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In Harmony

By Siobhan O'Neill Meluso

On November 21st the Irish Heritage Singers presented their annual fall concert "Back Where We Belong: Putting Hard Times Behind Us" to an enthusiastic crowd thrilled to gather together again. Our fan favorite repertoire and Christmas tunes sing-along filled the Mayfair Theater at the Irish American Heritage Center as if no time had passed since we had last seen each other.

The singing of "The Fields of Athenry" was particularly emotional as the crowd knew all the verses and the chorus. It even brought a few tears to our eyes: Gratitude for the opportunity to finally share music together, but sadness for all those we lost during these difficult past 18 months.

On All Saints Day, we lost our "Danny Boy," Bob Healy, age 89. A staunch member of the Irish Heritage Singers for years, Bob was our resident Marine, who fought and survived a near fatal shot to the head during the battle at Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. Bob often shared that it was the cold that froze his blood and allowed

him to evacuate to Japan and survive when many in his unit perished. He was a storyteller and often shared the story of his family's whereabouts in Dublin during the 1916 Rising. A generous gentleman, he spent a lot of his time, treasure, and talent giving back to Avenues of Independence and to send children of Marines to university.

The Singers will remember Bob for his kind words of encouragement and dedication to the choir and the Center. His party piece was "Danny Boy," sung with gumption and pride. I dare say, we may not be able to sing that piece for a while. Much like losing our Board President, Judy Loevy, in March 2020, there is yet again, a gaping hole in our hearts for Bob Healy. These two giants are the epitome of the Singers and we are grateful for having known them and sung with them for many years.

We look forward to continuing to put hard times behind and appreciate all of the support we've been given to do so. We'll be singing for you again soon!

Irish Community Services Appoints Paul Dowling as Executive Director

In the winter of 2010, Paul Dowling began his career at Irish Community Services as Community Outreach Coordinator. Twelve years later, he formally takes the helm as Executive Director, the ICS Board of Directors announced in January. Throughout his tenure, Paul took on increasing responsibilities, including Director of Social Services and most recently as Interim Executive Director, as ICS expanded its programming and outreach activities.

"In a time when changing jobs frequently is the norm, I'm often asked

what's kept me working at ICS for the past 12 years," Paul said after his appointment was made public. "I believe that community - a sense of connection and belonging - is fundamental to our individual and collective wellness. ICS believes this too and is committed to maintaining an interwoven and caring Irish community."

Paul takes over for former Executive Director Michael Collins, who made a lasting impact on the organization during

his seven years of service before stepping down last October.

"We could not be more excited that Paul will be the next leader of ICS," said Brendan Gardiner, President of the ICS Board of Directors. "We managed a



thorough recruitment process, and Paul's experience, passion for our mission, and vision for the future of the organization were all unmatched. He has already made a lasting impact on ICS and the community we serve, and we as a board look forward to supporting him as he embarks on this new chapter."

A native of County Wexford, Paul earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth and a Master of Social Work degree from the National University of Ireland, Galway. He is a licensed Social Worker in the state of Illinois. Over the course of his twelve years with ICS, Paul created and managed a series of programs to support the older and more vulnerable members of our community. More recently, he has spearheaded outreach campaigns and wellness programs addressing mental wellness and memory loss.

Moreover, he cultivated relationships with key partners within the Irish community, from his neighbors within the Irish American Heritage Center, where ICS is headquartered, to throughout the Midwest and to Ireland. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he nimbly developed programs that enabled ICS clients, particularly seniors, to engage with each other and maintain connection at a time when physical interactions have been limited.

He looks forward to running a full slate of in-person events and activities and helping to shape the direction of the organization to adapt to the changing nature of the Irish immigrant experience in America.

As Paul remarked, "It's inspiring to work for such an organization and an honor to be entrusted with carrying ICS' mission forward to serve a vibrant, evolving, and proud Irish community."

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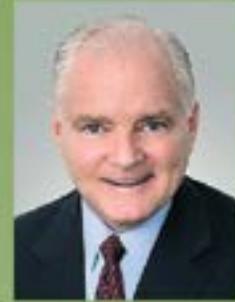
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Irish Ambassador to USA, Daniel Mulhall Pens Book, Ulysses: A Reader's Odyssey

by Daniel MulHall, anuary 2022
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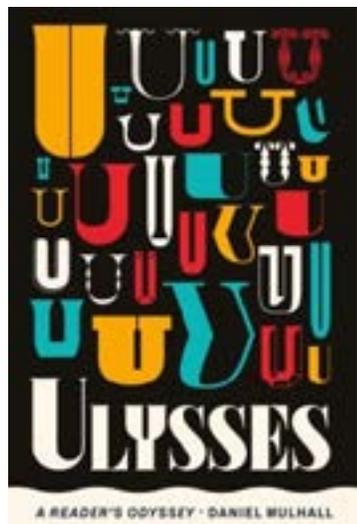
Ireland's Ambassador to the United States, Daniel Mulhall, is not just another pretty face! Besides reading poetry - sometimes daily - on Facebook, he's found time to write a book marking the 100th anniversary of the writing of Ulysses by James Joyce.

Marking the centenary of Ireland's - and possibly the world's - most famous novel, this joyful introductory guide opens up Ulysses to a whole new readership, offering insight into the literary, historical, and cultural elements in James Joyce's masterwork.

Both eloquent and erudite, this book is an initiation into the wonders of Joyce's writing and of the world that inspired it.

One hundred years on from that novel's first publication, Ulysses: A Reader's Odyssey takes us on a journey through one of the twentieth century's greatest works of fiction. Exploring the

eighteen chapters of the novel and using the famous structuring principle of Homer's Odyssey as our guide, Daniel Mulhall releases Ulysses from its reputation of



impenetrability, and shows us the pleasure it can offer us as readers.

About The Author

Daniel Mulhall was born in Waterford. He has spent more than forty years in the Irish diplomatic service, and is currently Ireland's ambassador to the United States, having previously

served as ambassador in Kuala Lumpur, Berlin, and London. In 1998 he was part of the Irish Government's delegation at the negotiations that produced the Good Friday Agreement. Over the years, he has written and lectured extensively on Irish literature, including the writings of James Joyce. Throughout his diplomatic career, he has drawn on literature to help tell Ireland's story internationally, and has worked tirelessly to increase the impact and reach of Irish

writing around the world. He is President of the Yeats Society, Sligo. Married to Greta, they have two children.

Review

A very approachable introduction to Ulysses. If you've never read James Joyce's most famous novel, this will give you a good sense of it. If you are familiar with Ulysses, you'll still enjoy Ambassador's Mulhall's guide.

George Reilly's Reviews

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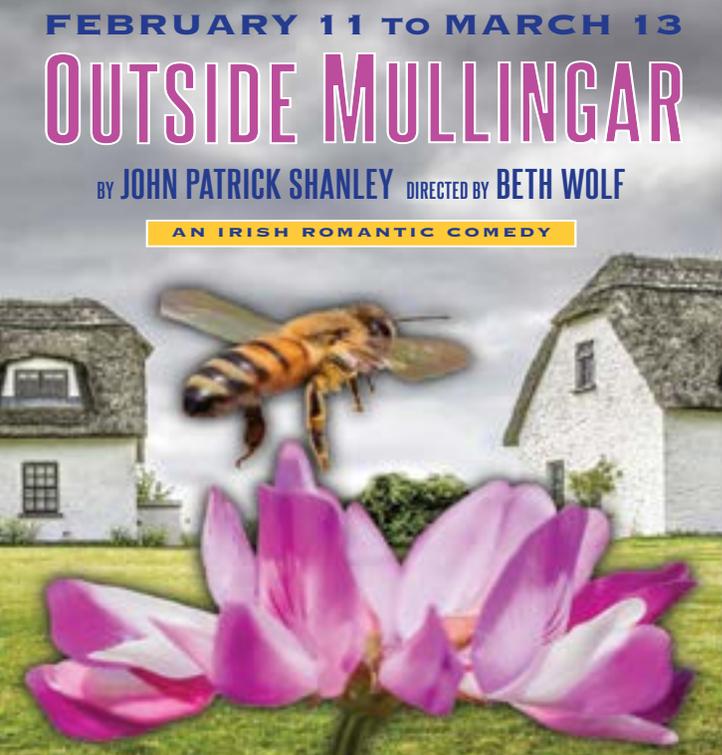
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Ireland Drops Most COVID -19 Regulations

By Mike Danahey

On Jan. 7, the rules for those visiting Ireland changed so that anyone who is fully vaccinated and those who can prove they've had COVID-19 in the last six months and recovered don't have to show a pre-departure test. People who are unvaccinated will still have to show proof of a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours of arriving. Some pandemic-related measures remain in place. Masks still must be worn in stores and when taking public transportation. People who test positive for COVID-19 still must quarantine for seven days. Their close contacts, though, who are vaxxed and boosted no longer have to isolate. Close contacts who haven't been boosted also must stay secluded for a week.

Most COVID-19 restrictions in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland have been lifted, a cause for celebration by many, tempered by a wariness that the COVID-19 pandemic still lingers.

On Saturday, Jan. 22, the Republic ended attendance caps and curfews for, restaurants, concerts, sporting events and other gatherings. The moves come about as the Guinness Six Nations rugby tournament happens throughout Europe in February, with Ireland's first match Feb. 5 versus Wales in Dublin.

People no longer need to provide proof of vaccination when going out on the town, and workers have gradually begun returning to the

office.

"I know lots of people who went out that weekend to enjoy the freedom," said Dubliner Leighanne Clarke. "I myself am looking forward to going to the cinema and theater, which I haven't done since the pandemic hit (in March 2020)."

Wicklow businessman John Condron said he was a bit shocked when officials made "what was a bit of a blanket announcement. I'm hopeful, but also concerned that this will lead some people to think this is over, but it's not quite over."

Condron said, "I'm worried about how this might affect the most vulnerable among us. Much like they did at the start of the pandemic, I hope they don't get it at the exit."

Condron, who runs his own jewelry business, said he has been working from a local hub and using a courier system during pandemic lockdown phases. Now that some people are going back to work, traffic has started to snarl a bit, he said, while a good many seem to be questioning the need to do their jobs from offices.

Clarke works for an investment services company and was one of a few people there reporting to the office during the pandemic. She, too, is skeptical that a lot of people will head back to their workplace anytime soon. For their part, Clarke and Condron are hoping to travel again to the U.S., where they haven't

for years.

"I did go to the Canary Islands in October 2021," Clarke said. "But I look forward to getting back to Chicago this year. I usually go there every year but haven't been since 2019."

At least until the end of February, masks still have to be worn in stores and when taking public transportation. Quarantine restrictions for with COVID-19 people who have come in close contact with them are still in place.

The changes come about as the number of cases reported have been declining since hitting a peak on Jan. 11. Ireland's vaccination and booster rates are high. Condron said those factors contributed to the easing of restrictions.

Clarke said she was diagnosed with having the virus Jan. 19 and is looking forward to heading out with family Saturday, Jan. 29, when her required isolation ends.

The government is set to meet at the end of February to discuss doing away with even more COVID-19 edicts, provided the pandemic continues to wane.

In Northern Ireland, a good many pandemic-related restrictions were lifted Wednesday, Jan. 26. Those include reopening nightclubs, allowing dancing, and ending social distancing requirements for offices. Proof of vaccination will only be needed for nightclubs and some indoor events where capacity is 500 or more.

On Feb. 10, the government there will consider ending more

COVID-19 related regulations.

"What this has meant for me is I can start to book and go back to my way of life," said accordion player David Munnelly.

Munnelly had been living in Holland and moved back to Ireland and Newport, County Mayo, due to the pandemic. As the booking, traveling, planning aspects of his career faded, Munnelly focused on things he could do at home and receiving job seekers assistance for a year.

Munnelly taught music, offering lessons online, and attempted in vain to book gigs across Europe, as the pandemic lingered.

In September 2021 Ireland lifted some restrictions so Munnelly did play for a while in his homeland and even toured some it Italy, with restrictions - until the Omicron variant hit in December and the Republic and elsewhere tightened up again.

So Munnelly lost two tours he was planning for this year and 48 dates at venues across Europe. He hopes the rest of the continent is

able to follow the Irish in easing COVID-19 guidelines as about 70 percent of his work comes from performing outside Ireland.

"I think it will be 3 or 4 months for things to come back to a level of normality," Munnelly said. "There will be a nursing period."

