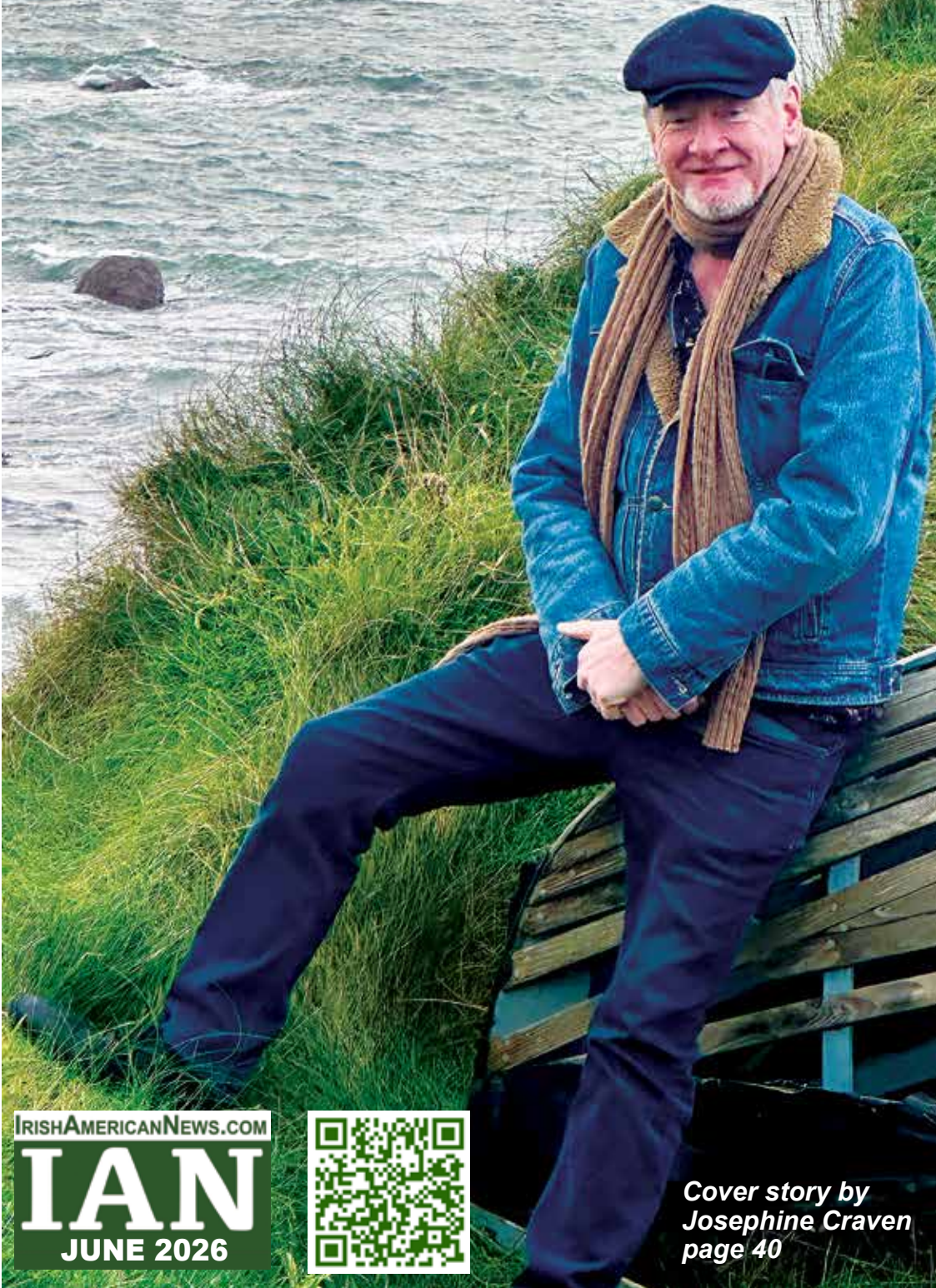


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Cover story by
Josephine Craven
page 40



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Saipan

If you were in Ireland in May 2002, there was one news story that you could not have avoided unless - like the Warsaw Uprising resistance during WWII - you went down a manhole and lived the sewers. That news story was not the fallout from 9/11, which had convulsed the US into an invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001. Nor was the related horror, the impending US invasion of Iraq the following spring - aided and abetted by the fervour of a compromised media and a farrago of lies about weapons of mass

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Fuel shortage worries compel Aer Lingus to cut over 500 Flights for maintenance



destruction that ultimately failed to gain international support for the Iraqi invasion. No, the news story that was permanently on Irish desks in May 2002 was about a footballer who left the Irish football squad based on the remote island of Saipan, off Japan, during their preparations for the World Cup. That's right, the minute Ireland sent one midfielder down all geopolitics became a side issue.

Tip O'Neill once observed that 'all politics is local', and the Saipan saga is a great illustration of that. Granted, Saipan (as the event was known - the island became reduced to a spat within a football squad) was international news when it happened. It was Ireland's captain, Roy Keane, who departed. At the age of 30, Keane was at the height of his considerable powers. He was a domineering figure in the sport - absolutely driven, committed and extremely physical on the field (and no slouch verbally). But once the World Cup started, outside interest in the Saipan incident diminished. In Ireland, almost a quarter of a century later, the episode remains a divisive topic. With the recently released film, Saipan, the Irish public has had a chance to re-engage with it all.

The facts of the case. The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) made the ill-judged decision to fly the Irish squad to Saipan to prepare for the World Cup in Japan. That overlooked the obvious place to locate the squad, Tokyo, which would have been far enough for most players after a long season at their clubs. Upon arrival at the far-flung island, the players were underwhelmed by the substandard facilities and training ground at their hotel; Keane was furious.

Relations between Keane and the Irish manager, Mick McCarthy, had been sour for some time. McCarthy cut a bumbling figure, lacking in solidity and decisiveness, whereas Keane was a bright ball of intensity. Keane blamed McCarthy's judgement for their landing in Saipan and accepting second best. Keane mapped that onto an Irish tendency that he despised and was determined to change. The Irish Times asked Keane in May 2002, 'You hate the loveable Irish thing, don't you?' Keane replied: 'I'm as Irish as anybody, but this has been going on for years. Training facilities, travel arrangements... If I opened my mouth every time there's something wrong, I'd need my own newspaper'. So, Keane had a hive of bees in his bonnet, and the vista of Saipan released them.

That marked him out from his teammates. Saipan depicts the squad enjoying banana boat expeditions, rounds of golf and late-night parties. The effect of these shenanigans accumulates for Keane. He is there for work, not fun; success, not participation. Several scenes feature him simmering in the margins in abhorrence at the unprofessionalism.

Yet the film homes in on the Keane-McCarthy dynamic. One takeaway from Saipan is how painful and destructive a clash of personalities can be. Yes,

locating the squad in Saipan was a fiasco. Keane was fully justified in criticising the organisational shortcomings and even extrapolating from them a measure of disrespect for the players. Still, if the relationship between the captain and the manager had been somewhat functional, they could have hammered out a better plan and relocated to Japan. Instead, the animosity that was always there inexorably surfaces in this film. Every encounter deepens rather than bridges the gulf between Keane and McCarthy. McCarthy was no man-manager. What exacerbated this deficiency was that the volatile Keane needed a steady hand. He was used to having that at his club, Manchester United, in one of the great man-managers in football history, Alex Ferguson.

The climax of the film is well executed with language that managed to be acceptable (by many accounts, the language at the real event was not). McCarthy calls a meeting of all the players and makes the mistake of raising the subject of Niall Quinn's testimonial match (from which Keane was absent). This error is compounded when he suggests that Keane faked an injury so as not to attend. The aspersion on Keane's integrity snapped what was left of any possibility he would remain. Keane exploded like never before and resorted to personal abuse: 'I didn't rate you as a player, I don't rate you as a manager, and I don't rate you as a person'. That was reported at the time, give or take a few curses. So, McCarthy sent Keane home.

There are poignant moments in this film - towards the end, when Keane is back home, the two speak on the phone. It appears that the situation might just be salvageable - there was a veritable mass movement in Ireland to get Keane on a plane to Japan - but they cannot address the matter, nor meet halfway.

Keane is played by the excellent Éanna Hardwicke, who largely owns the film, even if he never quite matches the white heat of Keane's rage. Directors Lisa Barros D'Sa and Glenn Leyburn shot Saipan on location in Tenerife, a near-perfect rocky otherworld. They carved out excellent cameos for the wives of McCarthy and Keane, who ingeniously illustrate the personalities of their husbands in their dealings with them. Films often want heroes, and Saipan puffs up Keane. But he is a complex one in that he leaves his national team and departs from the biggest footballing stage in the world - he could never again play at that level, given his age. The reality of what happened impinges very much on the film and indeed on its reception in Ireland, where it revived old faultlines.

Ireland reached the last 16 teams in the World Cup in Japan before being knocked out by Spain. No Irish team has shown comparable promise since (Ireland has failed to qualify for the six World Cups since). The question of how far Keane could have led the side will remain unanswerable. Unless you ask Roy Keane.

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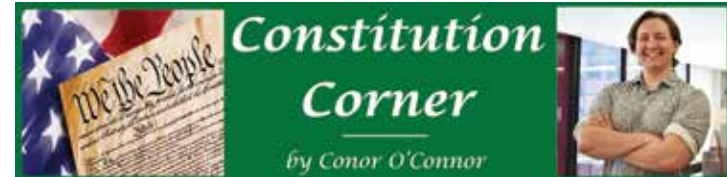
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Eleventh Hour Fine-Tuning

The Eleventh Amendment to the United States Constitution was born out of necessity while the Framers kept Article III (the section concerning the judiciary) intentionally vague so that procedural details could be fleshed out over time, that ambiguity lent itself to confusion in the early years of the Republic. For example-jurisdiction



(where and when a case can be heard) and standing (who can bring a case forward and for what reasons) were not described in the Constitution, which meant that the Supreme Court took it upon itself to cut through the fog. In *Chisolm v. Georgia* (1793), the Supreme Court ruled that individual states did not enjoy sovereign immunity from suits made by citizens of other states (in federal court), regardless of whether or not the defending state consented to participating in such legal action.

Sovereign immunity is the legal principle that bars the government from being sued in its own courts without its consent. Initially derived from the monarchical notion of "The King can do no wrong," this principle has prevented average joes from wreaking havoc on the bureaucracy by suing for stays, damages, and injunctions preventing the normal workings of government.

The decision in *Chisolm* was overwhelmingly unpopular in Congress, which, upon reconvening, immediately passed the Eleventh Amendment and sent it off to the states for ratification. The text of the amendment reads: The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of

served as a testament to the Constitution's status as a living, breathing document and epitomizes the principle of a government founded on checks and balances. In this case, the judicial branch overreached in its authority, and the legislative branch was decisive in rectifying that situation. While a bit boring by today's standards, it serves as an important reminder of the experimental nature of the early American republic.

In July, we'll be getting into some of the juicier topics of early American political drama-did you know that Presidents and Vice Presidents were winners and runners-up in presidential elections until 1804? Imagine if President Trump had a Vice President in Kamala Harris today. Hard to fathom, right?! Tune in next month to hear about how Congress fixed that mess.



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The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago Celebrates Their 125th Anniversary on September 17, 2026!

On September 17, 2026, the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago will celebrate its 125th Anniversary. "Since 1901, the Club has offered fellowship and friendship to the Irish community of Chicago," says Anniversary co-chair John Wrenn. "This will be a special evening to recognize the accomplish-

ments of the Club and Irish leaders across the Chicago-land area." Irish Fellowship Club President, Devon Bruce of Power Rogers, made a special announcement that former Taoiseach Enda Kenny will be the special guest for the evening. "Enda Kenny served Ireland as Taoiseach

from 2011-2017 and has been a distinguished guest in Chicago over the years, including serving as the Guest of Honor of the St. Patrick's Day parade in 2012. We are delighted to have him celebrate this auspicious occasion with the Irish Fellowship Club." The event will be at Theater



Eamon de Valera in Chicago sometime around 1910

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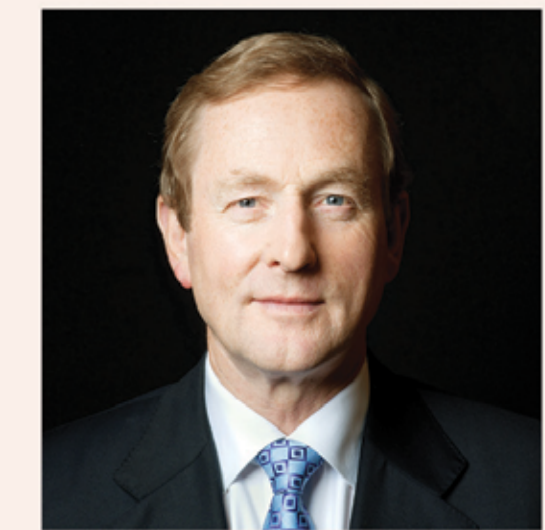
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REMEMBER: The Irish Fellowship Club Christmas Luncheon will be held a week later in 2026.

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Game On!

By Chris Wheaton

I was going to write my column about the World Cup which will be getting underway as the June edition goes to press. I could analyze and re-analyze every one of the

48 countries participating but what fun would that be? The oddsmakers seem to think that France is the leading contender with Spain, England, Argentina and Brazil not far behind. Some

so-called "experts" place Columbia and Portugal in the top group but do any of us really know? I say we wait for the tournament to begin, watch the matches, enjoy "the beautiful game" and wait for July 19 to see the top two countries battle it out on the pitch, whoever they may be.

With soccer put away for a bit, my thoughts turned to the improving weather, the longer days, and the feeling of community that sometimes goes into hibernation during the long, winter months.

On Friday nights our friend group gets together for "patio". Patio is a gathering of old friends, over food and cocktails, to catch up on what has been going on in each other's lives during the week. It is super casual, no invitations are sent and anyone who attends brings their own food and drink. We talk, we

laugh, we tell stories, and we enjoy each other's company. Sometimes it can be sad and serious and some weeks it can be completely joyful. There is no script because life is not lived by a script.

This sense of community is like what many of my Irish friends experienced with their hurling clubs. The best part of any great club is not the action on the pitch, but the camaraderie and shenanigans that occur after training and the games. The feeling that you are surrounded by friends that are as close as family, knowing that any one of them would step up and help you through any jam is extremely comforting and sadly something that many people miss out on. We had a taste of that back in the day with the Naperville Hurling Club but with the club now defunct, some of the bonds that were formed have fallen by the wayside.

Luckily, the backbone of that once great club still meets regularly to hit the ball around, play some soccer, and enjoy a few adult beverages. I feel bad for some of the younger guys who got swallowed up by the egotists who ran the club into the ground and took away the community that so many of us look back fondly upon.

Experts say that positive interaction with others is one of the foundations of living a healthy, happy life. That stack of work piled up on your desk will be there tomorrow and the little annoyances that fill a large part of your day will never go away so all of us could benefit from taking a step back and connecting with old friends - talk to them about their trials, tribulations and triumphs. Life is short, start your own patio and reengage with your own "community".

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CGP Event Calendar

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- June 12 - HOWL AT THE MOON
- June 13 - CGP QUEEN CONTEST
- June 19 - COMEDY SHOW
- June 26 - YGA SUMMER BOAT PARTY
- June 27 - FIREWORKS IN THE BEER GARDEN
- July 11 - SUPERTRAMP TRIBUTE BAND
- August 4-6 - KIDS' CULTURAL CAMP
- September 18 - FOUR C NOTES DINNER & SHOW
- September 26 - BILLY JOEL TRIBUTE

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- June 5 - GERRY HAUGHEY
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- June 12 - KIERAN BYRNE
- June 13 - MULLIGAN STEW
- June 14 - TIM GLEASON
- June 16 - JAM SESSION & CAR CRUISE
- June 18 - TRAD THURSDAY
- June 19 - O'LEARY'S LANTERN
- June 20 - EVIN O'RIORDAN
- June 21 - SOUTHSIDE BOOGIE
- June 23 - JAM SESSION & CAR CRUISE
- June 25 - DECLAN MCSHANE
- June 26 - LIAM DURKIN
- June 27 - FIREWORKS IN THE BEER GARDEN
- June 28 - ST. JAMES GATE

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(The Carraig Beer Garden)

The Carraig Beer Garden is open six days a week! Check out the calendar for our live music lineup! Much like the rest of CGP, The Carraig Beer Garden was a volunteer-led project. We have members of our community to thank for the evenings we spend making memories here!

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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.

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- Gaelic Park Players
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Friday, June 12



Saturday, June 13



Friday, June 19



Saturday, June 27



Saturday, July 11

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Fore! Your Guide to This Season's Irish Golf Outings

Warmer weather is now upon us, which means that Irish organizations across the area are planning to host golf outings throughout the summer and early fall. Safe to say, golfers (and their non-golfer friends) interested in supporting Irish causes will have many opportunities to spend time on the links this season. See below for sampling of the many outings and how to get involved.

Irish Community Services
Date: Saturday, June 6
Location: Indian

Boundary Golf Course
What we're hearing: "Irish Community Services is extremely excited for our upcoming golf event on June 6th.

We're looking forward to coming together with friends and community partners to celebrate good times, good people, and, most importantly, a good cause," said Conor McHale, who serves on the ICS Board of Directors and as Chair of the Golf Committee.

How to sign up: Visit www.irishchicago.org or call 773-282-8445.

Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago
Date: Monday, July 20
Ridgemoor Country Club
What we're hearing: One of the country's finest Irish golf outings will be played at Ridgemoor Country Club when the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago sponsors its 53rd annual "Irish Open." Proceeds from the outing will benefit the Irish Fellowship Educational and Cultural Foundation. The event will begin with a shotgun start at 1:00pm and feature a raffle, dinner, and awards reception.

How to sign up: Visit www.irishfellowshipclub.org

Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance
Date: Friday, July 24
Location: Deerpath Golf Club

What we're hearing: "We are so excited for the fourth annual golf outing in support of this dance school on the North Shore," said Tim Lynch, who chairs the golf outing. "Last year, we had over 150 people come out, and this year we're hoping for even more. It's quickly becoming an annual rite of summer, with live Irish music in a beautiful setting in Lake Forest and a special performance from the Fitzpatrick School dancers. The event is open to golfers to play eighteen holes and anyone else who wants to join for dinner and refreshments."

Sign up at www.fitzpatrickschoolofirishdance.com



Maryville Academy
Date: Monday, August 10
Location: Merit Club

What we're hearing: This signature event brings together golfers, sponsors and supporters for a meaningful day on the course while helping create brighter futures for the children and families we serve. Through the Maryville Golf Academy, young people across Chicago are introduced to golf while gaining life-changing opportunities that extend far beyond the course. This year, more than 100 students from Providence St. Mel School, St. Catherine of Siena School and St. Lucy School participated in our golf and caddy-in-school programs, gaining access to clubs, mentorship and the neighborhood Columbus Park golf course.

How to sign up: Contact Tina Hock at restivo-hockt@maryvilleacademy.org or 847-294-1982.

Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 32
Date: Friday, August 23
Edgebrook Golf Course

What we're hearing: Division 32, Chicago of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) - is hosting its annual charity golf outing to fund the bulk of the donations of the Charity Committee throughout the year. The AOH supports groups, individuals and families throughout Chicagoland with donations and member participation. A few organizations that benefit from the AOH's philanthropy include Misericordia, St. Mary of the Lake Soup Kitchen and The Well of Mercy. The AOH

is the oldest and largest Irish-American Catholic fraternal organization in the United States with members in 49 of the 50 States and Canada.

How to sign up: Visit <https://aoo.org>

Young Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago
Date: TBA

What we're hearing: While details are still being confirmed for the Young Irish Fellowship Club's annual golf outing, rest assured that the day is always filled with great craic. The event seeks to unite golfers of all ages to enjoy a day on the links to fundraise for worthy charities that partner with the YIFC.

How to sign up: Visit www.youngirish.com
Gaelic Park / Carraig Pub
Date: TBA

What we're hearing: The Gaelic Park team is still finalizing the details of this year's event, so please keep an eye out for sign-up information here in the Irish American News or online at www.chicagogaelpark.com.

How to sign up: Visit www.chicagogaelpark.com

Irish American Heritage Center
Date: TBA
What we're hearing: This annual tradition includes nine holes of golf, carts, lunch, prizes, awards, raffles and more in the Hospitality Room at the Irish American Heritage Center following the outing, and admission to the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day celebration at the Center. There will be prizes for most green worn on the course!

How to sign up: Visit www.irish-american.org

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2026 ALA Conference

by *Lori Cassels and Mary Pat Kelly*
Great energy filled The Palmer House as hundreds of academics and independent scholars gathered for the American Literature Association Conference over the Memorial Day weekend at the Palmer House Hotel. The Irish American Writers and Artists hosted two panels and launched the Chicago Chapter of the group.

(l-r) Josephine Craven, IBAM Board President, April Fallon, Associate Professor of English, St. Xavier's University, Mary Pat Kelly, IAWA Founding Member and Rosaleen Crowley, poet and educator *pictured below* will be joined by author, Kathy O'Neill, as the core members.

