



Third Time is the Charm for
2018 Chicago St. Patrick's Day
Parade Queen, Mary Kate Manion

Photo by Dean Battaglia

Sean-Nós Dancing at Gaelic Park & Heritage Center With Brian O'Hairt

Plain Language Description: Sean-nós (shayn-NOHS) dancing is something rather apart from the Irish step dancing so popular in mainstream Irish culture today--like Riverdance. For one thing, it's not glitzy. There are no ornate dresses, or poodle socks, wigs, or spray tan involved--just some well worn leather soled shoes and the dancer. Another thing is that it comes from the Irish-speaking region of western County Galway. Connemara to be exact--a proud place of traditions. Unlike step dancing, sean-nós dancing (which means 'old-style' in Irish Gaelic) is off-the-cuff and interpretive, low to the floor, fast paced, and fully informed by the music. There's a dialogue going on between the musician and the dancer and between the dancer and the crowd gathered to watch them. Some buffoonery and intimidation is also thrown in for good measure but what comes from this admixture is

an infectious dance form that's reminiscent of the battering of old set dances. Something that's accessible to most but requires a bit of skill and determination. It's sean-nós dancing and there are monthly workshops going on right now in Chicago (Northside, Southside, and Lake View) you're invited to come pick up a few steps and join in on the craic.

More Detailed Description: Sean-nós dancing is a percussive dance form from the southern Connemara region of western County Galway. It is improvisational and focuses on both accompanying and guiding the musician by way of repetitive timing steps--a heel-toe movement--punctuated by tricks, which emulate the melodic structure of the tune. A dancer wears hard leather-soled shoes (or something with a good thwack!) and positions his or herself near the musician so as to accommodate this musical conversation.



The body is relaxed, the steps are often asymmetrical, yet the form is reminiscent of (but creates an experience quite different from) modern Irish step dancing.

Sean-nós dancing is a welcome alternative to step dancing for individuals interested in Irish

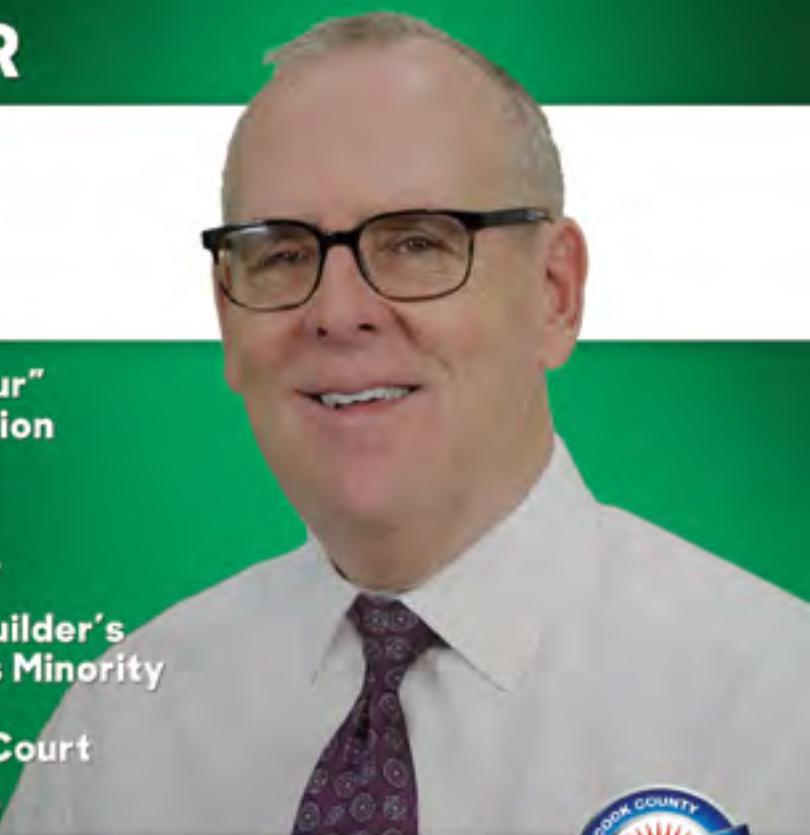
dance but physically limited. It's less impactful and athletic than step dancing but engages both the body and mind in a way that's scientifically proven to benefit aging individuals or those with physical/cognitive challenges. It's also a helpful addition to

step-dancers as they must adjust their weight, foot position, and posture; think critically of music as symbiotic with and not just accompaniment to their dance; as well as think creatively on their toes to create new choreography
Continued on page 12

ON MARCH 20th VOTE FOR



- 🍀 Jack is the co-host of the "Hagerty Family Irish Hour" the longest running ethnic radio program in the nation
- 🍀 Jack has 27 years of legal experience
- 🍀 Jack also served as outside counsel for Streetwise
- 🍀 In a case filed against the City of Chicago by the Builder's Association, Jack successfully defended the City's Minority and Women Owned Business Ordinance against a constitutional attack in a six week trial in Federal Court
- 🍀 Endorsed by the Chicago Federation of Labor (CFL)



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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



A Step Too Far?

Ireland is set to vote on repealing the Eighth Amendment. It's a measure of how far opinion has shifted on the issue that the relevant Parliamentary Committee has included among its fourteen recommendations a proposal that would permit abortion on demand below twelve weeks. The Cabinet is currently considering, and the Dail debating, the Committee's report and recommendations. It has been a tortuous journey thus far, reflecting the highly emotive nature of the issues involved for what is still an overwhelmingly Christian country (78 % Catholic plus 5% other Christian). The Committee's consideration of the issue followed from the delib-

erations and report last June of a Citizens Assembly which had examined the issue exhaustively.

There is still a distance to travel. First the referendum itself, with the options a simple yes or no on repeal, the more fraught path of replacing the existing article with a wording capable of satisfying enough voters and pressure groups to win, or a wording that would simply mandate the Oireachtas (in practice the Dail) to legislate as it saw fit. Assuming a vote for change, further heated debate can be expected in the Dail on any enabling legislation.

While the polls have shown a marked shift in public attitudes to abortion, the Taoiseach recently sounded a note of caution that the twelve weeks suggestion may

prove "a step too far" for the majority of the public, adding that it was further than he himself would have anticipated a year or so ago. Fianna Fail as a party remain in favor of retaining the Eighth, though as I write leader Michael Martin has declared in favour of the twelve weeks proposal and emphasised that his party's TDs will have a free vote on the issue. Whether the referendum will take place as early as May/June as initially signalled will depend on how the political debate goes, with the prospects in the autumn of a possible Presidential election campaign (failing an agreed candidate) and of a visit by the Pope further factors to reckon with.

The gloves are already coming off. Abortion is an issue which stirs strong emotions at either end of the spectrum, even though at this point in time there appears considerable public support for change, faced with the reality of a constant stream of Irish women (several thousand annually) travelling to Britain to secure an

abortion. It is an issue on which Varadkar must tread warily, given the minority position of his government and the precariousness of the confidence and supply agreement with Fianna Fail which keeps him in power. With recent opinion polls demonstrating a positive "bounce" for the Taoiseach and Fine Gael for the handling of the first stage of Brexit, there have been mutterings from Fianna Fail about pulling the plug if the current Fine Gael lead persists or increases. A setback in a referendum on such an emotive issue as abortion could prove seriously damaging to the Taoiseach's prospects for re-election.

Another issue which may prove "a step too far" is the proposed referendum on voting rights for Non-Residents in Presidential elections which has been pencilled in for 2019. Currently Article 12.2.1 of the Constitution states "The President shall be elected by direct vote of the people." 12.2.2 states "Every citizen who

has the right to vote at an election for members of Dail Eireann shall have the right to vote at an election for President."

The referendum proposal is the latest development in the official reaching out by the authorities here to the Irish Diaspora which has been a feature of policy in this century. A Task Force on Policy towards Emigrants reported in 2002, following which an Irish Abroad Unit was established in the Department of Foreign Affairs with me as its first Director.

The Unit now administers an Emigrant Support Programme which, since 2004 has assisted 530 organisations in 34 countries, spending over €158 million in the process. The Programme provides financial support to front line advisory services and community care organisations catering for Irish emigrants, focusing on the more vulnerable, marginalized and elderly. In addition the Program has invested in a range of

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Continued from page 3
cultural, community and heritage projects among Irish communities overseas.

Official outreach has broadened and deepened in recent

years with the nomination of a Minister for the Diaspora, the holding of two Global Irish Civic Forums and the acknowledgement of the Diaspora’s importance through the nomination

of Chicago restaurateur Billy Lawless to Ireland’s Senate.

Relations with the Diaspora were given an additional impetus by the surge in emigration after the economic collapse of 2008 which has seen upwards of 250,000 Irish people forced to emigrate. This latest group, better educated and better qualified than earlier Irish emigrants, has maintained close contact with and interest in developments in Ireland through modern communications, the Internet and the social media. Many of these regard their emigration as temporary and have been agitating to have their interests taken into account by and within the Irish political process. A potent argument advanced is that many policies enacted in Ireland have a direct impact on temporary emigrants and their ability to return home in terms e.g. of social welfare entitlements and educational opportunities (and costs).

Lobby groups have pressed for

the right of those abroad (there are estimates of one in six Irish born citizens residing outside the state) to vote in Irish elections, citing the practice in most European countries and other liberal democracies. There has been little public debate on the issue so far and that not necessarily very profound, with one (opposing) refrain citing the reverse of the 18th Century American Colonists’ slogan of “No Taxation without Representation” - i.e. if you want to vote, pay Irish taxes. The more considered reservation would be the concern that circumstances might occur in which an outside group not bound by any consequences could influence political decisions and policies within Ireland.

The Government has proceeded cautiously thus far. The Constitutional Convention in 2013 voted well over 70% in favour of permitting non-residents to vote in Presidential elections. An examination at official level of the issues and practicalities involved followed. These included whether all Irish citizens should be eligible or whether the franchise should be restricted to those born in Ireland or recently emigrated, as well as the logistics of where, when, and how non-residents would vote. An options paper in March 2017 is well worth studying. On 14 November Diaspora Minister Cannon told the Seanad that a referendum was envisaged for mid-2019, describing the initiative as a “very tangible expression of our commitment to ongoing engagement with the global Irish”.

A lively debate promises, though hardly on the scale of that on abortion. The Lobby wants more. Those in favour see it as a right of citizenship and one similar to that enjoyed by most expat citizens of liberal democratic states. Those against see it as the thin end of a wedge that could eventually end in non-residents voting in all Irish elections. There’s no talk of this at present but debates can often become side-tracked and issues distorted. And who can tell what result a referendum will produce.



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**Irish Books and Plays
in Review**

Frank West



Congratulations to Josephine Craven and to **Inishfree Irish Arts** for their recent great staged reading of James Joyce's *The Dead*.

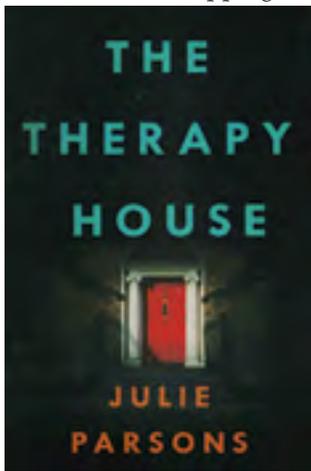
The readers showed the power, magic and humor of Joyce's work.

The Therapy House

By: *Julie Parsons*
New Island Books

This mystery book is set in Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. The "detective" is retired Garda Detective Michael McLaughlin. He has bought a huge, old mansion that had been divided into offices, meeting spaces, and living spaces.

Local people call it the Therapy House because therapists, psychologists, yoga instructors, etc. had



used the mansion for many years. The mansion was old, when before the Irish Revolution, Dun Laoghaire was still called Kingstown. The house is located in Victoria Square, in an area that was strongly Unionist and very loyal to the English Crown.

McLaughlin had been given the keys to enter the house and right off we see the beautiful language Julie Parsons uses: "Cracks, clicks, gentle sighs...a tap dripping somewhere upstairs and the low hum of memories. All those stories. Loss, rejection, anger, hurt. Tears flowing. Voices raised. And then the gentle balm of understanding. The salve of acceptance and self-knowledge."

Newisland Books was proud to announce that *The Therapy House* was chosen as Ireland's Crime Fiction Book of the Year. It has great plotting and *Continued to next page*



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brilliant observation of character. Julie Parsons "was a radio and television producer with RTE for many years...She is married and lives in Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

The intriguing novel is a "police procedural" by a retired detective. Thus, it doesn't have the break-neck speed of many crime novels.

A retired judge lives in the huge old house next to McLaughlin. He is from an old illustrious family, a pillar of society, a former judge of the Supreme Criminal Court. He was known to give maximum penalties. But when he is brutally murdered, the investigation discovers a sordid past. He led a double life of sexual perversity.

Early in his legal career, pictures were taken of him, showing his lifestyle. They have followed him all the years of his career and the result is blackmail.

The detectives in the investigation wonder about the motive of the murderer. A detective says, "Who knows? Hate, love, jealousy, the workings of the human heart. A mystery, always a mystery."

About human nature and motive, a therapist says: "Of course we therapists don't believe in human nature...But there are certain characteristics."

The detective says, "Like, for example? Jealousy? Resentment? Ambition? Greed?"

What was it like to be raised in Victoria Square? To help answer that, McLaughlin "poured over the 1911 census...the majority of occupants were Church of Ireland. And scattered through the houses, usually one for each, was a Roman Catholic...they were all servants...domestic servants, general servants, cook, house parlour maid."

A powerful and revealing look at Irish society in the early

1900's. Often the servants lived in the basement: "A large house, a large family above. Clothes and bed linen to be washed, ironed, and mended. Food to be prepared and cooked. Floors to be scrubbed. Rugs and carpets to be swept and beaten. Silver and brass to be polished. Windows to be washed. Stairs to be climbed. Coal to be carried. Hearths to be cleaned, fires to be lit. Days which began at dawn and ended long after everyone else had gone to bed."

The Therapy House is a powerful mystery that combines an unflinching look at human nature and society. The author uses beautiful language for well-developed and insightful observation of characters.

The Ninth Hour

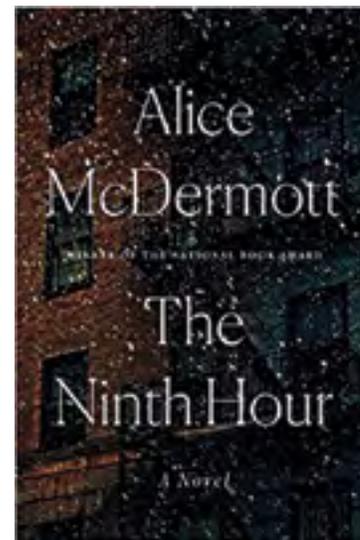
*By: Alice McDermott
Farrar, Straus, and Giroux*

Alice McDermott creates sublime prose. The quotes will show that.

The review in the Wall Street Journal says about that: Her "language is, as always, precise, unpredictable, and gorgeous."

Ms. McDermott is able to make simple, everyday things become of universal importance. I've seen this magical ability of her in previous novels.

In *The Ninth Hour*, she uses



beautiful words to explore a difficult, grim topic: suicide. A person commits suicide and is casts a shadow, a pall really, over descendants for many generations.

In the book, the suicide happens in the early 1900's, and it brings brutal changes to his family. But it also impairs and stunts the lives and aspirations of people not even born then. Most of us are aware of this long-term impact.

Ms. McDermott tells the story through the lives and actions of nuns who help the sick and destitute in New York City. The nuns actually went into the tenements to help people. Theirs' were heroic efforts to alleviate human suffering.

The time was the early part of the 1900's. However, Ms. McDermott points out that "the holy nuns...were a dying breed even then...The call to sanctity and self-sacrifice, the delusion and superstition it required, fading from the world even then."

Alice McDermott was born in 1953 in Brooklyn, New York City. She is Professor of the Humanities at Johns Hopkins University. And lives "outside of Washington D.C. with her husband, a neuroscientist, and their three children. "She won the American Book Award and the National Book Award and is in the "Publishers Weekly Top 10 literary picks for fall 2017."

At the top of the Wall Street Journal review is a quote of Alice McDermott: "It's sometimes more torment for a man to consider what might have been that

to live with what is."

These quotes show the language used in *The Ninth Hour*.

Looking at people in the tenement, a nun says: "She swathe skim of filth, which was despair, which was hopelessness, fell like soot on the lives of the poor."

Description of the beginning of a day: "saw the gathering light, the new air, the stillness of the street-shades were drawn and the shops shuttered in the first stirring of life. There was the pleasant sound of a milk cart, tumble of glass and the clops of hooves, the sound of a few chirping birds, the call of distant gulls, of a street card down the avenue, a tugboat on the river, everything waking, beginning again."

A mother pushed her baby in a buggy: "She navigated the broken sidewalks, the curbs, and the street crossings with a banging determination that caused...the carriage to shudder and quake..."

With no regard for the family's feelings, a newspaper trumpets that it is suicide: "Had he been a poor man, not with a billiard table, they might have made a different report out of it. The rich can get whatever they want to put into the paper."

A nun's humane outlook: "God's not going to hold it against you if you're less than a saint. Aren't we all human? Aren't we all doing the best we can?"

A nun helps the family in deciding where a suicide can be buried: "In her thirty-seven years of living in this city, Sister had collected any number of acquaintances who could surmount the many rules...Church rules, city rules, and the rules of polite society...Her own little Tammany..."

What a brilliant way to show change. Looking out the window of an overnight train: "The stations they pulled into were... golden and hustling, but as the hour grew late...they offered only a yellowed, nightmare tableau of weary shadows: a single passenger with a suitcase and an abandoned air, a newspaper blown against a wall."

About the Cover

Mary Kate Manion competed in her third St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Contest, January 14, 2018 and came away with the crown!

Her first entry into the contest was when she was a Senior in high school back in 2009, and she didn't re-enter the contest until 2017, finishing out of the queens court.

Like so many others, her perseverance paid off, keeping her busy from now until next year's event with appearances etc.

And yes, her mom and dad named her after Mary Kate Danaher of Quiet Man movie fame! Manion is a graduate of St. Norbert College and now works for the city of Chicago.

Over sixty ladies were in the contest held on January 14, 2018 at Plumber's Hall on West Washington Street. Twenty judges had the unenviable task of picking this years Queen, and it was not an easy task. Judging began at Noon and ended at almost 5pm. Others in the court are pictured above right.



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has taken on an even greater importance in our community.

In recognition of this, we started a program at Gaelic Park to teach the Irish language. The language classes began in 2014 and have steadily grown in size and interest. We officially founded the language school in the spring 2015, naming it Gaeilago (Gaeilge + Chicago). As part of our growth and motivation to spread the Irish language, Gaeilago hosted the very first Chicago Irish Immer-

sion Weekend in July 2015. These cultural immersion weekends are hosted in cities all over the world and we were fortunate to host Chicago's inaugural event. The weekend was a great success and a special opportunity for those who share the love and learning of the Irish language and culture. Comprised both of people who had never spoken a word of Irish to others who are fluent speakers, it was a wonderful time together of learning and sharing a common cause. www.facebook.com/SouthSideIrishLanguage

For more information and to register contact Shannon O'Brien at sobrien1916@gmail.com

A bit about who Gaeilago are:

The South Side of Chicago was founded on the culture and traditions of our Irish heritage. One of the most poignant traditions is that of the Irish language, which is currently experiencing a long overdue revival. As more and more Irish and Irish-Americans look to connect with their homeland, learning the Irish language

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Nine Irish Lives: Thinkers, Fighters and Artists Who Helped Build America

Algonquin; \$16.95 March 6, 2018
Edited by Mark Bailey with Illustrations by Edward Hemingway

Through the battles they fought, the cases they argued, the novels they wrote, and the lives they touched, these nine Irish men and women not only became American, but also helped make our nation what it is today.

"These are not just nine Irish lives, but nine extraordinary lives, their struggles universal, their causes never more important than today. As the saying goes, the best stories belong to those who can tell them. And these are well told, by some of our best storytellers."