People will need to get back to trusting their freedom to move about and feel comfortable again heading out to places, Munnelly said, while venues adjust and adapt to allowing in bigger crowds once more.

"And I am planning ahead for 2023," Munnelly said.

In another show of optimism, Niall Gibbons, Chief Executive of Tourism Ireland, said in a release tha with the easing of restrictions the tourism and hospitality industry can begin planning trips to Ireland with confidence for the year ahead.

"Together with our industry partners, we will undertake our most extensive marketing campaign ever in 2022," Gibbons said. "We cannot wait to roll out the green carpet and welcome back visitors from around the world."

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Thomas Boyle Named Grand Marshal for 2022 City of Countryside St. Patrick's Day Parade

The City of Countryside's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2022. The Parade Committee is pleased to announce that Thomas Boyle has been named the Grand Marshal for the 2022 St. Patrick's Day Parade. A first generation Irish American, Mr. Boyle's parents hailed from Causeway, County Kerry before meeting and starting their family on the south side of Chicago. Mr. Boyle has been instrumental in the Irish American community in the City

as a banker as well as a member of Chicago Gaelic Park, where he sat on the Board of Directors for over twenty-five years and was President for three years (1989 - 1992). Mr. Boyle was included in the Business 100 List by Irish America Magazine. Dedicated to community banking, Mr. Boyle worked at Countryside Bank since 1982 where he started as a Loan Officer; he became President in 1997 and Vice Chairman in 2009. Recently, Mr. Boyle moved to First National Bank of Brookfield where he serves

as a Director. Mr. Boyle and his wife Josephine raised their four



children in Burr Ridge and are parishioners at St. John of the Cross in Western Springs.

City of Countryside Mayor Sean McDermott said, "Thomas Boyle is a proud Irish American who is well known throughout the Chicago area for actively promoting Irish heritage and culture. As a leader in community banking, Tom has helped countless Irish contractors and businesses get started. Having him serve as Grand Marshal is a fitting tribute to someone who has given so much to Countryside

and the region in general."

Parade Chairman John Finn said, "Thomas Boyle has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to the values of St. Patrick; community engagement, volunteerism and service to others. It is a true honor to have him as our parade Grand Marshal."

All parade proceeds will benefit BEDS Plus and Interfaith Community Partners. For more information on the Parade or to volunteer, please email parade@countryside-il.org or call 708-354-7270.

Movie News February 2022

by James Bartlett

The COVID variant Omicron has hit more of the film festivals and awards ceremonies, but at least this month there is Valentine's Day, which means we can send our love to those near and far away.

Movies and television are still fighting for our attention however, and this month we'll see the Oscar shortlist announced, though there has already been some good news for the Irish trophy cabinet.

At the untelevised and audience-free Golden Globes, Kenneth Branagh picked up the Best Screenplay award for his semi-autobiographical movie *Belfast*. It was the solo win out of a number of nominations, and in that category, he bested best Adam McKay, whose parents are from Cork and Antrim, and who was nominated as writer/director of satire *Don't Look Up*.

Branagh and his cast and crew will be hoping for better luck at the 27th Critics' Choice Awards, which happen in March just before St. Patrick's Day, and two weeks before the Oscars.

They only have two hats in the ring there though: Best Ensemble and Best Supporting Actress for Catriona Balfe, who will be going up against Irish-Ethiopian actress Ruth Negga, who is nominated for her role in Netflix racial drama *Passing*.

As might be expected, across the Atlantic in England the BAFTA Awards gave *Belfast* 11 long list nominations including Best Film, Director, Original Screenplay, Leading Actor (Catriona Balfe, Judi Dench) and Supporting Actor (Jamie Dornan, Ciaran Hinds), and Editing, Úna Ní Dhongáile.

You can safely bet the farm they will all be on the shortlist when it is announced early this month, but also keep an eye out (and fingers crossed) for Northern Irish short movie *Rough*, which comes from writing/directing duo Adam Patterson and Declan Lawn.

It follows a group of Belfast gangsters as they pass a revenge death sentence on a rival's dog, though of course there is more to it than a possible violent act: it's about truth-telling and forgiveness, and how in an absurd world of masculinity gone wrong, the truth can - just occasionally - set us all free. It stars Ryan McParland, Michael Smiley, Gerard Jordan, Peter Heenan, Brendan Quinn, Andrew McGarrigle, and Kelly (the terrier).

Rough has been nominated alongside *Roy*, a short written and directed by Northern Irishman Ross White, and Tom Berkeley, which had its world premiere here in

California at the 36th Santa Barbara Film festival last year.

Trapped in a lonely existence, reclusive widower Roy (David Bradley, best known as "Argus Filch" in the Harry Potter movies) passes the days by cold calling strangers looking for connection and companionship. But when he accidentally calls adult hotline worker Cara (Rachel Shenton), an unlikely friendship is born.

Rough has already won awards at the Irish Film and Television Awards and the Krakow and Kerry International Film Festivals, so if either of them makes it to the shortlist, there will be a night out in London on 13th March.

As for shows you can watch now, on Netflix at the moment is thriller *Stay Close*, which has been a number one hit around the world, and is co-directed by Dubliner Daniel O'Hara. *Stay Close* follows on from Netflix's hugely successful adaptation of another Harlan Coben novel, *The Stranger*, and "the response to this has been incredible," O'Hara told IFTN.

"*Stay Close* is in the top ten in more than 70 countries and after only 3 weeks on the platform, viewers have spent over 176 million hours watching the show," he said. "I'm absolutely thrilled, especially after such a challenging shoot during the pandemic."

Coben has a five-year deal with Netflix, which has already seen several of his best-selling books adapted into hugely successful dramas, and O'Hara says his work is perfect for online binge-watching.

"You get to the end of a chapter with another hook, and then it's like you're picking up on the hook that you left back here. It just keeps going and I think the shows are a bit like that as well. I think especially with *Stay Close* more than *The Stranger*, there's parallel stories with the different characters."

Stay Close features a cast including Ballymena's James Nesbitt and British actress Cush Jumbo in leading roles, with Richard Armitage returning in a supporting role following his leading role in *The Stranger*. The cast also includes Sarah Parish, Eddie Izzard, Jo Joyner, Daniel Francis, Bethany Antonia, and Rachel Andrews.

The story follows three people living comfortable lives who each conceal dark secrets that even those closest to them would never suspect. There's Megan (Jumbo), a working mother of three; Ray (Armitage), the once promising documentary photographer now stuck in a dead-end job pandering

to celebrity-obsessed rich kids, and Broome (Nesbitt), a detective who's unable to let go of a cold case. As the past comes back to haunt them, they must act in order to evade the secrets that threaten to ruin their lives and that of everyone around them.

Also, available for free on YouTube at the moment is *88MPH: The Story of the DeLorean Time Machine*, a documentary that looks at the Irish-built sports car that, instead of becoming a footnote in automotive history when the company famously went bust, became an icon due to its role



in the *Back to the Future* movies.

Perhaps the most interesting element of the documentary concerns what happened to the movie after filming had ended. After taking the famous vehicles on tour, what was left of them was then parked outside and left to rot - until a group of movie fans and DeLorean owners led the effort to

restore the main "A"-car to its glory days from the silver screen.

Finally, if you (or your kids or grandkids) want a few laughs and cute moments, go to TikTok, seek out @togothejerboa, and join the 10 million viewers who have watched the short videos featuring Togo, the African/Asian desert rat.

New Jersey tattoo artist Kristy Ruggiero recently moved to Ireland to marry her husband, musician Terry Conlon from Armagh, and they unexpectedly came across the adorable fluffy creature, which look like a gerbil with long back legs, in a Belfast pet store.

Though they had been looking for tropical fish, they were unwilling to leave the odd-looking furball in a cage, and took him home. Then, they found what he was, and more about his background: he can jump up to six feet, run up to 24 kilometers an hour, and needs special care.

Kristy warns that jerboas are not something you should ever look to

own, but Togo at least has a huge, heated terrarium, a careful diet, "full roam of the house," and is "spoiled rotten."

If you decide to check Togo out, you might be in some interesting company: even nature scientists have been watching this new and unusual Irish import, as they rarely get a chance to study the creature up close.

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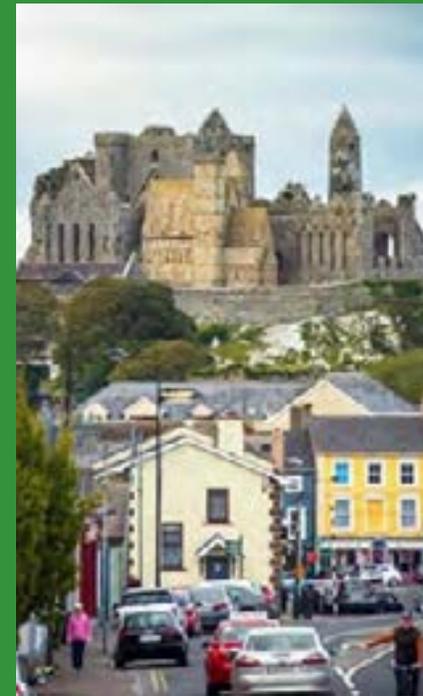
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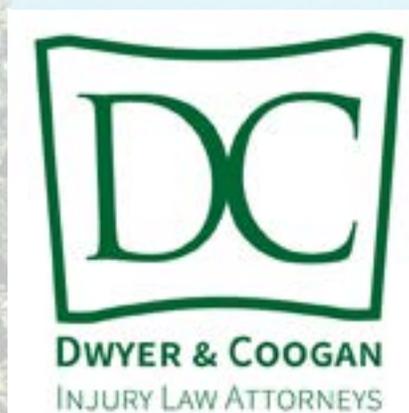
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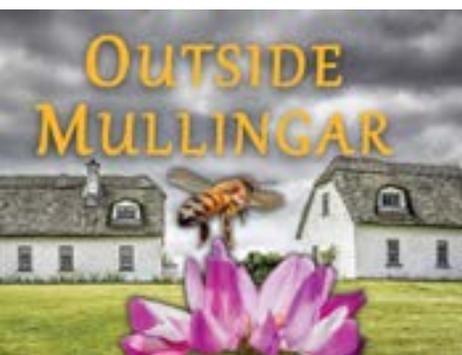
John Patrick Shanley’s ‘Outside Mullingar’ Coming to Lake Forest’s Citadel Theatre

As the theatrical world continues its long march back to normalcy, one local theatre company - Lake Forest’s Citadel Theatre - will stage John Patrick Shanley’s play “Outside Mullingar” February 11 to March 13.

Shanley, an Irish-American writer who grew up in New York, earned an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay for 1988’s Moonstruck and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and a Tony Award for Best Play for 2005’s Doubt.

“Outside Mullingar” originally premiered on Broadway in 2014, earning a Tony nomination for Best Play, and was adopted for a movie titled “Wild Mountain Thyme,” starring Emily Blunt, in 2020. As the title suggests, the story is set outside Mullingar in County Westmeath and follows a man and a woman who live on neighboring farms and have differing perspectives on the prospects of becoming romantically involved.

“It’s a fun play, a romantic comedy,”



said Scott Phelps, who serves as Artistic Director of Citadel Theatre and selected this play over others that were focused on darker or more serious storylines. “We knew people could use some comic relief so they can laugh a bit.”

A Play for our Times

Phelps acknowledged the challenges of staging performances in the era of COVID-19 but emphasized that adequate health protocols, which include proof of vaccination, masks, and temperature checks for all audience members, will ensure a safe environment. He remains hopeful and optimistic that theatregoers will be eager to fill the void of missing live performances as the world emerges from the pandemic era.

In addition to the safety protocols, audience mem-

bers might notice another connection between our times and the setting of the play, according to director Beth Wolf.

“We are living in this strange time right now where everyone has felt isolated and lonely, and this play addresses those feelings,” Wolf said. “The characters talk openly about being lonely, anxious, and depressed living in rural Ireland. It feels cathartic in this moment.”

Distinctive “Irishness”

Citadel Theatre originally opened in 2002 and has been in its current location in Lake Forest since 2010. This is not the first time that Citadel has staged an Irish-affiliated play, having run Ann Noble’s debut “And Neither Have I Wings to Fly,” which kicked off the Seanachai Theater Company, now known as Irish Theatre of Chicago. For “Outside Mullingar,” the cast members, who all hail from Chicago, worked with an Irish dialect coach in an effort to present an authentic depiction of contemporary life in the Irish Midlands.

