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**Nuala  
Kavanagh  
Wins Award  
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**What Rough Beast?**

W.B. Yeats ended one of the most haunting, prophetic and powerful poems of the 20th century with the flourish: 'And what rough beast, its hour come round at last, / Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?' The title of Máiría Cahill's just published memoir, *Rough Beast: My Story and the Reality of Sinn Féin*, provides an intriguing double entendre. It is widely touted that Sinn Féin may lead the next Irish government, fulfilling its ambition to sit across a table from a Sinn Féin First Minister of the Northern Ireland Assembly and deftly negotiate away the Northern State. The epoch-shaping image in Yeats' poem suits the party's sense of deliverance. Yet

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



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Cahill's harrowing book about the way in which she was brutalised by the IRA and demeaned by the party leadership leaves the reader in no doubt about the bestial tactics deployed in the pursuit of power.

Since 2010, Máiría Cahill has publicly alleged that a member of the IRA, Martin Morris, repeatedly raped her over the course of a year, 1997; that she told Gerry Adams about the abuse; that Adams met her and told her that 'sometimes abusers are so manipulative that the abused actually enjoy it' (Adams denies both saying this and meeting her to discuss the allegation); that the IRA questioned her frequently,

has a history of relentlessly bullying dissenters?

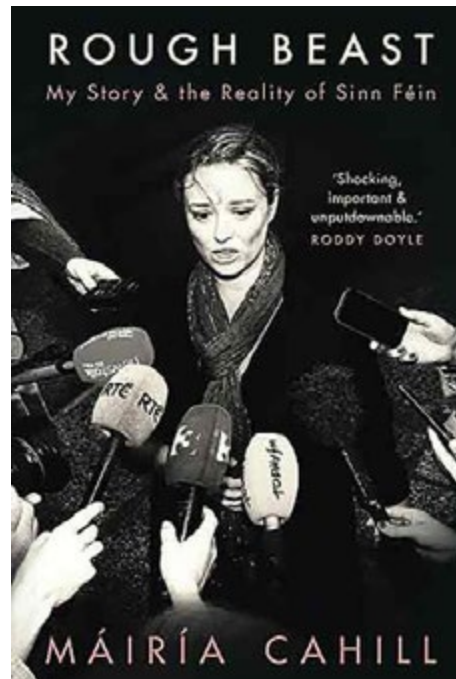
A comparison is irresistible between the way in which the party is haunted by the abuse of Máiría Cahill and by the murder of Jean McConville. A widow and mother of 10 children, McConville was murdered and 'disappeared' by the IRA in 1972. That was the year in which the British government began to break the IRA through covert methods. Its secret intelligence organisations were in full operation in Northern Ireland. A senior member of the British army (later a general) Frank Kitson masterminded the infiltration of the IRA. He had theorised how best to penetrate a terrorist organisation in his book, *Low Intensity Operations*, published in 1971, and he was assigned to Northern Ireland the following year to implement his techniques.

Kitson was adept at identifying defectors and talkers during heavy interrogation. He believed that almost anyone (except fanatics) could be 'turned'; just wait for, or indeed create, the right circumstances. Find the young person who joined for the adventure of becoming a member of a secret army, or the man who has lost his job and needs income to feed his family. Soon Kitson, who had cultivated informers in similar ways in Kenya when the British army combatted the Mau Mau rebellion in the 1950s, had an extensive network of double agents who would feed him intelligence about IRA operations.

Once the IRA leadership discovered that the organisation had been infiltrated by informers its reaction was twofold. It responded to the British secret intelligence operations by imposing an even stricter code of secrecy on its operators, reducing information to a need-to-know basis within the terrorist cell. Secondly, it leaped to conclusions about anyone whom it suspected of informing such as McConville.

The horror visited upon McConville and Cahill symbolises all that is false about the party's pose in the past (that the IRA was forced into violence to defend the nationalist community); and the fault-lines of its pose about its present incarnation (that it is a modern, egalitarian and democratic party). Gerry Adams has been accused by people who were involved in both the McConville and Cahill cases, though he denies the accusations just as he denies ever having been in the IRA. And, since Sinn Féin never crosses Adams, these demons continue to haunt the party.

In the transition from violence to politics, the secrecy of the IRA was transposed to the Sinn Féin party. The code of secrecy underpins the martinet discipline that the party imposes on its members, but it also undermines the party. The secrecy deployed to enable terrorist cells to operate without detection disables the party from facing up to its past. Now, as it enters what it hopes will be one of its most seismic electoral progressions, the fabric of the party's credibility continues to tear. With every brave testimony, every properly researched book or documentary, important aspects of the truth about the past emerge despite its denialism.



brought her before a kangaroo court, ultimately forced her, while she was still in her teens, into a confrontation with Morris and did not find against him.

In the early years of the Troubles, IRA men were apt to dismiss the political party that acted as its apologist, Sinn Féin, partly on gender grounds. Aoife Moore's recently published book, *The Long Game: Inside Sinn Féin*, records that one former member of the IRA said: 'We used to say it [Sinn Féin] was made up of cowards and women'. As part of Sinn Féin's project to reinvent itself and deemphasise or erase repugnant aspects of its past, Sinn Féin has mounted a campaign to portray itself as a party that respects women and puts them in leadership positions. Hence when Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness retired in recent years they were replaced by Mary Lou McDonald and Michelle O'Neill respectively. Sinn Féin needs to deflect from its complicity in the cruel response to cases such as the rape of Máiría Cahill. But, as the publication of her memoir makes clear, Máiría Cahill will not relent until Sinn Féin acknowledges that she has always been telling the truth, and that the supporters of the IRA have been lying.

A so-called army waging a so-called war to 'liberate' a people does a lot to destroy its own myth when it perpetuates sex crimes against the civilians it pretends to protect. A political party that attempts to give cover for such actions is equally damaged. So, it should alarm us all that several mainstream media outlets in Ireland, including our national broadcaster, have largely ignored Cahill's memoir. Too timorous to upset the party that they suspect will lead the next government and which

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# Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

As I mature, a gentle word for aging, I discover when calm and serene memories of my early life in Ireland, especially as the first born and then the arrival of a little brother and later a wee delicate sister who died young.

As I recall, their names were Ronald and Irene neither Irish names but unfortunately I was burdened since I was the only child in the Republic of Ireland with the swanky name

of Estelle that most folk could barely pronounce. None the less, for better or worse, it set me apart. I recall vividly not welcoming two babies into our house on Castletown Road in Dundalk, County Louth always referred to as "Gateway To The North" since we were a stone's throw to the border built by the Brits.

As the eldest, I was continually lectured about showing kindness toward my brother and sister. It was very hard but was in high demand from my Mother who liked the dog Finn, short for Finn MaCool, more than she liked me, although she denied it!

It's too bad in my early life I had no knowledge about Frank McCourt and the rotten life he lived with his poor mother, a brother and I think he had

sisters. If he could survive life in Limerick I could survive mine, and somehow I did.

Dundalk was known as the "Gateway to the North" situated very close to the Border built to perfection by the British who were brazen buggers and waltzed in with nary a please or a thank you to take over the North of Ireland. Ironically that's still a sore spot with the Irish living in Belfast and the six counties to this very day.

As a youngster I wondered why men like my father and mother did not take it upon themselves back then to put some manners on the Brits. God knows the pair rode bikes over the border often enough to smuggle home boxes of Kerry Blue and Sweet Afton cigarettes, butter, the odd bottle of Irish Whiskey, and a box of chocolate.

Mind you, mine were not the only parents smuggling on account that all things in the north were cheaper than the Republic. Years later I learned that crossing the border was alleged to be liberating. In fact some of those who experienced violence during "The Troubles" felt great relief

when crossing over the border into the Republic, viewing the south as a sanctuary where it was not required to look over their shoulders and hide in a safe house.

In fact during the Troubles Dundalk became a safe harbor for IRA men "on the run" from the Brits. Those living close to the border on both sides became sophisticated border people bearing in mind these areas were in disputed zones that included in this small region an estimated two hundred border crossings. As teens we all knew where men were being lodged in our town to avoid arrest by the Brits. In fact we grew used to the tales that trickled through and paid little attention to the goings on.

In my adult experience the apathy in southern Ireland toward what was happening to the Irish living in the north was massive and any attempt at conversation about the prospect of a united Ireland was rarely if ever raised.

However, I am delighted to report that a new Commission has been launched in the south of Ireland to assess just how a town like Dundalk was affected by the never ceasing Troubles in the North. The Commission for Victims and Survivors has suggested one in ten people in the Republic could well define themselves a victim of The Troubles. For example an estimated four percent have been bereaved because of a Troubles-related incident while seven percent report their mental health has been affected.

There are more statistics, since this is the first time the Commission for victims has collated data on how The Troubles affected the lives of those living in the Republic. It reports more than 100 people were killed in the during The Troubles and hundreds injured. It also reports that while solidarity with the Irish in the North coexisted it was with hostility, fear and shame. Contradictory views were apparent, as was disengagement, especially as the conflict continued.

Sympathy for refugees coming over the border also waned. The Commission also sites that in May 1974 the Dublin and Monaghan bombings brought The Troubles into the limelight in the Republic and relatives of the 33 people who were killed that day suffered the horror which was quickly forgotten and their needs cruelly unmet. Meanwhile the



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overall impact In the Republic is difficult to measure, and has been neglected.  
 During the the first hunger strike by Bobby Sands I noted in my own town and else where the deep apathy that existed in the south against the Irish in the North. Thanks to the Victims and Survivors Commission I now understand the fear that languished. The report serves as a reminder the violence in the North was much more than a distant and grim backdrop. None the less there were those who apparently ignored it. Who knows, will it ever be a United Ireland?

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## Nuala Kavanagh Honored as Chicago Sister Cities International Volunteer of the Year

Since Galway native Nuala Kavanagh moved to the Chicago area nearly two decades ago, she has dedicated herself to strengthening the ties of her homeland and her adopted metropolis, ultimately taking on the role of co-chair of the Galway Sister Cities Committee last year. In recognition of her efforts, Kavanagh was honored as the Chicago Sister Cities 2023 International Volunteer of the Year Award at the Chicago International Gala, an event hosted by World Business Chicago and Chicago Sister Cities International at the Hilton Chicago in October.

"What an honor to be recognized," said Kavanagh after the event. "It was some affair!"

Some affair indeed, as approximately 700 people gathered alongside dignitaries such as Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, Consul General of Ireland Kevin Byrne, and business leaders from several Fortune 500 companies. Michael Fassnacht, who serves as President and CEO of World Business Chicago, presented Kavanagh with the award before she delivered remarks in front of the crowded event space.

"Sure, it was a bit nerve-racking, as the focus was all on me, which made it challenging. I had notes prepared, but I ended up not needing them because I'm passionate about the work we do with the Sister Cities Committee," Kavanagh remarked, pointing to her previous professional experience in corporate training, where she led a course on presentation skills, as part of the reason she was able to deliver such a well-delivered and well-received speech.

Kavanagh was especially grateful that she was able to enjoy the evening in the presence of her family, including her husband Seamus, her children, and - to top it all off - her one-week-old grandson Jack, who joined the event via FaceTime. Galway Sister Cities co-chair and Chairman of the Board of the Irish Fellowship Club John Wrenn

also attended and sat with the Kavanagh family and friends.

In her remarks, Kavanagh shared her first memories of volunteering at the age of five, when her parents "strongly encouraged" her and her siblings to collect toiletries for the local senior's hospital. She then acknowledged her family, friends, co-chair Wrenn, and the entire Galway Sister Cities Committee for their support, and concluded by offering her perspective on the significance of volunteering and citizen diplomacy, noting the importance of "praying for and aiding peace in a world where violence and war is still existent."

### Time to Get to Work

What led to Nuala Kavanagh's impressive success in her role with the Galway Sister



More specifically, two life events precipitated her accomplishment. The first came in 2004, when she and her family moved from Ireland to the suburbs of Chicago, following Seamus's career opportunity at Hollister International, which is headquartered in Libertyville. The second came years later at the Drake Hotel, when she sat with Billy and Anne Lawless at the Ireland Network Chicago ball. Billy Lawless, already aware that Kavanagh had taken an active volunteer role in organizing local events for University of Galway alumni and friends, asked her to consider joining the Galway Sister Cities committee.

Upon joining the committee, Kavanagh did what she usually does: she got to work, organizing two virtual events during the COVID-19 pandemic, one a showcase of Galway, and another highlighting the richness of the city's diversity and culture. After four years of serving on the committee, Lawless again came to her with a request, this time to ask her if she would step in to take on his role of co-chair of the committee.

Kavanagh started in her role in June 2022 and did not take a long time in putting her stamp on the organization. "We began by organizing the committee by teams, brainstorming what needed to be done, and then prioritizing and focusing on our important issues," she shared. "The committee was eager to get to work."

### Projects with a Purpose

Kavanagh, along with her co-chair Wrenn and other members of the committee,

have expanded programming to focus not only on strengthening business ties, but also connecting around issues like mental health awareness and supporting cancer survivors. She points to one example of how she has taken the lead on

building a partnership between two like-minded organizations in Chicago and Galway that are focused on how to provide rowing opportunities for people who have survived cancer. For Kavanagh, a breast cancer survivor, this has proven to be a particularly gratifying program to facilitate, and she hopes to bring both organizations together for a "joint row" over the next year.

Kavanagh summarized the committee's mission this way: "When we talk about things, we want to pick projects with a purpose."

One group within the Galway Sister Cities Committee is also leading a partnership with Paul Dowling of Irish Community Services in studying mental health awareness in Galway and Chicago and what resources are available to people with mental health issues. They are particularly looking at mental health resources in the areas of arts and culture.

For his part, Dowling offered high praise for Kavanagh: "Nuala's dedication, innovative thinking, and tireless efforts have revitalized our committee and deepened connections between the two cities she loves—Galway and Chicago. Nuala truly embodies the essence of citizen diplomacy and fostering a spirit of goodwill and cooperation."

### When Nuala's In, She's All In

Kavanagh exemplifies the proverb, "If you want to get something done, ask a busy person to do it." In addition to her role with the Sister Cities Committee, she also dedicates her time to work on community outreach for the St. Joseph's Food Pantry in Libertyville, and manages fundraising for Reach Rescue, a dog rescue organization, in Mundelein, where she also fosters dogs. Of course, as mentioned, she took on the role of grandmother with baby Jack's birth in October, so that will add another set of responsibilities to her plate.

Ever looking forward and seemingly never content with the status quo, Kavanagh is excited to continue to grow the impact of the Galway Sister Cities Committee and find ways to strengthen the partnership of the many Irish organizations across the Chicago area.

Anyone who has had the privilege to get to know Kavanagh would likely agree with the phrase that her husband Seamus and their children have used to describe her: "When Nuala's in, she's all in."



Consul General of Ireland Kevin Byrne, Nuala Kavanagh, and Galway Sister Cities co-chair, and Chairman of the Board of the Irish Fellowship Club John Wrenn

Cities Committee? To name a few: her talents as a leader and an organizer, her passion for Galway and Chicago, her commitment to seeing things through, and her generosity in lending her time and talents for others.

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## Grammy-Nominated Music Sensation Celtic Woman 20th Anniversary Tour in 2024

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### Soprano Mairéad Carlin to Return

On the heels of the successful "Postcards From Ireland," Celtic Woman will carry on its legacy of uplifting performances packed with breath-taking harmonies and instrumental virtuosity. The group today announced it will bring an all-new live show to celebrate its 20th anniversary to North America. The Celtic Woman 20th Anniversary Tour will be delighting audiences with its fresh blend of traditional and contemporary Irish music that echoes Ireland's rich musical and cultural heritage, while reflecting the vibrant spirit of modern Ireland.

In the 20 years since the global musical sensation's debut, Celtic Woman has emerged as both a formidable musical presence and a genuine cultural phenomenon. The group's albums and DVD releases have been consistent multi-platinum best-sellers and its concert tours continue to touch the hearts of a devoted audience that spans the globe. Both an accomplished recording ensemble and a world-class performing collective, Celtic Woman introduces some of Ireland's most talented singers and musicians to the world stage.

The group's repertoire encompasses Irish classics, contemporary songs, classical favorites and stirring originals. The lineup of performers has evolved in the years since the group's inception but the signature sound of Celtic Woman has remained consistent, showcasing the members' individual and collaborative talents.

Celtic Woman is comprised of four young Irish women whose performing skills bring centuries of musical and cultural tradition to life. In concert, their angelic voices and instrumental virtuosity are accompanied by a robust ensemble that includes Irish dancers, bagpipers and a full band playing an array of traditional Celtic instruments, including bodhrán, tin whistle, bouzouki and Uilleann pipes.

Returning to the group is soprano Mairéad Carlin, a former member who joins the show for this very special anniversary tour. Joining her are fellow soprano Muirgen O'Mahony, fiddle and Irish harp maestro Tara McNeill, as well as the newest member of the group, the multi-talented Emma Warren, who has toured with Riverdance, Heartbeat of Home and most recently performed in Les Miserables, London.

Later this year, PBS will air the accompanying "20th ANNIVERSARY" TV special in North America across 60+ local PBS stations. Filmed in The Helix Theatre in Dublin, Ireland, it takes fans on a journey back to where it all began 20 years ago (and in the very same theatre). The TV special features appearances from four very special guests including original members Lisa Kelly, Máiréad Nesbitt, Méav Ní Mhaolchatha and Chloë Agnew -- who join Celtic Woman for this wonderful TV special packed with emotional and heart stirring performances.

Following the PBS broadcasts, the "20th ANNIVERSARY" album and DVD will be released in January 2024 and features brand-new compositions and arrangements plus some fan favorites.

Since 2005, Celtic Woman has sold over ten million CDs and DVDs, and amassed more than 3 billion streams, making it the only all-female act to achieve multi-platinum success in the classical crossover and world music genres during the past decade. Named Billboard's #1 World Music Artist of the Year six times, 12 of the studio CDs have debuted at #1



on Billboard's World Album chart. Celtic Woman has also scored two Top 10 debuts on Billboard's influential album chart and five Top Five DVDs on Billboard's Top Video chart, as well as achieving platinum-level sales in nine countries. Their 2016 album release, "Destiny", was nominated for a Grammy award in the category of Best World Music Album, marking the group's first-ever Grammy nomination.

For the tour schedule, tickets and info, visit [www.celticwoman.com/tour-dates](http://www.celticwoman.com/tour-dates). Sign up for Celtic Woman's newsletters at [www.celticwoman.com](http://www.celticwoman.com) to learn about new tour dates, album releases and special offers.

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### To Avoid Adding To a Family Crisis, Create An Emergency Legal Plan

Over the past twenty-five years, numerous catastrophic events have occurred including 9-11, the Covid Pandemic, and major climate events. These events have caused many Americans to take steps to plan for and prepare for emergencies. For instance, many have purchased generators, obtained protective vaccines, and put together emergency medicines, food, supplies and equipment to utilize during periods of time when heat, electricity, water, internet and phone services are interrupted. While all of these practical steps are important and beneficial to you and your

family, often times individuals fail to take similar practical legal steps that may be instrumental in seeing your family through emergency events.

Over the years, our firm has been contacted often by families during a period of crisis when family members are catastrophically injured and left in incapacitated states where they are no longer capable or competent to handle their own affairs or make important legal and medical decisions. Our firm is always greatly relieved to learn that a family has previously created powers of attorney for both healthcare and financial purposes for

the incapacitated person.

Essentially, every person should have a power of attorney for health care and a separate power of attorney for financial matters. These documents can be created in such a way so that they only take effect when a person becomes incapacitated and they can be tailored to provide only certain kind of powers concerning your healthcare needs and financial decision making. The State of Illinois has form documents for both powers of attorney for healthcare and powers of attorney for financial matters that are excellent starting points that allow every individual to create powers of attorney in a simple and straightforward manner delineating the powers that are delegated, who they are delegated to and when those powers take effect.

These documents are not only important for those of us who are approaching the latter years of our lives, they are also important for healthy people who tragically find themselves incapacitated by some serious accident or medical event. Parents with kids going off to college should seriously consider having that child sign off on a power of attorney so that if something happens to that child while they are at school, medical decisions and/or financial decisions can take place in a timely and efficient manner.

If such documents are not created, our firm is able to utilize various tools to work around the lack of a power of attorney. For instance, Illinois has a statute known as the Health Surrogate Act that allows certain family members, in order of priority, to make medical decisions for family members who have been declared incapacitated by medical staff. The problem with this statute is the priority of the individuals taking power may not in fact match the true dynamics of the family and it requires a doctor to make certain key findings before those decision-making powers are turned over. It is far simpler to have a pre-existing power of attorney set up so that both health and financial decisions can take place immediately upon a person's incapacitation.

These documents also aid us to act on behalf of a family without the immediate need of setting up a guardianship or an estate through the court system. In addition to powers of attorneys for healthcare and finances, every household should also have some type of estate

planning discussions with competent legal professionals.

Further, in order to avoid long, drawn out probate court interventions, it may be wise to have trusted family members jointly named on key bank accounts with you so that the financial assets can be quickly accessed if needed. Further, all investment plans and life insurance policies should have named beneficiaries so that these assets do not need to be administered by a probate court in the case of an emergency.

Every family should have these discussions. At least yearly, you should review your legal plans to ensure that the plan is still appropriate given changing family dynamics. Certainly, before traveling overseas, dropping a child off at college or undergoing a major medical procedure, these plans should be reviewed to ensure that all is in good order.

The bottom line is that we should prepare for legal emergencies in the same way that we would prepare for weather events or natural disasters and have an appropriate plan in place and the right individuals named to help us in the event of a crisis.

By: John P. Scanlon

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

*Healy Scanlon Veugeler Gannon is comprised of seven trial attorneys and four "Of Counsel" attorneys, one of whom is a solicitor from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 W. Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100) (overlooking Daley Center Courthouse).*

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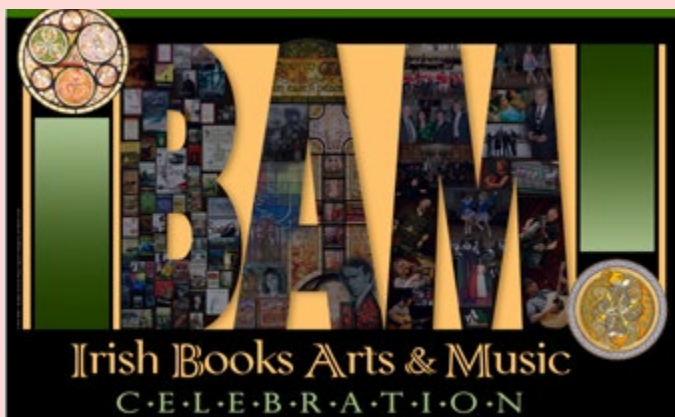
*The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.*

*Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.*

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As the autumn leaves paint the streets in shades of red and gold, it's an ideal time to reflect on the connection between Ireland and Chicago, where the echoes of Irish heritage resonate deeply. Beyond our shared cultural roots, another common thread binds us—our commitment to sustainability.

In recent years, the concepts of eco-friendliness, conservation, and sustainable business practices have been at the forefront of both Ireland and Chicago. These initiatives are not just about preserving our beautiful landscapes, but also about securing a brighter future for generations to come.

Sustainability in Ireland is more than just a buzzword; it's a way of life. Ireland has set ambitious targets for climate action to become carbon-neutral by 2050. This commitment can be seen in various facets of Irish life, from agriculture to technology and tourism.

One notable example is the increasing emphasis on sustainable agriculture. Farmers are adopting eco-friendly practices, reducing emissions, and ensuring the health of the land. Sustainable food production not only safeguards the environment but also produces healthier, locally sourced goods.