—*Timothy Egan, New York Times best-selling author of The Immortal Irishman*

Thirty years ago Mark Bailey read a brief essay of unknown origin titled "Nine Famous Irishmen," and it made a lasting impression. As the story goes, nine Irish revolutionaries were convicted of treason and sentenced by Queen Victoria to be hanged. After much public outcry, the sentence was commuted and, instead, they were shipped to far-off Australia. The essay concludes with a list of the nine men's names and what they went on to become: prominent politicians, lawyers, generals, businessmen in Australia and North America—immigrants who made a profound impact on the world.

Bailey has brought together nine contemporary Irish American contributors, including Rosie O'Donnell, Michael Moore, and Pierce Brosnan, to write the profiles of nine incredible Irish immigrants. Some of the figures depicted are well known, others have stories that are less

often told; all are inspiring. Here are the gems you will

find in the enclosed galley:

- The late Tom Hayden on Thomas Addis Emmet, former New York State Attorney General

- Rosie O'Donnell on Margaret Haughery, the "Mother of the Orphans" in New Orleans

- Journalist Terry Golway on Mary Harris "Mother Jones," the most famous female labor leader of the nineteenth century

- Poet Jill McDonough on Albert D. J. Cashier, a transgender Union soldier in the Civil War

- Michael Moore on Samuel S. McClure, the original muckraking journalist

- Nonprofit leader Mark K. Shriver on Father Edward J. Flanagan, famed founder of Boys Town

- Actor Pierce Brosnan on Rex Ingram, Hollywood movie director

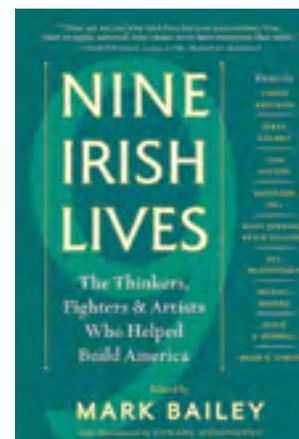
- Author Kathleen Hill on Maeve Brennan, celebrated short story writer and journalist at The New Yorker

- Pulitzer Prize-winning reporters Mary Jordan and Kevin Sullivan on Niall O'Dowd, newspaper founder who helped broker the Northern Ireland peace accords

These tales of revolutionaries, visionaries, and unsung heroes serve as a timely tribute to the values and people that have helped shape America

About The Author

Mark Bailey is an author and Emmy-nominated screenwriter. Other books are American Hollow, Hemingway & Bailey's Bartending Guide to Great American Writers, Of All the Gin Joints, and the children's book Tiny Pie. His films have appeared on HBO, PBS, National Geographic, and Lifetime. Bailey lives in Los Angeles with his wife and three children.



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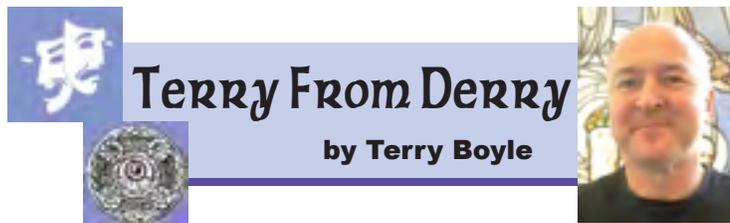


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Clear As Muck

Siri, apple's voice assistant, has become a blessing and a curse to me. I love my Apple products, but, as convenient as they appear to be, they have their downsides. Having your phone respond to 'Hey Siri' and answer those trivia questions that are part and parcel of our everyday encounters sounds great. But, what if she doesn't understand you? What if your accent leads her to construe your words to be something so remotely distant from what you have said that you find yourself swearing in the thickest brogue you can muster? Of course, changing Siri from North American to another English speaking country may help, though for some reason, Irish English is not offered as an option. Since, you're limited to what is on offer, I choose Australian. Surely, a country populated with a sizeable quantity of the Irish diaspora would know what I'm asking for?

No, I'm not interested in the price of bananas. Who is Bananarama? It seems that the 80's pop group did not make any impression on the aussies. As a last resort, I changed Siri to adopt an English accent. First, I choose the male voice, but too uppity for my tastes, so he quickly transitioned into a lady with perfect RP (Received Pronunciation). Listening to her voice, I was transported into the past and watching the BBC news. The novelty soon wore off when she too misunderstood my accent. For some reason, my diction transformed into more malapropisms than I could ever possibly think

of, and, with each distortion of the English language, I found her confusion delivered in an increasingly patronizing tone. Just who has the control here? How can you assist me when you can't even understand me? Why do I feel as if you're talking down to me when you speak with such a posh accent?

Switching back to my North American lady friend, I was determined that she and I would have to make do with a bad lot. A former colonist herself, I was sure she would eventually get what I was trying to say. At least now, I was not stirred to feeling culturally inferior and second class. We still have our moments when my questions get lost in translation and my garbled, thick, accent manifests as the strangest, ridiculous, comments imaginable, but, like Liza Doolittle, Siri has become my Henry Higgins teaching me the proper way to speak. My 'how now, brown cow', is not quite perfect, but enough credibility to get me the right species of animal, and my 'tower' is no longer 'tired' or 'tarred' by the merging of two syllables into one. It's become a running joke among my friends for me to ask Siri a question, and a challenge for me to clearly articulate what I mean.

My ongoing battle to be understood reminds me of a Chinese student from Hong Kong who came to study nursing in Derry. A stranger to the Northern Irish accent, and a novice to the English language, she was hoping to expand her vocabulary and her knowledge of English. Much of what she had learned in high school was very concrete. The logic of the language made sense simply because it lacked any of the normal ambiguities. In other words, she was not ready for how the Derry wans

had bastardized the Queen's polished tongue. For example, she arrived at her hosts' home, nervous, and worried that she would say the wrong thing. Typical of most Irish people, her hosts were more than helpful and reassuring that she would be fine. They said all the right things to alleviate her fears. The first evening, in a new country went better than she had expected, until the next day. In the morning, she went downstairs for breakfast and was greeted with; 'stick yourself on an egg', followed by; 'stick yourself on some toast'. Bewildered by these strange recommendations, she stood waiting, wondering if this was some strange Irish ritual to celebrate morning and the hope of a good day. 'Stick yourself on a piece of toast', stick yourself on an egg', both sounded as if this was something an Irish druid might do for luck, but how do you stick yourself to either an egg or bread? Can you imagine how Siri would respond to such notions? No? I may well ask her, if she continues to frustrate me.

Having cleared up the matter, and, showing the poor girl what was meant by those outlandish ideas, breakfast was consumed with much levity. Now, with someone in the house who does not understand linguistic nuances, the Derry wans would have to watch what they say. At least, that was the initial understanding, an understanding that was tested when the woman of the house, later in the day, stated that she was 'going to go upstairs and throw herself down'. Just how was a Chinese nursing student meant to respond to what was tantamount to an act of self-harm? Timidly, she asked 'what? You are going to go upstairs to throw yourself down the stairs?' Laughing hysterically, the Derry wan completed her thought 'throw myself down on the bed, ye eejit, ye.' Needless to say, more muck was stirred up in the art of clearing up the filthy water.

A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Reverend Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



Last month Catholic Charities was pleased to open the Madonna Campus Child Development Center. The center is co-located within our House of the Good Shepherd domestic violence shelter, and makes House of the Good Shepherd the first and only domestic violence shelter in the city of Chicago to have a fully-licensed child care facility in-house.

Opening the child care center has been a major goal of Catholic Charities for quite some time because it plays an important role in our overall strategy for combatting violence, supporting families in need, and creating healthy communities. We know that all too often, violence begins in the home. Therefore, any comprehensive strategy for addressing violence in our communities must include steps to address family abuse. Catholic Charities has gone to great lengths to create an entire campus of services for victims of domestic violence, and the new child care center is the linchpin to help all of these services work together.

We have learned from our years of work with victims of domestic violence, that helping women break the cycle of violence involves a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach that touches virtually all aspects of a woman's life. Once women make the courageous decision to leave an abusive situation, it is vital that they are prepared physically, psychologically, and financially to live independently from their abusers.

Help is needed not only with emergency safe shelter, but also with legal matters, health care, financial planning, parenting skills training, individual and family coun-

seling, immigration services, education and job training, and job placement. However, it is always a challenge to find high-quality, affordable child care so women can take advantage of these important opportunities. Now, with licensed on-site child care, House of the Good Shepherd residents can take the time they need to fully rebuild their lives by attending counseling appointments, budgeting and financial planning workshops, court dates, doctor's appointments, education and training classes, and job interviews—all the while knowing their children are being safely cared for in an environment that they trust.

The new child care facility also fulfills an important role in Catholic Charities' intervention strategy with children who have been exposed to domestic violence. Studies have shown that children growing up in violent homes are more likely to feel socially isolated; more likely to demonstrate aggressive behavior such as bullying and fighting; less likely to feel empathy for others; more likely to show a range of behavioral, social, and academic problems; and are at greater risk for substance abuse, juvenile pregnancy, and criminal activity.

Violence is a learned behavior. Therefore, it is critical for the health of our communities that we ensure children from abusive homes receive comprehensive healing services so that we can break the cycle of violence that is often passed on through generations. House of the Good Shepherd has an entire healing and recovery program for children that includes assessments for behavioral, developmental, psychological, and educational problems; afterschool tutoring and enrichment classes; trauma-informed therapy; and plenty of engaging educational and recreational opportunities.

The new on-site child care center provides yet another touchpoint for Catholic Charities' staff to ensure that each child's needs are being met, and gives these vulnerable children access to the highest quality child development services available. As at Catholic Charities' six other Child Development Centers, our goal is to ensure children are prepared for academic, social, and emotional success.

Catholic Charities is honored to offer the comprehensive care that can truly bring hope and transformation to families yearning to live free from violence and abuse. We are very grateful for the donors and supporters who helped us implement our vision for the new child care center that will be a tremendous blessing to women and children for generations to come.



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Sean-Nós Dancing

Continued from page 2

on spot. Because sean-nós dancing comes from one of the Irish Gaelic speaking communities of Ireland, there is also a cultural component to this dance form, which requires dancers to consider and learn about the families in those communities who uphold this tradition and the cultural events that showcase it.

Workshop Info

Saturday, February 10 at 3 PM - 4:30 PM
Chicago Gaelic Park

6119 147th St, Oak Forest,
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\$20 Individual

Thursday, February 8 at 7 PM - 8:30 PM
Irish American

Heritage Center

4626 N Knox Ave, Chicago,
Illinois 60630

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Workshop Description:

This workshop will focus on building an awareness of timing, weight distribution, foot placement, and connection to the



Learning the basics

music--aside from the general teaching of steps associated with this dance form. Several minutes are spent warming up and stretching before and after the bulk of teaching. I also allow time for 'stepping out'--i.e. dancing freely to the music to practice newly acquired material in a playful, relaxed atmosphere.

Biography:

Brian Ó hAirt learned old-style Irish step dancing in his teens and not long after was

exposed to the sean-nós dancing tradition of Conamara in western Co. Galway by dancers Róisín Ní Mhainín and Seosamh Ó Neachtain. This exposure inspired him to continue his burgeoning dedication to the Irish language (Gaeilge), and the sean-nós dancing and singing styles from that region. While living there in 2003, he was a prize winner at Cruinniú na mBád's sean-nós dancing competition held outside of Winkle's pub in Kinvara, Co. Galway. It was there he was introduced to Pádraic

Ó hOibicín's unique style of sean-nós dancing—one very much focused on both subtle humor and intricate phrasing. He has since worked with and been inspired by Pádraic's dancing, while further developing his own dance style which is informed not only by the steps of Róisín and Seosamh but also his peers and his own music making on button accordion and concertina.

Brian tours and dances professionally with his award-winning ensemble Bua and with singing legend Len Graham. He uses his nearly twenty years of experience in sean-nós dancing to lead workshops at many prestigious events across North America including the Old Songs Festival, M.A.D. Week, the Swannanoa Gathering, Philadelphia Céilí Group Festival, Goderich Celtic Roots Festival & College, Jackson Celtic Festival, Grand Canyon Celtic Arts Week, Winnipeg Irish Festival, Minnesota Irish Music Weekend, Saint Louis Tionól and more! He continues to collaborate with musicians, singers, and dancers to bring sean-nós dancing to new platforms while also researching and presenting on various topics relating to this tradition. He is a dedicated proponent of Ireland's culture and considers the passing on of its traditions as an endeavor near and dear to his heart.



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From Ireland to Chicagoland

Hailing originally from Arranmore Island, off the Donegal coast, Caroleann has been living and practicing law in Chicago for over ten years now. Her practice has been concentrated in representing labor and union workers and their families, in all types of personal injury and work related accidents; including, construction site accidents, automobile accidents and premises liability claims. Her father and three brothers all worked as tunnel miners so she has a deep rooted affinity for the working man and their families



Caroleann Gallagher
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cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com

Growing up, Caroleann has directly experienced the devastating impact on a family when the primary breadwinner suffers an injury. she recently joined a nationally renowned law firm concentrating in all types of personal injury, medical malpractice, nursing home abuse and neglect, workers compensation law, and wrongful death litigation. Caroleann is committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of people who are injured by the negligence of others



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This month's county I will cover is Co. Wexford (loch garman) It is in the province of Leinster and the population is around 150,000. The county has evidence of early human habitation from the Neolithic period

as portal tombs sometimes called Dolmens exist at Ballybrittas on Bree hill and at Newbawn. Early Irish tribes formed the kingdom of Ui Cheinnsealaig. The county's motto is "through fire and waterst. The county was one of the earliest to be Christianized, in the early 5th century. The Vikings plundered many Christian sites in the county. Wexford

town became a Viking settlement near the end of the 9c. Wexford was the site of the invasion of Ireland by the Normans in 1169 at the request of Dermot McMurrrough. The native Irish began to regain some of their former territories in the 14c especially in the north of the county. Under king Henry the 8th the great religious houses were destroyed unfortunately. Oliver Cromwell and his English army arrived in 1649 and captured the county. The land was confiscated from the Irish people and given to Cromwell's soldiers as payment for their service. There is much more to the story of the Irish rebellion and Wexford rising but I will leave it to a song that was inspired from all of that. "Ballad Boolavogue". In 1963 president John f. Kennedy visited Wexford and his ancestors home near New Ross. The Kennedy family of Massachusetts is perhaps a symbol of the rise of the Irish in American political life. Descended from potato farmers who emigrated during the famine. The Kennedys rose in the Democratic Party to take power in the U.S. Senate and presidency. Their story is one of the greatest marked by great tragedy. John Honey



Historians generally agree that he made a lot of money importing alcohol during prohibition. He invested the money very skillfully, he ruled the stock market boom of the 1920's and pulled out just before the great crash of 1929. I will break from Co. Wexford and finish it up next month because I would

like to honor and remember the Alexander family as they will be greatly missed. I didn't know them personally but when we heard the sad news it was heartbreaking. Our local community on the south side was collectively saddened by the tragic accident in Wexford that resulted in unspeakable loss for the Alexander family. As you probably already know Doug Alexander and his wife Lily, and their two sons

Doug and Steven went back to Ireland for a funeral. While they were on their way to the funeral, their life's journey was ended all to soon when their car collided with a truck. Our thoughts and prayers go to those near and dear to these good people. I will wrap up this month with the question, how far back can you remember bad weath-

er? I can remember the big snow of 1947. I've been told that in our area Muckalee-Kilkenny there were drifts of snow, 8-10 feet high. My wife Mary and I would like to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day!

If you have any questions or comments please call me as I don't do email:

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steering the political careers of his increasingly influential family. When Joseph Kennedy sr. son a of a saloonkeeper asked John Honey Fitzgerald for his daughter Rose's hand in marriage John refused the match. He thought that the Kennedys were beneath the Fitzgerald's. Rose fitz married Joe Kennedy anyway. In 1915 Joe Kennedy sr. soon demonstrated that he didn't think Kennedys were beneath anyone anymore. In fact, it would be difficult to find a more ambitious family in all of American history. Joe Kennedy sr. pursued a wide range of business interests including: finance, shipping and motion picture distribution.

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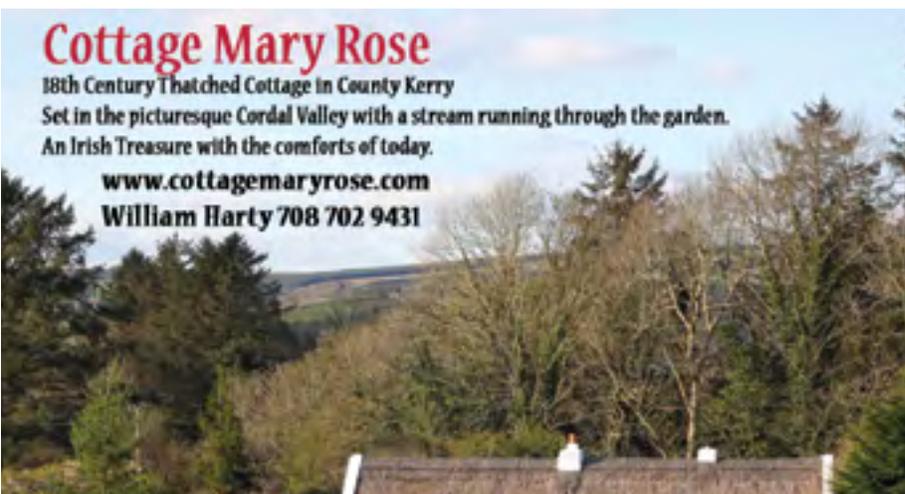
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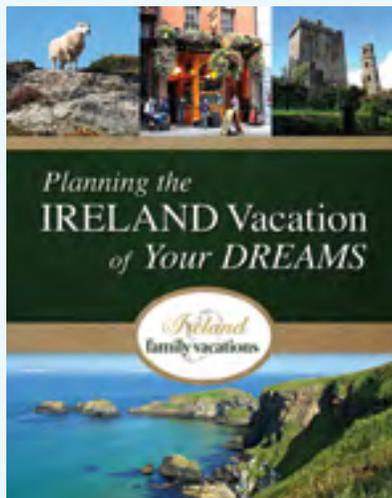
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Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



Nursing Home Abuse and Neglect

A few months ago I wrote an article about Nursing Homes and how to recognize if your loved one has been abused or neglected while at a nursing home. I wanted to go back to this area to now inform you of some of the steps that are available to you, if you in fact do believe that your loved one is, or has been, the victim of abuse or neglect. Because I have en-

countered many people who do not know where to turn or what the first steps should be, I have attempted to summarize some of the first steps that you can take to protect your loved one and then to seek the justice that you deserve from whoever harmed the person you care about.

Steps to Take to Ensure Your Loved One's Safety

In Illinois, nursing home residents are entitled to protection under both federal and state laws that ensure their well-being, safety and health. Nursing homes that fail to uphold the rights of their residents can be liable both civilly and criminally. If there are signs of any physical abuse, your first step should be to contact the authorities immediately so that they can launch a criminal investigation.

In other cases, proving that your loved one is the victim of abuse or neglect may be more difficult and not so immediately apparent. Government agencies in Illinois are responsible for investigating complaints and ensuring the safety of nursing home residents. The following Government agencies have such responsibilities:

- The Illinois Department of Public Health;
- The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services;
- The Illinois Long Term Sub State Ombudsman; and
- The Illinois Department of Aging, to name just a few.

By far, one of the most effective tools I have seen in my career as a nursing home lawyer, is the Nursing Home Hotline at the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). You can visit the IDPH website online at <http://www.dph.illinois.gov> and make a complaint or you can call the Nursing Home Hotline by dialing 1-800-252-4343.

You don't have to be a family member to make a complaint. Therefore, if you have a friend you believe is in a precarious situation, you can make the call. Your complaint can be anonymous if you wish it to be. Most importantly, once you make a complaint, the IDPH is obligated, to investigate the nursing home involved. The investigation will determine if the home is being run as it should be and in compliance with the

law. If you have any inkling that the care and treatment your loved one or friend is receiving is neglectful or abusive, I strongly urge you to make the call. Once made, the eyes of the Department are on the Nursing Home. It means that all of the residents—especially the most vulnerable—will benefit from scrutiny of whether the Home is being run carefully and in compliance with the law.