Wolf called out the distinctive “Irishness” that comes across from hearing the actors speak in that language.

“In particular,” she said, “what elevates the script is that the language becomes poetic in casual conversations between the characters. Something about hearing it in the Irish dialect makes it sing even more than reading it on a page.”

Citadel Theatre is at 300 S. Waukegan Rd., Lake Forest. Tickets at www.citadel-theatre.org or 847-735-8554. Citadel is offering tickets as part of Chicago Theatre Week (www.chicagotheatreweek.com), a celebration of Chicago’s world-class theatre scene that runs February 17-27, 2022.

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



most basic decisions in a person's life. You can say some pretty harsh things to people as long as it's accompanied by a smile.

* **THE GLASS IS ALWAYS AT LEAST HALF FULL** You and I woke up this morning in the USA. That reality means that we are more fortunate than 70-80% of the world's population. Don't let the small stuff ruin your day. Continue the theme of the day, be positive. Being negative is a self-defeating bore. Life is a series of adventures; life should never be boring. If you find life boring, you need to review your approach to life.

* **TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH** The late Peter McLaughlin wrote extensively on people's success being directly tied to their energy level. He felt we need three things to generate enough energy to lead a good life—good eating habits, a high level of exercise and a sense of humor. Good health is not only good for you physically, it will reflect in the success of your business career. Can you think of any business leader who acts like a mope?

* **STAND FOR SOMETHING** If you don't stand for something you will fall for anything. Coach Lou Holtz's mantra was simple: Do the right thing. The Coach was dead on in my view. Don't ever lose your honor. If a situation presents the possibility of

your honor being compromised, don't walk away, RUN. The loss of one's honor is likely to be the start of a downward spiral. Helping others can be a real plus in your career. It helps you to focus your energies on someone else's problems. Accordingly, you won't find yourself consumed by focusing on your own problems. It can be liberating. It might even help you to lighten your own load. It might also allow you to make some new friends. Don't you find that you develop friendships while helping someone in their job search or their careers? Friends are the people who are with you when you need encouragement or support and comradeship. You can't have too many friends.

* **LISTEN TO YOUR CRITICS** If you have friends who will tell you when you are wrong, you are indeed fortunate. Many of us have difficulty accepting criticism; you can put my name at the top of that list. But as I have gotten older I try to accept criticism. Even if I don't agree with the other person's point

of view immediately. I suggest that you accept the comments as well intended, not as a personal attack on your point of view. There are a lot of smart people in the world and one of them might be your

critic, whose point of view should be considered.

* **BE ON TIME** There are few habits that are more universally disliked than people being late for appointments. You can mitigate an absolutely unavoidable late arrival by calling the individual you are meeting and advising him of your delay. The message communicated by those who arrive late is simply that their time is far more important than yours. Traffic and weather problems can be minimized, if not avoided, by starting ten or twenty minutes earlier. Being late is a sign of disrespect.

* **LEARN TO BE DISCRIMINATING IN YOUR DECISION MAKING** I frequently close my columns with the phrase, Carpe Diem. As you probably know, it means "seize the day" (or seize the initiative). The flip side of that saying is equally important as highlighted by the great American philosopher and singer Kenny Rogers who said; you need to know when to hold and when to fold. You have to know when your disagreement with your boss has gone far enough. Should you make a strategic withdrawal from the conversation? You may be wise to rethink your disagreement and frame it differently. I am struck by how often smart, competent people have alienated their management by their unyielding attitude. For years, I felt that my disdain to compromise was an outstanding virtue; of course everyone would ultimately know that I was right. And as we know, the truth will set you free. To my great disappointment I found that people couldn't hear WHAT I was saying because of the WAY in which I was saying it. I had turned them off—a difficult lesson for me to learn.

We have all heard the notion that saving face in this or that culture is important. Excuse me but tell me of a culture where saving face is not important. In my experience, very few executives can bring themselves to admit publicly that they were wrong on a certain issue. If you successfully demonstrate their error, you are about to lose the war. Perhaps after winning your shallow victory in this one battle, winning this argument may be an ultimate defeat in disguise.

* **WHATEVER YOU DO, CONTINUE TO EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR EXPERTISE!**
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THOUGHTS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it, boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Goethe

*Mediocrity is self-inflicted,
genius is self-bestowed Unknown*

James F. Fitzgerald was the President of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, his Naperville based firm, specializing in executive coaching & executive outplacement. He retired 12.31.20.



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You may have noticed that the days are getting longer. Still light at 4:30, but this doesn't mean that winter is over. In fact, as I am writing we are getting the first measurable snow since March. All in all, we've had some crazy weather. Fifty degrees one day, freezing the next. You know what they say about Chicago weather if you don't like it wait 24 hours. February can be brutal. We have had some of our coldest and snowiest weather in February. Thank God it's the shortest month of the year. It does bring us two memorable events to celebrate, and I have a great recipe for each. Super Bowl Sunday, and Valentine's Day. These recipes use ingredients you probably already have in your pantry and don't require



too much expertise to execute. I hope you enjoy them. I developed this Buffalo chicken dip for the bars I consult for and it has become a favorite. It is so yummy and perfect for Super Bowl Sunday that you may want to double the recipe.

Super Bowl Sunday
Buffalo Chicken Dip serves 10-12
3 large boneless skinless chicken breasts (boiled and shredded) 3 or 4 cups of leftover rotisserie

chicken will work

- 8oz cubed cream cheese
- 1 cup ranch dressing
- 1 cup Franks Red Hot Sauce
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1.5 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1.5 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- ½ chopped green onion

Cover chicken with water or chicken stock. Bring to a simmer, cover and cook for 25 minutes. Remove chicken from pot cool until it can be handled by hand and shred. Heat cream cheese, ranch dressing, hot sauce, black pepper, and garlic powder over medium heat in a saucepan until combined and creamy.

Remove from heat and stir in the green onions, shredded chicken, and 1 cup of each of the cheeses.

Pour mixture into a casserole or chafing dish sprayed with non-stick cooking spray and sprinkle the remaining cheese on top. Place dish on a cookie sheet in a preheated 350degree oven until browned and bubbly about 20-25 minutes.

Serve with tortilla chips, pita bread, toasted slice baguette, or celery, and carrot sticks.

Valentine's Day

Flourless Chocolate Cake

This is a recipe I leaned from Wolfgang Puck back in the 80's when I was general manager of food services at Nieman Marcus in Oak Brook.

It is just as good as it was back then and is gluten free. This basis of this recipe became the lava cake which is slightly under cooked version with a runny center.

For this recipe you will need a 9 in springform pan or cake pan with a removable bottom, and a stand or hand mixer.

- 8oz bittersweet chocolate cut into pieces
 - ¼ pound (1stick) unsalted butter
 - 5 large eggs separated
 - 2/3 cup sugar
 - Pinch of salt
 - Powdered sugar
 - Whipped cream (optional)
 - Raspberry coulis*
- Pre heat oven to 325 degrees. Butter and flour cake



pan. Line bottom with parchment paper using cake pan as a template. Melt butter and chocolate in a bowl in the microwave stirring until combined. Set aside.

In a bowl put egg yolks and all but 3 tablespoons of sugar. Whisk until smooth and sugar is dissolved.

Slowly add the melted chocolate until combined.

Put egg whites and salt in a clean bowl. Whisk on medium speed until soft peaks form when beaters are lifted. Gradually add the remaining sugar beating until stiff peaks form.

Stir a dollop of the egg white into the chocolate mixture to lighten. Add the remaining egg whites in 3 additions- gently folding until thoroughly combined. Do not over mix. Pour into prepare pan and bake approximately 45 minutes. A wooden toothpick should come out slightly moist when inserted in the center of the cake. Place the cooling rack on top of the cake pan and invert using oven mitts. If using a springform release the lever on the side and remove the ring before inverting. When cake cools remove the parchment paper. The center of the cake will sink and may crack. Dust with powdered sugar and cut into slices. Serve with whipped cream and raspberry coulis*

*Raspberry Coulis

- ¾ cup sugar
- 18oz raspberries fresh or frozen, or strawberries
- ½ cup water

Combine raspberries, sugar, and water in a saucepan. Bring to a boil reduce to simmer and cook 8 minutes. Cool and blend until smooth. Place through a fine strainer and discard the solids.

Next month I will show you some of my favorite recipes for St. Patrick's Day.

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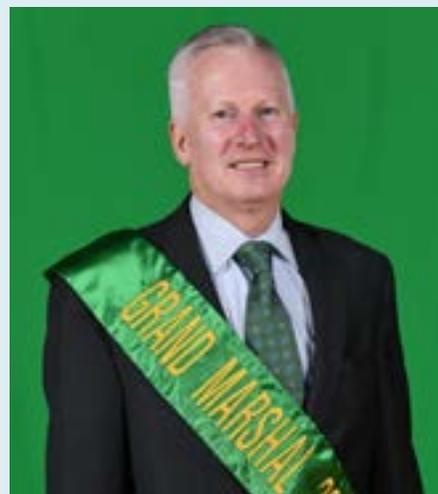
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DEAR READER: Fair warning, this could get messy, so if you're not in the mood skip the reading and engage in something constructive.

The New Year dawned and little has changed. Masks mandatory, covid tests cost money, the Omicron variant has rocketed coronavirus into the stratosphere. Supplies of chickens have dwindled so buy now when you can. Ditto for

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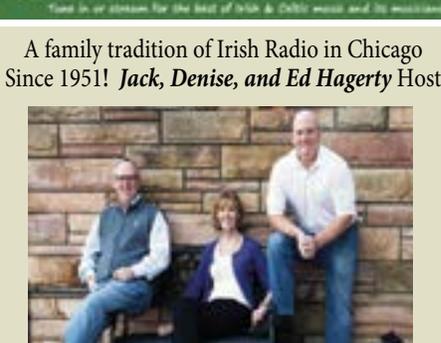
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beef. Soon to follow could be a repeat of toilet paper famine, tampons, across the counter drugs and barren shelves at the liquor stores. People are grumpy, fatigued, schools close, then open again and when I indulge in getting back to normal, I know naught what "normal" looks like. On top of all this, Pope Francis has thrown a monkey wrench into the mix lamenting that families love pets more than children.

His comments forces me to launch back to the sixties when at the ripe and fertile age of early twenties produced three consecutive daughters, Janet, Pat, and Terry adhering to the Rhythm Method the Russian Roulette contraception approved by the church. What is the Pope jawing about? Our home featured three children, two dogs, Bongie, Frosty and a cat named Una. My spouse and I were the model family of Catholicism.

Our town in Burlington, Massachusetts earned recognition as the having the highest birthrate in the nation. Our schools were buried in double, triple sessions, Town Meeting Members and other activists studied architectural renderings of new

Eugene P. Killen

Age 82, Native of Glasdrumman, Co. Down Ireland. Beloved husband of 47 years to Noreen Killen (nee O'Hare). Devoted father of Patricia (Jerry) O'Sullivan, Kathleen (James) McGivern, and Patrick Killen. Proud Pop of Nora, Josie, late Timothy, Evelyn, Ciaran, Isla, and his Grand Pup Fergus. Kind son of the late Patrick and Josephine Killen (nee Cunningham). Loving brother of Ita (late John) McElroy, Josephine (late Paddy) Quinn, Nuala (late Peter) O'Flaherty, Marian (Mike) Kowalesik, Siobhan (James) Fitzpatrick, late Ann (late Tom) Brady, late Robert Killen, late Brian (Donna) Killen, and late Kieran (late Louise) Killen. Dear brother-in-law of Patricia (late Lou Krakowski) Orloff, and Frances (late Tommy) Sacks. Cherished uncle and godfather of many. Proud member of Co. Down Association, Wolfe Tones G.A.A., Glasdrumman G.A.A., Francis O'Neill Club, Kerry Association, Carpenters Union Local 13. Founding member of Chicago Gaelic Park.



Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

school buildings bedazzling voters looking ahead to an immense rise in local taxes. Meanwhile the birth rate climbed and the Vatican held tight to its contraception rule. New England's Government of Open Town Meetings debated night after night the sky rocketing cost of new schools until Dr. John Rock's birth control pill appeared on the market. Catholic Gynecologists refused to prescribe the pill adhering to church teaching and the Vatican's analysis that the pill either eliminated sperm fertilizing the egg or pulling the fertilized egg away from the uterus lining eliminating pregnancy. Mid to late sixties Dr. William Keough, a local school superintendent, an expert in demographics, who incidentally was one of the 52 Iranian Hostages captured in the mid-east.

