture, where I create habitats - albeit larger ones - for both humans and wildlife.

However, I'm troubled by the ecologically inert landscapes that surround us, and that we as a society continue developing. For example, the typical combinations of ornamental plants, mulched beds, and lawns we see across Chicagoland provide little ecological value for local insects, mammals, and birds. They're ecological deserts. Given these rampant development and maintenance practices, it's no surprise that we're in the midst of an enormous global decline in biodiversity. However, if we were to take the outdoor spaces we encounter on a daily basis - from backyards to parkways to corporate campus lawns to golf courses - and transform them into plant communities with native pollinator-friendly grasses, perennials, shrubs, and trees, we can bring a lot of important wildlife back to the Chicago region. Because native landscapes are so in tune with rhythms of the natural world, they express seasonal change (through changing leaf color or flower blooming, for example) more acutely than imported ornamental plantings. The lively landscapes that Hinterlands designs engage human users of all ages, providing powerful mental and physiological benefits.

That's the Hinterlands mission: to create landscapes rich with biodiversity. We are here to provide homeowners, building managers, and developers with a vision for that process. We are defining a new landscape paradigm for the 21st century that is ecologically rooted in Chicago, its neighborhoods, and its native plant and animal communities - and also inflected by the Irish landscape and the Irish diaspora.

My work is deeply influenced by the rural Irish landscape. I spent my childhood summers in Fermanagh on our family farm, where I engaged firsthand with a rolling drumlin landscape teeming with insects, resident and migratory songbirds, ground-nesting birds, and mammals. My family taught me traditional farming practices like scything and manual hedge clipping that are friendlier to insects and birds than our noisy American diesel-belching John Deere lawn mowers and leaf blowers. I bring all of this knowledge to bear on my work at Hinterlands.

They say half the year Lough Erne is in Fermanagh, and the other half of the year Fermanagh

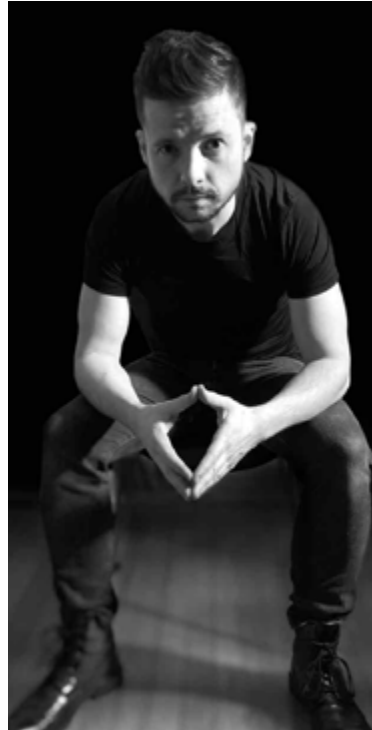
is in Lough Erne. All that rain in a temperate climate means that plants grow quickly (at an almost magically fast, fantastical rate) in Fermanagh. This wild northwestern Irish countryside aesthetic runs through all of

pollinator planters outside our storefront office on Damen Avenue this past summer. The Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), another favorite Hinterlands plant, is the larval host for the Columbine Duskywing (*Erynnis lucilius*) moth, and attracts the migratory Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*).

We "turn up the dials on nature" in our designs so things are a little wilder, a little richer, a little more colorful, both to humans and to wildlife; we're not returning our landscapes to pre-existing conditions, we're helping clients play a role in recovering our region's biodiversity, one property at a time. We're leading a new urban landscape paradigm.

Current Hinterlands projects include a West Town residence with native woodland and prairie pollinator mixes that are dog-friendly, and a competition-winning seven-acre park in the Ozark region that introduces native pollinator mixes and over 500 new trees. These and more projects can be found at www.hinterlands-ul.net.

Now that the 2022 growing season in the Midwest has drawn to a close, Hinterlands is hard at work preparing concept designs and construction drawings for spring 2023 installation. Now is a great time to reach out and set up a meeting if you're interested in building a pollinator-friendly landscape designed by Hinterlands. We provide a suite of services including site documentation with drone aerial photography, design drawings, pricing sets for cost estimation, construction documents, and construction coordination with trusted landscape contractors. Drawing on my knowledge of pre-industrial Irish farming practices, I am also available to



Conor O'Shea founded his Chicago-based Hinterlands landscape architecture office in 2014 with the mission to enrich the built environment with biodiversity.

my work, and translates into native plant mixes, unexpected juxtapositions, and landscapes that are full and diverse here in the U.S.

At Hinterlands, we achieve these visions through a few key design steps. After cataloging native plant color, texture, and scale, we build in overlapping bloom times in our plant mixes so that if insects or pollinators arrive early or late from migration or emergence, they won't starve. By creating redundancy, we make it possible for insects



These locally-sourced native plant combinations create valuable pollinator habitat. (Commercial Storefront Pollinator Planters, Chicago, IL)

to find nectar and pollen within a larger time frame of the seasons. Our plant mixes are selected not just for what they look like, but how they function ecologically.

Without proper plant selection, insects do indeed starve (as do the birds that feed on the insects). In fact, some insects will only feed or reproduce in specific plant species. The Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) famously will only lay eggs on the Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), which its caterpillars feed on after hatching. I witnessed this firsthand in the Hinterlands

provide ecological stewardship of installed landscapes on a case-by-case basis, including strategic insect-friendly maintenance, watering, weeding, and aesthetic direction of any gardens.

Whether you're interested in something small-scale like sidewalk planters for your storefront business, larger like a parkway or backyard, a multi-acre lawn to prairie conversion, or landscape design for a new industrial property like a warehouse, don't hesitate to reach out. I can be reached by phone at 773-225-7380 or e-mail at ceoshea@hinterlands-ul.net

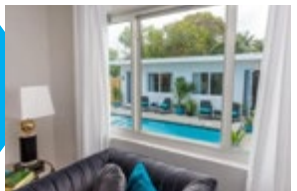



Conceived and installed through a collaborative and interdisciplinary process, this highly visible courtyard garden celebrates Mather High School students, teachers, and staff. (Mather Celebration Garden, Chicago, IL)




Springdale Veterans Memorial is a seven-acre destination honoring military veterans providing a range of opportunities for contemplation & commemoration. (Springdale Veterans Memorial, Springdale, AR)

Irishman, Mossie Forde invites you to stay at his Villas in Delray Beach

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SCAN TO READ FULL ARTICLE

Terry From Derry
by Terry Boyle



look of bewilderment. Her confusion, was understandable since I’m as pale as you can get. I wanted to qualify my statement by adding ‘I’m not white, I’m Irish’ but I thought maybe that would be pushing the bounds of her reality too far.

In two days, I’d experienced a random act of kindness followed by a random act of incivility. If the Asian lady was perplexed by the mad Irishman in front of her, the same Irishman was equally confused by what had happened. I’ve often heard of the phrase ‘white privilege but in fairness, I’ve never encountered it in my 16 years of living in Chicago, at least not in such an ignorant way. It’s only since moving to the Coachella Valley in California that I have witnessed this sort of behaviour towards other ethnicities. I find this attitude abhorrent. It rankles against my innate sense of injustice. I’m reminded of what Roddy Doyle says in his novel *The Commitments*, ‘the Irish are the blacks of Europe.’

We might be the right colour here to be considered privileged but Irish people should never forget what it’s like to be treated as second-class citizens. For centuries we’ve been treated as unsophisticated, and uncivilized. We have worked hard to make our place in the world, and, for the most part, it’s paid off. Given the struggle we’ve had, it’s our responsibility to actively work against any tribe that seeks to lord it over another. When it comes to colour, creed, or gender, we are all equal in the sight of God and that’s how we should act.

Back to Back

The holiday time is one of those times when life is stressful and people either moved to be more tolerant or impatient. For most of us, the whole lead-up to these events is less about celebration and more about how we can survive the constant reminder to be nice. The other day I was at the supermarket. Since I’m prone to forgetting what I should buy and end up buying the thing that grabs my attention, it’s a marketplace that knows me as a frequent shopper. I tend to go early in the morning so as to avoid the queues at the register and any possible encounter with the person who is counting out the pennies one by one.

On this occasion, I was second in line at the register and pleased with myself that I’d actually purchased the things I set out to buy and not given into the many things I didn’t need but wanted. The Hispanic lady in front of me was definitely out in a holiday shop. She had enough in the cart to feed an army of hungry relatives. I didn’t mind waiting, after all, I was next and I had less than ten items. Normally, there’s a register to go to if you have a small bunch of items to buy but it was so early there was only one person at the register and it was a free for all, first come first serve.

When it came to my turn, the cashier, who knows me as one who shops there a lot, raced through the items and waited for my transaction. Searching my trouser pockets, I realized that I’d forgotten my wallet. There was a line of people behind me, so the cashier said she would put the items aside and I’d pay for them when I returned with my wallet. It was an annoyance but nothing more and I made to go when the Hispanic lady stopped me in my tracks. When she discovered my problem, she immediately wanted to pay for my groceries. I objected and thanked her for her kindness but it was not necessary. She was insistent and I instructed the cashier to not take her money.

Making my way back to the house, which is only a ten-minute drive away, I discovered the wallet wasn’t in my trouser pocket but it in my coat pocket. Racing back to the shop, I found my groceries bagged and waiting for me. The generous lady refused my protest and bought the goods. I was quite flabbergasted. I’ve never had this sort of thing happen to me before, and it’s hard to accept strangers’ kindness. On the way back home, my thoughts ran the gamut from being angry at myself and causing someone the inconvenience of paying, to how nice people can be when you don’t expect it.

Of course, as I stated earlier, my belief that I’d purchased everything I’d set out to buy was completely misleading. I’d forgotten a couple of things, so the next day, I was back at the store. I was hoping that if I went at the same time I might meet the big-hearted one and pay her back. This time, I was third in line with my goods and the lady was nowhere to be seen. There were probably six of us in line. This particular store is mainly frequented by Hispanics and the cultural mix is something that I love. At the back of the line was an older white couple who looked decidedly uncomfortable. They were probably visiting the area and unsure of where they were.

As we stood there, another cashier arrived and called me forward. I was wheeling my cart when the older couple at the back literally rushed in front of me. The complete lack of respect for those of us waiting was demonstrated in their rudeness.

Since I’m not exactly a shy and timid person, I made it clear that they were in fact quite ill-mannered. I turned to the Asian lady behind me and said ‘that’s what you call privilege.’ I said it loud enough for the couple to hear me hoping that they might engage with what they’d done but they refused to look my way. In my frustration, I turned again to the woman behind me and said ‘I hate white people!’ She gave a hinterlands-ul.net.

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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Happy New Year! Everyone. Here's hoping 2023 brings us some well-deserved joy! Musically 2022 was a really successful time for my local area of South Armagh and Down. The winner of the senior men's sean-nós singing competition at the Fleadh Cheoil, in Mullingar, was Piaras Ó Lorcáin from Crossmaglen. Also out of thousands of contestants that entered the Junior Eurovision Song Contest, the 3 finalists were all locals. Singers Sophie Lennon from Mayobridge, Newry; Clare Keeley from Gilford and Harpist and singer Niamh Noade from Lislea. All pupils of the Flynn Performing Arts in Newry (I think that's a record right there). Sophie claimed the top award, being named overall winner in the Junior Eurovision Éire 2022 competition with her flawless performances of

Tom Walker's 'Leave the Light On' and Linda Martin's Eurovision hit 'Why Me'. This means that Sophie will now be the 'Voice of Ireland' in the Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2022 taking place in Yerevan, Armenia.