If a complaint has been investigated and held to be valid by the Department, you will also be able to see what are called - Plans of Correction, which are specific plans and directions to the nursing home by the Department, outlining what changes they have to make, to ensure that they are complying with the law in the care and treatment of its residents.

You will also be able to also see how many staff work at the home. It is important to know



how the number of staff compare to the amount of beds and patients in the Nursing Home. Additionally, it will show information about who the owners and operators of the Home.

Furthermore, the Illinois Department of Public Health is an excellent resource to lean on when placing your loved one into a nursing home for the first time or when moving them away from an abusive or neglectful situation. The Department website provides a list of every nursing home in Illinois and includes reports on which homes have been investigated and what the findings of those investigations revealed.

Complaints focus attention on a Nursing Home. When a Nursing Home is under inves-

tigation and things are not as they should be, the Department will be able to unearth them and will force the home change the way it operates, to ensure the safety and well-being of every resident.

The IDPH Hotline and website are an invaluable resource available to you and will assist both before you place your loved one in a nursing home and during the time they are there. Please give me a call if you have trouble navigating the IDPH website and I can walk you through how to find out information about the particular home you are dealing with.

Unfortunately, my career has also taught me that by the time abuse and neglect is unearthed and recognized, it is often too late for our loved ones and they may have already suffered irreparable damage, injuries, harm and even worse death, because of the abuse and neglect they have suffered.

For that reason you will need to obtain legal representation and seek recourse for the damage that your loved one, you and your family have suffered. My firm is a leading law firm in Chicago when it comes to represent-

ing the victims of nursing home abuse and neglect and has been able to find justice for many of victims and their families. We take nursing home abuse and neglect seriously. Please call us for a confidential, risk free consultation so we can assist you through this difficult time.

**Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney now licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of personal injury law – including nursing home litigation, medical malpractice law, wrongful death claims, transportation injuries, premises liability claims, defective product claims, construction site injuries and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com or at 312-782-7433.*

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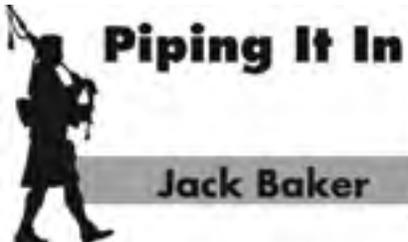
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Coldest Month Warmed by Hot Music

I feel a little guilty, just a little, because as I write this I'm sitting in the sunshine in Nokomis, Florida. The locals are complaining about the cold weather, 50's, but I have no complaints, except that the music scene here is pretty dismal. Thank God for cds! Speaking of cds, I have three to review and they are all pretty good in some unusual ways. Unfortunately, the one I was hoping to get to review, Open the Door For Three's new one, still hasn't made it to me so I will have to be content to listen to cuts from it on Maryann's show on WDCB, 90.9 FM, Monday nights from

lot of folks dancing and raving about the music when they come a touring and I sincerely hope it happens soon. Absolutely some of the best I've heard. It would bring a tear of joy to Robert Burns' eye to hear what they



8 PM to 10 PM CST. If you can't tune in where you are, listen online at wdc.org, works for me.

Going to start out this month with a band from the Orkney Islands, FARA. Now that is not the Foreign Agent Registration Act that got Mr Flynn in so much hot water. FARA is beauty and talent to the fourth power in the persons of Jennifer Austin, who makes a piano do what she wants, plus Kristan Harvey, Jeana Leslie and Catriona Price, three of the finest fiddlers to ever

pick up a bow. That would be impressive by itself but there's more, all four of these ladies can sing like a bird and know what harmony is and how to use it. I'm listening to their recording "Cross The Line" as I type this and I have to keep stopping to listen to the beauty they create. They perform the best, most innovative version of "Whiskey, You're the Devil". It's now



my favorite version of this old classic. There are several original tunes on this recording and they prove the talent of this group. Whether new or old tune, these four ladies make it their own. This is a group I think will set a

do with his "My Heart's in the Highlands", it did me.

Chicago is a place of many treasures, many of them hidden and many under appreciated. One of these treasures is Tim Macdonald. Tim is a Scottish fiddler of great talent and ability. He has finally applied himself to creating a cd which amply showcases his talent. Joined by Jeremy Ward and his cello, a musician of no small talent himself, Tim has released "The Wilds" a cd that will hold fiddle fans

enthralled. The music is strong and sure, crafted by these two masters to accurately portray the emotions behind the music. To be sure there are a good number of Neil Gow tunes present and also some original pieces. Tim

Macdonald has a feel for the fiddle far beyond his years, the complexity of his playing is sheer joy to the ear. Customer reaction to this recording has justified my high regard for it. This music is stunningly good and the only possible negative feature is that it tends to monopolize my listening. A great first effort and I hope just the first of many.

My last selection this month comes highly recommended by Liam the Leprechaun. Liam, a feature of many music festivals in this area, knows his music and he hit the bullseye with this recording. The Founding, www.thefoundingband.com, was formerly known as "Blarney Castle" and I'm glad they changed the name. The old name made them sound like a Clancy Brothers cover band and they are anything but. They compose their music and it's very well put together and highly enjoyable. Their cd

is titled "form" and the look of it is anything but traditional. The title and band name are on the back and the front only has an illustration of a haunting face. Do not let the cover deter you from enjoying the delightful music therein. The band is large and consists of Kyle Pitcher on bass, Lucas Stanley on piano, John Robey on fiddle, Patrick Hartson on guitar and Joel Tyrone Myers on mandolin. All delightful musicians but I saved the gem for last and that is Elizabeth

June Schubkegel on flute and vocals and what vocals! She has a strong, pliant voice that mesmerizes and grabs your ear and pulls you along with her. I was lucky enough to get to see the band perform a few times this last year at various festivals and they were a true joy. Told you, Liam is seldom off the mark, and, frankly, neither am I. This band is a winner.

That's it for now, back to the beach, be home next month for Saint Patrick's Day, see you at the Irish American Heritage Center. Always at store@rampantlion.com Slainté



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 Saturday, March 10th: 10:00 am sharp

Irish Mass in Honor of St. Patrick
 St. Raphael Church
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 Tuesday, March 13th:
 Prelude – 6:30 pm, Mass – 7:00 pm
 Soda Bread Reception to follow

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Cherish The Ladies
 March 6 – 11:00 a.m. – Tickets \$25

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Clutter Buster

By Rita Emmett

Procrastinate No More!

*If I cannot do great things
 I can do small things
 in a great way.*

~~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Do nothing, and nothing happens.

Do something, and something happens.

~~ Benjamin Franklin

What the World Needs Now Is Love, Sweet Love

Yes, people procrastinate about tasks, errands and chores, but sometimes, they also put off friends, loved ones or simple acts of kindness.

Have you been wishing the world had more love, but you put off doing something about it?



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To celebrate the month of St. Valentine here are 14 Loving Gestures (that aren't even romantic)

1. Write a Thank You note to that favorite teacher you had in school.

2. Bring cookies or a huge container of popcorn or pretzels to your local Fire or Police Department.

3. Visit a friend, relative or former neighbor in a nursing home, or call up and ask if you can visit someone who never has visitors.

4. Take a kid to the zoo. Borrow one if necessary. (A kid, not a zoo) The animals are lonely this time of year and you probably have a young friend or relative who has a bad case of "Cabin Fever".

5. Bring a bunch of carnations to work and announce that "Today is National Flower Day" (or some other made-up holiday) and hand them out to women AND men.

6. Support your local community

in your group.

7. Offer hot coffee or cocoa to people working outside in cold weather. (If you spot workers in your neighborhood fixing something, fill a thermos and bring along disposable cups, or if it's the guy who sells papers on the corner, treat him to something from your favorite coffee house.)

8. If you're going to be alone on Valentine's Day, round up other lone wolves of all ages (groups that include both kids and senior citizens can be weird but fun) and go out for pizza or hot fudge sundaes.

9. Offer free baby-sitting for one night to that single parent you know who is struggling (even if YOU are a single parent yourself. Maybe they'll reciprocate someday.)

10. Bake (or buy at a bakery) a batch of cookies and bring them to that neighbor you've not yet met OR to that family of a military member serving overseas.

11. Stock up on a few "Get Well" cards so you can send one out as soon as you hear of someone-you-care-about struggling with an illness, injury or hospitalization.

Enjoy Doing A Kindness Anonymously

12. Pick up the tab for someone who has it rougher than you. (Ever spot someone at a restaurant with an elderly or infirm family member? Surprise them by picking up the cost of their meal.)

13. Pay the toll for the people in the next car behind you.

14. Shovel snow for someone.

When you make any effort to help someone feel better, you might be delighted to discover that happy feeling echoing back to you.

There's GOT to be something here that appeals to you. Why put it off????

Wishing You A Loving St. Valentine's Day

Rita Emmett is a "Recovering Procrastinator", Professional Speaker, and author of *The Procrastinator's Handbook*.

To subscribe to her free monthly "Anticrastination Tip Sheet", go to www.RitaEmmett.com

847-699-9950 or REmmett412@aol.com.

theater group by rounding up a group to attend with you. Invite a lonely neighbor or co-worker to join you and whoever else is



Early Mentors

Some years ago when I worked with The Douglas Post in Cork, a lady dropped some information for publication into the office early one afternoon. I happened to be around at the time, picked up on the surname, and asked was she possibly related to the late Jack Rosney? She said that Jack was her father. It can be a small world at times. Nuala then came back to us in the afternoon with a photograph of her father, which was very thoughtful.

Jack's name certainly stirred up memories for me when I worked in the Hilltop Hotel in Youghal between Intermediate and Leaving Certificates, over forty years ago now. Jack was originally from Kildare and worked for many years as Manager of the L&N in Youghal. After retirement, he worked in the Hilltop Hotel, managing the stores and ordering the purchases. Because he came from an older school of ethics and manners, he was always referred to as 'Mr Rosney'. I was a bit apprehensive of him at the start as he didn't seem to have a lot of time and patience with the younger guys. Young barmen, full of their own self importance

were labelled as 'Little Lord Fauntleroy's' strutting around the place!

However, Jack seemed to take a liking to me and we became very good friends. He took me under his wing as the sun was beginning to set on his



Management career and mine would start to rise a few years later. He was a very experienced and wise Manager who ran the Stores with a military style precision. His Office wasn't a nice place to be if you were a young Chef or Waiter who had taken an item of stock without

permission!

I remember he sent me to Cork City one Saturday morning to buy poppadums for some very important guests that evening. I hadn't a clue what poppadums were at the time and I was lucky to make the last bus back to Youghal. Jack gave me his usual glare and smile for being so late but successful!

We all have people along the way who have made an impact on us and we tend to remember them always in our future careers. I was lucky to get Jack at the start of my own career and he infused me with a certain logic and wisdom that I incorporated into my own armoury from then on. Jack was a fine gentleman of acute intelligence and I am all the better for having known him all those years ago. No matter what accomplishments we achieve in life, somebody always helps us along the way.

Jack's house could be seen across from the bay window in the hotel restaurant and I have a lovely memory of seeing him cycle home from work in the evenings and his dog running out to lovingly greet him. Maybe we can all take a trip down memory lane now and again to reflect and remember those people who gave of their valuable time and got us started on our own journeys.

'Everybody dies, but great souls resurrect in our memories'
- Michael Johnson.

Girl from the North Country

by *Conor McPherson*
Music and Lyrics by *Bob Dylan*

120 pages, October 2017,
\$14.95 Paperback: 978-1-55936-562-8

Theatre Communications Group (TCG) is pleased to announce the publication of *Girl from the North Country* by Conor McPherson, with music and lyrics by Bob Dylan. In *Girl from the North Country*, Conor McPherson beautifully weaves the iconic songbook of Bob Dylan into a show full of hope, heartbreak and soul. It premiered at the Old Vic, London, in July 2017, in a production directed by McPherson.

"Bob Dylan's back catalogue is used to glorious effect in Conor McPherson's astonishing cross-section of hope and stoic suffering... It is the constant dialogue between the drama and the songs that makes this show exceptional."
—Guardian

Duluth, Minnesota. 1934. A community living on a knife-edge. Lost and lonely people huddle together in the local guesthouse. The owner, Nick, owes more money than he can ever repay, his wife Elizabeth is losing her mind, and their daughter Marianne is carrying a child no one will account for. So when a preacher selling bibles and a boxer looking for



a comeback turn up in the middle of the night, things spiral beyond the point of no return...

"Beguiling and soulful and quietly, exquisitely, heartbreaking. A very special piece of theatre." — Evening Standard

Conor McPherson is an award-winning Irish playwright. His best-known works include The Weir (Royal Court; winner of the 1999 Olivier Award for Best New Play), Dublin Carol (Atlantic Theater Company) and The Seafarer (National Theatre).

Bob Dylan, born in Duluth, Minnesota, in 1941, is one of the most important songwriters of our time. Dylan was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2016. He released his thirty-ninth studio album, Triplicate, in April 2017, and continues to tour worldwide.



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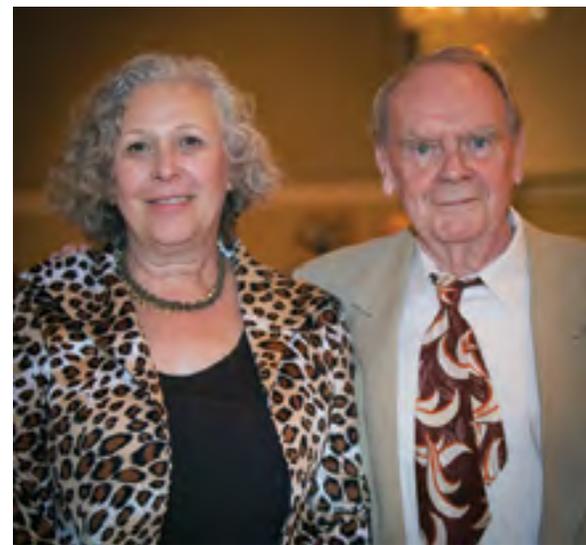
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Celtic Historian Artist and Friend, Frank Crowley Passes: Celebration of Life Service February 9 at Irish Heritage Ctr

Francis Emmet Crowley, "Frank", 76, Celtic historian, artist, teacher, and kite maker; civil rights and labor activist; prolific joke teller; and expert gardener passed away unexpectedly, January 4, 2018, after a brief illness. Beloved husband and partner of 21 years to Pauline Kochanski. Loving father of Jeanne (George) Atkinson; Colin; Tim (Katia Bennett); and the late Chris (Bunthay) Crowley. Proud grandfather of Will Bernstein and Kate and Harry Atkinson; and Liam, Declan, and Maeve Crowley. Former husband

and friend of Rosemary (the late Morton Arnsdorf) Crowley (nee Carpenter). Preceded in death by parents Thomas and Mary (nee Quinn) Crowley, and six siblings.

Frank was a lifelong Chicagoan who was part of the city's cultural, political, and civic fabric. His family often joked that he knew someone wherever he went. He worked with Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference to organize Chicago workers and marched on Selma in 1965. Frank's love for the arts was manifested in many ways and Chicago was its beneficiary. He was the Art Gallery Director at the Irish American Heritage Center and curated exhibits for artists from Ireland and throughout the United States. He taught art classes to adults and children at galleries



Frank and his wife, Pauline, attending the iBAM! Chicago Celebration at the Irish American Heritage Center.



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This promises to be an unforgettable journey, with a promise that while you may come as a stranger, you most definitely will leave as a friend!

Your Tour Includes: Airport transfers in Ireland • Transport by luxury motor coach with a professional driver/guide • Superior hotel accommodation for 8 nights • 5 Dinners & 9 Breakfasts, including breakfast upon arrival • Walking tours of Cork, Ennis & Galway with local guides • Jameson Distillery Tour & Tasting • Knock Shrine • Padraig Pearse Cottage • Connemara Marble Factory • Dingle Peninsula & Sleah Head • The Blasket Centre • Cliffs of Moher • Hotel portorage, all service charges, and all local and government taxes • Flight bags, ticket wallets, baggage tags and strap. **No Hidden Extras!**

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Reservation is for land tour only, which begins in Dublin Airport at 9:00am on Thursday, September 27, 2018, and ends in Dublin on October 5, 2018. Please ensure your air arrangements are compatible. Payment by credit card only. Deposit of \$250 is required now to reserve space. Deposit is 100% refundable if you cancel prior to June 15, 2018. Payment in full is due by July 20, 2018. For additional information call 201-370-2443.

Paddy Homan Music & History Tour of Ireland

and organizations throughout Chicago and founded his own gallery, the Stop and Look Gallery, in his apartment window overlooking the Bloomingdale Trail. He co-founded Windy City Arts to support and give artists exhibition venues at such places as the Chicago Cultural Center and O'Hare Airport. Frank's beautiful Celtic kites were featured in multiple exhibitions in Chicago, as well as galleries across Japan, including Tokyo.

Frank was a recognized expert on the Book of Kells, leading seminars at the Newberry Library in Chicago and speaking in cities throughout the country and at Tama University in Japan. As a docent with the Chicago Architecture Foundation, Frank got to marvel at the city's buildings while teaching others about art, design, and architecture.

And he did all of this with a twinkle in his Irish eyes.

Celebration of Life service: Friday, February 9, 2018; 2:00 p.m. at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, IL 60630. Arrangements by Cremation Society of Illinois, 773-281-5058 or www.cremation-society.com

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Award Winners Announced At Showcase 2018

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Showcase Best Product –
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Other Showcase Award Winners:
The Design & Crafts Council of Ireland Design Ireland Award – Holden Leathersgoods
The Design & Crafts Council of Ireland Innovation and Craftsmanship Award – Benefield Spencer Glass
Local Enterprise Showcase Award – Soul Engraver

Winners of the annual Showcase Awards were announced at Showcase - Ireland's Creative Expo, which takes place at the RDS in Dublin until Wednesday, 24th January. Showcase 2018 was officially opened on Sunday, 21st January by Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys, T.D. and awards were presented by Karen Hennessy, Chief Executive of the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland. The annual show has established itself as a must-see trade event, attracting buyers from Ireland and more than 20 other countries, including UK, USA, Mainland Europe and the Far East, all keen to see the latest designs from Ireland's top brands and craft producers.

Showcase is an international launch pad for the 450 Irish designers, manufacturers and craftspeople who will be unveiling their new season collections across fashion, jewellery, home and giftware during the four-day event. A particular emphasis is placed on new products to market, providing retailers with opportunities to discover and stock up on the latest design-led products, many of which are unique to the show.

Karen Hennessy, Chief Executive of the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland, said: "Since this annual trade show was founded 42 years ago, the continued growth and development of Showcase indicates that there is a strong desire from buyers both in Ireland and internationally to discover and access high-quality Irish designed and crafted products. Our annual Showcase awards programme not only shines a light on the excellent craftsmanship, design and presentation of the makers' work but also highlights the importance of encouraging new product development, allowing buyers to see the very latest innovations from Irish designers and craftspeople at the fair. With such a wide range of exceptional Irish products to choose from, it is always a tough task for our selectors to pick winners and I would like to congratulate all this year's award recipients,

Continued on page 25



Winner of Overall Best Product Award, Anne Behan McConnell from Aine Knitwear, with model Aoibhinn Lane

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A Cháirde

February, our shortest month, has been described as quiet, boring and lonely, but as you can see from this entire publication, it is anything but. The Chicago Irish community is busy making its final plans for March, while still finding time for music, dance and other events. There are many opportunities to get out of the house and enjoy the company of others, along with fine entertainment. At Gaelic Park our month includes an annual visit from The Merry Ploughboys, a celebration of St. Valentine's Day, our Classic Carvery, and our Bridal Boutique. The Carraig Pub will host a football party for the Big Game, has added Free Pub Bingo on Monday nights, and will continue with Pub Trivia on Tuesdays, sessions on Thursdays and live bands with no cover charge on Fridays and Saturdays. Fundraisers to be held

here this month include St. Jarlath's Dancing for Our Stars, the Disabled Patriot Fund concert event, and the Chris Posen Finnegan benefit. And yes, you did hear correctly, I will be one of the contestants at this year's Dancing for Our Stars. My dance partner, Evelyn Staunton and I will be "shaking a leg" to support youth Gaelic football and hurling. *Le do thoil Dia cabhru linn!* The reign of Queen Ciara Corley and Runner Up Marianne Hourihan at Gaelic Park is coming to its end, and I'd like to thank both of them for their service and dedication. Our new Queen, will be crowned on March 3rd. If you know an eligible young lady, please encourage her to enter our Queen Contest.