He appeared on the speaker's circuit warning the birth rate was about to drastically drop because of the new safe contraception medication. He warned new school building should cease or be mothballed later on for lack of a student population. American women meanwhile turned a deaf ear to the church, taking matters into our own hands. Somewhere along the line couples celebrated the publication of the book, Mastering the Art of Sex by Master's and Johnston, a hard cover book, a best seller, kept under every young couple's bed.

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The pressure was off. Yet, on January 26th of this New Year, Pope Francis, a man whose vocation demanded celibacy, claimed that young couples currently choose pets over children. The Pontiff even surmised the trend of foregoing child-rearing "takes some of humanity away."

In a shy way, for fear of offending, I pose the question, what would a clergyman, a bishop, archbishop, cardinal or pope know about child rearing? The care of a cat, a dog, a bird in a cage requires little effort compared to three children under four, often called a twosome twice over of Irish twins. As the Christmas Season waned, family departing home to jobs and school, I pondered about my granddaughter Amanda who is twenty-two years old, recently graduated from the College of Engineering at the University of Kentucky. When I was her age, I had two children, one on the way, a breast feeding stay-at-home mother. She rolls her eyes as always unable to quantify what I'm saying and I quietly rage with envy that our culture for women and men was so different back ions ago.

In large measure and in my view, the church played a significant role in continuing that culture. Pope Francis began his weekly address in the New Year by praising the paternal virtues of the biblical Joseph. Always wondered if Saint Joseph, the alleged spouse of Mary the Mother of God, was celibate or as elder Irish women chatting in front of their fireplaces often asked if Mary's divine conception meant she never "received a rub of the relic?"

It's easy, bordering on outrageous for a celibate leader to prompt young people to "take a risk of welcoming children, the rearing of whom is demanding and expensive. The Pontiff also suggests that begetting children could include adopting. All options covered! Those who opt out of having children according to Francis "are lacking something, something fundamental, something important." He's been criticized on social media because having children is a personal choice first and foremost.

Stories abound about abuse of children, sexual and physical. Foster homes are not always good havens for the rearing of kids, and let's not neglect the tragic consequences in Irish orphanages and the outrageous behavior by Irish nuns and priests in Mother and Baby homes when so-called wayward girls were impregnated, by fathers, uncles, brothers or the fella next door, none of whom suffer much if any criticism. It was the female's fault! There are some things the Vatican should not meddle in!

EstelleShanley@aol.com



Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



Animal Attacks

We all love animals as they are ideal companions that comfort and protect their owners. As much as we love our animals, however, hundreds of people fall victim to an animal attack every year. At the end of this article, you will have a better understanding of your rights in the event that you are a victim of an animal attack and, if you are an animal owner, how you may or may not be held liable for the resulting injuries.

Although the law discussed throughout this article applies to all animals, wild or domesticated, the majority of animal attack claims involve dog bites. An injury resulting from an animal attack falls within the scope of personal injury law. Therefore, a victim would have 2 years from the date of the injury to file a lawsuit.

Illinois law states that if a dog or other animal, without provocation, attacks, attempts to attack, or injures any person who is peacefully conducting himself or herself in any place where he or she may lawfully be, the animal's owner is liable for all damages sustained by the victim. 510 ILCS 5/16.

Illinois law regarding animal attacks falls under strict liability. In other words, an animal owner may be held liable whether or not they were negligent in connection with the attack. All that needs to be shown in order for a victim to have a viable claim against an animal owner is that the victim did not provoke the animal and that he or she has a legal right to be in the location where the attack occurred.

Animal owners generally have two defenses when it comes to being held liable for their animal's attack. First, that their animal was provoked in some way by the victim and that provocation resulted in the attack. Second, that the victim was not legally allowed to be where he or she was at the time of the attack. Either one of these defenses would prevent a victim's right to recovery against an animal owner.

For example, Pete is peacefully walking in his neighbor-

hood and out of nowhere a dog that was laying in his owner's backyard decides to jump over a fence and attack him, resulting in severe injuries. In this scenario, the dog's owner would be liable for Pete's pain and suffering, medical bills, and other damages, even if they

took all reasonable precautions to prevent such a thing from happening. Why? Because Pete had a legal right to be walking on the sidewalk and there is no evidence that he provoked the dog in any way.

Now imagine Pete is walking in his neighborhood and notices a dog laying in the backyard of someone's home. For some odd reason Pete then decides to start throwing objects at the dog as a joke. The dog retaliates by jumping over the fence and attacking Pete. In this scenario, the dog's owner would have a viable defense and would not be held liable for Pete's injuries because the evidence would show that Pete provoked the dog by throwing objects at him.

For the third and final scenario, imagine Pete is walking in his neighborhood on his way home. In order to save time, Pete decides to take a shortcut by going through people's backyards until he reaches his own. He jumps over someone's fence and lands in that person's backyard. As Pete starts walking through the backyard, he is approached by a dog that lives there. He tries to run away but is unable to do so before the dog bites him, resulting in serious injuries. In this scenario, the dog's owner would not be held liable for Pete's injuries because he was not lawfully on the property.

If you suffered injuries as a result of an animal attack it is important that you speak with an experienced attorney like my colleagues and I who will evaluate your claim and determine whether you have a right to recovery against the animal's owner. My colleagues and I devote time to developing personal relationships with all of our clients. Our team has decades of collective experi-

ence in representing people who have been injured and we have the knowledge, experience, and resources to walk you through the process and obtain the most desired outcome possible. As always all of our consultations are FREE so please don't hesitate to reach out.

*Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney now licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of Personal Injury Law and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com or at (312) 782-7482.



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Focus on Ireland Returns to Snite Museum in New Exhibition: Who Do We Say We Are? Irish Art 1922-2022

Notre Dame, IN: The Snite Museum of Art renews its partnership with the University of Notre Dame's Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies and the O'Brien Collection in Chicago to present *Who Do We Say We Are? Irish Art 1922 | 2022*. The exhibition exploring Irish national identity will be on display February 5 through May 15, 2022.

The collaboration is part of a multi-faceted, international effort to commemorate the historic events of 1922 and examine their legacy on contemporary Ireland. In spearheading these centenary events, the Irish government's Department of Foreign Affairs brought its Midwest partners together with their

peers from Trinity College Dublin, the Centre Culturel Irlandais and the University of Paris-Sorbonne to offer an unparalleled menu of



Hughie O'Donoghue (British b. 1953), Revolution Cottage, 2014, Oil on canvas. On loan from The O'Brien Collection

music, literature, theatrical performances and visual arts. The year 1922 marked a turning

point for Ireland: the modern Irish state was essentially founded with the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty; James Joyce's novel *Ulysses* was published; and the Irish Race Congress, a conference with an accompanying art exhibition that aimed to redefine Irish identity for an international audience, took place in Paris.

The exhibit explores the connection between some Irish artists working today and their counterparts presented in the Exposition d'Art Irlandais, the exhibition of Irish art held in Paris in 1922.

Paintings from the O'Brien Collection by Seán Keating, Jack B. Yeats, and Paul Henry—artists who participated in the 1922 exhibition—are juxtaposed with works by contemporary artists Patrick Graham, Hughie O'Donoghue, and Diana Copperwhite, among others, to explore issues of national identity rooted in the diaspora and landscape. An "In Dialogue" presentation of the Snite Museum's recent acquisition of Walter Osborne's painting *At the Breakfast Table* (1894) rounds out the discussion of home and homecoming. And, expanding into the realm of photography, a selection of Ireland's rural landscapes by Amelia Stein, RHA, engages epic legends and folkloric memories to reveal history and an evolving culture.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue published by the O'Brien Collection with contributions by Billy Shorthall of Trinity College Dublin, Roisín Kennedy of University College Dublin, Aileen Dillane of the University of Limerick, and David Acton of the Snite Museum. New recordings of Irish music inspired by the art complement the exhibition. The virtual recreation of the 1922 Exposition d'Art Irlandais that will be available online through Trinity College Dublin is a notable contribution to Irish studies and a welcome resource for scholars and enthusiasts alike.

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Happy New Year to all the readers of the Irish American News from a biting cold and breezy county Tipperary! Here's to 2022 and the opportunity to turn over a leaf and start afresh. We are looking forward to working with *Irish American News* to showcase our members in Ireland and seek out new members where you are. We know how much you love Ireland. We know that you will love the products that our website has to offer. If you're looking for a unique Irish gift check out our wonderful range. Highly unique products, handmade in Ireland by our members. We have a wide range of lux-

you're a Celtic crafter who would like to join us and get exposure for your products across the US, Europe and Ireland, keep an eye out for our new website and service. January brings the aftermath of the huge spend at Christmas. People are holding onto their hard earned cash after a Christmas shopping frenzy. We are braced for that but with it comes the stress of trying to keep small businesses afloat. Therefore having the opportunity to let you see some of what we have to offer for occasions you will have in the coming few months so that you will keep us in mind when you want a unique gift for special occasions.



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Special thanks to Cliff Carlson and his team for the ongoing support for owners of small Irish and Celtic arts and crafts businesses, their communities and counties they come from. Thank you for helping us to continue to promote Ireland and the people who wouldn't normally get their work seen globally. Go raibh mile maith agat. www.craftersofireland.com

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Phil Coulter Reminds us, "This was, without doubt, one of the darkest days in the history of my hometown and I remember it well.

It's hard for me to believe that it happened 50 years ago, on Sunday, 30th January. There were a number of events planned throughout the city, culminating in a Commemoration Ceremony in the Guildhall Square in the afternoon.

This is right in the heart of



Derry and not too far from where the atrocity took place. It was a highly charged and emotional occasion and I was deeply touched to be invited by the families of the victims to be part of the event. I proudly enter the outside stage to perform **THE TOWN I LOVED SO WELL**.

I cannot think of a more fitting location or a more appropriate occasion to sing my song."



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On the Upbeat

By Maryann McTeague Keifer

Annual ACLSR Awards Announced

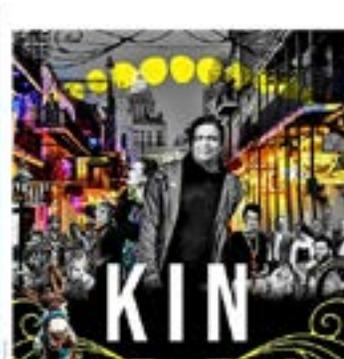
For the last 5 years, the ACLSR Awards, American Celtic Listener Supported Radio, have honored those who have impressed radio hosts and listeners with the excellence of their music.

First time to win three awards in the same year is Raymond Driver, composer, arranger, and illustrator, who has been awarded the Album of the Year, Vocal Album of the Year, and Album Cover of the Year for his I Am of Ireland: Yeats in Song. Selecting 223 of Yeats poems, Raymond composed and arranged music to put them to, and then invited some of the cream of Irish musicians to perform them. Seamie O’Dowd, Cathy Jordan, John Doyle, Kevin Burke, Eleanor Shanley, Cillian Vallely, Collin Farrell, Cormac de Barra, David Curley, and Mick McAuley are just a few. This album has great appeal for music lovers and those who love Yeats and poetry in general. The album cover has a perfect image of the brooding Yeats backed by a lovely setting of rural Ireland. It is brilliant!

Traditional Album of the Year was given to Clare’s Pádraig Rynne and Tara Breen for their creative, yet true to Trad album Nasc. A combination of self composed and other tunes, their pairing of the fiddle and concertina backed by Donal Lunny and Jim Murray is a treat for the ears. Once you get into the album, you’ll forget you are in your house and get the feel of being at a good session.

Crossover Album of the Year goes to the outstanding fiddler Damien McGeehan for his new release KIN. He has taken Trad and woven it through several genres of world music including New Orleans Jazz, blues, samba, and Senegalese kora. Add a gorgeous lullaby he wrote and the velvet vocals of Shaun Mullin

McGeehan, and this is an album that will keep you listening for years to come. Damien is a deadly talented fiddler, composer, and arranger, and has shown his ability



to master any style he chooses.