Down memory lane! 50 years ago on January 24, 1973, a famed piper and folklorist Willie Clancy passed away, leaving a gaping hole in the world of Irish traditional music. Born in Co. Clare in 1918, Willie Clancy first picked up a tin whistle aged five, later moving on to the flute and to the uilleann pipes, the instrument on which he was to make his name. Working as a carpenter and even emigrating to London for a time when he was unable to make a living as a musician, he would return to Clare where he made some influential recordings. Every year The annual Willie Clancy Festival is a week-long summer school in traditional music and set dancing and takes place in 2023 in Miltown Malbay, Co. July 1st - 9th. It's true what they say "If it's music you want, go to Clare"

Down memory lane! January 9th, 2012 - Singer Bridie Gallagher passes away at age 87. Known professionally as the 'Girl from Donegal', over a 50-year

career she played everywhere from the Royal Albert Hall in London to Carnegie Hall in New York and the Sydney Opera House. Born in Creeslough, Donegal, Bridie Gallagher made her home in Belfast around 60 years ago and it was there she was discovered by a Decca talent scout in 1956. Her first single for them - A Mother's Love's a Blessing - was an instant hit and within a few short years, she was performing on Sunday Night at the London Palladium. The late 50s and 60s saw tens of thousands of Irish people emigrating. In Britain, America, and Australia, Bridie had ready-made audiences who packed out her shows. In one particularly memorable show at the Albert Hall mounted police had to be used to hold back fans who blocked the surrounding streets. Bridie Gallagher also holds the record for the biggest crowd ever at the Royal Albert Hall. That record cannot be broken now the place is seated and back then it was a standing audience.

This month's song is one Stephen Smyth and I wrote, I think there's always room for one more Donegal song As always, be good to one another, Joe

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'By The Shores Of Old Donegal'
 Written by © Joe McShane © Stephen Smyth
 Verse 1
 Along Tir Connell's lonely coast, where stars are shining bright
 To gaze upon its splendor is a blessed sight
 The moonlight on the ocean as it creeps up on her shore
 We pray that she'll be kindly as the fishermen come home
 Verse 2
 Scenes I will remember, of a friendship we all shared
 Love within that little house the place where I was reared
 Memories come rushing back every now and then
 On nights when I am all alone my thoughts return again
 Chorus
 A flicker of a memory makes me think of old times
 Forever will linger in this heart of mine
 The mountains and starry nights, friends I recall
 And the nights spent together by the shores of old Donegal
 Verse 3
 In dreams, I often wonder if only for a while
 To see a gift from heaven in my Mother's smile
 And oft at night in sleepy dreams I hear her sweet voice call
 Once more I'm cradled in her arms by the shores of Donegal
 Chorus
 A flicker of a memory makes me think of old times
 Forever will linger in this heart of mine
 The mountains and starry nights, friends I recall
 And the nights spent together by the shores of old Donegal
 (tag)
 Although I'm far from home tonight I'm thinking of you all
 And I know I'm always welcome by the shores of old Donegal
 Joe McShane

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 And the nights spent together by the shores of old Donegal
 (tag)
 Although I'm far from home tonight I'm thinking of you all
 And I know I'm always welcome by the shores of old Donegal
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Thursday, January 26, 2023

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To Purchase raffle tickets visit www.CHICAGOSTPATRICKSDAYPARADE.org

Winners to be announced at the Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner



You Can Go Home Again

Kalamazoo Michigan, Aug 1974. "Goodbye, House!" Tears were streaming down my face as I said goodbye and kissed the window frame in the bedroom of the only home I had ever known. The home that I named "House."

The Colonial Revival had three bedrooms, one and a half baths and featured open rooms that wrapped around the staircase; the living room with its small fireplace and the dining room looking out on our backyard under a giant old apple tree; a tiny kitchen with just enough room for

a side counter with three chairs to sit at.

Our home was built in 1940 and we moved into it in 1958, a couple years before I was born and brought home to House to make a family of mother and father, four boys and a girl.

So many memories of personal milestones achieved and historic events witnessed on the Magnavox 13 inch black and white TV. The den back window was where I leaped into the neck-high pile of snow after 1967 blizzard. Just to the left of it

was where I viewed the Moon landing in 1969.

Dad would pass footballs to us on the front lawn beneath House's two tall old oak trees, which sadly fell prey to Dutch Elm Disease in 1971. I remember the red X's sprayed on the tree trunks and shortly thereafter our two London Planes planted in their stead, only about five feet tall but with the promise that they were a fast growing variety.

Nearly five decades later my sister Pat suggested we try and see inside House during her high school reunion. No easy task in a cautious age but my reporter talents proved true. A realtor who had sold the house several years ago passed along my e-mail request.

House was always magical to me, if love and family and memory add up to hearing if her old four walls could speak.

The old gal still had one magic

trick left. Dan Walsh, the owner, e-mailed me back several days later after what seemed like years of hope.

"We'd love to find a time to stop by the house while you're in town and maybe hear some stories about growing up in this

gered the white notches of the fireplace mantle, the colonial door handle to the porch where Dad-O vanquished my fear of thunderstorms by pointing out the science of clouds. I was home.

Later Meagan invited me to sit down at the kitchen counter



wonderful house. Let's touch base soon so we can arrange a day and time. We have a busy household as you'll see from the pictures - trying to set the expectation ;) - and we hope our best will do to honor your memories. - Dan (and Meagan too) ☺"

Irish Americans! And a beautiful family of five girls plus a new little baby boy like I was. And they were all in a towering high tree with lots of limbs and full of leaves. Our little tree all grown up in remarkable time. The topper on the tree was the eldest wearing a t-shirt bearing Snoopy of 1960's fame - the beagle Peanuts character who stars in every greeting card Sister Pat and I exchange.

August 2022

When we arrived we saw House looking just as she did with a few new improvements. Siblings were assigned the same bedrooms as we were. The living room and dining room were mirror images of my memory, right down to the furniture placement. Pat sat down in the northeast corner wing chair right where she always sat. The Walshes, like our family, spread out on the sofa where I would read the newspaper, and the two other wing chairs flanking the fireplace.

I closed my eyes while I fin-

where I used to do my homework. She started making cookies like Mom as I looked out the window where our Christmas lights were and it all flowed back. So long ago yet as present as tomorrow.

Outside there was one thing I wanted to find. The bricks our father used for a sidewalk into the kitchen from the driveway and up to the front door from the street. He had taken them from the street as the city of Kalamazoo removed them as the roadway paving.

Those were gone sadly, an owner before our new family moved them. "Are these them?" Dan asked with a smile holding up two after I mentioned there had been a small pile of several on the side of the garage. Metropolitan Brick Company, Canton, Ohio from 1928. Articles today call them antiques.

Pat and I agreed with Dan and Meagan to exchange pictures of their children growing up, holiday cards and memories of our former life captured in photos and films. As of this writing in mid-December the placement of the Christmas trees and children's stockings by the fire come next.

We asked Mrs. Walsh what home they would be getting next. It was impossibly small for us, we could only imagine how a family of eight had already outgrown it.

"We're here to stay," Meagan said. "You'd have to drag me kicking and screaming out of this place. We love it."

One last thing to do before the visit home ended. Up the stairs and past the bay window Pat liked to sit at with the seat top that folded open to reveal children's books as the sunlight streamed in past the backyard tree. Into my old room and a last glance out the window where a soft streetlight and the Moon would shine in. I kissed the frame in the exact same spot as 48 years ago.

"Goodbye House!" I said with a smile that hasn't ended since and a warmth in the heart that all is well in the world. And my world of "House." Unchanged and ever present.

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CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

A Chairde

Happy New Year!

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Thanks to its many volunteers over the years and to your support, Gaelic Park has become one of the finest Gaelic Athletic facilities in the world, and a key part of the Chicago and international Irish community. We extend a warm welcome to you, and hope to see you often in 2023.

Is mise le meas,
Bill O'Sullivan

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Yer man needed an immediate transfusion to survive. Medical personnel were on hand with blood, and they asked everyone around if they knew the mans blood type. No one could come up with the answer in time.

Afterwards, his ppor widow, who had been at the scene, would go on to tell everyone how he had shown such optimism and tried to give her hope up to the end, whispering in her ear again, and again "Be Positive!"

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Photo by Elle Taylor Photography




Pub Entertainment for
January 2023

Friday	Saturday
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Jan 13 - Gerry Haughey	Jan 14 - Damian Patrick
Jan 20 - Nicky G	Jan 21 - Kieran Byrne
Jan 28 - EBJ	Jan 28 - St. James Gate

Pub food served Tues-Fri starting at 5:00pm - Saturday at 4:00pm - Sunday at 2:00pm

Logical Fleadh Plays Irish & Scottish Music With Rock "Oomph" and a Chicago Attitude

Logical Fleadh is a mash-up of 2 bands - traditional acoustic Irish/Scottish folk band Character Fleadh and rock band Tautologic.

Logical Fleadh's mix of traditional and original compositions marries Irish/Scottish dance tunes, classical counterpoint, world-beat and rock rhythms. The song lyrics alternately tell funny stories and tug

at the heart-strings. The band's musical inspirations may come from the old country, but Logical Fleadh is unapologetically Chicagoan and contemporary in approach.

Character Fleadh has performed around the greater Chicago region since 2009, including Peoria Irish Fest, Gaelic Park Irish Fest, Shock Top Oyster Fest (opening for Gaelic Storm), and many more.

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Tautologic has been active for two decades, and its four albums have received rave critical notices and airplay on hundreds of radio stations and podcasts throughout the US, Canada, and abroad.

Logical Fleadh comprises bandleader Ethan Sellers (vocals, guitar, keyboards), Emily Albright (fiddle, vocals), Nathan

Grammywinning cellist Nick Photinos, Seán O'Riada gold medal winning uilleann piper Seán Gavin, and legendary Solas accordionist John Williams. Except for a handful of pandemic-era overdubs at home studios, the album was recorded, mixed, and mastered by Grammy nominee Rick Barnes at Rax Trax Recording.



Britsch (bass), Patrick Buzby (drums, bodhran), Dana Joras (flutes, whistles, vocals), and Joe Kilroy (mandolin, tenor banjo, bouzouki).

The album also features special guests Jay Montana (electric guitars), Hamilton concertmaster Chuck Bontrager (viola),

Logical Fleadh received two generous grants to record the album - one from the Illinois Arts Council and the other from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

Band/Album Info: logicalfleadh.com
Booking: ethan@logicalfleadh.com

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(l to r): John Scully, Sister Rosemary, and Cathy Scully at the American Ireland Fund Gals held on December 6th, honoring Sister Rosemary for all she does for Miseraioria

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Music Columnist Maryann McTeague Keifer Passes Suddenly

Maryann called me from the hospital and informed me that she had been diagnosed with cancer, and might not be able to get her column in for the month. I told her not to worry, she'd be fine for next month. Three weeks later she passed. She was a shining light in the Irish music community, and covered as many music events as she could, and loved every minute of it.

Her column was well read and she and her positive energy will be missed by all of here at Irish American News, our readers, and all of those in the Irish music scene around the world. She is irreplaceable.