Tabhair aire.
Bill O'Sullivan

2018 CGP Calendar of Events 2018

FEBRUARY

Feb 7	Monthly Musical Luncheon* Entertainment by Joe McShane	Noon
Feb 11	Monthly Mass & Breakfast	Noon
Feb 16	All Ireland Trivia Quiz	7:00pm
Feb 21	Ladies Auxiliary (due to Ash Wednesday)	
Feb 25	Classic Carvery: Music by Jerry & Kara	3:30pm

* RR - Reservations Required 708.687.9323

Ladies Auxiliary... Next meeting April 12th - no March Mtg

Monthly Musical Luncheon* - Doors open at noon, hot lunch served at 1pm for just \$15 per person

Monday Evenings Set Dancing 7:30pm

Tuesday Evenings Ceili Dancing will resume on Feb. 6
Lessons 7pm/Ceili 7:30pm

Sunday Evening CGP Radio Live WCEV 1450 AM 7:00-8:00pm



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Fri	Feb 2	Kieran Bryne	7:30pm
Sat	Feb 3	Larry Nugent & Billy O'Donahue	8:30pm
Wed	Feb 7	Frank Rossi	6:00pm
Fri	Feb 9	Joe Cullen	7:30pm
Sat	Feb 10	Bernie Glim	8:00pm
Wed	Feb 14	Valentine Dinner	
Fri	Feb 16	Ray Gavin	8:00pm
Sat	Feb 17	Joe McShane	8:30pm
Fri	Feb 23	Jerry Haughey	8:30pm
Sat	Feb 24	Mulligan Stew	8:30pm

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Gaelic Park Players

All-Ireland Trivia Quiz
Friday February 16, 2018- 7:00pm
at Chicago Gaelic Park



Adopt a county name for your team.

Approximately 15% of questions are Irish.

Open to teams of 6 @ \$50 per team,
Singles are welcome @ \$10 and will be placed upon a team.

\$300 Cash Prize

Along with Trophies and Cup. Lots of fun and spot prizes.

To sign up, call
John Devitt at 708-710-8591 or email JohnDevitt67@gmail.com



If planning on having dinner at Gaelic Park,
Call 708-687-9323 for reservations.





Chicago Gaelic Park

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



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"THE BIG GAME"

Sunday February 04, 2018

AFC vs. NFC

Join us at The Carraig Pub for
Open Bar, Snacks,
Half Time Hot Food Buffet

\$40 Per Person

From Kickoff to Final Whistle

The Carraig Irish Pub • 6119 W 147th Street • Oak Forest, IL
708-687-9323 www.chicagogaelicpark.org

END ZONE

THANK YOU!

Gaelic Park would like to thank everyone who purchased a ticket for our annual raffle. The raffle was successful and was sold out a week prior to the event.

This year our lucky winner purchased their ticket through the mail.

We appreciate your support of our annual fundraiser as the proceeds assist in maintaining our facilities.

Chicago Gaelic Park

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Presents it's Annual



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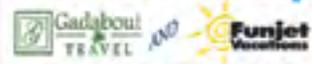
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Sunday, February 18, 2018

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12:00-3:00pm

Admission \$5.00 at the door

And a Fashion Show Featuring
Cowns and Evening Wear from

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Family
Holiday
Fun at
Gaelic
Park

Monthly Musical Luncheon - Wednesday March 7th
Doors open 12:00 - Lunch served at 1:00
\$15.00 - call to make reservations 708-687-9323
Gaelic Park Queen Contest - Saturday March 3rd
St. Baldrick's Head Shaving Event - Saturday March 3rd
register at www.stbaldricks.org

SATURDAY MARCH 17th
**St. Patrick's Day
Luncheon**
Entertainment by Joe Cullen
and Cross Keys Irish Dancers
708-687-9323 • RESERVATIONS ONLY

Southside Irish Sunday March 11th
Meal at 11am followed by Irish Breakfast
Doors open at 12pm with 3 stages of musical
entertainment and an additional stage with
children's entertainment
Admission \$5 adults / \$3 Kids
Schedule is Subject to change

Celebrate Valentine's Day
with Dinner at
The Carraig Irish Pub



Wednesday February 14, 2018

\$70.00 per Couple

Reservations are required,
So call 708-687-9323
and make yours today.



Your delicious meal includes soup and salad, your
choice of Filet Mignon or Grilled Salmon with
3 Shaved Shrimp, Stuffed Tomato, Asparagus,
Double Baked Potato, Double Chocolate Layer
Cake for dessert, and a bottle of red or white wine.

Enjoy!





Chicago Gaelic Park

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



The Gaelic Park Players Present The Annual All-Ireland Trivia Contest.

It will be held at Gaelic Park on Friday, February 16th at 7pm. The quiz is comprised of teams of 6 at \$60.00 per team named after Irish counties. Singles can join at \$10 and will be assigned a team. Approximately 15 percent of questions are Irish. There is a cash prize of \$300, with trophies and a cup as well as spot prizes. Come out and join the fun! To sign up, please contact John Devitt 708-710-8591 or by email devitt62@yahoo.com

We are also happy to announce our Spring 2018 show, *Mammy's Boy* by Jimmy Keary and directed by Gail Lauryn. Hughie is the center of his mother Maisie's universe. He comes home with his dog grooming girlfriend after a 2 year absence with many debts. He schemes to get the family home, however his sister Betty and Maisie's friend Joe are on to his scheme and try to thwart his plans. The play will be the following dates: Friday's April 6, 13 and 20 at 8pm, and Saturday's, April 7, 14 and 21 at 8pm, and Sunday's April 8, 15 and 22 at 3pm. Stay tuned for more details in the March issue.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Gaelic Park Players, the meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm at Gaelic Park. Anyone who is interested in either auditioning for our spring production or being a part of the crew, please join us for a meeting or contact us via the Website gaelicparkplayers.org.

Ireland on Parade March 9-17, 2018 Celebrating 51 Years of Irish Music, Song and Dance

Dance School Schedule

Friday March 9th	Wednesday March 14th
6:30pm McCormack Fay Academy of Irish Dance	7:00pm Weber School of Irish Dance
7:00pm Mulhern School of Irish Dance	7:30pm Maiden Street Irish Dancers
7:30pm Trinity Irish Dancers	8:00pm Foy School of Irish Dance
8:00pm Cross Keys School of Irish Dancing	
Thursday March 15th	Friday March 16th
6:30pm Gaelic Park Ceili Dancers	7:00pm Eilish Sullivan School of Irish Dance
7:00pm McNamara School of Irish Dance	7:30pm Shepard School of Music
7:30pm Mullane Godley Academy of Irish Dance	8:00pm Lavin-Cassidy School of Irish Dancing
8:00pm Blackbird Academy of Irish Dance	

St. Patrick's Day ~ Saturday March 17

The Carraig Pub Open 11am - Pub Food Served from 11:00am - Pub entertainment starting at 1:30pm

Children's entertainment in the Tara Room starting at 4:30pm, and a show by The Lavin-Cassidy School of Irish Dancing at 6:30pm

Live music in the Emerald Room at 4:30pm / Live Music in the Tara Room at 7:30pm

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Reservations are needed.

Adults \$18.00

Children 4 to 12 - \$10.00 (holidays excluded)

Admission includes dinner and entertainment - Cash Bar



CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

6119 W 147th Street, Oak Forest, Illinois 60452

Phone: 708-687-9323
Website: ChicagoGaelicPark.org
Email: office@chicagogaelicpark.org



Queen Contest

Saturday, March 3, 2018

Winner receives

1 round-trip ticket to Ireland!

sponsored by Chicago Gaelic Park (Up to \$700 value)

Application is available on the website: www.chicagogaelicpark.org

FREE BINGO

Monday Nights

The Carraig Pub

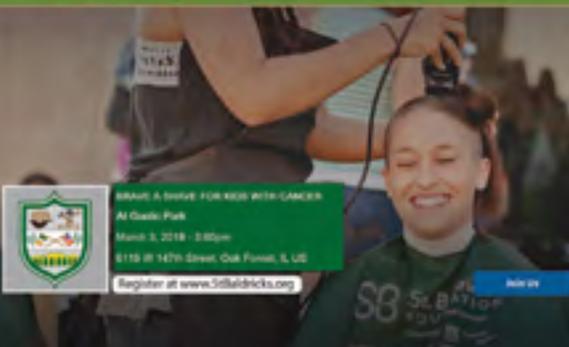
7 to 8:30 pm

Cash Jackpots and Nightly Prizes

Must be 21 or older



6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL
708-687-9323



MAKE A SHAVE FOR BOB WITH CANCER
At Gaelic Park
March 3, 2018 - 2:00pm
6119 W 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL, US

Register at www.stbaldricks.org

Award Winners At Showcase 2018

Continued from page 21

runners-up and those who were highly commended."

Best Product Awards

Exhibitors selected for the Showcase Best Product Awards 2018 were chosen by specialist curators; Alanna Gallagher (home & gift), Natasha Sherling (jewellery); Catherine Condell (fashion & MADE/Slow) and Emma McGrath (Design Ireland). The curators nominated the 'Best Product' in each of their categories and each category produced a Best Product Award and Highly Commended awards. The overall Best Product Award at Showcase 2018 was chosen by the Showcase judging panel.

The Overall Winner of the Showcase Best Product Award was Áine Knitwear for its A-Line Woollen Dress. Áine designs and manufactures lady's and men's knitwear in Clonlara, Co. Clare on the Wild Atlantic Way. The brand is a fusion of contemporary and traditional design creating a vibrant heritage collection in lambswool, cashmere blends, alpaca and silks.

Best New Product

Category Winners:

Fashion & Made/Slow: The Showcase Best Product Award in the fashion category was Áine Knitwear for its A-Line Woollen Dress. Highly commended in this category were Bernie Murphy from Buncrana, Co. Donegal for her Turquoise Tweed 3-Piece and Celtic Tweeds from Balbriggan in Dublin for its Men's Tweed Jacket.

HOME: This year's Showcase Best Product Award in the home category went to Foxford Woollen Mills from Foxford, Co. Mayo for its Woollen Cushions. Highly commended were Elements of Action from Rathmines in Dublin for its Framed Mirror, and J. HILL's Standard from Dungarvan, Co. Waterford for its Decorative Lamp.

GIFT: The Showcase Best Product Award in the gift category went to Ballyshane, based in Duckett's Grove Castle, Co. Carlow, for its Wooden Boards. Highly commended in the gift category were Alanna Plekkenpol from Bray, Co. Wicklow for her Deco-

orative Tiles, and Caulfield Country Boards from Kells, Co. Meath for its Wooden Egg Cups.

JEWELLERY: The Showcase Best Product Award in the jewellery category went to Scribble & Stone, which is based in Rathmines in Dublin, for its Cube Neckpiece. Highly commended in this category were Jennifer Kinnear Jewellery's Neckpiece, and Miriam Wade Jewellery from Mullingar, Co. Westmeath, also for her Neckpiece.

Other Category Winners:

DESIGN IRELAND: The winner of the Design Ireland award was Holden Leathergoods from Dingle, Co. Kerry for its Leather Travel Bag. Highly commended were Dúinn Designs from Carlingford, Co. Louth for its Mixed Linen Scarf, and Jerpoint Glass Studio from Kilkenny for its Decanter. The winner of this award was selected by a panel of independent judges which assessed Design Ireland exhibitors for stand design and display, product quality and overall suitability.

Innovation And

Craftsmanship Award:

The Design & Crafts Council of Ireland's Innovation and Craftsmanship Award, which promotes innovative and creative development in craft, was won by Benefield Spencer Glass from County Antrim. Mourne Textiles from Newry, Co. Down was highly commended in this category, while Callan, also from Co. Down, was the runner up.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE SHOWCASE: The Local Enterprise Offices selected Soul Engraver from Donaghmede in Dublin as the winner of the Local Enterprise Showcase Award for its Engraved Neckpiece. Highly commended were Bearded Man Ireland from Navan, Co. Meath, for its Soap Dish and Shaving Brush, and Craftek from Cork for its Platter.

Showcase 2018 runs until Wednesday 24th January and is for trade attendance only. For further information, please visit www.showcaseireland.com.

The Irish Rovers At North Shore Center In Skokie 3/2



The Irish Rovers have charmed and entertained audiences around the world with their exciting stage shows for nearly fifty years. The days of the long tours are coming to an end for these Irish lads as they are now completing one last world tour. After that, they will rove again only for special events, festivals and longer stays. International touring will happen only on a very limited scale. Full-price tickets for The Irish Rovers range in price from \$39.50 to \$59.50 and are on sale now at the North Shore Center box office, NorthShoreCenter.org, or by calling 847-673-6300.

The Irish Rovers recently released the CD, Drunken Sailor, and the DVD/television special, The Irish Rovers Christmas. The release of the CD was spurred on by over 5 million hits of their usual show-closer, "Drunken Sailor". As well as featuring the title track, the album includes the single, "Whores and Hounds" as well as a tribute to the great ship Titanic on its 100th anniversary. The DVD and television special was filmed in Canada on the ski slopes and in the streets and pubs of Banff National Park, and includes their live Christmas concert filmed at Chatham, Ontario's historic

Capitol Theatre with musical guests from Ireland, Morris Crum, Patrick Davey, Gerry O'Connor, with Canadian/Irish Tenor John McDermott and guitarist Jason Fowler.

On their last two sold out concert tours the band garnered rave reviews, attracted the attention of a new younger audience, and were touted in the press as "internet sensations" for their multi-million YouTube fans, revamping their website, uploading more vid-

eos to YouTube and becoming active on Facebook and Twitter." As Global TV stated, "They're getting a new generation of fans, so in their case you can teach an old dog new tricks!" North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, Center Theatre; located at 9501 Skokie Boulevard, Skokie, Illinois, 60077. Tickets range in price from \$39.50 to \$59.50 and are available online at NorthShoreCenter.org or by calling (847) 673-6300.



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An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard



The "Confuser" In Chief

Our "super smart" President has managed to put both feet in it again. This time it has been in relation to a topic very dear to my heart. I'm referring to Mr. Trump's double speak with regard to the DACA program and immigration in general.

The President, desiring to negotiate on live TV, surprised everyone, including his staff by hosting a bi-partisan group of officials at the White House to discuss a path forward for the DACA folks. He promised that it would be a "loving solution" for those individuals who were brought into the US as minors.

The promise was however short lived, when at a subsequent meeting our "Confuser" in Chief proceeded to make disparaging remarks about people from Haiti and African States.

Again, our President does not seem to pay attention to our history as a nation of immigrants. He seems hell bent on following what is very close to a racist agenda and promote an immigration policy that shows a bias towards people from WASP countries or at the very least predominantly white areas as suitable candidates to welcome here in America.

Now we are faced with a crisis as the two main parties try to salvage a deal for the DACA recipients. Both parties were I believe negotiating in good faith and were very close to agreement. The President again insisting on a stupid wall, which most sensible

experts agree is neither warranted, nor would it be the best value in terms of providing a good solution to the

problems on our southern border. It really is time for the Republican Leaders in the House and Senate to take a stand against the ridiculous and ill-informed positions on such a wide range of topics. It is time to call a halt to blindly supporting a President who is doing such an enormous amount of damage to this country's reputation.

Your Personal Angel

A story about an angel who has been taking care of you even before you were born and will always take care no matter how much you grow old.... you know that angel as Mother, Mamma, Mom...

My mom only had one eye. I hated her... She was such an embarrassment. She cooked for students and teachers to support the family.

There was this one day during elementary school where my mom came to say hello to me. I was so embarrassed.

How could she do this to me? I ignored her, threw her a hateful look and ran out. The next day at school one of my classmates said, 'Eeee, your mom

only has one eye!'

I wanted to bury myself. I also wanted my mom to just disappear. I confronted her that day and said, ' If you're only gonna make me a laughing stock, why don't you just die?'

My mom did not respond... I didn't even stop to think for a second about what I had said, because I was full of anger. I was oblivious to her feelings.

I wanted out of that house, and have nothing to do with her. So I studied real hard, got a chance to go abroad to study.

Then, I got married. I bought a house of my own. I had kids of my own. I was happy with my life, my kids and the comforts. Then one day, my Mother came to visit me. She hadn't seen me in years and she didn't even meet her grandchildren.

When she stood by the door, my children laughed at her, and I yelled at her for coming over uninvited. I screamed at her, 'How dare you come to my house and scare my children!' Get Out Of Here! Now!

And to this, my mother quietly answered, 'Oh, I'm so sorry. I may have gotten the wrong address,' and she disappeared out of sight.

One day, a letter regarding a school reunion came to my house. So I lied to my wife that I was going on a business trip. After the reunion, I went to the old shack just out of curiosity.

My neighbors said that she died. I did not shed a single tear. They handed me a letter that she had wanted me to have.

My dearest son,

I think of you all the time. I'm sorry that I came to your house and scared your children.

I was so glad when I heard you were coming for the reunion. But I may not be able to even get out of bed to see you. I'm sorry that I was a constant embarrassment to you when you were growing up.

You see... when you were very little, you got into an accident, and lost your eye. As a mother, I couldn't stand watching you having to grow up with one eye. So I gave you mine.

I was so proud of my son who was seeing a whole new world for me, in my place, with that eye.

With all my love to you,

Your mother

Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at:

Michael@straussrealty.com

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A Moon for the Misbegotten

Written by Eugene O'Neill
 Directed William Brown
 February 7 - March 18, 2018

Glencoe, IL- Writers Theatre, under the leadership of Artistic Director Michael Halberstam and Executive Director Kathryn M. Lipuma, presents A Moon for the Misbegotten, written by Eugene O'Neill and directed by WT Resident Director William Brown. A Moon for the Misbegotten runs February 7 - March 18, 2018 in the Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols Theatre at 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe. The Press Opening is Wednesday, February 14 at 7:30 p.m.

In 1920s rural Connecticut, Phil Hogan cobbles together a living on rented farmland that he hopes to someday own outright, when his landlord Jim Tyrone comes into his inheritance. Hogan has driven away his three sons, but his towering daughter Josie understands her father and can hold her own. When the two learn that the land may be sold out from under them, they concoct a plan to save it that ultimately reveals the secret desires that two lonely souls have kept hidden for years.

This bittersweet elegy from four-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and Nobel laureate Eugene O'Neill offers a moving and powerful exploration of humanity at its basest and most beautiful. Directed by WT Resident Director William Brown (Company, Doubt: A Parable, The Liar, A Little Night Music and many more), this soaring powerhouse of a play is simultaneously intimate and epic, touching on themes of desire, family and the things we sacrifice for those we love.

"We're all excited to be exploring Eugene O'Neil for the first time in our 26-year history," said Artistic Director Michael Halberstam. "Bill Brown has articulated such a beau-

tiful, passionate, personal and clear vision for the piece. At Writers, it is our mission to take classics down from the shelf and dust them off a breathe new life into them. AC Smith, Bethany Thomas and Jim DeVita (in fact the whole cast) are some of the finest actors in the city and therefore the country. They bring original and refreshing voices to the conversation about the play and their endless reservoirs of creativity and emotional sophistication will make for a compelling take on the narrative. Furthermore, Bill's design team has created a wonderful connection between intimate and epic in the beautiful Nichols Theatre. The lives of these disenfranchised characters demand such an intimate and empathic engagement while their emotional turmoil lives at an epic

scale. Lean forward and engage!"