Now Chicago will hold its own sessions soon. All interested in joining, email iamwanews@gmail.com

Friday's Panel: Crossroads, Critics and Conferences was comprised of Chicago's own author, Mary Pat Kelly speaking on an impactful conference for Irish Women writers held in 1990. Dr. Kate Shea Kinnon shared her research on Joseph Hurley, a theater critic for newspapers and radio who was devoted to champion Irish and Irish American playwrights. The panel kicked off with Miss Uneek, a poet and spoken word artist who was inspired by Irish American Writers and Artists founder Malachy McCourt and his profound influence on her ability to blend Irish and African American storytelling.

On Saturday Irish American Writers & Artists second panel: Irish Writers TransAtlantic Impact. From James Joyce to Colm Toibin and Elizabeth Cullinan to Alice McDermott given by

LLC International University professor Dr. Ausra Paulauskiene from Lithuania. Final panelist, distinguished Professor from New York Institute of Technology and President of New York's James Joyce Society, Dr. Jonathan Ezra Goldman, spoke on Joyce's influence on the arts and literature scene of New York City in the early 20th century.

The group from New York experienced Chicago in the very best way at the Bed and Breakfast hosted by Dave Samber at his Polo Inn in Bridgeport where are so many of the Chicago Irish have their roots. Each of Dave's rooms has a Windy City theme- the White Sox, the 11th Ward. Mary Pat Kelly was especially happy to welcome them to the Mayor's suite where the two Mayor Daleys and Mayor Edward J Kelly, all from the neighborhood, are honored. Mary Pat's great great grandmother

Honora Keeley Kelly, the heroine of her book Galway Bay, brought her family here escaping the Great Starvation. Her grandson became mayor. Edward J Kelly served from 1933 to 1947.



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New Beverly Gaelic Football Youth Club Competes in Their First Game

By Hunter Minné

The Christ the King School in Beverly hosted a showcase for their new Gaelic football youth club with an exhibition match against the St. Jarlath's Youth GAA at Gaelic Park May 17.

Two parents with children at the school founded the team earlier this year and began holding twice weekly practices in March with between 30-40 kids attending. With the showcase, both said they are hoping to inspire other parents to start their own Gaelic football clubs at nearby schools.

One of the two co-founders, 40-year-old Mike Conroy, said he hired a photographer to cover the event and a bagpiper to play both teams onto the field. After the match ended, the players were treated to popsicles and congratulations on a game well-played.

Roscommon Construction, a local construction company owned by Conroy's father and County Roscommon native John Conroy, sponsored the team and provided them with jerseys in the school's colors.

Gaelic football is a non-contact team sport with 15 players to a side on essentially a larger soccer field. To score, players must kick or hit a ball either into a soccer-style net or between to uprights above the goal. The ancient Irish sport is one of four that make up the Gaelic games alongside hurling,

camogie and gaelic handball.

Conroy has lived in Beverly for 13 years and grew up playing Gaelic football and hurling at the St. Jarlath's youth club and later in his 20s for the Wolfe Tones, Chicago's Gaelic football club founded in 1957.

Chris Lynch, 45, has lived in Beverly for 15 years and helped start the club at Christ the King with Conroy. Lynch said he's never played Gaelic football himself and regrets not making the switch over from rugby as a kid, but has previously coached and sat on the board for the St. Jarlath's youth club.

"It shares some characteristics, similarities to soccer and rugby, but it's older than both of those sports," Lynch said. "It's fast-paced, it's very engaging, it's actually fairly – I don't want to say it's easy for kids to pick up – but once they start playing and they start mastering a couple skills they advance quickly."

St. Jarlath's School has had Gaelic football since 2004, and both Conroy and Lynch were previously involved in their club before splitting off to start one at Christ the King. Conroy said they Irish had the idea of moving away from St. Jarlath's to start their own club in the

summer of 2024.

"We both live in Beverly, we both live by Christ the King," Conroy said. "There's a lot of athletic kids in the area, and there's a lot of people who have Irish ancestry or like first or second generation Irish here in our neighborhood. But a lot of them, the idea of driving like the half hour, 40 minutes to go to Gaelic Park, you know it kind of deterred them from joining

the King in August 2025.

Jay Rynne, 30, is the principal of Christ the King, and said he's been a fan of Gaelic games for years. After Conroy brought up the idea of starting a Gaelic football club at the school, Rynne helped them prepare to pitch the sport to the CTK Athletics Board.

"We went in, Mike had a whole presentation," Lynch said. "They were super supportive

effects on other sports and the required facilities. After a few meetings, Rynne said they finally got the OK around the end of 2025, just in time for Conroy and Lynch to set up a table at the school's open house in January of this year.

Martin Redmond, 50, is chairman of the St. Jarlath's youth Gaelic Athletics Association. Redmond said he was able to offer Conroy and Lynch support and guidance and Conroy also expressed gratitude for Redmond's support.

The cofounders said they will continue expanding the club and are aiming for at least three games next year. However, their ultimate goal is to provide a blueprint for parents at other schools to also start Gaelic football clubs in the hopes of eventually forming a league across South Side schools.

Conroy said Gaelic football isn't just about culture but also community, and through it he feels a deeper connection to his parents, to his family and to Ireland as a whole. Rynne said beyond being community-based, the sport is fun and has a welcoming atmosphere.

"There's some great stories about newcomers to Ireland, people who are maybe immigrants or the children of



the St. Jarlath's club."

To gauge community interest, Conroy and Lynch first did a series of weekly training sessions in 2024 at Crescent Park in Beverly. Despite the high turnout for these training sessions, with roughly 60-90 kids participating according to Conroy and Lynch, the idea briefly fizzled out before Conroy first approached Christ

though, from the beginning, so I think Mike was ready for a long-winded sales pitch and it wasn't really necessary, right? We were looking at each other like 'Should we shut the PowerPoint down now?'"

Despite the positive reception, Rynne said they didn't get immediate approval since the board had a few questions including about any



immigrants from the Middle East or Sub-Saharan Africa, using the sport as a way to become, to feel more comfortable in Irish society," Rynne said. "And I think that ethos of the sport does transfer here, even though here we are, you know, all the way overseas in Chicago."

Two of Lynch's children, 2nd grader Marty & 4th grader Brydie, & 2 of Conroy's, 1st grader Ciara & 2nd grader Michael, played Gaelic football at Christ the King & competed during showcase. The team is coed and open to all students, kindergarten thru the 4th grade.

"I think some of these little leagues are losing the spirit of what made them great to begin with, right, which is you're out there having fun with your friends," Lynch said. "This is intended to be something you can do that's fun with your friends."

Conroy said anyone interested in starting their own Gaelic football team, sponsoring the team or simply learning more about the sport can contact him at

Photographs: Gabriella (Ella) Martin
beverlygaelicfootball@gmail.com



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An Irish Complex

By Thomas O'Gorman



It's strange how peculiar ordinary events can look when we reach back into their roots. Nothing makes that more plain than Summer.

Funny, but I don't have long memories of people going berserk when the heat kicked up back in the days of my childhood.

I remember it getting plenty hot. My Irish grandmothers always blossomed in the heat. They always had some quixotic response to heat waves.

My grandmother O'Gorman was a great believer in the white of an egg. Not so much to eat. But it's medicinal qualities. If you got any sunburn, she'd be mixing up a gooey salve to rub on your pink skin that was pure egg white. There must have been some homeopathic rationale for applying it. It was usually cool. And slimy. The egg white dried quickly. So that your sore skin got even more sore. Which my grandmother took as a sign of the egg whites' effectiveness. It certainly was uncomfortable. But strangely it took away the pain of the sunburn. The miracle of Tipperary medicine, her birthplace, rolling hills filled with ancient cures.

Our grandmother O'Connor took another approach. She was a believer in available lotions and cooling creams. From Noxema to Elizabeth

Arden. If you got a sunburn, she was always at the ready. Her ointments were luxurious. Usually gifts to her from her grandchildren or daughters in law who were always on the lookout for useful gifts she'd like. Her pantry full of soothing balms often hit the spot. I'm sure in our less sophisticated age some of those lotions really were healing. Sometimes you felt you might slip out of bed, because you were so oily. But looking back, some of those ointments may have contained more healing than we knew. They certainly made us feel better fast. And we smelled good too. We called



Rebecca Crowe O'Gorman on her annual jaunt to Tipperary with nieces manning the donkey.

with life and love. I suspect the life of the mystic needs the quietude and opportunity to hear the earth speak. In the wet soil only a large farmer's daughter can know. Or in the sounds that stir beneath the impact of soft rain upon a waterfall. Or the twisting flow of a river to the sea. The generations before us knew a sense of listening long lost now in the din and noise of the machine age and computers. No wonder the ancients lived and breathed in multiple worlds. Plateaus of simultaneous life lost by many and forgotten. But I always thrived that the doorways to mysteries beyond us were still open to some in the quiet of their own soul. In the mellow poetry of their own heartbeat. I treasure such rare details and celebrate that I felt their pulse and heard their heartbeat in the curious woman my grandmother, Rebecca, was. Perhaps there is more for us to find. Perhaps we can still speak with meaning to the earth. Perhaps there is much conversation left to save. Perhaps those egg whites really worked.

Back then we were never cynical about such outdated primitive first aid. But in later life, I believe we really were lucky to have people around us who understood the nature of healing. Wonders

passed on down from the Bronze Age. Something sensitive folk understood from the past. Not always so far away. Closer than many believed. Looking back there seems to be a peculiar grace that transcends the ages for us.

I think it is wise to listen to the earth. Listen to what it has learned about man's evolution and growth. The earth is actually in harmony with us. Especially the Irish earth. I see a special similarity for us, between people who respect and cherish our Irish sensitivities. And those like native peoples around the earth who understand how we can learn to live in harmony with our ancient past. Of course, the essentials transcend time.

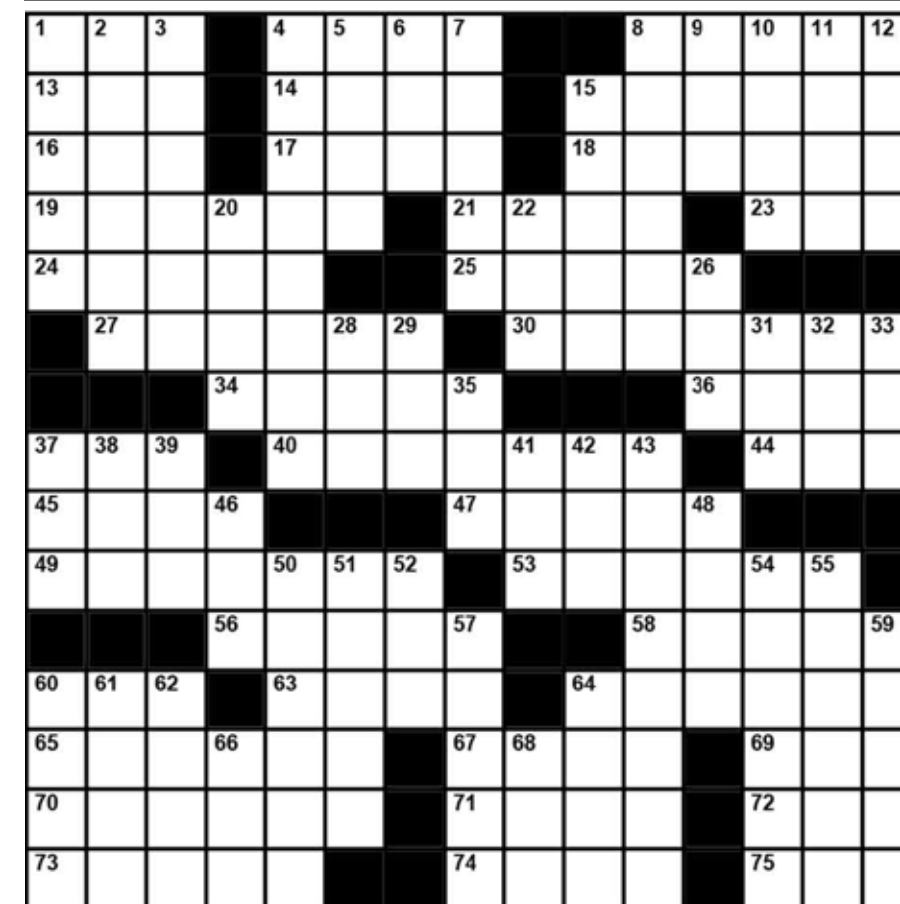
I believe that was essential for my O'Gorman grandmother, Rebecca. She was a deep spiritual person. Deeply Catholic, but way far beyond that. She wasn't just religious like the rest of the Irish. She occupied a sacred space, I believe, far more expansive and in touch with the great mystery of being human. She was a woman of profound mystical ways. Conversant in the ways of the great mysteries. Though she had expansive problems with her vision throughout her life, she did not permit poor eyesight to limit her search for the deeply spiritual. An issue for man since Eden.

I believe Rebecca could read hearts. And human will. She was a woman of the Gospel. A true fixer of souls. A stabilizer of human understanding. Her limited eyesight opened her to life in the oral tradition of the Jews. She was a transmitter of story and song. And in the midst discovered the story teller and bard.

But all of this searching required great attention from her. Great concentration on what lies beyond the rim of her sight. Encircling her

with life and love. I suspect the life of the mystic needs the quietude and opportunity to hear the earth speak. In the wet soil only a large farmer's daughter can know. Or in the sounds that stir beneath the impact of soft rain upon a waterfall. Or the twisting flow of a river to the sea. The generations before us knew a sense of listening long lost now in the din and noise of the machine age and computers. No wonder the ancients lived and breathed in multiple worlds. Plateaus of simultaneous life lost by many and forgotten. But I always thrived that the doorways to mysteries beyond us were still open to some in the quiet of their own soul. In the mellow poetry of their own heartbeat.

I treasure such rare details and celebrate that I felt their pulse and heard their heartbeat in the curious woman my grandmother, Rebecca, was. Perhaps there is more for us to find. Perhaps we can still speak with meaning to the earth. Perhaps there is much conversation left to save. Perhaps those egg whites really worked.



(ANSWERS PAGE 17)

ACROSS

1. Autumn month, abbr.
 4. Unwanted body fat
 8. Venomous hooded snake
 13. Soft murmuring sound
 14. Appraiser
 15. Irish river known as one of the "three sisters"
 16. French vineyard classification
 17. Irish river that starts in the Devil's Bit Mountain, Tipperary
 18. Himalayan mountain guide
 19. Allocate
 21. Group of three
 23. Spanish word for king
 24. Combines or blends
 25. English royal dynasty
 27. Giggling sound, 2 words
 30. Greenhouse gas
 34. More silent
 36. Gulf sultanate
 37. African antelope
 40. Not frozen over, 2 words
 44. Cries of regret
 45. Network test sound
 47. Famous diarist Samuel
 49. Ireland's longest river
 53. Canadian pop singer Justin
 56. Sudden overwhelming fear
 58. Made docile
 60. ER notation, abbr.
 63. Cornhusker State, abbr.
 64. Former Spanish currency
 65. In its original place, 2 words
 67. Soothing plant gel
 69. Fishing pole
 70. Haul or carry laboriously
 71. Fedora fabric
 72. Federal procurement agency, abbr.
 73. Searches for
 74. Nonsense
 75. S-shaped curve
- DOWN
1. Philosopher known for his razor
 2. Tight-laced undergarment
 3. Mess up hair
 4. Chinese system of harmonizing people with their environment, 2 words
 5. Major French city
 6. ___ Lingus (Irish airline)
 7. Supreme Court Justice, first name
 8. Partnership
 9. Mineral deposit
 10. Shivering sound
 11. Thick cord
 12. Not here
 15. Flip side of a single, 2 words
 20. The same (Latin)
 22. Caribbean spirit
 26. Fraternity letter
 28. And so forth, abbr.
 29. Wide shoe width
 31. Drs.' group, abbr.
 32. Negative vote
 33. Military officer rank, abbr.
 35. Vendor request, abbr.
 37. Navigation system, abbr.
 38. Medical research agency (abbr.)
 39. One, in Spanish
 41. Confederate soldier
 42. Prefix with dermis
 43. Upper canines, 2 words
 46. Economic measure, abbr.
 48. Government lending orgs., abbr.
 50. Loire Valley city
 51. Barely ahead, 2 words
 52. Pen point
 54. Come into view
 55. Throw again
 57. Skill or vessel
 59. Fathers, to babies
 60. Insult or show disrespect
 61. One time
 62. Tennis great Arthur
 64. Politicians (informal)
 66. Type or kind
 68. Lion zodiac sign

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6:30 - 7:45 PM:
Rosie & The Rivets
(Retro Rock)
8:30 - 10:30 PM:
Brass From The Past
(Legends of Rock and Soul)

FRIDAY, JUNE 12
6:30 - 7:45 PM:
Physical Graffiti
(Led Zeppelin Tribute)
8:30 - 10:30 PM:
Hello Weekend (Party Hits)

SATURDAY, JUNE 13
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM:
Mr. Myers Trio
(Caribbean, Jimmy Buffet)
1:15 - 2:45 PM:
Fuze Band
(Pop with a Latin groove)
3:30 - 5:00 PM:
One Of The Boyzz
(Soulful Rock)
5:45 - 7:45 PM:
Addicted To Love
(Robert Palmer/80's ladies)
8:30 - 10:30 PM:
The Boy Band Night
(Boy Band Hits)

SUNDAY, JUNE 14
Noon - 1:15 PM:
1924 (Pop/Rock)
2:00 - 4:00 PM:
American English
(Beatles Tribute)



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The Other Bloomsday: How 6-16 Became a Diaspora Holiday

By Alex Monroe, Synpro Media – contributed content, offered for Irish American News

Every year on June 16, something happens in Boston, Chicago, New York, and Melbourne that Dublin's tourism board has noticed but can't quite explain. Irish-Americans who have never read Ulysses – and some who have never visited Ireland – mark Bloomsday. Not ironically. With genuine feeling.

They share photos of themselves wearing straw boaters. They eat Gorgonzola sandwiches. They post passages from the book in WhatsApp groups, in Irish community Facebook pages, in newsletters. Many couldn't name Leopold Bloom's wife. That doesn't seem to matter.

Bloomsday – June 16, 1904, the single day on which James Joyce set Ulysses – has become something that no literary festival organizer planned for: a diaspora identity event. And the data, at least from one corner of the internet, is hard to argue with.

Love Ireland is a daily newsletter published to more than 64,000 subscribers, predominantly Irish-American women between 35 and 65. It's part of the Dream In Miles network – nine cultural travel brands with a combined 169,000 subscribers, publishing daily essays about place, memory, and belonging. Around the middle of June, something shifts in the readership. Not because readers are suddenly interested in literary criticism. Because Bloomsday has come to function, for this audience, the way St Brigid's Day or the Lisdoonvarna matchmaking festival functions: as a moment to be of Ireland, wherever you are.

What is this about, exactly?

The 33 million Americans who claim Irish heritage occupy a peculiar cultural position. Most of them have never lived in Ireland. Many have never visited. Their connection is constructed from family stories, from surnames, from the particular emotion that attaches to a grandmother's townland in County Mayo or a grandfather's accent remembered from childhood. This is not a thin connection – it is, for many people, the most emotionally resonant part of their identity. But it requires constant maintenance. It needs occasions.

St Patrick's Day is the obvious one, loud and green and commercially overpowering. But Bloomsday fills a different need. It's quieter, more specific, more literary without being exclusive. You don't need to have read the book to feel entitled to it. The book is Irish. Ireland is yours. Therefore: the book is also yours.

What's changed in the last decade is the infrastructure. The diaspora used to maintain this connection through parish churches, through Irish-American clubs and county associations, through once-a-year events that gathered people physically. Now they do it daily, on their phones, through newsletters. Love Ireland publishes something every day about the country – its food, its festivals, its place names, its grief traditions, its weather, its pubs. For 64,000 subscribers, it is a daily act of maintenance of an identity that would otherwise need to be actively reconstructed.

When Bloomsday arrives, it arrives into a readership that has been cultivated for it. They know what it means. They've been reading about the country every morning for years.

The interesting thing, culturally, is that the Bloomsday these readers celebrate is not Dublin's Bloomsday. It's been altered in transit. The straw boaters have stayed. The Gorgonzola sandwiches have stayed. But the Joycean complexity – the alienation, the difficulty, the modernist obscurity – has largely been set aside. What remains is something warmer: a sense of shared occasion, of communal Irishness, of a day that belongs to them regardless of geography.

Folklorists have a word for this: festive creolisation – the way festivals migrate across cultures and get remixed in the migration.



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BLOOMSDAY CELEBRATION AT THE IAHC

TUESDAY, JUNE 16 | TIMES TBA

Celebrate Bloomsday at the Irish American Heritage Center on June 16 as we honor one of Ireland's most beloved literary traditions inspired by James Joyce's Ulysses. This special event will celebrate Irish literature, culture, and storytelling, with additional details to be announced soon. Be sure to check our website and follow us on social media for updates on this unique celebration of Irish letters and legacy.

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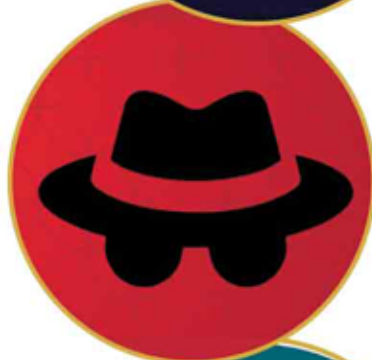
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“My name is Marty Quirk, and I've not only been a member of the Irish American Heritage Center, but have also worked here in an official capacity for the past six and a half years. The Center, however, has been part of my life — and my family's life — since I was a young kid. I have endless memories here that only continue to grow with time. I would encourage anyone and everyone to become a member of the IAHC here in Chicago so they can create meaningful memories of their own for years to come.” — Marty Quirk



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On the Law
 Matthew Gannon, John Scanlon, Martin Healy, Jr. and Kevin Veugeler
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This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. The articles will focus on various aspects of the law relating to personal injuries, those that happen both on-the-job and otherwise, including mishaps which occur in driving vehicles, using products, and receiving medical care. The column will also respond to legal questions relating to personal injury that are sent to us.