In addition to the agricultural sector, Ireland is fostering innovation in renewable energy. Wind and solar power initiatives are burgeoning across the country, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and minimizing the ecological impact. Ireland's green energy efforts not only promote sustainability but also stimulate economic growth and create green jobs.

Meanwhile, across the Atlantic, the Windy City is also blowing in the direction of sustainability. Chicago has been making impressive strides in reducing its environmental footprint. The city boasts green buildings and numerous eco-conscious policies. One of Chicago's most remarkable achievements is its dedication to renewable energy sources. The city is known for its commitment to wind energy, which aligns perfectly with its moniker. The iconic Chicago Skyline now hosts an increasing number of LEED-certified buildings, showcasing the city's drive to reduce energy consumption and promote sustainability.

Moreover, Chicago's residents are actively participating in eco-friendly initiatives, from community gardens to sustainable businesses. Local companies have been embracing the sustainable trend, focusing on eco-conscious manufacturing and supply chain practices. It's heartening to see this devotion to sustainability extending into the business world, proving that profitability and environmental stewardship can indeed coexist.

**Bridging the Green Gap**

While separated by an ocean, Ireland and Chicago share a passion for sustainability, embodying the global imperative to protect our planet. From green agriculture to renewable energy, from eco-friendly businesses to conservation efforts, both regions have taken meaningful steps to secure a sustainable future.

As Irish-Americans, we hold dear the values of our heritage, and one value that resonates deeply is stewardship of the land. As we approach the holiday season, many of us will be planning trips to visit with loved ones across the pond. Embracing sustainability during our holiday travels is not only good for the planet but also an opportunity to connect with our roots. Consider eco-conscious travel options such as packing light to reduce your carbon footprint, using public transportation, and staying in green-certified accommodations.

Ireland is teeming with eco-friendly lodging options nestled amid the serene country and ocean sides, allowing travelers to experience the beauty of Ireland while minimizing their environmental impact. Here is a sampling of environmentally conscious accommodations to consider:

**Finn Lough, County Fermanagh-** A luxury hideaway, with forest domes where you can sleep under the stars.

**Gregan's Castle Hotel, County Clare-**Part of The Burren Ecotourism Network, Gregan's is a model of environmentally conscious friendliness.

**Slieve Aughty Centre, County Galway-**Family owned eco-friendly equestrian and activity leisure centre set on 17 acres of rugged Galway land including a certified

organic restaurant.

**The Salthouse, County Antrim:** (Pictured) Sustainable luxury positioned in the heart of the Causeway Coast and Glens

Self Catering options include the Riverside Paradise, County Galway- a 3,200 square-foot house on the banks of the River

Shannon, complete with jacuzzi and private use of a boat, and received a silver medal from Ecotourism Ireland.

**Croan Cottages, County Kilkenny** a member of the International Ecotourism Club, wind powered and boasts pesticide free gardens and orchards.

By making conscious choices while traveling, we can celebrate the spirit of sustainability that is flourishing both in Ireland and Chicago. For the upcoming holiday season,

let us honor our Irish heritage and the commitment to sustainability by embracing eco-conscious practices not only at home but also abroad. In doing so, we can ensure that the rich traditions we hold dear are passed down to future generations in a world that remains as vibrant and verdant as our beloved Emerald Isle.



Salt House: Peter Bruce Photography

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BOOKS by Irish Authors or About Irish Subjects!

**James Joyce and Ernest Hemingway: the Odd Couple**

James Joyce and Ernest Hemingway dominated the 20th century, Joyce as a great literary writer of only four books, including the massive Ulysses, and Ernest Hemingway who became that rare writer who was a popular star and an iconic figure of the two-fisted macho artist and eventually—a Nobel Prize winner. Hemingway's style was marked by simple declarative sentences.

It is not often that one becomes a great artist and a commercial artist simultaneously

Hemingway had published his first book of connected stories by the time he met Joyce in Paris. Though Hemingway was stingy regarding praise of other writers except for F. Scott Fitzgerald in their early Paris days, he claimed that Joyce was "the best writer in the world." Morton Levitt, in a discussion of Joyce's place within the modernist movement, writes: "It cannot be entirely an oversight that of all the writers who had influenced Hemingway, Joyce is the only one whom he never needed to trash; even as an old man, Hemingway—who more than once had carried a drunken Joyce home—continued to speak of him with respect and affection

(Levitt, 392)." (Ernest Hemingway and his most obvious rival, William Faulkner, never met, but both men respected each other, albeit Hemingway somewhat grudgingly.)

James Joyce knew Hemingway was a gifted writer with a skill beyond his inflated image. They became drinking buddies and developed an odd relationship. Supposedly, a drunk James Joyce picked fights and then he behind Hemingway, a great bodyguard. They were very different in physical appearance. While Joyce was unathletic and nearly blind, Hemingway was tall and capable of sudden violent outbursts.

They were very different writers, as well.

Unlike Joyce who was so expansive in this prose, Ernest Hemingway and Samuel Beckett, then Joyce's secretary, edited all but essential details out.



**Books in Review**  
By Michael Corrigan



In his Hemingway biography *The Paris Years*, Michael Reynolds asserts that Hemingway drew his inspiration for "Big Two-hearted River" from Joyce's story, "The Dead," the last story in *The Dubliners*. Joyce had Stephen Daedalus and Hemingway Nick Adams to narrate their semi biographical stories. "Big Two-Hearted River" is a story about the aftermath of war without the mention of war, and "The Dead" is a story that avoids any confrontation with death until the final revelation when a man realizes he has been cuckolded suddenly by his wife's memory of a long dead lover named Michael Furey.

Hemingway's story is set in a blackened burned-out land suggesting a bombing. His narrator, Nick Adams, describes a grasshopper:

"...As he watched the black grasshopper that was nibbling at the

wool of his sock with its fourway lip, he realized that they had all turned black from living in the burned-over land. ... The grasshoppers were all black now. He wondered how long they would stay that way (165).

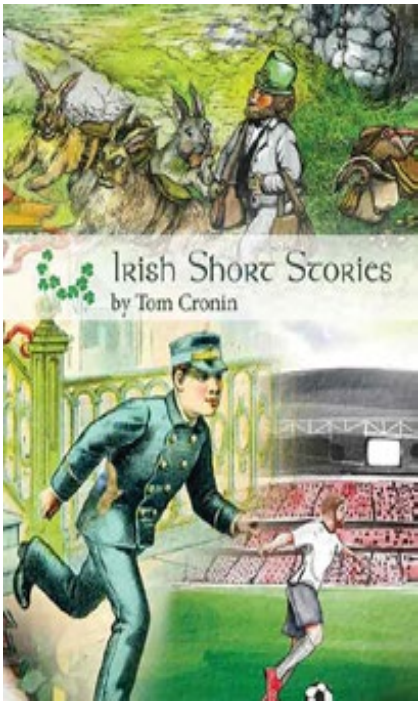
Joyce's story ends with a memorable passage about snow falling on Dublin, obliterating everything. Only James Joyce could have written the following lines about snow over Ireland:

"It was falling too upon every part of the churchyard where Michael Furey lay buried. It lay drifted on the crosses and headstones, on the spears of the gate, on the thorns. His soul swooned slowly as he heard the snow falling faintly through the universe and faintly falling, like the descent of their last end, upon all the living and the dead."

By seeing a connection between these two stories, particularly their use of imagery, we may understand some similarities between two writers who, on the surface, are so different.

There are not many verified stories of Hemingway and Joyce carousing together, but they were drinking pals, and Ernest Hemingway did often carry the great Irish writer home.

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**William Trevor... 'Master of the Glimpse'**

By Sabina Clarke

Last Stories: By William Trevor  
Viking; NY, New York, 2018, \$26

Within hours of his death at eighty-eight in 2016 tributes from Irish writers poured in to Ireland's newspaper the Irish Times expressing just how much William Trevor's work meant to them.

Called by many the "greatest living English language writer" his books are considered very English yet Trevor considered himself an "Irish writer" belonging to the "Irish tradition". His stated goal was to take Irish provincialism and make it universal.

The picture that emerges is that of a writer whose work encompassed an entire literary tradition residing at the center of Irish literary consciousness yet a writer still on the periphery-- an outsider.

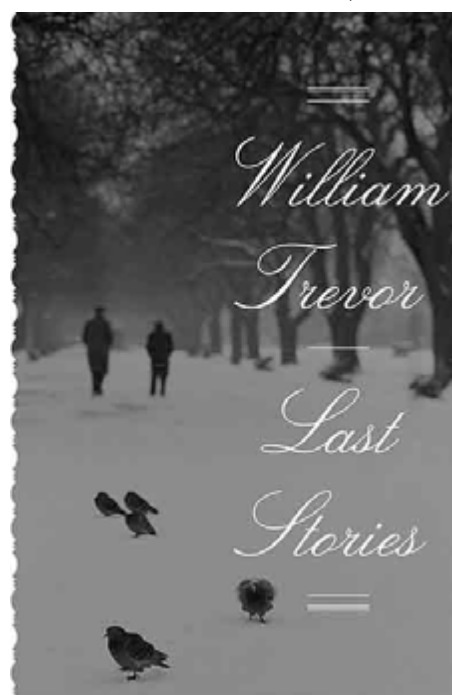
Perhaps this is because the Irish born Trevor who referred to himself as a "lace curtain Protestant" moved to England in the 1950's because he could not get work in Ireland and then wrote about English society which he admitted both fascinated and perplexed him.

After a variety of jobs as a teacher, a church sculptor and a copywriter in an advertising agency he penned his first two novels and short stories which were set in England. Not until the mid-1970 did his focus shift to Ireland.

In this superb posthumous collection of 10 short stories—9 of which have never been published before—the theme of loneliness prevails.

In *The Piano's Teacher's Pupil* the middle aged spinster Miss Elizabeth Nightingale considers herself fortunate

since she inherited a house on the death of her father and was able to live comfortably on her earnings as a piano teacher. The story opens with a piano lesson: 'The Brahms? She said, 'Shall we



struggle through the Brahms?' The boy, whose first lesson with Miss Nightingale this was, said nothing. But gazing at the silent metronome, he smiled a little, as if the silence pleased him. Then his fingers touched the piano keys and when the first notes sounded Miss Nightingale knew that she was in the presence of a genius."

Gradually, after each piano lesson Miss Nightingale notices something missing—"the little snuff-box with someone else's coat of arms on it was missing from the window table" and the "rose-petal

paperweight was there when he began to play his Chopin prelude but gone when she returned from seeing him out."

She tried to rationalize that perhaps he helped himself because he thought



Author William Trevor

he deserved a fee for his performance? But she did not mention this to the boy because she feared he would not come again, "The mystery there was in the music was in his smile when he finished, while he waited for her approval."

In *The Unknown Girl* the story opens with the death of a young girl whose history unravels through the reminiscence of her employer, Harriet Balfour a widowed wealthy woman whose young son a lives with her:

"For hardly longer than a second the people on the pavement's edge were frozen in perfect stillness. Then a man stepped into the oncoming traffic, both arms raised to peremptorily halt it...The driver's door of the green and yellow van that had so dramatically braked while lurching to one side now opened. A voice called for an ambulance....The body was covered with a blanket on the stretcher; the ambulance doors were softly closed. This life was over."

As the tale unfolds we learn little about the secret solitary life of Emily Vance the young housekeeper who appears to have no living kin. Only four unrelated people show up at her funeral—including her last employer, Harriet Balfour. Not mentioning her housecleaner's death to her son, Harriet reviews the past when Emily worked for her, She tries to piece things together—words, expressions, any nuance or thread that might offer a clue

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BOOKS by Irish Authors or About Irish Subjects!

as to why Emily left her employ never to return and with no explanation.

Finally, she senses a connection to her son—and the probable reason for Emily’s sudden departure, “Harriet wished she didn’t know. She wished that what she had dreaded had happened instead, ordinary and understandable.” As her regret and remorse about Emily’s life becomes more intense she ceases to get pleasure from what had given her pleasure before, “Her garden that always delighted her ceased to comfort her: “The scarlet tinge of early peonies came suddenly, broom’s yellow brightness, pink clematis, rosemary thriving”....Harriet wept and through the blur of her tears the beauty that had spread in her garden, and was spreading still, was lost in distortion. She watched it returning. Becoming even more resplendent....but in a world that was all wrong it seemed to be a mockery.”

In An Idyll in Winter we are introduced to 12 year-old-Mary Bella an only child living on a farm with her parents who hire a 22 year-old university student named Anthony to tutor her. A mutual fondness between pupil and teacher develops and Mary Bella never forgets the magical summer of their excursions on the moors or their conversations. One year later, Anthony leaves and she is reconciled to never seeing him again. After her parents die she inherits the farm and one day Anthony, married now with two children, returns to the farm alone—and stays for hours—“In the morning Anthony knew he shouldn’t have gone back.” He leaves his wife and children—but duty eventually pulls him back home.

Despite his protestations that he belonged with her, Mary Bella had a “wisp of doubt that flourished now as a premonition”. “Why did she know? Why did he not? He’s been the teacher once.” One morning Anthony silently leaves the farm before she wakes up—waving goodbye to the workmen

Mary Bella knows he will not come back “no searching in the falsity for something that might be better than nothing.” She does not want the workmen’s pity. She wishes she could explain that love will not wither or die slowly or be made ordinary. She wishes that they could know that love was there for her in the rooms and places they shared—unchanged and “familiar to him as they are to her.”

William Trevor saw himself as primarily a short story writer and called it the “art of the glimpse.” His genius is reflected as much in as what is unsaid as in what is said.

He is invisible on the page both subtle and oblique and must be read more than once.

**Review Telling Stories**

Sabina Clarke, BiblioPublishing.com 2023

By John Lavin

Telling Stories is a collection of interviews by journalist, Sabina Clarke, based upon conversations convened with the forty-four individuals highlighted in this eclectic book. Spanning Ms. Clarke’s career from 1988 to 2019, the personalities on display offer a spectacular array of human crisis, candor, interest.

Figures defining in the history of Northern Ireland discuss with Ms. Clarke the details and process of that region’s peace negotiations, including Gerry Adams and Senator George Mitchell respectively interviewed in 2010 and 2015.

Delving further into the conflict, a portrait of Bernadette Devlin rendered in 1994 gives voice to the leader from Ulster’s historic human rights struggle. Ms. Clarke provides her own prompts and excerpts from Ms. Devlin’s comments:

Q On the 1980, '81 Hunger Strikes

A Ten people died, and Prime Minister Thatcher didn’t concede an inch. That’s the mentality we’re dealing with now.

Q On her seeking elected office again

A. No. Usually I get what I want by threatening to seek political office

Q. On her mission in coming to the U.S.

A. I see my role as an educator and agitator. I like to be at the edges and pushing them out.

A 2019 Northern Ireland retrospective is the most recent interview in this series. Staged at New York City’s Penn Club, this most recent chat is with Patrick Radden Keefe, and Ms. Clarke’s interview elicits the essence of his investigative chronicle, Say Nothing, which is Keefe’s Orwell-Prize-winning tragic account of harrowing acts of sectarian impasse and violence.

Politics, spirituality, and literary accomplishment blend in Telling Stories’ accomplished and influential retinue: Daniel Berrigan, Mary Gordon, Edna O’Brien, William Kennedy, Amy Goodman, and Jennifer Egan all have confided in Sabina Clarke about their quirky habits, their inspirations, their families, their personal impulses, and their shared sense of humanity.

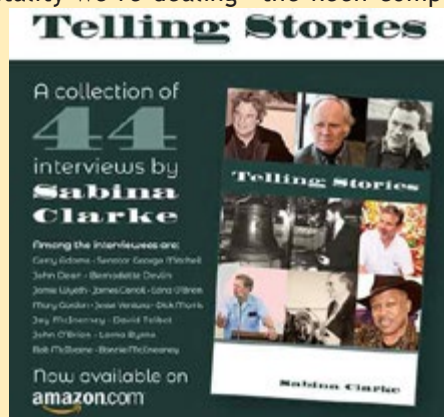
Thus, one can imagine Sabina Clarke’s consistent and

uncanny ability to bring out the inner person at the heart of public leadership. We learn, by way of Ms. Clarke, that Joe Frazier founded his boxing gym in North Philadelphia as a place to empower youth. Mr. Frazier disclosed to Ms. Clarke how his own education in life emanated from his African American family that endured the racism of the segregationist South. That diverse family was Smokin’ Joe’s template for relationships with trainers and boxing coaches as well as proteges. We learn how Frazier embraced his mixed roots within that African American family and that his “part Irish” paternal grandmother had set him on the “right path” in life. Thus, Frazier mused, to Clarke, “You don’t know how long you’re going to be around: so, black, red, purple, orange, green, or white, -- enjoy yourself.”

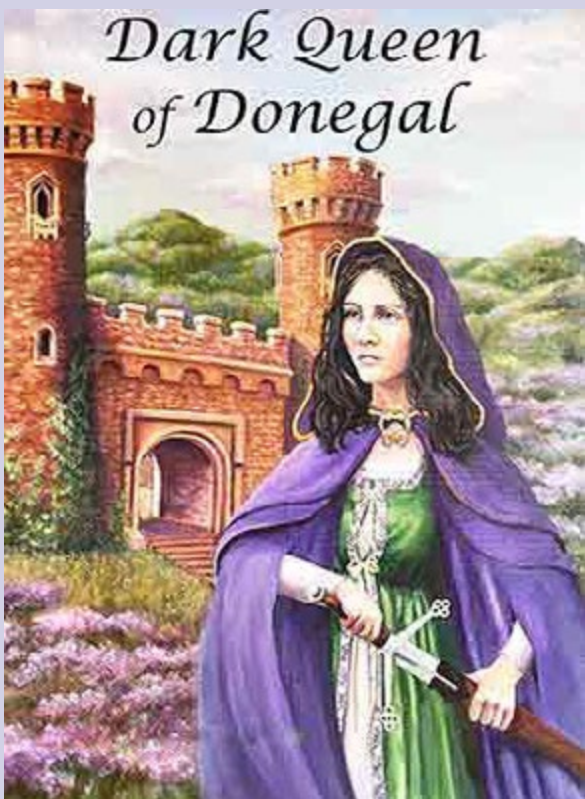
Celebrities such as former Governor Jesse Ventura and Nixon-era White House Counsel, John Dean populate the pages of Telling Stories, as well as Hollywood playwright/actor, Jason Miller who played the protagonist of The Exorcist. However, many of the stories focus the lives of achievers whose contributions demonstrate the keen compassion of Susan Chernak McElroy, an animal lover and author of Animals as Teachers and Healers: True Stories and Reflections, or the humility of Sister Briege McKenna, a Catholic nun with debilitating arthritis whose mysticism is a hagiography in brief of suffering and faith. These stories convert the headlines of fame into tales of personable, believable people. The ordinary also become extraordinary.

Sabina Clarke’s Introduction to the tapestry of persona and personality opens with the insight, “Even from a young age I have always been fascinated by people and words and images.” What follows is an immersion in her vocation honoring the stories that people have to tell.

Published by BiblioPublishing.com and available via Amazon, the book is drawn from Ms. Clarke’s tenure writing for The Irish Edition, the Chestnut Hill Local, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Philadelphia Daily News, and other media. Much of the raw experiential knowledge and research available in these pages comes from Ms. Clarke’s role as press contact for Sinn Fein during Gerry Adams 1994 Clinton-sponsored visit to the U.S. as well as similar roles played on behalf of Irish President Mary McAleese in 1998. She also facilitated communications for the Belfast Project of Boston College.



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literally see your legacy grow. This is an investment into Ireland's Natural Heritage. Although the main planting season for seedlings is from November through April, Native Irish trees are able to be planted year-round.

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## A Visit With Irish Poet Padraig O'Tuama at Printers Row Lit Fest

By *Ryanne Gallagher Johnson*

"My love of poetry, my interest in conflict resolution, and dialogue, they all turn me toward the question of language," muses Irish poet, theologian, podcast host, and conflict mediator, Pádraig Ó Tuama.

With all of the devastating contention going on in our world at the moment, everybody could use a little more art and conversation in their lives, and Mr. Ó Tuama has been providing people with these for decades. His hope is that with encouragement from both, we can find more unity, despite the differences we may have.

Hailing from County Cork, Ireland, and raised in a Catholic family along with five siblings, he was learning poems in Irish and English every week in school, from the ages of five to seventeen, often by heart. "I was benefited by having a love for language that was given to me," he says, adding that it led him to start writing his own poetry when he was just eleven.

Following his early education, he received a Bachelor of Arts in Divinity from the Maryvale Institute of Birmingham, England, a Master's of Theology from Queen's University Belfast, and a PhD from the School of Critical Studies at the University of Glasgow. Alongside this formal education, he pursued vocational training in conflict analysis, specializing in group work ([padraigotuama.com](http://padraigotuama.com)).

"I was very interested in people. For ten years maybe, I did youth work mostly. And then kind of got in, through that- because youth work is a huge amount of communication- I got into conflict resolution. By that stage, I'd moved to the North [of Ireland], and then spent most of the last twenty years in projects to do with conflict resolution.

"I had always done Catholic-Protestant dialogue," he explains further, speaking of the two components of the conflict within Northern Ireland for over three decades. "That had always interested me greatly. Obviously in the North, it's got a very different context, but I was very interested in what a. religiously and b. culturally and politically these memberships of these communities- Catholic and Protestant- could mean in Ireland. Because wherever you are in Ireland, it's not just about what you believe or don't believe, it's also a question as to whether your connection is British or Irish or perceived to be British or Irish.

"My primary love is language. I speak Irish, English, and then I did French in school. I think that the question about language and interpreting each other, interpreting yourself, and in conversation with each other, can aid understanding. I don't think that people will agree with each other, I don't think that's the point.

I think the idea is to find a way where you can disagree with each other in a way where you're not threatening each other.

"I think those in the North paying attention to the legacy of British Colonialism and trying to have public conversations about that can be seen to be a contentious topic. . . [But] this is something huge and systemic. There was a famine that didn't need to happen, there was the inclusion of Ireland in this thing called [The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland] in 1801, and the partition of Ireland. You know, all of those things have long-term effects, and so it isn't just about blaming people from a particular area that has often been impoverished by lack of investment and education or play or health. I'm much more interested in thinking, 'What does it mean for Ireland'- and by Ireland, I mean the entire island- 'to look to what our combined future will be, and our future forward?' And all of that requires plain and courageous language."

After spending twenty years in Belfast, he's decided to shift gears a bit, and now holds residency in New York while turning his art into full-time work. "It's hard to make a career just out of publishing. . . so in the last number of years, since 2019, I made a decision to become more of a full time artist. So it's a mix of broadcasting, sometimes teaching or speaking about poetry or conflict resolution or religion and conflict as well."

Currently the author of three books of poetry, with a fourth, entitled Kitchen Hymns, being released in 2024, Mr. Ó Tuama has also written a book of spiritual reflection. "I'm interested in poetry, but I think prayer is a particular kind of poetry, so I've written some books of prayers as well."

On the broadcasting side, he presents a podcast through On Being Studios, called Poetry Unbound, which is an immersive exploration of a single poem in each episode. "To our surprise and delight, and with great gratitude to listeners, [it has] become a well-listened to poetry podcast," he says, revealing that the platform recently hit the truly impressive milestone of 11 million downloads.

"The poetry scene is alive and kicking and brilliant," he says. "There's no human culture where poetry hasn't occurred. . . Across the world, art is often saying urgent and necessary and strange things."