The cast includes: Jim DeVita (James Tyrone, Jr.), Eric Parks (T. Stedman Harder), Cage Sebastian Pierre (Mike Hogan), A.C. Smith (Phil Hogan) and Bethany Thomas (Josie Hogan).

The creative team includes Todd Rosenthal (scenic), Rachel Anne Healy (costumes), Jesse Klug (lighting), Andrew Hansen (sound), Regina Victor (dramaturg), Elizabeth Laidlaw (violence & intimacy director) and Karen Janes Woditsch (assistant director). The production stage manager is David Castellanos.

Tickets are priced \$35 - \$80. Subscriptions and individual tickets may be purchased online at www.writerstheatre.org, 847-242-6000 or in person at the box office at 325 Tudor Court in Glencoe.

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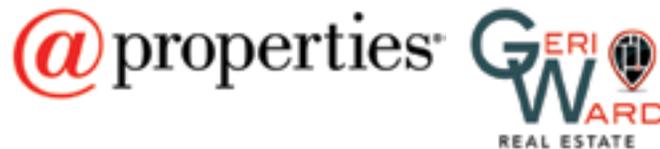
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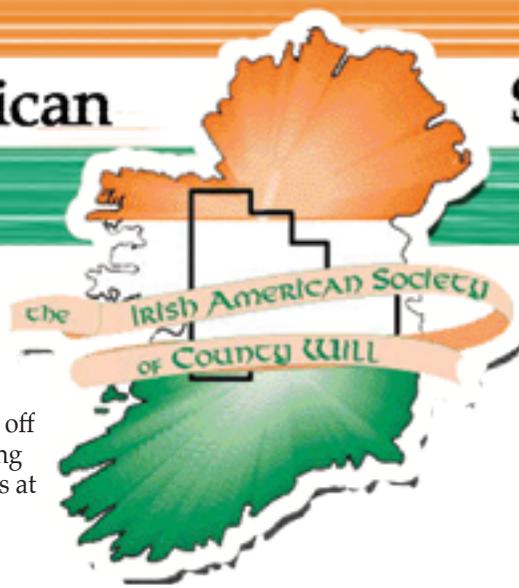
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Manhattan Irish Fest March 2 & 3, 2018

Make plans to join the crowd in Manhattan to kick off the St. Patrick's season celebrations. Friday evening and all day Saturday entertainment tent. See details at Manhattanirishfest.com/



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

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

IASCW Sponsors Rialto Theatre Local Music Series Again

Friday Feb 16, 8pm: Dual Album Release Show: John Condron and The Old Gang Orchestra; and Riverhorse.
Monday Feb 26, 6:30pm: Bridget and Garrett; JRoss Green Band; and Jeff Givens and The Mugshot Saints.
Monday Mar 26, 6:30pm: Big Lagniappe; and Miles Nielsen and The Rusted Hearts
Monday April 23, 6:30pm Full Social Media Search For The Most Popular Local Original Bands.
 Tickets are available at the Rialto box office:
Rialtosquare.com

Study in Ireland! Irish Life Experience Scholarships Available!

ILE is a summer study abroad program in Ireland offered to both American and Canadian High School students. Over the course of four weeks during the summer in Ireland, students are introduced to its magical landscape and rich heritage through a variety of workshops, classes, and tours. Emphasizing culture, education, travel, safety, and fun, our programs insure a unique and unforgettable journey for every student. Since its founding in 1981, one of the essential purposes of the Irish American Society of County Will has been to promote education, friendship, understanding and cooperation among members and the community in general. IASCW offers scholarships of \$3,000 or more toward the total tuition amount of \$5,100. All Will County high school students may apply. For more information go to: Countywillirish.net/scholarships.html.

Founding Fathers College Scholarships Available!

\$1,000 scholarships for post high school education and training are available to all Will County high school seniors. Students should consult their guidance counselors for more information or go to Countywillirish.net/scholarships.html

IASCW St. Patrick's Scholarship Banquet Mar 24th

Members and friends are invited to the annual scholarship banquet. The Knights of Columbus, 100 S. 129th Infantry Dr., Joliet, IL 60436 will again host our event. Please join us from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the full buffet dinner, step dancers, Irish Life Experience scholar presentation; bagpipes and great fellowship.
 Cost is \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members.
 For more information contact IASCW VP Sharon Houk:
 815-342-9715 or email smhouk@gmail.com

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UPCOMING CONCERTS AND PROGRAMS



PÍOBAIRÍ

PÍOBAIRÍ, a presentation hosted by Patrick and Karen Cannady with Patrick's students and musical colleagues returns in February for live traditional Irish music. **Saturdays, February 3, 17, 24, 6pm**



Quiz Night

Show off your skills at one of Chicago's longest running trivia contests. There are prizes for the top 3 teams and proceeds from the evening benefit a local charity each month. **Friday, February 16, 8pm, \$60 per team**



The Irish Whiskey Class

Join whiskey educator Martin C. Duffy for a "tootful" as you learn about the history, legacy, production and character of whiskey, while sampling some of "Uisce beatha"; the water of life.

Saturdays in February on 2/3, 2/10 or 2/17 from 3pm-5pm, \$40



Paints and Pints

In this group session, budding Picassos can paint their their masterpiece, while enjoying a pint or drink of their choice. **Friday, February 9, 7pm, \$45 Members, \$50 General Admission**



Makem and Clancy in Concert

Dónal Clancy and Rory Makem take the stage with songs and stories from the Irish folk tradition.

Sunday, February 11, 6pm, \$22 Members, \$25 General Admission



Kevin Burke Concert

Kevin Burke's fiddle playing has been at the forefront of traditional music since the early 1970's. His work with such renowned performers as Arlo Guthrie, the Bothy Band and Patrick Street, along with a solo career as a musician and teacher has earned him international acclaim across the globe.

Friday, February 16, 8pm, \$20 Members, \$22 General Admission

Pre-concert Fiddle Workshop: Friday, February 16, 5:30pm, \$40



Tea with Rachel Carson

In this solo performance, historian and actress Leslie Goddard portrays Carson as she discusses her work on educating the world to the beauty and fragility of nature. The Tea Series showcases notable women in literature and history. **Saturday, February 17, 11am, \$25, Children 12 and under \$8**



RUNA in Concert

RUNA has been pushing the boundaries of Irish folk music into the Americana and roots music formats since their formation in 2008. Interweaving the haunting melodies and exuberant tunes of Ireland and Scotland with jazz and bluegrass, they offer a thrilling and redefining take on traditional music.

Saturday, February 24, 8pm, \$20 Members, \$22 General Admission



11th Annual Wearing of the Green Dinner Dance

Kick off St. Patrick's Day season with dinner by Harrington's Catering & Deli, entertainment by Gerry Haughey and Friends, dancing, prizes and a cash bar. **Sunday, March 4, 5-10pm, \$45**



MAKEM & CLANCY in Concert

Sunday, February 11, 6pm

Tickets: \$22 Members, \$25 General Admission



KEVIN BURKE in Concert

**Friday
February 16
8pm**

Tickets:
\$20 Members
\$22 General Admission



RUNA in Concert

Saturday, February 24, 8pm

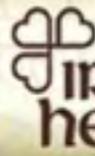
Tickets:
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\$22 General Admission



WEARING OF THE GREEN DINNER DANCE

Sunday, March 4, 5-10pm

Tickets: \$45



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Annual Appeal

Below are the names of donors to the 2017 Annual Appeal who have given through January 16, 2018. The campaign runs through March 2018 and donations will be listed in *Irish American News* through the March issue. Each year, Patrick and Peggy Burke generously pledge \$25,000 in matching funds for the Appeal. We thank them, and you, for your generous support.

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Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Irish American Heritage Center

ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL: SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018

AUDITORIUM

- 1:30pm Irish Heritage Singers
- 2:30pm Rebecca McCarthy School of Dance
- 3:30pm Mulhern School of Irish Dance
- 4:30pm O'Hare School of Irish Dance
- 5:30pm Trinity Irish Dancers
- 6:30pm Mullane Godley Irish Dance Academy

FIFTH PROVINCE

- 1pm TBA
- 3pm Dooley Brothers
- 3:30pm Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band
- 5:30pm Mulligan Stew
- 7:30pm The Chancey Brothers
- 9:30pm In Spite of Ourselves

ROOM 309

- 1:30pm Irish Music School of Chicago
- 3:30pm Academy of Irish Music
- 4:30pm TBA
- 6:30pm Shepherd School of Irish Music
- 7:30pm Patrick and Karen Cannady and Friends

ROOM 311

- 1-4:30pm Trinity Irish Dancers Lessons

ERIN ROOM

- 2:15pm Wiggleworms
- 3pm Wiggleworms
- 6pm Sean Cleland Band
- 7:30pm Dylan Walshe
- 9:30pm The Great Whiskey Project

1pm-Midnight
Admission:
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President's Message

Installation on our new Auditorium sound system has begun, and could actually be completed by the time you read this message. It's the first phase in a renovation of this under-used performance space, and is being made possible by a grant from the Irish Emigrant Support Programme. The regeneration of our Auditorium as a place that will attract the best Irish artists demonstrates not only our commitment to nurturing and sharing our culture, but the mission of the Irish government to continue to assist Irish immigrants and descendants in keeping close to their home country.



I have been blessed, during my term as President of the Irish American Heritage Center, to meet and become friends with some of the greatest Irish musicians in the U.S. As I finish serving the last half of my final term, I am

heartened by the fact that I can look forward to seeing so many of them take the stage in our "new" performance space.

Many, many thanks to Consul General Brian O'Brien, Vice Consul Justin Dolan and former Vice Consul Ragnar Almqvist for their direction and encouragement, and for their seeing the

potential that we have always seen in our beautiful old building.

In-or-out of our Auditorium, music is a part of everything we do here. Our annual St. Patrick's Festival is set to a musical backdrop, and upcoming performances by Makem and Clancy, RUNA and Kevin Burke are must-sees. For information on all of our activities, musical and otherwise, visit our website at www.irish-american.org.

See you at a show!

Tá ceol saol (music is life)

Eugene M. Cooney, President

February 2018

2/2	Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
2/3	The Irish Whiskey Class	Room 109	3pm
	Piobairi	Fifth Province	6pm
	Shamrock American Club Social	Shamrock American Room	8pm
2/7	Tara Club Senior Meeting	Room 306	10am
2/9	Paints and Pints	Room 309	7pm
2/10	The Irish Whiskey Class	Room 109	3pm
	St. Patrick Fathers Social	Room 109	8pm
	Young Irish Fellowship Craic and Culture Crawl	Various Rooms	2pm
2/11	Great Books Club - <i>Is It All In Your Head?</i>	Library	1pm
	Makem and Clancy in Concert	Auditorium	6pm
2/16	Friday Night Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
	Kevin Burke Fiddle Workshop	Library	5:30pm
	Kevin Burke in Concert	Auditorium	8pm
	Quiz Night	Room 309	8pm
	Shamrock American Club Meeting	Shamrock American Room	8pm
2/17	Tea with Rachel Carson	Fifth Province	11am
	The Irish Whiskey Class	Room 109	3pm
	Piobairi	Fifth Province	6pm
	Chancey Brothers Anniversary Concert	Fifth Province	7pm
2/21	Tara Club Monthly Musical Gathering	Room 306	11am
2/23	Friday Night Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
2/24	RUNA in Concert	Auditorium	8pm
	Piobairi	Fifth Province	6pm
2/25	Genealogy Workshop	Library	1pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Mon-Fri	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	4pm-8pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
	Memoir and Creative Writing Classes (2/13 - 3/20)	Library	4-6pm
Wed	Traditional Irish Music Session	Room 111	7pm
	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
	Na Gaeil Irish Language Class	Library	7pm
Thurs	Taping of the Craic Radio Show	Fifth Province	6:30pm
	Thursday Night Irish Music Session	Fifth Province	7pm
	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal	Room 306	7pm
	Memoir and Creative Writing Classes (2/15 - 3/22)	Library	4-6pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili	Room 111	8pm
Sat	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	10am-8pm
	Na Gaeil Irish Language Class	Library	11am

Library Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 2pm | Wednesday 4pm to 8pm | Saturday 10am to 2pm

No Cover

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the fifth province

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FEBRUARY ENTERTAINMENT

Music Starts at 8pm

- 2/2 Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor
- 2/3 David Dunne
- 2/9 the Joyce Boys
- 2/10 TBA
- 2/16 Joe McShane
- 2/17 the Chancey Brothers
- 2/23 Far Too Close
- 2/24 Fagan



Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions: February 1, 8, 15 and 22; 7pm



IAHC President Gene Cooney and Executive Director Meg Buchanan accept a grant check from the Emigrant Support Programme from Consul General Brian O'Brien and Vice Consul Justin Dolan. The grant will help fund renovation of our Auditorium, as well as smaller capital projects and the launch of a new Irish School for children.

The Heritage Line Staff Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Meg Buchanan, Theresa Choske, Gene Cooney, Laura Coyle, Catherine Kelly, Sheila Murphy, Nancy Moore, Mike Shevlin

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Comhaltas Convention Returning to Chicago April 5-8, 2018

By Tony O'Connell, Secretary, Midwest Region CCE

Following on the success of the 2017 North American Comhaltas convention, the 2018 Convention will again be held at the Hilton hotel in Northbrook. The Convention is one of the many events run by Comhaltas in North America and is organized locally by the Murphy Roche branch of Comhaltas. The Convention is a weekend of multiple events held under the same roof with something of interest

for everyone. If you are a dancer, there is dancing every night and into the early hours of the morning with a total of seven Ceilithe. If you want to learn new dances or steps there are workshops in ceili dancing, set dancing, jive and sean n6s. If you are a musician there are multiple sessions throughout the hotel running almost non-stop from Thursday evening until the wee hours of Monday morning. There are workshops, lectures, vendors and a banquet with the very best of Irish entertainment. But, for many, the single most enjoyable part of this gathering is the chance to renew old friendships and make some new ones. The convention

is an event for everyone and brings the youngest and not so young together in a shared love of Irish music, song and dance. If you have never been to a Comhaltas Convention consider coming to the

Hilton Northbrook April 5-8. You won't regret it. For info or to register for events visit www.murphyroche.org/convention or visit the convention page at www.facebook.com/cceconvention2018.



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Tom Boyle



Cardinal Law

Passed away in Rome at the age of 86. He died in disgrace.

Hopefully St. Peter is guarding the gates of Heaven. Several people have said he should burn in the fires of Hell.

His funeral was held at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. This was an insult to the victims of the pedophile priests he transferred from parish to parish with out warning them that they were getting a sexual predator.

This went on for 30 years in the Archdiocese of Boston.

The notorious Fr. John Geoghan, a serial child rapist who later died in prison at the hands of another inmate, was one of those priests.

Law once said, "All of us de-
plore in our own lives and the

lives of others a failure to live out fully the message of Christ. In my own ministry I have attempted to do that." What a crock!

Law was described as patriarchal and authoritarian by the priests who served under him.

Callesta Gingrich, U.S. Ambassador designate to the Holy SEE attended the funeral mass with her husband, Newt Gingrich, the former Speaker of the House. The decision to attend the funeral was ill-conceived.

Pope Francis gave the final blessing. "May he be given a merciful judgement so that redeemed from death, freed from punishment, reconciled to the Father, carried in the arms of the Good Shepard, he may deserve to enter fully into everlasting happiness in the company of the Eternal King together with all the Saints."

That blessing set off another firestorm amongst the victims. I guess Pope Francis doesn't know how deep the wounds are. Many think he's all talk on the subject of pedophile priests.

Chile Pope Francis

Chiles Catholics began losing their faith in 2010 when a cover up of a powerful priest, Rev. Fernando Karima was brought out into the open. He had sexually abused minors in his Santiago Parish for years. Pope Francis has accused the victims of slandering Bishop Jaun Barros of covering up for Fr. Fernando. Pope Francis said there is no proof that Barros covered up. Eleven churches have been torched between Peru and Chile in protest of the Pope's visit.

Sex abuse is Pope Francis' Achilles Heel in terms of his credibility.

Professor Fagioli, a theology professor at Villanova University, in Philadelphia said, "It is surprising that the Pope and his entourage don't understand that they need to be more forthcoming on this issue."

taken as racist. Africa and Haiti were mentioned. The remark was not aimed at the people who live there.

This opened the door for liberals to voice their righteous indignation. What gets lost in the shuffle is when we allow people to immigrate who will no doubt wind up on welfare, roles and eventually most will become part of the liberal base.

Chelsea Manning

A transgender former Army private convicted of passing classified government documents to wikileaks, is going to run as a Democrat against the incumbent Democratic Senator in Maryland.

No, you are not waking up from a nightmare. Manning was serving her time in Fort Leavenworth Army prison when she was pardoned by President Obama.

Whatever used to be abnormal is now normal.

"Oh say can you see by the dawn's early light . . .

Firefighter Jamie Boyle

I'm proud to say that my cousin's son was honored as Firefighter of the Year in San Francisco for an incident that took place on Sunday, March 27, 2016.

On that day an unfortunate training accident nearly became one of those most tragic days in San Francisco Fire Department history, if not for the actions of

two fine firefighters, Jamie Boyle and Steven Metz.

Following a training exercise they were involved in, a rogue wave struck one of the rescue boats next to theirs, sending it up many feet above the surface of the wave, and then capsizing the boat, along with the seven members who composed the crew, pilots, and swimmers for that training period.

Jamie Boyle and Steven Metz saw they were in trouble and quickly made a Mayday call to get help rolling to the scene. At the same time, both men reoriented their jet skis and headed into the dangerous surf. As they barreled valiantly into the crashing waves, some of the heads of their crew mates started appearing in the surf zone. One by one they rescued all of them, using all of their previous training and operational water rescue experience.

Congratulations Jamie and Steven. When the going got tough the tough got going!

Garry McCarthy

Garry McCarthy, former Chicago Superintendent of Police, is exploring the possibility of throwing his hat into the ring for Mayor of the City of Chicago. He's holding a fund-raiser at the Irish American Heritage Center in February and it will be interesting to see who attends and who they are.

Trumpism

"Shithole Countries"

Definition - an extremely shabby or otherwise unpleasant place. Not "politically correct" but accurate. This expression sets off a firestorm of outrage. Immediately the remark was

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Celtic Thunder Announces 10th Anniversary Releases Celtic Thunder X March 2, 2018

Public Television Special Airst March 1

There's no resting on your laurels for Public Television phenomenon Celtic Thunder! The multi-platinum Irish group disembarked from its third Celtic Thunder Cruise in November and completed a US Symphony Tour in December, all the while making preparations for the all new CELTIC THUNDER X Deluxe Double CD, Deluxe Double DVD packages, to be released on March 2, 2018. The releases celebrate the group's 10th Anniversary, and the Celtic Thunder X tour of 75 cities across the US and Canada will begin in the fall of 2018. Take an early look at CELTIC THUNDER X here, and pre-order CELTIC THUNDER X here.

The brand new music and footage from CELTIC THUNDER X is also a highly anticipated television special, which will begin airing nationally on March 1, 2018. The special was filmed in Dublin on October 30, 2017 at the Helix Theatre. Celtic Thunder has become one of public television's largest draws. Their shows have aired over 22,500 times across 50 states on PBS. The group is among the top five audience-generating acts on the network. Check local listings for airing dates/times of Celtic Thunder's new

a new song but which never fails to bring the audience to its feet.

"We had a blast making CELTIC THUNDER X. The music choices were carefully selected to suit each member's personality and gave us something we could really dig our teeth into. The musical arrangements, the orchestra and the band are all great, and they really helped to create our best show to date. We love singing songs that are a perfect mix of traditional and contemporary Irish Songs, along with the fun we have performing hit songs that are known worldwide." Damian, Michael, Emmet, Ryan & Neil, Celtic Thunder

Celtic Thunder have sold over 3.4 million albums in the US, combined, toured the U.S. and Canada, coast to coast, 12 times, and Australia 4 times performing almost 1,000 shows to date, selling well over 1 million tickets. Celtic Thunder has been hailed as BILLBOARD's "Top World Music Artist," along with "Top World Music Imprint" and "Top World Album" of in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2015 and again in 2016. The Celtic Thunder official YouTube channel, "Thunder Tube" has received over 98 million views since 2008



CEL T I C THUNDER X special.