Holiday Album of the Year goes to We Banjo 3 for their beautiful A WINTER WONDERFUL. The lads chose traditional carols, tunes they composed, a John Pryne song, and arranged and delivered a captivating Christmas album that will be a favorite for many for years. From the opening “Christmas in Prison” tribute to the late John Pryne, to a gorgeous airé “Sunrise at Solstice” to the classic “Wexford Carol” featuring

the beguiling vocals of Ruth Smith which then morphs seamlessly and amazingly into the “Christmas Eve” reel, We Banjo Three has created a masterpiece. The individual playing and singing of Enda, Fergal, Martin, and Dave, as well as the guests, is worth putting the earphones on to listen to each. This album was truly a gift to all from this band.

Composer of the Year is Áine McGeeney who was contracted by Arts Council Ireland to create a

five part series of newly composed music depicting the themes and moods surrounding Covid 19. The first two tunes, “The Calm Before the Storm” and “An Bóthar Buille” depict the preCovid joy of music in a light hearted 5/4 tune and then heads into the second, a slip polka that gives the feel of the panic and stress of getting home as all closed down. Part 2 of the series, “Ups and Down and Merry-Go-Rounds” deals with the slower pace, disquiet, uncertainty and anxiety of living with Covid. Part 3, “Ag Gol is ag Gáire” Irish for Bittersweet, gives the feeling of hope and frustration as everything begins to open and then a realization that nothing will be back to normal for a very long time. Part 4, “Counting Sheep,” tells of not being able to sleep due to the worry and then the despair of having no control. Lighter, more hopeful measures come in only to be taken over by the loss.

Part 5, “Brighter Days,” begins with reflective music of different themes and moods going on over the covid years. The second part of this is an optimistic hop jig that then moves into a slow air of reflection. None of us could listen to these tunes and not be taken through our own Covid experiences. While not recorded for purchase, you can go to ainemcgeeney.com and have a listen-such talent!

Video of the Year goes to Billow Wood for their creative and intriguing ‘Black River’ which is titled for the river that goes past Ciara’s home. Composed to reflect what the effects of the pandemic have been on musicians leaving them ruing the past, feeling invisible now, and full of hope for the future, their evocative lyrics and music pull you along with them. Working with creative videographer Ciaran O’Donnell, the video portrays a haunting reality that is not soon forgotten. We’ll be seeing more from this collaboration, I hope!

Female Musician of the Year goes to the phenomenally talented Joanie Madden who owns the flute and whistles. Being around Joanie is like being in a

whirlwind of energy, and enjoying her music adds to the pleasurable experience. Winner of several awards this year, including the IBAM Music Award, and most notably, The National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, Joanie has been recognized for all she has accomplished and given to Irish Traditional music and the Arts as a whole. Heading into the 38th year of Cherish the Ladies, which she founded, we would like to add our thank you to such an over the top great musician!

Male musician of the Year is the inimitable Seamie O’Dowd who has been quite busy during this Covid 19 pandemic. He has several cuts singing and playing on I Am of Ireland: Yeats in Song. On one of the songs he does on this album, “The Song of the Wandering Aengus,” he plays all the instruments and sings the song.

He has been actively online from his Sligo home gifting all of us with music for the last almost two years. A prodigious guitar master, fiddler, harmonica, mandolin... and much requested singer, he truly does it all and shares his talents

with us so generously helping us keep our sanity these last 2 years.

Female Vocalist of the Year is Shauna Mullin McGeehan, alto extraordinaire, whose singing wraps around you and cocoons you in its silky warmth. No one does it better and we hope for a new album of her own soon as well as more appearances on others’ productions. This past two years she has graced Damien McGeehan’s KIN and recordings of Ryan Molloy. I am still replaying multiple times “Strange Affair” from KIN.

With rumors of a move to Nashville coming up, could we be hopeful to be seeing her perform here in the States?

Male Vocalist of the Year is the constantly requested singer, composer, guitar, banjo, bodhran player, dancer David Curley. Radio hosts have a difficult time with their listeners if Dave doesn’t get played often enough. Member of SLIDE, One for the Foxes, recently touring with Lunasa, former Runa member, and solo artist, he is one busy musician. His vocals, quiet, heartfelt, and purely seductive are loved by so many who are

always looking for more from him. His cuts on I Am of Ireland: Yeats in Song are beautiful. We are hoping to be able to see him on tour this year if we can get Covid more under control.

Rising star of the Year goes to Sina Theil who is going to knock the socks off audiences if we can get her here this year. Get your masks on, because you are going to want to attend a concert of hers where she gets you singing, laughing, falling in love, and completely captivating you. You will immediately become one of her Mad Hatters as you enjoy her cross genre singing of Irish, Bluegrass, Country, and Rock songs, doing them all very well. Go to her website and be taken in!

Concert of the Year has been awarded to Mick Moloney, Jimmy Keane, and Pat Broaders for their concert series at Milwaukee Irish Fest. A huge audience each day, people came to be entertained listening to a great variety of music and songs performed by three of the best in Irish music, but even more, to hear the background of the music and the stories that go

along with it. This is a gift Pat, Jimmy, and Mick give. They are the storytellers, the lore keepers, the sharers of our culture. We are so fortunate to have them!

Festival Performance of the Year goes to Celtic MKE for their Irish Fest Tribute to Ed Ward. Combining multimedia with live performances, it told not just the history of all Ed did to create Irish Fest, but also told of the exceptional man he was. Mick Moloney told of his introduction to Ed’s fervor for the Irish music and culture. He and Jimmy Keane sang of Ed as the “solid man.” Rory Makem sang and told of the family closeness of the Wards and Makems. The most prominent musicians at the fest came up to perform and tell of Ed’s place in their successes. His son Sean’s band Tallymore sang Ed’s favorite songs, and his own band Blarney came out of retirement to sing with all there. Family members spoke, friends reminisced and celebrated his memory. It was a tearjerker, yet

uplifting and a truly memorable tribute to Ed Ward, the solid man!

Last, but very important, is the award for **Giving Back to the Community** given this year to Colm Phelan and Robbie Walsh for their dedicated fundraising they perform during their Bula Buzz Bodhran School sessions. They have raised \$17,664 for a variety of charities including ALONE, Pieta House, Irish Cancer Society, and Women’s Aid & Men’s Aid. At a time when their own incomes were severely depressed from gigs being nonexistent, they worked to help others who needed help. Fair play, and great work!

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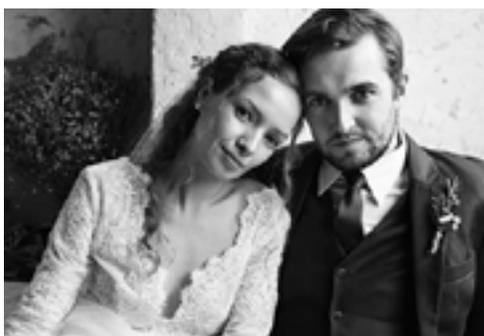
A Chairde:

It's time to save some dates and make sure you're ready for the St. Patrick parades in March. Gaelic Park traditionally marches in parades in Oak Forest (5th), Tinley Park(6th), Chicago (12th), and South Side (13th), and all are welcome to join us. There are several other parades in Chicagoland, and if you are watching instead of marching, look for Gaelic Park Past Presidents **John Griffin** and **Tom Boyle**, the Grand Marshalls of the Chicago and Countryside Parades, respectively.

Concert activities resume in February, we look forward to seeing both the **Merry Ploughboys** and **Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfetones** this month. We hope you can join us at one or both, and that you join us in the Pub during the month, and enjoy the hospitality of Pub Manager **Phillip Quinlan** (Offaly) and the fine food of Pub Chef **Maureen Leyden** (Mayo) and Pastry Chef **Ciara Leyden**. They will have a special menu for St. Valentines Day, free Tingo game every Tuesday, burger day on Sundays, and live music on Fridays and Saturdays.

Is mise le meas,

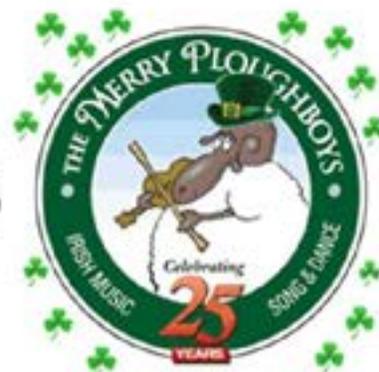
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Save the Dates

Ireland on Parade March 10-11, 15-16

Southside Irish Sunday March 13th

St. Patrick's Day March 17th

- More information in the March edition -

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Irish Pub

February - Live Music!

4th Nicky G

5th Bill O 'Donahue 7.30pm

11th Joe Cullen 8pm

12th Bernie Glim 7.30pm

18th Ray Gavin 8pm

19th Gerry Haughey 7.30pm

25th Liam Durkin 7.30

26th Kieran Byrne 8pm

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Who is Christina Noble? (Mama Tina)

She is an Irish children's rights campaigner, charity worker and writer. She founded the Christina Noble Children's Foundation over 30 years ago. (CNCF non-government organization dedicated to serving the worlds oppressed and disregarded children) There are roughly 145 million orphans world-wide. Countries such as Peru, Mexico, Columbia, Brazil, Iran and Russia have the highest orphan rate in the world.

An orphan is when a child is separated from their biological parents. There are



GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

BY TINA BUTLER



variety of horrible situations. She got married but that resulted in a very abusive situation, and she escaped that also.

She went on a trip to Vietnam and her whole world changed. She felt her purpose was to take care of homeless children. She has since helped over 700,000 children in Vietnam and Mongolia. Vietnam is a socialist country with a population of 100 million people. They have an Irish community in Hanoi of about 1,000 Irish people. Noble has received numerous awards a few include: 2014 Women of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award, medal from ministry of labor, social affairs for her contribution to Vietnam, and several Red Cross awards.

In America, the use of government run orphanages has been phased out, however every State has a group home for children in need of a safe place to live. Sadly, residential institutions like orphanages can often be detrimental to the psychological development of children. Most children who live in orphanages are not orphans, four out of five children in orphanages have at least one living parent and most having some extended family. Developing

countries rely on extended family care to aid in the orphan crisis because it is cheaper to financially help extended families in taking in an orphaned child than it is to institutionalize them.

Noble went through an agonizing childhood, but it shaped her into a superhero to save so many children's lives and be a role model for us all. There is a film on her life titled, Noble.

"God has given us two hands one to receive and one to give" **Billy Graham** Ways that you can help orphans include, sports related fundraiser, walk-a-thon for orphans, donate, sponsor one, and pray for them.

Gaelic for the month

Child-leannh, Orphan-dilleachta, Homeless-gan didean

Thank you to all my readers and to the people that have sent such supportive & kind emails. I get a variety of emails, some controversial, I have learned so much from them, so it is a blessing with either. Thank you! Some of you may know that I host a monthly book club at Gaelic Park, we really enjoy meeting and discussing the books and other topics. Our next book is, "A portrait of the Artist as a Young man" by James Joyce. Our next date is on Feb. 6th at 1pm. If you have any questions, please reach out: Molanive@yahoo.com



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FEBRUARY 2022

Hello everyone!

Our annual Member Up! membership renewal campaign kicked off in January, and I encourage you to show your support for the IAHC by becoming a member. 2022 is getting off to a strong start here at the Irish American Heritage Center, and there is no better time to join or renew your annual membership!

Your membership doesn't just support the IAHC, it can save you money! If you're reading this in the IAN, an IAHC membership will save you the cost of a subscription. That's a \$35 savings – and an individual membership is only \$30! Membership will save you \$5 per ticket on upcoming concerts like Dervish (2/27/2022) and the Screaming Orphans (3/18/2022). As a matter of fact, almost all of our concerts and theatrical presentations offer a member discount. You can save

10% on non-food items in the Gift Shop, and 10% on menu items in the Fifth Province Pub.

We will be making more concert announcements in the coming weeks, as well as providing details for the upcoming St. Patrick's 2022 celebrations here at the Irish American Heritage Center. It's time for us to celebrate!

Join, come to the Fifth Province, enjoy the finest Irish Music you can see anywhere in our Mayfair Theatre, attend a tea or take a class, and by all means pay us a visit during any of our festivals!

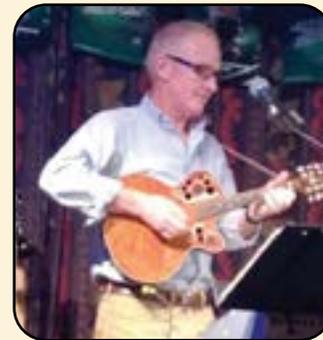
Until we meet again!

Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel, President
Irish American Heritage Center



Join your friends this February in the Fifth Province.

The pub and kitchen open at
6:00pm, the music starts at 8:00pm.



February 4
Gerry Haughey



February 5
The Boils



February 11
Kieran Byrne



February 12
Aidan O'Toole and Chris Bain



February 18
Mulligan Stew



February 19
The Quarantinis



February 25
Joe McShane



February 26
The Chancers



I MEMBERED UP BECAUSE...

I've been a member of the Irish American Heritage Center for most of my life. My parents are founding members, so the Center has always played a big role in my life, and continues to do so to this day. It's so important to support an organization that has given so much to our Community – even more so in times like these. This is not just the Irish American Heritage Center. It's OUR Irish American Heritage Center!

–Dominick Mulcrone, IAHC Board of Directors

Be a part of the Irish American Heritage Center Member Up! campaign and take advantage of benefits at the same great price.

To Member Up!,
visit www.irish-american.org
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The Irish American Heritage Center is excited to present our 2022 membership renewal campaign, MEMBER UP! Whether joining, renewing or purchasing a gift membership, take advantage of exciting benefits at no price increase.

Enhanced membership benefits include:

Individual and Family

1 Year: \$30 Individual / \$50 Family
2 Years: \$50 Individual / \$75 Family

- Advanced notice of concerts and shows and the right to pre-purchase tickets
- The right to vote for IAHC Board of Directors
- Candidacy to run for the Board of Directors, after three years of consecutive membership
- Irish American News subscription
- Free Movies for Members

Harper — 3 Years: \$250

- All benefits listed for Family and Individual Members for three years, and...
- One Exclusive IAHC Member T-Shirt*

Bard — 5 Years: \$500

- All benefits listed for Family and Individual Members for five years, and...
- Private Tour of the IAHC
- 2 Tickets to an IAHC Breakfast, choose one:
 _____ Christmas Bazaar
 _____ Palm Sunday _____ Irish Fest
- One Exclusive IAHC Member T-Shirt*

Chieftain — 10 Years: \$1000

- All benefits listed for Family and Individual Members for 10 years, and...
- Private Tour of the IAHC
- 4 St. Patrick's Festival tickets for 5 years
- 2 Exclusive Member T-Shirts*

High King — \$2500: 25 Years

- All benefits listed for Family and Individual Members for 25 years, and...
- Private Tour of the IAHC
- 2 Tickets to the Irish American Hall of Fame Gala
- 10 Tickets to Irish Fest
- 10 Tickets per year to the St. Patrick's Festival
- 2 Exclusive Member T-Shirts*
- A private genealogy session
- One 4"x8" Brick in the Walk of
- Names Reserved table at the 2022 and 2023 Christmas Bazaar Breakfast

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- 20 Tickets to Irish Fest
- 20 Tickets per year to the St. Patrick's Festival
- 4 Exclusive Member T-Shirts*
- A private genealogy session
- One 4"x8" Brick in the Walk of Names
- Reserved table at the 2022 and 2023 Christmas Bazaar Breakfast
- A private event at the Center, based on availability

New Renewal Date: _____

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Time for Fun! Wearin of the Green Dinner Dance March 6

The St. Patrick Day celebrations are back at the Heritage Center as it hosts it's 15th Wearing Of The Green Dinner Dance Sunday, March 6, in it's beautiful Erin Room from 5 to 9 p.m. Catering is provided by Ken Harrington, famous for it's corned beef dinners. Tickets are \$55 & music is provided by Gerry Haughey and Joe Cullen.

For six or tables call the Center at 773-282-7035, ext. 10; or go to their website at www.irish-american.org.

We have all experienced so many emotions and feelings in the past two years, so a fresh start of the St. Patrick Day celebrations is a fitting venue to begin our comeback to our former lifestyle.

The Irish American Heritage Center continues to be a true champion and in the forefront of social and cultural events that keep our community together. Join us for a great evening of fun, dancing, food and most of all to catch up with old friends and get to meet new ones.





Benet Academy: "Do As I Say, Not As I Do"

Many of my readers that know me personally know that I have spent almost all of my life in Chicagoland. I was born here, grew up here, and went to school here. I was also raised Catholic, although I was admittedly never very faithful. Despite this, I did attend a Catholic high school: Benet Academy. I graduated in 2017.

My alma mater has been in the news a LOT recently. Headlines regarding a recent scandal have appeared in the Chicago Tribune, the Daily Herald, the Chicago Sun-

Times, and every publication in-between. The typically quiet western suburb of Lisle echoed with the cries of protestors last year. Why? Because Benet holds nothing but contempt for the LGBTQ+ community. Here's the story.

Amanda Kammes, a Benet alumna, was selected to be Benet's new girl's lacrosse coach. She was in the middle of the onboarding process with the school when her job offer was suddenly rescinded. Shocked and confused, Ms. Kammes and some of her friends investigated. As it turns out, administrators had made the decision when Kammes revealed on her emergency contact paperwork that she was married to another woman.

Ms. Kammes and her allies were understandably outraged. What does her marriage have to do with her ability to coach a lacrosse team? The answer: absolutely nothing. But Benet has always been more concerned about optics than practicality. Knowingly hiring Ms. Kammes while she was perpetually living in a state of mortal sin (gasp!) would be almost criminal. Once the public got word of what had happened, however, Benet became a lot more receptive to taking on a new perspective.

After a lengthy, public battle, the Benet Board of Directors convened and voted to give Ms. Kammes her job back. Kammes, to her credit, graciously accepted. One would think that that would be the end of this saga-but no.

This past month, after several months of "deliberation," the Benedictine monks of St. Procopius Abbey-the original founders of both Benet Academy and Benedictine University-announced that they had decided to cut ties with Benet. In a press release, Abbot Austin Murphy cited "events

of recent months" that caused the conclave to "examine their future relationship" with Benet.

So, let me get this straight: Catholics are taught to spread the gospel truth and the Word of Jesus Christ, right? And I seem to recall that the overarching theme of Jesus' teaching was to love one another. So, by essentially condemning Ms. Kammes for her sexual orientation, wasn't Benet going against the word of God? And thus, by rehiring her, didn't administrators do what Jesus would have done in their place?

I remember when I went to Benet how impressed I was by some portions of its religious curriculum. We were taught about Dorothy Day and her love for the poor. We discussed poverty, homelessness, and racism. We examined Catholic Social Teaching and the Catechism. In those moments, I really identified with and cherished Catholicism. I also should point out that the Catechism explicitly implores Catholics to accept gay and lesbian people "with respect, compassion and sensitivity.

Books: A Heaven of Their Choosing

by Joann Smith

A widow plans her husband's funeral feeling as much resentment towards him as grief. A mother believes her young son has the DNA of a long-dead ex-boyfriend. A woman becomes obsessed with a drifter who stands in the same spot every day in her neighborhood. A couple grieving a series of miscarriages set out to adopt in China, only to get pregnant again. In thirteen stories that explore the complexities and messiness of faith, marriage, illness, and grief, *A Heaven of Their Choosing* is a wise debut collection for fans of Grace Paley or Alice Munro. [Buy Book Here!](#)

"Reading *A Heaven of Their Choosing* is like touring a set of rooms inside the enormous house of fiction. At the center of each sits a character, often isolated and regretful, whose interior is revealed with a candor and dead-pan irony reminiscent of the stories of John McGahern and even Joyce. Like them, Smith knows how to invade people's privacy while keeping a steady eye on the everyday world around them. And sometimes, lives defined by boredom and limitation are lifted by event into insight and wonder. She is a writerly writer, whose stories will appeal to readers who wish to experience not just what hap-

(CCC 2358)"

Don't get me wrong, there were definitely still portions of Catholic teaching that I didn't fully understand or even accept, but I appreciated the Church for what it said it was on paper. Unfortunately, Benet doesn't always practice what it preaches.

It's precisely because of my Catholic education on these social subjects that, when I first read about Abbott Austin going on record saying that he was "deeply troubled" by the decision to hire Ms. Kammes, my first thought was "Oh, give me a f***** break." Almost the entirety of my experience with Benet and its community can be summed up by the phrase "do as I say, not as I do." And, so far, the only exception to that rule was the Board of Director's decision to rehire Coach Kammes.

If making the right call had to inevitably result in a schism between Benet and its founders, so be it. I can only hope that this one decision was enough to set my alma mater on a path towards actually living up to its lofty aspirations as an institution.

pens next but how, sentence by sentence, it manages to happen at all."—Billy Collins poet laureate 2001-2003.

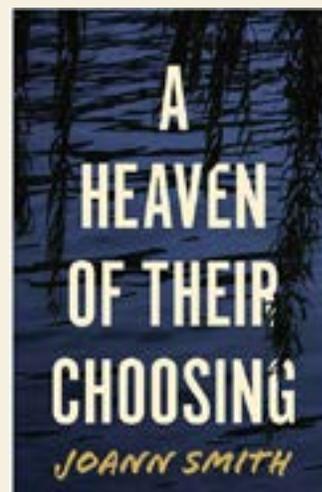
BIO: A collection of my short stories titled *A Heaven of Their Choosing* was published by 7.13 Books in 2021.

I have had stories published in *The Halcyon Literary Review*, *Adelaide Literary Magazine*, *Two Hawks Quarterly*, *Emerald Coast Review*, *The Examined Life Journal*, *Whitefish Journal*, *Clockhouse journal*; *servingshouse journal*; *Chagrin River Review*, *New York Stories*, *Literal Latte*, *Best of Writers at Work*, *Alternate Bridges*, *Image: A Journal of Art and Religion*, *So To Speak:*

A Feminist Journal of Language and Art, *The Roanoke Review*, *The Greensboro Review*, and *The Texas Journal of Women and the Law*.

My story "Tuesday Night at the Shop and Shoot" was anthologized in *Lock and Load: Armed Fiction*, University of New Mexico Press; another story was selected by the editors of *Best American Short Stories 2000* as one of the one hundred notable stories of the year.

My novel of historical fiction is titled *When I Was Boudicca* and is available on Amazon. I live and write in the Bronx.



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Hi, I'm **Annie Nestor**. I was born in Ireland and have family from Galway, Mayo and Kerry. I'm a locally owned Home Care Agency founded in 2015.

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



What Does a United Ireland Look Like?

Imagine the following scenario. Every time, when the subject of a United Ireland emerges in political discourse in Ireland, a political representative would be asked to comment not on the prospect or desirability of it, but rather to describe it. The Minister for Health, or those vying for such a portfolio, would be asked how the NHS in the North would combine or otherwise with the HSE. Budding ministers for finance would be quizzed on how they propose to

cover the annual subvention to sustain Northern Ireland, which currently costs the UK taxpayer the equivalent of about 15 million US dollars. Relatedly, politicians who position themselves as candidates for the Enterprise, Trade and Employment department would explain how they would sustain public sector workers in the North, who currently number nearly a third of the workforce. Religious leaders would be asked about the role they expect their churches to play in the education and health systems of the new state. Ministers for Education and Higher Education might be asked if and how they would provide oversight to schools and universities. Sinn Féin, the party most anxious to establish a United Ireland, could be asked to describe its emblems, flag and anthem as well as any special provisions for political representation in the North in the new Ireland they seek. It is understandable that politicians may not wish to bind themselves or their parties to a set of commitments before a negotiation, or the occasion for a negotiation, has even

begun. Even so, that should not deter journalists from seeking detailed responses. Very soon this approach to the debate could take us from analyses focused on

an outcome to analyses focused on processes. These discussions extend to organisations as well as political parties. Many of our sports leagues and national teams will necessarily need to change if and when partition ends. For example, the governing bodies of the Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland soccer teams (the Irish Football Association and the Football Association of Ire-

land) could be asked what jerseys and symbols they would endorse wearing; and how they would like their governing systems to evolve. This would stand in contrast to the passivity of our politicians, an example of which came in November 2018 in the Dáil when Sinn Féin Spokesperson for Finance, Pearse Doherty, called for the Irish soccer teams to be amalgamated. While an all-Ireland team makes eminent good sense, simply calling for it does not constitute heavy-lifting. Doherty has yet to be asked to detail the intricacies involved in his proposal and the compromises it would presumably entail, and that is a pity. Ensuring that communities and organisations have a stake in the debate would engender inclusivity in a process that has major consequences for us all. Therefore, it is important that, at the level of such organisations,