Perhaps if we spent less time in active conflict and more time listening to art and to each other, we could all find a little more peace and understanding.

For information about Pádraig Ó Tuama, visit [www.padraigotuama.com](http://www.padraigotuama.com)

Poetry Unbound can be found wherever you listen to your podcasts.



**Pádraig Ó Tuama**

## Beverly Arts Center Remembers Pat Stanton

The Beverly Arts Center is honored to accept donations in memory of L. Patrick Stanton, who passed away at the age of 97 on October 9. Thanks in large part to his leadership, our beautiful building stands today, welcoming everyone at 111th and Western. We are grateful for his tremendous contributions to Beverly's vivid cultural and creative life, and he will be missed. March 17, 1926 - October 9, 2023 <https://thebeverlyartscenter.com/>





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## 25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement Celebrated and Examined in Ireland

By Dan McLaughlin

This year is the twenty fifth anniversary of the signing of the "Good Friday Agreement," and a special week was planned recently to commemorate that noteworthy event in Ireland.

The Good Friday Agreement, signed on April 10, 1998, was a peace accord that ended thirty years of violence in Northern Ireland. An agreement the United States was instrumental in fostering with George Mitchell intimately involved. It would not have come to fruition without the diplomatic negotiating of Bertie Ahern and Tony Blair. "The Troubles" and the Good Friday Agreement are very involved stories that have already filled volumes from authors much more knowledgeable than I. Everyone seems to agree that reconciliation is not where it should be and the agreement has some inherent problems.

On the flight to Dublin my seat mate happened to be a gentleman returning from Milwaukee fest where he was giving Irish dance lessons and calling out Ceili dances. He was born and raised in Belfast and looked over my itinerary with interest. He was impressed with the program and speakers we were to hear but said it was too bad we weren't going to be in Belfast longer. A more passionate response came when he saw that one of our panels would include former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern. He made the point to say that "without this man there would be no Good Friday Agreement. He was so dedicated to getting this peace agreement settled and signed that he left his mother's wake to attend meetings in Belfast."

From August 23rd to August 27th six hotels in Dublin were filled with over 200 elected officials and former elected officials from the United States. That first night included an event at the Epic Museum followed by a reception

at the Jameson Distillery where we met and mingled with officials from around the United States. I slipped in a tour of The Jeanie Johnston, a nineteenth century

and Shankill Road is a mostly Protestant neighborhood. We stopped at the security barriers and peace walls and listened to Peter Sheridan, CEO of

Ireland is focused on growing the economy and Ireland's presence on the global stage. A visit to the Titanic Museum concluded our day in Belfast and it was back

constant message of our shared values and supporting each other. A moving moment followed as Bertie Ahern presented Notre Dame President, Father John Jenkins with a signed copy of the Good Friday Agreement before addressing our gathering.

Friday night saw a grand dinner with 500 guests filling up the Round Room of The Mansion House. After dinner, a "Fireside Chat" between Former Taoiseach and Prime Minister as well as agreement signer, Bertie Ahern, the Minister for Trade, Dara Calleary and the president of Coca-Cola John Murphy.

Reflecting on the 25th Anniversary of the signing of the agreement, Ahern recalled being concerned that they did all this work and could not be sure it would be approved. John Hume told him, "When it is done put it to the people." It could have gone wrong but 90% of the people in the South voted in favor and 70% in the North. He talked about the importance of the U.S. involvement and how great it was to work with George Mitchell, Presidents Clinton and Bush. He (Ahern) also recalled that Ian Paisley would not shake hands for the longest time afterwards, but they are good friends now.

Commemorating the Good Friday Agreement, fostering stronger U.S. Ireland relations, promoting stronger economies by working together, committed to continuing and improving the peace were the over-riding themes but learning, listening, and compromising, which is so often lacking today was the message. I told my wife Pat on my return that in those few short days I believe we heard from four panels and dozens of other speakers.

I was honored to be invited by event coordinators Irish Senator Mark Daly and the American Irish State Legislators Caucus. Their purpose also included highlighting economic relations between the United States and Ireland. Senator Daly who also serves as Irish Parliamentary Liaison to US State Legislators, did an outstanding job and certainly proved to be a great representative of Ireland.

It might not be the kind of get away most people would look forward to, but it was a great experience that I was honored to be part of.



immigration ship that many of us in Chicago helped raise money to build.

The second day started with the early morning coordination of busses at the six hotels bringing us about two hours north to Belfast. There we visited Falls Road and Shankill Road. Falls Road is a mostly Catholic neighborhood,

Cooperation Ireland, and former Deputy Chief Constable, along with community leaders and victim's rights advocates.

**"He was so dedicated to getting this peace agreement settled and signed that he left his mother's wake to attend meetings in Belfast."**

We then met at Stormont, home of the Northern Ireland Assembly with the Speaker and representatives of the five main political parties. A cordial and informative panel that gradually exposed the differences and animosities of some of these parties.

Northern Ireland Parliament At Belfast City Hall, business leaders and officials discussed the effect the Good Friday Agreement has had on Northern Ireland, including a few noteworthy statistics. The GDP has gone from 22.5 billion to 48.5 billion in the last twenty-five years. Population has increased from 1.6 to 1.9 million and the unemployment rate has seen a 71% reduction. The picture is clear that because of the Good Friday Agreement,

to Dublin.

Early the next morning, it was off to the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. Government officials briefed our delegation on the efforts of the foreign affairs department staff in better representing the growing Irish influence around the globe and in the U.S. in particular where there are 44 million people that identify as Irish and 650 Irish companies in the U.S. hiring 100,000 Americans. To better represent this growing influence, they will be adding to the 6 consul General's offices in the U.S. which includes new offices in Atlanta, Miami, and Houston.

In Leinster House, the Lord Mayor of Dublin repeated the



Dan McLaughlin with former Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern

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**'Wave Goodbye to Dinosaurs' at Loyola University**

*The extraordinary story of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition and its part in the historic peace talks in the 1990's*

Tues, Dec. 5 · 6:30 - 8:30 Damon Cinema, Loyola Univ., 6511 N. Sheridan Rd Chicago, IL 60660  
Join the Irish Consul General for a special screening of *'Wave Goodbye to Dinosaurs'* in partnership with Loyola University's Department of History, as we commemorate 25 years since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement.

Questions and answers will follow with Consul General Kevin Byrne, Professor Andy Wilson, and Professor Gabrielle Buckley after the film.

A reception will be hosted in the student bar 'Ireland's' after the screening.

Synopsis: When peace talks are proposed to negotiate an end to the decades-



old sectarian conflict that left thousands dead and tens of thousands wounded, women in Northern Ireland decide to take matters into their own hands.

Wave Goodbye to Dinosaurs vividly shows the story of Catholic and Protestant women who unite to form an all-female political party, win seats at the negotiating table, and fight to ensure that their policies around human rights, equality, and inclusion are reflected in the Good Friday Agreement.

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# CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

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

## A Chairde – Greetings from Gaelic Park

Many of you know me as a fierce champion of early Christmas shopping. Well, that's not quite true, but I will mention that now is a good time to think about generosity towards the people with whom we share our lives. While Gaelic Park will be offering gifting opportunities in the form of concert tickets, merchandise, memberships and Carraig Pub gift certificates, I'm going to focus here on gifts of shared experiences.

Someone in your life might really like to run or walk with you in the Carraig Challenge 5K. They might be happy to join you at A Very Very Cassie and Maggie Christmas, at Celtic Angels Christmas, or at any of our other concerts. Our Thanksgiving Carvery, the Murder Mystery Dinner, and our monthly Masses are also great options for making memories with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming you and the people you treasure to our events.

Our management, staff and board of directors thank you this month and throughout the year for all your support, for hosting your personal events here, and for your participation. We're very blessed that you are part of our Gaelic Park community.

Go raibh maith agat,  
Bill O'Sullivan



## Upcoming Events

Visit [chicagogaelpark.com](http://chicagogaelpark.com) and follow us on social media for more information on upcoming events.

- November 1st - MONTHLY MUSICAL LUNCHEON
- November 4th - LIBIDO FUNK CIRCUS CONCERT
- November 8th - STORIES OF HOME - MIND MATTERS  
IRISH COMMUNITY SERVICES' GATHERING
- November 10th - ONE OF THESE NIGHTS: A TRIBUTE TO THE EAGLES
- November 12th - MASS AND IRISH BREAKFAST
- November 12th - BOOK CLUB
- November 15th - FINAL WEEK OF JIVE CLASS
- November 17th - MURDER MYSTERY DINNER
- November 23rd - THANKSGIVING BUFFET
- December 3rd - A VERY VERY CASSIE AND MAGGIE CHRISTMAS
- December 7th - CELTIC ANGELS CHRISTMAS

## The Carraig

No cover charge! Visit [carraigirishpub.com](http://carraigirishpub.com) for more up to date information.

- November 2nd - TRAD THURSDAYS
- November 3rd - EBJ BAND
- November 4th - NICKY G
- November 5th - BEARS GAME TAILGATE PARTY IN THE BEER GARDEN
- November 10th - GERRY HAUGHEY
- November 11th - LIAM DURKIN
- November 16th - TRAD THURSDAYS
- November 17th - KIERAN BYRNE
- November 18th - BERNIE GLIM
- November 25th - 3 MEN IN KILTS
- November 26th - THE CARRAIG CHALLENGE 5K RUN/1.5 MILE WALK

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## CELEBRATE WITH US



**Thanksgiving Dinner**  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD



**A Very Very Cassie  
and Maggie Christmas**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD



**Celtic Angels Christmas**  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH



We like to keep things festive at Chicago Gaelic Park this time of year! Please join us for a meal or an event this holiday season.

Tickets for our concerts and holiday events can be found on our website by scanning the QR code below. You can also call us at (708)687-9323 to purchase tickets.





# CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

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

## The Carraig Pub

**\$40 - Tuesdays for 2**

We are excited to welcome you all into our cozy pub this winter! We're celebrating being back in the pub by offering 'Tuesdays for 2' as a dine-in option. Tables of 2 can select 1 appetizer, 2 entrees, 1 dessert, and 1 beer, wine, or pop per person.



### Appetizers

Curry Chips - Gaelic Cheese Chips - Mozzarella Sticks  
Chicken Wings - Reuben Tots - Guinness Cheese Crock

### Entrees

Shepherd's Pie  
Chicken Curry  
Beef Stew  
Or Any Item from our Burgers and Sandwiches Section



### Dessert

Orange Bailey's Cheesecake  
Raspberry Rum Cheesecake  
White Chocolate Brownie  
Apple Crumble  
Guinness Chocolate Cake

## I LOVE THE 80'S TO DEATH

### Murder Mystery Dinner - Friday, November 17th

It's the 80's again, and all of the big names are here for a big concert. Tensions run rampant as backstage secrets spill out into the spotlight with like, totally tragic results! This isn't an episode of Miami Vice! This is like...murder. It's up to you to bust it like a ghost, for sure! Peg your jeans, slouch your socks, flash some neon, put on way too much eyeliner and get that hair up! You are going to solve this crime in style. No time to be Too Shy! You are a Smooth Operator, and you know to listen to those Careless Whispers. It's time to put on your Sunglasses at Night and Relax. Time after time...You will solve the case.



Get tickets at [chicagogaelpark.com](http://chicagogaelpark.com).  
Tickets include a buffet dinner, coffee, and tea. There will be a cash bar. Buffet begins at 6:30 and the show starts at 7:30. Themed outfits are highly encouraged.

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## A Call for Artists to Submit Their Visual Artwork Opens at Heritage Center Week of January 15th

As a result of two successful exhibits in the past two years under the leadership of Kathleen Kelly, Gallery Director, The Visual Artists of the Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC) was born. The goal of the Visual Artists is to keep the arts at the IAHC alive and

well by sponsoring more exhibits, keeping things in the Gallery fresh and interesting through the year, and providing opportunities for artists to collaborate, learn, share ideas, and show their work. The group is open to all visual arts including but not limited to,

painting, photography, quilting, calligraphy, Celtic design and sculpture.

The Gallery is currently hosting a Members Show through the first weekend in December and will host IBAM awardee and visiting artist Róisín O'Farrell November

19-20, who has generously agreed to offer a demonstration on Sunday, November 20 1:30-3:00.

The 2024 IAHC Juried exhibit begins Friday February 16th to be held at the Center's gallery. This is the second juried show with cash awards for Best of Show,

Best Irish Theme, 2nd Place, 3rd Place and Peoples' Choice awards. It is the goal of the IAHC Visual Artists to have a juried show every other year. The 2024 theme is "Far and Near".

The 2022 show had 31 artists from around the country participate with the Best of Show given to Margaret Prescott for her cold wax landscape receiving a \$500 award. The artwork was diverse and stunning. The committee looks forward to another beautiful show. Over 300 people came through the gallery to enjoy the show with The Peoples' Choice Award allowing the public to vote. We look forward to the 2024 show to be more of the same.

Artists mark your calendar for submissions the week of January 15th. The Opening reception will be Friday February 16th (the first fish fry of the Lenten season at the Center). For more information on the 2024 exhibit, becoming a member of the IAHC Visual Artists, or interest in sponsoring the exhibit, contact: Kathy Kelly k.kelly5805@att.net

**A Call For Artists**  
Irish American Heritage Center  
Presents  
**"Near and Far"**  
An exhibit of juried Artwork

Original artwork will be juried the week of:  
January 15th through 21st  
Opening reception: February 16th 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Closing reception TBA

Cash awards: Best of Show, Best Irish Theme,  
2nd place, 3rd place, and Peoples Choice

Applications information  
Kathleen Kelly: k.kelly5805@att.net 773-736-1713





### Be A Sport!

By David  
Mc'Donnell



in from Rotherham in League One, and Josh Cullen came from Anderlecht. Andrew Omobamidele got his first cap soon after making his debut for Norwich. All three currently ply their trade in the Premier League and are examples of Kenny's approach to backing young football talent.

Kenny certainly had his detractors as well, mainly former Irish internationals and ex-managers, who perhaps most understand the necessity for positive results in a results-based business. On dark days after losing at home to Luxembourg and convincingly both home and away to Greece, his critics were particularly reproachful.

There were some good days too, with standout performances including a draw against Portugal in a World Cup qualifier in 2021, while Kenny's best result came in a 3-0 victory over Scotland in the Nations League the following year.

The major problem with Stephen Kenny is that he promised more than he delivered.

To put it bluntly, his team couldn't win the games needed to qualify for tournaments and keep him in the job. In all, he had five wins from 26 matches, which is statistically the worst record of any Irish manager and by some margin.

In this European qualifying campaign, Ireland have five losses and zero points from their five matches against France, Holland and Greece. Their only points came against minnows Gibraltar, a team comprised mainly of amateur players who have yet to win any qualifying game in their history. His last competitive fixture against the Dutch on November 18 is a dead rubber.

Kenny wants his teams to play out from the back and through midfield and it is apparent in hindsight that he didn't have players at his disposal with the technical ability to dictate the

game from the middle of the pitch.

Against the better sides, we found it difficult to retain possession, create chances, or score goals, and when we gave the ball away, opposing sides had plenty of field position and space to attack during transitions. In short, Kenny didn't have the footballing talent to play the game he wanted to play. Former Irish international Liam Brady said it was the "worst selection of Irish players in 50 years."

This harsh reality exposes the truth that the Football Association of Ireland has failed to nurture our best young players over a significant period of time. Former FAI Chief John Delaney, who ran the organisation for almost two decades, has more to answer for than just the financial irregularities that took place during his tenure.

As the American comedian George Carlin once said: "Inside every cynic is a disappointed idealist" which pretty much sums up the current plight of Irish soccer and begs the existential question,

**"Where do we go from here?"**

Stephen Kenny believed that the path forward was to play a progressive style of football and he did his best to implement this. The results indicate that Kenny was the wrong man for the job. However, this doesn't denote that his original premise was incorrect.

Like every Irish supporter I would love Ireland to get to major tournaments but it shouldn't be the be-all and end-all of our ambitions. When we last qualified for major tournaments in 2012 and 2016, we had no expectations of competing for the trophy. We were there essentially to make up the numbers, and during both tournaments, we played particularly forgettable football.

If Ireland wants to be more than this, then, in my opinion, we need to continue to follow the path of playing progressive football. Things might continue to get worse before they get better, but if we keep to this principle when we do qualify, we will have a team more capable of competing with the better footballing nations.

Call me a romantic, but the best hurling, Gaelic football, and rugby teams in the country—Limerick, Dublin, and Leinster—all place a high premium on tactical and skills development from the top down.

Presently, there are 10 emerging talent centres throughout Ireland where the best players at the various age levels get top-level coaching similar to what is on offer at Premier League academies. These coaches put a huge emphasis on playing out from the back to progress the ball up the field. This is done to improve the quality of football players, all while the young players continue living at home and playing for their clubs and schools. Having witnessed this training firsthand, I believe it is a remarkable endeavour that will bear fruit in years to come.

There is no point in developing young players in the skills and nuances of the modern game, only for these qualities to be wasted by playing an archaic brand of football the higher they go up the ladder. I hope that whoever replaces Kenny possesses similar principles for how the national team plays football. Maybe then we will have a team worth supporting for more than just wearing the green jersey.

If this comes to pass, maybe the legacy of the Stephen Kenny years will be remembered in time as necessary growing pains for a more progressive football culture to be built upon.

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# Game On!

By Chris Wheaton



With fall in the air and the hurling and football seasons coming to a close, or at least moving indoors, it seems like there is not much going on in the amateur sports world. That is not necessarily a terrible thing. We all need time to unwind, size up where we have been and where we are going and reflect on another year going into the books.

With a keen eye to the future and staying active in the winter I recently registered for the NCGAA "knees that Craic" hurling tournament that will be held in Las Vegas this coming February. It is a tournament only open to players forty and older and from what I hear is a wonderful time. Naperville Hurling will have a strong contingent attending this year. Some of the rules that are strictly enforced at this tournament are that "no player is allowed to say they could have played more games" and "if it's not something you would say to your grandmother, don't say it to a referee." Obviously, the games are meant to be a little slower paced and contact is supposed to be minimal. I think it is a grand idea as the average age of our club continues to rise but most of us still want to compete and make it to work on Monday morning.

The host organization, the NCGAA does a fantastic job of assisting in the development of hurling and Gaelic football teams on college campuses across the United States. The over-forty tournament is a fundraiser for the organization, so hopefully it is well attended, and we can keep the great GAA sports growing with college aged kids.

Off the subject but worthy of mention was the success of the Naperville Irish fest which was held a few weeks ago. The organizers made a brilliant decision to move the festival from the south end of Naperville to Central Park, right in the downtown area. It was a great move as attendance seemed to

be way up. The more compact setting was tremendous as all the events were connected, and it just felt more intimate. The bands and dancers were always in full view and the food and beer was a few steps away from the center of the festival. Hopefully, the West Suburban Irish reached their goals with this year's event, and it will live on for many years to come. For those of you who missed it, watch for it next year because it really was a fun, family time.

With Thanksgiving in the air and Christmas not too far behind I hope all you Irish American News readers have many things to be thankful for and much that you are looking forward to. I know that life gets in the way sometimes and it is easy to veer off the path of positivity. Find something every day that makes you happy and spend even just a few minutes thinking about it. I guarantee it will help you get through the long, dark days of winter. Although I do not know many of you personally, I am confident that each one of you has something or someone in your life who makes it better. You are all part of this ever-expanding Irish community and if you need help or are able to help another it is really easy to do. Let's take care of each other this holiday season!

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# Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



sheer symbolism of its authority was a constant reminder of the power it wielded. From baptism through to adulthood, you were groomed into thinking that your salvation depended on loyalty to the church. With its doctrine ingrained deeply into your mind, it was hard to see it as anything other than a dictatorial regime. With this amount of control over the Irish community, I never thought it would ever change but it has, as Yeats puts it, 'changed utterly'.

## Everything in Nature Changes

In May this year, I went back to Ireland. Since moving to Southern California, the trek back home has been significantly longer. When I lived in Chicago, the flight to Dublin could sometimes be less than 6 hours. With the wind behind, driving you forward, you could make the 3,500-plus miles in very good time. However, once you got to Dublin, the trek to Derry was not as easy. It may only be 150 miles from Dublin to Derry but if you travel by bus that trip can take up to 5 hours to complete the journey. I have many not-so-fond memories of every village or town we stopped at, wishing my suffering would come to an end.

The trip from Southern California takes almost a whole day to complete. If I thought the bus journey was tediously long, I was wrong. Now, it's three flights to get to Belfast followed by a bus journey to Derry. Instead of making my life easier, I seem intent on making it harder. I blame my Catholic need to do penance for such leanings. We're never happy with what we have until it changes then we long for the old days again. Whatever we think, change is inevitable. Our lives are full of changes. We age, we move house, family dynamics change, we lose people along the way, and generally, time evolves around us in interesting and unusual ways.

I noticed this sense of change most of all on my last trip back home. The Ireland I left in 2004 is so different today. Yes, there are things that are still the same. Scratch the surface of any Northern Irish person, and you'll find the usual bias when it comes to political differences about the question of Northern Ireland's future. Those differences have been embedded into the minds of many generations and it will take huge changes in attitude to bring about a tolerable solution. There are things that you hope won't change. For example, you can still count on the Irish love of wit. There's no community so capable of unmasking pretension with a humorous retort as the Irish. It's intrinsically part of our DNA. You can't read, watch, or listen to any form of Irish art without encountering the Irish love of satire.

The natural beauty of Ireland, particularly on the west coast, has managed to maintain its charm. While tourism has flourished, and there have been changes made to accommodate this industry, overall the countryside is still one of the prettiest places to be in the world. You can immerse yourself in the wonder of ancients, as you visit the prehistoric sites of the Celts. Their stone fortresses, gravestones, and places of worship are still littered throughout the island. It's easy to see why artists have been so inspired to write about these places. They are great fodder for the imagination.

The changes I noticed on my last visit had more to do with the psychological than the physical landscape. When I was growing up in Ireland, the Catholic church dominated my worldview. You'd still see those great cathedrals sitting on the highest place looming over the people underneath. The

anything other than a dictatorial regime. With this amount of control over the Irish community, I never thought it would ever change but it has, as Yeats puts it, 'changed utterly'.

Another change that has become more evident to me is the greater diversity in Ireland. As immigrants from other countries have settled in Ireland, the country has opened up to the rest of the world. Joining the E.U. has made us feel a part of a larger community and this has saved us from becoming insular. Of course, there will be those who see this opening up of borders as a detrimental change to Irish society, as they do here in the United States, but I'm inclined to think that this mentality is the result of fear-mongering. Other cultures can enrich our lives, widen our perspectives and force us to question our own worldview. In this respect, change is never easy but it's necessary if we are to grow beyond simple tribalism.

What's happening in Ireland is taking place throughout the world. We see communities struggling to come to terms with change. In some cases, the worst possible scenario becomes realized as the community becomes xenophobic, rejecting all outside influences in order to preserve the old way of life. Such behaviour is simply a reflection of a community's insecurity. Change is part of nature, whether we like it or not. Historically, people have been moving from one country to another and bringing with them changes. When the Vikings came to Ireland, it wasn't simply a matter of pillaging the monasteries. They introduced the economy. They set up trade routes to England and Scandinavia and were credited with the first urban centre, Dublin.

Irish society, like most places today, is in a state of flux. Change creates uncertainty and none of us like to feel uncertain. With the loss of the familiar, we wonder what will become of us. Will we lose more than we gain? There are no easy answers to any of the questions that arise as a result of change. We can only look at nature, or our past, and realize that change happens. We cannot stop it from happening but we can choose to embrace it and allow ourselves to evolve with those changes. It's consoling to read Ecclesiastes at such times to remind ourselves that change is all very natural.