**Cliff Carlson, Publisher
Irish American News**

We remain shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of our dear friend, Maryann McTeague Keifer this past October.

Our Maryann was intelligent, thoughtful, generous, gracious and caring, with a sharp sense of humor. She was renowned for her support of the Irish music community in Chicago and beyond. She hosted the weekly "Ireland Tonight" radio program on WDCB-FM, and co-hosted a weekly radio program—"Sessions from the Cottage"—on Global Irish Radio.

She wrote articles for the *Irish Music Magazine*, and a monthly music review for the *Irish American News*. She was also a member of the board of Chicago Gaelic Park. But that's just what most people saw. Behind the scenes, she did much, much more.

Maryann was quietly relentless in the giving of her time and resources to support Irish musicians living in and visiting Chicago. If there was a concert or a session, she was there—always. If there were Irish musicians visiting Chicago, a visit to Maryann's house for lunch or dinner was a likely event. She routinely stored com-

I have known Maryann all of my life. Maryann and I attended kindergarten together at James Madison Public School which was located at 74th & Dorchester Ave. in Chicago and a few grades at St. Laurence grammar school which was at 72nd & Dorchester. Maryann's grandmother and my father were both from Co. Monaghan and were great friends.

One day, Maryann mentioned to me that she needed help on the Ireland Tonight Radio Program and I told her that I would help her in any way that I could. Needless to say the rest is history. Maryann taught me so much. She taught me about all of the bands, the music that they provided, the individual musicians and told me about their strengths in the music arena. She introduced me to new comers on the music scene as well as those that have been around for some time. I attended many concerts with her and loved every moment. I went to home sessions, The Galway Arms, Chief O'Neill's, The Old Town School of Folk Music, the Irish American HERITAGE Center to name ONLY a

few of the venues, but, Maryann knew almost everyone there. She was so happy to meet and greet old and new friends.

COVID hit and we figured out a way to record the Ireland Tonight Program from my kitchen. Tuesday was the day that we would record and lunch was on the agenda. True to Irish Tradition we had enough food to feed a small army.

The last time that I spoke to Maryann I was aware of how much she sounded like her mother. I'm sure that I noticed that before but maybe I was wishing that she would tell me that the diagnosis was wrong and that she would be ok. To say that I am heartbroken is an understatement. Maryann was one of those people that you meet once in your lifetime. She was always there and you wanted to believe that she would always be there. The Irish Community has lost an incredibly talented and kind supporter for Trad music. She was extraordinary and will be missed. It was my great fortune to count her as my friend.

Her generosity is exemplified by an incident we experienced in March, 2022 while attending a Teada show in Vienna, Virginia. We happened to be there on the night Teada had received their first shipment of their brand new album. At intermission, band member, Oisin Mac Diarmada, was selling the new CD. While making a purchase, I suggested to him that he send one to Maryann so that she could play from it on her radio program. He sighed in frustration, and said "I can't. She already purchased it online." That was Maryann in a nutshell. She could have obtained the CD free on request, but, to support the band, she instead purchased it online. She did this type of thing on a daily basis.

The passing of Maryann Keifer is a tremendous loss for the Irish music community in Chicago, but is also a deeply personal loss for us. She was a dear, dear friend, and one of the most decent and caring human beings we have ever known. We will miss, and never forget, the wonderful conversations, the late night texts, her insight, generosity and love. Rest in peace, Dear Friend.

Ed Lesniak and Kate Mallon

She was a great wife, mother, grandmother, sister, SIL, cousin, co-worker and friend of many. She was never too tired to stay in touch and ask how everyone

was doing and always wanted to sit down, maybe with a wee touch to catch up and let you know how much she sincerely cared about you. This came from our mother's sincerity of really wanting to know about how you are.

She was a great teacher, principal, Adjunct Professor, Board

Sharon Iberle
iberle@comcast.net

**Maryann McTeague-Keifer
Eulogy 11-3, 2022 St
Julie's Church Tinley Pk IL**

First of all, if you told me a month ago that I'd be up here doing a Eulogy for Maryann, as my dad would say - "are you outta your cotton pickin mind"! On behalf of our families, both the Keifers and McTeague - thank all you family and friends who traveled locally and from afar for showing up to celebrate the wonderful life of our dear Maryann

Who was she? We joked years ago that she was the self-proclaimed matriarch of the family! Little did we know - She was!! The oldest of 9 - guess what - you were expected to help run the McTeague family - Come Hell or Highwater!!

She A great lover of music and song - in HS her choir were so good that they were asked to record a record to distribute - I bet she still has that record somewhere - right Christine!!! My other sisters also had that musical gene - not so much with me and my brothers

She was a great wife, mother, grandmother, sister, SIL, cousin, co-worker and friend of many. She was never too tired to stay in touch and ask how everyone



**Maryann McTeague Keifer
Rest in Peace - October 28, 2022**

sun came up - I'm still hearing about that one!

She was a mentor - supporter of so many students over the years including her grandchildren. Attending many dances, sporting events, social activities to show her love and support and encouragement to keep them focused both in and out of the classroom

In closing, we could stay here for hours on end with family and friends wanting to speak on behalf of Maryann, but I know for damn sure she would rather have that happen at Gaelic Park with a pint or Wee Touch in your hands to toast one last one to her

member to CRF and Gaelic Park, - OMG I know I met at least 12-14 of the parks board members yesterday at the wake - every one of them praising Maryann for her love and support. BTW God help her students if they didn't wear green on St Paddys Day or wear Chicago Sox colors on opening day!! Sorry Maryann - Jeannie and I are Cubs fans!!!

She was a lover of Irish Music, hosting many new musicians/groups from Ireland and other countries - introducing them to many venues all over the US - Esp the Galway Arms and Chief O'Neil's and of course Irish Fest in Milwaukee to name a few. Also, she recorded and hosted people like locals Jimmy Keane, Paddy Homan, Liz Carrol and many more. When I say recorded she was host on WBCD for their Irish weekly broadcast and hosted many musicians over the years. She even talked me into hosting a new upcoming Irish group the Socks in the Frying Pan - we closed down Chief Oneil's' so what do you do when you have been partying all night? - she made me stop at White Castle on the way home - they hated them, and came back to my house and drank and played pool until the



**Maryann McTeague Keifer
Rest in Peace - October 28, 2022**

leaving her house- she would stand in the front window to wave goodbye and wish you a safe trip home. Maryann, here is a wave goodbye -

Goodbye Maryann, and love you always - Safe trip home.

I've been asked to give some account of the life of Maryann Keifer, and feel wholly inadequate to describe someone who became a real symbol of what it means to live in the USA.

As an immigrant for some 15 years, I came to know Maryann through 'the music' and her weekly radio show where I was often a guest. Indeed, in my early years in Chicago, I sometimes co-hosted the Maureen O' Looney show on 1490AM with Maureen-that great Irish rebel and OH! What fun we had! I learned the importance of the Irish radio shows in this great Chicago Irish community, and the hard work it takes to voluntarily pull off a successful show each week.

Maryann too was a great Irish rebel of sorts, molded in her love of Irish music, and was keenly aware of her own family journey from Ireland. Her love of the Chicago Irish community combined with her musical knowledge made her the perfect Board member for Chicago Gaelic Park. Like Maureen O' Looney and Tom Looney's of this world, she was always there for musicians, both those living in the US, and those seeking to come to America to share their music.

Her dedication to supporting musicians and indeed LIVE MUSIC was legendary. You could count on her being the first to buy a ticket, and when we even put her on the guest list, she would often get a ticket for someone else. She was such a decent kind person, and loving wife to Tom and mother to Christine.

I came to know Maryann as a true confidante and friend, and I am sure she was a confidante to so many others - forever the listening teacher, leading by example and always with positive words of encouragement to all she met. I shall miss sharing a chocolate or two with my friend, or the weekly chats before a music session. Moreover, I shall miss seeing her in the audience, my gentle nod to her if 'we're not too loud' and her thumb in the air to say we're GRAND! I shall miss her voice on the air. I have learned so much from having the honor to be in Maryann's presence, and know that our best way to honor such an amazing individual is to carry on the rich traditions which they too embraced- that love of Ireland and playing your part in being there for others, particularly in the Irish community at large. And of course, to continue playing Irish music and singing songs with passion and gusto! But always being there to help other musicians along the way, and pass on the good shown to us as we, like Maryann's ancestors, tried to make a life in this beautiful country we are proud to call home.....away from home!

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Home is Where the Heart Is

By Aishling Kelly



Thoughtful Gifts to Dementia Patients

Finding the ideal present for older people with dementia may seem challenging at first, but if you know where to look, the effort can be fun and gratifying.

Gifts for persons with dementia should be basic, functional, and customized to the recipient's preferences and skills - as a general rule. Understanding a person's previous occupation, particular interests,

and the dementia stage they've been diagnosed with might also be helpful. These aspects might assist you in determining which present is most appropriate.

Dementia Puzzles

You can pick various themes, including landscape, sports, and others, available in 63-, 24-, and 12-piece puzzle sets. It's a fun and easy way to spend time with your beloved family member. Your friends and grandkids are welcome to the party as well! Make it a family ritual to solve the puzzles over the holidays and frame the completed puzzle as a keepsake.

Fidget Sensory Pad

It's a simple yet effective way to offer your loved one comfort and relaxing feelings by just putting it on their lap. A multitude of tactile stimulation alternatives can alleviate boredom. For instance, it has a coin pocket, buckles, velcro, colorful sequins, and other features that will make your loved one comfortable as they relax or sit.

Buddha Board

Using the Buddha Board, you can easily create, write, and draw beautiful works of art. Using water as the sole source makes it a green product. With reasonable care, it can survive for many years without the need for paint or ink.

The picture disappears as the water gently evaporates, leaving a blank canvas for your beloved to paint on. Because it stimulates creation repeatedly, it's the perfect present for individuals who enjoy drawing or working with their hands.

A Hearty Meal

Dementia and other forms of cognitive impair-

ment don't have to mean giving up great, nutritious meals. You can easily find recipes with minimal ingredients and easy processes on the internet. Dishes that don't need to be cooked or "assembled" are great for those on the go.

Vegetable soup, small pizzas, fruit salads, and green salads are all excellent options for lunch. Try pies, cookies, ice cream sundaes, or applesauce for dessert. Mom's Meals also offer excellent satisfying and personalized meals.

Memory Picture Phone

A memory picture phone might be a wonderful present for older adults who are apprehensive about or unable to utilize modern technology but still want to keep in touch with loved ones.

With an emergency button and ten image frames for inserting photographs of friends and family, this corded picture phone has everything you could need for quick and straightforward dialing. It's compatible with hearing aids and makes communicating a breeze!

Dementia With Aishling Care Academy

You can always organize a fun dementia activity for you and your loved one to participate in together at home. It is possible to express your thanks and appreciation in various ways. Spending quality time with them, writing a heartfelt message, buying the ideal present, or combining all of the above will make your loved one ecstatic.

For information on Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, the internet is a treasure. In comparison, the technique taken by Aishling Care Academy, which includes more detailed simulations of care for people living with dementia, is unmatched.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JANUARY 2023

Friends, Members of the Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC), founders, supporters, neighbors, and partners.

