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Kneecapped But Not Tongue-Tied

'How petty can political policing and interference get? Speak out against genocide and they'll use every angle they can to silence you'. That was the hip-hop band Kneecap's response to the London Underground's refusal to run advertisements for their gigs after a police investigation of the band's onstage comments. The London Underground had previously run posters of the trio from Belfast, but that was then, and this is now. Transport for London stated that 'all adverts submitted for display on our network are reviewed on a case-by-case basis'. Very helpful. No need for irritating objective criteria to justify their decisions.

The group has seldom been out of the news over the past few months, mainly for its uncanny knack of inducing British institutions and British public figures to score own goals. It all culminated when the Glastonbury music festival announced Kneecap as part of this year's line-up. British Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, was quick to condemn the decision, saying that he did not think it 'appropriate' for Kneecap to play at the iconic festival. (Starmer's predecessor, Jeremy Corbyn, had been glorified at Glastonbury in 2017. That was when the Labour Party leadership still saw the importance of representing young voters. Starmer has, by contrast, embraced the role of delivery boy of letters from King Charles to Donald Trump). On the day that Kneecap took the stage in Glastonbury, a fine sunny day it was, Móglaí Bap of Kneecap told the crowd: 'The prime minister of your country, not mine, said he didn't want us to play, so f... Keir Starmer'. That crucial sub-clause, a rejection of Britain's hold on the North of Ireland, could have been lost amid the cheers. They amplified what the UK government wants to silence, playing against a projection which read: 'Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinian people, aided by the UK government. Free Palestine'.

The BBC sat on the fence about broadcasting Kneecap's Glastonbury performance, saying it would not do so live but might do so later. To a younger generation that wants its media instantly, the BBC's handwringing made it out of touch twice over. Kneecap mocked the BBC on stage, saying the broadcaster

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



would have its work cut out to edit out the sea of Palestinian flags in the audience.

Kneecap was not alone among the performances at Glastonbury to excoriate Israel. For example, Bob Vylan said from the stage, 'death to the IDF' [Israeli Defense Forces]. The good old BBC could only apologise for failing to censor that — they live-streamed Vylan's performance. The same media organisation had apparently no issue publishing Chancellor of Germany Fredrick Merz's praise for Israel's bombing of Iran in June: 'They do our dirty work for us', the German leader said, which is surely tantamount to saying 'death to Iranian Armed Forces'.

Kneecap has an unerring ability to expose official Britain's hypocrisy and how allegedly neutral British institutions are anything but. Last year, when they received a 14,250 pound (\$19,000) government grant from the Music Export Growth Scheme, which is under the UK Department for Business and Trade, the grant suddenly became politicised. The then Business secretary, Kemi Badenoch, claimed that public money should not be given to people who 'oppose the United Kingdom itself'. Kneecap took the UK government to court for discrimination and won.

George Bernard Shaw once quipped that 'England and America are two countries separated by a common language'. What about Ireland and Britain? Two countries separated when the Irish speak English and all the more when the Irish speak Irish? From its inception, Kneecap composed its songs in the Irish language. That, too, although completely without justification, raises the ante in the UK, which comes out brilliantly in a film about the band, Kneecap, a raucous and compelling watch starring the band members and co-starring Michael Fassbender. When Kneecap failed to get nominated for 'Best International Feature' at the Oscars this year, Irish Times journalist, Hugh Linehan, quipped: 'Well done MI5'. That may

well be plausible, although by the nature of Britain's secret service we will never be able to prove it.

In a pivotal scene in the film, one of the band members, Liam Óg Ó hAnnaidh (Mo Chara), is being interrogated at a police station. His Torquemada is of a unionist persuasion and exhibits no discernible interest in Gaelic culture. So, he decides to respond to her exclusively in Irish. An interpreter must be sourced. The police demand to know from Mo Chara why he cannot respond to the questions in English. The interpreter, who later joins the hip-hop group and becomes known as DJ Próvaí, reasons: 'He sees no reason to prove he cannot speak English because he's here asserting his right to speak Irish'.

Fiction became handmaiden for fact in June at Westminster Magistrates Court when Liam Óg Ó hAnnaidh appeared in court to answer for his alleged support for Hezbollah. Like many a civilised person, he sought an Irish language translator to get him through the hearing. The judge acknowledged that, so far, the court had been unable to find one and added 'if anyone knows of one...' The gallery erupted in laughter and pointed to DJ Próvaí. The hearing had to be adjourned until August 20th. One of the trio, Bap, added: 'If success is a means of getting the Irish language to new places, then that's something we have to take on...An Irish interpreter will be sourced for the next hearing'. While the British judiciary's record on Ireland is patchy, nowadays of course it is wholly civilised and will no doubt leave no stone unturned to find the requisite Irish language interpreter to enable the trial to proceed. And, who knows, maybe the interpreter will join the band?

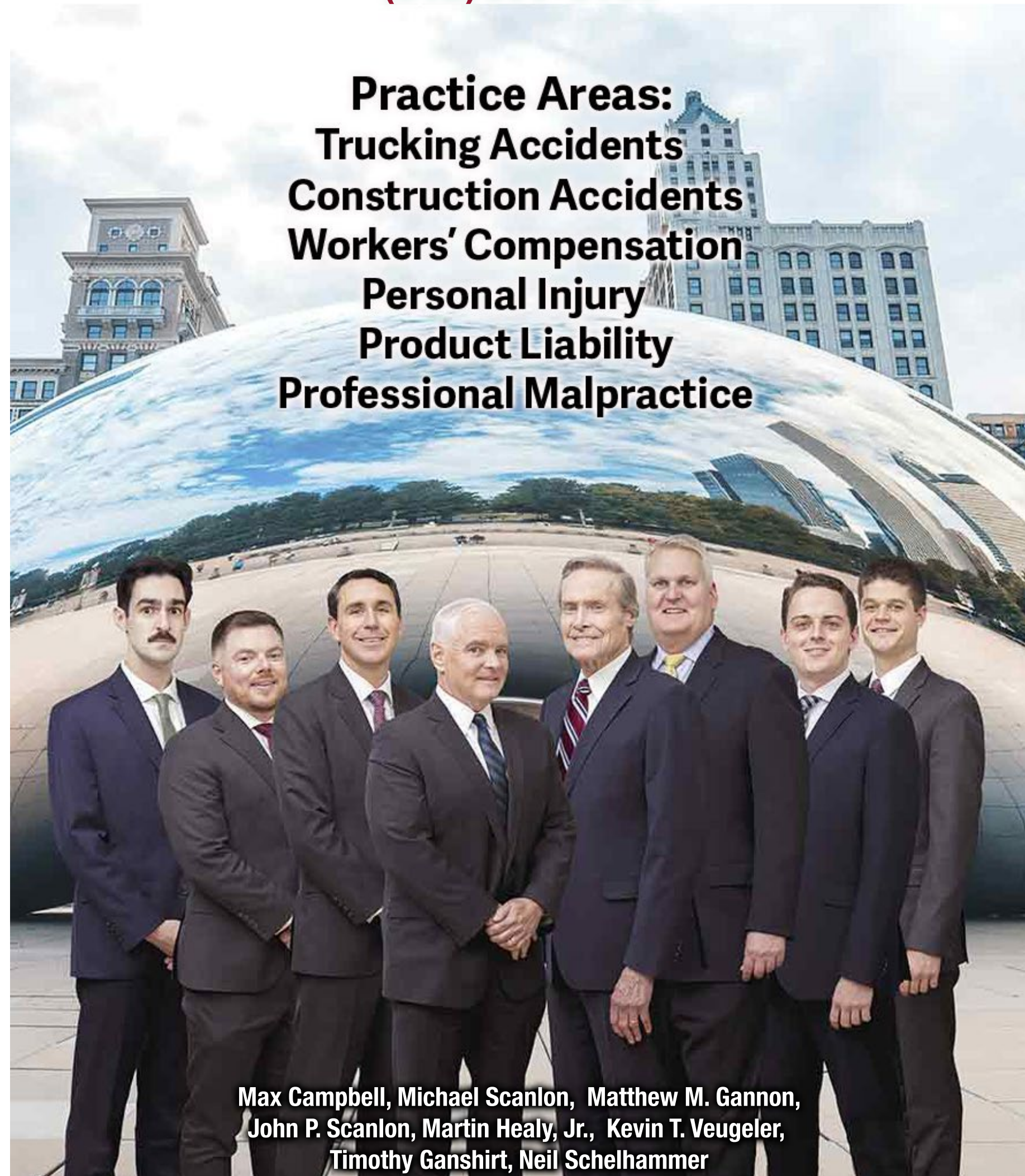
In creating Irish language hip-hop, Kneecap has single-handedly managed to forge a subgenre of music and much else that goes with it: an attitude, a look, a form of dissent and protest that should be valued in itself. They are a hugely important presence in Irish culture and an endless source of irritation for official Britain. Britain would do well to study rather than censor the political positions Kneecap has staked out and to ask questions of itself. How can the leaders and institutions of a self-confident country be so quick to panic in the face of a trio of hip-hop artists?



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Your First Line of Defense: Amendment One

Ahh, the First Amendment. You've probably heard of this iconic and key piece of the United States Constitution before-perhaps during a protest or being employed in defense of a controversial opinion. But what are the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment? Let's dive into it.

The text of the amendment itself is brief, so for simplicity's sake I'll list it here:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

This short blurb kicks off the Bill of Rights, or the first ten amendments to the Constitution. Its place at the top is not accidental-the Bill of Rights came about after a long and protracted public debate about the merits of the new U.S. Constitution. Federalists, including folks like Alexander Hamilton, advocated for ratification of the new Constitution. They bore witness to the inherent shortcomings of the Articles of Confederation, which governed the independent colonies at the time. The believed in a new, strong, united, representative, and supreme federal government that was able to act decisively and judiciously.

Skeptics of the new Constitution were...wait for it...the Anti-Federalists. This group of people included folks like Patrick Henry (the man who famously shouted "Give me liberty, or give me death!"). The Anti-Federalist platform stood largely on concerns related to individual liberty and state's rights, however they did have some structural qualms with the new Constitution as well.

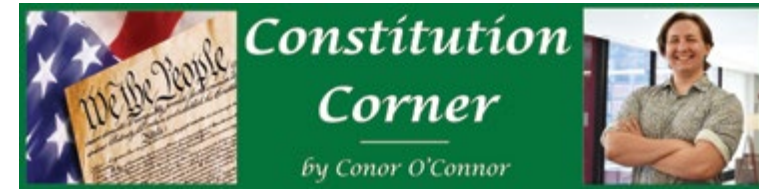
The Anti-Federalists and the Federalists made their case in the court of public opinion. Dozens of essays (known as the Anti-Federalist and the Federalist papers, respectively) were published in local newspapers and periodicals for six months between October 1787 and April 1788. In the end, the Federalist's arguments proved to be most effective for the time.

However, their victory came at a cost. As a compromise, the Federalists promised to pass amendments to the Constitution that addressed some of the major concerns raised by the Anti-Federalists. Chief among these were the five freedoms listed above: freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and freedom from the government.

The freedoms written into the First Amendment have thus enshrined some of the key individual rights that Americans enjoy today. Many court cases have commenced concerning the First Amendment-some notable ones concluded that flag burning is form a free

speech and cannot be banned, that courts can litigate disputes between religious entities when it does not involve specific tenets of those religions, and that localities can require the issuance of permits in order to guarantee public safety during protests.

The First Amendment is perhaps the epitome of the notion that the Constitution is a living, breathing document-it continues to be dissected, sewn up, torn up, shredded, pasted back together, and more. It is a statement of ideals rather than a statute-a statement that our country may never fully live up to, but which we will always aspire to.



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Rory Mone (Y), Joe McKittrick, and Fran Moore at the Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance Golf Outing, celebrating Rory's Longest Drive win!

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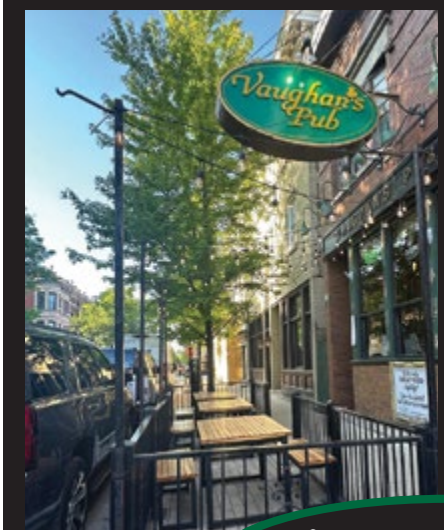


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Irish Northern Aid Reconsidered

By Dr. Ruan O'Donnell,
University of Limerick
Updated: 7 July 2025

It is only since 2022 that academic and documentary attention has been focused on Irish Northern Aid, popularly known as 'NORAIID' on both sides of the Atlantic. Robert Collins has written *Noraid and the Northern Irish Troubles, 1970-1994* for Four Courts Press and Ali Watkins published *The Next One is for You*, A true story of guns, country and the IRA's secret American Army for Little Brown. This dearth is surprising, as INA were widely regarded as America's premier Irish Republican support group from 1970 when the war against Britain's military presence in the North of Ireland was escalating. The intergenerational contest between the Irish Republican Army and British Army, aided by proxies, produced a military casualty profile analogous to America's Vietnam War. This unsettled Irish-America, a constituency rivalling 'Germans' as one of the two largest ethnicities in the USA. IRA veterans on the East Coast founded INA in 1970 to provide financial and political support

to their successors at home. Much of the finance collected was directed to the dependents of republican prisoners.

Tens of thousands joined INA 'units' that sprang up from coast to coast in the 1970s with the intention of promoting the case for reunification. It was deemed imperative to counter British propaganda that soldiers deployed under 'Operation Banner' were merely 'peacekeeping' and containing an IRA demonized as sectarian, criminal and communist. Few Americans knew 'one man, one vote' was not applicable in the British controlled North of Ireland until 1969. The fatal wounding of fourteen unarmed civilians in January 1972 in Derry and sacrifice of ten sentenced IRA and Irish National Liberation Army members in 1981 were among the many crises that undermined London's mythmaking. Then newlywed Prince Charles was egged that year in Manhattan during a disastrous PR tour that misjudged the American temperament on Ireland's predicament. Contrary to hostile commentary, the use of proceeds from INA associated The Irish People newspaper, raffles, collections, subscriptions

and ad hoc donations complied with USA regulations.

The INA had a strong presence in Chicago where Irish republicans traced lineage from Clan na Gael of the late 1880s. This, in turn, stemmed from the Fenian Brotherhood of the 1850s and 1860s whose core ideological and in many cases biological linkages went back even further to veterans of Young Ireland in the 1840s. Founding members of Young Ireland had been United Irishmen in the 1790s. Ex-IRA men who had fought in the War of Independence and Civil War in Ireland between 1921 and 1923 were well represented in the Kerins/ O'Neill division of CNG in 1950s Chicago. The re-eruption of the Irish 'Troubles' in August 1969 after years of civil rights agitation naturally impacted a swathe of the Mid-West with numerous INA branches formed in Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana and elsewhere. The Ancient Order of Hibernians were also sympathetically invested, especially through its 'Freedom For All Ireland' committees, as was the foreign policy orientated Irish National Caucus in Washington DC.

Prosecutions of INA members and their associates in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Fort Worth, Miami among other urban centres pointed to an extensive US network of militants. Such sensational trials were misleading regarding the typical nature of Irish-American engagement. North Chicago resident and publican Frank O'Neill was indeed, as the FBI suspected, deeply engaged in gunrunning but escaped conviction, as did others in the south suburbs. A new two-part documentary broadcast on national television in Ireland on 9 and 16 July 2025 demonstrated clearly that INA individuals who engaged in illegal practices constituted a small fraction of the membership. John Crawley gravitated from his Chicago upbringing to USMC Special Operations and a long career in the IRA in Ireland, England and the USA. He noted arms acquisition bids tended to avoid INA input. This was confirmed by Gabe Megahey who was regarded by the FBI as head of the IRA in America in the 1980s. The Foreign Agents Registration Act compliant INA were simply too useful in terms of fundraising, lobbying and political propaganda to risk State Department sanction. Common sense concerns with maintaining secrecy within a large body were also obviously in play and in the light of disclosed cases of infiltration and surveillance by the authorities the INA was rarely prosecutable.

'Noraid: Irish America and the IRA' is by some distance the

most comprehensive and fair-minded media assessment of the INA to date. Kevin Brannigan and Jamie Goldrick are too be commended for writing, directing and producing a very well researched documentary; one that secured interviews with many of the most insightful and senior personnel. Bronx-Irish attorney Martin Galvin is characteristically disarmingly direct and ebullient. Having come to the notice of INA President Michael Flannery, a much-respected IRA veteran who received delegations from the nascent Provisional Republican Movement in New York City, Galvin's verbal and organizational skillset made him an ideal public relations figure. John McDonagh is also an authoritative commentator with important contributions from Chris Byrne, Michael Shanley, Kathleen Savage and others who collectively marched, raised funds, corresponded with political prisoners and generally proclaimed the legitimacy of the Irish struggle from American soil. The voices of the INA contrast with those of former IRA Volunteers; not least Megahey and Crawley, whose military priority is self-evident. As was the case with Sinn Fein in Ireland, the allied bodies had moved by separate means and tactics towards a common strategic objective.

Centring the narrative on New York is explicable given the disproportionate level of top-tier personalities, major campaigns history and surprisingly abundant filmed record of events in the sector. Other centres of strength, such as San Francisco, South Florida, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and, by no means least, Chicago, warrant appropriate attention of this high quality. It may be the case that footage from 1981 New York showing Sean Sands, Malachy McCreech, Maura McDonnell and Liz O'Hara, siblings of hunger-strikers Bobby Sands, Ray McCreech, Joe McDonnell and Patsy O'Hara, could not be properly explained due to time constraints. Similarly, the presence at INA gatherings of Congressmen, Trade Union leaders and high-ranking city officials merits deeper analysis in terms of the harnessing such resources to secure Clinton-era White House participation in what yielded the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. The GFA, ironically, held the seeds of the de facto winding down of INA given that the negotiated release of 'qualifying' political prisoners removed a key strand of activity. This documentary is a firm step forward in setting the record straight.

'Noraid: Irish America and the IRA' will be available on the 'RTE Player' (www.rte.ie). August 1984

Since 1948 the 'England get

out of Ireland' banner carried by INA contingents in the New York St. Patrick's Day parade is the only politically themed slogan permitted by organizers. This concession is no trivial matter given that the largest civilian marching spectacle in the world, one that proceeds annually up the most famous retail address on the planet, tolerates a single overtly political expression. Observed by millions, on 17 March 2025 Martin Galvin, attorney and former INA Director of Publicity, proudly gripped the green, white and gold banner when walking the Fifth Avenue route. Attempts by the Irish Government's NYC consulate to phase out this tradition stimulated the production and display of additional copies in the late 2010s. Regarded as an endorsement of the validity of revolutionary methods, INA and their Clan na Gael forbears, remain synonymous with the objective of Irish re-unification and national sovereignty.

The same banner was until recently carried in Chicago, home to an even greater proportion of people of Irish descent and a city with the capacity to host not one but two annual parades most years. It has not featured in recent years. This is due to factionalism within INA circles sparked by political developments in Ireland in the advent & complicated bedding down of the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 which halted the 'Long War.' Time is another factor. Frank O'Neill, John Hunt, Maureen O'Looney, Alec Murphy and other long-standing pillars of the militant Irish-American community have passed. The potent INA linked slogan, however, is enjoying a new lease of life having been adopted by 'Kneecap,' the hugely popular Irish language 'rap' group from Belfast under investigation by British police for alleged use of incendiary language at the Glastonbury music fest last June.

https://www.fourcourtspress.ie/books/2022/noraid-and-the-northern-ireland-troubles-1970-94/reviews, or by calling tel:+353 1 453 4668.

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Sunday, August 24: 1:00 - 8:00pm
Friday, August 22

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Cultural Tent: Irish Language Workshop with Liam Óg Ó Hoistin, Celtic Knotwork Design Workshop with Michael Carroll

Saturday, August 23

Ally the Piper - The Byrne Brothers - Elias Alexander - Drops of Green - Meadhbh Walsh - The Fenians - Rachel Walsh - Saints in the City

Cultural Tent: *Ceili Lessons, Set Dancing Lessons, Ceili Mor Dance with Jack Kinsella, Jive Lesson and Social Dancing with Gerry Haughey*

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Sunday, August 24

The Kilkennys - The Byrne Brothers - Elias Alexander - Gadan - Meadhbh Walsh - Rachel Walsh - Kieran Byrne - Gaelic Brew - Celtic Roots

Cultural Tent: Irish Singing Lessons, Elias Alexander Workshop, Irish Language Workshop with Liam Óg Ó hOistin, and Michael Carroll Celtic Knotwork Workshop

Experiences: The Guinness Experience at 3pm, Shaking with Laughter at 5pm

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Growing up at an early age I became aware that there existed ghosts. At this stage of life I am uncertain whether the Banshee who keened loudly when a person died, was considered a ghost, but I am familiar with the telling of ghost stories.

My Mother during our childhood had a great ability to tell ghost stories, in fact she claimed the home she lived in not far from Northern Ireland between Carrick and Dundalk and not far from the six counties was actually haunted.

The ghost's name was Simiey and she swore on the big bible that when he created loud noises in their home the priest would be summoned and the walls were blessed.

Apparently as the story goes ghosts are fearful of holy water. My brother, sister and I listened to our Mother as she revealed how she knew the house was haunted.

The story was a favorite and my mother told it well. The ghost, she said came and went, and in the evening if she and her parents heard the gate's latch lift at the end of the front garden it was the sign that Simiey would enter and spend the night.

I recall as a youngster asking my Granny who lived in the house for years if she ever fed the ghost? She laughed and explained that ghosts had no need for food. She repeated what the priest revealed years before that Simiey was not finished with his life on earth and probably lived in the walls and when his time was up he'd arrive into Heaven.

It took me some time to figure it out and I kept quiet but I realized he had committed sins and had to do penance.

I recall I was sixteen when I asked Father Sweeney if ghosts even existed. He hesitated and before he spoke he lifted his cross entwined in his long beads and kissed them twice. He claimed that ghosts floated everywhere, some were good and many were bad and had to repent for their sins before gaining the right to enter Heaven.

As a youngster in Dundalk, after my father died my Mother, brother and sister closed his bedroom door and we decided for the time being we would all sleep in the front room for a while at least.

We lived on Castletown Road and on our street a large group of men gathered together as a practice routine to form a band that could march in many of the big bands throughout the town. On this one evening, out came the band on our street for practice, up the street then back down again.

It was then that I heard my father talking on the landing outside the closed bedroom door. When I burst the news to my mother who was thirty years old she chided me loudly as my brother and little sister were crying

As of this writing coming close to a hundred years ago I still hold to

the belief that I heard the voice of my deceased father talking on the landing. However I have never heard from Dad or laid eyes on a ghost.

A few days following the occurrence my mother made a visit to our family doctor, Eugene McEnteggart and to what I heard him say as I evesdropped was to sell the house and everything in it and start all over again in a new home. We did and in time we left Ireland to live in America.

To this day I still believe I heard the voice of my deceased father talking on the landing. However, I have never heard any more from my dad nor no laid eyes on a ghost!

Looking Back on Sexual Assault

Discovering old notes so often provides information for articles that should have been published years ago. So here goes! Once upon a time I spent a week in California and attended what was labeled "An Irish week."

Here is what I learned and should have written about so bear with me as I launch what I now know. At the time an estimated 450 Irish lived in Los Angeles, a grand place where my friend the talented Fionnula Flanagan lived and enjoyed working with the Irish, staging parties in her home, and advising the young ones seeking fame and fortune how to go about it. At the time there were nine of the top ten high tech companies based in Ireland situated in California. In a way it was a culture in the center of the world, a sea bed of communication, art, and imagination.