Backed by the amazing Celtic Thunder Band, the singers (Damian McGinty, Ryan Kelly, Michael O'Dwyer, Emmet Cahill & Neil Byrne) deliver new ensemble numbers including "Sons of Light", "Toora, Looora, Lay", "The Wild Rover", "Right all right", and "Castle on the Hill" followed in the second act by nostalgic fun songs like "Celebration", "I'm a Believer", "Seasons in the Sun" and "Rise Again". No Celtic Thunder show would be complete without an encore of their rousing anthem "Ireland's Call", the only song in CELTIC THUNDER X that isn't

and has more than 138,000 subscribers. The Celtic Thunder website www.celtictThunder.com reached over 5.3 million users last year. Their Facebook www.facebook.com/celtictThunder has 461,000 followers and over 42,000 on Twitter <https://twitter.com/CelticThunder>. www.theceltictimes.com, Celtic Thunders monthly newzine has a readership of 1.2 million and 100,000 subscribers. Celtic Thunder has appeared on multiple national TV programs including The Today Show, CBS Early Show Saturday, Fox & Friends, QVC, and numerous regional shows in major cities.



The Finnegan Family: See Story previous page



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Chicago Irish Immigrant Support (CIIS) Celebrates 20 Years of Service at 2nd Annual Casino Night Fundraiser

Feb. 24 event raises funds to meet needs of Irish immigrants in Chicago

With undocumented immigrants in the United States facing the greatest uncertainty they have in decades, and the intimidating tangle of bureaucratic and economic challenges facing Irish immigrant seniors in Chicago, to say 2017 was a busy year for the Chicago Irish Immigrant Support (CIIS) is to understate.

All this comes as the organization celebrates its 20th anniversary of serving the Irish community in the entire Midwestern United States. CIIS will celebrate that milestone and hopes to raise additional funds to support ongoing efforts at its 2nd Annual Casino Night Fundraiser Feb. 24, 2018 at the Irish American Heritage Center.

There is estimated to be between 10,000 to 50,000 undocumented Irish currently living in the United States and following

the presidential election, many reached out to CIIS to explore options and ask for advice should immigration authorities come knocking at their door. Demand for legal services almost doubled and CIIS leaders partnered with numerous immigrant support organizations throughout the Chicago area to sponsor legal clinics "Know Your Rights" workshops. CIIS also took a leading role working with other organizations to establish local pro-immigrant ordinances, and to protect deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA) recipients.

"In the past 12 months we have seen a 41% increase in demand for our legal services," says Michael Collins, Executive Director. "This increase, on the 20 year anniversary since the founding of CIIS, reflects the continued need for our services

and the importance of our work. Due to the social and political climate, it is more important than ever that CIIS continue to meet these demands, and to do that we need help to raise the funds necessary to do so."

Points of Pride for 2017

- Immigrant help increases. During the past 12 months, CIIS has seen a 41 percent increase in demand for its legal services and has hosted 24 immigration legal clinics directly serving 127 individuals. CIIS has addressed over 780 total immigration related inquiries.

- Senior services in high demand.

- Social services program has also had an extremely busy year hosting 37 senior group meetings – 922 attendees on both the North and South side of the city.

- Conducted 191 home visits

to vulnerable or isolated seniors and have.

- Ongoing case management for 26 seniors.

- College visitors and young adults served. Provided housing and employment referrals to over 182 summer J-1 student VISA visitors from Ireland.

Underscoring its mission to serve, empower, and connect the Irish and Irish-American community of the Midwest, Collins wrote the following in an editorial in the Irish Times just weeks after the Donald Trump election:

"Chicago Irish Immigrant Support and our partners at the Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers," said Collins. "The Celts for Immigration Reform, and Senator Lawless will work to ensure that the Irish community is safe, and that there is a resolution to this situation

through comprehensive immigration reform. The Irish community in Chicago has always stuck together and has been there for each other. This will not change."

Another highlight of the past year was CIIS partnering with the University College Dublin and Dominican University and its research project about the Irish in Chicago. As part of this research, CIIS distributed a survey with the goal of generating a new understanding of the Irish community in Chicago and gaining original insight into the needs and views of the Chicago Irish.

Some of the findings already are being put into action.

During the upcoming year, CIIS plans to launch a new program around mental health awareness. This program will be brand new and comes as a result of the research conducted with the University College Dublin. This project is being funded by the Irish Episcopal council for immigrants. Collins said CIIS hopes to do more work to include seniors with memory impairments.

CIIS is the only direct service, charitable organization, specifically catered to the Irish community in the entire Midwestern United States.

With a mission is to serve, empower, and connect the Irish and Irish American community in the Midwestern United States, CIIS offers full service and confidential immigration, pastoral, and social services programs. To that end, it serves the Irish American community by providing legal, social, and referral programs.

A voice for Irish and Irish Americans, CIIS provides access to resources and assistance, empowering community members to resolve the challenges they face. Organization leaders accomplish this through liaising with relevant organizations, policy makers, and the government of Ireland.



Join Chicago Irish Immigrant Support FOR OUR CASINO NIGHT FUNDRAISER!

Saturday, February 24, 2018
7pm to Midnight

The Erin Room in the
Irish American Heritage Center
4626 North Knox Avenue
Chicago, IL 60630

- **Immigration Services:** Immigration and natural services
- **Pastoral Care and Counseling:** Irish Chaplain offering pastoral and counseling services
- **Social Services:** Full time Irish social worker providing social services

- **Senior Services:** Seniors outreach program serving over 80 senior weekly, including guest speakers and live events
- **Student Program:** Innovative student exchange program pioneered with Dept. of Foreign Affairs, Trinity, NUIG and UCC
- **J-1 student assistance**



CIIS is a 501(c)3 not for profit charitable organization

4626 North Knox Avenue, Suite 301, Chicago, IL 60630
773.282.8445 • info@irishchicago.org • www.irishchicago.org

The Ireland Network Chicago is a business and social network of Irish or those with a strong affinity to Ireland who are living and working in the Chicago area. Our mission is to serve as a bridge for newly arrived Irish and those connected to Ireland to the established Chicago business and Chicago Irish communities. We host frequent events in a wide variety of settings and formats.

Connect with colleagues, develop new contacts, share your expertise, and participate in the many network events across the calendar.

We invite you to get involved with us! So, get your tuxedos and ballgowns ready for



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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH 2018



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19th Chicago Irish Film Fest March 1-4 Films From the Land of Storytelling

Indie, edgy, creative, enlightening, award-winning; all the things festival films should be and exactly what the Chicago Irish Film Festival brings to the Windy City for the 19th edition, March 1-4, 2018

The festival kicks off, March 1, 2018, with a screening of Maurice Fitzpatrick's *In The Name of Peace: John Hume In America* a timely and important

written with a hefty dose of Irish humor and a fair amount of life lessons for everyone involved. *Writing Home* has some direct connections to Chicago with a soundtrack by **Gareth Woods**, a Chicago policeman and musician originally from Carlingford, and **John Syzmanski**, an Irish musician living in Chicago. And **Dubliner Brian Liston**, co-founder of Seed CX in Chicago, was one of



In The Name of Peace: John Hume In America

examination of how Hume's "engagement with the US was a major catalyst in the journey to peace in Northern Ireland." Also, screening is Michael Flatley's exuberant short film, *A Little Bit of Tear*, filled with Flatley's signature dancing and music. This year's opening night gala will take place at Theater On The Lake and include a reception prior to the screening.

Having its US premier at the festival is this year's Filmbase feature *Writing Home* an updated version of the prodigal son



A Little Bit of Tear

the film's major sponsors making *Writing Home* a real Irish and American production.



Writing Home



College Hurling team 1921 *China Mission*

Peter Kelly's *China Mission* is a riveting documentation of life in rural China from 1920 - 1954 captured by the Columban Missionaries founded in 1916 in Cork. Using film and photographs that were sent back to Ireland to raise funds for the missions over the decades the documentary highlights the extraordinarily turbulent but fascinating period of Chinese history before the establishment of Moa



Puck of the Irish

Zedong's People's Republic of China, so that by 1954 all the missionaries had been expelled from the country.

Other highlights from the festival include The Golden Globe nominated *The Breadwinner* directed by Nora Twomey and produced by Cartoon Saloon, *Puck Of the Irish*, Eamonn O'Cuailain wonderful documentary that proves the Irish really did invent hockey and includes interviews with Brendan Shanahan and Geraldine Heaney. Of course, it would not be a festival without short films and this year over 40 short films will screen including a special horror themed program that includes the multiple award-winning *Gridlock* by Ian Hunt Duffy and the US Premier of *The Secret Market* by Garret Daly.

For complete festival information please visit: www.chicagoirishfilmfestival.com

Locations:

The Theatre on the Lake, 2401 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60614

Logan Theatre: 2646 N. Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60647

Gallery Theatre: Society for Arts 1112 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60642

Tickets: \$50 Opening Night Gala @ Theatre On The Lake

All other screenings: \$14 adults \$ 12 Seniors \$10 Students/Children

Tickets available online @ chicagoirishfilmfestival.com

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March 1 - 4 2018

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March 2 & 3

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5pm - 9pm Teen Dance

Cultural Areas

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Fri 5-9p & Sat 10-5p

Manhattan Historical Society

St. Joseph's School

Sat. 9a - 3p Craft show

St. Joseph's Church

Sat. 8-11a. Breakfast, Music & Dancers

Sat. 8:30a. Catholic Mass

5KRUN - 11:00 a.m.

PARADE - 11:00 a.m.

Central Park Rugby Pitch

Morrigan Rugby v. TBD 1:00 p.m.

Shamrock Rugby v. TBD 3:00 p.m.



ENTERTAINMENT TENT

FRIDAY: Tent opens 5pm

Larkin & Moran Brothers

SATURDAY:

Emerald Society Pipe Band

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Hatfield Sisters

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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

Chances are, if you are reading this, you are of Irish decent, or perhaps an Irish immigrant seeking fame and fortune in Chicago and its environs. If so, you may have achieved Naturalization, hence are a United States citizen, and you may even have served in the US military. Or you could be among the scores of Irish professionals who travel across the Atlantic, at the speed Chicagoans travel to Hinsdale or Evanston.

Back in the day we were not referred to as immigrants, but rather Aliens. Seems ludicrous now, and yes, we lined up once a year to expand our alien cards for another year. We were the young Irish who immigrated during the Irish brain drain in the fifties. We were also referred to as "greenhorns" by first and second generation Irish whose parents fled famine, the scourge of the Brits and the collapse of the Irish economy. The term was a slur, a set-back, an insult, but in those days Irish aliens were educated, eager to succeed, to work, and although too shy to express it, eager to make a difference in the Ameri-

can culture of unique opportunity. Politics beckoned, and yes we lined up every January to apply for an alien card for another year, and in five, we were eligible to apply for US citizenship.

I arrived from Ireland in my 17th year, with a younger brother and sister. Our Irish passports listed us as Scholars. We were among the new Irish who would cultivate our heritage into the mainstream of American life. Those who referred to us as greenhorns we considered old Irish, clinging to an image of the old country that had drastically changed.

In early January 1960, I lived in Dorchester, an Irish conclave on the fringes of Boston. The first of my three daughters, born on Christmas Eve, a few weeks old, and my mother, already a US citizen, sat with her grandchild while I satisfied my ambition to vote for John F. Kennedy for US President. I dressed in my Irish tweed honeymoon going-away suit to become naturalized. It's a big deal becoming a US citizen, which bestows among other valuable perks,

the ability to vote. A large group of immigrants gathered in a government building in the shadow of the Massachusetts State House, and at the conclusion of a formal ceremony we were declared US citizens. Daughters of the American Revolution congratulated each of us and pinned a USA button on our lapels. I rode home to Dorchester on the subway, unaware that I and the other inductees were prohibited from voting in a presidential election. When one becomes a US citizen there's a lengthy waiting period before one can cast a vote in a presidential election. Unfortunately I did not have the required most of time. A security measure to eliminate voter fraud, a method to weed those who applied for citizenship intending to flood the polls to vote for a favorite candidate. I have voted ever since, but my disappointment in not casting a vote for JFK has not diminished.

My daughters are first generation, my four grandchildren are second, Recently my 20-year old grandson asked if I realized I was an immigrant. I smiled and wondered if I'd assimilated so much into American society that I lost traces of my beginnings. I assured him I was aware, and considered myself Irish. I reminded him that each of our grandchildren, at the

age of thirteen traveled with us to Ireland to meet their Irish family and dozens of young cousins. He spent a while reliving that experience, and keeps in touch with the Irish family. We chatted about President Donald Trump's game plan to eliminate DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, the so-called Dreamers. I wondered what my brother, sister, and I would have fared had we been dreamers coming to America to join our widowed mother. She was forced, at age 32, to emigrate in order to support us living in Ireland with her sister. When our guardian became ill and subsequently died, my mother had a choice, come back to Ireland and take care of us, or bring us to America. She felt there was no life for her in the land of her birth.

Families are torn apart when immigration occurs. Sons ripped from their mother's arms, Fathers too broken hearted and inhibited to weep when daughters and sons bid farewell. Contrast that with young people living in the United States, settled and thriving, being sent back to where they came from. It translates into an atrocious, cruel, inhuman and destructive policy, going against the grain of what America stands for, the land of the free and the brave, a melting pot

for all nationalities.

Immigration is complex, rendered more so by the Washington Administration. I harbored disdain for Ireland for decades because it failed to support my family following the death of my father. The economy was in the pits, it broke our family apart, forcing my mother to immigrate. I no longer harbor animosity and have gained mightily from the island I came from, and have made my living as a news reporter in Boston, Chicago and Southern California. The Irish foster education, and I am a recipient of the best of an Irish heritage.

One has only to look at Chicago for insight into the contributions of the Irish: the Mercy nuns who staffed schools and hospitals here and all over the country, the Daly family, the supporters of Old Saint Pat's, the work of the late Monsignor Jack Egan, Governor Jane Burn, the Andrew Greeley Family, The Irish Domestic, Historian Lawrence McCaffrey, Irish historian Dr. John B. Duff, Cardiologist Dr. Rory Childers, the Irish Consulates, Alderman Edward Burke, the Irish laborers who build the Irish American Heritage Center, the women who staffed it, and the Irish, who by reputation abolished the No Irish Need Apply culture in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

In addition, a group of Irish born activists and those of Irish decent who support Concern Worldwide, ensuring that the Irish are first to respond to famine and other global tragedies. The Longford sisters, Marian Connolly Brady and Dolores Connolly, were forerunners in this project that began many years ago as The Bridget Award. The Irish have been an example that poverty should not be tolerated, that it can be redeemed. Today's immigrants are not named Cleary, McNamara, McCourt or O'Reilly, but the reality of our own history demonstrates that we have a responsibly, an obligation to fight for the downtrodden, no matter their surnames or their country of origin. It begins with a conversation with those we elect to govern. This land has been built on the backs of immigrants. Let's continue the mainstay of our nation and the riches of diversity.

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



More than Meets the Eye

DUP leader Arlene Foster's New Year message was unambiguous: "The people of Northern Ireland deserve a government and if Sinn Féin persist with their intransigence then the Secretary of State [for Northern Ireland] should move to appoint direct rule ministers early in the New Year... Let's set ourselves a short time frame. And let's do it here at home."

Translation: I reject any venue in Britain for talks to revive Stormont as I am not committed to achieving a deal, and there is a precedent for breakthroughs when mediation meetings con-

vene in Britain; direct rule ministers suit me since that would eliminate absentionist Sinn Féin and enable my party to monopolise policy-making in Northern Ireland; the sooner this happens the better, and here's hoping that Sinn Féin does not budge on its red-line positions so that any prospect of restoring the Assembly can be promptly and comprehensively expunged.

Foster is obviously more adept at New Year's resolutions than New Year's solutions that may be broadly acceptable, but you cannot fault the resolve. Sinn Féin, by contrast, has no game

plan remotely as consequential as the DUP's.

That only leaves the stumbling block of the Irish government, which can and should do something to prevent a disastrous DUP attempt to dominate Northern Ireland still more. As the dramatic events last November and December illustrate, the Irish government is capable of exacting a concession—or simply an admission of reality—from British Prime Minister Theresa May on Northern Ireland. As Ireland stood with the EU during the first phase of the Brexit negotiations, so too the EU can stand with Ireland on the DUP plot to wreck what little is left of ecumenical politics in Northern Ireland. So what approach might Dublin take to counter Foster?

In December, Tánaiste and Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney called for 'the triggering of intergovernmental conferences to make decisions on Northern Ireland'. This was a clear signal that Dublin might decide on Northern Irish matters over the heads of the elected parties in Northern Ireland, if those parties continue to refuse to sit in the Assembly. Coveney said this despite the fact that it is contestable that the provisions for intergovernmental conferences in the Good Friday Agreement in fact authorises Dublin and London to do so. This suggests, then, that Coveney and the Irish government are questioning the basis of their continued role as co-guarantor of the Good Friday Agreement while the suspension of Stormont continues.

Maybe this is just a negotiating position, since it is clear that Coveney and Taoiseach Leo Varadkar want to see a re-establishment of Stormont, but it is also clear to anyone observing that the DUP-Sinn Féin period as bedfellows

administering Northern Ireland is all but past. Dublin cannot ignore that reality, which is why Coveney's hint that intergovernmental conferences, held between the British and Irish governments without the participation of Northern Irish politicians, might supersede the authority of Stormont. This betokens the consideration of a political approach toward Northern Ireland not applied since the 1980s.

Coveney's comments both irritated and terrified Arlene Foster. Of the two feelings, terror won out and, consequently, the speech Foster delivered in Killarney, Co. Kerry (much deeper into the Republic of Ireland than Foster is used to) on January 13th should be seen in light of her need to promote constructive relations with Simon Coveney.

In Foster's speech she asserted that the Southern and Northern States have a great responsibility, as Brexit draws near, to pull together to cultivate stronger trade and cultural links. She played to the audience's certain rejection of a hard border by maintaining that 'I absolutely do not want to see the creation of a hard border on the island of Ireland'. Equally, she asserted, that Unionists have every right to protect their interests and their bond with the UK, stating that 'We could not countenance anything that created a Border down the Irish sea and cut Northern Ireland business off from their [UK] market'.

The speech was well-delivered, an outpouring of humanity with a sprinkling of choice metaphors—'Brexit is not about pulling up the drawbridge, building a wall and cutting ourselves off from our nearest neighbours'. It was also a decoy of which Dublin should be very wary.

While Foster's speech was designed to seem conciliatory (and

was widely received that way) it was anything but. Foster's strategy is to buy enough time to ram through the direct rule agenda, of which she spoke in her New Year message, while attempting to immunise Dublin against any involvement based on the seemingly inclusive politics that Foster now claims to espouse. But the conviviality belies a paranoia about Dublin and London holding Joint Authority over Northern Ireland.

Panic has set in very deeply in Unionism about the role that Dublin may play as Brexit negotiations progress. Writing in The Spectator last December, former Ulster Unionist Party leader and negotiator of the Good Friday Agreement David Trimble put it as bluntly as this: 'the Irish government is trying to break up the UK'. It should be self-evident that the Irish government has no such objective. Yet, since both Trimble and Foster backed the Brexit vote, they must continue to advocate Brexit, even if the process of Brexit threatens the UK to which they claim to be so wedded. When contradictions emerge, why not allege that the Irish government is plotting to sabotage the UK?

In January, Trimble elaborated further, 'I don't want to suggest that there's a danger of violence from loyalist paramilitaries. But do bear in mind that movement [perceived movement towards breaking the UK union] in that direction is going to have a political consequence'. We have been here before and we know that it does not end well. It augurs particularly badly if the central participants of the peace agreement begin to float the kind of innuendoes that Trimble did. Twenty years since the peace agreement was signed, the question now begs, where stands the Good Friday Agreement today?