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. In this New Year, I am grateful for the blessings and successes of 2022, and the fresh start that 2023 brings for those things that are not yet finished or accomplished. It brings me pleasure to recap how the IAHC filled the calendar with excitement in 2022.

We brought Irish music, programs and events that filled the halls with the sounds of crowds, fiddles, pipes, drums, singing and laughing. To name just some, Gaelic Storm, Cherish the Ladies, Baal Tinne, the Academy of Irish Music, the Chancey Brothers, the High Kings, Los San Patricios, the Bow Tides, the Shannon Rovers, and James Conway & Michael Austin played for crowds in the Fifth Province and Mayfair Theatre. We hosted events that brought hundreds of people to the Center, such as the Christmas Bazaar, the Christmas Tea, the 2022 Tea Series, IBAM – Irish Books and Music, Our Halfway to St. Patrick's Day festivities, and so much more. Our beautiful Mayfair Theatre hosted events for our friends and partners (Johnny Cash Festival) and our library provided the stage for an NPR Tiny Desk concert for Fontaines D.C., a wildly popular band from Dublin (check it out on YouTube). We had dancers dancing, nimble thimbles sewing, and librarians and genealogists working for you. What a busy place. We are truly grateful to all of our friends, volunteers, performers, wonderful staff and part-



ners for all that they did this past year to bring the IAHC roaring back to life after the hiatus.

We hope that you and your families and friends were able to catch these events – and come in for our music in the Fifth Province on Thursdays and weekends in front of the fireplace. The pen (or keyboard in this case) that writes in the fresh book that is 2023 is truly in my hands (or at my fingertips) as I write this to you. 2023 promises to be another year of many Irish programs and events at the Center. We have so much planned for you and also so much to accomplish.

Members, I expect you received my letter for our Annual Appeal. On behalf of entire Board of Directors, thank you for all of your contributions and effort over the past year. Please go to our website under "annual appeal" for more information about the exciting improvements we have instore for the building and needs that we have going forward. 2023 Promises to be an incredible year.

Remember that this is the time of year to renew your IAHC membership, or to sign up for the first time. What a great way to promote your Center. **This is Your Center!** It's your Center for Irish culture. It's your Center for music. It's your Center for dance. It's your Center for family and for being together. Your membership shows your support makes you a vital part of everything we do here!

Members get advanced notice of all of our events, and discounts on tickets and merchandise. Next time you visit, consider making sure your membership is current, and consider sharing your time and talents with the IAHC for any of our events, projects or improvements. Looking forward to seeing you at the IAHC!

I suggest that you make regular visits to the IAHC one of the resolutions kept in 2023. Bring your family, friends and neighbors with you. Enjoy the music, dancing and programming. Please take a look at the calendar on our website, <https://irish-american.org/events/list/> to see our coming attractions and details. As a wise person said, "May you keep happy and healthy. May your dreams come true and may the best of the old year be the worst of the new."

Happy New Year to you and your family and friends. Slainte to 2023!



Tony McHale
President of the IAHC. Board of Directors



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The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

By Sharon Holmes, Director, Food Pantries

I will never forget my first day of work at Catholic Charities more than 22 years ago. As a single mom struggling to make ends meet, I didn't have the most reliable car. Sure enough, after a chaotic morning with my children, my car broke down. I was panicked that I would not be able to get to work on time or get there at all. A friend gave me a ride at the last minute, but I was frazzled when I arrived.

Stepping into the doors of Catholic Charities was like stepping into a calming oasis. My new supervisor warmly welcomed me and told me how happy they were to have me. Not only did she soothe my anxiety, but she insisted I leave early to get the car repaired! The rest of that day I watched the staff treat each client with the same compassion and respect that I had been shown. I decided right then that the good Lord had brought me to my "forever home" at Catholic Charities.

I have held several positions at Catholic Charities, but I have spent the bulk of my career working with our food pantries. I currently supervise the operation of our eleven pantry locations in Cook and Lake counties. It is tough work, but I love it. It is a ministry for me. Every day I get to show the same love and compassion that Jesus showed to people who are facing challenging life circumstances—circumstances that are not so different from those I experienced myself. There are so many people hurting in our communities right now

who need the mercy and support of Catholic Charities. In FY22, we served an average of 3,500 households per month across our eleven food pantries, and we continue to serve many more people than we did before the pandemic.

The rising cost of food and growing inflation have impacted everyone, but low-income households are particularly hard hit. More and more, our neighbors must make tough choices about whether to put gas in the car, pay rising rent and heating bills, buy medicine, or buy food. People often forgo fresh meat and produce in favor of cheaper, less healthy alternatives. Even though most of the families coming to us have at least one working adult, they don't earn enough to sustain the household in this economy. And nearly half of our clients are seniors living on fixed incomes that have not kept up with today's prices.

Providing nutritious food to people in need is a privilege that we do not take lightly. We know that good nutrition is essential for human life to thrive and is often the first step on people's journey to achieving their God-given potential. Catholic Charities takes a holistic approach, connecting clients to other needed supports such as counseling, job training, senior services, or rental and utility assistance as needed. Each day we strive to make our food pantries the oasis that I experienced on my first day of work—a place where people feel wanted, welcomed, and have confidence



that their lives are about to change for the better. Catholic Charities relies greatly on volunteers to staff our pantries, and food and financial donations to keep our shelves stocked. Unfortunately, we tend to see a drop off in donations and volunteers after the holidays. Given the large number of people seeking our services, we could really use your help right now! Maybe you could consider sponsoring a food drive in your church or school, making a financial contribution, or joining our team of volunteers? Please see catholiccharities.net or cofchicagovolunteer.com for more information or send me an email at sholmes@catholiccharities.net. We'd love to have you join us—help us witness a message of mercy and hope to people in great need.

Client Voices: Maria's Story

Maria is a resident of the Englewood community and has been a patron at Casa Catalina for the past 5 months. She works full time at a fast-food restaurant and attends community college. Maria's goal is to become a psychologist and work with at-risk youth. Maria does not own a car and rides public transportation with her four-month-old son. She sought out support from Casa Catalina as she was preparing to give birth to her son. "With the upcoming birth of my son, I wanted to start saving money for diapers and other things he was going to need. I quickly realized that I had to stretch my money and needed help with food. The price of food has gone up and if it wasn't for Casa Catalina food pantry, I probably would have to choose between diapers and baby items or food." Maria was able to enjoy the holidays with her baby as this was his first Christmas.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Master Your Money
By Mike Corrigan



you are guaranteed to make money on every winning hand and break even on every losing hand?

Well.... There is good news. You can. But its not a game. Its about your retirement dollars. Whether you're at or near retirement, you can participate in a strategy that will offer you growth in the winning years while guaranteeing your account will never take a market loss in the bad years. I know it sounds too good to be true, but fortunately it's not. It's real. It's possible.

There is a financial product that has been around for many years. It's possible that you may have never known it exists. Large insurance companies offer these types of programs for several years and billions of dollars are deposited into these plans annually.

Think about what's going on in our economy and the stock market these days. Huge swings almost every day. A great deal of uncertainty. People losing money that have equity and bond exposure are seeing their accounts get whipsawed every day.

Remember the credit crisis of 2008-2009? If someone could have warned you in advance that was going to happen, would you have done anything differently to prepare for it?

What if there was a potentially bigger issue looming on the horizon that could affect your finances even more than the last catastrophe? Would you want to know about it?

Are we in a recession or are we going into a recession? At the time of the writing of this article, nobody knows. But it doesn't feel good. Interest rates are rising. Our country's national debt is at an all-time high. \$31 Trillion dollars! All of the talk about inflation! When will it stop?

Your money is at risk if you have a 401-k or IRA...or just dollars that you have tucked away for the future. If you have exposure to stocks, mutual funds, ETF's, bonds or the like, you know what I am talking about. I am guessing you have seen your balances decline from the beginning of the year. It could get worse before it gets better!

I just re-read a book over the Thanksgiving holiday. This book is called *Stress Free Retirement* and it talks about the strategy I referenced earlier about protecting your life savings from loss. How you can participate in market gains but eliminate the possibility of any losses.

Zero risk of loss! It talks about how you can eliminate the pain and hassle of the investment landscape. Wouldn't that be refreshing?

It's a quick read with only 180 pages and I would be happy to send you a FREE copy. The people that I have sent this to said it really opened their eyes.

If the idea of protecting your entire nest egg without giving up the opportunity for growth appeals to you, send me an e-mail at mike@corriganfs.com or call me at 708-215-5100 and I will send you a Free Book about how to eliminate that stress. I would love to get your thoughts after you read this.

Happy New Year!

Michael A. Corrigan
Corrigan Financial Services, Inc.

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Saor: It All Made “Scents”

By Patricia O’Reilly Talbot
saorperfume.com



regulatory agency) approval, I launched saor in 2016.

My original perfume oil, a haon (gaelic for #1) infuses fragrant bergamot, fresh white tea and airy musk created to calm and captivate. My second perfume oil, a dó, (gaelic for #2) is a warm sensuous scent infusing spicy Neroli blossoms, cananga, and the warmth of cedar + sandalwood - a scent for a dó (two): a captivating unisex fragrance.

In 2021, saor introduced a trí (gaelic for #3) born out of a request from Lululemon’s ann arbor location to gift clients with a signature scent.

Saor’s a trí infuses perfume notes of uplifting grapefruit, soothing ginger, and warm cedar, encapsulating the numerical definition of #3: Creative self-expression, optimism, and social interaction.

Many perfumes are 80-90% water and alcohol. Saor is purely fragrance oils infused into the highest-grade jojoba oil. I

After canvassing duty free shops, department stores and boutiques across three continents in search of a fragrance that defined me, I decided to create my own 20 years ago - Saor.

The word Saor (gaelic meaning be free) is how I felt when wearing Saor.

For years I was stalked in hockey rinks, grocery stores, parking lots... by women and men asking, “Do you mind me asking, what perfume are you wearing?”

With the continuous requests to share my “secret fragrance”, I approached an international perfume company to inquire if they would create my signature fragrance and have saor tested for universal distribution. Securing ifra (international fragrance



chose jojoba oil as the carrier oil jojoba is most like our skin’s natural oils, and it didn’t conflict with any of my fragrance oils and gives my fragrance oils the longest shelf life. A light application of saor in the morning transports you from dawn to dusk.

Ecommerce customers are now saoring in 40+ states. In 2018, saor expanded into boutiques and spas across the USA, and we look forward to our global expansion as we partner with dufrý: launching Saor perfume oils in O’Hare airport’s duty free stores, and is at the following:

- A Lit’le Irish Too, 9 Chambersburg St, Gettysburg, PA 17325
- O’Meara’s Irish House, 3970 Main St Fish Creek, WI 54212
- Basic Irish Luxury, 127 Swinburne Row, Brick Market Place, Newport, RI 02840
- Tipperary Celtic Jeweler, Irish Importer, 3956 State Highway 2, Brunswick NY 12180
- Tipperary Celtic Jeweler, Irish Importer, Clifton Park Center, Clifton Park NY 12065C
- Irish Design Center, 303 S Craig St, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
- Tara Gift Shoppe, 250 Abbott Road, Buffalo, NY 14220
- Near and Far Scottish 11237 Lawyers Rd, Mint Hill, NC 28227
- Irish Treasures, 2567 Main Street, Lake Placid, NY 12946
- ANAM Craft Marketplace www.anamcraft.com

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Empire fell and the "Dark Ages". Colmcille is one of Ireland's three patron saints, the other two are of course St. Patrick and St. Bridget. Colmcille is

credited for spreading Christianity to Scotland. He founded several abbey's. He is the patron Saint of Co. Derry.