The Irish it seems always have a go at something that involves the global economy making sure Ireland keeps in good shape. An example, Brexit was a challenge, but also an opportunity.

I was seventeen, the eldest in my family, recently graduated with honors from secondary school in Dundalk, County Louth Ireland. I was en route to Cork with my younger brother and sister to board the Mauritania, a ship utilized for transporting soldiers home from the war.

The date we left was 1951 and our travel time to New York was seven days and seven nights.

We would meet our mother in New York harbor. She was forced to leave Ireland following the death of our father leaving us in the care of her sister. It was decided she'd travel to the United States, obtain work and send money home for our keep.

She did send money, in Boston she was hired by the saltinstal family, caring for their children. Not only did she send money home she also sent second hand clothing which I adored, and learned how to rip threads apart and remake American dresses to fit. I was in my glory, actually I was the talk of the town!

Back on the ship, a luxury liner in the Cunard transatlantic fleet I met an older man on board, by older I mean he may have been in his 20's from Italy and traveling to the U.S. to pursue a career in medicine. He

Continued to next page



I believe our American nation's founding fathers would be pleased with me at present. I'm really feeling the sober delight of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and James Madison and our 18th century Irish immigrant ancestors right about now. You know, those refugees from Ireland with bright educated minds. And critical military skills so vital to George Washington's army. They were the backbone of much American political success. Especially giving hope today, at a bizarre and confusing moment in contemporary American history.

That's how I spent the Fourth of July this year. Diving more deeply into the pragmatic political experiences of these stunning Colonial gents. Relishing the dynamic philosophy and politics behind our American democracy, dynamically Irish in thought and political action. We've inherited a timeless inheritance from them in their literary and political legacies. Good lessons for someone with deep Irish political roots. And deep concerns for the unfolding of fresh Irish political thought. Ideas that challenge us, that it is time, now, for a change.

I also realized that over the course of my American travels I've visited the graves of all these intellectual patriots. On both sides of the Atlantic. I really do feel a bond with these men. It's a right of Irish-American passage, right? Providing much life-giving to our embrace of America's Irish political thinkers, like 18th century Dublin's Emmett Family, whose lives and friendships with America's patriots held such powerful political success, especially in New York. In the years following the young "Bold" Robert Emmett's execution in Dublin following the United Irishman Revolt in 1803. Thomas Addis Emmett,

lived in Rome. For an Irish girl my age Rome struck a loud bell and I inquired whether he ever saw the Pope. He had not but in his bunk he had a relic blessed by the Pope.

I jumped at the chance and asked if I could see it. My excitement was at a high level. For an Irish Catholic girl this all translated into the Pope, the Cistine Chapel, the Cardinals, holy men, nuns and relics of saints, and I was in awe. I grew weak in the knees being invited to his cabin.

All I saw was his penis. I

Robert's brother, was Attorney General of the State of New York, in the early decades of American Independence. Welcomed widely by the founding fathers through his friendship with the Marquis de Lafayette, following the French Revolution.

What I value most as these patriots' combined best lesson to me, is their bold sense of pride and loyalty created by their wide American political skepticism. Their open suspicion that government must be more equal and reasoned. With room for all. It's almost a virtue for each of them as they articulate a most radical concept of governance "by the people." And while King George III of England was the crazed monarch strangling the American colonies, the founders fashioned a timeless and adapting sense of government. Muskets if need be.

I believe it brings a humanity and a clarity that invests in its people. Far more than the excessive realms of Kingly power or the pathetic narrow vision of royal rule, despite the propaganda spread by Downton Abbey.

Can you imagine the lunacy which would have ensued had our patriots not severed our ties to monarchical rule? All the



wasted lifetimes of bowing and scrapping to barely literate princes? Monarchs without the capacity to cast a ballot in an election and

bolting out the door and up to a deck filled with first class passengers. I was safe! It was the first penis I'd seen, other than a babies. I was not impressed and wondered what Freud was carping about women suffering from penis envy?

When I knocked on his door I was invited in. But instead of a pope's relic, all I saw was a naked man who smelled of perfume! Consumed with fear I escaped without mishap. In our current climate I now count this episode in my young life as sexual harassment and very close to abuse.

ruling without the benefit of basic education or time to familiarize themselves with everyday reality.

Just look at what's left today in Britain. A Royal Family without the basic ability to function at the most meager of levels of human living. A family meant to be idolized, revered, cherished and envied. However, without the basic human dynamics to value one another. Or cherish each other's humanity. Even to the point of being willing to rule over a disjointed empire, holding six Northern Irish counties hostage since Ireland became a Republic more than 100 years ago. We are 32 by history. We are 26 by anti-Catholic prejudice and historic occupation.

Instead, the House of Windsor continues to engage in a daily public display of pathetic stunted development mentally. Shameless bitter rivals at getting even. Giving the public shallow expressions of maturity. A family of disastrous parenting, incapable of faithfulness in marriage, emotional balance, or sober judgment. With no substantive political ideals by law.

They remain a family seized by the once protective shield of privacy, secrecy and the presumption of moral competence. All of which has been melted away, now, in the modern age of human betrayal, low-grade media tactics, gossip-mongering and social networking. As well as

the rising strength of Britain's Labor Party. Of course, ironically, it does not add to the strength of the monarchy when a Puritan

in my small town in Ireland when my aunt's male friend - a teacher who visited frequently wheeled his bike into our hall. I welcomed him as he was a teacher in the Irish language and when he wheeled his bike in he slipped a silver half a crown down my school blouse. The coin might have been worth a dollar in today's economy. Youthful intuition told me to keep away from him, but I kept the money and confessed it in confession. I used that money to light a dozen blessed candles in our church.

Without the ordinary network of modern social growth and developed awareness, royals who would rule must inflict their limited ability to govern through a large network of advisors and lackeys. They,

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Queen rules for seven decades of textbook monarchical observances, only to die and leave her crown to an ill-prepared shallow politically astute heir. Thrilled to wave his royal hand to Northern Ireland. A prince unsuited to be king. English or Irish. Emotionally stunted and actually divorced from the only family member, a princess now dead, who still remains the most beloved victim of their dysfunctionally abusive family. All less functional and moral than any ordinary British butcher, baker or candlestick maker.

When royal princes, once loving brothers, become the embodiment of characters like Cain and Abel, it becomes a biblical moment of sad disfigurement. Especially when one is heir to the throne. But these royal brothers have been ravaged by absentee parenting, warring parents ruinous to each other, boarding school loneliness and the ravaged death of their tragic mother. All in a family ruled by outdated, unhealthy, Victorian concepts of family, parenting, cheating spouses, few real social skills, ripe victims of the press and a small circle of inbred friends.

Whatever conflicts and conundrums might plague modern politicians, the small restrictive class conscious barriers encircling generational royals is vastly more disastrous. It insures the need to connect to a more strangling and defining circle of poorly educated inbred hereditary rulers. More psychologically damaged. More emotionally handicapped. Filled with false self-awareness and inherited damaged genes. All of which renders the royals who would rule to be unfit, ill-prepared and culturally too crippled to assume a lifetime of executive national leadership.

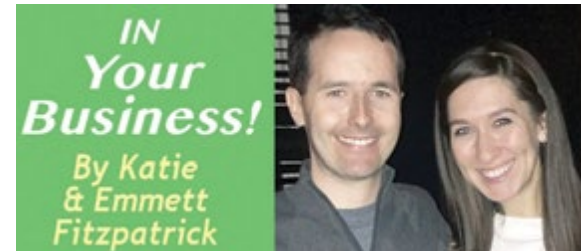
Without the ordinary network of modern social growth and developed awareness, royals who would rule must inflict their limited ability to govern through a large network of advisors and lackeys. They,

too, are devoid of the ability to sufficiently be effective, well-prepared or reasoned. All suffocating six Northern Irish counties that belong to be unified with their natural geography. With the obvious problems of the current monarch's poor health, coupled with his self-destructing reign, and companioned by the current Queen-dowager, a woman vilified and disliked by Windsor royals themselves. Still dishonored in her affair with her former boyfriend, when the Prince of Wales. His anticipated death already creates two royal courts, as it were, severing future loyalties to his tormented heir. Good luck.

All this convoluted conflict in relationships deeply damages loyalties to the monarchy, unable to create a leader capable of healthy governance.

We look, instead, to our American patriots and Irish adjutants in establishing a nation whose governance relies not on accidents of birth, bloodline or heredity. Instead we embrace the ever-changing and shifting realities of everyday real life that provides candid suitability for people to govern their own nation. Human beings with the common sense and ideals to create opportunities for healthy growth and development in others. Without crowns or pedigrees. Low on timed-out pageantry. With peoples high expectations for intelligence, the rational understanding for problem solving, or effective action in solution building. Ever conscious that it must be flowing from cohesive and comprehensive understanding of effective nation-building. A list of regenerating constructs that reflect the goals and challenges that the body politic craves to fashion.

For us that's the inheritance we uncover from our patriots, American and Irish, in every generation strengthening our national ideals and building a homeland worth our efforts and dreams. About this I am no skeptic.



Nora Walsh Adds Her Chapter to the Irish Immigrant Story

When 18-year-old Nora Walsh moved from Ireland to the United States to serve as an au pair in Chicago, she had few expectations of staying here for more than a year. Little did she know that she would end up making this country her new home, marrying, starting a family, and embarking on a remarkable career that continues to this day.

Nora's story began in Baldoyle in the northern part of Dublin, where she and her six siblings grew up with a "military upbringing, Irish style," as she describes it; her father served in the Irish Army. Her uncle Brian Coll was a well-known singer in Ireland, and her great-uncle was notable Irish author Benedict Kiely. She fondly recalls her ten years of taking Irish dance, and after attending St. Mary's Grade School and Secondary School, she found herself unsure of what she wanted to do.

"This was the mid-1980s in Ireland," Nora recalls, "and way before the Celtic Tiger."

Facing this uncertain job market, she relied on the connections of her friends in Dublin who had family in Chicago to make the move to the Windy City to serve as an au pair. Soon enough, she would meet her husband Dan and enroll at Loyola University, laying the foundation for what would turn out to be a much longer stay in her adopted homeland.

"Of course I was homesick for the first year. But I felt at home at Loyola, and I loved going to school there. It felt like a continuation of the education I received in Ireland," Nora remembers, crediting the strong education she received in Dublin to prepare for her studies in computer science.

After marrying Dan, the couple moved to Oak Forest and then Tinley Park, where they now live, and welcomed two children - Charles and Clodagh



- who are now adults.

Upon earning her degree in computer science, Nora joined Rush University Medical Center as a computer programmer, but quickly pivoted from technology to finance, taking a job at Morgan Stanley, where she had worked



Nora Walsh

during college and got "bit by the finance bug." She spent several years working in the wealth management division before moving to CastleArk Management, an investment management firm focusing on retirement assets for corporate and public pensions, where she would stay for over twenty years, rising to become Head of Trading and Partner.

In 2022, Nora took on a new professional challenge by joining Gas N Wash, a privately owned business with over 30 locations, where she serves as Vice President of Investor Relations. "I was looking to move out of the investment management world and into an operating business, and I couldn't be happier at Gas N Wash," Nora happily acknowledges.

Outside of her impressive career, Nora has found time to give back throughout her adult life. For over a decade, she has been involved with the Andrew Weishar Foundation, a volunteer-led organization in Chicago that provides direct and immediate financial assistance to families with adolescents or young adults battling cancer. She serves as the sponsorship coordinator for "WeishFest," the organization's main annual fundraiser, which counts the Chicago White Sox Charities as one of its primary benefactors and partners.

Within the Irish community, Nora has volunteered her time on the committee of the Ireland Network-Chicago, bringing her financial acumen and business eye to her role as treasurer of the organization before transitioning to her current role on its advisory board.

"It took me too long to find the Ireland Network," Nora says. "Even though I'm from Ireland, ever since I've been here, I was always busy going to college, working, and raising a family, so I didn't get involved until my kids were older, when I just happened to see an email that it was looking for new committee members. It's been great to make connections with other Irish people, and I've always said that the best way to get to know people is to volunteer with them."

Reflecting on her noteworthy personal and professional journey, Nora admits that while she still gets homesick and misses her siblings who live in Ireland and England, she is proud of what she's accomplished in her adopted homeland.

"Ireland will always be my first home, and it's been important for me to bring our kids back to get to know their family, explore the country, and understand where they came from. I'm appreciative of the opportunities here and I've been inspired to take advantage of them. The work ethic that was instilled in me in Ireland definitely helped me get to where I am. I'm hugely appreciative, and my story is not necessarily different than other immigrant stories."

While her story may be familiar as that of other immigrants who have come before her, Nora has added her own chapter to that ever-expanding tapestry that is the Irish experience in Chicago.

How Could the One Big Beautiful Bill Impact Taxes for Retirees?



Master Your Money

By Mike Corrigan



on the table.

After: With the cap increased to \$40,000, they can deduct the full \$16,000—if they itemize—lowering their taxable income and overall tax burden.

The Bottom Line

The OBBB introduces meaningful changes to how retirees are taxed, especially when it comes to Social Security and deductions, and itemization. While many retirees may see relief through the new senior deduction and simplified filing, others—particularly in high-tax states—may feel squeezed by the unchanged SALT cap. Understanding how these changes apply to your specific situation is key to making the most of your retirement income. If you're not sure where you stand, now is the time to review your plan.

For assistance or question on your retirement & tax planning contact our office at 708-482-3800 or e-mail mike@corriganfs.com

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The One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB) includes several tax changes that directly affect retirees, especially how their Social Security is taxed, how much of their income is shielded by deductions, and how much they can deduct in-state and local taxes (SALT). While some speculate that tax deductions could cause further deficit and Social Security Trust fund issues in the future, here's what you should know today.

Q: What's this new \$6,000 "senior deduction"?
The Senate version of the bill includes a new \$6,000 above-the-line deduction for taxpayers age 65 and older (or \$12,000 for couples filing jointly, if both spouses qualify). This deduction is in addition to the standard deduction and is meant to reduce or eliminate taxes on Social Security benefits for many retirees.

Case Study - Before vs. After
Before: A 68-year-old retiree with \$35,000 in Social Security and \$15,000 in IRA income paid taxes on a portion of their Social Security benefits, pushing their taxable income over the limit for zero tax liability.

Q: How does the bill change the standard deduction?
The OBBB makes permanent the expanded standard deductions from

the 2017 tax law, which are now \$15,750 for individuals and \$31,500 for joint filers in 2025 (adjusted annually). Retirees benefit by being able to exclude more income from taxation without itemizing.

Case Study - Before vs. After
Before: A married couple with \$55,000 in combined income (pension, Social Security, and investments) had \$20,000 in itemized deductions, making it worth filing Schedule A.

Q: What about changes to the SALT deduction?
The final version of the Bill temporarily raises the SALT (state and local tax) deduction cap to \$40,000 and increases incrementally through 2029, before reverting back to \$10,000. This change could benefit retirees in high-tax states, but only if they itemize deductions. Since you can't take the standard deduction and claim SALT, this primarily helps higher-income households with larger itemized deductions.

Case Study - Before vs. After
Before: A retiree paying \$16,000 in combined property and income taxes could only deduct \$10,000 under the old cap, leaving \$6,000

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We look forward to a wonderful evening with our friends in Chicago in support of The Ireland Funds' vital work in communities across the island of Ireland.

For those who are rugby fans, you will be delighted to note this year's Chicago Dinner coincides with The Rematch: Ireland V New Zealand rugby game in Chicago on November 1st The Ireland Funds Group Chief Commercial Officer, Oliver Kelly of The Kerry Group will accept the Corporate Social Responsibility Award.

For more information, please contact: Aine Mallaghan, Vice President of Development, Midwest 312-659-1995 | amallaghan@irelandfunds.org

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Did You Hear the One About the Catholic, the Protestant, the Pagan and the Jew...?

"I've been blessed with bad assassins". Discussing having been shot three times, for some reason that's the line I take away from Gerry Adams on Saturday. Just my sense of humour, I guess.

July 12th 2025. 200 miles up the road in Belfast the yearly Loyalist bonfires have been set up. Just another July 12th in a small section of a modern city that has pretty much 'moved on'. There are still those few, though - like tedious bloody drunks that don't know when the party is over - mumbling 'No Surrender' whilst raising a glass to Good King Billy and wiping away a tear as the men in bowler hats bang on their big bass drums.

Whatever floats your boat, I suppose. The pity is that the fellas who have raised those pyres of sad defiance were very likely not even born when the Troubles came to a thankful end. If there's one thing I hate it's the hands of bitter old sods guiding the young back along a path that most of us were glad to see the back of.

And here, two hundred miles away in the village of Oranmore, two hundred miles from blistering hot bonfires, it's also hot, sweltering hot. We're in the middle of a mini-heatwave; but I'm about to be taken away from my Pagan sun-worship and into the cool of Galway Town Hall. It's the Film Fleadh and there's a showing of a Mexican documentary, directed by an English lady, Trisha Ziff, about to screen. The subject is 'Gerry Adams - A Ballymurphy Man'. And yes, the man himself - now 75 years of age - will be there. I'm in the company of my neighbour Paddy McMenamin, former Republican activist,

now author and historian; and more bafflingly, golfing addict.

So, we've got Irish, Mexican, Scottish and English, a nice mix of multiculturalism I can get behind!

Regular readers will recall a long interview some months back that I did with Paddy, covering his early life in the IRA and his six-year incarceration as a political prisoner in Long Kesh. Naturally he's keen to see the documentary. Although they're not bosom buddies the lives of he and Adams have crossed at significant points: they both went to St. Mary's



Gerry Adams

grammar school in Belfast a few years apart; although both are great readers and academically minded, they left school at fifteen. Both worked as Duke of York bartenders; both ran into each other at the start of the Falls Road Curfew; and both served time in Long Kesh - Adams in Cage 11, Paddy in Cage 18.

Naturally Paddy is looking at the documentary with different eyes to me; but it is good and it is worth seeing. Be aware, however, that it remains completely from Adams's

Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

perspective. Every word comes from him; and seasoned campaigner that he is, even at the brief interview afterwards it's not an audience Q & A, it's a cozy, freewheeling talk.

That's as it should be, really. This is a celebration of the life of one of Ireland's towering figures, not an opportunity to do a hatchet job. It's a good and -- for me -- an instructive afternoon, for sure. With the times that are in it, it's

damned near inevitable that Palestine will come up; but mercifully Adams doesn't play to the gallery, instead talking of the need for dialogue. Of the absolute necessity of getting each side to engage with the other. And whilst I'm tempted to think 'good luck with that', at least we don't have an audience producing flags and mouthing 'Free Palestine'-type inanities. I've had enough of that the past few years to make my head explode.

Indeed, last year's Galway Film Fleadh with its political emphasis, left me with a bad taste and took away my movie buff's enthusiasm for this year. You'll recall we had the Northern rap group Kneecap arriving on a jeep, waving their Palestine flags and mouthing their idiotic chants. Theirs was the opening screening and was only shown on condition that it NEVER be distributed in Israel. I swear, I sometimes think that we take one step forward and ten back in this country. For crying out loud, the last year has seen sporadic picketing of a hotel group here simply because the owner hails from Israel. What's wrong with that picture?

Being pro-Israel in Ireland is complicated by the awful Netanyahu (and can't even be touched on in a 1200-word article); but for me a complex situation still boils down to: stand up to Hamas; stop letting their swinish goons hide behind hospitals and schools; and free the hostages who remain!

How on earth did reality turn itself inside out to the extent that only last week a music festival in Glastonbury, England, had so-called artists going full-on pro-Palestine, all but celebrating - with the flock of sheep who were watching them -- a group of murderous rapists and torturers who descended on ANOTHER music festival on October 7, 2023. And of course, leave it to Kneecap to be in the thick of it. Apart from giving a whole new meaning to the word 'irony', what possible good does that serve?

So yeah, I'll take Adams and his encouragement to have dialogue over witless clowns chanting moronic slogans, any day of the week. I personally don't like the road Ireland is going down today. I emphatically do not think that the average Irish person is anti-Semitic, but by God it has been badly served by its government and its mainstream media, who seem to be following an agenda all their own.

Recently myself and my friend Paula went to see the pro-Palestine documentary 'The Encampments'. (Unlike the Greta Thunberg 'freedom voyage' brigade, I want to educate myself in what others are saying.) Talking to people afterwards it was obvious that we were in a minority of two by emerging still supportive of the Israeli people.

One good thing that came of the visit was that Paula introduced me to the YouTube videos of a Jewish Chilean-American by the name of Salvador Litvak. I was totally unfamiliar with the guy but soon became hooked on his peculiar strain of gentle humour, that somehow manages to get a point across to you without you noticing it.

Now I discover that he is also a filmmaker who has two movies behind him...and a third that was released in the States on the 18th July. It's called 'Guns & Moses'. Check out the trailer and tell me you aren't intrigued by the idea of Sergio Leone being reincarnated as a Talmudist. Anyway, Christopher Lloyd is in it, so as our Jewish neighbours would say: 'What's not to love?'

Here's the thing: off the top of my head, half a dozen pro-Palestine films have gone out in the past year. 'The Encampments' indeed was shown mainstream.

So... is it asking too much that I get to see 'Guns & Moses' as God intended, on the big screen? Surely, we're grown up enough at this stage to be able to accept that, even with all that is going on in this world? The new version of 'Superman' that has just been released has a lead actor in David Corenswet, who has Jewish roots. And in true Superman fashion the globe has not stopped spinning.

Do yourself a favour and check out some of Mr. Litvak's videos. You can thank me later. Come to think of it, Gerry Adams showed a gentle vein of humour on Saturday as well. So, there you have it: a nice mix of Catholic and Jewish humour - and since I'm from a mixed Catholic-Protestant background we'll throw that in as well.



England, had so-called artists going full-on pro-Palestine, all but celebrating - with the flock of sheep who were watching them -- a group of murderous rapists and torturers who descended on ANOTHER music festival on October 7, 2023. And of course, leave it to Kneecap to be in the thick of it. Apart from giving a whole new meaning to the word 'irony', what possible good does that serve?

So yeah, I'll take Adams and his encouragement to have dialogue over witless clowns chanting moronic slogans, any day of the week. I personally don't like the road Ireland is going down today. I emphatically do not think that the average Irish person is anti-Semitic, but by God it has been badly served by its government and its mainstream media, who seem to be following an agenda all their own.

Recently myself and my friend Paula went to see the pro-Palestine documentary 'The Encampments'. (Unlike the Greta Thunberg 'freedom voyage' brigade, I want to educate myself in what others are saying.) Talking to people afterwards it was obvious that we were in a minority of two by emerging still supportive of the Israeli people.

One good thing that came of the visit was that Paula introduced me to the YouTube videos of a Jewish Chilean-American by the name of Salvador Litvak. I was totally unfamiliar with the guy but soon became hooked on his peculiar strain of gentle humour, that somehow manages to get a point across to you without you noticing it.

Now I discover that he is also a filmmaker who has two movies behind him...and a third that was released in the States on the 18th July. It's called 'Guns & Moses'. Check out the trailer and tell me you aren't intrigued by the idea of Sergio Leone being reincarnated as a Talmudist. Anyway, Christopher Lloyd is in it, so as our Jewish neighbours would say: 'What's not to love?'

Here's the thing: off the top of my head, half a dozen pro-Palestine films have gone out in the past year. 'The Encampments' indeed was shown mainstream.

So... is it asking too much that I get to see 'Guns & Moses' as God intended, on the big screen? Surely, we're grown up enough at this stage to be able to accept that, even with all that is going on in this world? The new version of 'Superman' that has just been released has a lead actor in David Corenswet, who has Jewish roots. And in true Superman fashion the globe has not stopped spinning.