'For everything, there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest. A time to kill and a time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up. A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones. A time to embrace and a time to turn away. A time to search and a time to quit searching. A time to keep and a time to throw away. A time to tear and a time to mend. A time to be quiet and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace.' (Ecclesiastes 3 1-8)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwP7ynN3Y2clKt5a\\_uel3VQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwP7ynN3Y2clKt5a_uel3VQ)

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## Eamonn Vaughan Helped to Build a Hospitality Empire - And Loved Doing It

On the occasion of what would be Eamonn Vaughan's 53rd birthday - November 17 - this month's IN Your Business column will celebrate the successful life of this Chicago icon who passed away in May.

Anyone connected with the Irish community in Chicago - and many people outside of the Irish community - knew

Eamonn Vaughan as a generous, gregarious, and one-of-a-kind person. Alongside his brother Kevin, he enjoyed tremendous success owning the bars and restaurants of their Vaughan Hospitality Group, and he distinguished himself as a leader in his role serving the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago and as a friend to so many.

Eamonn's story began in Newmarket, County Cork, where, as one of nine children, he enjoyed a friendly, if mischievous childhood. His parents Dan Joe and Bina owned a ballroom dance hall, which hosted popular musicians and artists like Joe Dolan.

"The morning after those shows at the ballroom, we'd



be waiting outside school and see the performers pull up to drop off the Vaughan kids. That always raised some eyebrows," remembered Conor O'Keefe, who also grew up in Newmarket and now serves as Restaurant Bar Manager of the Emerald Loop, one of five establishments currently under the Vaughan Hospitality Group.

In 1984, Eamonn's parents emigrated from Ireland to pursue new opportunities in Chicago, so at the age of thirteen, Eamonn and many of his siblings found themselves living in Edison Park for a year before settling in Park Ridge, where Eamonn would attend Maine South High School.

"This was not an easy move for our parents," Kevin Vaughan noted, "as they were in their mid-fifties and basically starting over in a new country."

Drawing on the hospitality experience they gained in Ireland, the Vaughan parents scouted out locations for a bar before opening the original Vaughan's Pub on Milwaukee Avenue in 1987. Many of the Vaughan children, including Kevin, Anne, and Diana, became involved in the day-to-day operations of the bar, none more so than Eamonn, who had already begun working as a busboy at the Snuggery (now Moretti's) in Edison Park. He would never leave the bar and restaurant business.

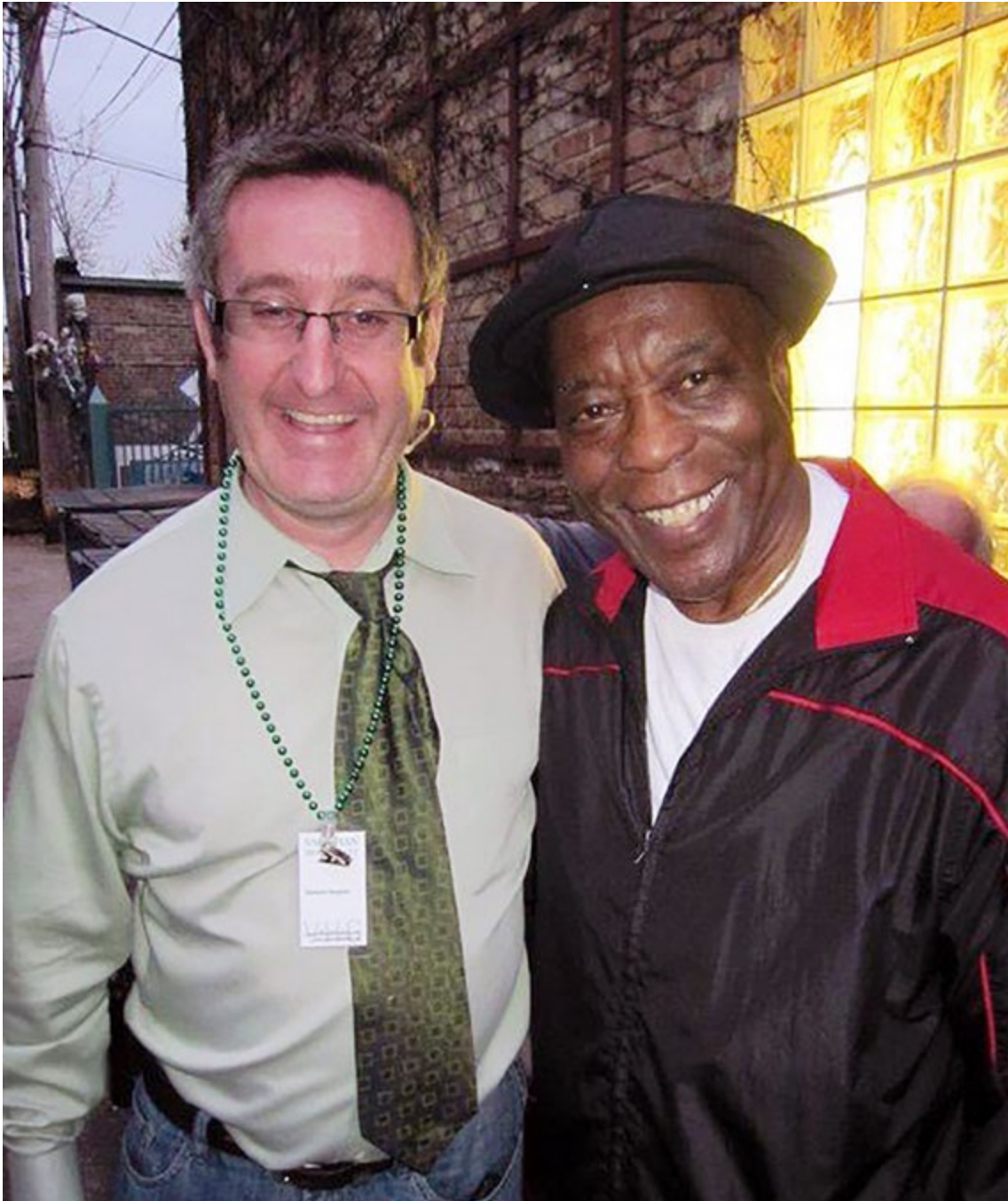
The original Vaughan's Pub quickly found its place as a welcoming home away from home for young Irish immigrants; Kevin recalled that many of them would spend holidays at the bar or ask Bina to cash their paychecks for them there.

"This was a special time for our family, for that generation of Irish immigrants, for the couples who had met there, and for Eamonn in getting his start in the business," Kevin said, noting that several people who had spent time at the original Vaughan's shared their stories with him in the days following Eamonn's passing.

By 1996, Eamonn and Kevin opened another Vaughan's Pub, this one in Lakeview, and the brothers, who also welcomed Kevin's wife Kristan as a partner, expanded their empire over the subsequent decade. Corcoran's in Old Town (opened in 2000), Mystic Celt on Southport Ave. in Lakeview (2002), and the Emerald Loop downtown (2006). All told they opened eight bars together, and five are currently in operation, including the most recent addition - the Chicago Brewhouse on the River Walk - which they started in 2018.

While each establishment has its own unique features, all of them present the same welcoming atmosphere that invites conversation, camaraderie, and connection, many of the qualities that could be used to describe Eamonn.

The success of Vaughan Hospitality showed how the two brothers complemented each other; Kevin, who earned a degree in accounting from Loyola University and worked as a CPA for thirteen years, served as the "business person," while Eamonn, who claimed that he graduated from the School of Hard Knocks, became known as the "people person" of the partnership. The aforementioned Conor O'Keefe, who has known both brothers for decades and worked with



**Whether you were Buddy Guy, or an unknown, Eamonn treated everyone as if they were his friend**



**Eamonn with the many volunteers selling raffle tickets at the Irish Fellowship Club Luncheon which he chaired in 2015**



Vaughan Hospitality Group since 2006, put it a slightly different way, lovingly characterizing “Eamonn as the good cop, a joy to be around, and Kevin the bad cop.”

Together, the Vaughan’s managed through recessions and a global pandemic in an industry that often lends itself to internal strife and drama, and they added investment rental properties to their growing list of business partnerships, creating more opportunity for disagreement. Still, as Kevin pointed out, “I never had a fight with Eamonn. He was never one to fight or start an argument. We never took ourselves too seriously. He loved every minute of being in the bar and restaurant business.”

Eamonn’s spirit of generosity and positivity extended beyond the day-to-day management of his bars and restaurants. As a proud Irish immigrant, he provided jobs to numerous young Irish people on the J-1 visa and became very involved with the Irish Fellowship Club.

“Eamonn was very supportive of the Irish Fellowship Club as a Vice President and generous sponsor,” said Kathy Taylor, Executive Director of the IFC. “But also as someone who was willing to lend a hand anytime. We miss him.”

Outside of his professional and volunteer work, Eamonn loved to travel - “first-class” - on beach vacations and ski trips, particularly with his children, Lauren and Grant. He appreciated music of all genres, and, as recollected by Kevin in his eulogy, was an avid collector of old Irish Chicago photographs and cheap watches.

“Eamonn was a fun-loving guy in all regards,” Kevin shared. “He was a great storyteller, a great conversationalist, and he had friends from all walks of life. He was equally comfortable with musicians like Joe Dolan and Buddy Guy as he was with our employees, our customers, politicians, or anyone else he met.”

Eamonn’s universal appeal was on full display as news of his passing spread in May, with tributes and fond recollections shared at his memorial services, online, and across the establishments he helped create.

Those conversations continue.

**(captions for this page)**

**#1. Barely old enough to run a bar, Eamonn was a natural. Here he is at a very young age working the Milwaukee Avenue Vaughan’s**

**#2. Eamonn chaired the annual Christmas luncheon for the Irish Fellowship Club in 2015**

**#3 Kevin & Eamonn, proudly welcomed and hosted the Cork County Council to Chicago during St. Patrick’s week. This is a photo from March, 2017.**



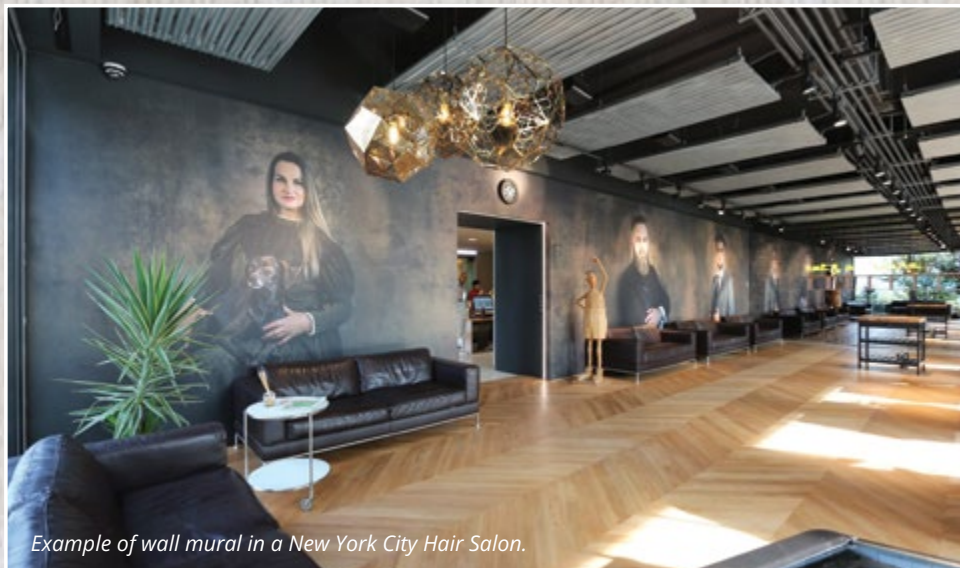


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Word of Life mural, commonly called 'Touchdown Jesus' on the campus of Notre Dame University



## An Irish Complex

By Thomas O'Gorman



*"An equilibrium of gift and threat, moulded in eternal breathless appearance."*

**Thomas Kinsella**

Some years ago I bought a great suit. It turned out to be "lucky."

A navy blue, wide pin-striped, cotton, double-breasted suit. Polo Purple label. I needed it for a summer weekend working in scorching Washington DC. Compiling interviews for a feature we called "In Praise of Irish American Women." It was for the second issue of "Hibernia," the glossy, elegant and expensive Irish-interest quarterly magazine for whom I was managing editor.

We were tracing Irish American women of note and their roots in the Irish soil. My first interview was the Washington Post's Sally Quinn. The wife of long time Post editor Ben Bradley, JFK's best friend. I wore the suit to my interview. It greatly reduced my level of anxiety pulling up in front of the Quinn's Georgetown home.

At first I mistook their house for a small college or large parochial high school. Its 18th century architectural pedigree, however, wasn't a surprise. But its proportions terrified me. It may have been the largest domestic residence I'd even been invited to. Thank God for Ralph Lauren.

I rang the doorbell. And much to my surprise, Ben Bradley, himself, opened the baronial front door. Tanned and roguishly

handsome, he was the epitome of the big-time city-editor. Grey mane and all. The man who kept Post owner Katherine Graham calm. He asked how he could help me. I told him I had a date with his wife at 10 am. He laughed and said she was still asleep.

After apologizing for not being interview-ready, Sally Quinn offered fresh brewed coffee to me and suggested her husband seat me out on their splendid veranda at the back of the manse. Overlooking residential Georgetown.

While Mr. Bradley proceeded to grind the beans, I sat out in Washington's steamy morning air all tinged with a dewy layer of summer smog. Tall evergreens and historic magnolias filled the Southern-styled garden space. Tara-like.

I kept imagining reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, pacing outside the house in the middle of the night back in 1972. Chomping at the bit. Dragging their evidence to Bradley, their boss, about Nixon and the facts of Watergate. Nervously waiting for the wheels of American justice to grind exceeding small. I asked Bradley if this was the house where they came to announce they had the "goods" on Nixon in the early morning hours long ago.

Bradley laughed and said that this was not the same house. But he did talk a bit about that extraordinary moment in

American history. Overwhelmed, I sipped my coffee. Happy my suit looked so good.

It also looked good in the pickled pine library into which Sally Quinn gave me an hour's interview. I was awash in wonder. And upbeat conversation.

She spoke of her Quinns' arrival from Ireland in time to join General Washington in the fight for American independence. These were 18th century immigrants. Wise military professionals. Noble officers who helped turn the tide of revolution. No wonder, I thought, there were so many Gilbert Stuart portrait paintings in the outer hall and library. The highest end art in 18th century America.

Of course Quinn was savvy, articulate, beautiful, energy filled, possessed of a powerful capacity for investigation. A good reporter. Filled with the Irish capacity for making prose sound poetic. No one had to tell me I was lucky to be there. All I had to do was pinch myself. And feel the fabric of my suit.

General Washington's 18th century Irish colleagues, she told me, were given large parcels of land here in America for all their troubles. This information was a new addition to my understanding of the Irish in America. I immediately thought how comfortable the experience must have been for them all. Finally being on a winning side.

Bradley and Quinn were high end celebrities even in Washington D.C. Their Christmas bash, a CNN news crew told me later, was the #1 social event in D.C. at the holidays. But there was no showy Hollywood

phoniness to their personas. These were serious members of the 4th estate. With a refined elegance and blue blooded pedigree that still lingers in places like the nation's capitol. They didn't have time to endure the silly or the shallow. Not when they were busy chasing presidents out of the White House or anchoring Washington during a stretch of dead end Republican leadership that was not our finest hour.

Their impeccable social skills and political lineage kept the old guard Democrats hopeful and enthused. A political atmosphere primed big-time for the entry of the Clintons. They couldn't have been more kind or generous to me. In return I passed on a few tales from Chicago City Hall and my cat-bird-seat writing speeches on the 3rd floor there. They roared at the antics and goings on of Chicago's colorful Ward politics. Lucky was I again.

Only after I got into my taxi to leave did I realized I was famished. So I asked the driver to take me to the Hay-Adams House, one of Washington's most elegant and stately hotels. I knew it would be rough trying to get a table for lunch without notice. But it was worth a try.

As soon as I entered the Hotel dining room and saw the expansive view of the White House from the windows there I knew I was in the right place. But as an unknown in Washington I wasn't expecting much success for a table. But the staff at the host station proved more than hospitable. The Maitre d even said, "lovely suit," before I asked for a table for one. They immediately said I was in luck and took me to a

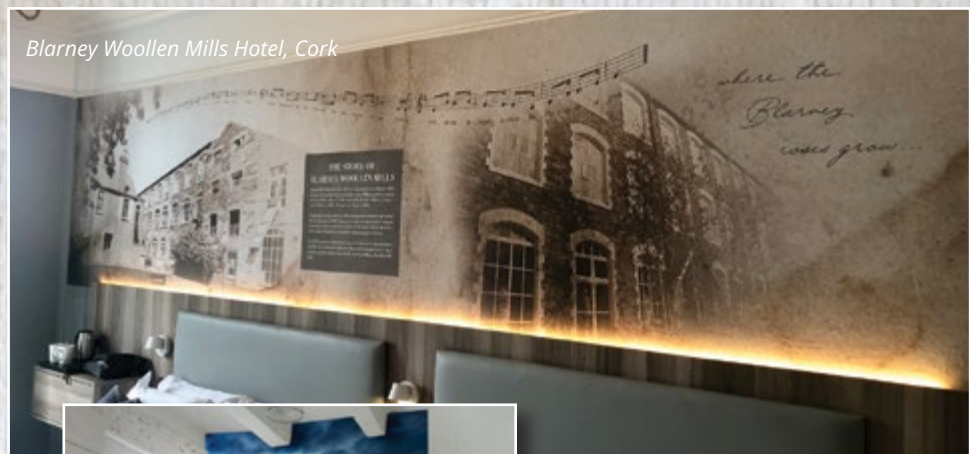
wonderful table where I felt like I was home and "Lucky as Larry," as the Dublin Irish would say. Sophisticated banter and some Chicago small talk more than repaid the courtesy of being seated in a crowded room of note.

I was so glad to be wearing a Polo tartan bow tie. And some Stubbs and Wooten loafers from Palm Beach. It added to the dignity of the Club Sandwich and Martini I was about to order. I felt galvanized by fashion. Doing justice to the elegance of the dining-room. And, I thought, doing justice also to the Irish patriots from whom we descend who would have delighted to ride beside General George Washington and Sally Quinn's ancestors. Or sit for portraits by Gilbert Stuart. Or hang by a hook in the Quinns' family gallery.

Instead our invitation to settle and revolutionize America is from a later period of history. One with fresher battles and newer foes. And also deeper understandings of ourselves. Our talents. Our brokenness. Our perceptions of political truths. Our understandings of political deceptions. We Irish still have an extraordinary advantage in the 21st century for poetic truth telling and a creative capacity for work Washington and his Irish lads could only dream of.

In every generation the Irish come to discover how much luck we really do create for ourselves. Not merely by our fashion, but by our preparedness and readying ourselves for the age in which we live. True throughout our history from Brian Boru, to the the O'Briens of Munster, Art





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DÉANTA IN ÉIRINN BY  
 Wallpapers  
 of Ireland

I have known Brendan McKinney for a long time. We used to play Irish music together in the pubs and bars. This would have been in the 90's. I played guitar and sang, Brendan played uilleann pipes, and flute. Brendan and his wife Siobhan, also a musician, owned their own insurance agency. Somewhere in 1997 Brendan asked my opinion about he and Siobhan opening an Irish pub. They knew that I had a background in food service both back and front of the house. We met and discussed the concept and a business plan. Brendan had been looking at a bar that was for sale on Elston Ave. called Oinkers.

The bar was dark, dirty, and the kitchen was a disaster. All I could see were dollar signs, and a location without any similar businesses that would help draw customers to the area. To add to the mix Brendan and Siobhan had no restaurant experience. To say the least, I was a little skeptical of the

McMurrugh Kavanagh, Wolfe Tone, the Fenians, Sarah Curran, Sheila DeValera, and through all Irish women and men who stepped onto Ellis Island and began living and sacrificing for others in a new land.

Come on. We know all suits are “Lucky Suits” when we truly sacrifice on others’ behalf. But every now and then, it’s more engaging to pretend we can find it more readily in the right double breasted pinstripes or our best silk bow tie. In truth, it will always be an action of the heart. An “eternal breathless appearance,” the Irish poet says.

*Thomas O’Gorman is a Chicago writer, a columnist at Skyline publishing. A 20 year veteran speech writer at Chicago City Hall. A former Managing Editor*

*at Hibernia magazine, and an editor at Town&Country magazine. The author of some dozen books on Chicago, as well as a biography of Frank Lloyd Wright, and End Of Watch, Chicago Police Killed in the Line of Duty 1853-2006. He is also a fine arts painter, a self declared Irish Impressionist with Fauvist tendencies.*



success of the project.

To their credit the McKinney’s faced every challenge with enthusiasm, passion, and an abundance of energy. Their attention to detail can be seen in every aspect of Chief O’Neill’s.

My job was to revamp the kitchen, hire and train the kitchen staff, and to develop and implement the menu.

Using classical cooking techniques and ingredients highlighting Irish cuisine I can up with a list of menu items for Brendan and Siobhan to review and choose from. Thinking back on this I guess it was no surprise that Siobhan said all of them. The menu was quite extensive but being married to an Irish woman I knew I had little chance in influencing her decision.

When opening day came, December 30, 1999 we were as ready as we were going to be. For the next few months business was steady and not to crazy. Then came the review from the Chicago Tribune in August. 4 forks! The next day we did 450 covers. The printer spit out tickets faster than we could get to them and there was a trial that spilt down to the floor. Somehow, we survived, regrouped, and never looked back.

Fast forward 25 years. Chief’s had survived economic ups and downs, the pandemic, and had developed a banquet business that took center stage. It was time to review the restaurant operation from top to bottom and come up with a plan. I am pleased to say that I will be spearheading the reboot of Chief O’Neill’s with a talented new chef, and a new menu based on the same principals of the freshest

ingredients, classical cooking techniques, and Irish influences.

You may not have noticed but a lot has happened on the Irish food scene in the last 25 years. It can be seen in the quality and variety of items in the grocery stores, to the Michelin star restaurants and chef across the island and has become the



envy of Europe.

I will keep you updated on the progress of our endeavor.

Here is a recipe from the original menu from 25 years ago.

**Dingle Pies.**

You can make these with a hot water pastry like a pork pie. I prefer using a flaky pastry and making an empanada style handheld pie. This is a great recipe to utilize the leftovers from a Sunday dinner. Just substitute the cooked quantities for the fresh.

**For the pastry:**

- 4 cups flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 12oz unsalted butter chilled and cut into pieces.
- 1 egg
- 5oz chilled water
- Mix flour, salt and butter in a food processor. Pulse until mixture resembles

small peas  
 Add egg and enough water mixing to form a soft dough

Remove from bowl and flatten to a disk. Pop in a zip lock bag and chill 1hour

- Filling:
- 6 tbs butter
  - 1 medium onion diced
  - 2 cups diced carrots
  - 1 cup diced parsnips
  - 2cups diced potatoes (optional)

- 2.5 lbs. Boneless lamb shoulder trimmed and cut into ½ inch pieces.
- ¼ cup flour
- 1tbls each of chopped thyme, sage, rosemary and parsley.
- 2.5 cups chicken or beef broth
- 1tsp Worcestershire sauce
- Salt and pepper
- Egg wash 1egg beaten ½ cup milk or water

In a large pan with deep sides melt the butter. Add the diced vegetables a cook over medium heat until softened. Add lamb and spices. Cook lamb until lightly browned stirring frequently. Add flour and combine with meat and veg mixture. Add broth and Worcestershire sauce and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer uncovered until lamb is tender about 1hour and 40 minutes. Add more water if necessary and stir. Lamb should be tender and gravy should be thick. Shred meat in pot and cool.