He is one of the twelve Apostles of Ireland. Next month my article will detail the twelve Apostles of Ireland. Colmcille was born in Donegal and raised by his foster uncle, Cruithneachan.

Colmcille joined the monastic school and became a monk. He eventually was ordained a priest. Colmcille is said to have established several monasteries and churches across Ireland and Scotland. Colmcille's copy of the psalter

(biblical psalms) has been traditionally associated with the Cathach of St. Columba. He transcribed many books and was a real scholar.

Colmcille travelled (some would say banished and never allowed set foot in Ireland again) to Scotland with twelve companions in a wicker currach. (boat made of wicker). The Island of Iona. Today the population is roughly 175 people, it is about three miles long. There are many miracles associated with him in Scotland. Pilgrims go to Iona the birthplace of Christianity in Scotland.

The saying The Isle of saints and scholars came about around the time of Colmcille. Aer Lingus has named one of its airbus' in commemoration of Colmcille.

I will end with a story from the Bible, book of "Daniel"

"Do you remember the story of the three Hebrew boys, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? A couple of Jewish captives were taken from their homeland to serve in the Babylonian empire.

But even having to adjust to the ways of this empire, their commitment to

God did not change. Still, and just like any faithful men of God, their faith was put to the test.

King Nebuchadnezzar commanded that a golden statue be made and ordered that every person must bow down and worship it. However, when it was time for the three men to bow down like the rest, they refused, and this angered the King.

Who Was Colmcille? Columba

Watching the TV show, "The Derry Girls" where one of the characters is called Colm, got me thinking about Colmcille. Colmcille was an Irish Abbot/monk (head of the monks in the abbey) and missionary who lived about 1500 years ago. A monastery is a community of men living under vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. The name Colmcille means "the dove of the church". Similar to the prophet Jonah, which also means dove in Hebrew. This was around the time that the Roman

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Tales of a Young Angler

As I approached my 13th birthday in 1970 there was a big decision point to broach with my parents, Maggie and Charlie Daly. I felt that my range of skills would be more suited to the River Bride in Tallow and I needed permission to go there on my own. My mother was a bit reluctant at first, but Charlie swung it for me in the end. So began another great odyssey on my trusty black bicycle with the fishing gear all around me. I now had to get used to fishing with other people above and below Tallow Bridge. I had some wonderful adventures on the Bridge during the day and in the dark of night in the pursuit of brown trout and the more elusive white (sea) trout.

‘All Fishermen have an escaped fish in their memory that still haunts them’ - Steve Nakemoto.

One early Autumn afternoon while fishing near Tallow Bridge, and as the fishing was particularly poor, one of the lads said he would go up to the Carmelite Convent to see if he could get a few apples to pass away the time. This was about 1970 and the Carmelites were still a relatively closed Order. True to his word, he came back shortly afterwards with a brown bag full of apples to our great delight. As we worked hungrily towards the end of the bag we noticed that the Nuns had also put some loose change in the bag for us to buy some sweets! God Bless their beautiful and considerate little hearts forever.

On another Summer’s eve when I was about 13 years old, something special happened that will be forever ingrained in the databases of my brain. I started to fish at about 7pm on the far bank of the river, below the bridge. There was a scattering of fisherman on either side of the river and we were all nicely spaced out. The white trout were running at the time and this always led to an air of excitement around the place. I had been fishing with the very experienced Tommy and Mossie McCathy from Parkdotia in Janeville previously and I happened to ask them what they consid-

ered was the best live bait for salmon.

Mossie said to me - ‘get as many worms as you can fit on the hook and work them into a bit of a ball’. This was

very good information, but not relevant to me at the time, as I never fished for salmon anyway.

I was fishing away when I noticed Garda Joe O’Sullivan and another man coming in my direction. I knew Joe pretty well as he was a friend of Charlie’s and also a keen fisherman. Joe started talking to me and introduced the other gentleman as Sergeant Seán Clancy, and new to the parish. Seán looked like a kind and pleasant man at first impressions and I wished them both well on the night’s fishing. Joe and Seán settled on the bank of the river about 30 feet below me and we continued to fish. I had taken Mossie’s advice in relation to the worms, and got as many as I could possibly get on to the hook - if the salmon like them maybe the white trout will have a bit of a grá for them also!

And then it happened. At first, I felt the line go a bit tight and thought it was caught on something at the bottom. I started to reel it in a bit and it came sluggishly with me, but then tightened again. Then, I saw a big salmon pass in front of me under the water. I tightened, and saw him pass back down again. Surely not, I thought, am I after hooking him? Then he jumped out of the water, my heart was pounding, I had a bit of a fight on my hands. At this stage, Joe and Seán had left their fishing rods where they were and came up to me, and then they were joined by 3 more fishermen. On the other side of the river I noticed that Vincent Delaney and Jimmy Cronin had put down their rods also and were gazing across as the drama started to unfold.

I was getting all sorts of advice from the fishermen behind me, but my brain was just too excited to process it in real time. My mind began to wander - what did the experts in the books I had been reading say about this? I was always asking the kind Mrs. Sheehan in Tallow Library, to see if she could get some fishing books for me. When they arrived, she kept them under her desk for me so that they wouldn’t be already borrowed prior to my usual visits to the

Library on Saturday night. Recalling the advice, I think it said: ‘give the salmon a bit of time, pull the line in slowly and let it out again, try to tire him out’.

I tried the method and it seemed to be working as I was getting more line back on the reel, slowly but surely. But then, my luck ran out - there was an old tree stump at the bottom of the river and as he passed me for the final time he snapped the line off the wood and he was gone! I was heartbroken. Joe slapped me on the back and congratulated me for playing him for over 20 minutes and I only being a young boy. Seán and the other fish-



ermen gathered around were also kind to me in my sadness. However, the night was not completely lost as I managed to land a hefty white trout about two hours later. That night, as I recall how Ned Power liked us to finish our essays in Primary School - ‘I went to bed, tired but happy’

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Irish Movie News -

January 2023

By James Bartlett

Hope you all had a fun and relaxing holiday, but coming up fast here in Hollywood is awards season. Looking to come back after a number of scandals and controversy, the Golden Globes (awarded by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association) announced its nominations for 2022, and leading the pack was *The Banshees of Inisherin*, with eight nominations.

The dark comedy about friends and toxic masculinity in 1920s Ireland is up for its category's best film, screenplay and best director for Martin McDonagh, while its four stars (Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson and supporting actors Barry Keoghan and Kerry Condon) all got the nod too. American composer Carter Burwell rounded out the list for his original score.

Next in line with six nominations is absurdist sci-fi comedy drama *Everything Everywhere All At Once*, while director Steven Spielberg's personal movie *The Fabelmans*, about how he developed his love of film, is a drama frontrunner, up against the *Avatar* sequel and Baz Luhrmann's rock-and-roll biopic *Elvis*.

You can see *The Banshees* right now if you subscribe to HBO Max, while the 80th year Globe winners are announced January 10. Either way *The Banshees* is surely a front-runner for the Oscars, while it was announced right on deadline that An Cailín Ciúin (*The Quiet Girl*) has made the shortlist of 15 movies vying for the statue as Best International Film.

The movie has grossed over €1 million at the box-office in Ireland, and was shot in Meath

and Dublin: it's also the first Irish language movie to make it to these stages of the process (the final list is announced on January 24 - so fingers crossed!).

Based on the story Foster by Claire Keegan, An Cailín Ciúin is the debut of writer/director Colm Bairéad and is set in rural Ireland in 1981. The story sees Cáit (Catherine Clinch) being sent from her overcrowded, dysfunctional household to live with distant relatives for the summer - and after a while, she discovers a secret and a painful truth.



Staying with the Oscars - of a different kind - where two winners have been announced out of the three annual recipients of the US-Ireland Alliance's Oscar Wilde Award. One of them may even

have a chance at winning both of them.

Born in Thules in County Tipperary, the first name out of the hat this year for the 17th Wilde Awards was the very same Kerry Condon (pictured) from *The Banshees of Inisherin*.

She had worked with McDonagh before in his play *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* and *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, and you've seen her on television in *Ray Donovan*, as well as the subsequent movie, and she had a recurring role in *Better Call Saul*.

She'll be in another Irish movie soon as well - alongside her fellow countrymen Liam Neeson and Ciarán Hinds in *The Land of Saints and Sinners* - and to top it off, she even voices the role of Friday in three *Avengers* movies.

The second Wilde winner is Killarney-born Jessie Buckley, soon to be seen in theaters in the drama *Women Talking*, and who received an actual supporting

actress Oscar nomination proper last year for her turn in *The Lost Daughter*.

The event takes place in March, just a few days before the Oscars, and has a reputation for being very laid-back, which is one of the reasons many of the nominated Oscar stars often make an appearance.

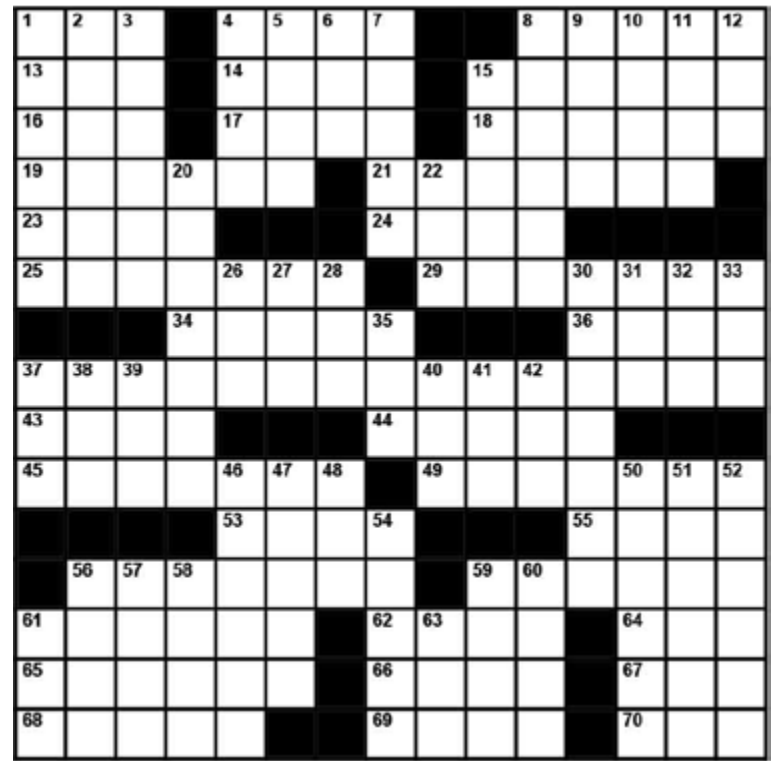
This month also sees the ever-busy and popular Sundance Film Festival taking place in Utah, and Tara O'Callaghan's *Call Me Mommy* have been officially selected to screen, the first Irish short documentary there in nearly 10 years - perhaps in part because it won Best Short Documentary at last year's Galway Film Fleadh, among other awards.