Healy Scanlon Veugeler Gannon is a law firm comprised of eight trial attorneys and four "Of Counsel" attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 161 N. Clark Street, Suite 2200, Chicago, Illinois 60601 (312-977-0100) (overlooking Daley Center). www.HSVGLaw.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

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

Poolside Peril: Understanding Homeowner Responsibility

Summer is almost here, and with it come the warm, sunny days we were so eagerly anticipating back in January. To beat the heat, many of us head to swimming pools, which can be ideal spots for rest, relaxation, and fun. However, swimming pools

pose significant dangers, which can lead to injury, illness, and even death, especially among children. In this article, we will examine the dangers associated with residential swimming pools and the potential liability homeowners may face for injuries occurring in or around them.

It is an unfortunate reality, but swimming pools are incredibly dangerous. According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission, drowning is the leading cause of death among children ages 1 to 4. 81% of fatal drownings involving children under 15 occurred in residential settings, such as the victim's home or the home of a family member or friend.

Residential pool injuries stem from a variety of causes, such as poor supervision, inadequate pool upkeep, defective pool barriers, hazardous diving areas, lack of emergency supplies, electrical hazards, and dangerous pool environments.

Pool chemicals, like chlorine, are necessary to protect swimmers' health. If a pool isn't properly treated, the pool water could become contaminated and cause illness. A pool's disinfectant level and pH should be checked at least twice a day, according to the CDC. Homeowners should also be aware of standing water around their pools, which could make its way into the pool resulting in contamination. Homeowners should also be aware that contamination can result from poor drain maintenance.

On the other hand, mishandling pool chemicals can cause serious injuries. According to the Office of the Illinois Fire Marshal, pool chemical injuries lead to about 4,500 U.S. emergency department visits per year. Over one-third of these injuries occur in children or teenagers.

To protect both swimmers and homeowners, the Illinois Legislature passed the Private Swimming Pool Enclosure Act, which applies to pools installed in or above the ground that have a depth of more than 42 inches and cover more than 25 square feet, or to pools that have a capacity of more than 200 gallons of water. The Act does not apply to above-ground pools with a height of 42 inches or more to jacuzzis. Additionally, the Act only applies to pools on private, residential properties, not to pools open to the public.

The Act requires that a protective fence, wall, or other effective permanent barrier of at least 42 inches completely enclose the perimeter of the pool. In addition to the Act, it is important to consult your local municipality's rules regarding residential

swimming pools. For example, the City of Chicago requires that pools deeper than 4 feet be completely enclosed by a fence or other barrier that is at least 5 feet high with self-closing and self-latching hardware, as well as walk areas that are at least 6 feet wide on all sides of the pool.

According to the American Red Cross, a four-sided isolation fence (separating the pool area from the house and yard) reduces a child's risk of drowning by 83%, compared to three-sided property-line fencing.

But simply complying with the Act and local rules is not enough to relieve a homeowner of potential liability for injuries sustained in or around their pool. The Illinois Premises Liability Act provides that homeowners owe their guests a duty of reasonable care under the circumstances. This duty, however, does not include a duty to warn or protect a guest from conditions on the premises that the guest knows about, conditions that are open and obvious, or conditions that a homeowner can reasonably expect the guest to discover. Additionally, a homeowner is not required to warn a guest of latent defects or dangers or of defects or dangers that the homeowner doesn't know about. Finally, a homeowner has no duty to warn or protect a guest from dangers that the guest creates on the premises.

Illinois law also recognizes the "attractive nuisance doctrine." While this doctrine applies only to children, it is very important, especially in the case of swimming pools. An attractive nuisance is a dangerous condition on a homeowner's property that may particularly attract children and pose a risk to their safety. Attractive nuisances can include trampolines, playgrounds, treehouses, and swimming pools. Even if a child is trespassing on someone's property and injures themselves in or around the property owner's pool, the property owner can still be liable for the child's injuries if the owner didn't take reasonable steps to safeguard their pool.

As applied to residential pools, liability may attach to homeowners for injuries sustained by their guests as a result of their failure to adequately supervise the pool area, especially in the case of children. Homeowners may be liable for slip-and-fall injuries when a slippery condition persists for an extended period of time, or if the homeowners allow clutter and debris to accumulate in and around the pool. Injuries resulting from water contamination,

equipment malfunctions, faulty barriers, and lack of first aid equipment, rescue hooks, and life rings may all trigger liability on the part of homeowners. Additionally, failure to clearly mark deep and shallow areas of a pool can subject homeowners to liability for diving injuries and drownings.

Our firm previously handled a case involving a client who was injured by a negligently designed pool. Our client was a guest at someone else's home and was lounging on the steps of an in-ground pool. At the time, he was sitting in what he believed to be the shallow end of the pool. The opposite end of the pool had a ladder for exiting the pool, and there were no markings indicating the depth of the pool. Our client got out of the pool using the shallow end steps and walked toward what he believed to be the deep end at the opposite side of the pool. He dove into the pool, but unbeknownst him, the pool was shallow on both ends and deep only in the middle. Thus, instead of diving into what he thought was the deep end, our client dove into water just over three feet deep, striking his head on the bottom of the pool and rendering him a quadriplegic. Our firm represented the individual, an Irish immigrant, in a lawsuit against the designer and manufacturer of the pool, as well as against the homeowners. The case went to trial, and a jury rendered a record-breaking \$8,100,000 verdict for our client.

While we pursued negligence claims against the designer, manufacturer, and owners of the pool on behalf of our client, when a swimming accident unfortunately ends in a fatality, a wrongful death action may be brought against any party whose negligence proximately caused the fatality, even the homeowner.

If you or are loved one suffer a swimming pool related injury, feel free to contact Healy Scanlon Veugeler Gannon to discuss your options with one of our attorneys.



Timothy J. Ganshirt is an associate attorney at Healy Scanlon Veugeler Gannon.



'Bloomsday in Chicago' at Galway Arms 6-16

On June 16th, the second floor of The Galway Arms at 2442 N. Clark Street in Chicago's Lincoln Park will once again welcome "Bloomsday In Chicago" readings from James Joyce's ULYSSES.

Sponsored by Puddin'head Press and hosted by university instructor, playwright, and Heirloom Books on-line lecturer Jeff Helgeson, the evening provides an overview of Joyce's novel with passages presented by actors, poets, scholars, and Joyce aficionados of all sorts.

Begun in 2004 on the 100th anniversary of the date on which the book termed the "Best Novel of The 20th Century" by The Modern Library takes place, "Bloomsday In Chicago" readings have continued annually, although moving on-line during the COVID pandemic. In 2025, Puddin'head Press released a "Bloomsday In Chicago" collection of select passages in a "Do It Yourself

ULYSSES" paperback book including photographs gathered together from over twenty years.

Readers will include: Rory Barton (pictured above as Stephen Dedalus), actors Jeff Brown, Barbara Button, Rita Crowley, Liz Goodson, Courtney Reed Harris, Rory Jobst, Katelyn Lane, McKenna Liesman, and Howard Raik (as Leopold Bloom), poets Francisca Barrett, Dan Cleary, Lynn Fitzgerald, Jerry Pendergras, Salli Berg-Seeley, Puddin'head Press publisher Dave Gecic, and writers/artists/photographers Henry Barret, Finn Halperin, Don Seeley, and Terry Verdoscia.

Pre and post-presentation music will again be provided by J.B. Pariah. Cover at the door: \$7 (in honor of #7 Eccles Street, Dublin, the home of Leopold and Molly Bloom).

Copies of "Bloomsday In Chicago" A Do It Yourself ULYSSES will also be available.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Get Out Ye Black & Tans! Shock as Politician Gives Straight Answer

You wouldn't be the better for it, I can tell you that for nothing. Having that yoke appear on your doorstep like Ireland's least wished-for houseguest. You'd have to be in the whole of your health, put it that way.

There you are, minding your own business, doing your evening Fred Flintstone and putting the old cat for out the night. Now, naturally you're keeping a wary eye out for lurking politicians, given that we're in the middle of a by-election. Which means that there are all sort of despicable, wretched, identical Borg drones lying in wait, just ready to pounce on anyone who sticks their nose outside of the door; ready to promise the sun, moon and stars if you'll only give them your vote.

And they are as sneaky as Old Nick himself because THEY know that YOU know that those promises are good for One Day Only. That EXACTLY one minute after the results are in, those selfsame promises are null & void, given that a political promise is designed to be ignored and even denied it was ever made the day after you've wasted your time by heading down to the polling stations.

So: deep breath. The worst that can happen is that some local gobmen takes up your time for two minutes, telling

lies straight to your face about the mighty changes they are going to make to the political landscape, mighty changes altogether. But then...

Not in your wildest nightmares; not in your darkest dreams; not - barring the ghost of Charles J. Haughey making a return visit - during your most bizarre acid flashbacks could you have imagined being doorstepped by the Papa Bear of Irish Chancers himself. Yet there you are, getting regaled by the unlovely and certainly unwelcome sight of Bertie Ahern - forgotten but not gone - jumping out of the bushes at you, mad grin on his big red face.

Now, he hasn't been wholly absent, has Bertie. He tested the waters there a while back about doing an 'out' stint -- serving his country, like -- as President. And what a nice little jolly THAT would have been, and he only perfect for the Pheonix Park residence, still living off the Good Friday Agreement and denying that a fella by the name of Albert Reynolds ever existed. A nice wee job altogether, swanning around and meeting up with fellow buckaroos from around the globe - no better man!

Unfortunately, even someone with a neck as hard as Bertie got the message that the majority just wanted him to feck off and disappear. So

off he slunk, leaving sighs of relief echoing all around. Yet here he was, back again! Out canvassing, so he was, on behalf of Dublin Central candidate John Stephens, the poor unfortunate, name now linked in infamy with Bertie forever more.

Now in fairness, Bertie is of my own generation. He's of a time when, if you're asked an honest question, then you give an honest answer. And you don't exactly expect to be getting creepily filmed with a hidden mobile phone. Yes, I know, I know; he's supposed to be a seasoned campaigner and all that. But idiots that we are, the Bertie fella and myself, we kind of expect to be treated with a bit of basic courtesy if that's what we ourselves are showing. More fool us, the days that are in it. Courtesy, ye say? Manners, is it? What are those?

Anyway! In the heel of the hunt, a woman at the doorstep tells him of her quite legitimate concerns about immigration. And - well, Holy God -- instead of hemming and hawing and giving an evasive answer like a politician normally would do, he gives - are you ready for this? - he gives a STRAIGHT ANSWER. Yes, you read that correctly: he gives a STRAIGHT ANSWER. The blessings of the saints on us, what was he thinking or was he thinking at all?

"The ones I worry about are the Africans. I agree with you on the Africans", he can be heard saying. "We can't be taking in people of the Congo and all these places. I think there's too many from those places."

Asked about Sharia Law

- again, a legitimate worry and a legitimate question - "The Muslims, like, I don't worry about this generation of Muslims, it's the next generation when the kids start growing up. That's when I think that the problem will be. I said this to Jim O'Callaghan, you know, that...that's where the problem will be."

You can see and hear all this online. Well, when I say see, you can look at Bertie's waist for the duration of the clip, so it's obvious that he doesn't know that he's being filmed. Which just isn't nice. I mean, if this lot were wary about telling us their true feelings before, we've no chance now. And can you blame them?

But when you get right down to it, what is wrong with his later clarification? He says that there are a lot of Africans in his area who have come up through the system successfully and who live and work there. Fair enough.

And he says that he has "no problem with people who come here through the visa and asylum systems". So, in other words I have more in common with Bertie Ahern than I would ever have imagined, because I feel exactly the same.

However - and I'm not going to start throwing statistics around - last year we had a 67% increase of ILLEGAL non-EU nationals slipping through the net; and that's just the ones that we know about.

Of course, with Bertie or any politician, it's never that simple. It's entirely possible that he was just telling the woman what she wanted to hear. Definitely not beyond the bounds of possibility. But we'll give him the benefit

of the doubt and say that these are his genuine views. In which case he is speaking for a hell of a lot of ordinary Irish people. And no, I'm not talking about the supposedly frothing-at-the-mouth 'Far Right' that the politicians and media love to throw out, like some one-size-fits-all boogymen. I'm talking about Irish people with legitimate concerns.

What a headache for Taoiseach Micheál Martin of FF and Tánaiste Simon Harris of FG (same difference), though, eh? Especially with the Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis coming up tomorrow and Saturday (as I write this). They don't even have time to check what the electoral wind is blowing, so they just have to settle for squealing "This party is not racist!" and hope for the best. I like to think of them hearing about this breaking story and yelling "JAYSUS! WHAT'S HE AFTER DOING NOW?!"

For many others, it's a god send. Dr. Ebon Joseph says: "It was upsetting and scary to hear." Then again Dr. Joseph is the Special Rapporteur on Racial Equality and Racism at the Department of Justice, so... Oh yes -- and she wants Bertie to attend an anti-racist course to rid him of his 'hate'.

Good heavens, is that the time? I better be going before I put my own foot in it. But listen: whether or not you agree with Bertie Ahern, enjoy this rare case of a straight answer from a politician.

With mobile phones sneakily filming at the doorsteps, it's likely to be the last one you ever get. charleybrady@gmail.com

From Mid-West to Shining Midwest

by Matt Sheehan

More than 3,000 miles lie between Midwestern USA and the Mid-West of Ireland, yet roughly 200 years connect the two regions.

My documented Sheehan Irish roots take us back 216 years, when my fourth great-grandfather Bartholomew Sheehan was born in County Limerick. In 1846, he and his bride, Joanna, set out to America via a vessel named John Garrow. The rest is history.

But no adventure ever ends there. Each story is filled with a past, present and future.

Today, many similarities remain between these regions. In America, there's a saying called "Midwest hospitality." The same can be said in Ireland.

County Limerick is the perfect example of this.

I grew up in St. Louis, Missouri. A historic American metropolitan known for its City vs. County make up, filled with roughly 2.8 million people. But it doesn't have to be "versus." Having unique rural and urban communities helps the overall region thrive.

Just like in Limerick, Ireland. A bustling downtown in Limerick City pairs with beautiful County fields, hills, lakes and more.

Limerick is one of my favorite cities on Earth. It's walkable, has historic

system that we used. It's a way to encourage spending Euros to stay local, and works like a credit card. Many bars, restaurants, shops and cafes accept this, and the list will grow as more establishments join the program.

We stayed at four lodging establishments in Limerick, all of which are completely unique and fantastic.

The Limerick Strand is a beautiful hotel that overlooks the River Shannon and boasts a lovely lobby, health & leisure club, and restaurant. Head across the bridge and you're in the midst of city life.

The Moig Lodge in Shanagolden is a 1950s milking parlor, renovated to be a rental property that can fit 20 people! You'll be greeted by two dogs and two goats. There's even a private Irish pub on site that you can order a keg of Guinness for you and your group to enjoy.

Fitzgerald's Woodlands House Hotel in Adare is amazing. The rooms are gorgeous, and the hotel has an otherworldly spa on-site, with thermal suites and massage + hair treatments available. Kids enjoy the kids' club inside, as well as a soft play sensory room next door. Outside is the mini pet farm with goats, peacocks, alpacas and more. There's also playground and fairy trail. This is the type of place you want to stay multiple nights at.

Our last night was at the 5-Star Savoy Limerick. On the city side of the



The St. Louis Sheehan Family Visiting County Limerick

to go. I pray this article helps provide inspiration for that. Many hotels have already booked up for the Ryder Cup. If you're planning to attend, I'd suggest you book accommodation ASAP!

My Sheehan ancestors were from Newcastle West, a beautiful town with a lovely Town Square, castle, shops and restaurants. We were given a private tour of the Desmond Castle (NCW) by Heritage Ireland, part of Ireland's Office of Public Works. The site can be visited by the public, and tours are free! You don't even need to make an appointment. You just walk up and request a tour. Check Heritage

Ireland's website for specific hours and opening dates. Newcastle West is just a 15-minute drive from Moig Lodge, so it's a perfect day trip. I'm currently flying over the Atlantic Ocean and roughly halfway home. My 3-year-old son Bennett asked me, "dad, are we going back to Ireland?" I asked him, "do you want to go back?" "Yes," he smiled. That's all I can ask for. These memories will be engraved in my mind forever, and I am thankful my family's first experience in Limerick is a positive memory that will last a lifetime. Until next time Limerick, Slán go fóill.



landmarks like King John's Castle and Saint Mary's Cathedral, and has a lively bar and restaurant scene. The River Shannon runs adjacent to the city, giving picturesque views.

I recently brought my wife and kids over for holiday, and we loved it. We enjoyed local hotels, restaurants and family-friendly activities the city has to offer, like the Milk Market on weekends.

We used the Discover Limerick Pass, which gets you entry to nearly a dozen activities.

We adventured through King John's and Saint Mary's, strolled through the Hunt Museum and did a brewery tour at Treaty City nearby. We also used the Pass in the County at Lough Gur, a half hour drive from downtown. See a stunning area filled with nature walks, fairy trails, a fun playground for kids, and a Visitors center to learn about the area's history.

We saw flying boats at the Foynes Maritime Museum, which is also home to the Irish Coffee Museum. The pass is a great option for visitors to experience more of what Limerick has to offer.

The local City & County Council recently unveiled a Limerick Gift Card

River Shannon, you'll be engulfed in an electric part of Limerick. The hotel itself is wonderful, with a beautiful restaurant called The Library, as well as a bar & lounge in the lobby.

Some dining highlights of our trip include The Bedford (2 minute walk from the Savoy), The Locke Bar and Katie Daly's (both in short walking distance to King John's and Saint Mary's). All three accept the Limerick gift card.

The Old Stand in Shanagolden is terrific. Just a five minute drive from Moig Lodge, the restaurant is the go-to spot in the town. Our service and food were both fantastic. We also loved Fairways Bar and Restaurant, located at the Adare Manor Golf Club. As you look out the window, you'll see a golf course and the Desmond Castle (Adare). Make sure to order the Coca-Cola chicken wings!

In September 2027, the Ryder Cup will be in Adare, at the world-class Adare Manor, and the world's eyes will be on County Limerick. As the region gears up for an event of this magnitude, it's always helpful for first timers to have a sense of what to do and where

ATLANTIC EDGE
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Limerick is a unique destination for tourists, offering a perfect blend of friendly locals, captivating folklore, and hidden gems.

Limerick Greenway invites cyclists and walkers to explore scenic landscapes, while the medieval town of Kilmallock immerses visitors in history.

Thrill-seekers can enjoy the buzz of the Ballyhoura Mountains, while Lough Gur Lakeshore Park and its ancient Stone Circle offer a deeper connection to Ireland's past.

Treaty City Brewery Tours provide a taste of locally crafted beer, rounding out a memorable experience.

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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I recently had lunch with a bunch of mothers who had a European background and were raising teenage and college students. Here are a few snippets of our conversation.

The front door of my childhood home in Europe was more than just a piece of wood; it was a boundary. Growing up, the rules were as unyielding as the stone walls of the house. If a friend wanted to see if I was available, they didn't text, and they certainly didn't just walk in. They stood

GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN

outside, knocked firmly, and asked my parents if I was "coming out to play."

Very seldom did anyone who wasn't a blood relative cross that threshold. (especially in our home with twelve of us, cousins only.) And if they did, the "upstairs" remained a forbidden kingdom. That

was where the bedrooms were—the sacred territory of the parents. Unless you were desperate for the bathroom, your feet never touched those stairs. We lived by a code of privacy and hierarchy that seems almost alien in today's world of open-concept living and "open-door" parenting.

Now, as a mother in a very different era, I find myself standing at a new kind of threshold. My "babies" have grown up, gone off to college to taste the wild air of independence, and are now circling back to the nest. It's the "boomerang" phenomenon, and while our hearts are glad to have them back, our heads are often spinning.

The transition of a college student moving back home is a delicate dance. For four years, they have lived in a world where 2:00 AM is the prime of the evening, where "cleanliness" is a subjective term, and where their peers are their only authority. Then, they walk back through our front door, bags packed with laundry and a college degree, and suddenly, two worlds collide.

I've had to explain that while they may be "adults" in the eyes of the law, this home still operates under a very specific set of rules—the "Irish mum and Dad Law."

The first clash usually happens over the 9- to 5 reality. Parents are working Monday through Friday. It's a hard pill for a recent grad to swallow when I tell them that the "college buddies" cannot

be over on a Tuesday night. My home is my sanctuary. It isn't a 24/7 social hub or an extension of the campus student union.

In my youth, the upstairs was sacred because it belonged to the parents' peace. I find myself channeling that European upbringing now. I need them to understand that their presence here is a transition, not a permanent retreat.

Then comes the "Big World" wake-up call: the bills. It starts with the realization that car insurance doesn't pay itself and that "unlimited data" on a cell phone plan has a very real price tag attached to it. When we talk to them about contributing to the utility bills or even paying a modest rent, I can see the flicker of shock in their eyes. They see it as "mean" and we see it as a survival course.