Roll out dough to about 1/4 inch on a floured surface. Cut dough into 6-inch circles. Place a heaping spoonful of the meat mixture in the center of the circle leaving about an inch edge around the pastry. Brush the edge with the egg wash. Fold the pastry over the meat and seal the edge by pressing together. You can hand crimp the edge or seal it with the tines of a fork. Brush the top with the egg wash and bake on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper or silicone mat for 30-35 minutes at 350. Serve warm or at room temperature.



## Working Together to Welcome Homeless Families Home

For the past 17 years, it has been my privilege to help people experiencing homelessness transition to safe, stable housing through Catholic Charities Housing Case Management department in Lake County. Having a place to call home is critical to people leading healthy lives that enable them to live in dignity and reach their fullest potential. Catholic Charities is very blessed to have incredible, highly trained professional staff to meet the unique needs of those needing housing. But we also have another critical ingredient—amazing

support from volunteers and donors that help us welcome homeless families home. We could not do this important work without them!



As housing costs have risen and homelessness has grown, Housing Case Management in Lake County has also grown and now includes three distinct programs: Housing Advocacy and Youth Housing Advocacy serves youth aging out of the foster care system and families involved with DCFS (Department of Children and Family Services); the Critical Time Intervention-Representative Payee (CTI-RP) program serves people who have been chronically homeless and have a documented disability; and the Rapid Rehousing Program serves families living in domestic violence shelters, homeless shelters (such as PADS), cars, tents, or other places not

meant for human habitation.

In total, we serve an average of 88 persons each month and transition 12 households into apartments each month. Individuals and families served in these programs receive subsidized rent for a period of time and a full range of professional supportive services from Catholic Charities.

It is truly a happy day when clients move into an apartment. They've endured so much already. Getting into a place to call home is foundational for moving their lives forward. But most of our clients are starting from scratch. They have nothing. This is where our incredible volunteers and donors step in and truly help us create a home.

The first order of business is to find furnishings for their apartments, and the Sharing Hands Furniture Ministry at St. Mary of Vernon Catholic Church in Indian Creek, is a saving grace. The ministry is run by retired Catholic Charities employee-turned-volunteer, Jim Wogan. For the past 32 years, Jim and his team of dedicated volunteers have faithfully picked up furniture donations, stored them, and then delivered them to needy families in central Lake County. The ministry has grown over the years, as volunteers have multiplied and a generous donor has purchased five trucks for them. For people without any furniture and without a truck or any means to acquire even a "free" item, this furniture ministry is vital.

Once furnishings are covered, next up are household items. A few years

ago, Catholic Charities Women's Board of Lake County started the Welcome Home Project, which provides bedding, cooking utensils, and other household items to clients moving into apartments.

Started by Women's Board member Colleen Bowman, and now run by members Gina Zisook and Sondra Adam, the Welcome Home Project has become a well-oiled machine. Catholic Charities caseworkers

complete a request form marking needed items. Gina and Sondra review the form and compare it to their inventory of donated goods that overflow from organized shelves in Gina's garage. If there's anything that they don't already have, they send a group text out to Women's Board members, and often within hours the needed items appear on Gina's doorstep. Then, Gina and Sondra pack up the items and deliver them to Catholic Charities Waukegan office so caseworkers can give them to clients. They are often making at least two, and sometimes four to five deliveries per week.

The way that Jim and his army of volunteers and our Women's Board members have rallied around homeless families in Lake County is inspiring. There really are no other resources for what they provide our clients. Their dedication truly witnesses the call to serve one another and shows what can be achieved when we all work together. Many thanks to Jim and his team and to all of our Women's Board members for helping Catholic Charities welcome homeless families home. We could not do it without you!

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**CLANCY'S PIZZA PUB**  
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**HELP MOTHER JONES TO THE FINISH LINE**

The Mary Harris "Mother" Jones statue will be coming to Chicago's famous Water Tower as a permanent installation authorized by the City of Chicago

**\$24,500 left to raise.**  
 We have raised \$175,500.  
 Please support this campaign.  
[motherjonesmuseum.org/statue](http://motherjonesmuseum.org/statue)

Mary Harris "Mother" Jones was the most famous and beloved organizer of the early U.S. labor movement. An Irish refugee who endured the Great Hunger, she lost her family and children in an epidemic, then lost everything again in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. She rose in the fight for equality, immigrant rights, human rights. For 30 years she traveled across the U.S., organizing and agitating wherever workers were fighting back.

**Ireland's Ambassador to the United States, Geraldine Byrne Nason**  
 Honorary Co-chair, Mother Jones Chicago Statue Campaign

"The statue to this great Irish woman will speak to the values that Ireland champions to this day.

By that I mean empathy, I mean respect for human rights, and the inherent dignity of all.

I look forward to being with you for the unveiling of the Mother Jones statue. It will be an important day for Chicago, and it certainly will be an important day for Ireland."

Published 12 Times Yearly the First of Each Month

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IAHC members always save money on tickets! Call 773-282-7035, extension 10 for the member discount code.  
Prices do not include Eventbrite fees.



## LOS SAN PATRICIOS: THE IRISH SOLDIERS OF MEXICO

**NOVEMBER 17 | 7:00PM**

Los San Patricios: The Irish Soldiers of Mexico is back for another triumphant performance in the Mayfair Theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center! Join Sonos de Mexico and the Irish Music School of Chicago for a celebration of the St. Patrick's Brigade and their place in history set to music!

**Tickets are \$30 for IAHC members | General Admission \$35.**



## A CHLOË CHRISTMAS

**DECEMBER 21 | 7:00PM**

Singer Chloë Agnew, an original member of the internationally acclaimed music group "Celtic Woman," brings her live Christmas show "A Chloë Christmas" to the Mayfair Theatre. A wonderful blend of the old and new, her show features classic Holiday songs, traditional Irish carols, beloved standards, and original compositions by Chloë herself.

**Tickets are \$30 for IAHC members General Admission \$35.**

**VIP MEET-AND-GREET: \$55 IAHC Members | \$65 non-members**



## SAVE THE DATE!

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY 2024 WITH THE SCREAMING ORPHANS!

**MARCH 17 | 7:00PM**

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with this unbelievable show! Chicago favorites The Screaming Orphans will be in the Mayfair Theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center on Sunday, March 17th! Don't miss the opportunity to see these superstars! The pub will be open and the craic will be on!

**Discounted Tickets are \$25 before December 1st—Use promo code ORPHANSPRE | \$35 after December 1.**

## QUILT RAFFLE *It's the perfect Christmas gift for someone special!*



2023's exquisite work of art "Diamonds in the Rough" is ready for the annual raffle. Don't miss your chance to win this beautiful 82" square, all-cotton, washable quilt. No need to look for them in person at the IAHC. You can purchase your tickets right here!

This beautiful quilt was custom-quilted, block by block. A quilt like this, hand-made by our very own Nimble Thimbles, would cost at least \$500 if purchased outright!

**The drawing is on December 4th.**

Cut this order form out and check the box that shows how many tickets you would like:

2 tickets \$10     3 tickets \$15     5 tickets \$20

Total number of tickets purchased: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to the IAHC and mail to:

4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, IL 60630

Or visit irish-american.org, to purchase tickets or donate online

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members and Friends of the Irish American Heritage Center,

Time is marching on, and we at the Irish American Heritage Center find we're at the beginning of another Annual Appeal.

Throughout our history, and particularly over the last several years, the dedication and generosity of our members and contributors has seen the IAHC through some of the most challenging times in our history. The 2022 Annual Appeal was one of the most successful in memory! Thanks to the success of our 2022 campaign, we were able to invest in building maintenance and upgrades, and to increase our overall cultural offerings, with 2023 bringing more concerts than we've ever had before to the Mayfair Theatre!

In 2023, we are asking people to help even more, with a higher fundraising goal. We all know that everything is more expensive, but in 2023 we have something specific in mind. **The Irish American Heritage Center will be replacing both the north and the south parking lots in 2024.** While we have most of the funds for this project on hand, there have been some unforeseen expenses that we will still need to raise. Anyone who has been to the Center over the last few years knows how important this project is for the long term health of our organization. Can you help us raise enough to pay for this project 100%?

Your contribution can help us achieve 100% funding to replace our parking lots, which is vital to our business objectives, and for the safety of our members and visitors.

As President of the Irish American Heritage Center, it is my honor to thank our benefactors Peggy and Pat Burke. As always, their generosity in matching the first \$25,000 in donations makes the Annual Appeal more successful every year. Their support is one of our great traditions.

We understand that there are many deserving causes out there, and we appreciate your consideration. Your support will not only impact the lives of those we serve but also make you a valuable part of our community dedicated to positive change.

To make your donation or learn more about our upcoming programs, please visit our website at [irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org), or call the office at 773-282-7035, extension 10.

Together, we can make a real difference.

Best Regards,

Tom Chambers



### Christmas Tea!

Our popular Christmas tea is Saturday, December 9th at 12pm. Don't wait to register!

**THE CHRISTMAS TEA TICKETS ARE \$40. RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY AND MUST BE MADE BY DECEMBER 6TH. TO PURCHASE TICKETS, CALL 773-282-7035 EXTENSION 10.**

## IRELAND 2024 RAFFLE

Aer Lingus

Thinking of booking that trip to Ireland? Planning to head home in 2024? The Irish American Heritage Center and Aer Lingus want to help you get there! Enter the "Ireland 2024 Raffle" to benefit the IAHC and your chance to win **2 Round Trip Tickets on Aer Lingus to Dublin, Ireland.**

Winner picked on Oíche Nollaig na mBan on January 6, 2024. For tickets, fill out this form and mail it, along your check or visit [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org) to purchase tickets online.

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# CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

## Mass & Irish Breakfast

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 | 9AM-7PM

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MUSIC | DANCE  
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES  
VISIT FROM SANTA

BREAKFAST 11AM  
TICKETS

\$20 adults  
\$10 children  
12 AND UNDER

Reservations  
Required

### CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE



#### NEW THIS YEAR

Save time and help the Irish American Heritage Center by ordering your Christmas wreaths, swags, and decorative greenery online for delivery on the day of the Christmas Bazaar at IAHC Christmas Greenery. Some Christmas décor will be available for purchase on the day of the Bazaar.



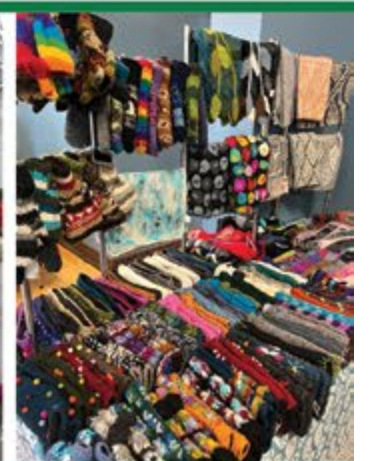
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Mass is celebrated in the Mayfair Theatre at 10:30am. A traditional Irish breakfast will be available in the Erin Room from 11:00am with live music and dance. The fun continues into the evening with music by the fireplace and food and drink for purchase.

Santa Claus visits from 1-3pm and parents can snap a pic with him. This year, enjoy a Holiday horse-and-carriage ride around the IAHC – fun for all ages!

Vendors will be selling their wares until 5:00pm, the Fifth Province Pub is open until 7:00pm.

With more than 60 vendors, there's something for everyone on your shopping list. Visit our gift wrapping station and have your gifts wrapped for free! The IAHC Gift Shop is open all day for shoppers to browse the shop's holiday stock.




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**Gallagher's Advice**  
By Caroleann Gallagher



### Why You Should Hire A Lawyer for Your Injury at Work

Workers' compensation is insurance that protects employees who have been injured as a result of their job. It is a system that gives employees the opportunity to file a claim to receive benefits that are owed to them instead of suing their employer. It provides payment of medical expenses, lost wages, and cash benefits if there is a permanent aspect to your injury. In other circumstances, it also provides benefits for the families of people that have lost their life in a workplace accident. In short, workers compensation provides financial support to employees while they recover from their injury while also encouraging employers to continuously provide for a safe work environment. Although you can proceed with filing a workers compensation claim on your own, it is a good idea to speak to an experienced workers compensation lawyer to ensure that your rights are protected and to maximize your benefits.

An experienced workers compensation lawyer can help you with:

- Filing your claim with the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission;
- Finding evidence to support your case;
- Representing your interests throughout your case;
- Calculating how much your case is worth and negotiating a settlement; and
- Allowing you to focus on your treatment and recovery.

In order to start your claim, you need to file an Application for Adjustment of Claim form with the

Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, within three years of your accident. If you fail to do so by the deadline, you will be forever barred from doing so and will not have the opportunity to receive the benefits that you deserve. By hiring an attorney, you can be reassured that your claim is started properly, and you won't have to worry about missing deadlines.

Employers are allowed to dispute and contest your workers compensation claim, even in situations that are and may seem unreasonable. Understanding how to defend against a denied or disputed workers compensation claim is difficult and will take time to understand. It is even harder and more stressful for those that are already going through a tough time dealing with their injury and going through treatment. This is a situation where having an experienced lawyer on your side is crucial so that you can be reassured that your case is being fought for and that you are not being taken advantage of.

You need to build a strong case for your claim to be successful. This is done by investigating and gathering evidence about your accident and injury in order to prove what type of injury you have and how it has impacted your life.

- Some of that evidence includes:
- Medical Reports and Medical Bills;
  - Photographs and videos of your injuries;
  - Witnesses to the accident;
  - Doctors' notes and opinions; and
  - Financial records

Gathering this evidence requires a lot of time. This is where an experienced lawyer and their staff can assist in

collecting evidence as quickly that insurance and efficiently as possible so companies will use that your case has the best whatever they can to chance of success while you avoid paying out claims. focus more on your health. It is their job to do so.

An important step is Insurance companies are understanding the value of your more likely to offer you case and making a settlement a fair settlement and demand to the insurance push back against your company. Unless you've had claim less if you have the same exact injury while an attorney on your working for the same exact side. By hiring a lawyer, employer in the past, it can the insurance company be hard to determine what the knows that they have to value of your case actually is. deal with someone who Often times, the insurer will has experience and that the case and not pay out the amount you is being taken seriously. ask for initially. This is what If you are an employee and starts the negotiation process you suffered an injury while and the stronger your case at work you may be eligible to is, the less room the insurer receive workers' compensation has to negotiate. Workers' benefits. My colleagues and compensation lawyers have the I devote time to developing resources and experience to personal relationships with determine an accurate value all of our clients. Our team for your case and to negotiate a has decades of collective settlement on your behalf. experience in representing

It is important to remember injured workers and we have



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



**Home is Where the Heart Is**  
By Aishling Kelly



In life, there comes a point when we realize that our true purpose lies in a path we've yet to explore. For me, that moment arrived after a decade of running Aishling Company Homecare, a business dedicated to serving the elderly and those in need of care. It was a fulfilling venture, but it became evident that something was amiss in the caregiving industry. This revelation compelled me to take a leap of faith, and today, I proudly stand as the founder of Aishling Care Academy, a certified nursing assistant school.

The decision to transition from homecare to a nursing assistant school was not a hasty one; it was born out of years of observation and understanding of the needs of both caregivers and families. During my time in-home care, it became increasingly clear that more training and education were essential to provide the level of care that both parties deserved.

Communication was one of the key issues I encountered consistently. Caregivers and families often find themselves disappointed in each other due to a lack of effective communication. The caregiver might not fully understand the family's expectations, and the family might not comprehend the challenges faced by the caregiver. This lack of understanding often led to dissatisfaction and strained relationships.

This realization drove me to change my approach. I began to consult with families and caregivers individually, aiming to gain a deeper understanding of their needs and desires. It was crucial to bridge this communication gap, allowing both parties to align their expectations and work together harmoniously. As an observant advocate, I could see that there was a real need for improved education and training in the caregiving sector.

With over 15 years in the healthcare field, I felt a strong calling to make a lasting impact. It became clear that my mission was to provide not only high-quality care but also the education needed to transform caregivers into professionals who could truly meet the needs of their patients. This led to the establishment of Aishling Care Academy, where my passion for assisting people could flourish.

Aishling Care Academy is more than just a school; it's a platform where aspiring certified nursing assistants can gain the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in their roles. I am dedicated to working closely with each student to help them achieve their career goals. Through rigorous training and mentorship, we aim to produce well-prepared, compassionate caregivers who understand the complexities of their profession.

Moreover, I am committed to establishing partnerships with employers who recognize the value that skilled and educated caregivers bring to the healthcare sector. Our students will not only receive the knowledge they need but will also find employers who respect and appreciate their contributions.

In conclusion, my journey from Aishling Company Homecare to Aishling Care Academy has been a transformational experience. It has allowed me to align my true purpose with my career and make a positive impact in the healthcare sector. By improving communication, enhancing caregiver training, and nurturing the next generation of compassionate healthcare professionals, I am confident that we can bridge the gap in healthcare and create a brighter future for all involved. It is my mission, as the wise owl and observant advocate, to ensure that everyone gets the care and support they deserve.



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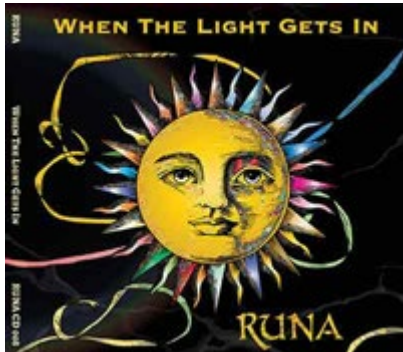
### Album: When the Light Gets in by Runa

By Jack Baker

So I says to my buddy Cliff, "Jaysus, is this an album you've got to hear". Speaking, of course, of the newest work of art from the hyper-talented band, Runa. "When the Light Gets In" is a more balanced collection of the finest in music you could find. Not a "let's record some tunes for the punters" this recording shows the work and care that Runa puts in every recording and I guarantee that this will rapidly rise to your top favorites as it has to mine.

First I think we need to make some introductions of the band whose followers has christened themselves "runatics". The voice of Runa is Shannon Lambert-Ryan. Comfortable in English, Irish and, on this recording, French, Shannon is certainly one of the finest voices to bless our ears ever. Words fail me when I try to describe her voice, I'd sooner sit in rapt attention and just listen. Fionán de Barra sings and plays almost any instrument he touches. I am most taken with his guitar work and vocal harmonies. He also did the mixing and mastering for the recording and, along with Shannon, the layout and design. To say this boy is talented is to underestimate him. He also wrote one of the most lovely songs on the recording. Then we have Cheryl Prashker, certainly the most talented percussionist I have ever seen. I confess that I

often sit during their concerts and concentrate on watching Cheryl, marveling at her precision and skill. Never too much, never too little, she provides the heartbeat for the music and raises the whole production to a higher level. Just for fun, try listening to this recording and simply concentrate on the percussion, I have and it is exquisite. Lastly we have Tom Fitzgerald and Jake James who both play fiddle



on the recording and put some serious sounds to the mix. This is as tight and sharp a performance as you could wish for and the standard for Runa. The reason for their legions of "runatics".

There are a couple surprises here, at least I was surprised and pleasantly so. There isn't a weak track on the entire recording, you can hear the work that went into recording. They took some chances and it paid off. Tackling any of Stan Rogers tunes is risky. We've listened to Stan sing them for years and his voice and delivery has set a

high bar. Usually what we get is a pale version of the way Stan did the song, not this time. Performing "Northwest Passage", probably Stan's most iconic song, Runa takes the tune apart and reassembles it to fit their talents, resulting in a gentler version with a much more complex musicality. Shannon's lovely voice treats the song with a new direction that fills my heart as much as Stan ever did.

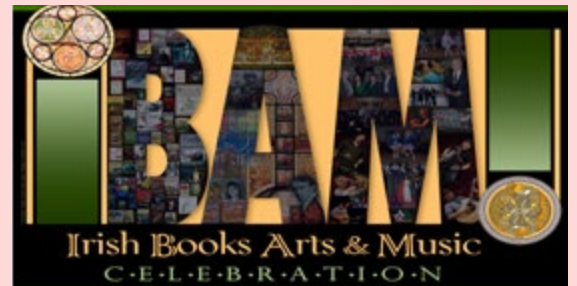
The tenth track is a lovely piece, written and performed by Fionán called "Liam's Lullaby". Seemingly simple yet complex and hauntingly lovely. This one track got repeated a lot when I first played the album.

The last track, "Ar an dTaobh Thall den mBogha-Sín", again showing Shannon's classic voice, is a very familiar tune ("Somewhere Over the Rainbow"). It becomes a new song in Irish and shows off the beauty of the Irish language.

The rest of the album is merely wonderful, filled with instrumentals and songs that you'll play over and over because you simply don't get this quality of music that often and this is classic. You owe it to yourself, to your heritage, to your ears, to your heart to get this recording and play it often. Oh yes and don't forget to make the effort to see these lovely folk when they play anywhere close to you. You can find their music at Runamusic.com.

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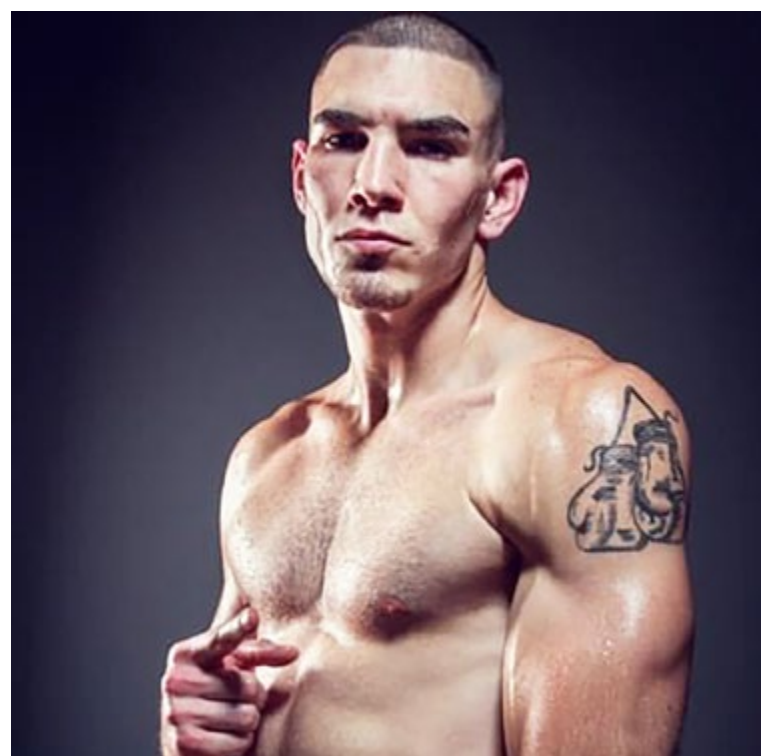
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"I love boxing, and it's a big piece of my life. When I moved from Illinois, I never left boxing behind. I've always kept myself in shape because that's just who I am, and how I was taught," said Joey. Next fight is Nov. 11th at the Community Rec Center, 2501 Pierce Avenue in Marinette, Wisconsin



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Hello everyone. Well we got over halloween thankfully the weather held up for the little kids. Their costumes are getting more elaborate every year and probably expensive. Back in the day we made ours out of stuff around the house we thought we looked fantastic. My sons requests for his costumes were pretty normal like a hippie with a guitar on his

back which he did play. My daughter however made me sweat every halloween with her strange requests, one such request was a Spork. I asked her what on earth is a Spork. I guess they My daughters in college now, it was always her dream to become a history teacher so she asked me if she could borrow some of my photo album from my trips.