The story looks at the complicated life of Sinead, a single mother and online sex worker, as she juggles family, social pressures, and her own life. It was produced by Louise Byrne and Aaron McEnaney, and will be shown four times during the January 19th-29th event.

If you're looking for more movies to watch, on demand right now is coming-of-age Irish road trip comedy *Joyride*, which stars Oscar winning actress Olivia Colman and Irish youngster Charlie Reid. Directed by Emmy-winning documentary maker Emer Reynolds, it filmed in Kerry, and was written by Ailbhe Keogan and produced by Aoife O'Sullivan and Tristan Orpen Lynch.

The story is based around 12-year-old Mully (Reid), who steals a taxi to run away from his money-grabbing father - and then finds a woman Joy (Colman) sitting in the back seat with a baby-in-arms. Thrown together, the unlikely pair go on a journey across Ireland, gradually finding the friendship, love, and learning, they never knew they needed in each other.

Plenty to be getting on with then - see you next month!



Answers in next months paper & online 1st week February

ACROSS

- 1. Consult
- 4. Irish singing great
- 8. ____ O'Malley, the pirate queen
- 13. Election winners
- 14. Beef buy
- 15. Landing place of Noah's Ark
- 16. Vitamin brand
- 17. City in Sweden
- 18. Biological groups
- 19. Put in order
- 21. Krypton, for one- 2 words
- 23. Detect
- 24. Big story
- 25. Where Indy drivers stop- 2 words
- 29. Foes
- 34. Money in electronic form
- 36. Architect's vaulted recess
- 37. Disregard
- 43. "Let's Get It On" singer
- 44. Weighty books
- 45. As a substitute
- 49. Convent group
- 53. Stat start
- 55. Rake
- 56. Hollywood great, ____ O'Hara
- 59. "Diary" singer, first name
- 61. Gong
- 62. Gate profits
- 64. One-striper: Abbr.
- 65. Minks' kin
- 66. X ____ xylophone, 2 words
- 67. "Chosen one" played by Keanu
- 68. Buckwheat groats
- 69. Groaners
- 70. Seabird

- 4. George Sand's " ____ et lui"
- 5. Person, place, thing
- 6. Feminine side
- 7. Benedict Arnold's cohort
- 8. Where Athenians live
- 9. Jingled
- 10. Geometry figure
- 11. Disney's auto movies
- 12. Approximate arrival time, abbr.
- 15. Smiling
- 20. Pre-print activity
- 22. Uncouth person
- 26. Zamboni's surface
- 27. Chinese philosophy
- 28. Fig. in identity theft
- 30. Experts
- 31. Internet addresses
- 32. Shakespearean suffix
- 33. Keyword improvements for a website, abbr.
- 35. Worked (up)
- 37. Animation platform, abbr.
- 38. Computer network, abbr.
- 39. Sounds of woe
- 40. Call for rescue letters
- 41. Former record label
- 42. 'Certainly'
- 46. Typos
- 47. Cries for attention
- 48. Aberdeen river
- 50. Geological epoch
- 51. Destroyer
- 52. Winter, e.g.
- 54. Not bottled or canned
- 56. ____ Hari (spy)
- 57. Andy's sidekick
- 58. D-Day beach
- 59. Related by blood
- 60. Zoom, for one
- 61. "Naughty!"
- 63. Tempe inst., abbr.

Down

- 1. Official seal
- 2. Capture
- 3. Ford vehicle

DECEMBER CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Time to laugh your sins off!

Late Nite Catechism

30th ANNIVERSARY

By Vicki Quade & Maripat Donovan

Sister says: What are you waiting for?

"A habit-forming hoot!" -Catholic Explorer

"Has the warmth and humor of the classics 1950's Second City skits--but from the Irish Catholic side of the tracks." -Chicago Sun-Times

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Another of the Murray Brothers Writes a Book: Not Bill – but Andy – and it’s a Cook Book

By Rick Kogan,
(This article appeared first in the *Chicago Tribune*, and is reproduced with the permission of Mr. Kogan)

It’s Andy Murray, not Bill, in the spotlight now. The actor’s chef sibling has penned a book filled with recipes, family stories and, of course, golf.

Andy Murray has a book titled “Eat, Drink and Be Murray: A Feast of Family Fun and Favorites”

Andy freely admits that he does not know how to type but has nevertheless written a spectacular book. “Eat, Drink and Be Murray” masquerades as a very good cookbook but it is so much more, a story of family and love and fun, and, yes and understandably, a bit of golf.

“Since my childhood, I’ve always been around golf courses,” he said. “And kitchens.”

We were sitting one recent afternoon in *Dublin’s Bar & Grill* on the Near North Side. It has a small kitchen which is able to produce an astonishingly large variety of meals and Murray was especially impressed by, of all afternoon snacks, oysters Rockefeller, which we shared and he deemed “really, really good and from that tiny kitchen.”

He knows food, having spent most of his life in kitchens,

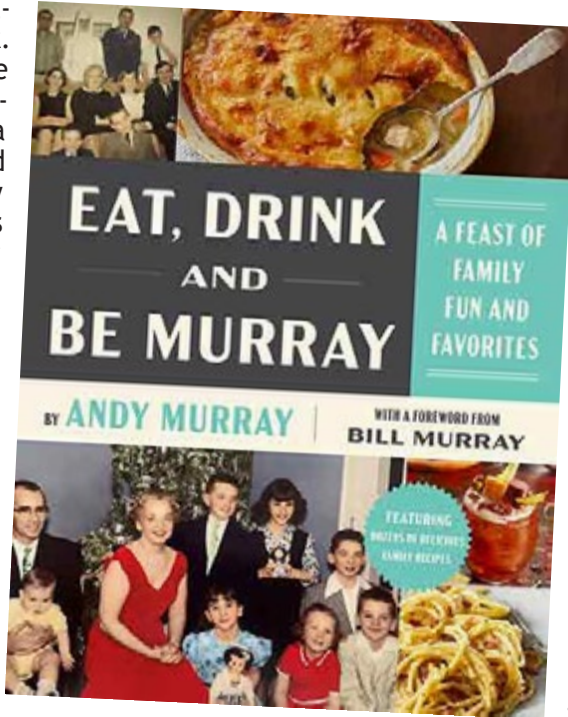
life insurance for a short time, attended the New York Restaurant School and, after a fortuitous encounter backstage at “Saturday Night Live,” worked at La Terrace on Shelter Island in New York.

He later spent some lively years at Mortimer’s in Manhattan, a place that attracted such hungry society folks and stars as Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Frank Sinatra, about whom Murray writes in the book, along with a recipe, “He so loved the Dover sole we served him that he grandly tipped the entire staff.”

For the last two decades he has overseen the Murray Bros. Caddyshack restaurants he owns and operates in partnership with his brothers. The first opened in 2001 in St Augustine, Florida, where he lives most of the year, and the other has been in Rosemont since 2018.

He is an affable, funny and upbeat guy, traits he shares with the other members of his large family. A couple of his brothers are also writers,

editor-in-chief of *Golf Digest*. When that book was published, he told me while sitting in the Billy Goat, “People have been asking me to write a book



for some time. But there are all these comedians who’ve written books about their lives. I didn’t want to do an ‘I’m so wonderful’ kind of book. I didn’t want an ‘as told to’ book because they are too wafer-thin. The idea of a book about golf appealed to me.”

In Andy’s book, Bill writes, “Andy’s my little brother. Not

his description of Wilmette as “a small mining town north of Chicago.”

Andy writes: “With so many of us kids, there was a boys’ room, a girls’ room and, as the family grew, a baby in a crib with my parents. My love of food – and family – came from my mother. Lucille was the greatest. Everybody felt at home when they sat at her table. Whether it was a celebrity like John Belushi or the neighbor next door, Mom made everybody feel special.”

He loved his father Edward too, writing, “There was always a contest to get my dad to laugh at dinner. If you could get dad to laugh, it was a big deal.”

The laughter stopped for a time after Dec. 29, 1967 when his father died from complications from diabetes that shadowed his entire life. He was 46. “We’re all going to have to stick together,” Lucille said. And they did, pursuing various roads (Nancy became a nun) but remaining close, even after she died in 1988. “We are still very tight,” said Andy. “If we aren’t talking on the phone, we are texting each other and we frequently get together.”

This book was born three years ago when Andy was cooking a Thanksgiving dinner at Bill’s house in South Carolina. A woman named Karen Duffy sat watching him and in time said, “You should write a book.” She introduced him to her agent, who liked the idea and Andy began, haltingly he admits, to think about it. Then COVID came and Andy had some time on his hands and started to work. The book became a family affair, with his siblings (eldest brother Ed died late in 2020) contributing, whether in sharing recipes, stories, quips, and dozens of charmingly evocative photos of the Murray family through the years.

He credits his friend, former *Tribune* reporter, television and radio personality and author Jennifer Colleen Weigel,

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“without whose constant help and encouragement, none of this would have been possible,” he writes.

Full disclosure: I don’t cook. But this book is a flat-out delight and I actually think I could make many of the meals on its pages.

“That was the idea, simple recipes,” Andy says. “This is all about comfort food.”

You’ll find recipes for such things as French toast, chicken hash, short ribs, chili, pea soup, tomato pie, pork roast, lasagna, meat loaf, fried chicken and dozens of others. There are some unique items (most notably, a “Peanut Butter, Lettuce and Mayo Sandwich,” and “Caddyshack Golf Balls,” a deep-fried creation. There are salads, sandwiches and desserts. And, since most of the Murray clan is fond of libations, a number of cocktail concoctions.)

The book’s recipes are spiced, so to speak, with delightful stories that help to create what is both a personal memoir and a family saga. The Murrays are a generally private bunch and they remain so here, though you will learn plenty about them.

“I am proud of the book,” Andy said.

We ordered another drink. He told me about a two-week golfing trip to Ireland with his brothers, some pals, including former Poet Laureate of the United States Billy Collins, and Andy’s son Drew, “by far the best golfer in the family,” Andy said proudly. He talked about his recent and successful battle with throat cancer, saying, “I spent time here with my sister and we went after it aggressively. I told the doctors, ‘Don’t mess with the vocal cords’.”

We talked about the Cubs. He told me he had visited the grave sites of his parents and other family members. He looked happy and was happy to be back in Chicago for a while.

“Am I a celebrity chef?” he asked. “God, I hope not. I always have been and always will be a working chef. We’ve got enough celebrities in the family.”