Laying down the law isn't about being a drill sergeant; it's about being a coach. If I make this home too comfortable—if the fridge is always magically stocked, the towels are always fluffy, and there are no financial expectations—why would they ever want to leave? By enforcing these boundaries, I am helping them build the muscles they need to find that first job and eventually secure a place of their own.

Transitioning into adulthood is supposed to be a little bit uncomfortable. It's that discomfort that pushes a bird to leave the nest. When I insist on knowing their plans for the day, or when I remind them that the kitchen needs to be clean, we are not just nagging. We are reinstating the hierarchy that allows a family to function. I'm protecting the "sacred upstairs" of my own life while preparing them to one day have a "sacred upstairs" of their own.

To the other mothers out

there navigating this: don't be afraid to lay down the law. It is okay to say "no" to the late-night visitors. It is okay to hand them the bill for their car insurance. It is okay to expect them to live by your terms while they are under your roof. You aren't just their mother anymore; you are their first landlord and their most important mentor in the reality of the "big world."

Our homes are our fortresses. We worked hard to build them, to pay the mortgages, and to create a life of stability.

I want my children to know that they are always loved and always welcome, but I also want them to know that the threshold of this house is a place of mutual respect. Just like the friends of my youth who waited patiently outside our front door, my adult children must learn that entry into the "big world" starts with respecting the rules of the house they were raised in.

A home is a privilege, the "upstairs" is earned, and the best way to help your children grow up is to stop treating them like they're still small enough to play in the yard.

Whether I follow through remains to be seen but this was some of our mum's perspective. Personally I'd choose to have my son and daughter at home but in reality while it breaks my heart I'm not doing them any favours. I thought I was going to have a heart attack when my son moved to Kalamazoo but I visited him and saw how happy and independent he is and want the same for my daughter. She just graduated in May from ISU with Honours. Our little Teacher. Congratulations Maryjo.

jocoleman58@gmail.com

38th County Clare Association 'Day for Special People'

The 38th County Clare Association "Day for Special People" will take place at Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119

W. 147th St., Oak Forest, IL, on Sunday, June 7, 2026. The festivities will begin with 10:00 AM Mass. A buffet breakfast

and the grand raffle will follow. Our "special guests" will be automatically entered in the raffle when they arrive at the park. If their name is called, they will have the opportunity to choose a prize from an exciting array of electronics, sports equipment, games, large stuffed animals, and more.

All activities and prizes are completely free for our Special Guests; registration is required to participate. Breakfast will be available for others at a nominal charge. After breakfast and the Grand Raffle, guests are invited to enjoy patio games, earning up to four prizes of their choice from tables filled with assorted gifts.

To register a "special guest," please contact:

Maureen Bennett at 708/301-9773 or email the name to be registered, age, and contact number to Mryale90@aol.com. Registration is open.



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Wheaton's 40th Annual Scotland Highland Games June 12 & 13

Scotland is headed back to the DuPage County Fairgrounds! Following the success of recent years in Wheaton, the Chicago Scots are proud to announce that the Midwest's largest Scottish event will return for its 40th Annual Scottish Festival & Highland Games on Friday, June 12 (9am-8pm) and Saturday, June 13 (9am-10pm). This beloved two-day celebration will once again bring plenty of Scottish fun, fanfare, music, culture, tradition, skill, and athleticism to the western suburbs. This year's festivities also include a rare, special appearance by the world-renowned Inveraray & District Pipe Band, as part of North America's largest bagpiping and drumming championship. All proceeds from the weekend will benefit the Chicago Scots' principal charity, Caledonia Senior Living & Memory Care in North Riverside. Tickets are on sale at <https://chicagoscotts.org/festival/>

their first match in the summer's World Cup. Treasured across generations, this family-friendly outdoor festival annually attracts approximately 15,000 attendees and offers a massive lineup of iconic activities and attractions, including athletic events such as the



The vibrant essence of Scottish culture will be on full display throughout the weekend. New this year is Family-Friendly-Friday with all attractions inviting and encouraging kids of all ages to join in and participate. And on Saturday night, festival goers will gather around a big screen to watch Scotland's national soccer team play

caber toss, Highland dancing, the dogs of Scotland, an expanded kids' area, Celtic music, genealogy, Scottish food and drink, whisky tastings, a classic British car show, and a bustling Scottish marketplace offering everything from kilts and candy to jewelry, toys, tartan goods, and of course, haggis.

"Wheaton has become a wonderful home for our Festival. This event continues to unite generations of

families and friends," said Chicago Scots President Gus Noble OBE. "Whether you're Scottish by birth, by heritage, or simply by inclination, our invitation is always the same: come be Scottish for at least one day. And this year, we're especially excited to bring fans together for the Scotland World

Cup watch party, another great way to celebrate our shared spirit and pride. This is guaranteed to be a Scottish party for the ages!"

Just before dusk on Saturday, June 13, when all the piping and drumming competitions that comprise North America's largest bagpiping championship, are done, the entire festival will gather for the "massed bands," which Gus Noble describes

as "a moment where time feels suspended, bringing everyone together in a powerful shared connection that's both emotional and unforgettable." The massed bands will include a unique salute to Veterans of all branches of the armed forces as the Chicago Scots celebrate the USA's 250th birthday. Food and Marketplace Vendor registration is currently open for 2026 applications. Those interested in learning more are invited to do so here.

Ticket prices for the 40th Annual Scottish Festival & Highland Games are as follows:

Friday: Children 12 and under FREE; Adults \$25

Saturday: Children 12 and under FREE; Adults \$30

Two Day Pass - Children 12 and under FREE; Adults \$45

VIP Two Day Pass: \$225 admission includes complimentary food and beverage service (with a Scottish flare), whisky masterclass, premier parking, and more.

The festival will be held at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, IL. Parking will be free. For more information, event schedules, competition registration forms, volunteer opportunities or tickets, visit <https://chicagoscotts.org/festival/> or call (708) 447-5092.

Another Perfect Getaway in Donegal Ireland

It never ceases to amaze me, the drive down the avenue to the Redcastle Hotel. With trees overhead and lining the road, the 9-hole golf course to your right, the majestic building of the hotel and the lough Foyle ahead, just adds a touch of magic every time. I've been coming to this hotel since childhood, and although

20 minutes' drive from Redcastle Hotel. Here you will find a sanctuary for many animals which have been exploited, abused, and hunted to the point of extinction, located in an ancient Celtic rainforest. The Famine Village is just a 30-minute drive, and here you will find an authentic and immersive experience telling

really care" he tells me, and "They act as if they are taking the guests into their own house." Now that's true Irish hospitality at its finest!

The initial estate of this hotel dates back to the early 17th Century when an Alderman and Recorder of Derry, George Cary, settled on this land and built the original Redcastle House.



Rooms with an ocean view



owns the modern-day hotel and continues to update and love it like a true family heirloom. And that's how it feels when you meet the staff here; like you are part of their much-extended family. The original part of the house remains to the present day as the front of the hotel. "We have tried to keep the history of the past and many features still remain," said Owen.

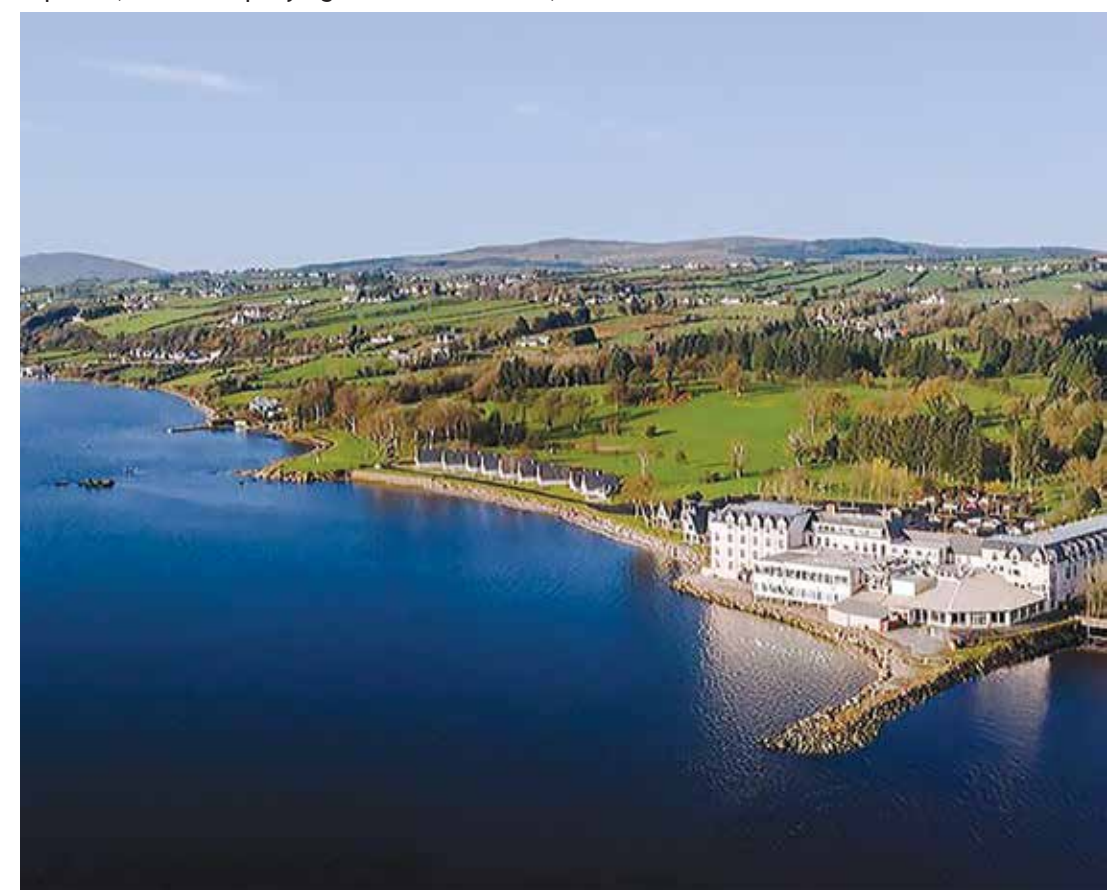
With its Thalasso spa, now featuring outdoor hot tubs in the river, and offering a wide range of treatments, just last year they installed a new Japanese head spa. Redcastle were the forerunners introducing such in Donegal. Many have followed since. Owen tells me, "Our spa is leading the way at present."

"I have a lot of trust in my team" Owen says. That speaks volumes in leadership. And Redcastle is certainly a leader in Donegal hotels. "The golf course here is a 9-hole one. It's a base for golfers for Ballyliffin, Buncrana, Greencastle and more". Owen tells me, "We really do have the facilities here. In fact, Donegal can do tourism as good as Kerry." I might add, even better than Kerry!!

I asked Owen if the hotel caters for many tours here at the hotel. "We have a tour from New Zealand here at present" I'm told. "We host a lot of tours from New Zealand and Australia, We have a lot from the UK also. And we would really like to welcome more from the US to Redcastle". This General Manager is very keen to showcase the beauty of Redcastle and the surrounding area of Inishowen's beauty, to tourists worldwide.

I did say to Owen that I ate in the hotel bar quite recently and found the menu very accessible, loved the variety, and was very impressed with the choice. What I hadn't realised is that this menu is now available throughout the hotel, and one can enjoy the wonderful dining room river/lough view and order of this menu daily. It's a very affordable one, and one that really does have something for everyone.

Today, Redcastle Hotel blends centuries of Inishowen heritage with modern hospitality, serving as a popular destination for Wild Atlantic Way travelers, spa-goers, and weddings, and never fails to offer the traditional Irish welcome as you walk through those doors. If you plan to visit Ireland anytime soon, consider a trip to Donegal and come the whole way to the top of the county and explore Inishowen from Redcastle Hotel. You really won't be disappointed, For more information on the hotel, go to www.redcastleoteldonegal.com and for information on Inishowen in general go to www.govisitinishowen.com We really do have a lot to offer.



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I've watched the building itself develop and evolve, and the trees mature, that touch of natural beauty just never disappoints.

As part of the Harcourt Collection of hotels, Redcastle has sister hotels at Lough Eske Donegal, The Titanic Hotel Belfast, The Titanic Hotel Liverpool, The Aspect Hotel Dublin, The Grand Central, Bundoran, Donegal, and the luxurious Carlisle Bay Hotel in the Caribbean. But Redcastle itself offers its very own taste of luxury right here in Inishowen, Co. Donegal.

It was a delight to sit down on a Monday at lunchtime mid-May with hotel General Manager Owen McGee. A true Donegal man himself, his passion for showcasing the hotel as a must-visit is clear. Owen takes his role at the hotel very seriously and oozes passion as an advocate for Inishowen tourism. Like many of us Donegal folk, Owen readily admits that many tourists "come to Donegal Town and feel that is the center of Donegal." We Inishowen locals have noticed over the years that many American tourists, omit travelling to the Northwest of the county and seeing the natural beauty and facilities on offer here. As Owen said, "Inishowen has so much to offer. We're so lucky with what we have on our doorstep; from Wild Ireland to the Famine Village, the Wild Appaca Way and so much more."

With a total of 94 bedrooms and all fully refurbished in the past few years, this hotel offers four-star luxury with a five-star feel. With a variety of offers always available you can avail of a spa break, a family stay, a couple's escape and more throughout the year. Owen confirms that 98% of the staff here are local. Some of these are here 17 years and there are generations of families here too. It's a hub of Irish hospitality. "Our staff

the story of Irish life from the Great Famine of the 1840's through to the present day. And the delightful Wild Alpaca Way is just a 30-minute drive away, where you can walk Alpacas along the stunning coastline overlooking Malin Head and the Atlantic Ocean. And these are just a few of the excursions available nearby. Inishowen is a hive of natural beauty and opportunity. And Redcastle Hotel is the most stunning base to explore it all from.

Owen took over the GM role in Redcastle in 2022. He previously managed hotels in Mullingar, Limerick and Kildare, to name but a few. Having always wanted to return to his native Donegal, he is now at the helm of this prestigious hotel. He told me he so enjoys the drive down to work each morning and says, "myself and the team often open the doors onto the Lough Foyle in the morning and record the different sunrises." They really are spectacular right here.

With a total of 94 bedrooms and all fully refurbished in the past few years, this hotel offers four-star luxury with a five-star feel. With a variety of offers always available you can avail of a spa break, a family stay, a couple's escape and more throughout the year.

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CONNECTIONS

BY ELYSE LYONS PFANDLER



When I was a little girl, I watched the Miss America contest on television every year. I loved listening to the women speak, watching their talents, and waiting for the final crowning moment. It wasn't just about beauty, it was about intelligence, confidence, and the many ways women were celebrated. Those moments made me feel like anything was possible, even if it all seemed very far away and unattainable. This past April, I spent a wonderful afternoon with my daughter and a few friends, seated in the front row of an inspiring event. We listened to accomplished singers, watched artists paint, heard funny and heartwarming stories of Irish heritage and family, joined in a sing-along, and even learned a bit of the Irish language. Every table in the room was filled with families and friends cheering. After a few hours, the room fell completely silent. You could feel the anticipation. Then the emcee stepped forward and said, "It gives me great pleasure, folks, your next Rose of Tralee is Fiona Gaffney."



The twenty-four women in the Chicago Rose of Tralee Contest were all remarkable and I felt especially grateful that my eleven-year-old daughter was there with me to experience something like this in person, rather than through a television screen, as I once had. This experience did seem attainable. All of the young

women were genuine and darling. Fiona is not only beautiful and accomplished, but also genuinely grateful for the opportunity. Fiona grew up in the northwest suburbs of Long Grove with her parents, Daniel and Angela, and her two younger sisters, Tara and Orla. With deep Irish roots, her mother born in Westmeath and raised in Waterford, and her grandparents from Wexford, Fiona traveled to Ireland many times when growing up.

Her love for Irish culture runs deep. Her first job was at the Irish Boutique in Long Grove, and her cousin, Siobhan Carroll, who was the Chicago Rose in 2011, first sparked her interest in the competition. After graduating from the University of Michigan with degrees in Biophysics and Microbiology, Fiona entered the Chicago Rose Contest in 2024. She didn't win that year, but she made friends and formed a deeper connection to her community. She became involved with the Young Irish Fellowship Club and now serves as Vice President of Cultural Affairs for the Ireland Network Chicago. She also developed a passion for the Irish language, studying with Na Gaeil Chicago. On April 19, 2026, Fiona gave the competition another try and this time, she won. As part of the contest, each young woman presents a "party piece," a traditional Irish performance such as a song, poem, story, or dance. Fiona chose to share her love of the Irish language. After three years of study, she confidently taught the entire audience a few phrases,

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delivering her lesson with humor. Currently finishing her master's degree in Public Health, Fiona also works as a data analyst in food safety and brand protection. Following a Chicago send-off in August, she will travel to Tralee, Ireland to compete in the International Rose of Tralee Festival alongside 32 other women from around the world. The festival will take place August 14-18, 2026, with the final selection broadcast live. She is especially looking forward to having her family, from the United States, Australia, and England, gather in Ireland to cheer her on. As she prepares, she's also collecting the many outfits needed for the trip, though

she is confident friends will surely help by sharing along the way. This August, many young girls will sit in front of their televisions watching Fiona and the other contestants, just as I once watched Miss America. And as I did years ago, they'll begin to imagine what's possible. Good luck to Chicago's Rose of Tralee, Fiona Gaffney, ádh mór! I also have to recognize my favorite Rose of all time, the beautiful Catherine O'Connell who won Chicago Rose in 1977. As Catherine would say, "Strong women- may we know them, may we be them, may we raise them."

Drop me a line at elysepandler@gmail.com

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2026 Chicago Rose of Tralee contestants gathered on the steps of the Irish American Heritage Center.

Pregnancy and Parenting

Through accompaniment, Catholic Charities empowers new moms with confidence
By Karen Moore

For 33 years, I have dedicated my career at Catholic Charities to mothers and families. From my first role as a HeadStart teacher to my current role as director of our Pregnancy and Parenting program, I really enjoy seeing the interactions and the bonding between moms and their babies. The moms who participate in our programs are already great moms who love their kids, and they're just trying to become even better moms. They come to us very vulnerable and trusting. We don't try to teach them – we accompany them. We listen to their goals and help them.

Moms attend our parenting group sessions, and staff conduct home visits to witness how moms and dads interact with their children. I love seeing the parent-

child interactions and family bond strengthen. It's also very rewarding for me to witness the care our staff brings to moms and their families. Our doulas and our home visitors have built a rapport to make strong connections with these families, which is vital to the work they do. Once we build that relationship and trust, we can walk hand-in-hand with moms. We accompany them as they learn about important developmental milestones for their children, then encourage them to establish goals we can work toward together.

Moms of all ages seek the expertise of our doulas who meet with them to discuss their desired birth plans and ensure those plans have been reviewed and approved by their doctor. Doulas teach new

moms what to expect during and after labor and delivery. They show them how to feed their baby and encourage regular pediatrician wellness visits. Our team provides diapers and wipes, developmental toys, and other essentials during home

some of the highest maternal mortality rates and worst health disparities exist in low-income communities. Catholic Charities offers expert guidance and loving care to at-risk parents and caregivers during the critical months before and following birth, improving the health of moms and babies, building conditions for lifelong health, and moving more families impacted by poverty toward optimal outcomes.

We offer free programs for eligible moms and families in and around Chicago's Roseland community and beyond, as well as those residing in Chicago's western suburbs and Lake County. All of these programs send Catholic Charities team members to visit expectant and new parents with young children to strengthen parent-child interactions and strengthen

family bonds.

Last year, our team provided 2,593 successful home visits to 548 parents in our community.

I encourage moms to ask questions and be open to learning. They learn to develop a bond with their baby by talking to and reading to their baby, and they learn practical skills around feeding their baby, providing developmental toys, and more.

I was born and raised in Roseland, and I drive by the house I grew up in on my way to work. I know this community well, and I remember what it was like to be a new mom and how scary it can be. We teach moms how to enjoy these early days with their babies, because it goes fast!

Karen Moore is the director of the Pregnancy and Parenting Program for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.



visits, as well as referrals for pediatricians, childcare, or other community resources to help moms be successful.

Mothers and children from low-income households disproportionately experience worse outcomes during pregnancy, infancy, and early childhood, creating gaps that last into adulthood and carry over to the next generation. In Cook and Lake counties,

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The Value of the Roth Retirement Account

The Roth retirement account – whether a Roth IRA or an employer-sponsored Roth account, such as a Roth 401(k) – can provide powerful long-term tax advantages when used strategically. While Roth accounts have become increasingly accessible, there

several key questions:

- Will your future tax bracket be higher or lower than it is today?

- Could a Roth conversion strategy help reduce future taxes?

- How does a Roth fit into your broader retirement income plan?

- What are the inheritance implications for beneficiaries?
- How might future tax law changes affect retirement savings strategies?

Final Thoughts

Roth retirement accounts can play an important role in a well-designed retirement strategy because of their unique tax advantages and flexibility. However, the right approach depends on your income, retirement timeline, estate planning goals, and overall financial situation.

For individuals near retirement, careful tax planning becomes especially important when determining how and when to utilize Roth accounts effectively.