Do yourself a favour and check out some of Mr. Litvak's videos. You can thank me later. Come to think of it, Gerry Adams showed a gentle vein of humour on Saturday as well. So, there you have it: a nice mix of Catholic and Jewish humour - and since I'm from a mixed Catholic-Protestant background we'll throw that in as well.

With all the craziness that is going on just now, we need a few laughs. It's a scary world out there. So may all your assassins be useless, inadequate ones.

Listen, I said I had a sense of humour. I didn't say it was a good one! charleybrady@gmail.com

County Limerick

by Sharon Slater

Limerick women have never been short on backbone, even during the Williamite Siege of the city in 1691, they stood shoulder to shoulder, defending the walls, hurling stones, boiling water, and raw defiance. That unshakable spirit did not die with the lifting of the siege, it became part of the county's story, passed down through generations of women who were never afraid to stand their ground.

That same fighting spirit crossed the ocean, from the banks of the Shannon to the streets of Manhattan, Cincinnati, and Montana, Limerick women helped shape the soul of a young America.

Some sparked religious movements, others fought for workers' rights or dazzled on the theatrical stage. What they all shared was courage, vision, and a refusal to settle for anything less than a voice and a place in the world.

This is the story of four such Limerick women, Barbara Heck, Sister Anthony, Ada Rehan, and Margaret Hinchey. **Barbara Heck: The Methodist Patriarch of North America**



The Palatine settlement of Ballingrane, County Limerick was formed as a refuge for Germans fleeing religious persecution. It was into this community that Barbara Heck was born in 1734. As a young woman she heard John Wesley speak and developed a deep connection to the Methodist faith. In her twenties, she set sail for New York with members of her community.

One night, she found a group of her fellow Irish-German settlers' playing cards, threw the deck into the fire, telling her cousin, Philip Embury, to preach. He hesitated, saying he had no church. "Preach in your own home," Barbara replied, "and I will gather a congregation."

It was out of this that the now oldest Methodist congregation in North America was founded on 12 October 1766. Heck was involved in every aspect of the congregation, even designing their first chapel, a small wooden building on John Street in Manhattan. That site, now home to the John Street United Methodist Church, still welcoming worshippers more than 250 years later.

Sister Anthony: The Angel of the Battlefield Mary O'Connell was born in Limerick in 1814 and moved with her family to Boston as a child. After joining the Sisters of Charity she took the name Sister Anthony.

Based in Cincinnati, Ohio, she cared for orphans and the poor, but wartime need called her to the front lines. Her



battlefield work was nothing short of revolutionary. Sister Anthony developed a system of battlefield triage, which saved countless lives through the provision of faster hospital treatment and won her praise from President Lincoln.

Nicknamed "the Angel of the Battlefield," Sister Anthony treated patients on hospital ships and in field tents, recognising no distinction between race or between Union and Confederate soldiers. A military rank was invisible to her when issuing orders for care. She served at the battlefields in Virginia, Tennessee and Ohio.

After the war, she founded and ran hospitals in Cincinnati, including the Good Samaritan Hospital and St Joseph's Foundling Home. When she died in 1897, her funeral procession was flanked by men she had saved during the war.



Ada Rehan: Limerick's Star of the American Stage

On 12 June 1857, a baby girl named Bidelia Crehan was baptised in St Michael's Catholic Church on Denmark Street, Limerick. The youngest of Harriet Ryan and Thomas Crehan's children, she crossed the Atlantic in 1865 and dazzled New York's stages under her stage name, Ada Rehan.

Her theatrical debut came by chance when she stepped in for a sick actress in



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Limerick is a must-visit destination for tourists in 2025, where vibrant culture, rich history, stunning landscapes, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere await around every corner.

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Across the Continent. Rehan became one of the most celebrated Shakespearean actresses of her time. In 1887, she starred in The Taming of the Shrew which ran in both New York and London for 121 performances, which was quite a feat for a show in the nineteenth century.

Oscar Wilde, one of her many admirers, called her "that brilliant and fascinating genius." She was even the model for a towering silver statue of Justice at the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago.

Rehan retired in 1906 and lived out her decade in New York with her dog Bobsy. Ada Rehan's name did not die with her, instead it was commemorated on a U.S. Navy ship and mentioned in the opening scenes of the classic film *All About Eve*.

Margaret Hinchey: The Big Voice from Convent Street

Margaret Hinchey was known as 'the big gurrul wid de Irish flag'. She born in 1885 on Convent Street, Limerick. She moved to New York at age ten, leaving school early to work in a laundry, a job that would shape her lifelong fight for workers' rights.

By 1912, she was leading strikes with more than 30,000 women calling for better pay and conditions. Blacklisted by employers for her activism, Hinchey did not back down. She criss-

crossed the U.S., giving fiery speeches in union halls and on street corners.

Hinchey brought her Limerick grit all the way to Washington, D.C., where she petitioned President Wilson for women's voting rights and later marched to the White House again demanding equal employment opportunities.

She spent much of 1914 in Butte, Montana, where she was immensely popular, and her speeches, which linked women's suffrage with the welfare of working women. The Treasure State went to the polls on 3 November 1914 and voted in favour of granting Montana women the vote.

Even as she worked as an elevator operator in later life, Hinchey never stopped advocating for others. She died in 1944 in Manhattan, but her voice, and her legacy, carried far beyond New York's city streets.

These four women carried Limerick's spirit across the ocean. Their stories are a reminder that emigration from Ireland did not mean leaving identity behind, it meant carrying it forward, helping to shape a new world while staying rooted in the old. Their legacy lives on in American institutions, Irish hearts, and the shared history between two nations bound by migration, ambition, and bold women who dared to lead.

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The Universal Language

by **Dr. Christine Lawless**

Session City Part One Fifth Province Trad Session Thursdays: A Welcoming Place!

lessons on both instruments in the church basement of Immaculate Conception Church from Irish traditional music legends Noel Rice and Liz Carroll. Although now we know her as a renowned fiddle player, Carroll actually taught Conway the bodhran.

Chicago is blessed with an abundance of regularly occurring traditional Irish music sessions, scattered throughout the metro area, from Evanston to Joliet and beyond. I usually feature emerging artists and new CDs and recordings, but for now I am going to focus on these wonderful Irish traditional music sessions, and the marvelous people who lead them. I'm calling this series "Session City."

This 1st installment is the trad session on Thursday nights from 7 to 9pm at the Fifth Province Pub at the Irish American Heritage Center. Led by longtime musicians and collaborators James Conway and Mike Austin, this session has been going strong for 4.5 years, and continues to grow in size, stature and reputation.

The son of Irish immigrants from Donegal and Kerry, Conway grew up the oldest of 4 siblings in the Edison Park neighborhood. He describes it as the "Mount Greenwood of the Northside," as it is similarly populated by the families of Chicago police officers and firefighters. Conway's father worked as a building engineer, and played the accordion, while Conway's younger sister did Irish dancing and also played tin whistle.

As a youngster, Conway tried the fiddle, but he seemed best suited to tin whistle and bodhran. He began

Conway regularly participated in the Midwest Fleadh, and qualified often for the All-Ireland in both tin whistle and bodhran. One year, he made the trip to



(l to r) Jack Callahan, James Conway, & Mike Austin

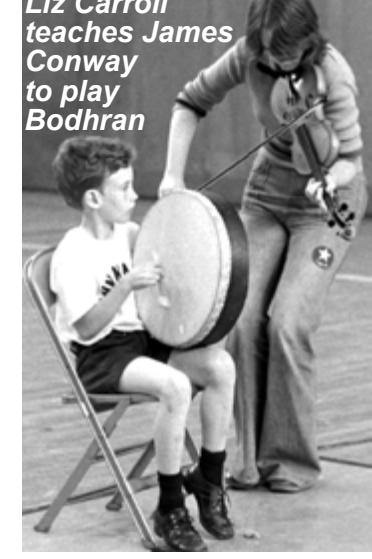
Ennis where he and his uncle, a fiddle player, participated in the championship. It was while he was a teen that Conway was first attracted to the harmonica through the music of Neil Young and Bob Dylan. At about age 18, he wandered into Rosa's Lounge on Armitage and Kimball, where he was drawn to the playing of Blues harmonica legend Junior Wells. Conway said, "I was blown away by what could be done on harmonica." This propelled Conway to study harmonica in earnest.

Young Conway became such a regular at Rosa's that he eventually became a doorman and a regular Blues session player. Conway left the Irish

music world for a period of time to focus on Blues.

Another famous harmonica player, James Joshua Whiting,

Liz Carroll teaches James Conway to play Bodhran



known professionally as "Sugar Blue" frequented Rosa's, and took the young Conway under his wing. Sugar Blue is best known for playing on the 1978 Rolling Stones album 'Some Girls.' As he studied Sugar Blue's playing, Conway discovered that Blue's style of harmonica sounded an awful lot like the sounds made by the tin whistle, and in short order, Conway started playing jigs and reels on his harmonica. Thus began his journey into Irish traditional music on the harmonica.

Conway pursued a trade, and studied for a certificate in heating and air conditioning at

Triton College in River Grove, IL. For the past 30 years he has worked as a building engineer, most recently at Portage Park School. One of the perks of his job- Conway can bike to work. He is married, has 3 children, and currently resides in Jefferson Park. As a professional musician, he has recorded a solo harmonica album, and contributed to other artists recordings. Jason Ricci (Well-known harmonica player himself) once said of Conway's playing, "This guy is the king of tongue switching (playing out of both sides of your mouth) - his octave leaps, effortless complex melodies, and chords are mind melting to the harmonica player while natural to the listener." In 2003, Conway was the recipient of a "master artist" grant from the Illinois Arts Council to teach Irish tin whistle as part of the Ethnic & Folk Arts Master/Apprentice Program. Three years ago, the Hohner company recognized Conway's expertise by designating him a Hohner harmonica endorser.

25 years ago, Conway began a long-term relationship with the Old Town School of Folk Music, at first as a substitute and later as a regular instructor. It was there he teamed up with Mike Austin to begin teaching a course in Irish ensemble. They needed a place for their students to practice all they were learning. Thus, the Fifth Province Thursday night Trad session was born about 4.5 years ago. This session is known for being welcoming, but a session musician (who wished to remain anonymous) said, "It's more than welcoming; it's also gently supportive to the less experienced musicians." This session welcomes beginners and accomplished musicians, as well

as singers, and those who recite poetry or tell stories.

Conway shares leading the Fifth Province Thursday Trad Session with his long-time collaborator Mike Austin. Mike grew up in Joliet, the youngest of 7 siblings. His father was a drummer who co-founded the Joliet American Legion band and was a jazz drummer in a band with his brother. Mike believes he was started on a drum set by his father at the age of 6. From that time, he played drums nonstop all through high school. However, he left the Chicago area to attend Arizona State University, where he majored in Journalism. During that time Austin stopped playing the drums all together to focus on sports and academics.

When asked how he was introduced to the bodhran, and traditional Irish music, Mike said, "That's a great question for me. I did not grow up with it and it came to me later, in my mid-20s. My brother who plays fiddle gave me a tin whistle right after college. Tin whistle was the thing that propelled me into traditional Irish music and the session culture." Austin next tried bodhran, and began studying and playing seriously. He participated in the Midwest Fleadh and went twice to the All-Ireland finals in about 1999 in 2000. When asked why the Thursday night session is so popular, Mike offered, "I think it's because Jim and I come to the session work from a viewpoint of teachers and try to be as welcoming as we can."

Mike put his college degree to good use, starting out working as a journalist for newspapers, magazines and a wire service. After this, he wrote for Esquire and GQ, and was the wine columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Austin works as a full-time freelance writer. One of his more notable projects was a cookbook he co-authored with Art Smith, personal chef to Oprah Winfrey. Aside from teaching at Old Town School of Folk Music, and conducting the Thursday night trad session, Austin and Conway have made music in a band called "The Boils" for the last 20 years

The third member of the band is Jack Callahan, a guitarist and singer-songwriter from LaGrange IL. They've recorded a single, and recorded songs on other people's albums. Mike said, "We are not trying to be full-time musicians or establish a huge fan base or travel all over the world doing tours. We are happy to be busy in Chicago and play as much as we can here. This way, we avoid making music a chore." Both Conway and Austin feel it is time The Boils recorded their own CD. You can catch them once a month on Saturday at Mrs. Murphy and Sons Irish Bistro on Lincoln Ave CHRISTINE.LAWLESS@YAHOO.COM



If music be the food of love, play on... ~ Shakespeare

Brian Conway Releases Wallace Avenue

Third Solo Album by One of NYC's Most Celebrated Irish Fiddle Players Pays Homage to His Musical Upbringing

the greatest instructors teaching Irish music today. For the majority of those students, the track marks their album debut, while others, such as past students Dylan



Foley, Joanna Clare, Patrick Mangan, Haley Richardson, and Brian's niece Maeve Flanagan (with the band Girs), have gone on to release albums of their own and build successful musical careers as featured fiddle players in Riverdance and other internationally touring bands.

"Certainly one of the finest Irish-American musician fiddlers..." - Dirty Linen Magazine
"To hear Brian Conway play the fiddle is to hear the New York-based Sligo style at its most pristine and precise." - Wall Street Journal
www.brianconway.com

Brian Conway, one of New York City's most celebrated proponents of the Sligo style of Irish fiddle playing, self-released his third solo album, Wallace Avenue

Descended from a lineage of legendary Irish fiddle teachers including Martin Mulvihill, Martin Wynne, and Andy McGann, Brian pays homage to the street he grew up on in the Bronx where he first encountered this distinct musical style, in a home he describes as "a place filled with cherished memories, particularly our weekly Friday night music sessions."

The front-cover art for the album depicts Brian's parents Jim and Rose, both from County Tyrone, standing side by side on the front porch of their home in the Bronx. One of five children, Brian received his first informal fiddle instruction from his father. On Friday evenings the Conway home on Wallace Avenue became a hub for Irish traditional musicians young and old as they congregated in the kitchen, dining room, and living room to learn and swap tunes.

With a heavy concentration of Sligo-born or Sligo-style fiddlers in or near New York City, Brian's own development within that style led to his rapid ascension as a virtuoso, earning him multiple All-Ireland titles and later a spot in the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Mid-Atlantic Region Hall of Fame. To date, Brian has featured on nearly 20 albums and recently published an instructional book titled "The Brian Conway Fiddle Method."

"The New York-Sligo style of fiddling captures the bounce, swing, and energy of Donegal music while also blending the soulfulness associated with the regional styles to the south of Sligo, namely, Clare and Galway," Brian said. "Andy McGann's contribution to this natural evolution reflects the rigor and discipline imposed on his music by Lad O'Beirne, as well as Andy's own classical training. The link from Michael Coleman, to Andy McGann, to me, and then to my fiddle students is strongly felt. I view my new album as my attempt to protect the legacy I inherited."

Accompanied by long-time collaborator Brendan Dolan on piano, the album is described by Irish Echo writer Earle Hitchner as bearing the "imprimatur of telepathic teamwork." Adding to the album's nostalgia, Brian's family are also featured including Flanagan family members Maeve (Brian's niece) on fiddle, Rose (Brian's sister) on fiddle, and Kieran (Brian's nephew) on piano.

A respected pedagogue, Brian features over 20 of his top former and present students on the final track, showcasing Brian's prowess as one of

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A Hundred Thousand Welcomes are Waiting for You at Milwaukee Irish Fest August 14-17 at Henry Maier Festival Park

From electrifying performances to can't-miss special shows, Milwaukee Irish Fest, the world's largest celebration of Celtic music and culture, returns to the shores of Lake Michigan August 14-17 with an incredible lineup of entertainment and family fun.

Brothers and Enda Scahill of We Banjo 3, singer-songwriter Emma Langford, and Dermot Sheedy from Hermitage Green. The show will also incorporate Milwaukee-based groups like the Trinity Irish Dancers and the Celtic Nations Pipes and Drums.

Caitlin Donnelly, Asher Gray, and Brett Lipshutz. The show blends live music with stories and reflections from each artist. Don't miss this show taking place on Saturday, August 16.

Returning to Milwaukee Irish Fest to celebrate 40 years as a band are Cherish the Ladies! Don't miss indie-rock group Hermitage Green, singer-songwriter Emma Langford, dance group The StepCrew, and fiddler Gerry O'Connor. Italian group Gadan with banjo virtuoso Enda Scahill also returns. This year, they'll be joined by renowned bluegrass fiddler and dancer Hillary Klug, together creating a fusion of traditional Irish, folk, bluegrass, and Appalachian music.

Over 20 artists will make their Irish Fest debut, giving festivalgoers the opportunity to discover fresh talent from across the Celtic Nations. Newcomers include acclaimed singer-songwriter Niall McCabe from County Mayo, viral Irish dancing sensations the Gardiner Brothers, world-renowned Irish flute player Michael McGoldrick, traditional Irish music trio Tara Breen, Pádraig Rynne, and Jim Murray, among many others.

David Howley and Martin Howley of We Banjo 3 will make their Irish Fest debut with their new group, The Howley



legends like Eileen Ivers and Mumford & Sons. Their combined artistry in The Howley Brothers offers a fresh and vibrant take on Celtic and Americana traditions. Their performances at Irish Fest will include special guests, along with Kiana June Weber and Caitlin Leahy.

Milwaukee Irish Fest offers an immersive experience for all ages. Families can enjoy hands-on cultural activities, storytelling, music workshops, Celtic canines, children's entertainment, and more.

Whether you're looking for a



Explore the magic of Ireland along Milwaukee's lakefront with a festival experience unlike any other. Irish Fest's 45th celebration will feature fan favorites, emerging artists from Ireland, and special, one-of-a-kind programming. From anniversary concerts to collaborative showcases, here are some can't-miss shows happening exclusively at Irish Fest.

world champion snare drummer Grant Cassidy and longtime friends The Red Hot Chilli Pipers—whose connection to Skerryvore spans 18 years—will help make the evening unforgettable.

Milwaukee Together: An Irish Dance Showcase

For over four decades, Milwaukee Irish Fest has proudly showcased Irish dance as a cornerstone of its programming. For the very first time, all eight Milwaukee Irish dance schools will join together for two performances that will highlight the strength, spirit, and solidarity of the local Irish dance community, a community rooted in a shared love of tradition and artistry.

Trad Rave Irish Dance Party with SuperCéili

On Thursday night, the festival kicks off with its Grand Hooley opening celebration and a high-energy Trad Rave Irish Dance Party with SuperCéili. Think Irish trad meets disco, with



Skerryvore

plenty of dancing! You can also catch SuperCéili at The Snug Stage throughout the weekend as part of the TradFest (Dublin, Ireland) showcase.

Skerryvore's 20th Anniversary Show with Special Guests

Skerryvore will celebrate their 20th anniversary as a band with a special two-hour performance on Saturday, August 16. Over the past two decades, the band has toured the world and formed close friendships with exceptional musicians—many of whom will join them on stage for this milestone show.

Special guests include the Howley

Witness the history of Irish dance told through the art form itself, be in awe at the Milwaukee World Qualifiers Showcase, and clap along to the grand finale while seeing bits from all of Milwaukee's dance community. Catch these special performances on Thursday, August 14, and Sunday, August 17.

In the Key of Tradition - The Irish Flute Across Time

The Irish Flute Across Time is a special show that will feature performances and personal insights from acclaimed Irish flute players Michael McGoldrick, Joanie Madden, Connor Crimmins,



Gadan

Brothers. The Howley Brothers are redefining the landscape of folk music with their dynamic new collaboration. Founders of Billboard No. 1 band We Banjo 3, the Galway-born siblings have a storied history of musical excellence.

Martin's exceptional skills on the banjo and mandolin have earned him multiple All-Ireland titles, while David's emotive voice and instrumental versatility have made him a sought-after performer alongside

weekend getaway, or for a welcoming place to be able to dance and explore your Irish heritage, or just enjoy great food and music, there's something for everyone at Milwaukee Irish Fest.

View the full festival lineup and get your tickets today at irishfest.com. Children 12 and under get in free! Celebrate the best of Celtic culture with Milwaukee Irish Fest, August 14-17. A hundred thousand welcomes will be waiting for you.



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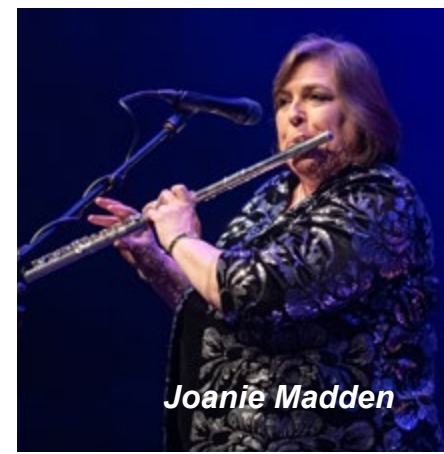


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Eight Generations of the McHugh Family Make Nancy's Bar in Ardara A Great Place to Visit

By Grainne McCool

A small town in Co. Donegal, Ardara (meaning 'height of the fort') is one of the counties most loved villages. There are a host of scenic areas nearby that include Glengesh Pass, the Mahera Caves and Waterfall and outstanding views over the Atlantic Ocean from Loughros Point. The small town is home to many festivals throughout the year. And nestled on Front street is the infamous 'Nancy's Bar'.

Owned for over eight generations by the McHugh family, they continue to retain the traditional and family atmosphere that encourage folk to return again and again. And when you visit once you will experience the magic that may draw you back time and again.

The bar was originally named 'Charles McHugh's,' but after passing away at a young age, his wife Nancy, strong in mind and will, helped build the business to a much loved and respected one, and raised a family to continue building the business into what it is today.

On a recent day out, I visited Nancy's for myself to discover what a real haven it really is. One can read about places and hear such by word-of-mouth, but it's not until you experience such hospitality first hand

that you truly understand the depth of tradition that really is steeped in a business. That's exactly what Nancy's is all about - a family business steeped in a love and passion for it, and a dedication to continue it as a family business.

Jenny, the now 8th generation of the McHugh family, took time out of her busy schedule to tell me a bit more about Nancy's. Jenny tells me, 'Dad was born upstairs; our house now is at the end of the building. We were all brought up coming in here on a Sunday morning to help with the stocking up - that earned us our fizzy drink for the week!! We were pulling pints from an early age.' Jenny tells her family history from childhood in such a loving way that it's with fond memories that her love for this place has grown.

Are the youth of the family involved in the present running of the business or like many Irish youths today, have they left the Donegal/Irish shores? Jenny laughs as she explains her eldest daughter is the oldest of the 'next' generation and is currently working behind the bar. Jenny also tells me that she is the eldest of seven and they all give a hand in one way or other in the bar. Her brother and sister are full-time chefs in the kitchen. Her other siblings



Irish style atmosphere is everywhere at Nancy's



all contribute in one way or another to the running of the bar, and cousins work there also; there's just no escaping the amalgamation of family loyalty and dedication that the McHugh family have here at Nancy's.

As I was talking to Jenny I was also served my lunch which I had ordered - a steak burger - and I remarked that

it really was the nicest mince steak I have ever tasted. It turns out that the room we sat in is known as 'the butcher room' as in years gone by it was a butcher shop! The room opposite is the 'tv room' as that was the television room in the past. You have the piano room which was the 'good room' and following that and each room of the original building is named after its original purpose. There's a real sense of the familial and the familiar throughout.

As you walk around Nancy's bar it's like a cubby hole of rooms. Each one inviting you for various reasons. It might be the fabulous dresser in one, the fireplace in another, but whatever draws you in, you are never allowed to forget that you are in a much-loved family home and one that is steeped in history. Across every wall you will find photos of the McHugh family from years past and quite recent. You almost get to know them as you study the era from their attire and the writings about various family members.