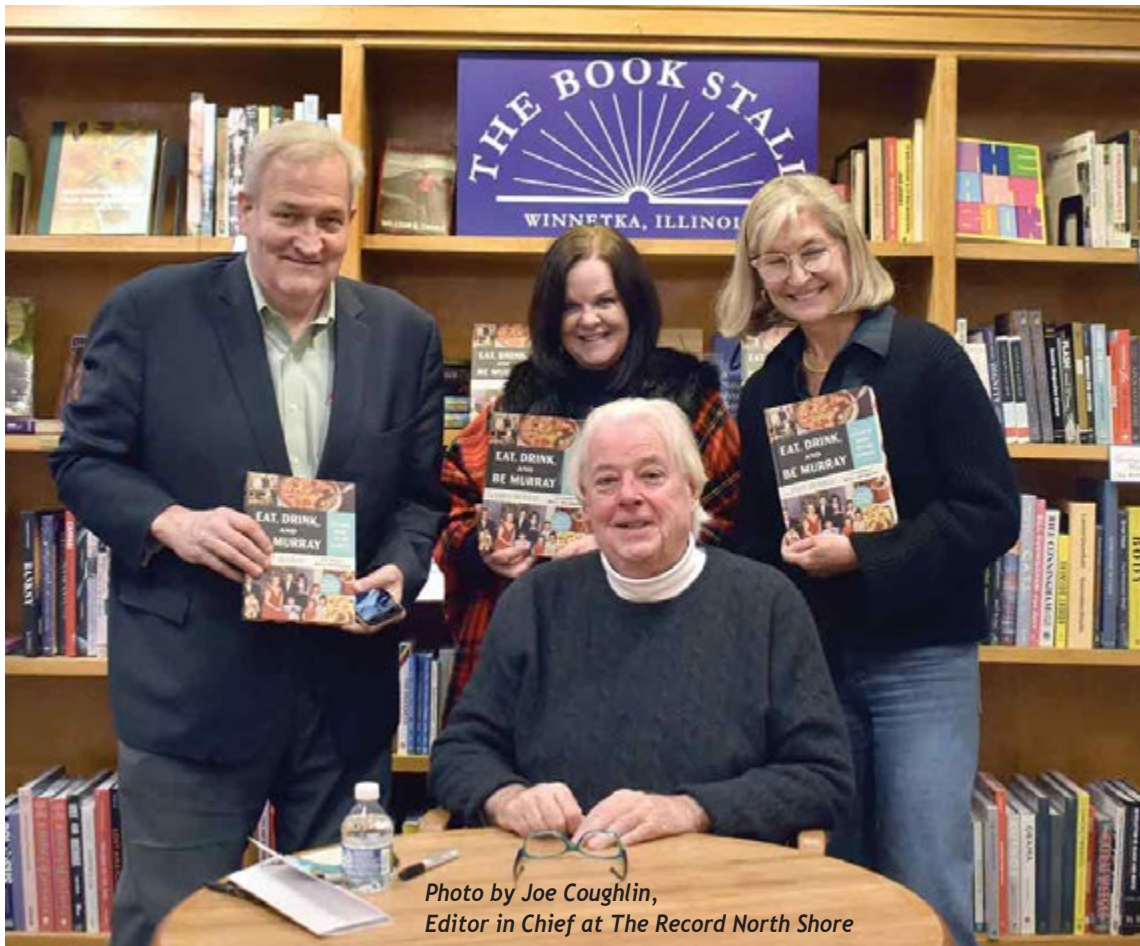


Photo by Joe Coughlin,
Editor in Chief at The Record North Shore

Renowned Chef, Author, and Murray Bros. Caddyshack restaurateur Andy Murray, back home for the holidays at The Book Stall in Winnetka meeting with family, friends & foodies while signing his new cookbook “Eat, Drink And Be Murray” (l to r): Jim Corboy of Quiet Man Marketing, Kathleen Crawford of The Book Stall, Andy Murray and Stephanie Hochschild, owner of The Book Stall.

from the day he was four and his mother said, “Andy, it’s time for you to learn to make bacon.” He learned that and began working as a busser at age 11. He was also caddying at the Indian Hill Club, where all of his brothers toted golf bags.

“I fell in love with restaurants that first day,” he said. “They gave me food. And that beat the hot dogs and drinks we had to pay for ourselves at the golf course.”

He flirted with college, sold

though better known for what they do as actors.

Older brother Brian has written much for television and film, most famously the screenplay for “Caddyshack” along with Harold Ramis and Doug Kenney. His brother Bill, who starred in that movie and many others, has written a lively foreword to Andy’s book. He also wrote a 1999 anecdote-filled book called “Cinderella Story: My Life in Golf,” written in collaboration with George Peper,

the littlest, but littler. So many lovely, lovable brothers and sisters, and if you’re littler – some special you, must raise its voice to be heard above the din. And by the stove, in the shadow of our mother, is where little Andy learned to love.”

These three brothers grew up with six other siblings – Edward, Nancy, Peggy, Laura, Johnny and Joel – in a small house in Wilmette. In one early story about Bill in the *Washington Post*, the writer fell for

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Hello everyone. Finally we got a bit of snow in time for the little kids Christmas.

Do you remember the first time you saw snow?

My cousin and I were chatting about our own childhood Christmas. When we were younger our parents moved us to Scotland for a few years as having 12 children to feed and clothe was no easy feat plus my dad wanted us all to stay together.

Work was plentiful soon after my Father was promoted to a Ganger (supervisor). Our Christmas gifts were the latest trends that we saw on television which by the way had a box attached where you put sixpence shillings to turn it on. A man came every month to empty it and you sometimes would get a refund of a few shillings.

Oh boy. I think I just dated myself. Anyway here’s a few toys we remember. Tiny tears she came with a plastic bottle that you filled with water to feed her then you had to push on her tummy so she would cry tears and wet her nappy(diaper). Genius here thought I’d give her some milk. My younger sister Angela and I cried in horror when we saw milk spilling out of her eyeballs, and

of course our brothers were rolling around the floor hysterically laughing.

The next Christmas I got the Tressie doll. She was a tall stiff unhuggable teenage doll you pressed a button on her tummy and hair would grow out of the middle of her head. I wasn’t impressed. That same year my brother Hughie got a beautiful western wagon complete with horses, cowboys, pots, pans and cups to hang on to the sides of wagon even a plastic fire pit. The susie homemaker in me fell in love with it. I thought why didn’t I get this? I can decorate the wagon and have tea parties with the cowboys.

Luckily for me he showed no interest in it. I played with that wagon forever. Another year my sister Angela and I had a little red glass coffee set. Dad gave us a tin of fizzy pop to pretend to make coffee. That was the very first time we tasted fizzy soda pop. We made it last all Christmas day. What great memories we may not have the photos as very few owned a camera back then, but the memories are embedded in our hearts forever especially when our loved ones are no longer with us.

I was around ten when we moved back home to Ireland. We were all decked out in our black patent buckle shoes with white knee socks, tartan pinafores gray wool coats with black trim and white furry tamie hat very smart indeed. Mother always dressed us well and the neighbours always said we were a credit to her.

She was very stylish herself. We had no idea what was ahead of us nor did we know our new home was up a steep bray seven miles from town backing onto hundreds of acres of forest park land.

I remember arriving there very late. We had soup and sandwiches then went to bed. We woke up at the crack of dawn, looked out the window, and to our amazement we could see fields and fields covered in white snow. It was so magical just like in the movies. (the only one I saw at that time was seven brides for seven brothers).

Mother and father said “you all have a field each to leave your footprints on.” We were so excited we forgot we had no gloves so mother put socks on our hands. We laughed at these new strange ways. Seriously we had the best childhood living on top of that hill. Later on in snowy winters we would use the doors of old cookers as makeshift sleds to go down the bray, but it was so steep no one ever wanted to drag it back up again.

You knew you were no longer a kid when you got new clothes, pajamas, shoes, maybe a watch

or a bit of costume jewelry for Christmas, but nothing took away from hanging up your traditional old sock over the big black stanley range to find it full of oranges, apples, nuts and chocolates on Christmas morning. No matter how old you were you still got to hang up your sock.

I still do this with my kids today. I actually leave them a bottle of fizzy pop and the coveted irish selection boxes, tayto crisps alongside santa’s milk and biscuits which you can purchase from our Irish import stores.

My poor mother would bake a plethora of assorted cakes, and treacle sweet breads weeks before Christmas, all mixed by hand as she couldn’t use her electric blenders or her iron, electric washing machine or vacuum! literally everything electrical we brought back would be useless for a few years as the gas and electric were not plumbed in yet. We had generators but they were mainly used for the sows when they were giving birth. Yes we did have our little farm up and running with all kinds of weird looking chickens, ducks, and turkeys. We also had a goose and gander who would hiss and nip you every time you tried to retrieve eggs from the hen house. They make good guard dogs.

I’m still laughing as I remember my siblings shock when they saw the outdoor toilet with newspaper strung together with binder twine on an old rusty nail.

Eventually we took it all in our stride as every day there was something new to explore even just climbing a tree was exciting and lord knows we had acres of them behind us with little nature trails and natural waterfalls.

We quickly fell in love with our new surroundings as it was unequivocally the best childhood memories our parents could give us.

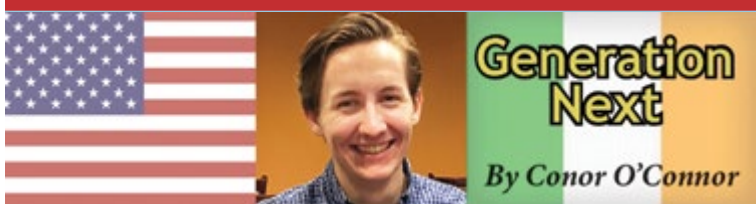
Every child must go to the bog. It’s our only source of heat for the winter. There are a few layers to the end product. First you have to pare the turf bank back from heather and brush. Once exposed you would start cutting out the turf with a special spade that gives you that oblong shape.

During this time you need people (us kids) to spread the turf out to dry. A few days later you go back to turn them a few more times. Finally, after weeks the last step had you criss cross them into crows nests to dry out. Finally we loaded them onto the trailer and climbed on top knowing we still had to unload them and stack them in the shed. That was okay as the work was over for another year.

I have to admit that we never would have learned to play piano, guitar, fiddle, or sing and dance had we been glued to a television screen.

So thank you Mum and Dad for the wonderful memories.

Dedicating my column to my siblings. Hughie, Angela, David, and Caroline.



Elon’s Mismanagement of Twitter is Just Another Nail in the Coffin for Social Media

While brainstorming the topic of this article, a sensation struck me that I didn’t have a word for. It felt like a type of nostalgia, combined with exasperation surrounding the current state of our increasingly-online world. Yet, as someone born in 1999, I don’t really remember a time before cell phones and computers. I vaguely remember what society was like before Facebook, but I was too young to really internalize the differences between then and now.

As such, I have never really lived during a time without social media. LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, BeReal, Pinterest, Tumblr, Reddit and so many other websites have been omnipresent forces in my life. As I began to write, I struggled to put into words the sort of longing I feel for a community without social media, without cyberbullying, and without terminal onlineness.

A quick Google search for “nostalgia for something you have never experienced” yielded a synthetic word developed by writer John Koenig: “anemoia.” The roots of the word are a bit nonsensical, but the definition of

the word perfectly describes the wistful, nostalgic feelings I have for a time which I myself have never truly experienced.

My anemoia has only grown stronger recently. The social media platform I routinely spend the most time on, Twitter, has been transformed by the machinations of its new owner, Elon Musk. When he signed the purchasing agreement to buy Twitter, Musk promised to turn Twitter into a bastion of free speech and to expose the bad faith acting and censorship of his predecessors in the process. His vision for the website has since gotten a bit muddled, however.

In recent weeks Musk has flirted with Ye, the Chicago-born-and-raised rapper who has embraced the legacy of Adolf Hitler. Musk has also made a series of rash business decisions to make up for the fact that he paid wayyyy too much for Twitter. This included laying off hundreds of staff members and launching a new paid subscription service that led to an impersonation crisis on the platform. As problems for Musk and Twitter began to mount, I made the decision to deactivate my personal Twitter account.