the inquiry facilitates people to express possibilities and preferences; posing questions about a new Ireland should not be seen as a trap. Grassroots expressions of unity would also prise the questions of the identity and identification of putative organisations in the future from the purview of politicians and place them in the hands of communities. That would be unity in practice. Consider, for example, a comment from Civil Rights Movement veteran Eamonn McCann in 2018. In response to what was known as the 'rugby rape trial' in Belfast, McCann said: 'You had people out in Cork, Limerick, Galway and Dublin without any real organisation - it was spontaneous. There was a united Ireland in operation and in practice. Those were demonstrations not for a united Ireland, but of a united Ireland'. Granted, a problem that besets this discussion is the unwillingness of unionists to engage in it. To speak about a United Ireland from the presumption that

it could one day exist is anathema to unionists and the conversation is seen as a threat. However, such refusal is no justification for others to disengage. If unionists refuse to engage today, they may surmise in the near future that excluding themselves from the debate is more harmful to their interests than that stance is worth. An extensive research project, 'Analysing and Researching Ireland North and South', has been established under the aegis of the University of Notre Dame and the Royal Irish Academy. Its stated ambition is to deliver detailed 'independent and non-partisan analysis' on 'constitutional, institutional and policy options for Ireland'. Much of its work attempts to envisage the realities of Ireland if the island were united. Its analyses are a hugely valuable basis for debate. However, the discussion is not occurring in non-academic circles with equal vigour or commitment to mapping institutional and organisational change. This is partly because the debate is too often framed by the right for voices to be heard rather than establishing what those voices actually have to say. Given that the triggering a unity referendum is ultimately within the gift of the UK government, advocates of a referendum can frame the absence of a defined date for it as a deprivation of rights. Last March, The New York Times and The Washington Post carried half-page advertisements, sponsored by the Friends of Sinn Féin, headlined 'A United Ireland - Let the people have their say'. The right to hold a unity referendum in the future is implicit in the Good Friday Agreement, but it is hardly too much to ask proponents of such a referendum to outline in detail the United Ireland that they claim to want. In 2013, the Scottish government, led by the Scottish National Party, produced a 670-page document detailing what an independent Scotland would look like. By contrast, Irish politicians have become very comfortable, when responding to the motion of unity, to concentrate on abstractions and the obstacles in its way. It is time to start calling their bluff.

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Following The Breakout Success of its Debut Season, Season 2 of Ireland With Michael Airs This Month on PBS

World-renowned Irish tenor Michael Londra continues his travels across Ireland to celebrate its culture, music, and history with a second season of his successful public television show, Ireland with Michael. Distributed nationally through the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA), Season 2 of Ireland with Michael premieres on select public television stations commencing January 2022. In 2021 the 6-episode debut

season clocked over 4,000 airings on PBS stations across the U.S. broadcasting into 75% of all U.S. Households. *

The new season of 8 half-hour episodes allows viewers to see the hidden treasures and majestic beauty of the "Emerald Isle" - all from the comfort of home: an Irish adventure of music, song, and dance. To see an excerpt from Season 2, click the link below. <https://tinyurl.com/IWMSizzle-season2>

"Ireland with Michael has given me the chance to highlight our greatest asset. Be they singers, dancers, poets, artisans or storytellers, our creators share their Ireland, in every episode of the show. I'm so proud of the country and the people in it, so I feel honored to be able to share that around the world," said Londra. "We were delighted with the response to Season One, so bringing a new round of adven-

tures in Season Two is all the more special. There will be many more adventures to come on Ireland with Michael."

Londra takes viewers to intriguing, popular and some lesser-known Irish destinations to learn about Irish history, meet local artisans, experience small-town pubs and food, and enjoy VIP access to unique musical and cultural experiences. He combines glorious video footage of Ireland's storied landscapes, fascinating travel destinations, exciting cultural experiences, and performances from Irish stars. In exploring the beauty tapestry of his homeland, Londra travels from county to county connecting with local musicians and artists and immersing viewers deep into Ireland's rich cultural heritage.

Londra's guests include 2021 NEA National Heritage Fellowship winner and Grammy nominee Joanie Madden from the long-running Irish American group Cherish the Ladies, and singer Michelle Lally from the legendary Irish folk



Joanie Madden, and Michael Londra

group Dé Dannan. He also introduces the audience to many more popular Irish singers, musicians, chefs, writers, and other budding Celtic stars throughout the course of the 8 episodes.

Michael travels to the cities of Kilkenny, Galway and Waterford, treks across the Dingle Peninsula, explores the birthplace of his grandfather in County Mayo, discovers breathtaking daytrips from Ireland's capital and much more.

Ireland With Michael TV show is sponsored by Tourism Ireland, CIE Tours and Aer Lingus. To catch season #2 check local PBS station listings for airdates. For more information on the series, read episode descriptions and watch preview clips visit dptv.org/ireland-with-michael.

Michael Londra is an Emmy®-nominated, Irish

singer/producer from the opera capital of Ireland, a small town on the Southeast coast called Wexford. He decided in his early 30's to follow his heart and pursue a professional singing career.

Michael's first album "Celt" was produced by acclaimed producer, Steve Skinner, who co-produced the Grammy-nominated soundtrack of RENT. He has worked as an arranger/co-producer for Bette Midler and Celine Dion, and has collaborated many times with Arif Mardin, producer of Norah Jones' acclaimed CD. The album was released in 15 countries worldwide, selling particularly well in Korea, where it reached Number 1 in the World Music Charts.

His PBS special, Beyond Celtic, which he co-produced with Mindfox Productions, was taped in March 2011, airing nationally over 400 times. The TV special earned two Emmy® nominations. Through several CD releases and his high-profile visits to Haiti, Michael has raised considerable awareness for [Concern Worldwide](http://ConcernWorldwide.org) and helped bring the issue of poverty and hunger to the attention of the public.

In 2013, Michael became a mentor for Grammy® University teaching music business students from Vanderbilt and Belmont Universities in Nashville. Over the past 7 years, Michael built an annual hosted tour of Ireland for fans, which led to the current PBS series.

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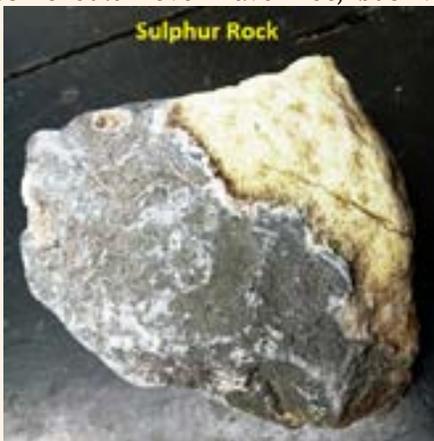
Time

I was watching a documentary recently in relation to the centenary of the War of Independence and my thoughts started to wander in the direction of my grand-uncles, Patrick and Michael Daly who left these shores in and around the early to mid 1920's for New York, and were never to return. They both fought in the War of Independence with the Waterford 2nd Brigade Old IRA. However, things got a little complicated during the subsequent Civil War when they took opposing sides. Legend has it that my

Great-Grandmother would take the guns from them when they arrived home for the weekend and told them to be civil to each other. She would return the guns to them when they left early on the Monday morning, on their separate journeys!

When the documentary was over, I made a cup of tea, and started to think about the passage of time in a more general way. The 100 year time span of the documentary seemed a long way back when I was watching it, but in reality only a little speck in comparison to what I will now be relating to you for the remainder of this article. We would be most familiar with historical time, and that would concern the last two thousand years since the advent of Christianity. Before this we have archaeological time when mankind appeared on the scene, we do not have any historical records for the period and we have to forensically examine the landscape for clues. Before this we have geological time, a time before mankind, and when the landscape features we are familiar with today were laid down.

Ireland started off as two separate pieces of land separated by 5000 miles of ocean. The northern part was named Laurentia and the southern part was Avalonia. These two parts should never have met, but



they did over 420 million years ago in a violent collision that shoved up our current mountain ranges. The Iapetus Suture is the seam from Loop Head in Co. Clare over to Clogher Head in Co. Louth where both parts joined together. Iapetus was the legendary father of Atlantis, after whom the Atlantic Ocean is named. Galway would have been in the northern Laurentia and Cork, Kerry and Tipperary in the southern Avalonia.

In the early 1850's when the Owenriff River and Lough Corrib were dredged, the equipment broke through the limestone rocks. Many of the stones which were removed could be used afterwards in the construction of the dry-stone walls we are familiar with today. I found some examples of Productic Brachiopods a few years ago on the banks of the Owenriff and these have embedded fossils which are 330 million years old. I was showing these to Roger Joyce one morning, and afterwards he brought me in an example of the Straparollus which he had previously found on his land. The Straparollus was an ancient sea snail, now extinct, and can be

dated back to 359- 330 million years old. At the time both the Brachiopods and Straparollus came into being, Ireland (and Oughterard) was submerged beneath a warm, tropical and coral sea to the west of present day Australia

A few years ago, the late Jackie Murray would often visit me upstairs in the Courthouse. Over his customary cup of black coffee he regaled me with wonderful stories about people and historical events in and around Oughterard. On one of these particular mornings, he pulled a limestone/sulphur rock out of his bag and I was absolutely delighted to see it. The Owenriff- (Abhainn Ruibhe - Sulphur River) gets its name because of sulphur stones which were found in the river in 1666 and 1667, an occasion of major summer drought. Similar stones were also found when the river was deepened in 1960. Jackie's stone is an absolute beauty with an age estimation of greater than 40 million years.

Jackie was a man of acute intelligence, very well read, a marvellous storyteller and imbued with a keen and natural sense of curiosity. He was also very kind and generous with his time to impart the vast amounts of his knowledge. He is greatly missed by everyone who ever had the pleasure of his company.

The Anthropocene is now seen as the unofficial unit of geological time which defines our habitation on this planet. It is viewed as the period during which human activity has been a dominant influence on climate and the environment. Some Geologists argue that the Anthropocene began with the Industrial Revolution in the mid to late 19th century.

'Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful not to let other people spend it for you'

- Carl Sandburg.

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The Bard of Kilmactigue New York & Sligo Poet Remembered

A new book highlights the achievements of a little-known Irish American poet, Henry L. Gavigan (1872-1933), who was born in Kilmactigue in County Sligo. The book is the outcome of a research project undertaken by a distant relative of the poet, Pat McCarrick.

When Henry L. Gavigan died in New York in 1933, a work colleague described him in the following terms, "In all my years I have never known a finer character, a more forgiving man. No, coarse, vulgar or double-meaning word ever passed his unsullied lips. The General Post Office will never know his like again. We all loved him and to each of us his death is a personal loss. When the twilight of death closed about him it grieved the hearts of those who loved him and they mourned his passing as one near and dear to them."

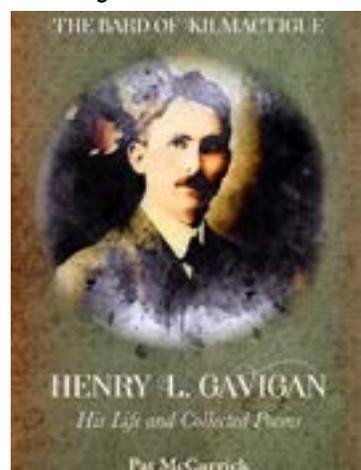
Born in Claddagh, near Aclare in Co. Sligo in December 1872, Henry was the 10th of 11 children born to Patrick Gavaghan and Mary Henry. The family lived in a small cottage and survived on a farm of about 30 acres. Almost every member of the family subsequently moved to America.

Henry seemed very much to enjoy his childhood and was able to take full advantage of time spent at school. There he was taught by the local schoolmaster, James McIntyre. McIntyre was his uncle by marriage and was a man that Henry very much admired.

Henry departed for America in 1893 at the age of 21. When he arrived in New York he was greeted

by his brothers. It seems that the eldest brother, Anthony, had got himself into a trouble and this was the main reason why his family changed their name to, Gavan.

While the family were all highly literate, Henry became the most noted penman among them. His works were printed regularly in newspapers and periodicals in the US and in Ireland. His poems were imbued with a great love of Ireland, his mother and his native Kilmactigue.