One such member who is very much remembered is Margaret. Another mighty strong woman, Margaret took over the helm of Nancy's in the early 1970's following the death of her husband. She once again helped



Outdoor Dining Choices as well.



Lots of cozy choices to dine or drink in.

the business grow in popularity. I remarked on the huge collection of antiques and crockery throughout the premises and Jenny explained that much of this came from Margaret, her grandmother. 'She used to buy boxes of stuff just to get one or two items', Jenny told me, 'and after her death we were finding boxes and boxes of stuff upstairs which she had collected. Much of it we didn't even know that she'd had.' It again adds to the warm welcome and feeling you get on visiting.

I asked Jenny just how important is

Nancy's to Ardara? 'It's pretty integral, I think. We are known to locals as a tourist pub, but many locals come in to eat also. Being a tourist town, we are very busy from March to October. We close our kitchen for the winter. So during those months it's just the bar with the odd night of music too.'

With the tourist season well and truly underway at present, just where are the majority of visitors coming from to Ardara and Donegal in general? 'We used to get a lot of Americans, but lately it's mostly Europeans', Jenny says. 'We do get Americans yes, but

not as many. We had a French tour this morning. They came from Doagh Island in Inishowen, Donegal, and then moved to Slieve League, then proceed to other parts of Ireland.' It's very clear on talking to Jenny that everyone is welcome here.

Jenny's Mum Ann started the kitchen in Nancy's. Prior to her captaining of this hospitality helm, food had not been served. Ann originally started serving the food from the family home, a few doors down. Her chowder is still the same today as it was on origination. Oysters and the 'deadly' burger were added. And today a selection of other additions adorns the Nancy's menu. Having tried the food, it really is excellent.

Donegal is often regarded in Ireland

as 'the forgotten county'. It's not until you visit it and experience the hospitality that it has to offer that you realise this county is a gem, nestled up here in the Northwest. And nestled on Front street in this small Donegal town of Ardara and a doorway to many other wonderful Donegal hideaways, not to mention the Slieve League cliffs just half an hour away, you really won't find a warmer welcome, or a more inviting business, than Nancy's of Ardara. And I'm sure if Nancy from way back when, were to know that her legacy 8 generations later, would still be going strong and welcoming tourists today in the 21st century, she would be very proud. What a collection of strong women continue her legacy and Jenny is just the latest.

AUGUST CROSSWORD ANSWERS page 53

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13					14		15				16			
17							18				19			
				20			21				22			
23	24	25				26				27	28			
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35			36	37		38		39		40		41	42	43
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54								55				56		
57						58	59			60				
61						62				63		64	65	66
67						68				69				
70						71				72				

ACROSS

- Irish woman who is a pro boxer, goes with 27 across
- Handful
- Opposed to
- "To do" list
- Big Italian broadcaster
- Brightly colored
- Gossips at shul
- Be off
- Datebook abbr.
- Stalemate
- Put on board, as cargo
- Had had a dip
- Giv__ and tak__ away
- See 1 across
- Exaggerated talk
- King's title, abbr.
- Give out
- "__ pig's eye!"
- Take action against
- Luau dish
- Jittery
- Links org.
- Camera setting, 2 words
- Whiny music genre
- German resort
- Explorer's org.
- One of a famous Irish folk group, Liam __
- Popular sushi fish
- Buds
- Civics, e.g.
- Bolted down
- Cupid's counterpart
- Java is in it
- Hollow cylinders
- Put away
- Immigrant's class, abbr.
- Northern Irish actor who starred in "Schindler's List", Liam __ -
- Singer Turner
- 66, e.g.: Abbr.

- Put your chips in
- Website for crafty sorts
- Carrier to Stockholm
- Snouted animal

DOWN

- Mary __ cosmetics
- Bio bit
- Perfect rating often
- As scheduled... (2 words)
- Dutch cheese
- Fine produce
- Corn units
- Bug
- Research done for potential course of action
- Katmandu native
- Boss
- Apprentice
- Former Turkish coins
- Really enjoyed
- Islamic division
- Disney legend and great comedian, Ed __
- __ the crack of dawn
- Beginning on
- Dismiss
- Pool site, maybe
- Stradivarius's teacher
- Ski lift
- Capital on a fjord
- Quarterback's option
- Bar offerings
- Reddish brown
- Modest
- Flipped out
- Negative particles
- Bygone Spanish coin
- Court grp.
- Chap
- Kind of I.R.A.
- "Certainment!"
- "All Things Considered" network



The Word Brick

By Randall Stephen Hall.

My father still calls to me. Across the years, my ears Are ever alert to his presence. The ancestors, never let you go. No matter how rough or random Things become, the words They give you from off their tongues Help your voice, help it to rejoice In building ideas with a broad choice. A big broad choice of words. Slowly learned skills From childhood, with your ears. Just listening. For if you don't know how to listen You are, in a sense, pissing in the wind. For the sin of a narrow vocabulary And a broken sense of grammar Could be seen as a lost opportunity. A hammer to owning your own voice And a barricade to what you want to say. If you need to represent yourself Wouldn't it be better if people could listen Beyond the boundaries, the ditches And the closed doors Of inverted snobbery. In the war between the classes? Better more bullets for the battle Than an empty rattle bereft of clarity. I'd rather be a Belfast word brick. To have that connection Than some prick caught up in a prison

Of words and sounds That don't lift you up. That only push your head down. My father's voice still calls to me. Across the years, his choice And sound within his words Has never let me down. Am I a snob for all that? Merely a lower middle class twat? That would be an easy conclusion For youse like . . . Yet the illusion of few words For the many only leads to Jimmy hitting Jenny. Only leads to broken glass Domestic violence, bent pennies And a life of sitting on the fence When it comes to wanting A big bag of words But just not getting it from Santa. For it's a toy you may be too ashamed To play with in front of your mates. The broken plates remain But the gate is open. The choice is yours. Are you brave enough To not be part of the herd?

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SOLD OUT GOLF OUTING

The Irish Fellowship Club hosted its annual Golf Outing on Monday, July 14 at beautiful Ridgemoor Country Club. On a beautiful day, a sold-out crowd of IFC members and guests enjoyed an outstanding round of golf. The course was in great shape and the golfers enjoyed lunch, drinks on the course and a celebratory cocktail party following the event.

The Golf Outing supports the Irish Fellowship Club Education and Cultural Foundation. Said Golf Chairman John Wrenn, "We are grateful to all of the sponsors who so generously supported this event. It was a great day to be out on the course. Thanks to those sponsors as well as our golfers we will be able to support scholarships for our Catholic High Schools across the Chicagoland area. And a special thank you to IFC Executive Director Kathy Taylor, whose leadership and efforts are such an integral part of all of our IFC events."

Major event sponsors were IFC Board members - IFC First Vice President Devon C. Bruce, Timothy J. Cavanagh - Cavanagh Sorich Law Group, Celtic Crossing, Carolyn S. Daley, Lynn McKeaney - Lodge Management Group, LLC, Peg Corboy, Former IFC Chairman Peter J. O'Brien - O'Brien Riverwalk, Matt Tully - Tully Associates. Over 50 hole



sponsors supported the event and provided key support to the IFC Foundation. The Irish Fellowship Club Golf Raffle featured outstanding prizes including American Airlines miles, a 50" television, a liquor basket, Gibson's and Hilton gift certificates and many others. IFC Executive Director Kathy Taylor commented, "Our Raffle Donors are always so generous and we appreciate everyone who supported the Raffle this year."

IFC President, Fr. Jack Clair of Misericordia said, "The Golf Outing is always an afternoon of fellowship and friendship that supports all of the good work of the Irish Fellowship Club and the Foundation. We are grateful to John Wrenn for his leadership and all who came out for terrific event." The Irish Fellowship Club is grateful to photographer Michael Kardas for his excellent photography skills for our events. Contact him at <https://www.kardasphotography.com> or kardas@kardasphotography.com



JOIN THE IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB

Join the Irish Fellowship Club! **New Member Application**

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City, State, Zip _____ c/o Kathy Taylor
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Chicago, IL 60631

Firm Name _____ Email Address _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Occupation or Title _____

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ CVC # _____

Or you can mail this form with a \$75 check for membership dues to:
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c/o Kathy Taylor
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Chicago, IL 60631

Mail to: Business Home
Marital status: Single Married



iBAM! Join Us for the 2025 iBAM! Weekend
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AWARDS GALA DINNER

Saturday, November 22
Irish American Heritage Center

2025 iBAM! Awardees



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Music



Jess Murphy
Culinary Arts



Cliff Carlson
Person of the Year



Nuala Kavanagh
Volunteer of the Year



Dan Roan
Media / Journalism

Gala Tickets Go On Sale August 15!

Get full event details and ticket info at: www.ibamchicago.com

Remaining Awardees TBA

Contact: info@ibamchicago.com

iBAM! is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization



Gadabout Travel is Turning 50 and Busier Than Ever!

On August 27, 2000, Pam Carroll officially purchased Gadabout Travel, the South Side travel agency originally founded by Rose Lynn, an Irish immigrant from Belmullet, County Mayo. Even though Pam had worked at Gadabout since 1986 and knew the travel business inside and out, she recalls being a “nervous and scared little kid” that day. Now, 25 years later, after weathering the 9/11 terrorist attacks and related travel downturn, the Great Recession, the advent of social media and internet travel bookings, and the COVID-19 global pandemic, Pam is excited to mark the 50th anniversary of Gadabout Travel with a special celebration in the storefront and a raffle for a tropical vacation.

“I love my job,” Pam regularly remarks, and that passion for serving clients extends to her staff members, who collectively boast 75 years of travel industry experience.

While many travel agencies have shuttered given the aforementioned challenges that the industry has faced this century, Gadabout has continued to survive and prosper. First and foremost, Pam credits her team for this success, plus a dedication to client success. She and her colleagues take the time to visit the properties and destinations that she recommends, traversing the globe to ensure that clients will have the best experience possible.

“I always say, the internet makes everything look great, even if that’s not true in real life, and AI doesn’t make sense a lot of times,” Pam notes. “On the other hand, we’re recommending Ireland 1-2 times per year, so our clients can trust that what we’re recommending is real and has been vetted. My team and I like to call certain properties that we really like ‘Pam hotels’ because we know our clients will have great experiences there.”

In a business that is predicated on referrals and personal recommendations, the longevity of client relationships provides proof that the Gadabout formula is working.

“Our clients are our friends. Some of them have worked with us for 20, 30, or even 40 years. We’ve booked a Disney vacation for a family, watched those kids grow up, planned their honeymoons, and are now booking a Disney trip for their families,” she proudly shares.

In addition to tailored customer service, Gadabout also provides a plethora of travel services, from personalized family vacations to destination weddings and group trips, among the many offerings available to clients. Pam and her team offer support for all budgets, from hiring a private driver for small groups to travel in luxury on their own time, to arranging train timetables for young people who are more cost-conscious.

While Gadabout Travel’s reach extends across the globe, including destination weddings in Mexico and

group trips to places like Spain and Portugal (where they have over 80 people planning to travel on a group trip later this year), at its heart, the company still stays true to its Irish roots; in addition to its founding by Rose Lynn, Gadabout’s second owner Marie O’Donnell was also an Irish immigrant from Belmullet.

“When I bought the business, Rose told me to ‘take care of the Irish,’” Pam recalls, and she continues to honor that promise today.

Pam works closely with Gaelic Park and the Irish American Heritage Center, proudly advertises in this paper, and of course strengthens the connection with clients and Ireland, which she calls our “51st state” that is still the company’s number one destination.

Looking ahead, Pam shows no signs of slowing down. While she acknowledges that in the travel industry, “you never know what’s around the corner,” she remains committed to the same values that have made Gadabout Travel such a successful institution for the last half century.

Join Gadabout Travel for a special anniversary celebration at their office (10552 S Roberts Rd in Palos Hills) on August 27. The event will include a drawing for a 3-night stay at Hard Rock Hotel in Punta Cana or Cancun, and anyone who books a trip or cruise before August 27 will be entered into the contest.

For more information, email gadabouttravel@hotmail.com or call 708-974-1300.



The Gadabout Travel team (left to right): Pam, Lisa, Rosario, Felicia, Helena, and Melissa



Gadabout Travel The Emerald and Highland Adventure to Scotland and Ireland September 18-30



Gadabout Travel invites you on
The Emerald and Highland Adventure
A Deluxe Small Group Tour of Scotland & Ireland
September 18-30, 2026
\$6998 Land & Tax per person sharing
Pre-Night Package in Edinburgh - Available on Request
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Additional \$3507

12 Nights Hotel Accommodation

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- Dunollie Hotel, Skye (1 night)
- River Ness Hotel, Inverness (2 nights)
- Cliff House, Waterford (1 night)
- Actons Hotel, Kinsale (1 night—Harbor View Room)
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- The Plaza, Killarney (1 night)
- The Gresham, Dublin (1 night)

TOUR INCLUDES

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- Porterage of 1 piece of luggage per person
- Celtic Tours flight bag and portfolio of travel documents

Note: Gratuities to driver/guide are NOT included
Flight from Edinburgh to Dublin not included in tour cost

For more information contact Pam Carroll
10552 S Roberts Road
Palos Hills, IL 60465
(708) 974-1300
gadabouttravel@hotmail.com



Gadabout Travel The Annual Caribbean Group Cruise Sailing March 1st, 2026 - 6 nights

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- DEPOSIT OF \$250 PER PERSON IS REQUIRED TO SECURE A CABIN

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CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

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

Chicago Gaelic Park Irish Fest - A Tradition Worth Repeating

Many of us have fond memories of Gaelic Park Irish Fest-music, food, laughter, and yes... a fair share of rain and mud. Some of us even remember pushing cars out of the parking lot! So here's a thought let's move the fest to August. Even if it rains, at least it'll be warm.

If you haven't been to Irish Fest in a while, come on back. We'd love to see you. It's a chance to renew memories, restart old traditions, or begin a new one. Meet up with family, friends, and neighbors or even host a family reunion at the park.

This year's lineup is outstanding:

The Kilkennys, Ally the Piper, The Byrne Brothers, Gadan, Elias Alexander, The Fenians, Meadhbh Walsh - and many more.

There's something for everyone:

- **Gaelic Park Players** - one-act plays, storytelling, and live music
- **Cultural Tent** - Ceili, Set, and Jive dancing, plus hands-on Irish workshops
- **Irish Village** - featuring a traditional cottage, Irish dogs, farm animals, and tractors
- **The Guinness Experience** - always a favorite
- **Vendors, food trucks, and a travel showcase** - come hungry and curious

But above all - **it's great craic!**

Mark your calendar: Irish Fest 2025 is August 22-24th

Sláinte,
Mike Cooke - Irish Fest Chairperson



CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

6119 W. 147th St. Oak Forest, IL 60452 - (708)687-9323 - ChicagoGaelicPark.com

IRISH CULTURE FAMILY FUN LIVE MUSIC



AUGUST 22-24

Get ready for a euphoric journey to the Emerald Isle where the air will be filled with the enchanting tunes of Celtic music and the rhythm of dancing feet. This weekend-long extravaganza is lined up with an unprecedented ensemble of Irish bands, dance schools, artists, and experts who will bring the true essence of Irish culture to the forefront.



Friday - Irish Language Workshop with Liam Óg O hOistin, Celtic Knotwork Design Workshop with Michael Carroll

Saturday - Ceili Lessons, Set Dancing Lessons, Ceili Mor Dance with Jack Kinsella, Jive Lesson and Social Dancing with Gerry Haughey

Sunday - Irish Singling Lessons, Elias Alexander Workshop, Irish Language Workshop with Liam Óg O hOistin, and Michael Carroll Celtic Knotwork Workshop

Facebook: @ChicagoGaelicParkIrishFest
TikTok: @ChicagoGaelicPark
Instagram: @CGPirishFest

CGP Event Calendar

Visit chicagogaelicpark.com for more information.

- August 5 - IRISH CULTURAL CAMP BEGINS
- August 9 - BERNADETTE MORRIS
- August 22 - IRISH FEST BEGINS
- September 4 - CGP GOLF OUTING
- September 7 - GAELIC PARK BOOK CLUB
- September 26 - FOUR C NOTES DINNER & SHOW

JOIN THE CARRAIG REWARDS PROGRAM!

- 25 point welcome bonus
- \$5 off for ever 100 points
- 3X the points Tues-Thurs
- Free dessert on your birthday

Music at The Carraig

No cover charge for music at The Carraig.

- August 1 - KEVIN ROWAN
- August 2 - FABTONES
- August 3 - GOTHAM RAMBLERS
- August 5 - JAM SESSION & CAR SHOW
- August 6 - COLM & LAURA KEEGAN
- August 8 - KIERAN BYRNE
- August 9 - BERNIE GLIM
- August 10 - HOT MIC
- August 12 - JAM SESSION & CAR SHOW
- August 14 - MULLIGAN STEW
- August 15 - SOUTHSIDE BOOGIE
- August 16 - ELROY ACOUSTIC
- August 19 - JAM SESSION & CAR SHOW
- August 26 - JAM SESSION & CAR SHOW
- August 28 - GOLD COAST
- August 30 - RAY GAVIN
- August 31 - EXPO 76



Join us in the Carraig Gairdín Beorach before Beer Garden season ends!

Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Thursday: Bar Opens 3pm - 12am (Kitchen 5pm-9pm)
Friday: Bar Opens 3pm - 1am (Kitchen 5pm - 9pm)
Saturday: Bar Opens 3pm - 1am (Kitchen 3pm-9pm)
Sunday: Bar Opens 12pm - 11pm (Kitchen 2pm-7pm)

Support Irish Culture Become a CGP Member Today

Become a member or renew your membership between Memorial Day and the Festival, and you'll automatically be entered into a drawing for the pair of Aer Lingus tickets to Ireland. Purchase tickets and memberships at ChicagoGaelicPark.com.

Membership Raffle Entry Options:
\$30 - Single Membership and 1 entry
\$50 - Couple Membership and 1 entry
\$30 - YGA Membership and 1 entry

Increase Your Odds of Winning:
\$20/1 Raffle Ticket
\$50/3 Raffle Tickets

Drawing at Irish Fest on Sunday, August 24th

2 Round Trip tickets from Chicago to Dublin. Tickets subject to date restrictions. Membership not required.

All are welcome at CGP year round, but our Members receive the following special offers:

- Exclusive offers
- Annual voting privileges
- Permitted to run for office after 3 years of continuous membership
- Invitation to annual convention
- A subscription to the *Irish American News*

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GAELIC PARK PLANNED GIVING ENDOWMENT

How do we maintain the accomplishments of the Gaelic Park Community and ensure that it will thrive in the future?

Give the gift of Irish Heritage to succeeding generations by contributing today!



Chicago Gaelic Park celebrates, preserves and promotes Irish culture and heritage through artistic, athletic, cultural, educational, and social activities. We provide a welcoming place for all to share in our great Irish American experience.

Examples of ways to give:
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Living Will and Trust
Investment Securities
IRAs
Life Insurance Proceeds

For more information or to discuss your plans, please contact Michael Bennett - General Manager by phone 708-687-9323 or email endowment@chicagogaelicpark.org. Planned gifts are made after careful consideration of one's financial situation and charitable goals. It is recommended to consult financial, tax, and/or legal advisors regarding these types of donations.

Preserving and Promoting our Irish Mission:

- Chicago Irish Feis
- Irish Fest
- Official Home of the Chicago GAA
- Our Lady of Knock Rosary Procession
- Monthly Mass and Irish Breakfast
- Mother's Day Buffet/High Tea
- Gaelic Park Players
- Heritage and Harvest Day
- Children's Irish Cultural Camp
- The Carraig Pub & Beer Garden
- Young Gaelic Association
- Premier Event Venue for Weddings, Parties, and Concerts

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit our box office to buy tickets and view upcoming events!

Irish Fest
August 22-24

Four C Notes Concert
Friday, September 26

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO ACCESS THE CHICAGO GAELIC PARK BOX OFFICE OR VISIT TICKETS.CHICAGOGAELICPARK.COM/EVENTS/CHICAGOGAELICPARK





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Your membership will support Chicago Scots primary charity, Caledonia Senior Living & Memory Care



SCAN OUR QR CODE TO GET STARTED!



From the Shannon to the Chicago River: Why Freshwater Matters Now More Than Ever

By Anne Marie McIntyre, M.S.

As World Water Week (August 24-28, 2025) approaches with the theme "Water for Climate Action," communities around the world are reflecting on the critical importance of freshwater ecosystems in our shared fight against climate change.

Ireland's principal inland transportation corridor, linking rural hinterlands to bustling market towns. By the mid-1700s, improvements like canal cuts and locks facilitated navigation from Lough Derg through towns such as Portlanna, Athlone, and Limerick—enabling the efficient movement of grain, turf, livestock, and general merchandise.

Across the Atlantic, Chicago's rivers and lakes have their own legacy. The reversal of the Chicago River in 1900's by the Sanitary District of Chicago (now known as the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District -MWRD) was an engineering marvel, designed to protect Lake Michigan, the city's drinking water source.

Rivers as Legacy and Lifeline Ireland's River Shannon (Abha na Sionainne), the longest river in the country, flows through eleven counties, over 200 miles from its source, the Cuilcagh Mountains in County Cavan to the Shannon Estuary in County Limerick, where it empties into the Atlantic Ocean.

From antiquity through the 19th century, the River Shannon served as

importance to industrial shipping has declined over time, it remains an active waterway—now supporting recreational boating, architectural tours, and water taxis that connect neighborhoods along its banks. Today, however, pollution, outdated infrastructure, and climate volatility threaten the balance between people and water.

Restoration on Both Shores

Though railways eventually eclipsed river transport, the Shannon still underpins today's tourist boating and recreational economy. In Ireland, organizations like the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) and An Fóram Uisce (The Water Forum) are helping communities monitor water quality, combat nutrient runoff, and engage in local river restoration.

The Shannon Tourism Masterplan outlines a bold vision for the region's future, centered on enhancing biodiversity, rewilding bogs and wetlands, and introducing new ecotourism experiences throughout the Shannon catchment.

WHAT WE CAN DO Here's how you can support freshwater this August: - Volunteer or donate to groups like Friends of the Chicago River, Alliance for the Great Lakes, or LAWPRO in Ireland.

are committed to moving swiftly toward a greener fleet. In the short term, the industry is trialing biodiesel fuels, advanced photovoltaic (solar panel) systems, and more efficient batteries to reduce emissions and improve energy performance. To formalize these efforts, the Irish Boat Rental Association has launched a Clean Boating Charter, ensuring that environmental stewardship remains a guiding principle across the Shannon's recreational waterways.

In Chicago, local nonprofits like Friends of the Chicago River have successfully helped reintroduce native species, build floating wetlands, and advocate for cleaner urban water. The MWRD leads stormwater and green infrastructure projects—including permeable pavement and bioswales—to reduce combined sewer overflows into Lake Michigan. Organizations like Current (Chicago's water innovation hub) and Alliance for the Great Lakes are advancing smart monitoring tools and advocating for climate-resilient freshwater policy throughout the region.

Reduce runoff by planting native species or using rain barrels. - Advocate for equitable infrastructure improvements and water justice policies.

Who Was Brian Friel

(1929-2015) He was a dramatist, short story writer, and co-founded the, Field Day Theater Company with Irish actor Stephen Rea. Friel has been nicknamed the Irish Chekhov. (Russian playwright) He was born in Co. Tyrone. His dad was a teacher and involved in the local city council. His mother worked at the post office.