If you would like to discuss whether a Roth strategy may be appropriate for your situation, contact Mike Corrigan at 708-215-5100 or mike@corriganfs.com

Master Your Money
By Mike Corrigan

are important rules, income limitations, and planning considerations investors should understand before deciding whether a Roth is right for them.

Key Benefits of a Roth Retirement Account Tax-Free Growth

Investments inside a Roth account grow tax-free, allowing earnings to compound over time without the drag of annual taxation.

Qualified withdrawals in retirement are entirely tax-free, which can help reduce your overall tax burden during retirement years.

No Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)

Unlike traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs are not subject to required minimum distributions during the original owner's lifetime. This provides greater flexibility in managing retirement income and preserving assets for future generations.

Access to Contributions

Contributions to a Roth IRA can generally be withdrawn at any time without taxes or penalties, offering an added level of financial flexibility if unexpected needs arise.

Potential Tax-Bracket Advantage

A Roth account may be especially beneficial for individuals who expect to be in a higher tax bracket later in life or who believe tax rates may rise in the future.

Estate Planning Options

Roth accounts can be valuable legacy-planning tools because beneficiaries may inherit assets

with significant tax advantages compared to traditional retirement accounts.

Potential Drawbacks to Consider

Income Limits
Direct Roth IRA contributions are subject to income restrictions, which may limit



eligibility for higher-income earners.

No Immediate Tax Deduction

Unlike traditional IRA contributions, Roth contributions are made with after-tax dollars, so investors do not receive an upfront tax deduction.

The Five-Year Rule

To withdraw investment earnings tax-free, the Roth account generally must be open for at least five years and the account owner must be age 59½ or older. This rule can affect short-term flexibility and withdrawal planning.

Important Planning Questions

When deciding whether a Roth strategy makes sense, investors should consider

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The Dirty Wellies: Poised to Take Off in 2026

Since 2013, local band "The Dirty Wellies" have delighted Chicagoland audiences with their unique blend of energetic Irish traditional tunes, and American and

called the Celtic Wrens; they did surprisingly well, and got their first gigs. Maggie's parents moved to the States in 2004, and she followed them shortly after in 2006.



Irish pop songs. Although they have enjoyed slow and steady growth for the past 13 years, the Wellies now appear ready to take their music and the group to the next level.

She is now married to Vinny, works in nursing, and has 4 children ages 4, 8, 10, and 12.

The band began in 2012 as The Murphy Girls, a trio of related County Mayo natives: Regina Coyle, Maggie O'Callaghan, and Bernie Medina. As they appeared regularly at local establishments like Irish Times in Brookfield IL, they recruited several local guys to play with them, who eventually joined them permanently. Addition of the men necessitated a name change. Maggie said, "a couple of names were thrown around, but The Dirty Wellies just stuck.....it was something catchy and.... we did spend a long time in our wellies!"

Maggie's first cousin, Regina Coyle, also grew up in Began. Regina's family emigrated; her father and sibs settled in New York, but one sister came to Chicago,

for 12 years, stating "my wife kinda taught me." When asked what he'd like people to know about the Wellies, he said, "I'd like people to know the band members are interesting- and everyone has their own story." And I would have to agree with that.

Jim Aman, the oldest member of the band, grew up in Texas. After earning advanced degrees in computer science and education, Jim made a career teaching computer science. Eventually, he was recruited to teach at St Xavier University in Chicago, where he worked for 11 years before retiring in 2014. Bandmate Regina taught him tin whistle; he also plays spoons, concertina,

and its managing directors, she invited him to come over to the Wellies, and to Irish traditional music. He instantly loved it, despite the fact he is Polish, and has no Irish in him. But now, he feels "Irish music is a living thing. I'm a custodian, and I will pass it on to the next generation." Jim says the band's inspiration has come from Lunasa, Glen Hansard, Altan, and the Merry Ploughboys.

Youngest member of the group, Rian Norris, lives in Oak Lawn. At age 5, he was given a guitar by his aunt Michaela Sheeran, and immediately took to it. Since then, he has become proficient in guitar, banjo, mandolin, concertina, and tin whistle. Rian's talent has been noticed by other local

musicians like Evin O'Riordan and Kieran Byrne. Outside of music, Rian enjoys Gaelic football, soccer and golf. He says he shoots 39-42 on 9 holes. Not bad.

The 7th band member, Brian Corbett, was not available for interview when I visited with the Wellies, but I'm told he is an outstanding vocalist from Galway who participated in Voice UK in 2020.



The group currently consists of 7 members: Regina Coyle (accordion, Maggie O'Callaghan (fiddle and vocals), Vinnie O'Callaghan (bodhrán), Jim Galecki (bass guitar), Jim Aman (tin whistle), Brian Corbett (vocals), and Rian Norris (banjo, mandolin, guitar, concertina). The oldest member is 80, while the youngest is just 15. And a nicer bunch of people you would be hard pressed to meet.

and Regina followed her. She currently works as an assistant principal at an elementary school in Oak Lawn, and plays accordion, tin whistle, guitar, and piano in the band.

lap dulcimer, and piano. Jim is proud of the fact that his only Irish ancestor fought in the Revolutionary War, and lived to be 101! Jim feels people need to know about the Wellies "because we have been at this for 14-15 years, we paid our dues, and we are not only very good, but we are just at a very good point in our music."

Bass guitarist Jim Galecki, age 60, had a rock and roll background, and formerly played with Regina in the Gotham Ramblers band.

marketing approach has resulted in an increase in Instagram followers from 200 to over 1100 in just 6 short months. The Wellies plan their first tour to Ireland in June, and to North Carolina in July, with their 1st CD also in the works. The Dirty Wellies appear to be entering a new phase of their journey together as a band, and I will be following their story closely. It appears the sky's the limit.

As the Wellies co-founders, Maggie and Regina serve as the "heart" of the group

Contact me at christine.lawless@yahoo.com

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Time seems to be passing so fast - can you believe that it's June already? - and this month there's plenty of news about Irish movies being filmed and set to be filmed in the upcoming weeks and months.

Just ended a week or so ago the famous film festival in Cannes, France, came to an end. There was good news there for Barry Keoghan movie Butterfly Jam and Clio Barnard's (pictured) I See Buildings Fall Like Lightning, which stars an ensemble cast of young Irish and UK actors: both of them screened in the prestigious Directors' strand of the 12-day event.

Adapted by Enda Walsh from the novel by Keiran Goddard, I See Buildings Fall Like Lightning follows five childhood friends who have hit 30 years old, and are faced with the realities of their lives. The cast includes Irish stars Anthony Boyle (House of Guinness), Lola Petticrew (Trespases) and Daryl McCormack (Bad Sisters) alongside UK actors Joe Cole and Jay Lycurgo.

Butterfly Jam, directed by Kantemir Balagov, has the honor of opening the Directors' Fortnight. It stars Barry Keoghan and Riley Keough,

includes Talha Akdogan, Harry Melling, Tommy McInnis and Monica Bellucci.

Last month I noted that production is due to get underway later this spring in Galway City and Connemara on The Yank, a new six-part psychological thriller penned by Eithne Verling, a Limerick native, and Kate Mulgrew.

Mulgrew is leading the cast (you may



recognize her from Star Trek: Voyager, Orange Is the New Black) and she plays Nora Savage, a New York detective who returns to her family home in Connemara while on leave from the

Irish Women Can Hold Their Own

It all started at the Linwood Dunn Theatre on 1313 N. Vine Street, Hollywood, California. The Los Angeles Irish Film Festival was a non-competitive festival all about celebrating the Irish love for story telling as well as the deep rooted love for the tellers of tales.

It is a rich and ancient tradition that started around the hearth of every Irish household, and the cultural passion for story telling has found its way onto the world stage through the medium of film.

Back in the day the Irish Film Board was organized by the Consul General of Ireland Gerry Staunton and Finbarr Hill. Attending filmmakers included Lelia Doolan, Katie Holly, Kieron L. Walsh followed by a liberation of celebration attendees including Doolan, Fionnula Flanagan, Patricia Harty, Aine O' Healy and Estelle Shanley.

Lelia doolan was honored for her remarkable work in Ireland and is

considered by many as the godmother of Irish film. She also became the



artistic director of the Abbey Theatre for two years.

Meanwhile Fionnula Flanagan, Estelle Shanley, and Bernadette Devlin were given the title of the maddest, baddest and most dangerous Irish women anywhere.

They smiled and considered it a celebration. Estelle Shanley is an award-winning journalist, author and media relations expert, born in Dundalk, County Louth Ireland. She has written extensively on the political strife in Ireland for American newspapers. She has also written in Boston, Chicago, and Southern California.

Shanley's work has also appeared

New Trinity College Dublin Literary Experience

Launching from June 8 for a limited seven-week run, the experience combines the new Trinity Trails Literary Walking Tour with a live theatre performance, Oscar Unwritten, within Trinity's historic campus. It offers

visitors the chance to explore the spaces connected to figures including Oscar Wilde, Bram Stoker, Samuel Beckett and Sally Rooney before concluding with a new production in the Samuel Beckett Theatre.



and is set in a tight-knit US community of Circassian immigrants. The cast also

NYPD following a traumatic incident - but of course, she is soon pulled into a murder investigation. This month there's more news about it: noted Irish actor Colm Meaney has joined the cast, alongside John Connors, India Mullen, Cillian O'Sullivan and Jack Rowan. Dubliner Meaney is also a former member of the Star Trek universe (in his case, he played "Miles O'Brien" in Star Trek: The Next Generation and Star Trek: Deep Space Nine).

We also learned recently that Verling met Mulgrew when the latter was on holiday in Galway, and after they became friends, she wrote this series especially for her.

In further production news, Angel Studios in Ireland has unveiled news about Drummer Boy, a Revolutionary War-set action-musical, which is due to begin filming in Ireland later this month. It will be directed by Australian filmmaker Ben Smallbone alongside his brother Joel David Smallbone, who is also set to star, while the script in penned by Richard L. Ramsey.

Drummer Boy is described as an "action-musical from four-time Grammy-winning music group For King and Country, which follows two brothers as they find themselves on opposite sides of the American Revolutionary War. Long before that's finished shooting though you can see in American Biographer's Dictionary, Critic Magazine, Palm Palm Springs Life and Desert Magazine.

A series of short stories covering her early life in Ireland has been published in literary magazines. She is a contributor to a book entitled *Women, Risk and Courage*, published by Texas university press and utilized in women studies. She is also listed in Whose Who in America.

their movie Young Washington, which was filmed in Ireland last year, as it is set for release July 3.

It chronicles the story of George Washington before the American Revolution, is directed by Jon Erwin, and stars Kelsey Grammer, Mary-Louise Parker, Ben Kingsley and William Franklyn-Miller, who plays a young George Washington.

Finally, the title and first official synopsis have been revealed for Hillside Drive, the upcoming feature from Dublin-born Lenny Abrahamson, and now we have some more insight into the self-penned project that is set within Dublin's Jewish community.

Produced by long-time Irish production company Element Pictures, the story is set in 1970s Dublin, where 12-year-old Davey Rubenstein prepares for his Bar Mitzvah while becoming increasingly aware of the complexities of his homelife and the adult world around him. Seen from the perspective of Davey and his father Eddie, Hillside Drive tracks a pivotal year in the life of a family in flux.

The movie has already attracted some high-profile actors, with Tom Burke and Eve Hewson set to star, and follows Abrahamson's previous movies including Room, Normal People and Conversations with Friends. Shooting began in Dublin in early March.

That's all for now - hope you have a great summer! In the mid-seventies she hosted the Estelle Shanley tv program focusing on the changing roles of women in American society.

When asked how she felt being tagged with the title of one of the maddest, baddest women she emphasized her delight being in the same class of women as Fionnula Flanagan, Patricia Harty, Lelia Doolan and Aine O'nealy.

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Books Under Review

By Sabina Clarke



Did it ever take a stand on how Catholics in the N. of Ireland were discriminated against in housing and in employment opportunities? The author may also have this question on his mind when he references James Joyce,

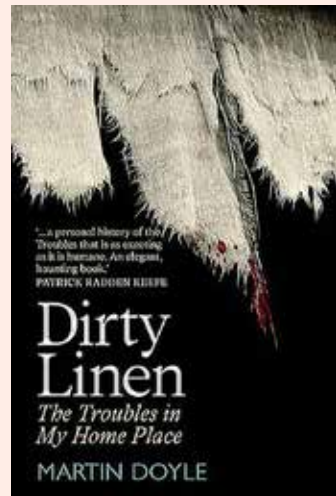
Dirty Linen

by Martin Doyle
Merrion Press, Ireland 2026
Shattered by History... Ravaged Lives

In his introduction, the author who is the Books Editor of the Irish Times states "It is said that you should write about what you know" --- and he does just that and spares no excruciating detail--- of the horrors that surrounded him-- the deaths and maiming of innocent victims of 'The Troubles.'

This is not an easy book to read-- it is not for the fainthearted-- but it is an important book that will bring home the horrors of the time period before the historic 1998 Good Friday Agreement which established for the first time in Northern Ireland history a power sharing government between Catholics and Protestants.

This rendering he tells us is a microcosm as seen through the lens of the author's single rural parish and an accurate sample of the victims' suffering over three decades of 'The Troubles' that resulted in more than 3,500 violent deaths and left victims with permanent physical maiming and lifelong emotional scars.



How people from seemingly ordinary backgrounds could inflict such grievous harm on their neighbors is almost incomprehensible - until you go back to the source and revisit the history of Northern Ireland and try to grasp how these crimes could have festered.

The stage was set in 1609 when England or the British Crown confiscated large areas of land in 6 counties in the North to create a Protestant majority by granting land to wealthy Scottish and English landowners on the condition that they import and settle Protestant tenants and not allow Irish Catholic tenants. The goal was to anglicize the region and secure loyalty to the Crown. Fertile ground for future conflicts. Catholics were not equal. They were 2nd class citizens. England's demographic engineering divided the people and created an unequal society-- this imbalance resulted in later conflicts that exploded during 'The Troubles' leaving carnage and bloodshed in its wake.

When Michael Collins signed the Anglo Irish Treaty in 1921 establishing the Irish Free State in the South with Northern Ireland remaining a part of the UK of Great Britain-- he said, " I have signed my own death warrant." With this treaty, Ireland was officially divided into two separate political entities ending the Irish War of Independence.

You have to wonder where was the Catholic Church in all of this?

"Ireland my first and only love, where Christ and Caesar are hand in glove." It seems that the silence of the Catholic Church was deafening.

Doyle says that 'The Troubles' "cast a long shadow over my childhood" and it was only after researching his book that he realized that over 20 people from his parish lost their lives in the conflict, most when he was a small child and after he moved away. The real life stories are profound and distressing but give voice and some consolation to the victims' families that the victims are remembered.

One chapter titled 'Brothers Murdered on a Birthday' depicts a happy carefree scene---a photograph of Roisin Cairns 11th birthday taken by her mother Sheila. In the photo is 11 year old Roisin surrounded by her 3 brothers: Gerard (22), Rory (18), Liam (14) and her Dad , Eamon. A happy scene that will soon turn into a nightmare.

"Sheila and Eamon leave for their weekly Irish language class a few miles away in Lurgan. Liam goes to visit a friend who lives nearby. Gerard and Rory are watching television in the living room.

Roisin is still in the kitchen when, at about 8 pm, the back door opens and two men enter wearing navy blue boiler suits and black balaclavas. At first she thinks it must be her brother's friends playing a Halloween prank.

One goes through to the living room while the other stares at Roisin and raises a finger to his lips, signaling for her to keep quiet. He then joins the accomplice, they produce weapons and they shoot Gerard and Rory. All Roisin hears is the sound of things smashing and breaking glass.

As the gunmen run off, Roisin goes into the living room and sees Rory slouched on the chair with his eyes closed. Gerard's eyes are open so, not realizing they are both dead, Roisin asks him what is wrong with Rory. She then runs screaming to Liam's friend's house to raise the alarm."

There are more tragic stories the author tells that are equal in their horror to this catastrophe suffered by the Cairns family.

In 2021, after a failed legal bid to compel the British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to hold a public inquiry into his sons' murders, Eamon Cairns stated he had no faith in the police ability or interest in investigating the murder of his sons and felt repeatedly let down by the security forces and the State. He feels that the police were "deeply implicated" in his sons' murders."

This was the face of justice in Northern Ireland during 'The Troubles.'

Welcome back to the enchanting land of Tir na N'Og for books.

Much More Than Leprechauns



By Sheryl O'Sullivan

BADGER BOOKS If you enjoyed Paddy Donnelly's book, Fox & Son, Tailers, which I previously recommended in this column, then you will be happy to know Donnelly's latest book returns us to the pleasant little neighborhood business district we visited before. This time, however, we are spending time in Badger Books. Badger owns this bookstore and has been working there for more than 50 years. The pictures show books all over the place, and numerous animals enjoying their various selections.

Badger loves books, and really knows his inventory, but he can be a bit grumpy at times. When young Rory Fox comes in to ask him about a book that features a jellyfish on the moon, Badger can't place that book. When Rory repeatedly comes in to ask about this book, adding more details with every visit, Badger becomes grumpy and says that the book doesn't exist and if Rory wants it, he will have to write it himself. There is a problem with that, though. Rory has yet to learn to write.

Eventually Badger stops being grumpy and teams up with Rory to write the fabulous book Rory has in his head. Rory does the illustrations and dictates the story to Badger, who can get it all down on paper. The story ends with the official Book Launch of "The Lunar Jellyfish" at Badger Books.

As with all Paddy Donnelly's books, this one is a treasure of wit and whimsical illustrations. The businesses on the street feature The Nesting Box (nesting materials and finest home furnishings), Magpie Collectables and Eagle Eye Opticians. The customers in Badger Books include an elderly cow reading "Dairy Tales" and a matronly hen reading "1000 Egg Names". Non-readers will especially find all the humor in the wonderful pictures.

This is a hilarious picture book for 3-6-year-old kids. They will love it for its humor and

fantastical story. But there is also a subtle message about the value of reading and writing, and the importance of using your creativity even if you aren't old enough to be able to write yet. It would be great if all kids got that message.

STITCH I resisted reading Stitch by Padraig Kenny for quite a while because I don't like scary stories, and Stitch is a riff on the novel Frankenstein. The press was so good for this book, though, that I finally had to read it, and it isn't scary at all. Instead, it brings many important ideas to children by

giving Stitch, and his friend Henry Oaf, volition and thoughts that are often quite profound.

Stitch and Henry were created by the benevolent Professor, but when he dies, and his much less benevolent nephew takes charge, Stitch and Henry are launched on their adventure in the outside world. They are helped in this adventure by the evil nephew's research assistant, a girl named Alice, who knows the prejudice and cruelty of the world firsthand because she has a hump on her back. She has been considered a "monster" just like Stitch and Henry are, and it has helped her develop a strong moral compass.

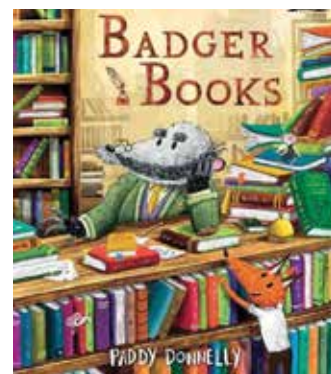
During their adventures, Stitch, Henry and Alice are faced with many choices between doing what is expedient and doing what is right. Stitch absolutely never wavers in choosing to do what is right even when that action puts him in danger. He has great empathy for the world that considers him a monster, even recognizing that his most dangerous enemy (the nephew) is acting out of sorrow and grief.

The book has so many important themes it is hard to address them all. The effect of being different in the world's eyes is a strong theme to which Stitch regularly delivers his most memorable line, "Everyone is different". But, as the author says in his author's note, the book is also about imagination, empathy, death and grief, friendship and loyalty. I would also say the book is about having the courage of your convictions even when the world disagrees and is eager to make you pay for your convictions.

Both Stitch and Henry were created using a mish-mash of body parts which makes the skills they have wonderfully inventive. Stitch has a killer vocabulary and can reason deftly, yet he cannot read. He faces so many situations with a refreshing innocence more common to a young child which is understandable since he has only been created for 584 days when we first meet him. Henry's speech is just charming. He extends and mispronounces numerous words. He is very excitable, and considers himself more valuable and treasured than Stitch because he was created first.

This chapter book is aimed at rather confident readers about 9-12 years old. It will be especially helpful to kids who have considered themselves different in some way. But then again, who hasn't considered herself different? As Stitch would say, "Everyone is different."

Happy June reading with your kids!



THE IRISH BOOK CLUB.COM

Books in Review

By Terrance J Kenneally



Along the way the narrative follows diverse social classes as they interact with one another on the trip. This ensemble of people includes a pregnant woman in the third class, a politician in first class, a medical student, a young anarchist planning a bombing, and a black American painter. The novel acts as a snapshot of French society. Donohue establishes an intricate web of human relationships as the narrative speeds toward an unexpected finale. It becomes a nail-biter as the tension rises from a heart-pounding ride reminiscent of Agatha Christie's, Murder on the Orient Express.

The novel is inspired by the famous 1895 photograph of a steam train that bursts out of the upper level of the Montparnesse Station, a disaster resulting from an attempt to make up for lost time.