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by Vicki Quade

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Chris Kozicki Leads Irish Fellowship Club to Record Setting Year in 2017

The Irish Fellowship Club achieved records in fundraising and event attendance during the past year. Under the leadership of 2017 President Chris Kozicki, the club raised over Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars for its foundation which is dedicated to providing scholarships to the Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The Christmas luncheon was chaired by James F. Coyne, Business Manager for Plumbers Local 130 and General Chairman of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and had its largest attendance in history with over 1,200 people present.

Chris Kozicki did fantastic work as the 116th President of the Irish Fellowship Club. Chris is Vice President at B. Coleman Aviation, and resides in Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood with his wife Siobhan, and children, Deirdre, Cormac and Maeve. Chris is proud to hold dual citizenship with the United States and Ireland. He is a graduate of DePaul University. Chris is passionate about Catholic Education. He serves on the Board of Regents for St. Ignatius College Prep, Chairman's Advisory Council for the Big Shoulders Fund, Irish American Partnership and Ireland Network. He was Past President of the Bridgeport Catholic Academy School Board, Leadership Advisory Council of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School and the 20th President of the Young Irish Fellow Club.

In 2017, the Irish Fellowship Club celebrated 40 years of supporting Catholic education. As part of the commemoration, the Foundation, headed by Jack Hartman, increased the annual scholarship amount to \$5,000 per student. As part of the anniversary, Chris Kozicki and the club hosted a reception at St. Ignatius College Prep.

Among other events, Chris instituted a new member event

at O'Brien's Restaurant on the River Walk. The club also co-sponsored an event welcoming An Taoiseach Enda Kenny to Chicago. Chris will continue his contributions to the Chicago Irish community by serving as the Chairman of the Board of the



Chris Kozicki and family on the Irish Fellowship Club float.

Irish Fellowship Club in 2018. The Irish Fellowship Club provides opportunities to celebrate Irish heritage during St. Patrick's Day Season. For more than 100 years, the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago has been comprised of the brightest Irish-American minds and the stoutest Irish-American hearts in Chicago. The members have helped weave the political, economic and social fabric of this city, while honoring the Club founders' desire to "build up a spirit among the people of Irish descent here, of dignity, of cultural activities." There is no better time to celebrate our Irish heritage than during the St. Patrick's Day season.

The club's St. Patrick's Day Dinner takes place on Friday, March 16, 2018 at the Conrad Hilton. The event is a perfect way to enjoy great Irish entertainment and camaraderie. Information about obtaining tickets available at the Club's web site, www.irishfellowshipclub.com. Special room rates are available at the Hilton.

Members and their families are invited to march with the Irish Fellowship Club in Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parade



The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago

which steps off on Saturday, March 17, 2018. The fun and activities are not limited to St. Patrick's Day, however, and members are invited to activities throughout the year. Members also receive a subscription

to the *Irish American news*. For more information and to join the club on line, visit the website, www.irishfellowship.com. An application is also provided below.

Submitted by
IFC President, John Griffin



Irish Consul General; Brian O'Brien, Ireland's Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation; Mary Mitchel, and Irish Fellowship Club Chairman of the Board; Chris Kozicki.

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SEPTEMBER 9 - 18

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Take a gourmet tour of Ireland with celebrated nutritionist and foodie, Sara Rose, featuring the Taste of West Cork, Waterford, and Dublin.

OCTOBER 15 - 24

COME HOME TO IRELAND WITH SHAY

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OCTOBER 15 - 24

WALKING THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY

Walk the road less traveled and see Ireland as we hike the Wild Atlantic Way from Achill, to Killarney's National Park, and the Wicklow Hills.

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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



What is a Bodhran? (bowrawn) (drum/deaf, plural bodhrain). It's the Irish drum ranging from 25-65 cm in diameter. Its body is usually a hard-circular wooden piece. It's played with the bare hand or with a stick. It's made of goatskin or synthetic material and it's tacked to one side. The other side is open-ended for one hand to be placed against the inside of the drum head to control the pitch and timbre (tone). The bodhran is an unassuming instrument and since it doesn't have mechanical parts there isn't a lot to tuning for a non-tunable drum. The art of tuning, tightening or loosening the skin depends on the weather conditions. At first glance it looks like an easy instrument to play but you need a lot of coordination of both your lower and upper body. According to the musician, Ronan Nolan (Dublin) the bodhran evolved in the mid-19th century from the tambourine. In the 1940s pictures show jingles remained part of the bodhran construction like a tambourine yet were played with a stick (cipin). Sean O'Riada (music composer from Limerick) declared the bodhran to be the native of the Celts. The Celts were in Ireland 400 bc so that would have the Bodhran around much longer than the mid-19th c suggestion. In Iran they use a drum called a "daff", which is played with the fingers in an upright position and it's very similar to the bodhran. It's been said that the origin of the instrument may be the skin trays used in Ireland for carrying peat/turf. The earliest bodhran may have simply been an animal skin stretched across a wood frame without any means of attachment. It was used to separate chaff in baking or as a food server or storing tools. The bodhran didn't gain wide recognition as a legitimate instrument until the Irish traditional music revival in the 1960s through the music of Sean O'Riada. Increasing interest led to internationally available LP recordings at which time the bodhran became a globally recognized instrument. The Chieftain's, Christy Moore and De Dannans Johnny "Ringo" McDonagh developed their playing styles of the bodhran. The bodhran has gained popularity in Scotland, Cape Breton, and Nova Scotia. There is a famous ballad/poem played using the bodhran, 'the maid and the palmer or the well below the valley'. I spoke to a few very talented bodhran players. I spoke to Malachi Towey who comes from Mayo. He has made his own bodhrans

through the years. While we spoke, he referred to the bodhran as a tambourine. He said he has been

playing since he was 10 years old and he is 98 years young today. He doesn't use a stick he just plays with his hand. "I thought it was the nicest thing I ever heard", he said. Malachy bought a bodhran in Wales. Growing up in Mayo he said you never saw bodhrans in the village they just weren't around. "Music is a beautiful gift to have and I love seeing people pick up the bodhran". If you want to see Malachi in action he is a part of the Sunday night session in Lanigan's bar, 3119 w. 111th street, Chicago. I also spoke to Jackie Moran who comes from Tipperary. He said he's been playing the bodhran over 30 years. He learned from sitting in on sessions and had a few lessons from Kevin Rice. Jackie teaches lessons in Gaelic Park. He also plays at Mrs. Murphy's bistro session on Wednesday nights. (3905 N. Lincoln Ave) I spoke to a female bodhran player named, Kimberly Bigler. She has been playing for 10 years and said it's a complete joy to play the bodhran. She is self-taught and loves the respect fellow musicians give each other. She plays in Naperville at a bar named Quigley's and has played in Kenosha, WI. She can be reached at pointe_tutu32@hotmail.com

I've always loved listening to the bodhran. I have had one for years that just hangs on the wall, maybe I should pass it on to someone that would actually play it!

Virginia's book club this month at Irish American Heritage Center on Feb. 11 is; "Is it ALL in your head? By Suzanne O'Sullivan. I've read it and it's a very interesting book about psychosomatic illnesses. Over the Christmas holiday I went into our good friend, a Kilkenny man, Alex McGrath's store, "Donegal Imports". He is retiring after 40 years and is looking to sell his whole business goods included. He would like to maintain the business as an Irish store, to keep the tradition going and convenient for loyal customers. The store is located at 5358 w Devon ave in the Sauganash area. Alex can be reached at (773) 792-2377

Gaelic for the month:

Drum-Bodhran, Goat-gabhar
 Music-ceol, Gift-bronntanas
 Seanfhocail for the month:

I ndiaidh a cheile a thogtar na caisleain-Rome wasn't built in a day!

If you have any questions/comments, please find me at: Molanive@yahoo.com

West Suburban Irish Emerald Dinner 2/24



On February 24, 2018, the West Suburban Irish will hold their annual Emerald Dinner, which is their major fundraiser for the year.

The Emerald Dinner will be at Elements banquet room on Water Street in downtown Naperville, from 6 pm to 11 pm.

Entertainment will be provided by the Matt Stedman band and the McNulty Irish dancers. The Emerald Dinner will feature a silent auction and raffle.

Reservations must be made in advance, and can be made at the WSI website, www.wsirish.org. Tickets are \$80/person or a table of 10 for \$750.

The West Suburban Irish will be celebrat-

ing the 25th Anniversary of their annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The Parade will be on Saturday, March 10, 2018, at 10:00 am in downtown Naperville. Registration for the Parade is open and can be done online at the website.

The annual Irish Mass and Soda Bread Reception will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at 6:30 pm. The Mass will be at St. Raphael Church in Naperville. Acclaimed Irish singer Paddy Homan will return to sing before and during the Mass. A free reception with coffee, tea, soda bread, and dancing by the McNulty Irish Dancers follows the Mass.

Scottish Band Dáimh at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center in Wisconsin February 17

Called the champions of straight-in-the-eye Highland music, the Scottish band Dáimh will perform at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Based around West Lochaber and the Isle of Skye, Dáimh (pronounced Dive) have been called the champions of "straight-in-the eye" Highland music. Taking their name from the Gaelic word for "kinship," the band has brought their pyrotechnic jigs and reels, along with aching poignant ballads, to more than 20 countries. They have released five studio albums and were named Best Folk Band in Europe at the Folkherbst competition in Germany. They recently were honored as Folk Band of the year at the Scottish Traditional Music Awards.

A Gaelic-speaking piper originally from Cape Breton Island Nova Scotia, Angus MacKenzie draws his piping style from his Outer Hebrides roots along with the dance-influenced rhythm of Cape Breton music. From Northern California but with family roots in Prince Edward Island, fiddle

player Gabe McVarish completed a degree in Scottish music after moving to the Scottish Highlands. A multi-instrumentalist on mandola, mandolin and accordion, Murdo Cameron was immersed in traditional Gaelic singing and music while growing up in Glenelg near the Isle of Skye. From Inverness, Ellen MacDonald is renowned for her smoky voice along with acting skills that led to a key role in the BBC's Gaelic drama Bannan. Originally a fisherman from Arisaig, Scotland, Ross Martin is an in-demand guitar player who has toured with one of Ireland's most influential singers, Karan Casey.

Tickets are \$21 in advance, \$25 on concert day, \$10 for students with ID and free for 12 and under. www.ichc.net. Tickets may also be ordered by calling (414) 345-8800.

The beautiful Art Deco style Ambassador Hotel, 2308 W. Wisconsin Ave. Milwaukee, is offering a special rate - subject to availability - for those attending ICHC concerts. Ask for the ICHC rate when calling (888) 322-3326. www.ambassadormilwaukee.com.



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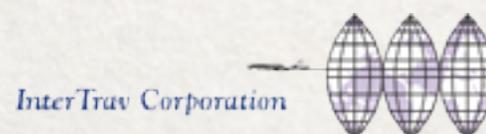
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On the Upbeat

By Maryann
McTeague Keifer

In the southern hemisphere, February is considered to be the last month of summer. I plan to consider this our last month of winter.

There are several albums which were released late in 2017 that I have not spent enough time talking to you about, so let's get that remedied. First, is an instrumental CD of a very talented young button box and melodeon player, Daire Mulhern. Hailing from Ennis, County Clare, one of the centers of Irish traditional music, Daire is a five time All Ireland Solo winner. He is one of the younger generation of Irish musicians who are leaving their marks so significantly on the music.

In addition to being an excellent box player, Daire is a composer, teacher and mentor. His debut album *Boxman* is a collection of traditional tunes and others composed by well-respected musicians the likes of Seamus Connolly, Percy French, Paddy O'Brien, Mairtin O'Conner and others. He gives credit for learning these tunes to musicians some of whom are Paul Brock, Seamus Begley, and Damien Mullane.

His playing is clean and crisp and flows so easily that it takes you with it as you listen. Transitions are masterful, and at times, you think you are listening to him accompany himself

as there is so much going on as he plays—magic fingers! Jigs are not usually my first choice of tunes, but several of his sets, Sean McGlynn's / The Tongs By the Fire and Apples in Winter / Rockin' the Boat / Duncan the Gauger are magnificent. What I am most impressed with are his hornpipes. You can actually imagine and hear in your head the hard shoes hitting the floor as he plays. Daire is a master and you will be hearing much more from him in the near future.

Imar is another band who released a creative traditional music album. If that sounds a bit oxymoronic, you'd be correct, but when you have five incredibly talented and innovative musicians whose



backgrounds are Irish, Scottish and Manx, traditional is relative. Ryan Murphy (Manran) is looked upon as one of the most talented of his generation by his fellow musicians.

Mohsen Amini (Talisk) has been knocking the socks off everyone with his concertina. Tom Callister and Adam Rhodes (Barulle) have opened our eyes to the music of the Isle of Man, and Adam Brown (Rura) adds in stunning bodhran and energy to the sets. All are multi award winners and are having a ball playing together. They met each other competing, playing and teaching at various fleadh, and this "just happened". It is lucky for us that it did!

Imar's *AFTERLIGHT* is a collection of traditional tunes joined in sets with compositions of their own that complement and enhance each other. I have been calling them a fusion band, not in the sense of the genres, but in that their individual playing melds together to give their tunes newness and excitement. Their style pulls you in whether it be an air or a set of reels. While the music is truly based in tradition, they are new; they are refreshing, and they are a band you need to get to know. I play this album frequently, and everytime I do, different sets call to me. Pick it up for yourself!

Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh, whom many of you would know as the former long time singer of Danu, has released a stunning album of songs, with a few sets included. *FOXGLOVE & FUSCHIA* is a brilliant collection that takes you on a tour of Ireland and its heart and soul. I have always



loved the song about Bridget O'Malley, and Muireann, who is a native speaker having been raised in the Gaeltacht, sings Brid Og Mi Mhaille with such feeling, that your heart is as broken as the young man who has lost his love. The nostalgia The Final Trawl also grabs your emotions as she sings of the boat and its crew's last voyage. Pauline Scanlon, Meabh Ni Bheaglaoich and Eilis Kennedy join her with

gorgeous backing harmony. In addition to her glorious alto voice giving us songs we wish we could be next to the fireplace in a pub in Dingle with her as she sings. Muireann has surrounded herself with the brilliant playing and singing of too many great Kerry based musicians to mention. You'll be more than impressed when you get to read the credits. If you get to Dingle, be sure to look to see where she is hosting a session. In the meantime, treat yourself to this album.

There are some great concerts coming up.

Feb. 10th - Lucky in Love at Chief O'Neill's (Pauline & Kevin Henry, Siobhan & Brendan McKinney, Marta Cook & Devin Shepherd, Clodagh & Sean Ryan)

Feb. 16th - Kevin Burke at IAHC

Feb. 24th - RUNA at IAHC

Feb. 25th - Ten Strings and a Goatskin at OTSFM

Mar. 7th - Lunasa at OTSFM

Mar. 9th - We Banjo 3 at Pabst Theater in Milwaukee

Mar. 14th - We Banjo 3 at City Winery

Mar. 16th - Paddy Homan at North Central College

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Maryann



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Cherish the Ladies

March 6, 2018 11:00 a.m. – Tickets \$25

It is simply impossible to imagine an audience that wouldn't enjoy what they do", says the Boston Globe speaking of Cherish the Ladies, the long-running, Grammy-nominated, Irish-American super group that formed in New York City in 1985 to

celebrate the rise of extraordinary women in what had been a male-dominated Irish music scene and has since toured the world, played the White House and the Olympics, and recorded 16 outstanding albums. They are in constant demand worldwide as their reputation and admiration from both fans and critics alike continues to grow.

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center Announces Spring Concerts

The Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, has announced its Spring Hallamór Concert Series. The start time for each concert is 7:30 p.m.

The season opens with the Scottish band Daimh on Saturday, Feb., 17. Based around the Isle of Skye, Daimh (pronounced Dive) have been called the champions of "straight-in-the eye Highland music. Taking their name from the Gaelic word for "kinship," the five member group is known for pyrotechnic jigs and reels, along with achingly poignant ballads. Performing on Saturday, March 31, RUNA enchants audiences by pushing the boundaries of Irish folk music and interweaving the exuberant tunes of Ireland and Scotland with the lush harmonies and intoxicating rhythms of jazz, bluegrass, flamenco and blues. Coming from varied musical and geographical backgrounds, the band members are known as one of the most innovative Irish folk groups.

Each player in The Alt, performing on Saturday, April 21, is a leading light of today's

folk music scene and critically acclaimed for collaborations with a who's who of the greatest names in Irish music. Although they could be called a "super-group," at its heart, John Doyle, Nuala Kennedy and Eamon O'Leary's trio is a celebration of friendship and song. Tickets for the Daimh and The Alt concerts are \$21 in advance and \$25 on concert day. Tickets for RUNA are \$24 in advance and \$28 on concert day. Tickets for students are \$10 with ID and free for children 12 and under. To purchase tickets and for more information, go to www.ichc.net or call (414) 345-8800.



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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Did I Ask You?

It is my ardent belief that some of the best ideas that have been developed in our businesses, think tanks, research facilities, and colleges will never see the light of day. Why? Because the person in charge says something like "Did I ask you for your opinion?" or "I don't really want to hear your suggestions." Neither of which will inspire nor encourage active and enthusiastic participation in finding a solution to the problem.

Why do companies concentrate so much effort to excel in their recruiting efforts only to dismiss the ideas that new hires bring to them? Yes, I understand that sometimes a new employee may bring an idea to the attention of his or her boss that rightly should be dismissed because that identical idea has been tested several times

in the past. Often because someone has reached some level of authority, s/he believes that their wisdom or knowledge allows them to dismiss any idea that does not appeal to them personally. There are a lot of very smart people in the world and some of them are in your organization. Why not take a moment

to listen to another person's point of view? Perhaps they have managed to surface a grain of wisdom or insight that has been overlooked somehow until now. But there is no excuse for dismissing all suggestions out of hand.

There are leadership training programs that challenge their participants to decide on what items should be removed from a simulated airplane crash in a desolate area. The point is to thoroughly think their way through the plane's inventory rather than haphazardly selecting a number of things that they simply want. After a thorough vetting of the items on the plane, everyone must agree to a limited number of things that should be unloaded. The selected items need to constitute the most desirable objects that will meet the challenges that the participants are likely to now face. A thorough and thought provoking conversation will help them to prioritize the most desirable items to be removed. The lesson to learn being that just because someone's idea seems unworkable to you does not mean that it is unworkable; there is a good chance that it may be as good as or better than a snap decision.

To digress, imagine if people with authority in our society were more open minded and willing to listen. Unfortunately, the common practice that seems to permeate our society is: "my view is better than yours." There is no real discussion, just a demand for compliance.

An additional factor, in the mix of today's employment scene, could be the tremendous stress levels which can leave people more easily irritable. Many people feel that they are overwhelmed by the demands on their time. People will tell you that they are always under intense time pressures, likely caused by the perceived 24 hour work day. They are on their phone with their European colleagues on the way into work and on the phone with their Asian colleagues on the way home. They feel that they never have any free time; like doctors always on call. Isn't this sort of stress self-defeating and unwelcome?

As the father of four smart children, who had four substantially different talents and interests I can attest that sometimes a final decision surfaced by the person who seemed to be the least interested in the matter. I

can recall, years ago, when we had family meetings to discuss issues or problems, sometimes the ultimate answer reached was crystal clear to one person while initially being seen, by the others, as far-fetched and maybe even ridiculous. This represents the reality that having a different storehouse of facts, can allow someone to see the issue(s) from a much different point of view than the other people around them.

Many of us are reluctant to listen to others because we are insecure and unwilling to listen to an opposing point of view. Perhaps we don't want to be seen as not having the correct answer to every problem. We need to set aside our preconceived notions at times to see the issue more clearly. This is commonly done by concentrating on the facts, not just opinions.

I enjoy good spirited debates about issues, but it is vital in such debates that everyone maintains a certain level of civility. So often in this current day, an argument becomes quickly heated resulting in a shouting match that doesn't include many facts but rather is fueled by emotional opinions.