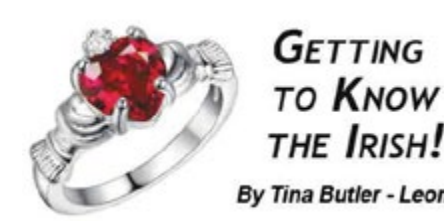
Friel has been considered one of the greatest playwrights of all time, that claim is subjective and debatable as some might also say that about Oscar Wilde. Ireland has had many talented playwrights including Brendan Behan, Samuel Beckett and Bernard Shaw. As the saying goes Ireland is the Land of Saints and scholars!

Friel's family moved from Tyrone to Derry when he was young. Friel went to university and became a teacher. Friel and his family were very much in support of all things Irish, interests & culture. They were a part of the Nationalist Party. Friel was closely connected to the Taoiseach at the time, Charles Haughey (Co. Mayo). Haughey appointed Friel to serve as a member of the Irish Senate.

Friel's plays have been produced on and off Broadway, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston & Washington D.C. among other places.

A common setting for Friel's plays was in or around the fictional town of "Ballybeg" (small town). Some topics in his plays include identity, language, memory, love and simply life.

Friel has produced over



GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

By Tina Butler - Leonard



30 plays. A few popular plays include Philadelphia, Here I come!, Translations, and Dancing at Lughnasa. Translations was set in 1830's, it is a play about the meeting of English and Irish cultures, the looming Great Famine, the English undertaking and exploitation and removal of the (Irish language) to covert all Irish place names into English. (started in 1830)

To convert Irish to English was problematic because it resulted in an inaccurate or senseless translations that obscured the original meaning and history of the name. It also was trying to eradicate the Irish language and culture. Irish place names often held significant meaning, reflecting the landscape, historical events, & local lore. Anglicization, especially through phonetic transcription, distorted or erased these meanings, making the names incomprehensible without knowledge of the original Irish. It's called cultural genocide.

Recently I heard someone say, "Ireland would still be living in huts if it weren't for England." First, I will say that's historically inaccurate and second a deeply offensive statement to make...I believe the original OG who said that was Gerald of Wales.

So, I would like to review some key terms about the history of Ireland and England to catch some of us up.

England has colonized,

suppressed, occupied, exploited and dominated Ireland. England politically subjugated Ireland by replacing Irish institutions with English institutions which lead to the loss of Irish self-governance.

By suppression English rule tried to erase the Irish language, culture and religion. Laws were enacted to limit use of the Irish language and discourage its practice in public life and education. Patrick Pearse (Teacher, lawyer, poet one of the leaders of Easter Rising) said, "Tir gan teanga, tir gan anam", A country without a language is a country without a soul.

"The English came and took our lands and turned them into barren wastes. We took their language and made it beautiful". Oscar Wilde

By exploitation Ireland was treated as a source of resources and wealth for England, with the use of Irish land, and labor.

Occupation by England's presence in Ireland and their military force and political control.

The Great Famine is a collective trauma and deeply tragic chapter of our history. The final thing I'll say on the topic was the land confiscation. Through English conquests and plantations, the ownership of land from native Irish went to English settlers.

I will get back to Brian Friel... The play, Dancing at Lughnasa was adapted into film in 1998, set in Donegal. It starred

Michael Gambon, Friel was named Donegal person of the year, 2010.

The Brian Friel Festival, titled, Friel Days, will be held in Derry, Donegal, and Tyrone this Summer. The festival will run for five years, from 2025 to 2029, with the first year focusing on five plays. It will feature readings, performances, and other events celebrating the works of the late playwright.

In 2006 President Mary McAleese presented Friel with a gold torc in recognition of his nomination to the position of Saoi by his fellow members of Aosdana. Saoi is the highest honor bestowed on someone in Aosdana. It is recognition of mastery in the arts.

Smidin Gaeilge Irish to Gaelic Art-ealain, performance-feidhmiochta, theater-amharclann

Stage-staitse "It is not the literal past,

the facts of history, that shape us but images of the past embodied in language" Friel

Something that escaped my memory last March and I feel it's never too late to rectify, a dear friend named Liz Lininger, a talented physical education teacher, brought it to my attention.

A very dear priest my husband has met named Fr. Paul Murray, O.P. from Newcastle, Co. Down has retired last year from teaching at St. Thomas Aquinas University in Rome. Fr. Murray is a Dominican priest, poet, writer and professor.

Liz's friend had the good fortune to have her wedding in Rome & officiated by Fr. Murray. Father, we hope your retirement is treating you well & thank you for all your faith, service & dedication to the Catholic community around the world.

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Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler



This month we trek to Co. Roscommon. There is actually a Roscommon, Michigan with a population of approximately 1,000 people. Roscommon is located in the province of Connacht. A big portion of the county is neighboring Galway & Mayo.

A news report said that statistically people from Roscommon have the longest life expectancy of any county in Ireland. I am not sure why Roscommon stands out or why it was awarded with that title. I have heard places like Monaco, Hong Kong and Japan have the highest rates of life expectancy in the world, I suppose it's clean environment and lifestyle.

Rathcroghan is a famous archaeological site in Roscommon, it's the home of Queen Maeve. She

is a popular figure in Irish mythology, the most famous story about Maeve was, "The Cattle Raid of Cooley", she was a warrior queen for Connacht. Rathcroghan was also the seat of the Kings of Connacht. There are also many ringforts such as Carnagh West ringfort and Drummin fort.

A historian and scholar named John O'Donovan from my area, Co. Kilkenny visited Co. Roscommon many years ago to do an Ordnance survey. He said, "entering St. Peter's parish in Athlone, I have not entered upon a region totally different from Longford and am very pleased with the intelligence of the people."

A few common surnames found in Roscommon include Brennan, Cox, Brady and O'Connor.

A few famous people from Roscommon include Christopher O'Dowd (actor), Albert Reynolds (former Taoiseach) and most importantly the first president of Ireland Dr. Douglas Hyde, a scholar, linguist, politician & polyglot, he spoke several languages including Gaelic, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, German (He married a German), French & English. He co-founded the Gaelic league, and he joined the Society of preservation of Irish language. He published over one hundred pieces of Irish verse.

I would like to share one of Hyde's famous poems. "I am Raftery". Anthony Raftery was a blind poet from Mayo. I chose this one because my wife, Mary of 58 years is also from Kiltimagh, Mayo. (may his memory be a blessing)

by Douglas Hyde

I am Raftery the poet,
Full of hope and love,
My eyes without sight,
My mind without torment.
Going west on my journey
By the light of my heart,
Tired and weary
To the end of the road.
Behold me now
With my back to a wall,
Playing music
To empty pockets.

Roscommon's GAA stadium is named Douglas Hyde Park. There is a gallery in Trinity named Hyde Gallery and there is Hyde Museum in Roscommon it was Hyde's father's former church.

This Summer I have been enjoying watching the Hurling matches with my son in law a Clare man, Mike, a great lover of the game.

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Burning of Cork City

The burning of Cork City Centre by the Black and Tans (Tans) in December of 1920 left a lasting anger with its citizens. The Fire resulted in destroying over a 100 businesses and homes leaving up to 2000 people losing their jobs and many families homeless. Iconic Buildings such as the Cork City Hall and the Carnegie Library were also destroyed. The Tans threatened to shoot Fire Fighters if they attempted to save the buildings and in fact cut their hoses to hamper their necessary work.

Curfew and Martial Law Enforced
Martial Law allowed the military to carry out further reprisals against the general population and to execute anyone who was arrested carrying arms. Despite the continuous danger Nan and Mamie's continued carrying arms and dispatches around the city and county on behalf of the Brigade.

Every night householders had to post on their doors the names and personal details of all occupants. If other occupants not listed were found on the property it was deemed an illegal gathering and all those present were arrested and the property ransacked, 'The Laurels' continued as a call and safe house putting the Hegarty family in consent danger.

RAIDS AND AMBUSHES ESCALATE
1921 was a very active time for the IRA in Cork with H company prominent. John Joe with his parents' consent was now also responsible for guarding Brigade Officers such as Sean Hegarty and others when they held meetings or staying overnight at 'The Laurels.' Hegarty was appointed Brigade CO after the tragic death of Terence MacSwiney.

Raids began early in the new year, John Joe supplied revolvers and ammunition for the Parnell Bridge ambush on the evening of the 4th of January. A party of 10 RIC men were returning to Union Quay headquarters which was then the main Police Barracks in the city. As they crossed the Bridge they came under gun and bomb attack, six RIC member were wounded with two later dying of their injuries.

In February there were several ambushes most notable on the 15th at the Train Station at Upton where unfortunately several IRA men under the command of Charlie Hurley the much-respected officer being shot. Hurley demonstrated his leadership qualities during this ambush by continuing to fight on despite being severely wounded.

On the 25th of February another ambush in West Cork at Coolavokig near Ballyvourney under the command of Sean Hegarty. It is reported that this was one of the biggest battles recorded at the time. The Crown Forces based in Macroom were on a rounding up exercise. As they travelled towards Ballyvourney they ran into the ambush which had been very well prepared. The attack lasted 2 hours and they had to fight a rearguard action all the way back to Macroom, for their safety the town was then put into lockdown.

Army reinforcements were rushed from Cork, Ballincollig and other nearby Barracks. They scoured the surrounding district making arrests, confining people to their homes and recovering their dead. In the aftermath several of the volunteers, now on the run, made their way to 'The Laurels' a safe house very familiar to Hegarty. There they were attended to by



Patrick and Elizabeth Hegarty who's home was the centre of Cork Brigade activities

Nan and family, they were fed, washed, their wounds attended to and given a place to rest. John and his father Patrick deliberately grew celery as it is grown in trenches, thus presenting a hiding place for men when a raid occurred. When the men were fit to leave, they disposed of their weapons if heading home and conversely rearmed if heading back to the column.

Prior to the Crossbarry ambush the siblings continued intelligence work for Tom Barry's column, a force of between 80 and 100 men. This ambush occurred the 19th of March when the column escaped encirclement by over 1000 British troops and auxiliaries. On one occasion Nan was lucky to escape capture by the military as she brought arms to Barry. It was during this ambush that the patriot Charlie Hurley was mortally wounded.

John Joe and H company despite the tragedy at Upton continued raiding the Macroom railway station for mail and ordinance.

In June John Joe and his men provided cover when Tuckey St RIC Barracks was raided and brought arms back to his arms dump at 'The Laurels' after the attack.

CEASEFIRE AND TRUCE AGREED
DeValera insisted on a truce as a condition before any negotiations of a Treaty between Ireland and Britain commenced. After the ceasefire a subsequent Truce was announced and ratified on the 11th of July 1921.

One of the last fatal actions of the war took

place in G and H companies' area namely Bandon Road, several British soldiers left their Barracks prior to the appointed time and were seen walking up Bandon Rd. When this was brought to the attention of local volunteers, they overpowered and subsequently executed them. Their bodies were only discovered the following day in a nearby Quarry.

The London Government were fuming by this event and insisted that Dublin should bring those responsible to account and punished for their actions. It fell to Conn Neenan the local officer to establish who was responsible and report back to Michael Collins in Dublin. Two of the executed soldiers were from the South Staffordshire's a regiment that was notorious in killing prisoners, unarmed volunteers and civilians. Their official excuse for many of the killings was "trying to escape from military capture". The other two were Royal Engineers. There had been several recent killings and slogans daubed on city walls 'Murdered by the Stafford Regiment - will be revenged tonight'

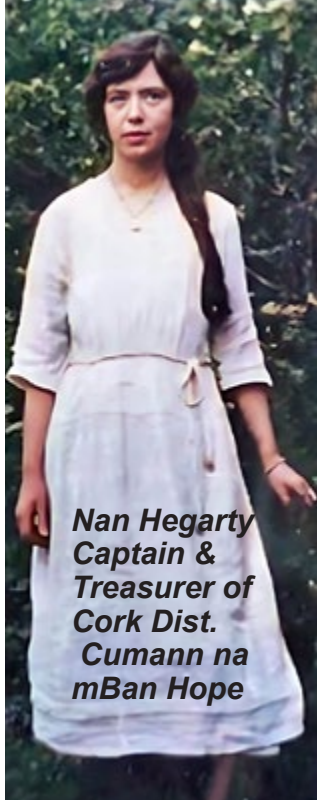
Neenan called a meeting at St Finbarr's GAA club, he advised that he had been ordered to find out who was responsible for the killings and report back to Michael Collins in Dublin. Nan told me that John Joe put it to Conn that if he was responsible for reporting back to Dublin who did he suggest would be responsible for relaying the news of his demise. There was no further discussion, and the meeting ended. Many years later when I had the opportunity to ask Conn about this story, he just smiled and nodded in the affirmative. Subsequently the finger was always pointed at Conn being responsible, something he always denied. It is accepted, that the local volunteers were responsible for the killings.

The killing of the soldiers happened a few days after another unarmed volunteer Denis Spriggs was taken from his home and murdered

The IRA believed that the British Forces were planning a further murder spree before the Truce commenced. The IRA decided to get their retaliation in first!

To Be Continued
The Treaty, Civil War & Aftermath
Jimhegartyauthor@gmail.com
Reference: *The Hegarty's of The Laurels - A Story of Unsung Heroism*

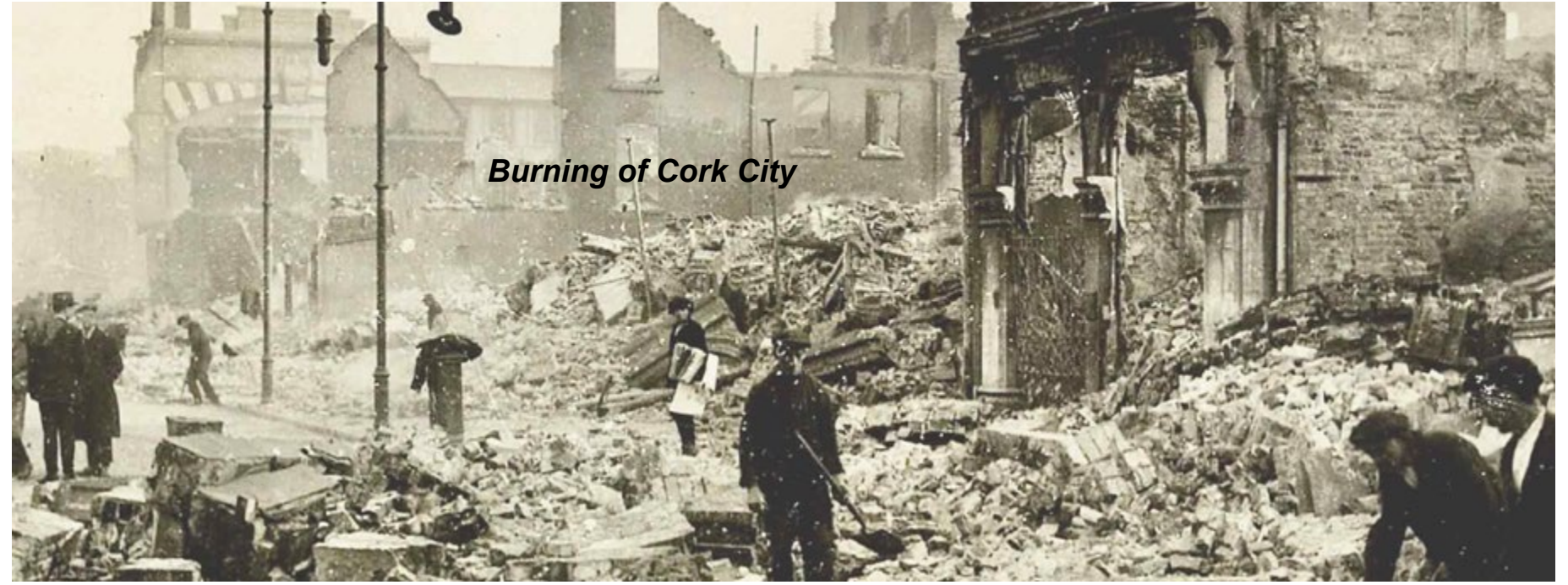
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Nan Hegarty Captain & Treasurer of Cork Dist. Cumann na mBan Hope



Executed British Soldiers



Burning of Cork City



Gaelic Imports Irish Shop and Bakery to Open New Coffee Cafe Next Door

Gary Henley and his wife, Sarah Folan, (pictured) will be opening a Coffee Cafe next to their store, Gaelic Imports located at 6346 W Gunnison St., Chicago.

The Henley's bought the store which has been at that location for many years, in fact, it's one of the oldest Irish Import stores in Chicagoland.

Stop in and check out the progress, and as soon as we know it will be opening we will let you know. Hours are Tues-Fri 10am to 7pm and Sat-Sun from 10 am to 5pm

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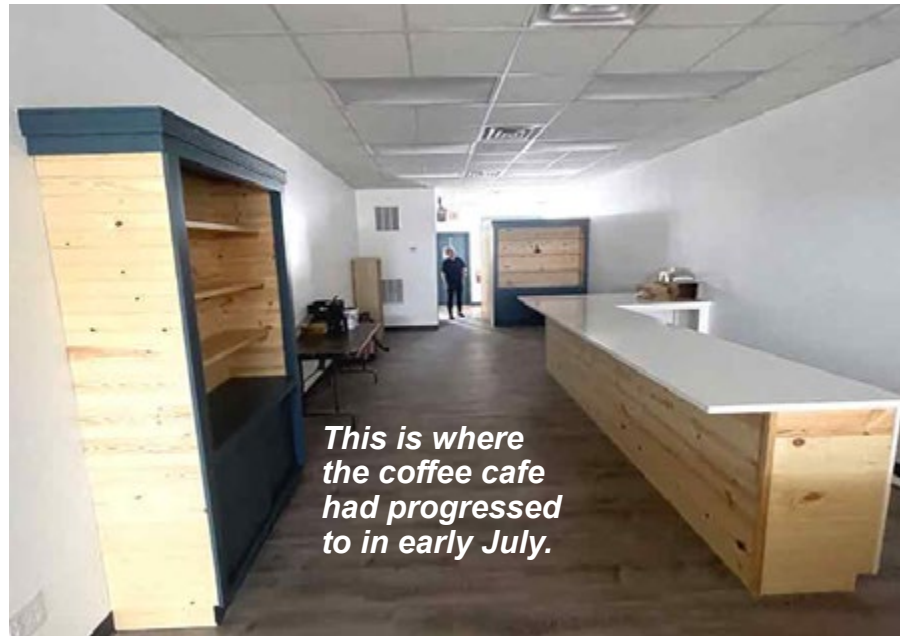
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This is where the coffee cafe had progressed to in early July.

From Dungeons and Dragons to Decanting, Geekery & Wine: "The First Case" Audio Book Uncorks a Rich 'Tapestry of Stories'

With his signature blend of dry wit, pop culture acuity and storytelling savvy, Colby Elliott serves up something truly original in *Geekery and Wine: The First Case*, an immersive audiobook where memoir meets fandom and every bottle tells a story.

A self-described "old-school nerd," Elliott takes listeners on a journey through the many roles he's played — father, friend, narrator, gamer, wine

Geekery and Wine: The First Case features an eclectic blend of Gen-X nostalgia and geek culture deep-dives paired with wine recommendations and behind-the-scenes commentary — occasionally accompanied by a celebrity name-drop.

The audiobook offers a warm and witty listening experience that will appeal to anyone who loves video games and graphic novels, as well as amateur sommeliers and those curious about audiobook production and narration.

So don a Dr. Who t-shirt, raise a glass and join Elliott for a nerd-powered journey through geek pastures, wine country and audiobook wizardry.

"The current world is tense and unpredictable. *Geekery and Wine* is about finding joy and sharing it with others," Elliott said.

Geekery & Wine: The First Case
 Publisher: Last Word Audio
 Audiobook & E-Book Release 8-11-25
<https://www.lastwordaudio.com>

The Big Fight: When Ali Conquered Ireland
 By Dave Hannigan
 Merrion Press ISBN: 9781785375460
 paperback 256pp \$29.99

In 1972, 'the Greatest' came to Ireland for 7 unforgettable days of charm & chaos leading up to his bout against Al 'Blue' Lewis at Croke Park in Dublin. In *The Big Fight*, award-winning journalist Dave Hannigan tells the thrilling story of Muhammad Ali's iconic visit.

On a balmy July eve in 1972, Muhammad Ali climbed through the ropes to fight Al 'Blue' Lewis at Croke Park. Who could have imagined that the fighter from Louisville, Kentucky would one day be at the headquarters of Gaelic games?

The most famous athlete in the world had somehow been inveigled to Ireland by Butty Sugrue, a charismatic entrepreneur who was ridiculed for trying to do the impossible right up to the moment Ali and his entourage touched down at Dublin Airport. And so began a week of the most glorious



mayhem, as 'the Greatest' charmed the Irish people. Ali could be found jogging along Wicklow lanes, strolling into The Old Stand pub, chatting with street cleaners, and paying an early morning visit to the GPO to receive a history lesson about the Easter Rising. No matter where he fetched up, wonderful chaos ensued. Traffic stopped. Crowds gathered. The greatest show on earth had come to town.

Conducting interviews with dozens of those Ali met and worked with, Dave Hannigan has pieced together an enthralling narrative of one of the most unique events in Irish sporting history.

About the Author: Born in Cork city, Dave Hannigan was an Irish Young Journalist of the Year. Starting at *The Sunday Tribune*, he now writes a weekly sports column in *The Irish Times*. He has also worked for the *Evening Echo*, *The Irish Echo*, *The Sunday Times* and the *Irish Daily Mail*. Hannigan lives in Long Island, NY.



The live-action version of *How to Train Your Dragon* has now earned over \$560 million worldwide, so it's no surprise that a sequel has been announced for 2027.

That's good news for the Irish movie industry too, as this first remake of the hit animated trilogy was shot across a number of locations in Ireland - doubling

She will star alongside Ko Ah-sung (Snowpiercer) and Nam-soon's Sungsoo Yune (Strong Girl) in *Nervous*, which is based on an original screenplay by Pastoll and co-writer Richard Hobley. Plot details have yet to be revealed, but the film is described as a psychological horror about a woman "spiraling into a seductive nightmare as she navigates a troubled marriage and disorientating cultural differences in Korea."

More news too about Leo Earley, the young actor from Leitrim who has been revealed as the choice to place Seamus Finnigan in the upcoming HBO Harry Potter TV series. He'll join newcomers Dominic McLaughlin, Arabella Stanton and Alastair Stout, who were recently announced to be playing Harry Potter, Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley, respectively.

The cast also includes John Lithgow as Professor Dumbledore, Janet McTeer as Professor McGonagall, Paapa Essiedu as Professor Snape, Nick Frost as Rubeus Hagrid, Paul Whitehouse as Argus Filch and Luke Thallon as Quirinus Quirrell. Filming takes place in the UK this summer.

for the fictional lane of "Berk" - at Dunseverick Castle on the North Antrim coast, Tollymore Forest in County Down, the Giant's Causeway, and at the Harbour Studios and Titanic Studios in Belfast.

Your kids are almost certainly familiar with Berk, but for those not: Vikings and dragons have been bitter enemies for generations, but Hiccup (Mason Thames), the overlooked son of Chief Stoick (Butler) strikes out on his own, defying centuries of tradition when he befriends Toothless, a feared Night Fury dragon.

With the fierce and ambitious Astrid (Nico Parker) and the village's quirky blacksmith Gobber (Nick Frost) by his side, Hiccup confronts a world split by fear and misunderstanding, and when an ancient threat emerges, endangering both Vikings and dragons, Hiccup's friendship with Toothless becomes the key to forging a new future for everyone.

On the other side of the world, Dublin-born actress Sarah Bolger is currently filming in the South Korean capital Seoul for a new psychological horror film directed by Abner Pastoll.

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September IAN Cover Story
Seafield Hotel and Spa Resort



Going to Ireland This Summer With the Kids?