The Paris Express

Book by Emma Donohue
ISBN 978-1-6680-8279-9
Simon & Schuster, LLC. 273 pp 2026

The Paris Express is an historical novel written by Emma Donohue, an Irish born author who currently resides in Canada. It is a book inspired by this iconic picture of the real 1895 Montparnesse train crash. Donohue writes both contemporary and historical fiction. Her most acclaimed novel was Room, a book shortlisted for the Booker Prize and later made into a movie by the same name which starred Brie Larson. Other noteworthy works by Donohue include Haven, The

Pull of the Stars and The Wonder.

The book details the final, fateful journey of Engine 721 from Granville to Paris on October 22, 1895. Each chapter is a different stop the train makes across the French countryside. It begins in Granville on the Normandy coast and ends in Paris. It went down in history not for the number of people injured or killed in the crash (actually only one person died and she was struck by debris from the building when the train crashed through it) but rather from the famous train crash photograph captured by a photographer following the crash.

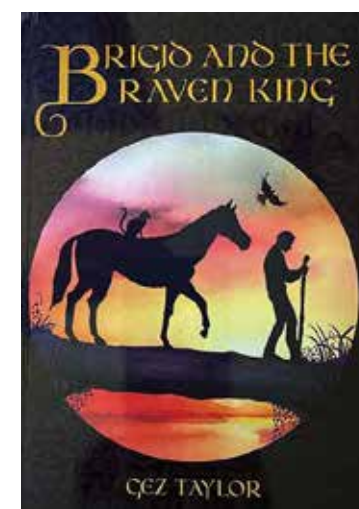
1895 Montparnesse train crash



Brigid and the Raven King

By Gez Taylor

Our planet is in decline as humans become alienated from the natural world. The Brigid, the Spirit of Nature,



settles on Seán and Niamh, a boy and girl enduring a life of hardship in the west of Ireland.

https://www.jazzfusionbooks.co.uk/product/brigid-and-the-raven-king

She sends Seán on a mission to understand what has been lost, but he must leave his dearest Niamh behind.

Brigid calls upon Cormac Mac Airt, Ireland's greatest King, to return to the world as a raven. Under the protection of this Raven King, and with new-found friends from the animal kingdom, Seán begins a journey to save humanity from itself.

This heartwarming, modern fairytale combines recent history and ancient beliefs in a story of understanding and love. Within the powerful, moral narrative there is hope for the future.

Local History Books by Tadhg Quill-Manley

Two recent local history books by Tadhg Quill-Manley, a law student at the King's Inns, are available free of charge through public and university libraries in Ireland and overseas, including at Boston College. Both works shine a light on aspects of the rich and often overlooked past of the Cork-Kerry border region.

Digital editions can be accessed free online thru the Internet Archive. Written for a broad readership, the books maintain an academic standard.

The first volume, 'Where the Plough Met the Stars: Workers' Activism in Killarney, 1914-1940,' traces the rise of organised labour in Killarney during a transformative era in Irish social and

community life, the book is further enriched with coloured photographs from the period. Tadhg has published several other histories available in academic institutions. Intended as educational projects, these texts are also available to buy in print directly.

tadhquillmanley@yahoo.com

known episodes such as the sawmill "Soviet" and the founding of an Irish Citizen Army branch in the town.

The second publication, Sochái: Community & Culture in the Edwardian Shehy Mountains, offers a vivid portrait of life across the Shehy Mountains region between 1901 and 1910. Particular attention is given to the parishes in the rural border area, such as Kilgarvan, Ballyvourney, Ballingearry, Kilmartery, Clondrohid. On each side, they were met by the market towns of Macroom and Killarney, which were major gathering points for these small communities. The catchment areas of other towns such as Bantry and Kenmare are included. Covering civic affairs, sport, culture and everyday

sochái

COMMUNITY & CULTURE IN THE EDWARDIAN SHEHY MOUNTAINS



WHERE THE PLOUGH MET THE STARS: WORKERS' ACTIVISM IN KILLARNEY, 1914-1940



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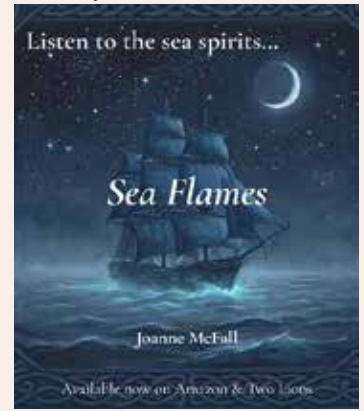
Sea Flames: Sea Faerie Tales

'Listen to the sea spirits ...'
Sea Flames: Sea Faerie Tales, is a faerie tale collection by Joanne McFall. It consists of autonomous tales set near the sea, with prominent influences of folklore. Magic, mystery, and mythical creatures are only some of the features promised by each tale.

Humans and spirits work together to ensure the peace and prosperity of their homes, ultimately overcoming even the most challenging of obstacles. Young children embark on dangerous journeys alone but are unbeknownst to them looked after and protected. Marginalised individuals and communities overcome their challenges despite their outsider status, and emerge victorious and empowered.

Help is provided to those who ask it with a pure heart, and balance is ultimately restored. Most suitable for a lighter-hearted reader, school-aged readers or simply fans

and collectors of the faery tale genre, Sea Flames: Sea Faerie Tales world-building makes for an incredible reading experience. Besides the folklore format, other historical links to Ireland can be found throughout. The king in 'A Velvet Nest' exploits his land and subjects alike, never giving anything back, reminding the reader instantly of many historical instances of



oppression and mistreatment of one people group toward another.

In 'A Sea of Gold', toxic

liquids begin striking a village's farming, and in 'Spring I', superstition and suspicion result in an innocent older man becoming the scapegoat for the blight that struck the community's crops. Anyone interested in such aspects of sea history would deeply enjoy the incorporation of these elements throughout the tales.

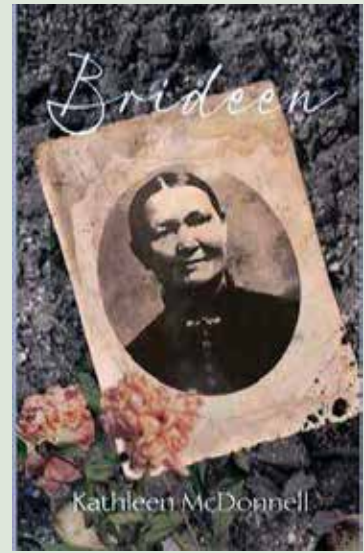
Though the reading experience may be enhanced by possessing any level of prior knowledge of Irish folklore as well as history, the tales stand independently, testaments to Joanne McFall's writing style. Creative usage of personification, presentation of the sea as such an integral factor in human society, seamless dialogue, and an emphasis on the importance of family and craft, make for a unique perspective on faerie tales and legends. Overall, this collection is a must-have in Irish / British writing and an important addition to the faerie tale genre. At Amazon.com under books.

Brideen: The Journeys of a Famine Daughter

is an epic saga of the Irish diaspora published by AOS of Montreal. The author's ancestor survives the Great Famine, only to be swept up in other great upheavals of the 19th century: The industrial revolution in England, the Civil War in the U.S., and the settlement of the American Midwest.

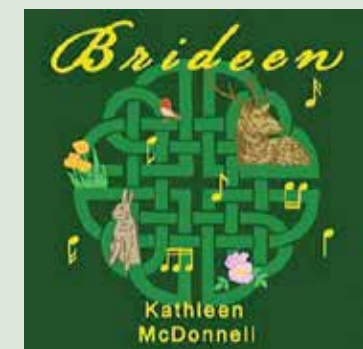
Order through your local bookstore, online retailers and ask your local library to stock it.

"An entertaining and compelling piece of historical fiction. The story creates riveting imagery and strikes the perfect balance between character and plot, painting a rich historical picture that lingers long after the last page.



plot, and the political climate of Ireland at the time of the story pulses in the background of McDonnell's writing" - Publishers' Weekly Reviewer

Brideen is also available as an Audiobook, including selections of the music of Brideen's homeland, the ballads, jigs and reels that play a part in the story and sustain her through her travels and trials.



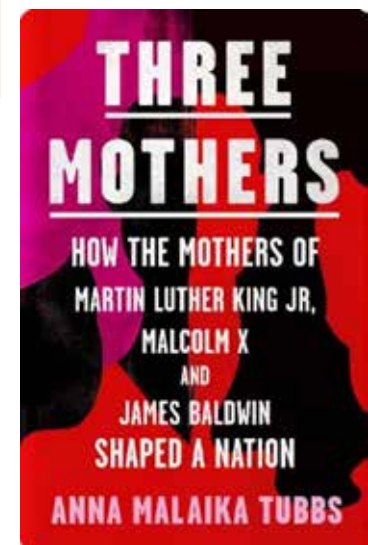
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The Three Mothers Book in Review

by Sandra Crawford

"Behind every great man there is a great woman," which posits that the silent, dedicated effort of a woman, such as a mother, wife, or female partner, often supports a man's success. This is the premise of the book, *"The Three Mothers,"* New York: Flatiron Books, 2021, by Anna Malika Tubbs.

In this book, Ms. Tubbs, a Cambridge-educated diversity, equity, and inclusion consultant and a Gates Foundation Scholar, details the lives and deaths of the mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcom X, and James Baldwin. The historical events of each mothers' life, visited by hardships and tragedies, are beautifully written by Ms. Tubbs. These women's lives are often passed over or recounted as minor footnotes in the stories of their sons. The takeaway



from this historical non-fiction book is - the sons are credited with great accomplishments, as if these men sprang into the world fully grown and were not influenced by their mothers, who, in the era out of which they came, occupied the primary role of educator in the household, at least for these three families.

The one historical event that, upon a brief survey of learned professionals, seems not to be widely known is: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s mother, Alberta "Bunch" Williams King, was murdered by an assassin's bullets, which apparently were meant for his father, Martin Luther King, Sr. Mrs. King, a college graduate, a widely traveled and talented musician, was murdered on Sunday, June 30, 1974, while playing the organ for Sunday services at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. The church where her son, Dr. King, Jr., a Nobel Laureate and Civil Rights Activist, had preached the gospel of peace, and where his father, "Daddy King" (1899 - 1984), served as pastor. The day's events of that Sunday are recounted from the perspective of "Daddy King" from when he woke beside his sleeping wife, of 48 years, until he heard the

words "I'm sorry, Reverend King, we just couldn't save her. All of us tried, but it was just too late" from a doctor at Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta.

The poignant stories of Malcom X and James Baldwin's mothers, Louise and Berdis, respectively, are equally well written and recount the dedication and love given to their sons and family, which heavily influenced the lives of these men, who changed the culture and societal norms of this country.

As summarized on the jacket cover of this must-read book - "These women, their similarities and differences - as individuals and as mothers - represent a piece of history left untold." Much the same can be said about the mothers of the leaders of the 1916 Rising, which led to the establishment of the Republic of Ireland. Let's give voice to those women and their stories before they are lost to history and their deeds to no one's memory.

To purchase *The Three Mothers* and other Tubbs titles www.worldofbooks.com/collections/author-books-by-anna-malika-tubbs About the Reviewer:

Sandra Crawford was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1961, came to Chicago in 1976 with her parents, Desmond and Maire Crawford, her older sister, and two younger brothers.

Sandra attended DePaul University, Chicago, and graduated from the John Marshall Law School (now UIC Law School) in 1989.

She sits on the Illinois State Bar Association's Board of Governors and has served as chair of various committees, including the ISBA's Women in the Law Committee.

She was trained in mediation at the Center for Conflict Resolution in Chicago in 1993. For over 35 years, she has dedicated her legal, mediation, and dispute resolution practice to educating and leading clients to the most peaceful pathways for resolution of their unique legal challenges and circumstances. She helps people move out of conflict, using the resolution model that will be most productive for all the family stakeholders (including the children).

Sandra co-teaches the 40-hour divorce and family mediation program at Northwestern University's School of Professional Studies, Chicago, where she trains lawyers, judges, and other family-aligned professionals from around the world in the basics of facilitative mediation. <https://www.lawcrawford.com>

It's June in Ireland and that means strawberry season is underway. The SE of Ireland specifically County Wexford is home to most of Ireland's strawberry production. For the last 50years Wexford has hosted an Annual Strawberry Fair Festival at the Riverside Park Festival Hotel in Enniscorthy. Strawberries are the No1 soft fruit produced in Ireland. Most of the strawberries grown in Ireland are consumed there, and for good reason. 80grams, or seven strawberries provide 100% of the daily vitamin C requirement as well as contributing to energy yielding metabolism and normal nervous and immune system functions.



Commercial strawberry growing didn't get its start in Ireland until the late 1930's. Imports were curtailed due to WW2 so plants were imported which gave birth to a whole new industry.

Nowadays Strawberries are cultivated in climate-controlled glass houses or poly covered greenhouses called tunnels. The strawberries are grown in what are described as gutters approximately 5 feet off the ground which makes cultivating and harvesting much easier.

Because of this practice the growing season has now been extended from April to December. Keeling's, a major strawberry farm hand picks every strawberry to insure ripe fruit and maximum freshness.

When you think about strawberries there are a number of things that come to mind. Strawberry shortcake, strawberries and cream, strawberry cheesecake, strawberry jam, strawberry ice cream, chocolate covered strawberries, or just plain old fresh strawberries to pop in your mouth.

Another dish which the Irish are very fond of is Pavlova. Pavlova is a baked meringue with a marshmallow type center, topped with whipped cream and fresh strawberries.

It is named after the famed Russian Ballet dancer Anna Pavlova who

toured Australia and New Zealand in 1926, and 1929. Here's where it gets a bit tricky. Both countries lay claim to having invented it. Herbert Saches, a chef at the Esplanade Hotel in Perth Australia claims to have designed it to mimic Ms. Pavlova's tutu back in 1935.

An unnamed chef at the Wellington Hotel in New Zealand claims to have created it for a dinner honoring Ms.

I am assuming that because of Ireland's association with Britain and the Commonwealth it made its way to Ireland and is known in every corner of the country.

Here is a recipe for this light and airy summer treat.

PAVLOVA
Serves 8-10 people
Ingredients:
4 large egg whites at room temperature
½ lemon
1 cup sugar pulsed in a food processor a few times
1 Teaspoon vanilla extract
½ teaspoon cream of tartar



Pavlova in 1927 describing it as light as Pavlova.

The battle for ownership still rages on today. Here's the kicker, recipes from the 1700's describe a dessert called Spaniche Windtore with similar ingredients being made in German speaking countries, and there is a good chance that it was brought to Europe by Arab peoples via Spain centuries before that. It's more likely that German immigrants brought it with them to Australia and New Zealand in the early 20th century. It has been a staple there for summer gatherings and Christmas dinner.

1 Teaspoon corn starch
Toppings:
Homemade whipped cream flavored with Baileys
Fresh sliced macerated strawberries { macerate the strawberries by placing them in a bowl and sprinkle with sugar. Let them rest for thirty minutes and drain, then remove from the bowl using a slotted spoon. Place the reserved strawberry in a pan and reduce over heat until slightly thickened
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking or cookie sheet with parchment paper or a silicone mat.

Beat egg whites in a stand mixer or bowl that has been rubbed with the cut lemon. Mix on medium with 5 minutes or until soft peaks form. Gradually add the sugar in two additions while beating until glossy peaks form. This should take about 2 minutes. You should be able to turn the bowl upside down without the peaks moving. Add the vanilla and beat an additional minute. Fold in the cornstarch and the cream of tartar.

On the parchment lined pan spread the egg white mixture into a 8-9 inch circle with high edges with a dip in the center. You can make decorative peaks with the back of a spoon. You can also make several individual Pavlovas.

Place the Pavlova in the oven and immediately reduce the heat to 200 degrees. Bake until the Pavlova is firm and dry about 90 minutes. Rotate the pan if you see a spots browning. The objective is to create a white baked meringue with no browning. Try to open the door as little as possible. Turn the oven off and let pavlova cool and dry in the oven.

Once cool you can store covered for 2 days

When cooled top the Pavlova with whipped cream and the macerated strawberries. Finish with a drizzle of the strawberry reduction, fresh mint, and shaved chocolate. For an Irish touch substitute and crumble a flake bar over the top.

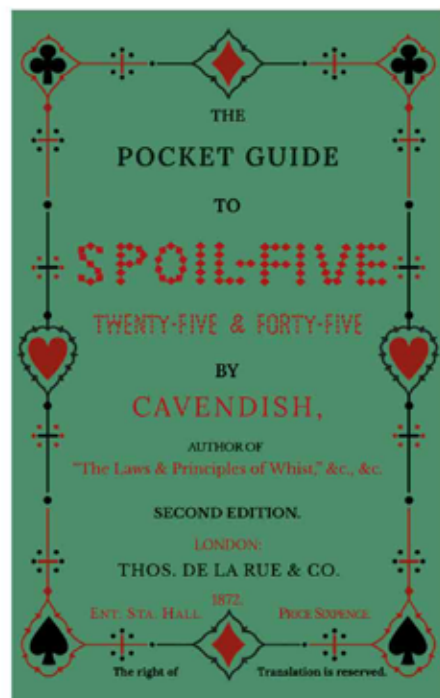
Serve immediately. Pavlova does not freeze very well. The meringue can be made in advance and finished right before serving.

The English has a similar dessert that has the meringue broken into pieces. Legend has it that a Pavlova that was brought to an Eaton cricket match was accidentally sat on. The lads from Eaton mixed it all together rather than tossing it in the bin. Appropriately it is Called Eaton Mess. Not the prettiest dessert to look at but the flavors are fantastic.

Enjoy this Summer Classic!

The Original Rules of the Card Game '25'!

A newly republished 1870 rulebook preserves the earliest written rules of Irish trick-taking games.



First published in 1870, *The Pocket Guide to Spoil-Five, Twenty-Five, & Forty-Five* by Henry "Cavendish" Jones is the earliest known book devoted entirely to the rules of Irish trick-taking card games—including the game now commonly known as 25.

Jones (1831-1899) was one of the most influential authorities on games of the 19th century. Writing under the pen name Cavendish, he authored definitive guides to card and lawn games and was instrumental in shaping modern sports culture—most notably helping to establish Wimbledon and serving as its first official referee.

This newly republished edition presents Cavendish's original text in a faithful modern reproduction. Inside, readers will find detailed rules covering setup, dealing, play, robbing, and reneging, along with guidance on misdeals, illegal plays, and dispute resolution. Cavendish also provides historical context for these Irish games and offers strategic advice aimed at improving competitive play.

More than a rulebook, *The Pocket Guide to Spoil-Five, Twenty-Five, & Forty-Five* serves as a snapshot of how these games were played and understood in the 19th century. For longtime players, it offers a definitive reference; for newcomers, a direct link to the game's origins.

available at [amazon](https://www.amazon.com)

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- LIZZIE MCNEIL'S PUB/REST 22+ YEARS
- MARQUETTE BANK 24+ YEARS
- MARY CONSIDINE REAL ESTATE 32+ YRS
- MCENTEE LAW GROUP 10+ YEARS
- MCNULTY DANCE 32+ YEARS
- MIKE HOULIHAN 19+ YEARS

- MILLER & MCGING LAW 7+ YEARS
- MULLEN'S APPLESAUCE 7+ YEARS
- MYSTIC ROGUE 7 YEARS
- NEWARK NOOK 5 YEARS
- O'GRADY REALTY 20+ YEARS
- OLD ORLAND INSURANCE 24+ YRS
- OLD ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH 27 YRS
- OLD TOWN SCH OF MUSIC 25 YEARS
- PADDY HOMAN 20+ YEARS
- PALOS COUNTRY CLUB 32 YEARS
- PLUNKETT FURNITURE 7+ YEARS
- RIORDAN INSURANCE 10 YEARS
- SHAMROCK TUCKPOINTING 19 YRS
- SHEEHAN REAL ESTATE GRP 7 YEARS
- SHEILA'S CARPET CLEAN 7 YEARS
- ST PATRICK'S PARADE 12 YEARS
- TOURISM IRELAND 31 YEARS
- TRINITY IRISH DANCE 32 YEARS
- VAUGHAN'S REST/PUB 27 YEARS
- WEST SUBURBAN IRISH 26 YEARS
- WHISKEY MICK MUSIC 5 YEARS
- WINSTON SAUSAGE 32 YEARS
- WOLFHOUND BAR/KITCHEN 5 YEARS

Looking in: The Art of Liam O'Neill

By Josephine Craven

When Liam O'Neill speaks of his father, he does not speak of a man, but of a presence. "When a young man loses his father at fourteen," he says, "his father remains a giant, forever fixed in that light."

O'Neill was still a boy when his father died in West Kerry, at a moment when Ireland itself was on the cusp of profound change. As the film Ryan's Daughter brought an influx of money and modernity to the Dingle Peninsula, the old ways of life—manual, local, inherited—were quietly slipping away.

O'Neill remembers sitting in a cinema in Dingle watching the spectacle unfold on the screen, while at home his father lay beneath a cold white sheet. The contrast, he recalls, was stark: warmth and color in one world, stillness and finality in the other. That sense of rupture—between generations, between ways of life—has never left his work.

O'Neill, who was named the 2025 iBAM! (Irish Books, Arts & Music) Visual Arts Awardee, is widely regarded as one of Ireland's most distinctive contemporary artists, with pieces held in collections both at home and internationally.

If O'Neill's work carries such weight, it is because it is not imagined from a distance, but lived from within. "I know how that boat sits in the water," he reflects. "Because I was actually in it." The Naomhóg, a traditional currach of the Dingle Peninsula, is not a romantic symbol in his work, but a vessel he knew intimately—through his father, his grandfather, and his own youth spent on the water.