However, I had considered Twitter to have a detrimental effect

on my social, emotional, and mental health long before Elon Musk bought it. Twitter, like many other social media platforms, is full of rage and hopelessness. While it can be fun to keep up with friends, family and celebrities on the site, more often than not you’ll find that it mainly serves as a space for people to vent their anger and sadness anonymously. Users belittle each other and mock the opinions of others. Sadly, I am not innocent of this practice myself. To be clear, I believe in accountability. If someone actively takes time out of their day to spout hatred, harass others, and foment anger on social media, other users are obliged to push back against that behavior. But the constant vitriol, judgment, and fury that engulfs Twitter has simply gotten to be too much.

And the same can be said about other platforms. On Instagram, users post the highlights of their lives, sometimes unintentionally making others feel worse about the way they are living theirs. Overlooking the mundane sides of life and only sharing the exciting bits can make it seem like you are constantly doing something exciting, even if most days you sit in bed and watch Netflix.

I don’t think that social media will ever totally die, and that is okay. Certain aspects of every social media website have value. But it is my opinion (and my hope) that the juggernaut status of tech companies like Facebook and

Reddit will gradually atrophy over time. I want to return to a more personal level of social interaction--even if such interaction is remote.

For example, I routinely converse with my friends in voice calls on a platform called Discord. Discord is a versatile platform that features group text messaging, voice channels, personalized calling, and much more. I enjoy using that platform because I can share an experience with my friends, even when they’re not in the same room as I am. Whenever one of us is free, we’ll just hop in a voice channel and play a video

game together. I love being able to do that, and I am so glad that that capability exists.

Social media as a whole may continue to thrive, it may implode, or it may fizzle out over time. But the technological leaps that went into constructing these platforms and cultivating real human connection over the internet should not be wantonly discarded. Taking the best parts of social media and using them for society’s benefit would be a worthwhile, yet incredibly difficult task. Either way, I think I’m about ready to give an Irish goodbye to social media.



(l to r): Jerry Gainer, and Nora Ann Gainer enjoying the Ireland Funds Gala, December 6th at the Four Seasons Hotel, Chicago



I've become pretty familiar with travel in Ireland in January. Almost an expert if I say so myself. Why is this? As owners of The Irish Shop for the last 32 years, we have attended a trade show in Dublin called Showcase. The show is usually held

contain other ingredients like scallions, leeks, onions, chives, parsnips, and bacon. It's a great side dish that goes well with boiled or baked ham, any pork dish, Irish bacon and corned beef and cabbage. You can also serve it with meat and poultry.

non. Colcannon is a simple traditional dish commonly made with four ingredients: Potatoes, butter, milk and kale or cabbage. It can

Oh, wasn't it the happy days when troubles we had not, And our mothers made Colcannon in the little skillet pot.

- COLCANNON**
 4 large Yukon gold or russet potatoes peeled and cut into large chunks
 Salt
 4 ounces in salted butter
 3 cups of chopped kale, stems removed or cabbage
 ½ cup chopped green onions (scallions)
 1 cup of whole milk or half and half



on the third week of January at the RDS in Ballsbridge. If you own or are considering owning an Irish or Celtic shop this show is a must. For three days anybody whose anybody in the manufacturing of Irish goods gather in an historic venue to show and sell their wares. This is strictly a wholesale show so unless you have a business and can prove it your out of luck. The main hall is constructed of ornate ironwork with a glass ceiling similar to a large conservatory. It has a balcony on all four sides packed with small vendors. The main floor features a section sponsored by the Irish Crafts Council that supports small artisans and crafters. There are three adjoining halls, one almost exclusively for apparel, one featuring jewelry, and one for giftware. When we first started out in the business we would walk the entire show just window shopping and taking notes because we wanted to see everything before buying. Now we look for new products and vendors but we write orders as we go with the ones we already buy from.

Now to the food part of this article. I love dinning out in Dublin there are so many fine restaurants to choose from. Good food is not exclusive to Dublin, you can find excellent food and dinning in every county and city in Ireland. Not much fresh produce is available in the market this time of year except potatoes and various root vegetables with the exception of kale and cabbage. Hence colca-

The origin of the word colcannon is unclear. The first syllable 'col' is likely derived from the Irish 'cal meaning cabbage. The second syllable is probably derived from 'ceannfhionn meaning white head. (i.e. a white head of cabbage)

Colcannon is a soul satisfying, simple comfort food as described in this traditional Irish song.

Colcannon or The Skillet Pot

Did you ever eat colcannon made with lovely pickled cream?

With the greens and scallions mingled like a picture in a dream.

Did you ever make a hole on top to hold the melting flake

Of the creamy, flavored butter that your mother used to make?

Chorus

Yes you did, so you did so did he and so did I.

And the more I think about it sure the nearer I'm to cry.

Put potatoes in a medium pot and cover with cold water by at least an inch. Add 2 teaspoons of salt and bring to a boil. Cook until potatoes are fork tender, 15 to 20 minutes. Drain and reserve. Return the pot to the stove and add half the butter. When melted and hot and the chopped kale and cook for 4 to 5 minutes until wilted and some of the liquid has evaporated. Add the green onions and cook an additional minute or two. If you like softer kale you can add ¼ cup of water, cover, and cook for an additional 5 minutes. Pour in the milk or cream and mix. Add the potatoes and mash combining all the ingredients. Add salt and pepper to taste and serve hot with a knob of butter in the center.

Try making this simple dish incorporating your own personal taste. I love it with tons of butter
Happy New Year!

Catherine O'Connell
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**NO SENIOR
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 at the IAHC or Gaelic Park.

See you in February!

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J1 Assistance

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 summer students.

Benefits Access

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Fáilte

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Irish Fellowship Club Christmas Luncheon the Biggest Ever

The Irish Fellowship Club hosted the largest ever Annual President's Christmas Luncheon on Friday, December 2 at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Avenue. This event is the traditional kick-off of the Christmas season for IFC members and guests. Co-chaired by Tim Cavanagh, Founder, Cavanagh Law Group and Michael Evans, CEO Cogent Strategic Wealth, the luncheon honored President John Wrenn for his dedication and commitment to the Club and Foundation over the past two years. Said Tim Cavanagh, "This signature event for the Irish Fellowship Club is a highlight of the year and raises important support for the IFC Education and Cultural Foundation. Our sponsors and table buyers are key to our success."

The Luncheon traditionally honors the outgoing President as a thank you for service. Irish Fellowship Club Chair, Rose Doherty, said, "I am delighted to present this award to President John Wrenn. John ably led the Club during the difficult two years of the pandemic. Thanks to his outstanding leadership, the Irish Fellowship Club maintained its charitable gifts to the Catholic High Schools of Chicago and local cultural organizations. John brought true Irish spirit to the Club and Foundation with his energy, dedication and commitment."

The Luncheon also serves as the Annual Meeting for the Irish Fellowship Club. A slate of new officers and board members was presented by Hon. Maureen Connors, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Officers. New officers elected were John Wrenn as Chairman, Bob Flood as President and Jim Coyne as 1st Vice President as well as Fr Pat McGrath, pastor of Old St. Pat's Church as Chaplain. The Club also elected nine new members to the board. In her introduction, Executive Director Kathy Taylor commented, "The Club is fortunate to have great leadership and commitment from our board members. 2023 will be a great year."

Senior Senator, Dick Durbin joined the crowd and offered a special poem and his good wishes for the holiday season and Acting Consul General, Sarah Keating, brought greetings from Ireland. The Club was delighted to have Fr. Jack Clair of Misericordia share his blessing with the assembled and pulled our raffle tickets. Thank you to the Raffle Donors!

A special announcement was made at the Luncheon by newly elected 1st Vice President Jim Coyne, President of the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade and Business Manager of Plumbers Local 130 organizers of the Parade. Jim announced that Tim Drea, President of the Illinois AFL-CIO will be the Grand Marshal of the 2023 St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 12, 2023. And, Hon. Danny Collins, Mayor of County Cork Ireland will serve as the Honored Guest. Each was presented with the sash they will wear at the Parade. Given the special relationship between the County of Cork and the Irish Fellowship Club, John Wrenn presented a beautiful painting of the skyline of Chicago to Mayor Collins created by the talents artists at Misericordia.

In the introduction of our head table guests, in addition to Senator Durbin, our chairmen introduced Hon. Lori Lightfoot, Mayor of the City of Chicago, Sr. Jean Dolores Schmidt, the pride of Loyola University, and paid special tribute to Hon Jesse White, Illinois' longest serving elected official as he retires as Secretary of State. Secretary White has been a great friend to the Irish Fellowship Club throughout the years. The Club is also grateful to Santa Claus (interpreted by Bill McTighe) for his 35 years of service to the Irish Fellowship Club.

Guests enjoyed the talents of the St. Ignatius College Prep Choir prior to lunch and Harpist Mary Sue Redmond entertained during lunch. Festivities continued in the Normandie Lounge with Catherine O'Connell, Jimmy Moore and John Williams kept the celebration going. Our members and guests provided hundreds of toys for the Catholic Charities Toy Drive.

Said President John Wrenn, "This was a spectacular afternoon. I am grateful to Tim and Mike for their leadership, and I can't thank Kathy Taylor enough for all of her hard work. Thank you to all our sponsors who help us support Catholic education and Irish culture in Chicago. It has been a true honor to the President of the Irish Fellowship Club."

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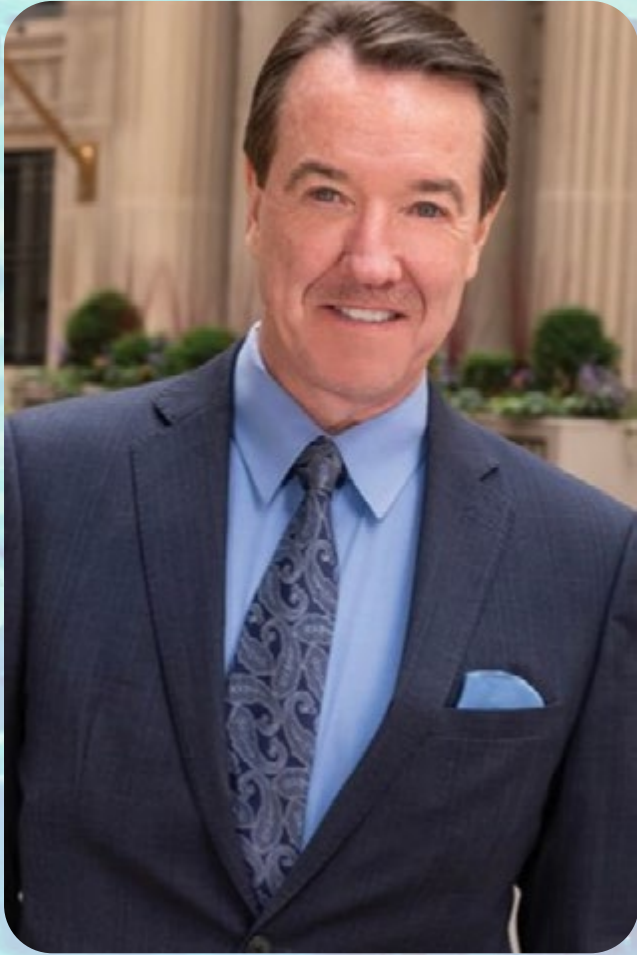
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