You might want to visit Jurassic Newpark farm and adventure trail. Set on 25 acres of landscaped gardens & parkland, Newpark Hotel is already a resort-like destination with so many on-site attractions meaning you don't have to leave the hotel unless you want to. Introducing one of Ireland's only dinosaur-themed parks right here on the Newpark grounds in Kilkenny features an interactive walk-through dinosaur experience with life-sized (robotic) dinosaurs that move and roar. Dinosaurs are once again roaming the land at the luxury 4-star Newpark Hotel. Jurassic Newpark is located at the rear of the Newpark Hotel, through the back carpark. Climb Ireland's Tallest Playground Tower, Fly with the Pterosaurs and Spot Dinosaurs from Above at Newpark Hotel This Summer

A multi-award-winning favourite with families across Ireland, Jurassic Newpark has expanded once again this season with the addition of a magical, medieval-themed playground where little princes and princesses can let their imaginations run wild. The towering castle structure provides panoramic views across the park – and might just reveal a dinosaur or two hiding in the trees! Meanwhile, visitors can soar skyward on the Flying Pterosaur ride or climb aboard the Jurassic Express for a whistle-stop tour through time, passing life-size, roaring animatronic dinosaurs including the thunderous T-Rex, towering Brachiosaurus, and lightning-fast Velociraptor.

For more information or to book a visit go online to newparkhotelkilkenny.com or call +353 56 7760500

By Jim August

Thought for Food

Hot enough for you? Our temperatures over the last two months have generally been above normal. As of July 2nd we have had 17 consecutive days of above average temperatures with more to come. This weather is kind of like summer in Florida, hot, humid, and thunderstorms popping up in the afternoon. There are things growing in my garden that I have never seen before. My mums that are usually fall plants have buds. I have a small apple tree that last year produced about 8 apples. This year I have

deals. Melons of every kind, plumcots which are a hybrid of the plum and apricot, nectarines and peaches both yellow and white, blackberries, blueberries, and strawberries, all on sale, and great for snacking, baking or salads. This week I saw peaches, and raspberries, which I love, on sale for .99 and decided to do a twist on a classic frangipane tart. I normally would do this as a fall dish and use poached pears, but the combination of peaches and raspberries is a huge flavor bomb and screams summer.



counted about 30, and it seems that I am always cutting the grass and weeding.

That's what's great about Chicago. The weather is always a news event and we always complain that it is either too hot or too cold. Another thing that's great about Chicago are the weekly sales from the grocery stores and the local farmers markets. When I think of summer I think of watermelon, and grilling. My mom used to do spit roasted chicken on the BBQ with corn on the cob and always slices of cold watermelon.

There are all sorts of fruits available in the stores and you can get some really great

This recipe has a few steps as most baked items do, but don't let that put you off. The end result is worth the effort. If you were to buy a similar tart from one of the boutique bakeries you would easily pay \$35-\$45. The cost of this recipe is \$8-\$10 for a 10-12 inch tart and your guests will love it.

Remember read the entire recipe first before starting. There are a few steps that need resting in the refrigerator. If you do these first it will save you some time.

Peach and Raspberry Frangipane Tart
serves 10-12
Pastry
1.5 cups of flour

½ cup almond flour, or ½ cup of blanched skinless almonds and ¼ cup of sugar pulsed in a food processor until finely blended

6 oz cold unsalted butter cut into cubes
1/3 cup ice cold water
1 tablespoon sugar if using plain almond flour pinch of salt

Combine flour and almond flour, sugar and salt in a food processor. Pulse until combined. Add butter and process until mixture resembles small peas. Add enough water to hold mixture together. Wetter is better than dry. You can always add more flour when forming and rolling. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate 20-30 minutes.

Frangipane
1 cup almond flour- ¾ cup blanched almonds and ½ cup sugar
1 stick 1 tablespoon unsalted butter

½ teaspoon almond extract
5 egg yolks
1/3 cup cake flour
Process the almonds and sugar in a food processor. Transfer to the bowl of a stand mixer. Add butter and mix using the paddle attachment beat on low speed until incorporated. Add almond extract, the egg yolks one at a time until completely combined. Mix in cake flour until mixture is smooth. Remove from bowl and refrigerate until needed.

2/3 cup raspberry preserves. I like to heat the preserve and press it through a sieve to remove the seeds.

1 ½ pounds medium peaches.
Take a sharp knife and make an x in the bottom of the peaches. Place in a pot of boiling water for 5 minutes. Remove peaches and cool in cold water. Peel peaches a cut into ½ slices. Place in a bowl with the juice of ½ lemon ½ cup sugar ¼ cup flour, 1/8 teaspoon of ground ginger, and a pinch of nutmeg.

Mix and place in a strainer for 25 minutes.
1 pint fresh raspberries

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1/3 cup sliced almonds
Remove dough from refrigerator. On a floured surface roll out dough turning a quarter turn at a time to form a circle large enough to fit into a removable tart pan. Press dough up the sides and crimp by pressing the rolling pin over the tart. Make sure there is sufficient dough on the sides of the tart.

Place in the refrigerator for 20 minutes to chill. Spread the raspberry preserve over the bottom of the tart shell. Top with dollops of the frangipane and smooth out with a spatula covering

the bottom of the tart. Place peaces in concentric circle from the outside to the center. Do the same with the raspberries pointed side up. Scatter the sliced almonds around the peaches and raspberries. Bake at 350 degrees for 60 minutes or until frangipane is set and crust is golden brown.

As I had mentioned, you can substitute the peaches with pears poached in white wine and sugar, and a stick of cinnamon. Reduce and strain the poaching liquid to make a glaze for the tart.
Happy Eating!

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Traveling Under Trump: What Irish Immigrants & U.S. Citizens Should Know

For many families in the Irish diaspora, summer is usually a time to visit family back home or take a well-earned vacation abroad. But under Trump's second term, even the most routine international travel has become stressful or even genuinely risky.

At McEntee Law Group, we have heard from people who hold different U.S. immigration statuses suddenly feeling unsafe

leaving and returning to the U.S. It is not just temporary visa holders who are nervous; longtime green card holders and even naturalized U.S. citizens have voiced concerns about what might happen to them at the airport.

Their concern is understandable. Since returning to office, the Trump Administration has expanded immigration enforcement in alarming and inhumane ways. Even individuals who have held

green cards or citizenship for many years, are reporting longer questioning at airports, invasive searches of their phones, and in some cases, being detained without a valid explanation.

Here are some things to keep in mind before you travel internationally this summer.

You Can Be Seized

One major shift in this Administration's approach to travel has been the increase in searches of electronic devices. At the U.S. border, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers have broad authority, including the right to search your phone, laptop, and social media accounts. These searches are often conducted at random; meaning you do not need to be accused of anything, and officers do not need a warrant to conduct initial searches in many cases.

While CBP insists these searches are rare, reports suggest otherwise. For instance, we have received reports of people being targeted because of their social media posts or even private messages. In more alarming scenarios, some tourists have reported being detained for days.

Even more troubling is that these incidents have not been limited to tourists and temporary visa holders. American citizens and permanent residents are also increasingly being pulled aside for questioning. This raises broader concerns by visitors, permanent residents, and citizens alike over increasingly invasive search tactics and potential profiling based on politics, religion, or country of origin at the U.S. border.

So, what does this mean for you?

If you are a temporary visa holder or tourist, refusing to unlock your device could result in being denied entry.

Green card holders may be detained longer but cannot be turned away at the border for refusing access.

U.S. citizens also cannot be denied entry, but that does not always stop CBP from making the process difficult.

What to Watch Out For

If you have a temporary visa that entitles you to live and work in the U.S., you have the right to return after international travel but could still be subject to heightened scrutiny.

Even if you are a lawful permanent resident, it is important to be cautious and avoid being abroad for longer

than several months at a time. If you need to go abroad for longer, consider applying for and obtaining an approved re-entry permit before you leave the U.S.

One particularly troubling trend is reports of CBP officers pressuring green card holders to sign forms which give up their residency if they have been overseas for long periods of time. In some cases, these residents are led to believe that they will not be allowed into the country unless they sign, but this is not true.

While spending more than six months outside the U.S. can raise questions, CBP cannot revoke your green card on the spot. You have the right to a hearing before an immigration judge. If you encounter this scenario, do not sign anything you do not fully understand. If you feel pressured to sign, tell the officer you wish to speak with a lawyer.

We have also heard from naturalized U.S. citizens who were detained for hours after being asked to unlock their phones or questioned about their political views. Other travelers have reported instances of CBP officers appearing to treat certain individuals differently based on their country of origin, political views, and even their last name.

Remember, U.S. citizens cannot be denied entry, but CBP may still pull you aside, search your belongings, and make your experience more stressful. You do not have to unlock your phone if they ask, but you can be detained for longer if you refuse.

Be Prepared

Wherever this summer takes you, it is important now more than ever to stay informed and prepared. Here are a few tips to protect your privacy and minimize issues after international travel:

Before you travel, take a close look at your electronic devices and ask yourself what is stored on them and whether that information really needs to come with you.

Delete anything sensitive, use a PIN or password for screen unlocking as opposed

to biometrics or facial recognition, store private information to a cloud network when possible, and consider temporarily removing social media account apps. Think about your phone the same way you think about your luggage: if you would not feel comfortable showing something to a border officer, do not travel with it.

Review your online presence and consider removing posts or comments that could make you a target for additional scrutiny or are inconsistent with information you have provided to U.S. immigration service in the past.

Make sure your paperwork is in order. Green card holders should carry documentation of your ties to the U.S. If you're a U.S. citizen, bringing a backup ID can't hurt, even on domestic flights.

International students should make special considerations. Consular officers have been told to treat limited online visibility as a red flag and to ask student visa applicants to make their social media accounts public.

If you are questioned, stay calm, firm, and polite. If you anticipate any issues, consider consulting with an immigration attorney in advance.

Final Thoughts

The Trump Administration has prioritized aggressive enforcement over efficiency, due process, or human decency. Travel that used to be routine now feels risky and overwhelming. But if you feel that way, you are not alone, and you are not powerless.

Whether you are a U.S. citizen, green card holder, or temporary visa holder, you still have rights. The challenge is that under this Administration, your rights might not always be recognized. This is why preparation matters so much.

If you are unsure about the pros and cons of an upcoming international trip you have planned, contact an experienced immigration attorney or legal team for advice. Do not rely exclusively on what you read on the internet or even advanced search engine tools like ChatGPT. Policies can change on a near weekly basis, so it is important to stay in-the-know. A quick conversation with an experienced legal team could help you avoid major problems later. Until then, pack light, plan smart, and never assume that "it won't happen to me." Preparation and staying informed is your best ally in uncertain times like these.

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Game On!
By Chris Wheaton



It's always difficult writing about an event that will be completed by the time you are reading this, but I do feel some obligation to mention the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship which will be contested on July 20. A sold out, raucous crowd at Croke Park will be treated to some fantastic hurling between two Munster powerhouses, Cork and Tipperary. The road to the final was much easier for last year's runner-up, Cork, as they routed Dublin 7-26 to 2-21. That drubbing set up the Rebels nicely for what should be an intense showdown with Tipp, who squeaked by Kilkenny 4-20 to 0-30. That match was marred with some controversy as the official scorer (and scoreboard) showed that during the final 3 minutes of the game Kilkenny was down by 3 instead of 2 as they actually were. Kilkenny desperately tried for a tying goal when they only needed 2 points, but human error has always been a part of sport and the replay the fans demanded was never going to happen. Some fault should also lie with the sideline crew of Kilkenny's own team. Every match I have ever played we had at least one on-field referee had it right.

According to my calculations, Cork has hoisted the Liam MacCarthy Cup 30 times and Tipperary have had the pleasure on 28 occasions. Whoever prevails on the 20th will inch closer to Kilkenny's 36 titles. I suspect however that it will take quite some time for any county to match Kilkenny as this proud hurling county has been in a championship drought since 2015 but appears to be heading in the right direction.

To avoid the wrath of the football fans out there I must give some acknowledgement to the semi-finals being played this coming weekend (July 12 and 13). Match one pits Kerry vs. Tyrone and the

following day we will see Meath vs. Donegal. I am by no means a football expert, but my "sources" tell me that both Kerry and Donegal are favorites to advance to the final on July 27 to compete for the coveted Sam Maguire Cup. I'm sure to give a recap for the September edition of this publication.

In other news, a bunch of us had a great puc around the other night and enjoyed a few cold beverages afterwards. Anyone who is interested should reach out to me and if you meet our "strict criteria" I will let you in on the action. We are a group of hurlers who played in the past but are more interested in the half pace game which is

Chicago GAA is Creating the GAA Hall of History

Have you got a bit of Irish heritage running through your veins? Well, we've got something special brewing at Chicago Gaelic Park that'll warm your heart like a pint of Guinness on a cold winter's day!

The Chicago GAA are creating something truly magical - the GAA Hall of History right here in Chicagoland! After 125 years of hurling, football, and fierce Irish pride, they're finally bringing all those wonderful memories together under one roof.

Now here's where YOU come in, friends! Do you have an old jersey tucked away in the attic? Maybe some faded newspaper clippings of championship matches? Perhaps a medal or trophy gathering dust that once made your relatives beam with pride? Well, dust them off because the GAA Hall of History needs YOUR treasures to bring this exhibit to life!

You see, many of our beloved clubs have

taking off in Ireland.

If you are capable of leaving your ego at the door and are not narcissistic like some hurlers we know, you are welcome to join us. It is about the comradeship and having a few laughs while also hitting the sliotar around for a bit. No organized drills, no Board of Directors who couldn't direct a one car funeral, no hacks thinking they are better than they really are, and no grand illusions of winning anything when that is an impossibility is the name of the game. Hurling is the greatest sport in the world and if you long for your glory days get in touch with me at chriswheaton1@icloud.com. We will not judge you or make you feel unwelcome, and we certainly won't pillage the fun out of it for you.

There's a collection box marked "GAA Hall of History" waiting for you in the front office at Gaelic Park. Just pop your items in there, and you'll be part of making history!

Need more information? Give Tom Dolan a ring at 708-214-9059, or reach out to Christine at 630-930-9117, or Mary Therese Murphy at 312-501-8161. You can also drop them a line at info@chicagogaahallofhistory.us.

This project has been over 125 years in the making, and as they say at the Park - what was "once a dream is now becoming reality!" So help us celebrate our rich GAA heritage and make this Hall of History something truly special.

remember - every piece of history matters!



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Taking time in the summer to rest and relax is important for the soul. Inevitably, though, there are so many things that one wants to accomplish that rest may come second to travels, parties, beaches, fests, pools, and other summer activities. I always feel like I have to fit so much in, and at times, summer can be a whirlwind.

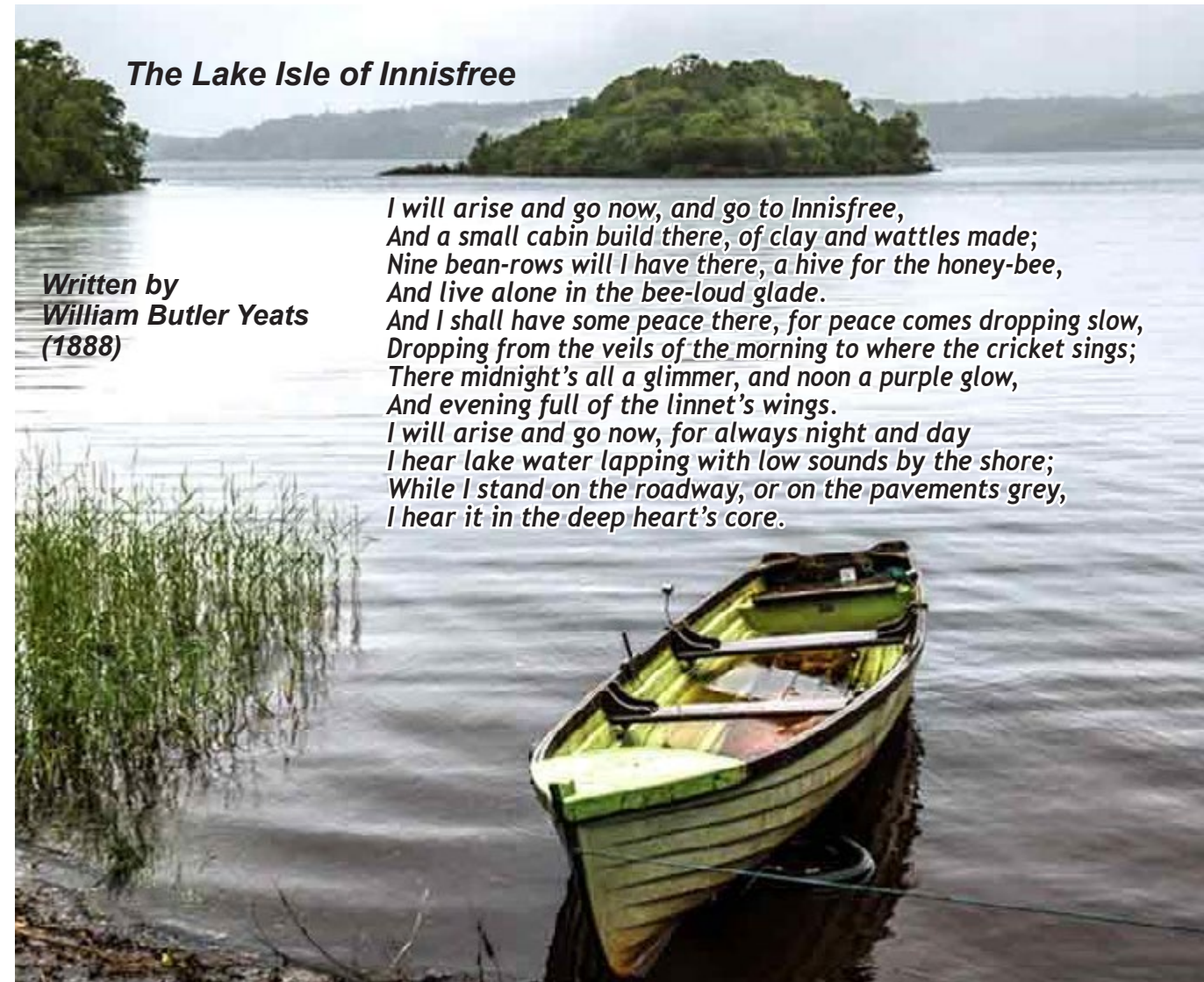
Reading poems is not something I do often, but years ago I heard a "Cherish the Ladies" song called "The Lake Isle of Innisfree." This beautiful song is a poem written by the very famous Irish poet William Butler Yeats. Aoife Clancy, a fantastic musician and daughter of Bobby Clancy of The Clancy Brothers, composed and sang the music to this poem. It is the one poem in my life that I have memorized. Each time I think of it or say the words, or hear the song, I get immediately transported to this place of calm. The poem gets its title from a small uninhabited island in Lough Gill, in the county of Sligo, Ireland, where Yeats visited as a child. In this poem, the speaker wants a simple life, finding peace with nature. There are many deep meanings to Yeats' poem that allude to nature and solitude bringing spiritual peace. It is also clear that the speaker is unable to leave the city "pavements grey" and feels the calling of Innisfree in his "deep heart's core."

This poem inspires me and encourages me. A cabin on an island in Ireland does sound tempting, but I would not want to be there alone or with all the bees he mentions, as I have a fear of bees! This poem does inspire me to press pause and just find a little quiet. This poem helps me to imagine this place in County

Sligo and actually feel the tranquility if only for a few minutes. It also encourages me to find peace in the warm summer nights, in the children playing outside chasing fireflies, in walks in the sunshine, and in sunsets. William Butler Yeats had many things to say with this poem, but to me, it is a reminder to enjoy the present and not rush. I will leave you all with this

beautiful and moving poem that Yeats gave us so many years ago, but it still rings true. This may be the one poem you go on to memorize, feel a connection with, or that reminds you to just enjoy summer. With a poem

like this and listening to Aoife Clancy sing it, you never know the journey you will go on.



The Lake Isle of Innisfree

Written by William Butler Yeats (1888)

*I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.
And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.
I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.*

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THE SOUNDS OF IRELAND TAKE CENTER STAGE AT THE IAHC

This summer, the Irish American Heritage Center invites you to experience the magic of Irish music, community, and culture with an exciting lineup of events. Whether you're a longtime member or a first-time visitor, the Center has something for everyone—from internationally acclaimed musicians to lively pub sessions and community traditions.



THE KILKENNYS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20 | 7:00PM

Get ready for an unforgettable evening with The Kilkennys, Ireland's dynamic balladeers known for breathing new life into traditional Irish folk music. With high-energy performances, intricate harmonies, and a modern flair, this internationally renowned group delivers a show that's not to be missed.

TICKETS \$25 IAHC Members | \$30 Non-Members



COLM KEEGAN
THURSDAY, AUGUST 8 | 7:00PM

Award-winning Irish singer and former Celtic Thunder member Colm Keegan brings his soulful voice and heartfelt storytelling to the Irish American Heritage Center for an intimate performance. With a mix of original songs, classic ballads, and powerful vocals, Keegan has won fans around the world and continues to inspire audiences with his passion for Irish music and culture.

TICKETS \$25 IAHC Members | \$30 Non-Members

RISE & DINE - SUNDAY MASS & FULL IRISH BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 | MASS BEGINS: 10:00AM

Experience the joy of community and tradition at our next monthly Mass in the Mayfair Theatre, followed by a hearty Full Irish Breakfast in the Fifth Province Pub! Mass is free and open to all. Afterward, enjoy classic Irish favorites plus a few fun breakfast surprises. While attending Mass is not required to enjoy the Irish breakfast, please note that breakfast service will begin only after Mass concludes and the pub doors open. Join us for prayer, pancakes, and pudding—this is how Sunday mornings should feel! RSVP is encouraged—either by purchasing tickets online or calling us at 773-282-7035 (ext 10).

BREAKFAST TICKETS \$30 Adults | \$15 Children (12 & under)



TEE OFF FOR A CAUSE - GOLFING FORE GREEN
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 | 8:00AM

Join us for our annual Golfing Fore Green outing at the Billy Caldwell Golf Course! Enjoy a morning on the course with fellow IAHC supporters while raising funds for cultural programming. Tickets include 9 holes of golf, a cart, and a complimentary lunch at the Irish American Heritage Center. Plus—on-course contests, raffle prizes, and sponsorship opportunities available!

TICKETS \$85 Individual | \$300 Foursome



THURSDAY NIGHT SESSION
EVERY THURSDAY | 7:00PM

Don't miss Chicago's most popular traditional Irish music sessions every Thursday in the Fifth Province Pub! Enjoy live music from some of the city's most talented Irish musicians, hearty pub fare, cold drinks, and great company. Admission is free, and the atmosphere is unbeatable.

FREE | The pub opens at 6:00pm, Sessions begin at 7:00pm



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hi everyone,
Hope you're enjoying your summer so far—we've had a busy one here at the Irish American Heritage Center!

First off, a big thank you to all who voted in our recent Board of Directors election.

Your support helps keep things moving forward, and we truly appreciate it.

Please join me in congratulating the return of **Dominick Owens** and **Moira Cahill**, and giving a warm welcome to our newest board members, **Geno Cooney** and **Anne Marie Herlehy**. We're lucky to have such a great crew joining (and rejoining) the team.