Looking through the photos I had fond memories when I visited the Holy Land. It was around nineteen ninety when I flew into london then picked up a flight to israel. I stayed in Tel Aviv, the hotel was cheap and cheerful they helped me rent a car so off I went to explore all the biblical places I had been taught in mother Frances Paul religious knowledge class.

First stop Jerusalem, one of the holiest places in the world. I walked the Via Delarosa the path that Jesus took on his way to the crucifixion there was a holy parade some people carrying a cross and Spanish nuns singing behind me it actually was quite emotional, but I was surprised to see that walking this pathway on either side it was also a market place. I thought it strange as it was also the stations of the cross. So moving on and this was a



long time ago for me so im telling it as I remember. Bethlehem the church of the Nativity birthplace of Jesus. Growing up we thought he was born in a stable so I was surprised to go inside a cave. Nazareth was the place of the Annunciation where the angel Gbriel told Mary that she would bear a child named Jesus. This is where Jesus grew up spent most of his youth here with Mary his mother and Joseph his father. Next up was the sea of Galilee where jesus performed the miracle of five loaves and twelve fishes which fed thousands of people.

It was a beautiful clear blue at that time they told me that the fish has been plentiful ever since the miracle. Jordan.

The dead sea, that was an experience. It was like a huge spa, it's one of the saltiest waters in the world. I jumped in only to find my legs popping up behind me. You can swim around but your whole body floats with the buoyancy of all that salt. Just a word of warning do not touch your

eyes. There were showers to wash off the salt. It's like sand it gets everywhere.

We next visited all the holy temples in all religious beliefs. One was The church of tears in Mount Olive in Gethsemane.

The olive trees are hundreds of years old and they look it as the branches are twisted and look like they are in agony as this was the last place where Jesus prayed to his father before his crucifixion.

I tried to get around to most of the Holy spots as I could where Mary took her son down from the cross and also Mount Zion where the last supper was held.

I remember walking around in the temple running my hands up and down the ancient columns in case Jesus had touched them, yes you do strange things in the name of history, but it was very emotional and somehow you feel connected. I also visited Palestine they had great street markets and offered me a bottle of cold Fanta everywhere I went. Egypt was playing Ireland right at that time so they invited us to watch the game with them as far as I can remember I think it was a draw but you can google it.

Looking back at my photos with my children, these were some of the fondest memories and places that I had the privilege to visit. I also took a tour bus across the Sinai desert crossing the Suez canal passing by the Nomads on camels and the rusted tanks from previous wars. The hotel was in Cairo and you could stand outside the front door and see the pyramids. I just couldn't believe how close they were. I was shaking with excitement as everything you saw in the history books and movies was all true. They were so majestic, I couldn't wait until our tour the next day. The tour guide had his own taxi and took us all over Ciaro. Then lastly to the pyramids and the Sphinx. At that time you could climb all over it and got a tour inside the pyramid and took photos inside where the magnificent Hieroglyphics were as long as you didnt use a flash.

Today I love that I have them and value this truly amazing experience because now the tombs are closed to the public in that area.

Funny story while I was walking around the Pyramids this little ten year old was following me with his camel begging me to take a ride with him. I said your camel is spitting at me but he said he's a nice camel. He asked me my name, and I said Josephine. He laughed and said my camel is named Josephine, so I relented and got on behind him on the camel almost falling off as they go forward to get off the ground so my little friend dug his heels into the camel belly and shouted, "Gee up Moses!" That wee rascal. I headed back on the bus into Israel and stopped by the Western wall, also known as the Wailing Wall. It's the last remaining wall of a Jewish temple. Women must cover their heads, arms, and legs before approaching the ladies side of the wall. Back then they had nylon covers if you were not dressed appropriately. It's customary to write a prayer or a wish on a piece of paper and insert it into the cracks of the wall if you can find a space. My wish was to return back to this historical land with my children if God granted them to me. Well I've got the children who are all grown up and definitely would go back with me, but given the present day Troubles we may have to wait a few more years. Given the conflict I grew up with in my own country of Ireland losing family members, friends and neighbours, we now have some semblance of peace. My hope and wish for Palestine and Israel is that one day peace might reign so they can share their historical countries with us once again.



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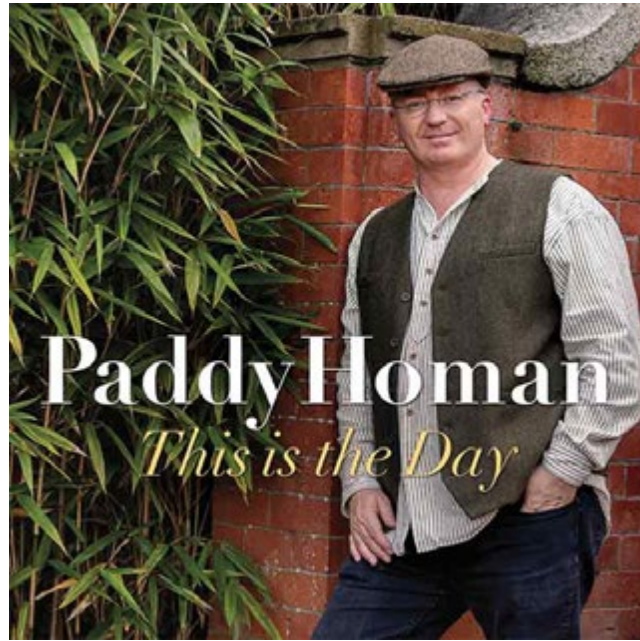
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**To Whom It May Concern**  
I am currently completing a research project on an organization that was formed in Chicago in 1938 called the Ulster Irish Liberty League. The driving force behind the group was Bernard MacGillian, originally from Derry, and its main aim was to publicize anti-Catholic discrimination by the unionist regime and support the cause of a united Ireland. The group remained active in Chicago until the early 1970s.  
If any of your readers has information about this group, I'd be grateful to have it. I can be reached at [awilso@luc.edu](mailto:awilso@luc.edu)  
Sincerely, Dr. Andy Wilson  
History Department  
Loyola University Chicago

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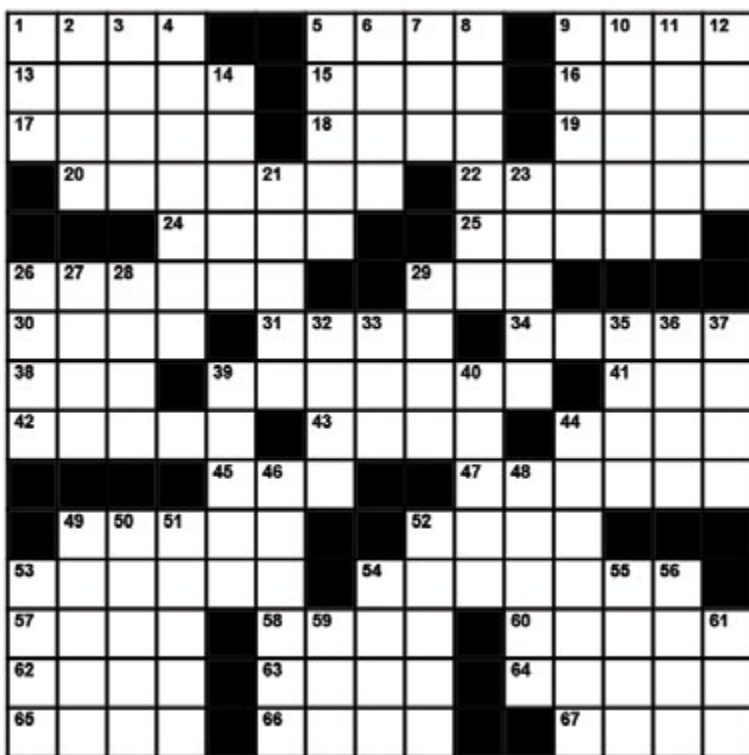
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**OCTOBER 2023 ANSWERS** Crosswords by Myles Mellon



**About AOH Division #32**

The Ancient Order of Hibernians would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our organization. The Chicago Division#32 was organized to promote and preserve Irish values, culture, and heritage. Currently, our chapter has close to 100 active members and is growing stronger every month. Our focus is on charity. We provide scholarships for elementary and high school students, aid for children with terminal diseases, and victims of disaster. Members give their time to such causes as Misericordia Heart of Mercy, Special Olympics, helping to feed the homeless and numerous other causes at a local and National level.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is a Catholic, Irish American Fraternal Organization founded

**Across**

- 1. One of Ireland's top soccer players all time, George \_\_\_\_
- 5. Ticklish Muppet
- 9. Top Irish golfer, first name
- 13. Floor brush
- 15. Computer insert
- 16. Inventor's need
- 17. African language group
- 18. Like JFK airport, abbr.
- 19. Psychic
- 20. Bad feeling on the Irish Sea, perhaps
- 22. Waiting for tech support, often
- 24. Clothes-dryer buildup
- 25. Nickels and dimes
- 26. New York county
- 29. \_\_\_\_ Turner, singer
- 30. Accumulated dirt
- 31. School orgs.
- 34. Really neat
- 38. Purpose
- 39. Used a fork, perhaps
- 41. Deception
- 42. Actress Winger
- 43. Broadway award
- 44. Tennis's Mandlikova
- 45. Discouraging words
- 47. Meteorologist's line
- 49. Mob scenes
- 52. White coat
- 53. Irish police
- 54. Peas and beans
- 57. Got a hole in one
- 58. Level
- 60. Purple flower
- 62. Levesque or Descartes
- 63. Orange peel, e.g.
- 64. Stormy encounter
- 65. \_\_\_\_ Rabbit
- 66. Congeals
- 67. Attention

in New York City 4 May, 1836. The Order can trace its roots back to a parent organization, of the same name, which has existed in Ireland for over 300 years. However, while the organizations share a common



thread, the North American A.O.H. is a separate and much larger organization.

The Order evolved from a need to protect the lives of priests who risked immediate death to keep the Catholic Faith alive in

**Down**

- 1. Business watchdog for customers (abbr.)
- 2. Timeline divisions
- 3. Unit of loudness
- 4. Added up to
- 5. Order
- 6. Connection
- 7. Denver clock setting, abbr.
- 8. "A ten \_\_\_\_ scholar"
- 9. Hindu sage
- 10. Small theater in ancient Greece
- 11. Brings in
- 12. Exterior area
- 14. Score on Broadway
- 21. Incompetent
- 23. Without limit, 2 words
- 26. Gob
- 27. Large lake
- 28. Paralyzed
- 29. Library ID
- 32. Edges a hankie
- 33. Blood classification systm, abbr
- 35. Love handles makeup
- 36. A Sinatra
- 37. Plan term, usually
- 39. Seasonal visitor
- 40. Checking out
- 44. "What would it cost"
- 46. Types of willows
- 48. Spiritual essences
- 49. Dale Earnhart, e.g.
- 50. Title role - Renee Zellweger
- 51. More eccentric
- 52. Transmits
- 53. Duds
- 54. Extended
- 55. Fencing sport
- 56. Trigonometric term
- 59. Fight (for)
- 61. '20,000 Leagues' harpooner \_\_\_\_ Land

occupied Ireland after the reign of England's King Henry VIII. When England implemented its dreaded Penal Laws in Ireland, various secret social societies were formed across the country. These groups worked to aid and comfort the people by whatever means available. Similarly, the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America was founded May 4th, 1836 at New York's St. James Church, to protect the clergy, and church Property from the "Know Nothings" and their followers. At the same time the vast influx of Irish Immigrants fleeing famine issues in Ireland in the late 1840's, prompted a growth of various social societies in the USA - the largest of which was, and continues to be, the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Active across the United States, The Order seeks to aid the newly arrived Irish, both socially, politically. The many Divisions and club facilities located throughout the U.S. traditionally have been among the first to welcome new Irish Americans. Here, the Irish culture -- art, dance, music, and sports are fostered and preserved. The newcomers can meet some of "their own" and are introduced to the social atmosphere of the Irish-American community. The AOH has been at the political forefront for issues concerning the Irish, such as; Immigration Reform; economic Incentives both here and in Ireland; the human rights issues addressed in the MacBride Legislation; Right-To-Life; and a peaceful and just solution to the issues that divide Ireland.

The Order has also provided a continuing bridge with Ireland for those who are generations removed from our country. The AOH sponsors many of the programs associated with promoting our Irish Heritage such as the IRISH WAY PROGRAM.

You may further seek admittance to the FINEST Irish Catholic Organization in the World -- all we would ask is for you to live our motto of:

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**Dia 's Muire dhuit!**

Come join us on the first Thursday of the month at The Irish American Heritage Center at 7:00 PM. If you have questions contact aoh32@aoh.org

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## Irish Fellowship Club President's Christmas Luncheon December 1st

The Irish Fellowship Club invites all of its members and guests to celebrate the start of the Christmas season on Friday, December 1st for the Annual President's Luncheon. A sure sell-out, the event will again be held at the Chicago Hilton beginning with cocktails at 11:15am followed by lunch at 12:15pm.

Chaired by Bob Reiter, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor, the event will serve as the Annual Meeting of the Irish Fellowship Club and honor current President Bob Flood of Flood Brothers for his service to the Fellowship and the Irish community of Chicago. Says Bob Reiter, "I am excited to celebrate the start of the Christmas Season in Chicago with the Irish Fellowship Club. This luncheon has been a tradition for many years, and I look forward to honoring my good friend, Bob Flood."



*2023 Luncheon Chair Bob Reiter, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor*



*2022 Luncheon Co-Chair Tim Cavanagh, former IFC President John Wrenn, former IFC Chair Rose Doherty, 2022 Luncheon Co-Chair Michael Evans*



*IFC Board President Bob Flood and his wife Sue*

As with the other events hosted by the Irish Fellowship Club, the Christmas Luncheon provides funding for the Irish Fellowship Club Education and Cultural Foundation. The Foundation supports Catholic High Schools in the Chicagoland area and Irish cultural organizations. IFC President Bob Flood comments, "The members and guests who attend the Luncheon as well as our sponsors provide important funding for the Foundation. We are proud of our commitment to Catholic education and Irish arts organizations through the years."

The Luncheon serves as the Annual Meeting of the Irish Fellowship Club and the membership will elect new officers and members. In addition, guests at the Luncheon will be able to buy raffle tickets for exciting prizes including airline tickets, a wine basket, an overnight at the Hilton, restaurant gift cards and more. And, of course, Irish Santa will make an appearance. Following the Luncheon, Irish Christmas entertainment will be in the Normandie Lounge.

Tickets are \$125/seat or \$1250/table of ten. Reservations are available through the Irish Fellowship Club site: [www.irishfellowshipclub.com](http://www.irishfellowshipclub.com). Executive Director Kathy Taylor states, "This event sells out quickly so please buy your tickets soon."

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Who is John Banville? He is an Irish novelist, short story writer and screenwriter from Co. Wexford. (The model county—for their farming methods) He has worked as an editor at The Irish Times and The Irish Press and a contributor to the New York Review of Books. Banville had a pen name, Benjamin Black, however he decided to kill off Mr.

Black. Coincidentally, Banville's two siblings are also writers. Banville writes in the Hiberno-English dialect. (examples include banjaxed, flat out, craic, eejit, culchie, jackeen, slagging and knacker) He has said he dreads that if he moved abroad, he would lose his style as other Irish writers have done. He now resides in Dublin. He acknowledges that

most Irish writers are followers of either Joyce or Beckett, he placed himself in the Beckett camp.

Banville has written over 25 books. Half of his books are crime novels. His book, "The Sea" (2005) was adapted into a film in 2013, starring, Sinéad Cusack. Banville had intended to be a painter or an architect, but he didn't go to university which he has stated was a great mistake. He states he missed out on craic but he wouldn't have learned much more. After secondary school he worked as a clerk at Aer Lingus, which allowed him to travel and gave him ideas for his stories.

Some of his writing has been described as complex and paradoxical. Paradox is like opposite facts. Examples of paradox include: if you drink a cup of hot tea it seems to cool you down. The more you try to impress people, the less impressed they'll be. The more you fail, the more likely you are to succeed. And the more available something is, the less likely you want it. He's been described as the Irish Proust. Proust was a French novelist. His most famous work was, "In Search of lost Time". But Banville asserts his influences were W.B. Yeats and the American (English) writer Henry James.

His first novel was Nightspawn,



**GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!**

By Tina Butler



second was, Birchwood and then, "The Revolutions Trilogy, three works in reference to a trio of famous scientists: Doctor Copernicus, (Nicolaus Copernicus) Kepler, (Johannes Kepler) and The Newton Letter (Isaac Newton).

A few years ago, Banville received a call from the Swedish Academy for Literature. A man claiming to be secretary of the Swedish academy told him he won and read out the customary citation. He later discovered it was a hoax and he was collateral damage. Banville felt he wasn't the target he had the hallmarks of a man with a grudge, and not a grudge against me. Banville said, "There is comedy in it and material for me, the man who nearly won the Nobel prize!"

Another incident Banville handled very well & graciously was when his agent or someone close to him received a call that said I'm sorry I have bad news John Banville is dead. Banville knew his other friend and writer also named John, John McGahern (co. Leitrim) was sick, and it was himself that passed. A reminder anyone in any walk of life still makes mistakes.

Banville has won various awards including International Nonino

Prize, Booker Prize, Franz Kafka Prize, Prince of Asturias Award for Literature (Spain). He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Italy made him a Cavaliere of the Order of della Stall d'Italia (knighthood). He is a former member of Aosdana, (Irish arts association) having voluntarily given up the financial stipend to another lesser-known writer.

Quotes from Banville, "It's great people still care about books." "It's great you can still fashion a life from literature." "The past beats inside of me like a second heart." "Writers are just like other people but slightly more obsessed."

Smidin Gaeilge  
Writer-scribhneoir, Book-leabhar, Story--seal  
Sentence--abairt Words--focail

Thank you for all your lovely messages of support, they mean a great deal to me... I have many more articles in me, I never worry about what to write, tg. "No matter what people tell you words and ideas can change the world." Robin Williams

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

**Patrick Michael Redmond M.A. Named Emeritus Art Educator**

Irish American Patrick Michael Redmond, M.A., of Saint Paul and PatrickRedmondDesign.com, has been named 2023 "Emeritus Art Educator of the Year" by AEM, Art Educators of Minnesota. See <https://www.aem-mn.org/about-us/awards>. And, during 2023 National Design Week, October 2-8,

numerous examples of some of the fifty published book covers he has designed were displayed at the Merriam Park Branch, Saint Paul Public Library, Saint Paul.

Patrick is originally from Milwaukee and has been a Minnesota resident since 1968 when he moved to the state to attend the Minneapolis School of Art (now known as MCAD, Minneapolis College of Art and Design) with a scholarship.

He is a 1968 alumnus of Pius XI Catholic High School, Milwaukee, and an alumnus of the Milwaukee Art Center's (Milwaukee Art Museum's) Children's Art Program. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Minnesota.



Paul MacKenzie, who left Scot Rail in 2007, emigrated to the USA and in 2009 joined Amtrak. Here he is on the 505 from Portland to Eugene, proudly displaying his Celtic tattoos. (Saorse stands for Freedom)

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South Bend's *Fiddler's Hearth Public House* was chosen among other local restaurants as the ESPN Game Day chef, feeding the Game Day panelists for the ND/Ohio State game in South Bend. Chosen too for ND v Michigan in 2018.

Photos courtesy of South Bend Tribune's Austin Hough.

**Pat McAfee (left), pro wrestler and sports analyst. Terrance Patrick Meehan, Publican, on the right, and owner of Fiddler's Hearth.**

Food was paraded by two pipers and a drummer from the local Caledonia Kilty Pipe Band.



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# Saturday Socials

at the Irish American Heritage Center

**Let's get together!**

The kettle is on between  
**11am — 1pm!**

**Saturday,  
11th November**

**Saturday,  
16th December**

**No plan, just a time  
to connect!**

773-282-8445

## Gatherings for Seniors

Discover a vibrant community and embrace the Irish spirit this fall!

Join our **FREE** Senior Gatherings at *Chicago Gaelic Park* and the *Irish American Heritage Center* for an engaging blend of Irish cultural events, social activities and educational workshops.

For questions or to have a detailed schedule of senior gatherings mailed to your home, call **Kathleen** on 773-282-8445.

The Shamrock Seniors

Senior gatherings at the *Irish American Heritage Center*

<p><b>Wednesday, November 1st</b> Monthly Musical Gathering with live Irish music</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, November 15th</b> Lecture by Irish historian Theresa Choske</p>
<p><b>Wednesday, December 6th</b> Monthly Musical Gathering with live Irish music</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, 13th December</b> Christmas Luncheon at Gaelic Park - more details to follow!</p>

The Golden Gaels

Senior gatherings at *Chicago Gaelic Park*

<p><b>Wednesday, November 8th</b> Mind Matters: Let's share stories of home, wherever that may be!</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, 13th December</b> Christmas Luncheon — more details to follow!</p>
--	---

Everyone is welcome at our gatherings for seniors. There is no membership requirement and no fees to attend.

See you at a gathering soon!

# BLACK & IRISH

## Writing Their Own Story

A Conversation with the Authors of

### *Black & Irish*

Legends, Trailblazers & Everyday Heroes

IBAM Festival 2023

Saturday, 18th November  
1 pm — 2pm

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

## US Citizenship 101

A **FREE** 30-minute overview of becoming a US citizen, including eligibility and the application process

Saturday 2nd December at 11 AM  
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4626 N Knox Ave, Chicago, IL 60630

Register:  
Scan the QR code, call 773-282-8445,  
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## Welcome to the New Executive Director of Ireland Network Chicago

While we here at *Irish American News* are sorry to see the talented Katie Fitzpatrick step away from leading the Ireland Network Chicago, we are not surprised at the caliber of her replacement, as Margaret Rose Keating formally takes the reins of this progressive organization (as well as the INC email address!)



**Margaret Rose Keating Mungari**

Margaret has been a member of INC for 10 years prior to her appointment as Executive Director. She is an executive support professional specializing in strategic communications, programming and thought leadership with proven success across public, private and non-profit sectors. Her career includes positions in Municipal Government, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and American Airlines. She holds a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Margaret also represented Chicago in the 2012

International Rose of Tralee Festival. Margaret is married to her husband Nick and lives in the Chicagoland area with their two children, Rose and Nicholas, and is a proud first-generation Irish American.

## Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



### Searching for Balance Amidst the Horror

Exactly one month ago as I write this (today being the 16th of October) the Silent Cinema Galway held a showing of a 1924 Austrian film called 'The City without Jews', accompanied that night by live Jewish (Klezmer) music. I felt then and do now that the decision to present this social document was an inspired one by this Irish niche cinema's founder and art director Adam Scheffler. You see, 88 years ago on the previous night, there had been the adoption by the Nazi Reichstag of the Nuremberg Laws, which marked the Jews of Germany as not fully human and therefore not entitled to civil or human rights.

The film and the 1922 novel on which it was based was a cautionary tale warning against the evils of antisemitism. I thought it was a good idea to remind a younger generation of just how bad things could get. Introducing the film, I remarked that it was an appropriate time to be screening 'The City Without Jews', as antisemitism was once again very much on the rise -- admittedly something you wouldn't know from the mainstream newspapers who have spent this past year seemingly embarrassed to be reporting such a thing.