Where others might paint the West of Ireland from observation, O'Neill paints from memory, from muscle, from movement. He understands the balance of the boat, the pull of the tide, the rhythm of the scythe, the pressure of the sleán cutting turf. These are not details learned—they are embodied.

That physical understanding carries directly into how he paints. O'Neill works in oils, using a palette knife rather than a brush, building his compositions through thick, layered strokes that give the surface a sculptural quality.

On large canvases, often six feet wide, he mixes and moves color across the surface with a force that feels almost elemental, the paint applied in dense, textured passages that seem to hold both movement and memory within them. In his studio, what he simply calls "my shed," he works on a broad table that serves as his easel, its surface built up over time with inches of accumulated paint. His "shed" is the domain of the artist alone.

The only glimpse of his process comes from footage filmed in his public studio in Dingle, where he set up a canvas to paint for the cameras, the rhythm of the knife, the weight of the oils, and the physicality of the work revealing a practice that feels as much carved as painted.

His work has attracted an international audience, with collectors including actor Robert De Niro. He has also recently been included in Artprice's list of the world's most saleable contemporary artists, as reported by the *Irish Independent*.

In his recent move into sculpture, O'Neill has returned to the figure—but from a new vantage point. While his earlier paintings were rooted in the human form, his work in recent years has moved increasingly toward abstraction, with a greater emphasis on color



Liam O'Neill's Room with a view - Dingle Style!

and texture over representation. Sculpture, however, has drawn him back to those earlier figures, now demanding a deeper understanding of them—not as flat images, but as forms that must exist fully in space. Where painting allowed him to approach the figure from a single perspective, sculpture requires him to know it from all angles. To achieve this, O'Neill turned to the only reference he fully trusted—himself.

"I had to become the figure," he explains. Out in the

"You don't decide to paint a sad painting," he says. "It happens by itself."
- Liam O'Neill



fields and bogland, he set up his phone on a tripod and began to reenact the movements he had watched all his life: cutting turf with the sleán, swinging the scythe through oats, working the land as his father once had. Turning, shifting, adjusting—learning how the body moves not just from the front, but from every angle. "If I didn't see my father doing it," he asserts, "I wouldn't know."

If O'Neill's work is rooted in memory, it is also shaped by loss—though not in any deliberate or conscious way. In the early 1990s, he experienced a series of devastating bereavements: his mother died in 1990, his sister Máiréad in 1992, and just fourteen months later, her husband drowned at sea, leaving behind two young boys. It was, as he describes it, a period that had a "ferocious effect" on the family. Yet the impact on his work was not something he set out to express. "You don't decide to paint a sad painting," he says. "It happens by itself."

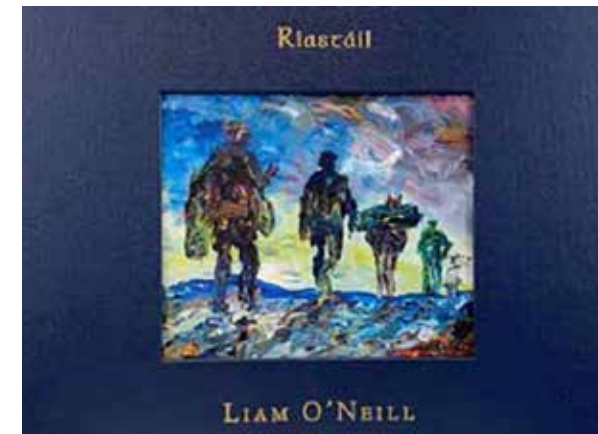
Looking back now, he can see it clearly. The paintings from that period grew darker, quieter—dominated by greys, their energy subdued. One work, *Ghost Fishermen*, emerged almost unconsciously: figures at sea, familiar in form, but not entirely real. "I don't know why I came up with that," he reflects. "They were fishermen—but they were ghosts." At the time, he did

not recognize what was happening. Only years later did the connection become visible—how grief had entered the work without announcement, shaping color, form, and atmosphere from somewhere beneath the surface.

If memory enters O'Neill's work unconsciously, it is also carried, quite literally, through the materials he uses. As a boy, he watched his father build the family's back kitchen using red clay dug deep from the earth in Ballyferriter. Years later, working in sculpture, he found himself returning to that same material—shaping forms with a substance once used to build walls, to hold a home together. "I remember helping him," he says, "filling the gaps with small stones, as he worked."

The connection does not end there. In the bronze casting process, molten metal is poured into molds formed from wax—a method unchanged since the Bronze Age. The wax melts away as the metal takes its place. For O'Neill, that wax carries its own memory: the tall red candles his mother placed in the windows each Christmas, their glow marking the rhythm of family life.

Clay from his father. Wax from his mother. In O'Neill's work, these are not simply materials—they are inheritances, binding memory, place, and craft



into the very structure of the work itself.

Beyond painting and sculpture, O'Neill is also a writer, publishing poetry in the Irish language. His collection *Riastáil* reflects the same deep connection to place, language, and memory that defines his visual work.

That sense of continuity and change is perhaps most clearly expressed in a pair of paintings O'Neill created of his grandfather and himself, each walking the same landscape, a century apart. In his grandfather's figure, there is weight: the physical burden of labor, the accumulation of years spent working land and sea. His body is slightly bowed, his tools carried with purpose. In O'Neill's own figure, there is a striking contrast. He walks unencumbered, empty-handed, moving through the same terrain without the same demands pressing upon him.

"I am actually older in my painting than my grandfather was in his," he reflects, "yet he looks older." The difference, he suggests, is not age, but life. His grandfather's world was defined by necessity—every journey had purpose, every movement tied to survival. "If you went anywhere," his father used to say, "bring something with you, and carry something back. Don't be wasting a good walk." A hundred years later, O'Neill finds himself doing exactly that—walking without



burden, in a landscape that no longer asks the same of him. The paintings do not judge this shift; they simply observe it. Between them lies the story of a country that has changed utterly within the span of a single lifetime.

For O'Neill, change has never been something he consciously pursued. It has simply happened—gradually, instinctively, as the work itself has moved forward. In recent years, his paintings have shifted toward a greater emphasis on color and abstraction, the figure receding as texture and movement take precedence. Yet even as his work evolves, the underlying impulse remains the same. "It happens

itself," he intuits. "You can't fight it." That instinct of allowing the work to find its own direction has guided him throughout his career. And yet, even now, the question of how to see, how to translate experience into form, continues to reveal itself in unexpected ways.

He recalls walking one day along the cove at Cuas near Brandon Creek with his dog, trying to understand how to approach a painting of that place—the stretch of sea he knew best, where he and his cousin Martin had fished for lobsters. It was a subject that mattered deeply to him, yet one he struggled to resolve. Having returned to West Kerry



"You never catch a fish looking out - you have to be out there looking in"
- Liam O'Neill

after years in Dublin, he was struck by the scale and brilliance of the landscape. "How am I going to paint this?" he remembers thinking. "How am I going to compete with God's creation?" The answer came not through theory, but through memory, echoing something his cousin Martin had once told him while they were out on the water. "You never catch a fish looking out—you have to be out there looking in." And then, as he describes it, the realization came. "So I said to myself, Jesus, you know what I do, I paint as if I was out in the Naomhóg looking in." He pauses. "It was a hallelujah moment... presented by my dog."

And perhaps that is the key to O'Neill's work. Not observation from a distance, but immersion. Not looking at a place, but from within it. Whether in paint, bronze, or memory, his work does not simply depict the world he comes from—it inhabits it.

josephine.craven@listentolit.com



We Get Letters....

Dear Editor,
Last year you graciously published an article in the May issue of the Irish American News regarding the Chicago Calligraphy Collective's annual "Try Your Hand" event at the Irish American Heritage Center. Before that issue came out, we had 11 people signed up. A few days after the issue hit the stands, we had a whopping 100+ signups. That shows how effective

your paper is for the Irish community and beyond. We so appreciate that huge bump you gave our event which ended up a grand success.
Thank you...
Bernie Ryan
Member
Chicago Calligraphy Collective



Hertz

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West of Ireland Initiative Uses Monumental Sculpture to Reinvigorate Ancient Irish Craft and Dialogue

> County Mayo, Ireland - Master sculptor Stephen Critchley, (pictured) has launched a major, multi-year cultural initiative in the West of Ireland, beginning with the creation of two 3-metre-high figures: Saint Caomhán and the sea deity Manannán mac Lir. This project is far more than a public art commission; it is a living exhibition dedicated to preserving and practising the almost lost techniques of traditional Irish stone carving.
> Stephen, whose international career includes a project for the Vatican, trained under Irish masters who kept the ancient carving traditions alive during challenging

Irish people and the sea.
> The carvings are being executed entirely with traditional hand tools, allowing Stephen to bring the deep connection between Irish craft, language, poetry, and song to public life.
> The goal is to create an unparalleled cultural platform across the region, celebrating Irish heritage, promoting cultural tourism to local communities, and fostering educational engagement with schools. I am always looking for partners and donors—the more help I can get, the wider the reach and appeal of this initiative will be.



economic times. He is committed to using this "intangible heritage" to spark dialogue on contemporary issues, including ocean ecology and climate change, by exploring the historical connections between the



GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

By Tina Butler - Leonard

Who is Tyson Fury? He is also known as the Gypsy King. It refers to his proud Irish traveler heritage and their sport of bare-knuckle fighting. He is a professional boxer. At birth Fury only weighed one pound and the doctors told his family there was a good chance he wouldn't make it. He has proved them wrong in a big way. Fury is 6 foot 9 and at one time weighed 400 pounds. It looks like Fury beat the odds. His parents named him Tyson after Mike Tyson, some would say one of the greatest heavyweight boxers in history also known as "Iron Mike."

Fury holds multiple world heavyweight championships including unified titles 2015, 2022, 2024. He also held the international boxing organization title.

I am not a great fan of boxing (I don't care for a sport that centers on causing physical harm) however I find Tyson Fury and his story intriguing and worth telling.

However, my older brother Mike did like boxing, he was a heavyweight boxer for many years. He started boxing at a very young age in Chicago. He moved to Ireland when he was 21. My husband & I met him last week while visiting family in Ireland. My older brother is still in boxing shape, well done Mick.

Other famous boxers you probably heard of include Katie Taylor, (Wicklow) Jack Dempsey & the legend John L. Sullivan. Sullivan was a boxer from Boston, who ironically became a lecturer promoting temperance in life.

Fury was born in England to Irish Traveler parents. Fury often has stated he was born in England, but that he is Irish. However, gaining his Irish citizenship was difficult because his dad's birth in Co. Galway wasn't recorded civilly as Irish Travelers at that time only recorded births through baptism with the church not with the state. Fury left the British titles for Irish titles because they meant more to him, Fury stated.

Fury left school at a young age to work with his dad and brothers, tarmacking (blacktopping) roads. Fury started boxing when he was

about 10 years old, his father trained him. The Fury family has a long history of boxing. His father initially boxed 'bare knuckle' unofficial fights.

Fury has been named many times among the highest paid athletes in the world by Forbes. Fury has won most of the fights he has been in, losing only about two. (professional fights)

Fury is an advocate for mental health. He has shared his struggles with his mental health on various platforms such as sports interviews, Rolling Stones, Joe Rogan podcast, etc....

Fury is married to fellow traveler Paris Fury. They have seven children and currently live in Isle of Man. (located in the Irish Sea)

The Fury's recently married



for the third time in France. ("Renewal of Vows")

Fury has been involved in some controversies one such situation has blocked him from entering the U.S.

Fury has published a few books, they include Behind the Mask, Furious Method & Gloves Off.

There is a reality series on Netflix title, Home with The Fury's.

Fury was named BBC sports personality of the year 2015.

I don't think Fury is a hero but a product of his environment as we're all creatures of our environment. Like many celebrities this, "king of the ring" has showed that perseverance has its rewards.

SMIDIN GAEILGE SPEAKING GAELIC
Fight-triad, boxer-dornalai, traveler-taistealai, king-ri

On our recent trip to Ireland, we visited a healer named Billy Murphy in Co. Mayo. Miracles are out there, maybe everywhere, we were fortunate and grateful to have met Billy. Life is full of unexpected breakthroughs.

If you have any questions/comments please email: Molanive@yahoo.com

Gaelic Park Reveals Irish Music Lineup for Irish Fest 2026

By Margaret Mulvey

Save the weekend of August 21st for Irish Fest at Chicago Gaelic Park featuring Billow Wood, Cailini Lua, JigJam and many more.

Chicago Gaelic Park is excited to welcome back fan favorites alongside a selection of new artists from Ireland and North America. There'll be great Irish music on all three stages, including: **Billow Wood** (above right - West of Ireland); **Cailini Lua** (lower right - Killaloe); **George Murphy** (Dublin); **Jinty** (Cork); **Drowsy Lads** (Ohio); and the fusion of trad and electronic instrumentation of **SuperCéilí** (Dublin).

Fans can enjoy the traditional ballads of Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones and the high-energy Irish rock of Kilmaine Saints (Pennsylvania), Waxie Dargles (Oklahoma) and One for the Ditch (Chicago). **JigJam** (middle pic - Offaly/ Tipperary), Chicago's favorite Irish bluegrass band and Grand Ole Opry regular, made their USA debut at Irish Fest in 2015.

Dennis Doyle will bring his harp, songs and stories, and many local favorites will be on hand, including: Declan McShane; Evin O'Riordan; Gerry Haughey; Going West; Jack Kinsella; Katie Sullivan; Kieran Byrne; Liam Durkin; and the Larkin & Moran Brothers. Liam Durkin; The



Larkin & Moran Brothers; and prices will increase as the and, the rousing Bagpipes and Fest draws nearer. <https://tickets.chicagogaelicpark.com/events/> Tickets are available online, chicagogaelicpark/2104491

A Little Light Theater at this Year's Gaelic Park Irish Fest

Since the very early days of Chicago Gaelic Park's Irish Fest, the Gaelic Park Players theater group has hosted a Performing Arts Stage at the fest. Up to two years ago, the stage was tucked away, a little off the beaten track, in the Celtic Room on the second floor. Since 2024 the stage has been moved to the Tara Room on the first floor. At first this new venue had the troupe feeling a little at sixes and sevens, but the move has proven a good decision overall giving the Performing Arts Stage more visibility at the fest.

While the full schedule is still under development, below are some acts that have already been booked and should not be missed!

A long-time and multi-talented member of the Gaelic Park Players—actress, director, board member Phyllis Bierdz—will premiere a play she has written to commemorate the country's 250th Anniversary. Aptly entitled *United*, Phyllis's charming work focuses on the creation of our flag. Phyllis will direct this one-act play herself. It will be performed each day at the fest.

Another one-act play, *Half an Hour in Heaven*, written by Cinzi Lavin, is also scheduled for performances at this year's fest. Ms. Lavin is an internationally-known award-winning writer and composer who is best known for her musical dramas about the seaside town of Hull, Massachusetts—*Nantasket Trilogy*. *Half an Hour in Heaven* will be directed for the fest performances by Gaelic Park Players' board member and actress, Betty Kort.

On the music front, Christine Lawless's Chicago Irish Singers Club will be joining us again this year with beautiful traditional Irish singing, some well-known ballads, the odd sea shanty, and plenty of opportunities to join in the singing.

And we are delighted to again welcome story-teller extraordinaire, Tim O'Sullivan, and his two wonderfully talented, fiddle-wielding sons. Tim is a mesmerizing raconteur whose tales may be tall, but they will leave you spellbound!

The Gaelic Park Players will be filling out the three days with other fun and interesting works. Stop in to say hello, to cool down, to dry off, to rest your feet! You won't be disappointed.

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Shoot on Sight - "The More You Shoot the better I Will Like You" (British Officer L-C.G.B.F. Smyth)

By Jim Hegarty
Penal Laws in Ireland
 The discriminatory Penal Laws of the 17th and 18th century Imposed by the British Government on Irish Roman Catholics, were designed to secure Church of Ireland supremacy. The Laws succeeded in restricting Land Ownership, Education and Political Office. They were in fact an attempt to dehumanise the majority Catholic population.

These Acts forced thousands of young men with little formal education to seek employment within the British Army ranks. It is reported that during this period, in excess of forty per cent of all non commissioned British soldiers were in fact Irish.

Their well educated officers were mainly Anglo-Irish from Ascendancy families. With the outbreak of WW1 many joined for numerous reasons believing, in the freedom of Small Nations and the promise of Home Rule. It is reported that, Irish men over many war campaigns received the Victoria Cross for bravery, the highest award available in the British service.

A further darker side of the British Empire Authorities is that they were guilty of allowing Irish slaves to be shipped to the West Indies in great numbers as cheap labour (yes slaves but described as indentured servants). Being Irish they were treated badly and more severely than the African slaves. The Cromwellian officer Major-General William Brayne, who for a period was the Military Governor of Jamaica, (1656-1657) was concerned about their growing

numbers and is reported as saying, "What if they should mutiny"?

War of Independence
 Since the Republic was declared and the War of Independence began with the ambush at Soloheadbeg in County Tipperary, everything possible had been done to disrupt the British administration. The brave young men and women of the Volunteers and Cumann na mBan were gaining valuable intelligence which allowed the IRA to raid Barracks, trains and homes obtaining guns, ammunition and ordinance which were in short supply. These successful raids enabled arms dumps to be built such as at The Laurels under the control of my father John Joe's command.

Further disruption followed when Michael Collins, gave a nationwide order to burn RIC Barracks and Tax office records which were all carried out successfully. It was also the year that Irish Trade unionists called a National Strike for their Dockers and Railway-Workers, resulting in their members refusing to load or unload military cargo, railway men refusing to transport British soldiers or military equipment. This is often referred to as the Munition Strike. All of these actions caused havoc for the British administration in their attempts to peacefully govern Ireland.

British Army and Black and Tans Run Riot
 Cork City and County became a hot bed of activity and as a consequence (like many other counties), became a very dangerous place



07-13-2025 National Day of Commemoration in Ireland. (l to r) Fergal Dennehy, David Moran; Lord Mayor Cork, Jim Hegarty; Author

to live. My father John Joe, Aunts Mamie and Nan were all Officers in H company of the Cork No 1. Brigade, (The Hegartys of The Laurels).

Their home, The Laurels, became an active Brigade house, a safe house for men on the run, arms dump bomb factory and intelligence hub. In March 1920, Lord Mayor McCurtain was murdered by the RIC in his own home. In October Lord Mayor Terence McSwiney died on hunger strike as did fellow Cork Volunteers Michael Fitzgerald and one of John Joe's men in H company American born Joe Murphy. Joe was one of hundreds of Volunteers that were arrested and jailed without trial. He was among the prisoners that began a hunger strike in Cork Jail, making the ultimate sacrifice after 76 days, the same day McSwiney gave up his life. The City Centre was burned, including the City Hall when the British Army ran riot, resulting in the loss of businesses and making hundreds of families homeless.

On the Hegarty home front on June 26th, the first Republican wedding was held when my aunt Mamie, a President in Cumann na mBan married fellow H company volunteer John Forde. Her Bridesmaid, was her sister Nan, Captain and District Treasurer of the Cork Brigade. The Best man was John's cousin Paddy Forde a fellow volunteer. Paddy emigrated to America after the Civil War. As they were all dressed in Uniform and National Costume they had to travel covertly to the Church. The Parish Church had to be secured and a priest willing to partake in the service. Fr. O'Flynn, a family friend who was sympathetic to the cause performed the service and married the young couple. Men of H and G companies guarded the Church while the women of Cumann na mBan acted as scouts. After the service they all returned to The Laurels to change into civilian clothes and partake in a lavish breakfast prepared by her parents. Her parents, Patrick and Elizabeth, apart from allowing their home and lands to be used by the Brigade, encouraged all their children to fight for Independence. Afterwards John Joe brought them to the railway station by pony and trap so they could begin their honeymoon. Their action put the families lives in further danger.

Irish Men Serving in Both British Army (BA) and the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC)

At my lectures and presentations, I am always amazed that people, old and young, are still reluctant to speak about their forefathers serving in either the BA or RIC. I have to remind them of

the Penal Laws how they were subjected to abject poverty. That one of the ways to escape poverty and allow them to feed and clothe their families was to serve in the army. That being in either organisation did not make them Anti-Irish. There are many examples how hardened battle soldiers returning from WW1 joined and trained the Volunteers during the War of Independence. That many RIC men provided valuable intelligence and arms for IRA raids and ambushes. I usually discuss the following events in order to make the point.

Mutiny in the Ranks (RIC in Listowel

- BA in India)
 During 1920 Irish RIC men serving in Listowel Co. Kerry and 80-90 (BA) soldiers serving as far away as India began a mutiny as a result of (BA) and the Black and Tans behaviour towards the Irish population that they governed.

India
 The Connaught Rangers (CR) that were stationed in India in 1920 at the height of the War of Independence became aware that other British Regiments, based in Ireland were terrorizing its citizens.

Those based in Jullund began a protest against this behaviour, they flew the tricolour and refused to carry out their

Listowel - Co. Kerry
 On the home front the British realized that the war was not



military duties. Within days their comrades in Solon joined in escalating the protest, also flying the flag, wearing green white and orange on their uniforms and singing Irish songs. I have no doubt they sang "Its A Long Way To Tipperary" the CR are credited with being the first Regiment to



sing it during WW1 which was then taken up by the other BA Regiments.