We have all seen situations resolved poorly when the decision making process did NOT include people with direct knowledge and involvement with the heart of the problem. As children say commonly about their parents—"they don't listen to me". Sadly, sometimes it is no less true when you grow up and make a suggestion.

On my first consulting assignment, I was charged with developing a budget system for a fastener company, probably \$40 million of revenues. After reviewing my carefully crafted draft of the new handbook for the company's newly developed budget system, my boss asked me one question. He asked if I had gotten any input from the company's accounting personnel. I answered truthfully; I had NOT. His terse comment was "rookie mistake." As an outsider and a young, inexperienced consultant I certainly didn't understand all the details of their complicated manufacturing system which fed into their financials. It was a hard but valuable lesson for me to learn; my boss, Bill, did me a great favor by teaching it to me early on in my career. I have never forgotten it.

Test different ways of obtaining the opinion of your staff members before expressing your own opinion, you may learn more than you had expected. Remember these staff members are smart and it was the very reason you hired them, isn't it? Carpe Diem.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: "Inherently, each one of us has the substance within to achieve whatever our goals and dreams define. What are missing from

each of us are the training, education, knowledge and insight to utilize what we already have." Mark Twain.

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., a Naperville, IL-based Senior Executive Coaching and Career Transition firm.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brody



Roaring Backslappers and Raging Bull Talkers

"I'm not on speaking terms with half of the people here because I tell them what they don't want to hear while they stand around like a bunch of glad-handing, back-slapping jackasses, congratulating each other on what they didn't understand to begin with".

— the late, great Jerry Fielding, who wrote the soundtracks for director Sam Peckinpah, amongst others. No wonder he and Sam got on.

The New Year and Christmas season was over and I was coming back to Galway after a two-week break in Scotland. I had been in the small town of Ayr on the west coast where I was incredibly lucky with the weather. In fact, there were days when I felt like that guy in 'Lost Horizon': wandering through the ice and snow of the Himalayas only to come across this inexplicably warm valley. Now I was at the airport and hearing of delay after delay as the snow really began to come down. That was OK, though; I'd rather spend all night in an airport than not arrive at all.

Finally, aboard the flight, I had my usual feelings of excitement as I awaited takeoff and for the ground to fall away from under us as we get one of those reminders of just how tiny we really are. I've been incredibly lucky to have travelled or worked in well over thirty countries through the years and I love flying; but that feeling of awe that anything as big as a plane can actually stay up there has never left me. I hope it never does.

Yet as we took off I looked over the aisle at the kid across from me. He was maybe ten years of age and glued to his phone or tablet or whatever the hell it was. He might as well

have been sitting in his own living-death room for all that he was getting out of this endlessly marvelous experience. And I felt a sadness that a whole coming generation will never feel what I have been lucky enough to feel; the sheer excitement of beginning a journey that can lead to who knows what. I wondered if his Christmas had even been such a big deal to him, now that every week is like Christmas for some kids.

As it happened I had taken along 'An Actor's Life' to read, Charlton Heston's journals from 1956-1976, and the entry I had opened to was from 1958:

"New York, 12.00 noon: — Sailing on the S.S. United States to Southampton. It was a mad and wonderful departure. We got to the ship, looming unbelievable and red-black... The sailing of a liner is all anyone ever said it was. I'll never forget it, from the warmish vintage champagne to the paper streamers hanging wet in the spray as we passed Ambrose Light."

Later on Heston talks about the pleasure of going cross-country by train; and what comes across so beautifully is the joy that this man takes in travel and his gratitude at being in a position to do it.

This week another actor, the brilliant Jodie Foster, had the right of it: we have become slaves to a technology that we ourselves created, but which now controls us. If Heston was sailing on that liner today he would be surrounded by idiots who were too busy taking selfies to actually enjoy anything.

Talking about actors and talking about idiots, it would have taken a heart of adamantium not to laugh at the Golden Globes last week (as I write this).

Being a film fan I was actually AT the cinema that night instead of looking at this baloney; but the next day it was impossible to miss the oh-so-chic black dresses or the posturing or the excitement --- the excitement, I tell ya!!! — of Oprah's speech. WILL SHE RUN FOR PRESIDENT?

Be still, my beating heart.

Oprah, who has only BEEN in the industry for nearly four decades, so of course has heard nothing of what goes on, is shocked to the point of shedding a fetching tear at all the pure nastiness of utter creeps like Weinstein and what he and his loathsome ilk have been up to.

#metoo? Try #weknewtoo.

If there's anyone out there pretending to be outraged by this, listen: I hate to burst your bubbles but Oprah is an actress — and as we know from such films as 'The Colour Purple' and 'Beloved' she is a damned good one. What — you expected her to deliver less than a consummately professional speech? Pull the other one; it's got bells on it.

All of this stuff — all of the endless 'he touched my back 30 years ago' whining -- is diluting the pure seriousness of what was really being done by true, sleazy and animalistic predators. The showbiz shallowness of male clowns of actors turning up at the Globes with their little Time's Up badges simply diminishes and dilutes what is a hugely important cultural movement.

But most of these fools don't care about that. They don't care that their endlessly solipsistic nonsense simply makes the rest of us laugh our heads off.

They SHOULD be going after guys like Harvey Weinstein; they SHOULD have been doing it decades ago. But as I pointed out last month, we are getting sidelined now by anyone with an axe to grind. Just the merest whisper of scandal is now enough to finish a person's career or at the very least lay them open to trial by social media.

And that's not right either.

These actors make me laugh with their jumping-on-the-bandwagon outrage: their little black suits and their teensy-weensy virtue-signaling badges as they look around them to see what their fellow gobshites are doing rather than actually thinking for themselves. And sooner or later it will all turn out to be President Trump's fault, anyway. Hell, everything else is.

Did you get a load of Robert de Niro at yet another of the endless Backslapper's Awards Ceremonies last week?

Jesus wept. He was like somebody that was not all that right in the head.

And de Niro thinks TRUMP is deranged? He came across like a foul-mouthed raving lunatic who had wandered in from the set of one of his own films.

For those of you under the age of thirty, genuine film fans once thought of a new de Niro film as an Event. He put everything he had into a role and was just that bit mysterious because he rarely gave interviews and when he did, he didn't say much.

Now we know why. When he opened his gob he was a plonker.

It's hard to have much time for any of them these days. As the great Jerry Fielding said above, they're just a bunch of glad-handing, back-slapping jackasses. That guy was before his time. So was Peckinpah.

You know what? I'm so lucky to have had the time I had here; and I feel nothing but sadness for that kid on the plane, knowing shag-all except his iPhone and never looking up once to the wonderful world around him.

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Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

By Michael Collins,
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Chicago CityKey

In Early December the City of Chicago officially launched the design and pilot program for their Municipal ID program that they are calling the Chicago CityKey. This is the result of years of advocacy and preparation on the part of both community organizations and the city itself. The CityKey is a great step forward for Chicago as it follows suit with other municipalities with similar programs already in place including New York City, San Francisco, Washington DC, and others. The CityKey card is great for those who don't have access to any other form of identification, including undocumented immigrants, the homeless population, and those recently released from prison. This, however, is not the sole purpose of the CityKey as it has many other benefits including the ability to act as a library card, a Ven- tra card, and more. The city will not keep any information pertaining to country of origin or immigration status. This is a safe program and CIIS encourages all to apply.

The City's pilot program will run from the December launch date through February 28th. The first 100,000 ID cards issued will be free of cost. After that the ID will cost only \$5 for people under the age of seventeen, \$10 for adults, and free of cost for those over sixty-five years old. There will also be fee waivers available for individuals who meet a certain criteria. CityKey cards are available as part of the pilot program and can be applied for through the City Clerk's

office. They city also plans to do outreach for the ID card by hosting mobile sites whereby residents can apply for their CityKey card in their own neighborhood. After the pilot program concludes, the official launch of the program will be in the spring of 2018. CIIS will continue to work with the city on outreach and provide feedback on possible improvements or issues. If you would like to learn more about the CityKey you can contact CIIS's office at 773-282-8445 or by visiting the City Clerks website here: www.chicityclerk.com/chicagocitykey

CIIS Update

SAVE THE DATE! CIIS will be hosting our second annual casino night fundraiser on Saturday February 24th 2018. This event will be held in the Erin Room at the Irish American Heritage Center and doors open at 7pm. This is CIIS' headlining fundraiser and raises essential funds for CIIS to continue to serve the community. For more information or to learn more about ticketing and sponsorship options please call our office or visit our website.

CIIS is continuing to host free legal clinics for anyone who has immigration questions. These clinics are held two to three times per month by appointment only. We currently have a clinic scheduled for February 28th from 4-7pm. Each clinic provides a client with a 30-minute face-to-face consultation with an immigration attorney. Call today to reserve your place! Please call (773) 282-8445 or email mcollins@irishchicago.org to schedule your appointment.

Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



Senior Meetings

Each month Chicago Irish Immigrant Support hosts senior group meetings at the Irish American Heritage Center, Chicago Gaelic Park, and the Mount Greenwood Public Library. See below for specific details on upcoming events. There is no cost and refreshments are served. All are very welcome to join us! If you need further information, please call 773-282-8445.

IAHC

**Wednesday 7th February
Help for Hearing Loss &
FREE Hearing Test 10am start**
Mel Dermody- originally from Co. Longford, Ireland – was born with a hearing impairment. He now owns a business in here in Chicago called Hearing World that provides all kinds of technologies to help with hearing loss. Mel will be teaching us about both hearing loss and what can be done to help. He will also be offering FREE hearing test to anyone who wants one.

**Wednesday 21st February
Monthly Musical Gathering
11am start**

The Monthly Musical Gathering is an opportunity for members of all the different Irish organizations to get together to share some good company and some great music. We want the Tara club to come along to represent our group at these musical meetings and enjoy the social atmosphere.

Gaelic Park

**Wednesday, 14th February –
A Breath of Fresh Air
on Breathing Easy**

This week we delighted to be joined by Dr. Muhyaldeen Dia, MD, Advanced Heart Failure and Pulmonary Hypertension Specialist. We will learn more about what it means to keep our lungs in good working order and how to spot potential breathing problems.

Wednesday, 28th February –

Annual Fraud Update

It's time for our annual fraud update. Every day, scammers are coming up with new ways to try to trick people out of their hard earned money. If we are to avoid becoming the victims of their scams, we must stay well informed. To give us all the updates, we welcome a representative from the State's Attorney's Office to teach us about the new tricks being used by con artists and how we can better protect ourselves from fraud

**Mount Greenwood Library
(11010 S. Kedzie Ave,
Chicago, IL 60655)**

Storytelling is an ancient tradition that is very much part of Irish culture. At this weeks meeting we will be celebrating this part of our heritage by hosting local storyteller, Margaret Burk who will delight us with her fascinating tales.

A Very Happy Birthday

We're excited to share some news with you of a very special birthday – our own! Chicago Irish Immigrant Support is 20 years old this year! Although we're not quite old enough to order a beer yet, we will be hosting some wonderful celebrations throughout the year to mark this very special occasion. Stay tuned for details of events, new programs, and fund raisers that you can participate in to help us celebrate our birthday! We would like to thank our sponsors, board members, supports and community members for allowing us to serve, empower and connect the Irish and Irish American Community of the Midwest for 20 great years!

**When it's Hard to
Keep Out of the Cold**

While the chilly weather conditions we've experienced recently are about what you'd expect for a Chicago winter, not everybody is well positioned to

keep themselves out of the cold over the frigid months. Keeping a home warm in the face of plunging temperatures can create a great financial burden, particularly on those on lower incomes. Thankfully, there is assistance available to many people who are struggling to pay those big heating bills.

Low Income Household Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The Community and Economic Development Association (CEDA) administers the LIHEAP program for Cook County. This program provides financial payments directly to utility providers on behalf of qualifying households. The application process is relatively straightforward but generally does require the applicant to make an appointment at an intake site where they will bring the necessary documents that prove identity, income, and address. The LIHEAP program is currently open for enrolment and remains open until funds have been exhausted. It's important to make an application as soon as possible while funds are still available. Income guidelines are below and more information can be found on the CEDA website at www.ceda.org.net or by calling them at 312-782-2332. You should also feel free to call CIIS at our office on 773-282-8445 if you'd like to talk more about LIHEAP and where to apply.

CEDA can also advise on how you can avail of other heating assistance programs such as People's Gas's Share the Warmth, which offers eligible customers who make a payment toward their bills a matching grant of up to \$200.

Family Size	30 Day Income	Annual Income
1	\$1,508	\$18,090
2	\$2,030	\$24,360
3	\$2,553	\$30,630
4	\$3,075	\$36,900
5	\$3,598	\$43,170
6	\$4,120	\$49,440
7	\$4,643	\$55,710
8	\$5,165	\$61,980

Dr. Johanna O'Flaherty - A Native Of County Kerry

By Estelle Shanley

When trauma presents anywhere in the world, be it a mass shooting, an airplane crash with or without survivors, Kerry born Johanna O'Flaherty is certain to be on the scene.

She was in New York when the World Trade Centers collapsed, and last October, as a resident of Las Vegas, she responded when Stephen Paddock shot hundreds of rounds from the 32nd floor window of the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, killing over fifty people and wounding hun-

drreds of spectators. Dr. O'Flaherty had it, laced with ambition and a burning need to engage in work of value that made a difference.

that immigrants seeking a safe and opportunistic environments, possess a work ethic that renders them valuable in the workplace. Dr. O'Flaherty had it, laced with ambition and a burning need to engage in work of value that made a difference. "I possessed the tenacity to launch an educational program, and eventually earned a doctorate in psychology" she revealed. She credits her mother, "One of the Bowler's from Glenbeigh," for pushing and instilling ambition and a desire to succeed. "She

trained by her in Critical Incident Stress Debriefing. She conducted trauma training classes for teams of first responders and had confidence in their ability to respond to mayhem efficiently and effectively. At the time of the Vegas slaughter, Dr. O'Flaherty had trained 160 peers in both police and fire departments in Metro Las Vegas.

O'Flaherty relocated from the Palm Springs region of California to Las Vegas to work in a high-ranking rehabilitation facility. A resident of six months,

she received a telephone call from Capt. Jessy Rogers from the Henderson Fire Department requesting a meeting to discuss Stress Debriefing training for firemen that also extended to police. "The work can be traumatizing, and traumatized individuals such as police and firemen experience an earthquake of the soul," she explained, adding, "therefore spiritual assistance is necessary as well as psychological counseling." She cautions that a victim's sense of spirit may be acutely dimmed for a period following a traumatic incident. "The clinician's role is not to

promote any specific spiritual approach, but rather to provide a bridge to assist to work through death shattering turmoil so they can repair mentally." Dr. O'Flaherty conducts workshops in Asia, Europe, the Middle East and USA. She also works with Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), and the FBI. She holds a doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute, California. She is also a Nationally Certified Advanced Level Addiction Specialist, and has appeared on numerous television programs in the aftermath of traumatic public events..



Johanna O'Flaherty, PhD, LADAC, CEAP

drreds of spectators.

Dr. O'Flaherty, like so many Irish immigrants, arrived in the United States with no higher education, but has dedicated her life's work focusing on the correlation between ancestral trauma, addiction and healing.

Like so many before her, she immigrated when young, living in New York, St. Louis, Montana and California. She became a Pan Am flight attendant, experienced the glamorous life afforded by extensive travel and the poshness attached to the coveted airline. She admits, "It was nice, it was exciting, an incredible experience, but it was not enough." It's been well documented

emphatically shamed us to strive for the ultimate in our lives, "Flaherty said, adding " and this was embedded in the psyche." And so, this Irish immigrant has dedicated her life's work, focusing on trauma, addiction and healing.

When the shooting began at the onset of a concert in Las Vegas on October 1, 2017, Dr. O'Flaherty was in Dallas, conducting a workshop for trauma first responders for American Airlines, with an assembly of flight attendants. She quickly returned to Las Vegas and worked endlessly with overworked police and firemen, who ironically, had been



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Death is Not A Dying Business for Dublin's Glam Reaper, aka Jennifer Muldowney!

From a busy fine dining Irish bar in Washington DC, a marathon in Miami, death in Dublin to hustling in New York, Dubliner Jennifer Muldowney has been inspired every step of the way when creating her funeral business concept of Irish Memorial Keepsake Jewelry allowing the millions of Irish diaspora worldwide to find final rest in Ireland while their loved ones carry a part of them wherever they travel.

In 2003 Jennifer lived in Washington DC, opening and managing an Irish Bar and fine dining Restaurant. Sadly while in America, her Portlaoise native grandmother died suddenly. The morning of her funeral Jennifer ran her first ever marathon in her grandmother's honor.



With her grandmothers name and the Irish flag emblazoned on her shirt for the run, Jennifer says she knew "she would have wanted me to do what I had worked so hard for. She was so proud of my achievements always. She was one of the hardest working independent women I've ever known."

No matter how far the Irish are from the Emerald Isle, the connection is strong, as Jennifer says "The day she died she was taken into hospital with panic attacks and she died 12 hours later. While running the marathon I 'hit the wall' at the 18th mile and suffered panic attacks – something I had never experienced to that day – I was trying to breathe, run and cry all at the same time!"

Like most Irish women of her time she graced Jennifer with a religious miraculous medal to keep her safe before she moved to America, and like most young experiencing loss and bereavement Jennifer wore it all the time as her way to keep her grandmother close "I got a lot of negative attention wearing the medal. I was 24 years old and called the Virgin Mary on the assumption that I was religion obsessed – I had to explain that it was my deceased grandmothers memorial.

When Jennifer returned to Ireland the following year, she lost two dear friends to separate tragic circumstances and their family dog had to be 'put to sleep'. All of these events spurred her to seek out

information and when she couldn't find what she sought she became a resource for others pursuing the same information. She wrote a book called "Say Farewell Your Way, A Funeral Planning guide for Ireland" and using her grief and experiences she built a business helping others to grieve called Farewell Celtic Ashes.

Farewell has a base in both Dublin and New York, offering memorial jewelry but it is more than just a business as she says "It has become an online community. The emails I receive from my clients about my jewelry often overwhelm me as they tell me how much it helps them in their grieving process and some of the emails are heartbreaking to read. It brings my losses up all over again but I guess I started the business

because when we lose someone, we still want them with us every day and with the jewelry I can do that and it helps."

The collection has started with a number of colorful jewelry pieces from pendants to charms made from cremated ashes fused with glass. The fusion of ash with the glass creates a beautiful cloud like affect and it ensures that each piece will be entirely unique and individual to you and your loved one. You can add different colors or charms to make it even more personal to you and your loved one. Clients can also have some of their ash scattered on Irish soil also so a little bit of them goes 'back home' to rest. Some clients choose to video their scattering or request specific locations. No request, says Jennifer, is ever too big, its about whats right for the individual.

Ireland is changing when it comes to loss and bereavement. There is a recognition of the grief people experience when a loved one dies where we never saw it before. There are helplines offering support and a listening ear, discussions about bereavement days at work.

Jennifer is hoping to spread the Irish funeral ways worldwide and is doing so very successfully with a Tedx Talk and workshops at many of the top funeral exhibitions already under her belt.

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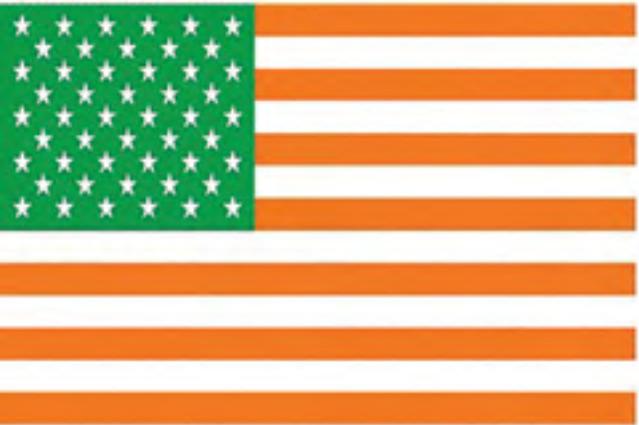
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