And yet...if you had told either myself or Adam that short time ago that we would TODAY be looking at images from Berlin of the Star of David being graffitied on to people's walls, we would have thought it was time to check you in somewhere. And, of course this kind of swinish intimidation comes - as it always does initially - under the cloak of darkness. Whether they arrive in the night with flaming torches and brown shirts or with burning crosses and ridiculous, pointy white bedsheets they're always the same: a mob of thuggish goons who are trying to hide their faces... At first.

Nor is it confined to Berlin. This kind of behaviour appears to have spread EVERYWHERE: in Glasgow one idiot was happy to be filmed as she goaded an obviously distressed Jewish man. With her face thrust aggressively into the camera she mock-concernedly asks him if he has lost relatives. When he replies that he has, she says: 'Good'. In London two other women openly wear images of Hamas paraglider bombers on their back whilst more tear down posters of missing Jewish people. 'Britain is a terrorist state' yells yet another. Really? Try doing that in a Saudi country and see how far you get.

All of this is taking place because last Saturday morning Hamas deliberately chose the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah

to launch an unprovoked attack on over twenty sites, leading to mass murder, mass rape and the indiscriminate butchery of children and babies, all of this reported on by the U.S. and European media.

I would never have considered myself Nature's Innocent but I seem to be, since I would have thought that blanket sympathy would be afforded the people of Israel at this time. Just in the name of basic humanity. Fat chance. As usual it just seems to have scraped away our surface civility, to reveal an anti-Jewish hatred that appears to be scarily close TO that surface.

In a moment and in the interests of balance I am going to let a friend of mine give her reasons for supporting Palestine; but lest I myself be mistaken for the many mealy-mouthed chancers who are carefully choosing their words until they can see which way the wind is blowing, let me nail my feelings firmly out there.

I've been pro-Israel for many years now. (I suppose that sound I hear is that of a great many readers switching off, but that's the way it goes.) There's a lot of reasons why, more than I have space to go into; but it's probably because I've been privileged enough to have met many, and all of them with a humour that suits my own, as well as having an impish sense of the ridiculous. Considering Jewish history - another element that fascinates me - they'd need to have.

In the main, though, it's because they have the guts to say that they're not going to be pushed around anymore. Turning the other cheek is all very well, but we only have four - two on our faces and two on our asses - and if you KEEP turning those cheeks you are going to get your head handed to you. Israel, a country more than three times smaller than Ireland but surrounded by other countries that literally want it obliterated off the face of the earth, decided it wasn't going to have that. And I admire that, so there's not much point in expecting balance from me. Except...

A few years ago, I met Anne (not her real name) and we became friends pretty much right away. She's 32; smart; well-travelled; helluva funny; I respect her opinion; and we share the same liking for spooky movies. But we do NOT agree when it comes to Israel and Palestine.

"The path to peace is found in the freeing of the Palestinian people", says Anne.

[Which gets me thinking about the original 1988 Hamas Charter

where Article 13 said explicitly: "There is no solution to the Palestinian question except through Jihad." Of course, they softened the Charter a bit in 2017 - mainly by changing Jew to Zionist - but that early one looks pretty unequivocal to me. Still, I'm trying not to interrupt.]

"And first off, I would like to say that the loss of civilian life is the loss of innocent life. As someone involved in pro-Palestine activism, I would like to say that I do not know one person that is not saddened by the attacks of Hamas on normal Israelites; but we see this escalation as the fault of settlers.

"Since 1948 and the establishment of Israel the Palestinians have been forced out of their homes by those settlers and into pockets of land, densely populated with the settler government controlling what or who goes in and out; and the water supply. This power has been used as collective punishment for Palestinian civilians. The Palestinian people - along with many Israeli people [my italics] - have been and continue to protest peacefully against the displacement; and against the control and violence perpetrated on the Palestinian people by the settlers.

"Again, I want to get it across that we DO NOT support violence against civilians; but we understand how this can escalate and manifest itself when a people's voice is not being listened to. We can see this even in our own history. [Ouch!]

"Right now, in Gaza civilians are being bombed relentlessly; ambulances are being bombed; supplies are being cut off, with hospitals running completely out; generators are going; water sanitation plants will stop working. And this violence can only end through the freeing of the Palestinian people.

"When we fly the Palestinian flag, we fly it FOR peace and AGAINST apartheid and war. We fly it not only for the people of Gaza but also for the citizens of Israel, who are also suffering so terribly in the hands of this conflict."

I want to thank Anne for this; but by the time you read it, much may be redundant. Heaven knows what level this conflict will be at. Still, if you take out of this one thing then take the fact that two people such as Anne and I can come at something from COMPLETELY different positions and remain friends.

There is NO WAY that I can speak for those in Israel and Palestine who are in the very center of this horror; but those of you in other countries who are willfully agitating... in the name of all that is decent, if you can't do something constructive then do us all a favour and do nothing.

Those of you who are in a position to help, I wish you the very best. What a task you are in front of you.  
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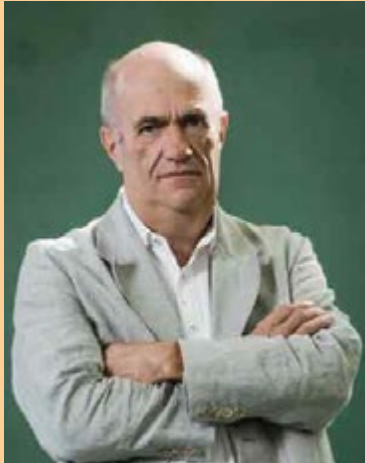


# Irish Books, Arts, and Music Celebration!

## Saturday November 18 **iBAM! GALA AWARDS DINNER** Honoring the best in Irish Culture and Heritage!

Colm Toibín was born on 30 May 1955. He is an Irish novelist, and short story writer, essayist, journalist, critic, playwright and poet.

Colm's first novel, *The South*, was published in 1990. The *Blackwater Lightship* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. *The Master* (a fictionalized version of the inner life of Henry James)



**Colm Tóibín, Literature**

was also shortlisted for the Booker Prize and won the 2006 International Dublin Literary Award, securing for Toibín a

bounty of thousands of euro as it is one of the richest literary awards in the world.

His fellow artists elected him to Aosdána and he won the biennial "UK and Ireland Nobel" David Cohen Prize in 2021.

He also succeeded Martin Amis as professor of creative writing at the University of Manchester. He was appointed Chancellor of the University of Liverpool in 2017.

Our iBAM! Person of the Year has led a varied and interesting life.

She was born in 1944, became a nun for 6 years, and then went on to write for Saturday Night Live!

As an author and filmmaker, Mary Pat Kelly has told various stories connected to Ireland. Her best-selling novel *Galway Bay* (2009), called *Pure Magic* by Frank McCourt, is based on the history of her Irish-American family. Of *Irish Blood* (2015) continues the saga. *Irish Above All*, the story of the rise of Ed Kelly to Mayor of Chicago (1933-1947) and power nationally. She produced and directed award-winning PBS documentaries: *To Live for Ireland* (1986) a portrait of Nobel Peace Prize winner John Hume and the political party he led; *Home Away from Home: The Yanks in Ireland* (1992), a history of U.S. forces in N. Ireland during World War II with an accompanying book;



**Dr. Mary Pat Kelly  
Person of the Year**

and *Proudly We Served: The Men of the USS Mason* (1995), a portrayal of the only African-American sailors to take a World War II warship into combat, whose first foreign port was Belfast which won the CINE Golden Eagle.

Her book of the same title was published by Naval Institute Press in 1995. She wrote and directed the dramatic feature film *Proud* (2004), starring Ossie Davis in his last film role and Oscar

nominee Stephen Rea, based on the USS Mason story. The film was selected by Tribeca and many other film festivals.

She wrote Martin Scorsese: *The First Decade* (1978) and *Martin Scorsese: A Journey* (1990); *Good to Go: The Rescue of Scott O'Grady from Bosnia* (1996); and a novel, *Special Intentions* (1997) based on her experiences as a nun on the West Side of Chicago. She is a frequent contributor to *Irish America Magazine* and has twice been named one of the Top 100 Irish Americans and one of the Top 100 Global Irish.

Mary Pat worked in Hollywood as a screenwriter for Paramount and Columbia Pictures and in NYC as an associate producer with *Good Morning America* (1976) and *Saturday Night Live* (1980-82). She wrote the book and lyrics for the musical *Abby's Song*.

Born and raised in Chicago, she lives on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her husband, app developer Martin Sheerin from County Tyrone.



**Eileen Dunne, Journalism**

Eileen Dunne (born 28 April 1958 in Dublin) is a respected and recently retired Irish journalist, newsreader and presenter for Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ), Ireland's national radio and television station, where she presented the main TV news programs *Six One News*, *Nine O'Clock News* and *One O'Clock News* including all other news bulletins on both radio and television from 1980 to 2022.

She was the co-anchor with Sharon Ní Bheoláin of RTÉ's flagship *Nine O'Clock News* and presented afternoon bulletins for RTÉ Radio 1.[1]

Dunne regularly featured on RTÉ coverage of major state occasions. In 2016, she was co-anchor with Bryan Dobson for the official state commemoration of the centenary of the 1916 Rising.

She is married to the actor Macdara Ó Fátharta with one son, Cormac.



**Jimmy Keane, Music**

Jimmy Keane was born to Irish-speaking parents from Connemara and Kerry. His father Jimmy Keane was an old style sean-nós singer.

Playing the piano accordion, he won five consecutive All-Ireland titles. In the 1970s, he started his professional career with fellow All-Ireland fiddle champion Liz Carroll and the duo was named All-Ireland Senior Duet Champion in 1975.

In the 1980s, Robbie O'Connell and Mick Moloney releasing the first recording of the iconic Irish song "There Were Roses" penned by Irish folk singer-songwriter Tommy Sands.

In the '80s, Keane collaborated with guitar great Dennis Cahill, and founded the group Bohola with Pat Broaders and Seán Cleland. Keane won "Male Musician of the Year" (2010), and "Male Musician of the Decade" by Live Ireland & *Irish American News* (2011).

Róisín O'Farrell has emerged as one of Ireland's most successful artists who is known for her vibrant and emotionally resonant works that capture the essence of home, family, and the human spirit. She is all about two things: painting and inspiring women to live bigger, more meaningful, creative lives.

Born on the east coast of Ireland, Róisín O'Farrell's artistic journey has been nothing short of remarkable. Best known for her bright, vibrantly colourful paintings in textured, buttery oils with a contemporary finish. Her pieces often



**Roisin O'Farrell, Visual Arts**

feature light-filled period interiors, whimsical gatherings of Wellington (rain) boots, and charming china teacups, each painting telling a unique story and inviting viewers to immerse themselves in a world of vivid colours and captivating textures.

Since her discovery in 2009, Róisín

O'Farrell's work has been exhibited in galleries across Ireland and the UK, with numerous sellout exhibitions and events in London, Edinburgh, Amsterdam, Barcelona, and the U.S. Her bold use of jewel-like colours and her ability to suggest rather than describe invites us to engage with her art on a deeply emotional level.

Róisín O'Farrell resides in Co. Wicklow, Ireland. Róisín is deeply committed to the art of teaching and nurturing creativity in others. She has many years of experience in giving workshops and teaching. She believes that creativity should be nurtured, and she does that at her artist retreats in Ireland, the USA, & Malta.

[roisinofarrell.com](http://roisinofarrell.com)

Gala Awards Dinner Tickets at [www.ibamchicago.com](http://www.ibamchicago.com)



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# iBAM! SCHEDULE

## November 17, 18, 19



Friday 11-17, 7pm-9:30pm  
Mayfair Theater

Saturday Music: Fifth Province Hall  
12:30pm to 2pm Lagram's Way  
2:30pm to 4pm The Dooley Band  
4:30pm to 6pm Academy of Irish Music  
6pm to 9pm The Boils  
9pm-12 Women of Irish Music in USA

Sunday Music: Fifth Province Hall  
12:30pm to 2pm Character Fleadh  
2:30pm to 4pm Small Batch  
4:30 -6pm Jim Conway Trad Session

### FILMS Saturday

Room 109 - Saturday Rm 109 3:20-4:00pm **To Live for Ireland**  
Introduction by filmmaker, Dr. Mary Pat Kelly  
Library 2nd Floor 3:30pm-4:15pm-Film, **The Brendan Voyage**  
hosted by Theresa Choske  
Room 109 - Saturday 4pm to 5:30pm **Proud**  
Introduction by filmmaker, Dr. Mary Pat Kelly

### FILMS Sunday,

Library 12-1pm-Film,  
**Harry Clarke: Darkness in Light**,  
hosted by Theresa Choske  
Room 109 2:30 - 4pm  
Hosted by Kelly Doherty  
**An Cailín Ciúin (The Quiet Girl)**

### LITERARY SALON

**Saturday - Noon - Maureen Smith holds the Opening of Salon Ceremony**

Saturday - 12:30 - Ann McGlenn presents **Ride On, See You**

Saturday - 1pm - Maureen Connolly presents **A Million Miles From Yesterday: a Chicago expatriate climbs back into life**

Saturday 1:30 Kathy Cowan presents **Songs, stories and poems of Samhain**

Saturday 2pm - Lois Farley Shuford presents **Finding Home: An Irish American Story**

Saturday 2:30pm - Maureen Flannery presents **Already Part of the Sky**

Saturday 3pm - Terry Boyle presents **Angels and Empty Pages**

Saturday 3:30 - Rosemary Feurer presents **My Irish Spirit Has the Fight in It**

Saturday 4pm - 5pm Bridget Conway presents **Project Concern**

**Sunday Noon - Jessie Ann Foley talks about her books and incorporating Irish traditional mythology into contemporary writing**

Sunday 12:30pm - Peter McCann presents **Witches and Queens: Exploring the Role of Women in Macbeth and Beyond**

Sunday 1pm - Jessie McCann presents **Luck and Laughter: The Story of Irish Legend Lucille Ball**

Sunday 1:30pm Theresa Choske presents **Maud Gonne and the Irish Rebellion**

Sunday 2pm - Micael Clark presents **Emily Bronte: Not Your Typical Ghost Story: The Power Behind the Spirits in Wuthering Hts**

Sunday 2:30pm Maureen Tolman Flannery presents **Already Part of the Sky: Poetry in Homage to Her Irish Heritage &**

**Celebrating Ireland's People & Landscape**

Sunday 3pm - Dr. Mary Pat Kelly presents **To Live for Ireland - remembering Pat and John Hume**

Sunday 3:30pm Maureen Smith presents **The Celtic Calendar**

Sunday 4pm Kathy O'Neill presents **The Irish Exit**

Sunday 4:30pm The Literary Salon for iBAM! 2023 will close with a "So Long Celebration" as Maureen Smith retires from Lit Salon presentations. This would be a good time to thank her for all she has done!

SPECIAL EXHIBITS on loan to iBAM! (location to be announced)

**Blazing a Trail - Irish Women Who Changed the World** - a collaboration between the Irish Government, Herstory and the EPIC Irish Emigration Museum, and celebrates the lives and legacies of Irish American women.

**A New Beginning: 25 Years of the Good Friday Agreement** This exhibit tells the story of the Agreement and of the long road to peace in a visually stunning display.

### ART EXHIBITS

**Art Gallery 2nd Floor - Visual Arts Awardee Róisín O'Farrell** will be displaying some of her art both days 12 - 5pm  
On Sunday, from 1:30pm-3pm, Róisín O'Farrell will host a demonstration of her painting techniques and how she creates her art.

On your way to the art gallery, check out the Wall Mural donated by **Wallcoverings of Ireland** and just to the left of the Art Gallery is the 3 piece Mural, donated to the Center by the **Bogside Artists** that they painted live at iBAM! in 2010.

**Founders Room (both days across from Library)** Artist Philip Groark will show his oil paintings and pen and ink work, along with selected IAHC Members Art in an Exhibit Showcase of Local Talent

### LIBRARY 2nd Floor - Saturday, November 18

12pm-1pm: Lecture, Ann McDonagh, **Irish History: Evolution and Endurance**

1:15pm-2:15pm: Lecture, Pat Duffy, **History of Teaching the Irish Language in Chicago**

2:30pm-3:15pm-Lecture and performance, **Brigid Gerace as Mother Jones, and Rosemary Feurer**

Mary Harris Jones and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn: **Rebel Women of the Irish Diaspora**

3:30pm-4:15pm-Film, **The Brendan Voyage**

4:30pm-5pm: Lecture, Amy Crider, **Kells: A Novel of the Eighth Century**

### LIBRARY Sunday, November 19

12pm-1pm-FILM, **Harry Clarke: Darkness in Light**

1:15pm-2:15pm-Lecture, Ann McDonagh, **The Orange vs. The Green: What's the Difference?**

2:30pm-3:30pm-Lecture, Anthony Szabelski, **Irish Ghosts and Folklore**

3:45pm-4:45pm- Music, Tenor Mark Piekarcz: **Love's Old Sweet Song**

### Panel DISCUSSIONS - Saturday, November 18 & Sunday November 19 (one each day)

**SATURDAY PANEL - 1pm - 2pm Room 109: Writing Their Own Story: A Conversation with the Authors, Leon Diop and Briana Fitzsimons of Black & Irish: Legends, Trailblazers & Everyday Heroes.** Moderated by Paul Dowling, Executive Director of Irish Community Services

### SUNDAY PANEL ROOM SUBJECT TO CHANGE IF THE ATTENDANCE IS TOO LARGE

**SUNDAY - BOOK SIGNING Rm 109 12:15-1pm** Author Colm Toibin will sign his books which iBAM will have on sale including: *Brooklyn, Magician, Master, Nora, and Guest Feast* which you can purchase for signing (while supply lasts!)

**SUNDAY PANEL: Rm 109 1pm-2pm Literature & Culture in 21st-Century Ireland w/ Colm Tóibín, Eileen Dunne, & Dr. Mary Pat Kelly.** Professor Mary McCain moderating. Please email to reserve your seat(s) to [info@ibamchicago.com](mailto:info@ibamchicago.com)

**AUTHORS with their books available both Saturday and Sunday most of the day between 12-5**

**Dr. Mary Pat Kelly, Eileen Dunne (Sunday Only) Terry Boyle, Mary Pat Ferrones Kane, Monica Dougherty, Jesse Anne Foley, Jeanie Dean, Arthur Cola, Ann McGlenn, The Boyle Brothers of Killaneen**

Saturday 2:15-3:15 Room 109 - Nov 18 - Consul General Byrne will present on the 'Good Friday Agreement at 25'. Join us to learn more about the continuing achievements and ongoing and new challenges. Visit the exhibit 'A New Beginning' - a visually stunning display of the long road to peace. Also, on Saturday only, the Consulate staff will be present to answer any questions you may have about citizenship, passports, foreign birth registration, studying or retiring to Ireland as well as the opportunity for recent graduates to live and work for 12 months in Ireland on the Working Holiday Authorisation programme.

**Schedule Subject to Change: For the latest information go to [www.ibamchicago.com](http://www.ibamchicago.com) for all details!**



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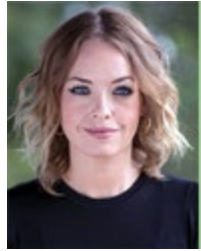


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## Immigration Option for Workers Connected to Labor Investigations & the Rich Irish Legacy in Labor Movements



**IMMIGRATION NATION**  
BY FIONA McENTEE  
AND Natalia Blauvelt



The tapestry of worker rights and their perennial fight for just conditions is deeply intertwined with history. Ireland, with its rich legacy, has been at the vanguard of shaping labor movements, leaving a profound mark on global narratives of worker solidarity.

The Irish diaspora, (along with many others) particularly in America, has been critical advocates for worker rights, owing to the steadfast spirit inherited from the homeland. Historically, the Irish community has faced adversity head-on, battling socio-economic hardships, the potato famine, and political tumults. It's this very legacy of resilience that makes the expansion of policy around an immigration program - Deferred Action for Labor Enforcement (DALE) - resonate so deeply with the community.

The DALE program can give protection from deportation and a work permit for certain undocumented immigrants and non-citizen workers. It aims to protect workers from exploitation and abuse while also encouraging them to cooperate with labor enforcement agencies.

One cannot talk about the Irish impact on labor movements

without mentioning the origins of the word "boycott." Captain Charles Boycott, an English land agent in 19th-century Ireland, became notorious for his oppressive treatment of tenant farmers and subsequent evictions. As a strategy of non-violent resistance, local Irish workers and the broader community, driven by a collective pursuit of justice, ostracized him. They refrained from working in his fields, providing services to his household, or engaging in trade. Their united front gave birth to the term "boycotting", which has since become a powerful tool of peaceful protest worldwide.

The DALE program stands as a beacon of hope for countless undocumented immigrants and non-citizen workers. It's a poignant reminder of the global struggle for worker rights and how movements, influenced by historic actions like the Irish boycott, can lead to impactful policy.

### The Essence of DALE and Recent Updates

DALE gives protection from the looming threat of deportation, empowering approved applicants to secure a work permit and a valid social security number.

Although it stops short of granting a formal immigration status, it provides a provisional shield against deportation, affirming recipients as lawfully present in the U.S. for certain limited purposes while in effect.

Recent changes herald a new era for DALE. In January 2023, the Department of Homeland Security, under the Biden-Harris Administration, streamlined the application process, further solidifying the U.S. government's commitment to uplifting worker rights. It also created an expedited deferred action request process.

This expanded policy is a huge victory and a direct result of years of organizing by workers, unions and labor organizations, worker centers, advocates, organizers, and courageous deferred applicants who paved the way for others! Thank you for your courage and leadership.

DALE: A Response to Exploitation Channeling the spirit of historic worker resistance, DALE seeks to protect the often-exploited worker. Undocumented workers who, due to their precarious standing, frequently become victims of employer exploitation. This injustice manifests in myriad forms: wage theft, hazardous working conditions, and stifling the right to unionize. With the threat of deportation constantly hanging over their heads, these workers often remain silent against such transgressions.

DALE's primary objective is to change this narrative. By

offering a protective umbrella, it aims to embolden workers to voice their grievances, ensuring labor agencies can effectively investigate and redress labor law breaches. Such policies not only benefit the undocumented but also enhance workplace conditions universally.

### Qualifying for DALE

To qualify for DALE, an applicant needs:

- Their current (or possibly former) employer to be the subject of a labor dispute/open investigation at a labor agency AND

- The labor agency investigating the labor dispute to issue a letter (Statement of Interest) supporting deferred action for all workers.

For the purposes of this process, a labor dispute is when a worker or group of workers at a particular worksite reports a labor or employment law violation to a federal, state, or local agency that initiates an investigation.

Example: If an employer is not paying overtime, not providing the right number of breaks, forcing people to clock out before they have stopped working, is not providing adequate safety equipment, or is preventing workers from unionizing, the employees might complain to the employer and might also report the violation to a local, state, or federal labor agency.

The Statement of Interest is typically general in nature (i.e. not individual specific). Importantly, it can typically be used by all workers in the workplace to apply for deferred

action. A Statement of Interest alone does not grant immigration status or provide protection from deportation proceeding. An individual must use the Statement of Interest to then file a deferred action application with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Once a Statement of Interest is secured, potential DALE applicants should get specific legal advice to see if they are suitable candidates to file a DALE case with the USCIS. As with all immigration matters, there are benefits and risks. Given the potential risks involved, we highly recommend that people consult with an experienced immigration attorney or accredited representative about their specific situation before filing anything with the USCIS. For some applicants, deferred action can be a great option. For others, there may be some risks and we want to make sure that applicants understand these risks and then make an informed decision about whether, or not, to file for deferred action.