WE'VE GOT LOTS GOING ON:

- **The Young Irish Fellowship Club's Bags Tournament** took place on Saturday, July 27 and was a fantastic afternoon of Irish entertainment, music, food, and friendly competition. The outdoor event brought in a great crowd, with teams battling it out for bragging rights and enjoying the sunshine before heading to the Fifth Province for a lively afterparty.
- On Sunday, July 20, we hosted a beautiful **Mass and Irish Breakfast**, and wow—it was a hit! Huge thanks to **Father Scott Donahue** for leading Mass, the **Hanley family** for helping out, and PJ and the kitchen crew for an amazing spread.
- Get ready for **Colm Keegan** on August 8 and **The Kilkennys** on August 20—two incredible shows you won't want to miss. Grab your tickets now on our website before they're gone.
- And of course, our annual **Golfing Fore Green** outing is coming up on Saturday, September 13 at Billy Caldwell. Golf, lunch, laughs, and maybe a little healthy competition—all for a great cause. Tickets are live on our website.

That same weekend, we'll be celebrating **Halfway to St. Patrick's Day**—yes, it's already that time again. Details coming soon, but you know it'll be a blast.

And hey—Christmas isn't that far away. Our elves (aka staff and volunteers) are already prepping for holiday events. Don't forget to swing by the **Gift Shop** for Irish treasures, hang out with **PJ in the Pub**, and enjoy live music in the **Fifth Province** all season long.

Last but not least, we'll soon be announcing the Center's next **Executive Director**. Big things ahead, folks.

We also want to give a huge shoutout to **Mike Galvin** and **Sean McDonough** for their years of dedication and hard work. You'll still catch them around the Pub—buy them a pint and thank them for everything they've done for the Center!

On the executive side of things: I'm honored to be returning as **President** of the board for another year. **Dominick Owens** is back as **Vice President**, **Anne Marie Herlehy** is stepping up as our new **Secretary**, and the always-awesome **Mike Lepore** is joining the team as **Treasurer**. We're excited for what's ahead—and as always, a big thank you to **PJ O'Connor**, our General Manager and all-around rockstar, for keeping things running behind the scenes.

Thanks for sticking with us, supporting us, and making this place so special. Let's keep building something great together.

GOD BLESS and GO IRISH!!!!!!!

Thomas "Tom" Herion
Board President IAHC 2025-2026
therion@irishahc.org



IAHC GIFT SHOP

HOURS | THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 4:00–8:00PM
SATURDAY: 10:00AM–4:00PM

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Browse handcrafted items made by our own Nimble Thimbles, including hand-sewn quilts, aprons, and face masks. You'll also find cozy woolens from Aran Mills, classic Irish caps, candles and diffusers from Inis, and even authentic turf from Ireland to bring the scent of home to your fireplace.

Our inventory is always changing, so there's something new to discover every time you visit.

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



Looking for the perfect Christmas gift? Enter to win a one-of-a-kind, hand-stitched quilt from IAHC's Nimble Thimble quilters! This year's piece, titled "Phases", is an 86-inch square, all-cotton quilt valued at over \$500.

Raffle ticket packages start at just \$10—less than the cost of a pint of Guinness—

and are available now through December 8, when the drawing will take place. Own a piece of functional Irish art or gift it to someone special this winter season.

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“ The first time I entered through the doors of the Irish American Heritage Center was probably during one of the Summer Irish Fests. My mother loved coming to the fest—she enjoyed shopping, listening to the music, watching the young gals dance, and of course, sipping her Harp.

We also came for St. Patrick's Day and the occasional Mass. But after she passed, I didn't visit as often, even though I live less than a mile away.

A few years ago, on one of my visits, I had the great opportunity to talk with some of the gals from the **Nimble Thimbles Sewing Group**. They encouraged me to check out their workshop and told me about the annual raffle quilt they make together. They said the workspace was big and friendly... and they were absolutely right—it was all of that and more.

Now, we meet every Tuesday and Saturday from 10 to noon(ish). We sew, crochet, knit, tat, plot, and plan. All proceeds from our creations go back to support the Irish American Heritage Center.

In addition to the raffle quilt, we also create a wide variety of craft items that are sold at many of the Center's events and gatherings.

The Center has given me something truly special: a sense of community, lasting friendships, and an outlet for my hobbies that I get to share with friends. It's become a second home—and I'm so grateful for it. ”

— Debbie Montgomery



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- The right to vote for IAHC Board of Directors
- Members in good standing for three out of five consecutive years can run for IAHC Board of Directors
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- 10% off in the IAHC Gift Shop on non-sale and non-food items, and food in the Fifth Province
- Member only discounted tickets for concerts and shows
- The right to vote for IAHC Board of Directors
- Members in good standing for three out of five consecutive years can run for IAHC Board of Directors
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Much More Than Leprechauns

By Sheryl O'Sullivan



The Rattlin' Bog

As many of you know immediately from the title, this vibrant picture book is based on an old Irish folk song, The Rattlin' Bog.

The song begins with a rattlin' bog that is "down in the valley-o". Then it builds on this bog, page by page, by adding a rattlin' tree, a rattlin' branch, a rattlin' nest, a rattlin' egg, a rattlin' bird, and a rattlin' seed until it comes full circle to produce another rattlin' tree.

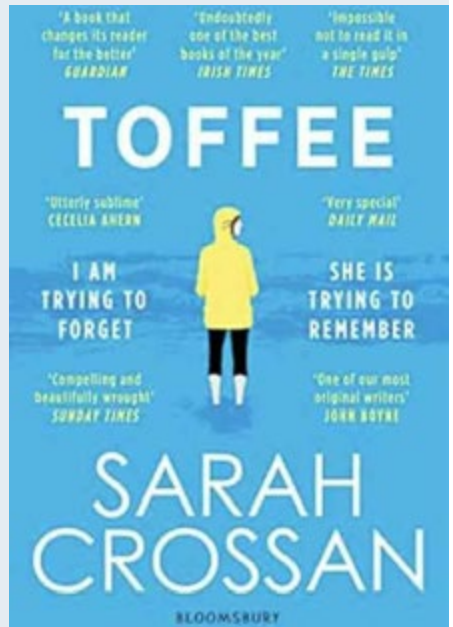
The book can be enjoyed as the playful song it is, but the last few pages provide additional facts about what a bog is, what sorts of creatures live there, and why we should want to preserve our bogs.

TOFFEE written by Sarah Crossan, uses poetry in a completely different way from The Rattlin' Bog.

very important and difficult themes. The plot brings together two characters who are both dealing with trials of their own.

During the time Allison is hiding out with Marla, the two become friends and the help actually flows in both directions.

Eventually, Marla's condition becomes worse, and she must be moved to a nursing home which means Allison is forced to come to terms with her father's abuse and her own real identity.



to recognize what she wants and who she is.

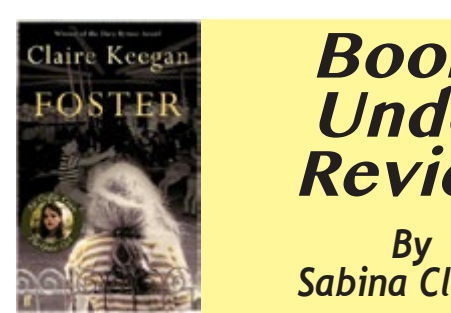
This book is a wonder by a previous Laureate na n'Og who uses the poetry format to present numerous difficult topics.

Poetry is a wonderful genre for saying a great deal with few words. The strong language and difficult themes of this book make it suitable for older kids, perhaps young adults, but the limited words and ample white space on each page mean that even older kids who struggle a bit with reading can have success with this book.

NO MORE WAR by James Carroll

I first met Father Daniel Berrigan at a poetry reading in 1965. I was 22. Writing, I sensed from him, could be an act of worship.

Like so many, the arc of my life took its shape more, perhaps, from his example, his words, and ultimately his friendship than from any other figure.



Books Under Review By Sabina Clarke

loose in the far-away country, like ravaging war dogs. Johnson, recall, had been elected as the peace candidate the year before.

Daniel Berrigan, too, was associated

to be here at this celebration as Orbis Books pays its splendid tribute to Father Berrigan? That my partner in this precious act is James Forest seasons the awe I feel with pure joy at what, for me, is a long overdue reunion.

You know the story. But it is worth rehearsing. Our Church's story. Our nation's story. And Dan's.

Bear with me if I presume to suggest that the story began a thousand years ago with the cry of a Pope. "God wills it!" declared Pope Urban II in the fall of 1095, the spark that ignited the first crusade - the beginning of a two hundred year-long holy war that sacralized violence, demonized Islam, launched Europe's first anti-Jewish pogroms, and put the Roman Catholic Church on the side of those who hold that the answer to killing is more killing.

Flash forward a full millennium. "God wills it!" finally had its rebuttal in the cry of another Pope - Paul VI, who, at the United Nations in 1965, cried "No more war! War never again!" That world-historic proclamation was brought to life in the Catholic imagination and in the American imagination by no one more than by Daniel Berrigan.

with the Catholic Worker, and, like Jim Forest, he might well have called the great Dorothy Day his mentor. Dan had in no way encouraged Roger LaPorte's action, had never approved his self-killing.

We have just been through the D-Day commemorations, and once again the honoring of ordinary soldiers, sailors, and airmen for valor - and Omaha Beach was rife with valor - has reinforced American myopia about the larger evil of war, especially war in the nuclear age.

Dan Berrigan's own "noncompliance" began with his arrest, with hundreds of others, at the Pentagon in October, 1967. I was there, although not with Dan, and certainly not arrested.



The Emerald Bench: The History of the Irish American Justices on the Supreme Court

Author Sean Meehan

Twenty-five Irish Americans who have served as Supreme Court justices and shaped the highest court in the land.

From the Supreme Court's first session in 1790 to today, Irish Americans have maintained a near-constant presence on the Supreme Court bench, shaping the law and the course of American history.

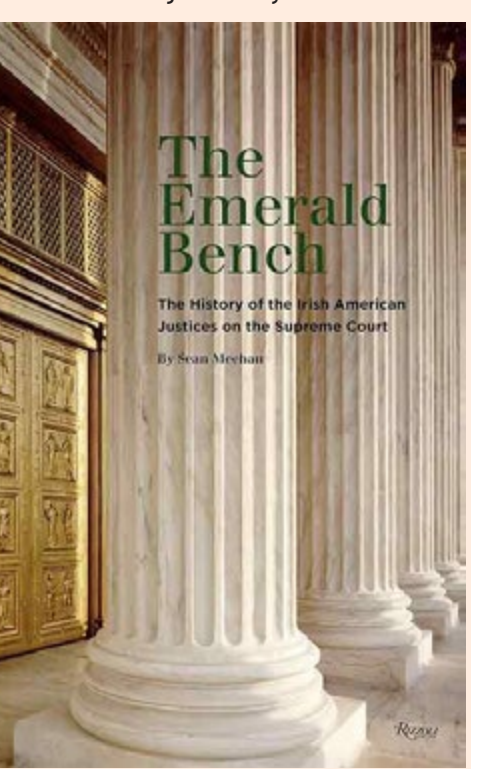
Complemented by archival images published for the first time, and set against the backdrop of major historical periods, the chapters trace how each justice's unique family history impacted their rise to the highest court and shaped their judicial philosophies.

Timely and insightful, this book is a must for anyone interested in American and legal history or Irish American heritage.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sean Meehan is an Irish American

writer based in Washington, DC. The Supreme Court Historical Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and collecting the history of the Supreme Court of the United States.



Publish Date: September 23, 2025
Format: Hardcover
Category: Law - Legal History
Publisher: Rizzoli
Trim Size: 9 x 12
Pages: 256
US Price: \$50.00
CDN Price: \$67.50
ISBN: 978-0-8478-7448-4

Clancy's PIZZA PUB advertisement with menu items and contact info.

Clancy's 103rd GAMING NOW 7AM advertisement with 'HIT THE JACKPOT!' headline.

Grammy-nominated Singer Éabha McMahon Announces the 3rd annual Celtic World Forum

A Celebration of Celtic Music and Culture
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Hotel & Conference Centre

Killiney, Co.Dublin, Ireland
October 21st, 22nd & 23rd 2025
Éabha McMahon is thrilled to announce the return of the Celtic

World Forum, an extraordinary annual event that celebrates the vibrant traditions of Celtic music. This highly anticipated three-day



L-R: Eabha McMahon, Madeline Monaghan, Catriona Sherlock, Susan McFadden, Megan Walsh, Eimear Quinn, Tara Howley, Mairead Nesbitt

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festival will unite Celtic music enthusiasts, experts and artists for an engaging experience filled with insightful sessions, inspirational performances and interactive workshops. Spearheaded and launched by Fhlathairte, Mairead Nesbitt, Tara Howley, Eimear Quinn and Michael McGlynn, along with many other globally established names from the most successful international Irish touring shows. Celtic World Forum also aims to

introduce undiscovered talent to a global audience while preserving the rich history and tradition of the creative arts. Recognising the universal love for Ireland and its culture, the event will inspire a new generation of Irish music artists to embrace their heritage confidently.

"It is crucial to instil a sense of pride in our origins and culture, that will hopefully ignite a passion to pass those traditions on to the next generations," Éabha adds.

With her extensive background as a Sean Nos singer and a successful recording career, touring worldwide with renowned ensembles like Anúna and Celtic Woman, Éabha McMahon has established herself as a prominent figure in the worldwide music industry. Her debut album, Wildflower, released in 2021, received international critical acclaim, further cementing her ambition to showcase Ireland's musical talent on a global stage.

The Celtic World Forum seeks to create unforgettable experiences through high-quality events and concerts, featuring many globally recognised performers.

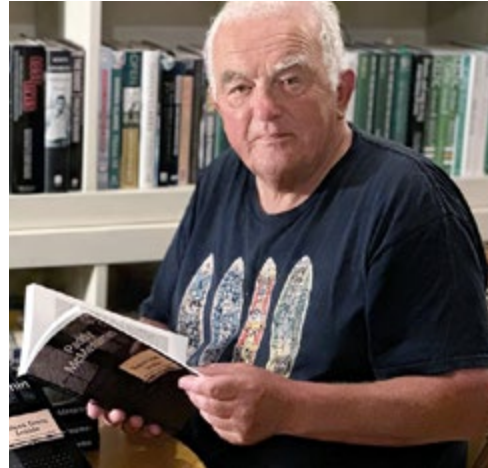
"Our ultimate goal is to bring this format to other countries and help expand the reach of Irish music worldwide" Éabha concludes.

Join us in celebrating the rich tapestry of Celtic music and culture at the Celtic World Forum 2025, a remarkable annual event dedicated to the past, present and future of Celtic music.

www.celticworldforum.com

Paddy McMenamin Publishes *Voices from Inside*

'Voices from Inside' – the latest book from Paddy McMenamin – is now due for release. It follows 'From Armed Struggle to Academia', which told the story of



Paddy McMenamin

the conflict in Belfast during the 1970's. His newest contribution highlights the small newspapers that were produced within the Cages of Long Kesh. The author typed up the papers on an old black typewriter, contributed articles and encouraged others to write at the same time. The papers were subsequently read by all 80 political prisoners in the Cages before he smuggled them out at visits with his parents.

They were then kept in a shoebox for 50 years, until recently when he handed them over to the University in Galway. There they were digitised.

They are currently being kept in the Special Collections section for Undergraduates and Postgraduates to use in their research; and the Cage Papers have now been put into book form, to be launched shortly in conjunction with the exhibition in the college.

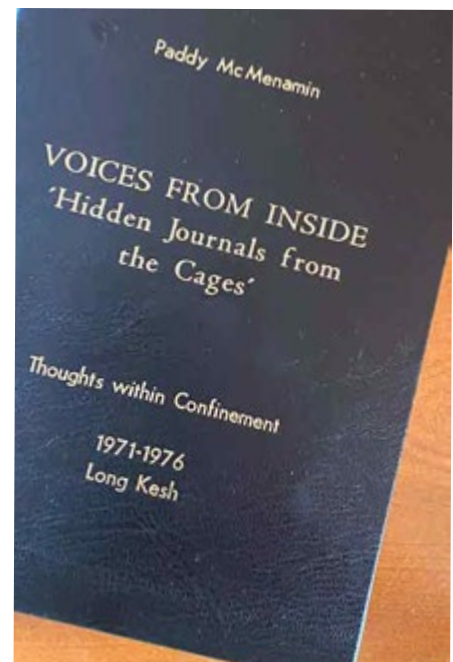
Republican inmates producing papers and new-sheets while in confinement has been part of the gaol life of a political prisoner for more than 100 years. When the prisoners of Long Kesh claimed political status and began education

programs, it was the Republican way. Education and trying to escape - not necessarily in that order! - was the life of a Republican prisoner.

Brian Hanley, Assistant Professor of History at Trinity will speak at the launch, as will several NUIG academics.

Brian also wrote the blurb on the back of the book.

Paddy has written 12 books: The de Valera Deception The Gemini Agenda The Parsifal Pursuit, The Silver Mosaic: a Winston Churchill 1930s Thriller, Political Status - Long Kesh: 1971-1976: The Politicisation of a Generation of Working Class Youth, Armed Struggle to Academia, Dear Julie, Dear Peter, The Parsifal Pursuit: a Winston Churchill Thriller (Mattie McGary + Winston Churchill Adventures Book 2) The Gemini Agenda : a Winston Churchill Thriller (Mattie



McGary + Winston Churchill Adventures Book 3) Walking Through a Story of Life, Voices From Inside: Hidden Journals From the Cages. Available at Good Reads and Amazon

Seeking a Literary Agent

I sincerely seek an active literary agent who has a peculiar affinity for James Joyce.

Like Joyce, I would prefer a similarly enlightened soul, who, when she or he walks by a pile of rocks upon the

roadway, does not just see a pile of rocks, but can see within them the vestiges of a great cathedral.

With best wishes.
Leo Crowley
leomcrowley@yahoo.com

James & The Magic Q1 Book

by Padriac O'Lamha

James and the Magic Sliotar - A Tale of Sport, Legend, and Destiny
In a land where hurling is more than just a game, young James O'Connell embarks on an extraordinary journey to fulfill an ancient prophecy. Gifted a magic sliotar by the legendary Fionn Mac Cumhaill, James must unite the people of Ireland through sport, courage, and unwavering belief.

Whether you're drawn to the pulse-pounding excitement of ancient sports, the richness of mythology, or the timeless battle between destiny and free will, Padraic O'Lamha's books promise adventure, discovery, and a touch of magic on every page.

Perfect for fans of GAA, hurling, Irish mythology, sports fiction, and unforgettable hero's journeys, this is a book that will inspire the next generation of hurling legends!

About the author
Padraic O'Lamha is the mastermind behind a thrilling book series that blends ancient sports with mythology, bringing history, legend, and competition to life in a way never seen before. With a deep passion for folklore and the adrenaline of sport, Padraic crafts epic adventures where young heroes uncover hidden legacies, face mythical trials, and fight to preserve the traditions of the past.

In Alastair and the Highland

Stone, the sixth installment of the series, readers are transported to the rugged Scottish Highlands, where shinty isn't just a game—it's the key to uniting feuding clans and awakening the legendary magic of the Highland Stone. With action, mystery, and a trickster spirit lurking in the shadows, the stakes have never been higher.

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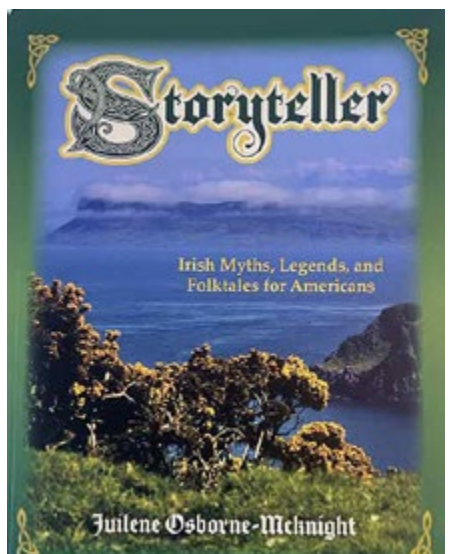
Storyteller for Americans: Irish Myths, Legends, Folktales
By Juilene McKnight

https://juileneosbornemcknight.com

More than forty million Americans claim Irish ancestry. This lively illustrated book, divided into parts exploring myths, legends, and folktales, explains for the U.S. audience the importance of storytelling in Irish culture in particular. In ancient Ireland, a good storyteller was so valued that he would be a member of the aos d'na, the bards, and would be welcomed into every village because he came bearing tales. From the One-Eyed Giant to the Salmon of Knowledge to beloved "fairy" tales, the author - a seancha (traditional storyteller) herself - presents a fascinating collection that places these archetypal tales in historical context.

Juilene Osborne McKnight is an accomplished folklorist and teacher

on Celtic culture and history. She is author of I am of Irelande, Song of Ireland, Bright Sword of Ireland & Daughter of Ireland. She resides in Pennsylvania.



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GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



This is a wonderful family we met from Athlone while my husband and I were helping out another sick little baby from Ireland. We have remained friends over the past seventeen years. I have talked about her journey before but just wanted to update you on her progress as she just graduated on her eighteenth birthday. This is from her mum Fiona.

Caoimhe was born a healthy 6 lbs 15 oz. Everything was just perfect. She came home after three days, and we loved having our new baby in our lives. At five and a half weeks, she started smiling. She passed her three-month developmental check with flying colours! We knew what primary school she would be going to and were looking forward to all the normal milestones and special events in her life.

At five months, I began to worry that she wasn't holding her head up the way she should. She also started to do little "scrunches" in my arms. I brought her to a few different medical professionals, who all believed it to be colic. Her public health nurse at the time reassured me, "All kids do things in their own time." I also brought her to a baby chiropractor due to her throwing back her head and the "colic." He said she had a bone out of place in her neck and that he had fixed it.

As Caoimhe turned seven months, she developed a chest infection. Our GP sent her to our local A&E, where she did one of these "scrunches." A student doctor quickly realised this was not colic. She was admitted, and we were told the next day that these scrunches were actually a very rare form of epilepsy called infantile spasms, which are often misdiagnosed as colic. Infantile spasms really need a lot more awareness.

We were transferred to Temple Street Children's Hospital, where we spent the next three months. Caoimhe's seizures went from one or two a day to over 100 per day. On her worst day, she had 352 seizures despite numerous medications,

including steroids. We were then told her future wasn't looking bright.

Caoimhe's medical team carried out numerous tests looking for a cause, a syndrome, or a gene mutation, but everything was clear. She underwent three lumbar punctures, MRIs, and metabolic and genetic testing. All testing was clear.

During Caoimhe's three-month stay, she developed aspiration pneumonia (due to poor swallow) and was admitted to the paediatric ICU. Our new world now consisted of paediatricians, neurologists, dietitians, occupational, physical, and speech and language therapists. Our vocabulary broadened too, with words like hysarrhythmia, aspiration, nasogastric tube, video fluoroscopy, Epilim, Keppra, ACTH, Topamax, EEG waves, polyspikes – the list goes on.

One word used a lot was rare. At that time, there was no Facebook or any support groups. How I wish there had been. Caoimhe's doctors told us

she would always need 24-hour care, and our aim now was to keep her comfortable.

In March 2008, we flew out to Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. We had planned to stay six weeks; we were there for nine and a half months! We met a wonderful epileptologist. It was there Caoimhe had her first telemetry video EEG (48 hours). She also attended physio, speech, and occupational therapy every week. A MEG scan was carried out to see if Caoimhe was a suitable candidate for brain surgery, but unfortunately, it showed her seizures were originating in all parts of her brain, so this was ruled out.

Caoimhe also developed tonic, myoclonic, and atonic seizures. Her cognitive and physical development was put at four months of age despite her being almost two. She was started on the ketogenic diet, which reduced her infantile spasms to six or seven a day, but she was still having other seizure types daily.

We came home for a few months and went back to Chicago in April 2009. Different medications were added and taken away. Caoimhe got very sick with aspiration pneumonia again. She spent five days in PICU and a further six in the respiratory ward. It was after this that we decided to come back home.