When the men in Solon attempted to seize back their weapons in early July, two were killed and others wounded, and all mutineers were jailed under armed guard. This brought the Mutiny to an end resulting in over a dozen facing execution. Private James Joseph Daly, considered the leader was executed in November. All the others in the region of eighty were transferred back to England to serve out the remainder of their sentences. They received a dishonourable discharge, losing all pay and pension rights. While in prison they were harshly treated only being released without benefits, once the Free State was established. At which time the Regiment was disbanded. Of those that returned to Ireland some joined the Free State army, or New Police Force (Garda), others found it difficult to adapt to civilian life. All are unsung heroes whose sacrifices were for decades overlooked in the struggle for Independence.

In 1970 Daly's body was returned (together with his fellow comrades, Patrick Smyth, and Peter Sears) to Ireland from India. He was given a full military funeral in his home town of Tyrellespass, Co. Westmeath. Today there is now a monument to the Connaught Rangers in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, where other mutineers are laid to rest.

Listowel - Co. Kerry
 On the home front the British realized that the war was not



going their way and that the IRA were gaining more and more authority as the year progressed They instructed the army to oversee the RIC activities. This became very apparent in Listowel Co. Kerry when Lt. Col. Smyth (Irish man) was appointed by the British Cabinet as Divisional Police Commander for Munster, this also put him in charge of the military in the Province. When he gave orders, "Shoot on sight" and that they were also to be deployed as scouts for the army. RIC members led by Jeremiah Mee strongly objected, pointing out their role was to protect people and not shoot them, this led

to a refusal to obey Smyth's orders. Word spread to other Kerry units with many resigning their positions, thus reducing police numbers. They were not going to be used in a war against their own people. The action of these men was a major blow to the authorities and gave further encouragement to the IRA and its supporters in their struggle for freedom.

After the mutiny, Smyth went to Cork where he became an immediate target of the IRA. It was only a matter of time before its Intelligence network would identify Smyth's location. The Cork and County Club (CCC) situated on the South Mall close to the city centre was a popular venue for British Army Officers. Sean Culhane, one of the Brigades intelligence officers, worked in the nearby Munster Arcade store just a few blocks from CCC. The Brigade had men and women watch the club for any sightings of Smyth. One of these was John Harrington employed by J. Mayne China Warehouse based on Patrick Street, Cork. John was an intelligence officer in H Company reporting to his Section head John Joe Hegarty (my Father). His brother Con, also of H company, worked in the City Hall close to CCC and was PA to Lord Mayor Terence McSwiney OC. of the Cork Brigade. Maynes supplied the CCC with fine china allowing John access to the club on a frequent basis. When Smyth was finally identified as a resident in the club, Culhane was given the all clear to assassinate him. He entered the building and found Smyth in the smoking room, addressing him saying, "you said shoot on sight" "well you are now in sight" before he shot him where he sat. He also wounded another officer, a man he had sold socks to only recently, he was concerned that he would be identified but that never happened. As a result the Black and Tans ran riot in the City again that night. The killing also saw many RIC men resign their positions, further weakening the British grip on the country.

A few months later Culhane would travel to Lisburn and avenge the murder of Lord Mayor McCurtain, by executing the RIC officer responsible, District Inspector Oswald Swanzy. Vital Intelligence obtained at the railway station by volunteers working there, had identified some luggage that Swanzy was now living in Lisburn in the North of Ireland, after he fled Cork. (that's another story).

Jeremiah Mee after resigning from the RiC became active in the Independence movement, dealing with leading figures such as Countess Markievicz, helping Sinn Fein and former members of the RIC find work. The intelligence gathered from serving and former RIC members helped save many lives and

turned the tide in the overall struggle for freedom. The book by Conor McNamara 'Defying Terror' which deals with Mee in great detail. There is a nice human RIC story based on real life on YouTube 'The Man in the Uniform' produced by Maurice Dineen and supported by Cork City Council. 'The Hegartys of The Laurels' will be available also on YouTube, again produced by Dineen and Lisa O'Sullivan and supported by Cork City Council.

The role of intelligence gathering (especially by the women of Cumann na mBan) was vital not only in identifying spies, but in its role in bringing the British Government to the negotiation table, thus ending the War of Independence.

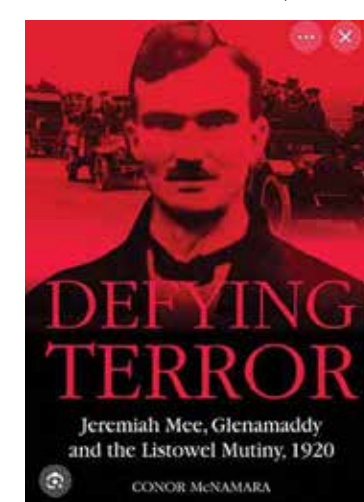
Memorials and Commemorations

Similar to other Nations, Memorials and Annual Commemorations are important to us as a Nation. We take great pride in the actions and sacrifices of those that have gone before and the legacies they have left behind.

My first experience of these events was in 1960 when my father and his fellow comrades in H company erected a plaque and fired a volley over the home of American born Patriot Joe Murphy. (There is a planned event in his honor in Lynn Mass which I will report on at a later date.) This was followed a few years later with a memorial cross being placed at the Republican plot in St Finbarrs Cemetery. In 1966 Commemorations to mark the 60th anniversary of the Easter Rising were held all over the country and continue to this day.

We are now taking more pride in our history with an Annual Commemorative day for all our brave Irish men and women. The main event is held at The Royal Hospital, Kilmaninham Dublin, a former British soldiers hospital. All faiths and creeds are represented at the service. The event includes the President of Ireland laying a wreath to the memory of all Irish men and women that served in the Armed Forces. It is always my privilege to receive an invitation from the Taoiseach to attend this televised ceremony.

Close by the hospital at Island Bridge are the Irish National War Memorial Gardens, which



is dedicated to the 49,400 Irish soldiers who died during the First World War. These were neglected for decades until the Irish Government had them fully restored in the 1980's. They are now considered one of the most stunning gardens in all of Europe. There is also an annual Remembrance Day in the gardens. Both venues are now very popular tourist attractions.

Many Cemeteries all around the country now have guided historic tours. In Dublin the best known is Glasnevin, in Cork by Finbarr Barry and his team at St Joseph's, the first Catholic Cemetery opened in the City in 1830.

There are many memorials and sites around Ireland dedicated to the heroes of the War of Independence and Civil War worth visiting. The tallest memorial in the shape of the famous Round Towers, rests high in the Knockmealdown Mountains (on the border of Cork and Tipperary), dedicated to Liam Lynch on the site where he was shot, bringing the Civil War to an end.

On my most recent visit there I was accompanied by David Moran and David Ryan, Ryan's grandfather Willie from Mitchelstown Co. Cork and was responsible for Lynch joining the movement. He was also the person that brought the sad news of his death to Lynch's mother. Seeing Ryan approach her home she knew her son was dead. Lynch's last request was that he wished to be buried next to the hunger striker Michael Fitzgerald in Fermoy, Co. Cork.

When the Church refused to ring the bells at the service Willie's sister locked herself in the Bell Tower and rang the bells to honour the dead patriot.

With better care and pride now being taken of our memorials they are attracting visitors from home and abroad and becoming a historic tourist attraction in their own right.

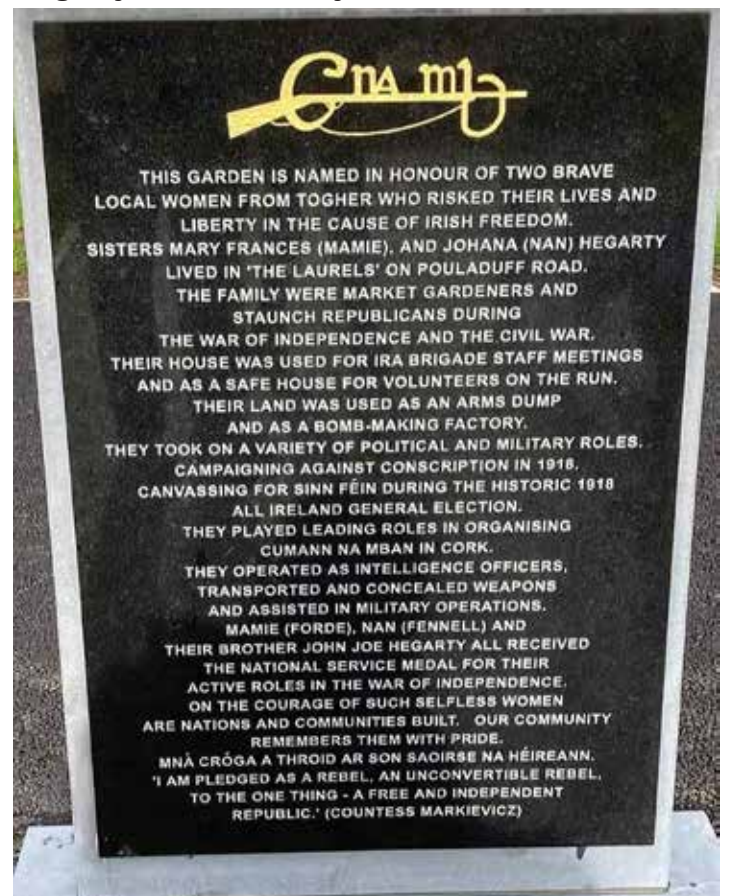
Acknowledging the Vital Role of Women

The vital role of women during all our Nation struggles still needs to be highlighted more.

As a family we were honoured



Liam Lynch Memorial: David Moran, Jim Hegarty, and David Ryan



Garden of Remembrance and Reflection Memorial for Hegarty sisters.

and privileged when the Cork City Council opened a Garden of Remembrance and Reflection in honour of my aunts Mamie and Nan Hegarty.

Recently when it became public that the Council were seeking suggestions for names of new Bridges, we suggested that one should be called -Cumann na mBan Bridge. Having lobbied

Councillors on a cross party basis the vote was passed in its favour and Lord Mayor Fergal Dennehy, (who was in favour) had the pleasure of announcing the result. There is still a lot more to do.

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photo courtesy Irish Times

Taoiseach Micheál Martin laying wreath (Arbour Hill) on 1916 Patriots Graves

Pat Stephens, Irishfest La Crosse

Patrick "Positive Pat" Stephens left an enduring mark on the La Crosse, Wisconsin community, but nowhere was his spirit more evident than in his decades-long dedication to Irishfest La Crosse. He passed away unexpectedly on February 3 at age 77, leaving behind a festival—and a community—forever shaped by his passion.

Proud of his Irish heritage, Pat devoted more than 20 years as president and founder of Irishfest La Crosse, helping grow it into one of the region's signature cultural events. Under his leadership, the festival became a vibrant celebration of Irish music, dance, and tradition, drawing thousands each year to connect, celebrate, and share in the experience. For Pat, Irishfest was never just an event—it was a gathering of friends, old and new, and a reflection of the joy and connection he believed community should bring.

He was a constant presence on the grounds, greeting visitors, and supporting performers.

His enthusiasm, warmth, and sense of humor helped create the welcoming atmosphere that defines Irishfest to this day.

Beyond Irishfest, Pat contributed widely to the community, including his leadership with Rotary Lights and involvement in founding the local Freedom Honor Flight chapter. Professionally, he spent more than 35 years with the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Foundation, strengthening connections.

Pat was a family man, devoted to his wife, their children, and grandchildren. Yet his Irishfest family was just as meaningful—built on shared heritage, music, laughter, and the simple joy of bringing people together.

Pat's legacy lives on. He will be greatly missed!



Irish Fest La Crosse August 7-9

Join the celebration as Irishfest La Crosse marks its 21st year! From August 7-9, downtown La Crosse will come alive with the sights, sounds, and spirit of Ireland. This beloved non-profit, family-friendly festival is powered by a dedicated volunteer board and hundreds of community volunteers who bring Irish culture to life each year.

Festival-goers can look forward to a stellar lineup of Irish and Celtic music spanning traditional tunes, lively harp melodies, Celtic rock, and everything in between. Beyond the music, Irishfest offers a full weekend of dance performances, cultural displays, hands-on workshops, storytelling, genealogy research, Highland games, two days of Tug of War, the lively Kilt Run, an Irish Market, and plenty more. A wide variety of food and beverages will be available to satisfy every appetite.

The popular Harp Stage returns with the crowd-favorite Harp Twins, known for their unique and eclectic sound. Families will love the Wee Folks Area, filled with games, activities, contests, puppets, music, sheep shearing, and even Irish dogs. Older kids (and kids at heart) can enjoy the arcade and additional activities throughout the grounds. The Cultural Tent's theme this year is "Irish Rock" featuring displays, photo ops, Irish karaoke and more. In the adjacent, Arts Tent a presentation of the "History of U2" will be offered.

All musical performances take

place under tents, rain or shine. The 2026 entertainment lineup includes The High Kings, Gaelic Storm, Scythian, Screaming Orphans, BIIRD, Mairtín de Cógáin, Rory Makem, who will record a live episode of their podcast "The Ballad Lounge," along with Murphy & Mancuso, Billow Wood, The Harp Twins, Ian Gould & Lukas Jaeger, and more. Dance performances thru the weekend feature Glencastle Irish Dancers and Amanda's Academy of Dance. Sunday



top to bottom: Murphy & Mancuso, The High Kings and Gaelic Storm.

Establishing Global Irish Famine Way in the United States

The National Irish Famine Way is delighted to announce plans for the expansion of the Global Irish Famine Way (GIFW) to the United States in 2026. To support and coordinate this expansion, the organization has appointed two well-known individuals from the Irish community as national U.S. Co-Convenors: Professor Christine Kinealy of Quinnipiac University, Connecticut and Hilary T. Beirne, from Roscommon, Former Chairman of the NYC St. Patrick's Day Foundation and Founding Director at Irish America 250.

The first phase in the United States will install Bronze Shoes at key historical sites in Boston and in New York in 2026. For subsequent phases, the Co-Convenors would then invite other community-led efforts across the United States to participate in the expansion of Global Irish Famine Way to other locations. The U.S. Global Irish Famine Way will join the Global Irish Famine Way Canada, which was established in 2025. This initiative will be especially meaningful to descendants of the Irish Famine, and Irish America, as it will feature as highlights include Irish Mass and a lively fiddle competition.

There truly is something for everyone at Irishfest La Crosse—whether you come for the music, the culture, the food, or the fun.

Advance tickets are online for \$30 for a 3-day pass or \$15 for a single day at www.irishfestlacrosse.org. One-day tickets will be available at the gate for \$20. Youth 17 and under are admitted free. Visit the website or Facebook page for the latest. www.irishfestlacrosse.org

part of the Irish America 250th commemorations in 2026.

"For many Irish Americans, the Great Hunger, along with lesser-known famines, remains their foundational story for being in the United States. The National & Global Irish Famine Way provides a tangible memorial to the resilience of those emigrants and exiles who ultimately triumphed over adversity", Professor Kinealy observes.

"This is a hugely exciting development for the GIFW. Irish Famine emigrants made a major contribution to the United States. Exile from Ireland because of the Famine is an intrinsic part of Irish American heritage and identity. There are over forty memorials to the Famine in the United States. The Bronze Shoes will connect not just these sites



but the story of the Famine Irish and the ascent of following generations within America. It will also connect Irish America to the global phenomenon of Famine emigration, from North America to Australia," says former Canadian Ambassador Eamonn Mc Kee, now co-convenor of the International Global Irish Famine Way with Carolin Callery.

As with the Irish National Famine Way the Global Irish Famine Way will be marked by Bronze Shoe plinths placed at significant sites, including ports of entry, quarantine stations, and common graves. Each site will include a QR code sharing its local history and the QR code will be linked to a dedicated page on the fully bespoke National & Global Irish Famine Way website (www.nationalfamineway.ie). The bronze shoes, cast from originals discovered bound together in the roof of a 19th-century cottage, forms the trail's iconic symbol "Bronze Shoes." The National Famine Museum and National Famine Way, managed by the Irish Heritage Trust, stretches 165 km (102 miles) from west to east across Ireland along the Royal Canal to Dublin, marked by 30 pairs of bronze children's shoes, and ends at the iconic Famine Statues on

Custom House Quay.

"Interest in our evocative, powerful and deeply symbolic little Bronze Shoe monument grew so fast" says Carolin Callery, founder of the National Famine Way, "they have quickly become symbolic of all famine emigrants worldwide. People seemed to connect with them instantly, often simply touching or saying a little prayer over them."

The journey of Strokestown's 1,490 emigrants—and all famine emigrants—did not end on Dublin's quays, so the expansion of the Global Irish Famine Way continues their story, honouring those who died and celebrates the survival and the resilience of those who built new lives abroad. The Global Irish Famine Way plans to tell the story of every place around the world where Irish Famine emigrants

landed, creating new lives so far from their native land. Following in the footsteps of Strokestown's 1,490, the Global Irish Famine Way initially expanded to Canada in 2024 with 15 pairs of Bronze Shoes in key locations. The United States is the next natural step as we reach out globally to the destinations where Irish Famine refugees arrived between 1845 and 1852. We know hundreds of

thousands fled on the Coffin Ships for American shores - including many of Strokestown's Missing 1,490 whom we know made their way to the US.

"The famine crossed the Atlantic in the coffin ships, and those who arrived in the new world were deeply scared as a result of it. The expansion will ensure acknowledgment of a shared history that is part of the Irish American psyche, it is also very much part of the American story. Many of my ancestors died in the famine and are buried in the same graveyard as my parents in County Roscommon, so I am proud to help facilitate the expansion of the famine way into the United States," said Hilary Beirne.

When completed, it will be the longest heritage trail in the world, with dedicated local sites reaching back to a central location, the National Famine Way trailhead at the National Famine Museum in Strokestown, Co Roscommon, Ireland. As both a physical and digital heritage trail, the Global Irish Famine Way aims to create an international network extending as far as Australia, telling—for the first time—the full story of the global impact and legacy of Irish Famine emigrants of which the US plays a key and central part in that story.

YIFC Spotlight

By: YIFC Culture Committee (Katie, Hannah, Robby, Kathleen, & Fiona G.)

The Young Irish Fellowship Club is incredibly grateful and thrilled to partner with the Irish American News to share more of what we do with you each month.

YIFC Committee Spotlight: Membership

The YIFC board has several committees that support group operations. This month's spotlight is on our amazing Membership Committee. Membership is responsible for group development, planning our First Thursday Happy Hours, keeping up with our member statuses, and growing engagement across the organization. From welcoming new members to fostering the strong sense of community within YIFC, they play a key role in keeping us connected. Thank you to our VP of Membership, Conor Buckley, and committee members Mary Kate, Lara, Marty, and Madeline, for all their hard work! You can sign up for your YIFC membership on our website.

May in Review

We kicked off May at the Derby Party partnering with the Young Gaelic Association at Chicago Gaelic Park. We were so happy to have our sponsor Keeper's Heart having tastings there. Our First Thursday Happy Hour was at Vaughan's Pub in Lake View. We saw some new faces and familiar friends - a success for sure!

We are grateful to Vaughan Hospitality as a sponsor of YIFC. Our board met for the May meeting with a main focus on voting for our next charity partner. We hosted an Alumni Happy Hour which was a fantastic opportunity to maintain our network and celebrate the legacy of YIFC.

Save the Dates!

The next First Thursday YIFC Happy Hour will be at Gracie O'Malley's in Wicker Park on Thursday, June 4th from 6-9PM. There is no cost to these, and you do not have to be a member to attend. All are welcome to come out and make some new friends! Please join us for our June summer kick-off event on Friday, June 12th at Joe's on Weed Street from 7-10PM. Early bird and member tickets are \$55. Non-member tickets are \$60. Tickets cover your drink wristbands. The Celtic Cup, our annual golf outing, will be on Saturday, August

15th at Old Orchard Country Club.

Cultural Corner

Ireland's Diaspora Strategy for 2026-2030 was released last month. We were ecstatic to see many points related to the young Irish communities abroad. Some themes to note include the importance of nurturing the sense of

belonging among young people and newer generations of the Irish diaspora, creating spaces for connection, developing the next generation of Irish leaders abroad, and focusing on maintaining ties to Ireland through art, language, business, and social connections. The Strategy serves as a



great reminder for the role we play in contributing to the Irish identity abroad, celebrating our heritage, building community, and shaping the next generation of the Irish diaspora.

Get Involved!

Please join us at one of our great events! If you are interested in sponsoring YIFC or partnering with us, please email us at youngirishfellowship@gmail.com. To follow along with all YIFC activities, find us on our Instagram @youngirishfc, Facebook, or website www.youngirish.com

IRISH OPEN GOLF OUTING - MONDAY, JULY 20



Signature Bank's Mick O'Rourke and team

The always popular Irish Fellowship Club Golf Outing will be on Monday, July 20 at Ridgemoor Country Club (6601 W Gunnison St, Harwood Heights, IL 60706) with a shotgun start at 1pm. A foursome includes golf for the four, lunch and drinks on the course, cocktail reception after golf along with a hole sponsorship. All golfers are welcome to participate in an evening reception and awards ceremony beginning at 5pm. And, non-golfers are invited to join the cocktail reception. Reservations for golf and the cocktail reception available on the Irish Fellowship Club site, www.irishfellowship.com



Fr. Jack Clair of Miseracordia, and John Wrenn, Theatre on the Lake



Pat McCarthy and team, UA Plumbers Local 130



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Happy Summer Chicago!

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