Deferred action under DALE generally lasts 2 years but may be subject to termination at any time. It can also potentially be renewed depending on circumstances like ongoing labor complaints/disputes.

If you or someone you know wants to discuss a potential DALE application, please call our office on 773-828-9544 or drop an email at [info@mcenteelaw.com](mailto:info@mcenteelaw.com)

*Written by Immigration Lawyers Katherine Del Rosario & Fiona McEntee*

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## Speaker Chaos is Just One More Symptom of the GOP's Decline

The news cycle over the past few weeks has been a doozy; a war is raging in the Middle East, resulting in protests and controversies springing up both across the United States and abroad. With all of this in mind, it is understandable if you haven't had the time or energy to keep up with our domestic politics. That said, I implore you to keep tabs on the historic anarchy that the United States House of Representatives is currently experiencing.

On October 3rd, reactionary elements in the Republican Party summarily ousted Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) from his position as Speaker of the House. This was the first time in American history that a Speaker had been forcibly removed by a motion to vacate the Chair-and it was an act perpetrated by his own party.

Since 2022, Republicans have maintained a 4 seat majority in the 435-member House. This thin majority has made it difficult for GOP leadership to do just about anything, mainly because far-right members of its caucus have utilized their political leverage

to extract political demands and block any initiatives they don't like.

It is for this reason that the United States nearly defaulted on its debt earlier this year and has also failed to pass a federal budget. The death knell for Kevin McCarthy's speakership was his collaboration with House Democrats to pass a stopgap budget measure (known as a continuing resolution) to keep the government funded for a couple more months. Once that happened, Matt Gaetz (R-FL) filed a motion to vacate the Chair. With the votes of every House Democrat and several of his ultra conservative colleagues, he successfully pulled off the unprecedented political maneuver.

For weeks, it was unclear whether ANYONE in the GOP had the chutzpah and political chops to unite the caucus and take the Speakership for themselves. In the meantime, the House was essentially paralyzed-no business can be conducted until a Speaker is in place. Under different circumstances, this might not

matter all that much. After all, the United States currently has a divided government (a Republican-controlled House, but a Democrat-controlled Senate and a Democrat president), and since all legislation must pass both the House and Senate and ultimately be approved by the President, no hot-button legislation has been or will be passed.

But, as I mentioned earlier, the continuing resolution that is keeping the government funded through the end of November will have to be replaced by another continuing resolution or a bona fide budget-meaning that the House will need to approve that legislation. If that funding isn't passed in time, the federal government will shut down. This could have a major impact on the US economy, which is still fragile and unstable in the wake of historic inflation and the pandemic.

The GOP, with a mob boss as its head, continues to shoot itself and the American government in the foot by encouraging far-right knuckleheads and fascists to run for political office. It should be no surprise that these idiots only care about their own political futures and agendas-yet here we are. For the sake of our country, I hope something changes. But frankly, any faith that I once had in the Republican Party has been long gone. Maybe Speaker Johnson will do something, but I have my doubts.



**Richie Piggott's Book:  
"Cry of a People Gone"**

*By Dr. Christine Lawless, Chicago area Irish Singer*

When I mentioned to a musician friend that I would be writing a regular column about the Chicago Irish music scene, he immediately suggested I secure a copy of a recently published book called "Cry of a People Gone," by Richie Piggott, thinking it would provide important background. Boy, was he ever right! This book chronicles the history of Irish music and musicians in Chicago from 1920 to 2020, in painstaking detail, setting the stage for where our musical traditions are today and where we are going. In my opinion, quite simply, "Cry of a People Gone" is brilliant.

Cork native Richie Piggott has lived in the Chicago suburb of St Charles IL for the past 25 years. Although not a musician himself, Piggott comes a musical family: his father played accordion, his mother performed in marching bands, and his brother Charlie Piggott played banjo as a founding member of the famed Irish folk group De Dannan. When I met Richie this week, he told me, "Rather than playing music, I always had more of an interest in the history of the song or tune, and the Irish musicians."

Piggott's book writing adventure began about 12 years ago, when, late on a Sunday night, Piggott, seeking an authentic Irish session, wandered into Lanigan's Irish Pub in the Mount Greenwood neighborhood of Chicago's Southside. There, in a small back room, he happened upon a group of 12 old-timer musicians playing the most marvelous traditional Irish music session, and from that moment on he was "mesmerized." He became acquainted with the musicians, met their families, and began collecting photos, memorabilia, and recordings. Piggott's friend Nicholas Carolan, of the Irish Traditional Music Archive in Dublin, followed his progress. Recognizing how unique his work was, Carolan encouraged Piggott to write, and so he did. This is his first book.

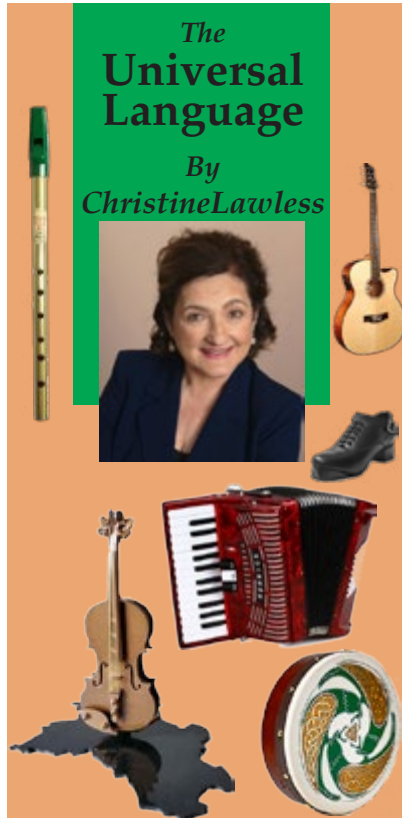
At 8.5 X 10.5 inches, and about an inch thick, this 403-page book is visually impressive, and would probably feel right at home on your coffee table. The book contains seven Chapters, two appendices, hundreds of black and white photos and illustrations, a copious list of footnotes (largely personal communications), and a list of the 274 musicians depicted in the book.

The title comes from the last line of a poem "The Soul of Clare," by Donal O Siodhachain (1949-2012), "..... And the fiddler's music trailed away, leaving only the sound of the song, and Micho singing the soul of Clare, and the cry of a people gone."

Piggott felt the poem's last line expresses the generational heartache (cry) felt by the soul of the Irish having to emigrate to a far-off land (a people gone). "When I heard that poem, I knew I had found the title to my book," said Piggott.

Chapter One is devoted to how, when, and why the Irish arrived in Chicago. Irish immigrant laborers who had already arrived in America to build the Erie Canal, moved west to begin building the Illinois and Michigan (I&M) Canal in 1836, which would link the Mississippi River with Lake Michigan. They were soon joined by immigrants fleeing the Irish Great Famine of 1845-1850. By the time the I&M Canal was completed in 1848, there were close to 7000 Irish-born people in Chicago, comprising the city's largest ethnic group. They continued to come throughout the first half of the 20th Century.

Chapters Two and Three (1920-1945, and post WW2 respectively) cover the biographies of the bulk of the 274 Chicago Irish musicians who kept the music alive for the past 100 years. Piggott covers each musician with great detail, including instruments they played, musical styles and influences, their parents and siblings, their county in Ireland, where they lived, their childhoods, their jobs and churches, family networks, friends, weddings, personal tragedies, house sessions, social groups, clubs and dancehalls,



Feis and Fleadh competitions, and even a list of pubs where sessions were held. Photos allow understanding of who they made music with, and where.

Surprisingly, legendary music archivist and Chicago Police Chief Francis O'Neill is only briefly mentioned, as Piggott felt that Francis' life had been covered extensively by others. Since O'Neill himself could not write a single note of music, he relied heavily on two collaborators, Scotsman James O'Neill and Chicago-born musician Selena O'Neill (no relation to each other or to Francis), to transpose the music into written notes. Piggott begins the individual stories of the Chicago musicians with Selena, who finally gets the attention she is due.

Selena O'Neill was born in 1893 in Bridgeport. As a teen, she was a gifted fiddler and piano player, having won high accolades at both Chicago Gaelic Feis in 1912, and Philadelphia Feis in 1913. Young Selena even shared the stage with famed tenor John McCormack. Over a 15-year period, Selena and Chief Francis O'Neill collaborated on several important works, including "Popular Selections from O'Neill's Dance Music of Ireland (1910)." Following his death in 1936, Selena inherited Francis O'Neill's copyrights, allowing her to re-publish in later years.

The details in Selena's bio are typical of how Piggott handles all the musicians. We learn Selena lived in Bridgeport, later moving to 62nd and Rockwell. Although she never married, she taught Irish music to many students, and worked as a seamstress, embroidering beautiful religious vestments for the priests of St Rita of Cascia Parish. Her best friend was an Irish dancer named Mae Kennedy Kane, who produced an LP of Selena's recorded music to celebrate Selena's 80th birthday in 1973. Selena became deaf in the 1950's, and died in 1980. Chief O'Neill regarded her highly, calling her "The Fairy Fiddler."

Although details on all 274 musicians cannot be covered here, I can say that I particularly enjoyed the sections on Martin Byrne (accordion), Tom Masterson (flute), and Johnny McGreevy (fiddle). Back in 1984 at St Thomas More Parish at 81st and California, as a young singer I had the occasion to perform (Lark in the Clear Air) with these three legendary musicians, completely oblivious to who they were. Now I know better! I plan to share with Richie the old cassette tape of them playing in our Church basement.

The remaining chapters 4 thru 6 contain an interesting history of the Irish Musicians Association of America (IMA), Frank Thornton's tours, and the first Fleadh Cheoil in America. Chapter 7 covers the influence of the older generation on Irish musicians in Chicago today, specifically on luminaries Liz Carroll, Jimmy Keane, John Williams, Marty Fahey, and Michael Flatley. Yes, the renowned dancer, who is also a world class flute player, having studied with Kevin Henry who Michael calls "my hero."

There is much to love about this book. "Cry of a People Gone" contains much more than the detailed biographies of a group of Chicago musicians; it tells the social history of the Irish immigrants in Chicago, and how they managed to preserve their way of life and pass it on to the next generation. The amount of research and work put into this is astounding; information here cannot be found anywhere else in the world. "Cry" is truly one of a kind. Piggott has done us all a favor with his exhausting research. If I had to provide one minor critique, I would like to see more Irish singers and dancers included. Maybe Richie can do volumes 2 and 3 on those topics? Contact me at [Christine.lawless@yahoo.com](mailto:Christine.lawless@yahoo.com)

The book can be purchased at <https://www.richiepiggott.com>



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**Focusing in on what's Important**

The past 100 years have given us higher degrees of apparent prosperity, but there is always a downside and a price to pay for this greater affluence. People are certainly under

station some years ago.

One day a very successful entrepreneur in his mid forties was being interviewed on the radio and was talking about all the millions he was making for



more pressure these days, especially young married couples. In order to feed the always hungry lifestyle, a greater amount of responsibility has had to be taken on in the workplace. This means the people are putting in less of an appearance at home with their spouse and children. Unless this is checked

and kept in perspective, it will tend to have a detrimental effect on the overall balancing act between life and work. It is important to step back now and then to see where you are spending your time and reset those switches.

More than ever, in our modern and fast paced society, it is important that we slow down now and again to take stock of what is really important in our lives. The following anecdote was transmitted by a radio

the company he worked for, how busy he was, and all that he could buy with his salary.

The telephone rang at the radio station and a caller asked him did he ever hear about 'the marble jar'? The caller said it was proposed to him when he was 52 years old, and it went like this.....

At the time the average male lived to be around 75, and with 23 years left this was about 1000 weeks. He went into town, bought 1000 marbles and

placed them in a large jar. Each Saturday he threw one out. As the contents of the jar began to go down he became more focused on the important things in life such as his family, their health, and making time for his friends and other important stuff like that. Today was Saturday and he had just thrown away the last marble.

The radio interviewer asked the man what he was going to do that day. He said that he was going to bring his wife a cup of tea to wake her up and then later they would go out

for some breakfast, do some shopping, meet some friends for lunch, have a nap at about 3pm, and afterwards go into the garden to smell the flowers, listen to the birds and do a small bit of gardening. That evening he would read the paper, have dinner, and hopefully God would wake him up again the next day.

It is important that we also watch the marbles go down in the jar and focus in on what is really important to us. Life does not last forever and sometimes we have to be visually reminded of this fact. Pull on the brakes

now and then, step back, take a good look around, enjoy what you have and make the most of the time remaining. We are all mortal beings with a designated time span and the film of our lives can never be rerun for a second time.

Of course, if people concentrated on the really important things in life, there would be a shortage of fishing rods!

*The true secret of happiness lies in taking a genuine interest in all the details of daily life -*  
**William Morris**

**JFK, An Irish American Hero**

*by Seán Canniffe*

Sixty years ago this month the world lost one of its greatest leaders when President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was slain by an assassin's bullet in Dallas. Kennedy's memory is enshrined now in both the American and the Irish psyche. In poll after poll Americans, from all backgrounds and walks of life, number him in the top five Presidents of all time. In Ireland, he is still revered as the man who brought hope and pride to a nation that had little of either in the 1960s.

Kennedy was a complex character, not without flaw, but with huge intelligence and empathy and enormous courage, both political and personal. He was a battler of the highest order. It was in his make-up, in his DNA. All eight of his great-grandparents escaped Ireland at the time of An Gorta Mór, the Great Hunger that decimated the Irish people, and cut their numbers, by starvation and emigration, almost in half. Kennedy's ancestors were from Limerick and Cavan, from Wexford and Cork. Who knows how many of their family members, neighbors and friends perished in that awful time? But when the Fitzgerald's, the Kennedy's, the Hannons, the Murphys, the Field's, the Coxes and the Hickeys landed on these shores they all determined, in their own way, to make a successful life in their new homeland. And what a success they made. Within a generation both of Jack Kennedy's grandfathers, PJ Kennedy and John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald, had become successful Boston politicians. Honey Fitz served twice as mayor of Boston and as a member of the US Congress. What a change from the lives their parents left back in Ireland.

Kennedy battled all his life. He battled for the affection of his father, who put much of his focus and effort into his eldest son, Joe Kennedy. When Joe was killed flying a mission in World War II, a mission for which he volunteered, Jack became the vessel for all his father's political ambitions.

He battled throughout his life with a debilitating back

and shark-infested waters to a remote island only 100 yards in diameter. He and his crew had to swim past other islands because they were all occupied by the Japanese. His reputation as a war hero was both deserved and hard won, and served him well in his political career.

He battled with the establishment of the Democratic Party to secure the nomination for the Presidency in 1960. He battled hard throughout the



condition, which was so severe in his youth that doctors thought he may not even survive it and that a good result would be that he live out his life as a cripple.

He battled himself in the same war which claimed his brother, a war he could have easily and legitimately avoided because of his health issues. Instead, he joined the Navy and served valiantly as a Lieutenant, junior grade. He was famously in command of Patrol Torpedo boat PT-109 when it was sunk in the Pacific Theater. His courage, quick thinking and tenacity that day saved the lives of 11 of his 13 crew members, including the badly-burned Patrick McMahan, whom Kennedy 'towed'—using a life jacket strap clenched between his teeth—as he swam over three miles through enemy

campaign against Richard Nixon and became the first Catholic President in US history only by the narrowest of margins.

His Presidency was marked by the same characteristic valor. He faced down the hawks in his party, in the Pentagon, and in the CIA. His steadfastness and pure gut instinct saved America, and the world, from nuclear disaster during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Again he faced them down over Vietnam. He displayed enormous political courage on the Civil Rights issue, taking on the establishment and the Dixiecrats. There is no question that, as President, Kennedy fought unflinchingly and effectively for what he believed to be right.

He was a true hero of "The Greatest Generation" and of all generations. He was fearless in the face of every challenge. He was unswerving in his willingness to do what was right for America.

Before running for President he wrote the Pulitzer Prize-winning book 'Profiles in Courage,' describing acts of bravery and integrity by eight US Senators throughout our Nation's history. If someone was writing that book today, John F Kennedy's story would surely be the first chapter.

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## Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler



This month we will cover Co. Clare, the Banner County. It is where my wonderful & charming son-in-law Michael comes from. Most of his family are still living in Clare.

The reason Clare is called the Banner County is because when Daniel O'Connell arrived for a rally in Ennis, the large crowd gathered with banners in support of "the Liberator" Seeing the many banners, O'Connell said, "this must be the banner county. Clare is well known for being the "music making county", that is traditional Irish music. There are several talented bands and musicians who have come from this famous place, Clare. One that comes to mind immediately is the Tulla Ceili Band.

Clare is one of the counties the River Shannon flows through. The Shannon River is the longest river in Ireland and England, it means wise river.

The Burren (Boireann-rocky place) is a protected, World Heritage Site and exclusive region in Clare. It's an archeological wonder with karst (limestone) landscape, famous for its scenery, fauna, flora and rock formations. The Burren is near the Cliffs of Moher. The Cliffs are of the most visited places in Ireland with breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean. The Cliffs are about 8 miles long with about 20 different species of birds. On a clear day you can see the Aran Islands. Shannon airport is in Co Clare, before it was Shannon Airport it was called Rineanna. Irish coffee was invented at Shannon airport.

Famous people from Clare include Sharon Shannon, a musician known for button accordion playing. President Michael D. Higgins our current president since 2011. He was born in Limerick but raised in Clare. Former president Patrick Hillery came from Clare, he was the sixth president. He was born in Spanish point, Clare.

Brian Boru was also from Clonre, he was a high King of Ireland, in the 11 century. He died at the battle of Clontarf in 1014. The population at that time was under 500,000. He is not a mythical figure he was a real person, and anyone named Brian that is from Ireland got their name because of the King Brian Boru. (My grandfather was also a Brian.)

Lisdoonvarna in Clare hosts an annual matching making festival. The festival started over a hundred years ago because there was a shortage of single women and a surplus of bachelor farmers.

A few songs for Clare: My lovely rose of Clare, From Clare to here, The fair of Spencil hill.

Since we are talking about people from Clare our president

went to a memorial tribute in September. President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, laid a wreath, on behalf of the people of Ireland, in remembrance of all those Garda members and staff who have lost their lives in service over the last 101 years.

The Commemoration Service was held in front of the refurbished Garda Monument of Remembrance at Garda Headquarters in Phoenix Park, Dublin. The refurbished Monument features the names of the more than 1,800 Garda personnel who have died whilst in service over the last century.

Those in attendance at the event included the Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee TD, Minister of State James Browne TD, Garda Commissioner Drew Harris, and family members and colleagues of those Gardaí who have lost their lives since the establishment of An Garda Síochána.

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It came after my deadline last month, but the WGA agreed on a tentative deal with the studios to put a halt to the strike - at least from their point of view.

It was a surprise, as some had been saying things would not move forward until the new year, but nevertheless it seems there was enough on the table to make the WGA membership vote on it.

That said, the actors of SAG-AFTRA are still on strike, and the WGA will remain so in solidarity, so it seems like things will not indeed kick off again until January; I was at the Disney Studios in Burbank the other day, and the soundstages and studios were all quiet and closed.

Things are still pretty quiet here in Hollywood, though Irish movies are still being made - and winning awards - overseas.

Most recently, Andrew Legge's sci-fi movie LOLA became the first Irish movie to win the Méliès d'Or at the 56th Sitges Film Festival in France, an award presented annually by the Méliès International Festivals Federation (MIFF), a network of genre film festivals.

A festival dedicated to horror and fantastic film cinema, LOLA won for best speculative fiction, and was Legge's feature debut. It is a "found footage" science fiction story that follows two sisters who invent a machine that can receive broadcasts from the future.

With the Second World War escalating, the sisters decide to use the machine to intercept information from the future in order to help with allied military intelligence - something that is a big success at first, until one of the sisters makes a fatal mistake.

In Ireland itself, horror film The Morrigan will begin shooting in the North of Ireland next month. Written and directed by Belfast-based director Colum Eastwood and based on his 2015 short movie, it follows a successful archaeologist and mother who travels

to Ireland to excavate a centuries old tomb.

However, within the dig site lurks a danger hidden from mankind for centuries, and once it is unleashed she must battle to save her teenage daughter from possession by "The Morrigan." It stars Saffron Burrows, Toby Stephens, and James Cosmo.

Moving to streaming, and Paramount+ has released the first images for the upcoming drama The Doll Factory starring Derry Girls actress Saoirse-Monica Jackson and Cork-born actor Éanna Hardwicke.

Adapted from the bestselling novel of the same name by Elizabeth Macneal, filming actually wrapped earlier this year, with a release date hopefully coming up in the next couple of months.

Set in London, England, in 1851, it is the story of Iris (Esmé Creed-Miles) who paints dolls for a living alongside her twin sister Rose (Mirren Mack), but she has grander dreams of becoming a serious artist, and at night she secretly paints herself naked. Then, one day, Iris is offered an opportunity to start a new life - but there is a love triangle to escape too...

Come the new year we will definitely be seeing Masters of the Air on Apple TV+ (on January 26 to be precise), when the new WWII drama starring Irish actor Barry Keoghan (The Banshees of Inisherin) and Belfast native Anthony Boyle has its premiere.

Keoghan stars as Lt Curtis Biddick while Boyle stars as Major Harry Crosby in what will premiere with two episodes, followed by one new episode every Friday through March 15

Reuniting the award-winning team of Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks, and Gary Goetzman who also produced Band of Brothers, Masters of the Air is an action-packed drama that follows the true story of an American bomber group in World War II.

Based on Donald L. Miller's book and scripted by John Orloff, it follows the men of the 100th Bomb Group (the "Bloody Hundredth") as they conduct perilous bombing raids over Nazi Germany and grapple with the cold, lack of oxygen and sheer terror of combat conducted 25,000 feet in the air. Some were shot down and captured; some were wounded or killed, and some were lucky enough to make it home.

Also in Ireland, big news about a

major film studio that has opened its doors in North Wexford.

Located at the 154-acre Borleagh Manor estate, Tara Studios will become the largest studio in Ireland once work on seven studio stages providing a total of 150,000 sq ft of space is completed.

The largest space will measure 30,000 sq ft, while there will also be a further 90,000 sq ft of workshop and office space - and, with luck, it should all be up and running in 2025.



The original bombers of the 100th Bomb Group, also known as (the "Bloody Hundredth").

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The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago

## SAVE THE DATE – DECEMBER 1, 2023 FOR THE IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The Irish Fellowship Club will host the annual President's Christmas Luncheon on Friday, December 1 at the Chicago Hilton on Michigan Avenue. As President Bob Flood states, "The Christmas Luncheon is a wonderful opportunity for our members and guests to celebrate their Irish heritage and begin the Christmas season. I look forward to an afternoon of great fellowship!"

The Luncheon traditionally honors the outgoing President. Says Executive Director Kathy Taylor, "Bob Flood has been a wonderful President for the Irish Fellowship. It is our pleasure to recognize him for his years of dedication and service to the Club and Foundation." As all Irish Fellowship events, the Luncheon provides important funding for the IFC Foundation which makes grants to Catholic high schools in the Chicagoland area and Irish cultural organizations.

The Luncheon is the kick-off of the Christmas season in Chicago as the Irish Fellowship Club welcomes its members and guests for cocktails at 11:15am and luncheon at 12:15pm. The afternoon will continue with Irish and Christmas music in the Normandie Lounge. Tables of 10 will be \$1250 and individual tickets \$125. Reservations will be available on the Irish Fellowship Club website beginning October 15, [www.irishfellowshipclub.com](http://www.irishfellowshipclub.com).



2023 Irish Fellowship Club President, Bob Flood





# Happy Thanksgiving

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