Four weeks after Caoimhe turned three, her seizures stopped completely. However, she was still unable to sit, had limited use of her hands, and was non-verbal. Due to aspiration and low weight, she had a gastrostomy tube inserted. During the next three years, we saw no physical signs of any seizures; however, Caoimhe's EEG remained very abnormal.

She started to walk a little at age six, although she was quite unsteady. At eight years of age, her cognitive age was put at 12 months. In July 2018, Caoimhe was diagnosed with brittle bones in her knees.

Fast forward – Caoimhe is now 14. She has very mild seizures daily upon waking. Her neurologist is currently doing more genetic and metabolic testing in the hope of finding a diagnosis. He is confident that with the new research being

carried out every day, we will eventually receive a diagnosis for Caoimhe.

Caoimhe needs 24-hour care and is totally dependent on her dad, Matt, and me to look after all her daily needs. She has a severe intellectual disability, dysphagia, incontinence, epilepsy, osteopenia, and sensory issues. She is on three medications in the morning and five at night, which have recently been increased in the hope of regaining seizure control. She also requires an overnight feed through her PEG. She is non-verbal and has no understanding of receptive language but recognises faces and is very determined to do as she wishes!

As Caoimhe can take a seizure at any moment, she requires constant supervision. Due to her complex needs, she cannot be left with a regular childminder. We are blessed to get respite, and this makes a huge difference to us as a family. Caoimhe also loves it!

Caoimhe has a younger brother, Evan, and a younger sister, Saoirse. She has mastered many milestones despite her poor prognosis as a baby. She is now eating pureed food orally, can walk around the house with her special walker, understands some gestures, and is generally very healthy.

Caoimhe is now 18 years old and has graduated from St. Hilda's Special School. She will be starting their day service class in August this year. She is a very happy and smiley girl and melts the hearts of everyone she meets.

She is certainly rare!



Caoimhe's 18th Birthday!



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American Brexit Committee Points to Warning Signs for Administration Neglect & Damage to Irish Peace Process



The ABC expressed concern for Britain's corruption of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) and the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR). "The Trump Administration's has proposed a US-UK trade deal," stated John Conway (OH), "but neglected to specify how the proposed trade deal would benefit Americans and NOT be simply a giveaway to a desperate Britain damaged by the self-inflicted wound of Brexit. Were Britain's delay and deceive tactics toward the Irish peace process, the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) and its Irish unity and human rights provisions ever discussed as problematic for Americans and Member of Congress?"

Shortly after the US-UK trade announcement, PM Starmer indicated an unusual second official State visit to Britain was planned for President Trump complete with all the imperial trappings and pomp. Kathy Savage (MA) asked: "Was this official Royal reception to be in return for U. S. Department of State silence on British security service crimes in NI?"

Dan Herring (NY) speculated: "Perhaps the poor reviews of Secretary Hegseth's birthday parade for President Trump required this sweetener in the trade discussions in lieu of accountability for Britain's criminal cover-up of 1100 killing of

innocent Irish citizens targeted with MI-5, Army and police collusion."

Is it coincidental that Sir David Davis, a sponsor of the Legacy law, which is criticized by all in Ireland, now urges PM Starmer to end Labor's repeal effort and to spare the reputation of soldiers, the British Army and, more importantly, the reputation of the Whitehall wizards who crafted their lawless evil schemes. "Sir Davis fears the law is an attempt to rewrite history," retorted Tim Myles (NY), "but it is the Legacy law enforcement, not its repeal, that would emphasize American support for the rule of law, for human rights and for truth. Was it not that great humanitarian Margaret Thatcher who claimed crime is crime and murder is murder?" Some of the most monstrous crimes of the conflict--the Dublin-Monaghan and Omagh bombings, assassinations of lawyers Patrick Finucane, Rosemary Nelson, Aidan McAneaspie, Sean Brown etc. the McGurk & Loughlinisland and Miami showband bombings etc.--await lawfully compliant investigations, truth, and justice for their families.

Former Mayor of NYC (2002-2013) philanthropist and entrepreneur Michael Bloomberg recently declared in Dublin that "...Brexit was the single stupidest thing any country has done." Kathy Mellet (MD) explained: "Once it is understood that the Conservative push for Brexit was to maintain Ireland's partition, stalling and corrupting the GFA and the criminal legacy cover-up are easily 2nd and 3rd in terms of stupidity."

Hertz

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The Irish American Society of County Will hereby pledges itself to the following ideals:

- * To promote Irish culture in America and to preserve Irish-American Heritage
- * To promote education, friendship, understanding and cooperation among members, and the community in general.
- * To promote and cooperate in the general welfare work of the community.

The County Will Irish Send Greetings and Salutations to All Fellow IAN Readers.



The Irish American Society of County Will (IASCW) was founded on February 10, 1981, in Joliet, Illinois. Membership in the IASCW began with 14 founders and has since expanded to hundreds of individual and family members. Those founders include: my father, Robert Emmett Brophy, President; Jack Schaller, 1st VP; Daniel Malloy, 2nd VP; Dennis Ockerman, Secretary; Raymond Slattery, Treasurer; Michael Dowd, Parliamentarian; Thomas K. Ward,

Historian; Michael McIlugh, Membership Chair; Rev. John Fogarty, Chaplain; Kevin O. Shanley, O.Carm., Board Chair; and trustees James J. O'Connell; Patrick Malloy; Robert Blackburn; James Albritton; Michael Reilly; and William J. Ferguson. The IASCW is an open membership non-profit organization where members cooperate to promote the history, culture, and values of Irish Americans through education, scholarship, fellowship, and fun. The IASCW has never had

an office, building, or clubhouse. We focus our assets and efforts on accomplishing our mission and goals. Toward those ends, we celebrate 59 student scholars sent to Ireland through the Irish Life Experience Program; 48 student scholarships for post-high school education; and over \$300,000 contributed to local charities and non-profits from the Manhattan Irish Fest proceeds. We are grateful for the vision of our founders. Come join us!
~Tim Brophy



Photo above: L to R: "Rob Brophy (1964-2023), Mic Brophy, Beth Brophy Starcevic, and IASCW Executive Director Tim Brophy continue the traditions begun by their father Robert Emmett Brophy, JR." Photo above left: "Robert E. Brophy, Jr., founding IASCW President, (1933-1986) & Robert J. "Blackie" Blackburn, (1953-2020).

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On the Law
Matthew Gannon, John Scanlon, Martin Healy, Jr. and Kevin Veugeler
HEALY SCANLON VEUGELER GANNON TRIAL ATTORNEYS

This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. The articles will focus on various aspects of the law relating to personal injuries, those that happen both on-the-job and otherwise, including mishaps which occur in driving vehicles, using products, and receiving medical care. The column will also respond to legal questions relating to personal injury that are sent to us. We are located downtown at 161 North Clark, Suite 2200, Chicago, Illinois 60601 and our telephone numbers are (800) 922-4500 or (312) 977-0100.

The Rights of Injured Workers Under the Workers' Compensation Act

Everyday throughout this state, working men and women are exposed to risks due to their work environment. The statistics from the United States Department of Labor's Occupational Safety & Health Administration provides a clear illustration of these risks: In 2023, there were 5,283 fatal workplace injuries and over 1 million injuries and illness caused by the workplace. For 2023 and the 10 years preceding, the construction trades had the most fatalities.

In today's article we will attempt to highlight some of the more important rights workers have under the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act.

The Rights of Injured Workers There are three basic benefits provided by the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act. Those three benefits are as follows:

(a) The right to receive reasonable and necessary medical care for injuries suffered on the job.
(b) The right to receive 66 2/3% of your average weekly wage tax-free while you are off work due to your injury.
(c) The right to a final settlement or award if your injury is determined to be permanent in nature.

The Right To Receive Reasonable and Necessary Medical Treatment
All workers injured in the workplace have the right under the Workers' Compensation Act to receive reasonable and necessary medical treatment. The general rule is that the employee can choose his own doctor and can get a second opinion without being penalized. The employer is responsible for payment of all

costs that relate to a workplace accident. If the employer fails to pay the bills in a timely manner, the employer may be liable for penalties under the Workers' Compensation Act.

Two important considerations should be kept in mind: First, it is important to seek out medical care immediately following a workplace accident - even if the injuries do not at first seem severe; Second, the injured worker should be very careful when first seeking medical care to advise the doctor or nurse that the injury was suffered while working and to carefully list each distinct injury suffered in the accident.

If the above two suggestions are faithfully followed by injured workers there is less chance that an employer will contest its responsibility for benefits due to the worker. Unfortunately, some of the most loyal workers are the most likely to have their benefits disputed. The reason for this is simple: loyal workers often have a misguided sense that they are betraying their employer by seeking out medical care immediately following an accident.

However, by delaying the receipt of medical treatment injured workers give insurance companies a greater chance of defending the case by claiming the accident couldn't have caused the injuries, if the treatment for injuries was received at a later date and time. For this reason, it is important to document all injuries early on by going to the proper medical facilities.

The Right To Temporary Total Disability Benefits

As noted above, an injured employee is entitled to receive 66 2/3% of his or her pay for each day lost due to injuries on the job. This benefit is received

tax-free by the injured worker. If an employer fails to pay this benefit, an employee can seek out an emergency hearing to have the matter resolved early on and the worker may also be entitled to penalties if the employer's conduct is deemed to be unreasonable.

The Right To A Settlement or Award For Permanent Injuries
If an employee's injury is permanent in nature he or she will also be entitled to receive an award or a settlement to compensate the worker for the disability suffered. The final recovery typically falls into one of four varieties:

(a) An award or settlement based on the percentage loss use of the body part involved.
(b) A wage differential award.
(c) Permanent total disability.
(d) Death benefits.

A. An Award or Settlement for Permanent Partial Disability
Most injuries receive an award or settlement that is calculated based on the percentage loss use of the body part. The Illinois Workers' Compensation Act provides a stated number of weeks of disability payment for each body part. For example, the body as a whole is worth five hundred weeks of compensation, an arm is worth two hundred and fifty-three weeks of compensation and a leg is worth two hundred and fifteen weeks of compensation.

To illustrate how these calculations are made, if a worker has a knee injury requiring surgery, he or she may be entitled to an award based on 25% loss use of the injured worker's leg. Under that scenario the worker would receive 53.75 weeks of compensation at a stated rate under the Workers' Compensation Act.
B. Wage Differential
Certain workers are injured so severely that they are no longer capable of performing their old job duties. Instead, they must take a new job at a lower rate of pay. Under these circumstances, the injured worker will be entitled to 66 2/3% of the difference in pay between the old job and the

new job. Once again, this benefit comes tax-free.
C. Permanent Total Disability
Sometimes injuries are so severe that an injured worker can no longer work in any capacity. In these situations, the injured worker is entitled to 66 2/3% of his or her average weekly wage for the remainder of the worker's life. This benefit also comes tax-free.
D. Death Benefits
In situations where a worker is killed while on the job, his or her surviving spouse or minor children are entitled to receive 66 2/3% of the average weekly wage of the worker.

As noted, at the beginning of this article, in 2023 there were 5,283 fatal workplace injuries. Of those fatalities, 1,075 occurred in the construction trades. For over 40 years, our firm has represented workers injured at work. Please contact us with any questions you may

have concerning the benefits that are available to you or your family.

By: John P. Scanlon and Noemi Bartolo



Noemi Bartolo is a law clerk at Healy Scanlon Veugeler Gannon and a rising 2L at DePaul College of Law. Noemi has received a CALI for her LARC II: Intellectual Property course, is President of the Society for Asylum & Immigration, and Treasurer of the Intellectual Property Law Society.

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- MCENTEE LAW GROUP 9+ YEARS
- MCNULTY DANCE 31+ YEARS
- MIKE HOULIHAN 18+ YEARS
- MILLER & MCGING LAW 6+ YEARS
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- MYSTIC ROGUE 6 YEARS
- NEWARK NOOK 4 YEARS
- O'GRADY REALTY 19+ YEARS
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- OLD ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH 26 YRS
- OLD TOWN SCH OF MUSIC 24 YEARS
- PADDY HOMAN 19+ YEARS
- PALOS COUNTRY CLUB 31 YEARS
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- WINSTON SAUSAGE 31 YEARS
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The definition of a volunteer is one who enters into, on their own free will, any service at no cost. Since its inception, The Irish American Heritage Center was reconstructed, rebuilt, reorganized and revitalized solely by volunteers. Architects, plumbers, painters, electricians and carpenters alike answered the call to fulfill the dream of having an Irish Cultural Center on Chicago's north side. Also needed were unskilled laborers and they also came out in big numbers. Every Saturday, hundreds of volunteers would show up to work. The lady volunteers would prepare tea and sweet rolls for a breakfast snack and a full meal for lunch. Volunteers also met on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well. This went on for decades and what has been accomplished over that time is nothing short of an architectural miracle. Few things in life are more rewarding than giving your time for a great cause.



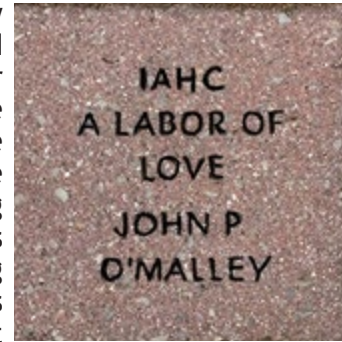
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Irish cops, firefighters, paramedics, music, news, obits, comedy, houli-town, life!
Presented by Madden Funds, Flood Brothers, Fox's Pizza, Local 150 Operating Engineers, Sheehy Funeral Home, & Emerald Society & Irish American News!

Charity is the greatest of all virtues and the IAHC exuded a great volunteer experience. Volunteering at the Center meant a rewarding day with a learning experience and a lousy pay. Not every day was easy where they worked hand in

hand, shoulder to shoulder and sometime toe to toe. John P. O'Malley (pictured) was there from day one and served as a tireless and extraordinary volunteer for 35+ years. He was honored by his siblings when they purchased a brick on our Walk that says,



John P. O'Malley was there in the mid 1980s when the former school was made home of the IAHC. He looked around at the windowless building with crumbling walls and paint peeling everywhere and was very confident that those old classrooms would soon become dance studios, music halls and Irish language centers. The founders envisioned a radio station and a senior service program and a social center that could play host to many fundraisers and weddings.

John P. O'Malley was the eldest of eleven siblings whose parents came from Mayo and Cavan. He took such great pride in his Irish Heritage that he seldom missed the opportunity to volunteer any time needed. He was not a tradesman but an office manager at Bell & Howell. He knew the importance of pitching in with what you had. Many a volunteer was needed to sweep, shovel and push a wheel barrel. John P. would make the coffee and provide the sweet rolls and donuts. Anything needed to obtain the goal of the IAHC of preserving and promoting our Irish Culture. John P. spent two years serving in the U.S. Army and was incredibly patriotic. Blessed with several nieces and nephews, he would bring them all to the Center to volunteer there. More hands made less work and like a drill sergeant he would march them in to perform their duties, muscling up lumber, sheets of drywall and best was the lugging of countless half barrels of beer up to the lofty ballroom on the fourth floor. All of this of course was before the installation of the elevator. Thank goodness for the O'Malleys.

I consider John P. the noted historian for the IAHC in which he took endless numbers of photographs over many years. Thousands are held in the Irish Center's Archives across from the museum. When John P. was not giving of his time at the Center, he liked to fish, hunt and enjoy the great outdoors. He volunteered his time as well to family members and friends who needed him as long as it did not conflict with his schedule at the Center. He was a gentleman's gentleman, a true patriot and lover of his Irish roots. He was an epitome of a great volunteer and an extraordinary example to all who volunteered next to him. He had a labor of love for the success of the Center that fueled his desire to help. It is amazing what can be accomplished when nobody cares who gets the credit.

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The Ireland Podcasts

The Ireland Podcast celebrates the island of Ireland - its culture, its heritage, its industry, its landscape, its music, its people, its sport, and

everything in between.

Launched in 2023, The Ireland Podcast serves as an inspiration to listeners on the island and those around the world. It is a window to arguably the coolest island on the

planet.

THE IRELAND Podcast welcomes guests from all walks of life and has no political nor religious agenda. There are interviews with legends from the worlds of music and

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August 30 - September 1

Saturday -30th 10:30am-8:30pm	Sunday 31st 10:30am-8:30pm	Monday 1st 10:30am-4pm
---	--------------------------------------	----------------------------------

Saturday August 30

10:45am-11:45am:
Academy of Irish Music

12:00pm-12:30pm:
McNulty School of Dance

12:45pm-2:15pm:
The Toolies

2:30pm-3:00pm:
Shannon Rovers Pipe Band

3:00pm-3:30pm:
Best Men's Legs in a Kilt Competition

3:30pm-4:00pm:
Dillon School of Dance

4:15pm-5:45pm:
The Larkin & Moran Brothers

6:30pm-8:30pm: **Without U2**

Sunday August 31

Mass with Fr Matt Jameson and Fr Tim Fairman with Music by Gavin Coyle at 10am

11am-11:30am:
Trinity School of Dance

11:45am-12:45pm:
Gavin Coyle

1pm-2:30pm:
Dooley Brothers & Jimmy Moore

2:45pm-3:15pm:
Best Men's Legs in a Kilt Competition

3:30pm-4pm:
Shannon Rovers Pipe Band

4:pm-4:30pm:
McNulty School of Dance

4:30-5pm **Irish Dog Contest**

5:pm-6:30pm:
The Joyce Boys

7pm-8:30pm:
The Dirty Wellies

Monday September 1

10:45-11:15am:
Hogan School of Dance

11:30-1:00pm:
Kathleen Keane-Jim Conway

1:15-1:45pm:
Irish Dog Contest

2:00-2:30 pm:
Shannon Rovers Pipe Band

2:30-4:00pm: **The Boils**

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Best Legs in a Kilt Contest

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Delivering Hot Meals & Compassion to Seniors' Doorsteps

Every weekday in Lake County our team delivers hot, dietician-approved meals to 800 homebound seniors. But it's more than nourishment – it's companionship, well-being checks, and a lifeline for people facing isolation, health challenges, and food insecurity.

Stepping into the role of director of senior meals and nutrition at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago four years ago has taught me how critical these meals and these visits are – especially for people who can't leave their homes on their own, can't cook for themselves, or don't have family to support them. Even when it's 20 degrees below zero, our drivers keep hot meals hot and spirits warm, forming relationships born of compassion and trust.

Being isolated can lead to loneliness and depression. I'm filled with tears of happiness when I think about the joy we're bringing people as we feed them. Our drivers have relationships with our seniors, so it's important for us to have compassionate, loving, caring, diligent people on our staff. Sometimes, these visits can be a matter of life and death for seniors facing medical issues and depression, and that's why

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Archdiocese of Chicago

60 years or older, homebound, and often manage medical conditions. Each weekday, year-round, they receive one hot meal, along with a cold lunch. Menus are catered by Maravela's Banquets & Catering in Fox Lake.

I've helped our drivers deliver meals and understand what challenges they face day to day, particularly during inclement weather. It's life changing to be able to get the meal to each person we serve, no matter what the conditions are. Some days, we're the only people they see.

One hot day this past June, our driver found her frail client who suffered from dementia wandering alone two blocks from home and guided them home. That hot meal wasn't just food – it was a lifesaving connection. This program sounds simple, but you need to have a relationship with the seniors we serve. We see

it's so important that our drivers are there to bring them meals, do well-being checks, look after them, and connect them to resources if their home is in disarray or they need caregiving services.

Participants in our home-delivered meal program are here for them. In addition to our home-delivered meals, we host congregational meals for seniors regularly throughout Lake County. Catholic Charities provides healthy, nutritious meals and a sense of community. Seniors gather, eat, commiserate, laugh, do puzzles, join raffles, and enjoy an uplifting event. We're so glad they're there. Seniors who participate stimulate their minds, find comfort in the presence of peers, enjoy meeting younger staff who smile, ask how they are and if they're enjoying their meal – it's a beautiful event to witness.

I know how important the work we do is to the seniors we serve. Every day, my team helps older adults age in place with dignity. I love being part of a team of compassionate individuals who embrace their roles in supporting seniors. Together, we provide not only nutrition but also keep people connected – making sure they know we're here, we see them, and they continue to matter to us and are a vital part of our community.

Brenda Meyer is Director of Senior Meals and Nutrition in Lake County for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Josie's Wheel's

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Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

20th Irishfest La Crosse August 8-10
www.irishfestlacrosse.org

For 2025 Irishfest La Crosse is celebrating their 20th year! The fest will be held August 8-10 on the fest grounds in downtown La Crosse, Wisconsin. Irishfest La Crosse is a non-profit, family friendly festival run by a completely volunteer board along with our volunteers.

The annual festival will feature a stellar lineup of Irish music from traditional to harp to rock and everything in between. In addition to music, there will be Irish dancers, cultural displays, workshops, storytelling, Genealogy Tent, Highland games, 2 days of Tug of War, Kilt Run, an Irish Market and more. Our Harp Stage this

year will again feature the Harp Twins and their eclectic style of music. Our Wee Folks area is sure to entertain the kids with games, activities, contests, sheep shearing, music, puppets, and Irish dogs. There is the arcade and Aran Islands Golf for the older kids. A variety of food and drinks will be available.

All musical performances will be under tents. Entertainment will include Skerryvore, Eileen Ivers, Gadan with Enda Scahill, Gaelic Storm, the High Kings, Boxing Banjo, Michael Darcy and the Atlantic Tramps, The Harp Twins, Ian Gould & Lukas Jaeger, Seamus Kennedy and others.

Advance tickets are available for \$30 for a 3 day



Skerryvore



High Kings

pass or \$15 for single day on our website: www.irishfestlacrosse.org. One day tickets will be available at the gate for \$20. Youth 17 years of age and younger admitted free. Additional information is available on the website or Facebook.



Ian Gould & Lukas Jaeger

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working for a vibrant, connected and caring Irish community
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irishchicago.org

Welcome, Sarah
to Irish Community Services

Sarah Flynn—a native of County Mayo—has joined the Irish Community Services team as our new Community Programs Coordinator!

Sarah is a social worker who will be supporting our community through wellness campaigns and direct services to those in need of assistance.

Do you have an idea for Sarah or just want to welcome her to the community? Give her a call!
773-282-8445

Know Your Rights
WHEN INTERACTING WITH IMMIGRATION OFFICERS (ICE)

If you find yourself interacting with an ICE officer in any location including your workplace, or out in the community, remember that you:

- Have the right to remain silent when questioned or arrested by immigration officers
- Should remain calm and keep your hands where the officer can see them
- DO NOT:
 - discuss your immigration or citizenship status with the police, immigration agents, or other officials
 - sign anything you do not understand. You should state that you wish to speak with an attorney.
- If an officer knocks on your door at home: Do NOT open the door. Teach your children not to open the door.
 - ICE officers must have a warrant signed by a judge to enter your home. ICE "warrants" are not signed by judges; they are ICE forms signed by ICE officers and they do not grant authority to enter your home without your consent
- If you are outdoors and think you see immigration officers nearby:
 - Move to a safe indoor space
 - If you are a U.S. citizen and feel safe to do so, record the activity with your phone or write down any relevant information about what you witness— ALWAYS being careful to not interfere or otherwise obstruct the operation
- DO NOT post unverified information on social media Interfere with the investigation or otherwise put yourself in harm's way

Additional Resources
immigrantjustice.org organizedcommunities.org
1-855-HELP-MY-FAMILY (1-855-435-7693)

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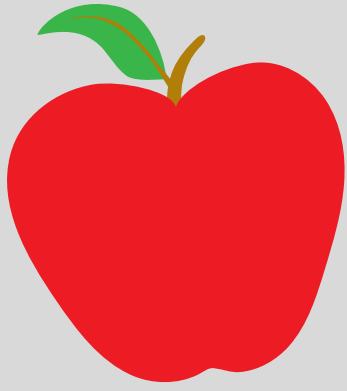
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