Henry was a regular on the social scene in New York. He was a keen fiddle player and was referred to in one newspaper report as; "the writer and antiquarian, Henry L. Gavan;" pilgrim, patriot, poet and proud son of Erin. He died suddenly in 1933 in a Manhattan hospital. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery in Queens.

The new, limited-edition book, is accompanied by a CD which illustrated some of the poems and songs of Gavigan. It is available direct from the author online at <https://www.moyriverphotography.ie/product/henry-l-gavigan>.

Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



it most certainly is, delivers its punch in highlighting the popular notion that gay men are effeminate

opposite sex was on a par with my contemporaries, and I was quite capable of looking after myself.

The need to stereotype or, in this case, demonize the other is motivated by fear. Many gay men of my age found it impossible to identify with the caricature of a gay man, and consequently delayed our coming out. The absence of a role model we could relate to forced us to suppress our feelings and pretend to be something we weren't. Of course, fear of being found out often led to a toxic form of hypermasculinity where you acted more manly than everyone else. You despised effeminacy, and in some cases the worst cases of gay attacks were perpetrated by closeted gay men who lived in fear of being exposed.

It's quite funny to think that effeminacy among the upper classes in Victorian times was seen as a form of rebellion and not weakness. Young men, dandies, gay and straight affected effeminate mannerisms as a way of railing against the overbearing perception of manliness. Adopting an effeminate persona among the wealthier classes of men was a sign of good breeding. You can see this trait in any of Oscar Wilde's plays. The smart, suave, men of the time are hopelessly effeminate and their refusal to conform to the

older generation's notion of how a man should be is seen as a protest against masculine stereotypes. However, the problem for someone like me, coming from a working class background, these depictions of sexual ambiguity holds no weight. Money affords you certain privileges and rights denied to those without affluency.

For me, and many like me, we were under the impression that homosexuality among men was rare when in fact it was a lot more common than we believed. Many gay men married and had children. They would lead secretive lives courting dalliances with other married men or known gays. Of course, homosexuality was still considered illegal right up until the 1960s. It wasn't until 1967 that the UK decriminalized gay sex between those aged 21 and older. The threat of public exposure and jail time was also compounded by the church's teaching on gay relationships. If you didn't end up being publicly shamed and imprisoned you were certainly going to be damned to hell for eternity.

With such high stakes you can understand why a lot of young gay men committed suicide or allowed themselves to undergo conversion therapy. Who wants to be

stigmatized by society, ostracized by their family, and forced to go and live somewhere they are not known. As Irish people we understand exile. We know what it's like to be forced to live in a strange land in order to survive. We can easily point to those who made our lot unbearable but we too have been responsible for forcing our own into exile. Many young men and women were driven out of their homes because of their sexuality, unable to return to their homeland.

Although things have changed, and there is a greater acceptance of gay relationships. There is still a lag when it comes to the media. It becomes tiresome to see the same old stereotypes occupying our screens. A host of pretty boys who walk like Jane and talk like Cheetah become society's version of the gay norm while the rest of us balk at the idea. If we really care about our children we need to provide them with a variety of gay role models and not pander to the demands of a reality side show. Lots of gay men love sport, they are not always neat and tidy. They are not all fashionistas. For the most part, gay men and women are simply like you except for their sexual preference. They may not look like Tarzan, walk like Jane or talk like Cheetah. In fact they may be so run of the mill that you're surprised they're gay.

Looks Like Tarzan, Walks Like Jane, Talks Like Cheetah

The above statement was something I was told years ago by a gay man about gay men. Most men, gay or not, would love to look like Tarzan. However, the jibe, which

Rack Em!

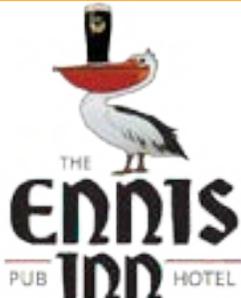
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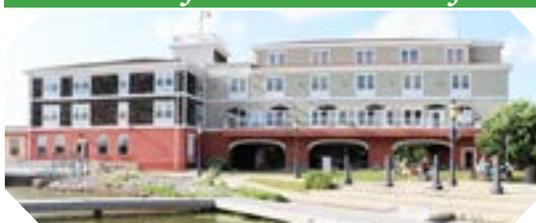
and delight in speaking with a particular affectation, think Truman Capote. People of my generation grew up with the preconception that 'queers' were deviants from the norm. They were a small minority of mostly men who identified themselves through their flamboyance and exaggerated mannerisms. This stereotype was, and still is, reinforced by the media.

In writing this article I am aware that these opinions are based mostly on experience and observations. I am not claiming to have hard evidence to support my view, but I do have an unfair advantage of growing up as a closeted gay man. For those in my age group, the old boys, manliness was best demonstrated in a love of sports, womanizing and being able to stand up for yourself. In some ways, this absurd notion of masculinity was a highly flawed way of separating the 'real' men from the queers. I, for one, loved sports.

I played soccer, squash, and was very competitive. My ability to 'woo' the



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No Sniveling!

Get Away to Wisconsin!

On the Law

Martin Healy Jr.

John P. Scanlon



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

HealyScanlon, formerly The Healy Law Firm, is comprised of seven trial attorneys. We are located downtown at 111 West Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). www.HealyScanlon.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

Construction Accidents Update

In light of ongoing and upcoming construction projects that will take place with the recent approval of the federal infrastructure bill, this column will focus on construction related injury law.

The Illinois Supreme court recently clarified a very important area of law involving construction related injuries. In *Munoz v. Bulley & Andrews, LLC*, 2022 IL 127067, Munoz, a laborer, injured his back when he was instructed to lift defective covers off the top of pre-cast concrete. Munoz worked for Bulley Concrete, a company that was owned by Bulley & Andrews. At the jobsite, Bulley & Andrews was the general contractor and Bulley Concrete was a subcontractor. The two companies were distinct and separate entities, but Bulley & Andrews was the owner of Bulley Concrete.

Munoz filed a workers' compensation claim to recover disability benefits and medical expenses from his employer, Bulley Concrete. He also filed a civil lawsuit against Bulley & Andrews to recover additional compensation for the loss of his normal life and the pain and suffering he endured, among other elements of damage.

In the civil lawsuit, Munoz alleged that Bulley & Andrews controlled the jobsite he was working on, but failed to instruct his employer, Bulley Con-

crete, to use safe equipment. Munoz also alleged that Bulley & Andrews failed to regulate the hours laborers were working, which lead to unsafe work conditions and ultimately his injury.

Bulley & Andrews moved to dismiss the lawsuit, arguing that the "exclusive remedy" provision of the Workers' Compensation Act prohibited a civil lawsuit against Bulley & Andrews.

Exclusive Remedy

The Illinois' Workers' Compensation Act provides that "no common law or statutory right to recover damages from the employer... is available to any employee who is covered by the provisions of this Act..."

The Workers' Compensation act defines an "employer" as any private corporation who has a person under contract for hire.

Bulley & Andrews argued that it was immune from a lawsuit because it owned Bulley Concrete and it shared certain expenses with Bulley Concrete, including workers' compensation insurance. It argued that under those circumstances, it was the "employer" of Munoz, and Munoz could only bring a workers' compensation claim, not a civil lawsuit.

The Illinois Supreme Court disagreed with Bulley & Andrews. It stated that sharing the expense of workers' compensation insurance does not, on its own, bring an entity within the

"exclusive remedy" immunity. The court noted that Bulley & Andrews were separate legal entities, and that Bulley & Andrews could not buy immunity by paying for Bulley Concrete's workers' compensation insurance.

The Supreme Court in *Munoz* cited favorably to a previous case, *Forsythe v. Clark USA, Inc.* In that case, Healy Scanlon Law Firm successfully argued before the Illinois Supreme Court on behalf of the widow of a deceased refinery worker. Healy Scanlon obtained a favorable ruling for the benefit of the widow and against Clark USA Inc. In *Forsythe*, Clark USA Inc. owned Clark Refining. Clark Refining owned an oil refinery that caught on fire due to cost cuts that were directed by Clark USA, Inc. Clark USA Inc. made very similar arguments to those of Bulley & Andrews. Ultimately, *Forsythe* helped the Illinois Supreme Court reach its position in *Munoz*.

Why This Case is Important For Injured Workers

By now you may be asking yourself why exactly this case is important for injured workers. The reason this case is vital to injured workers' rights is because a civil lawsuit allows an injured worker to recover additional elements of damages for their injuries. When you google personal injury lawsuit, you may see terms like "pain and suffering" and "loss of a normal life." These are two examples of vital elements of damage that are recoverable in a civil lawsuit, but not in a workers' compensation case. These elements of damage have the potential to add hundreds of thousands of dollars, or in some cases, millions of dollars of additional recovery for an injured worker.

By:
Michael
P. Scanlon



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Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance Opens in Downtown Lake Forest

fitzpatrickschoolofirishdance.com

The Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance is thrilled to bring traditional Irish dance to the Lake Forest community beginning in early 2022. Lessons are offered at Collective Dance, an in-town studio located at 295 E. Illinois.

Founded by local resident and certified Irish dance instructor Katie Fitzpatrick T.C.R.G., the Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance provides traditional and contemporary styles of Irish dance in all forms, including solos, figures, céilís and choreographies. The program is designed to honor both the art and discipline of Irish dance.

"My goal is to empower dancers with the skills and confidence to bring joy to others through Irish dance," said Katie. "I am excited and honored to bring this beautiful tradition, one that has been passed down for generations in Ireland, to the

Lake Forest community."

Beginner soft shoe lessons are offered to children ages 3 and up. Advanced lessons, heavy shoe and adult classes will be provided based on student progression and community

demand. Spirit wear will be available exclusively through Kiddles Sports in Market Square.

OPEN HOUSE 4-5:pm,
Saturday, February 26
Collective Dance, 295 E. Illinois

The Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance is hosting an Open House for partners, members of the media, and interested families to learn more about our program and tour the studio. Join us for live Irish music and dance! Registration is required due to capacity requirements.



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Reset

The GW. Bush era Secure Fence Act of 2006 authorizing the construction of 700 miles of fencing along the U.S.-Mexican border was sponsored by Rep. Peter King, (R-NY) and easily passed the Senate 80-19. Voting in favor were Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Chuck Schumer, Diane Feinstein, and Joe Biden. Said Schumer: "Illegal immigration is wrong, plain and simple".

But President Trump's 2018 funding request for a border wall caused a 35-day government shutdown, the longest in history. About 25% of agencies shut down entirely. The House passed a stopgap bill including funding for the wall, but that was blocked in the Senate by the threat of a Democratic filibuster, a tactic Democrats now want to ban. Back in 2005 "Senator Joe Biden said the 'nuclear option', ending filibuster, "is a fundamental power grab for the majority party".

They should take a cue from Republicans (and some Democrats) who after Roosevelt won a fourth term, proposed and passed an amendment mandating only two terms per president. Then they elected Ike the invincible... for two terms only.

What wall construction did get done before the Biden administration killed it dead was funded from the drug

forfeiture, drug interdiction, Homeland Security and military budgets. But unlike 'Field of Dreams' Park, if you don't build it, they will come.

In 2021 the number of illegal entry "encounters" by US Border Patrol officers was the highest on record, nearly 1.7 million.

But the number of separate individuals encountered was considerably lower. How can that be? Well, more than 25% of all migrant encounters at U.S. borders in both fiscal 2021 and fiscal 2020 were repeat crossers. With no detentions allowed, those not admitted for whatever reason are driven back to the border and released; then they simply recross and disappear into America.

With the Border Patrol understaffed and overwhelmed it's easy for more sophisticated crossers like cartel members, to evade detection. Conservative estimates by the Border Patrol indicate the number of people evading capture is now nearly 1,400 per day.

Travelers from countries like Canada and Europe are held to strict requirements of required vaccinations and often a negative Covid test to board a plane. In September Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorka admitted the "rate of illness" at the US southern border is now 20%, one in five migrants. Out of 10,000 migrants crossing, some 2,000 are infected with something, likely with Covid-19. They are bussed to other detention facilities or simply released and given a hearing date without so much as their temperature taken.

\$5.7 billion for a proposed wall is a hefty sum. A stack of that amount of dollar bills would be 387 miles tall. Yet it's a tiny part of our national budget.

\$5.7 billion would buy just half an aircraft carrier, or 5 B-2 bombers, or 6 Cubs franchises, or 114 hot domain names like carinsurance.com. (You've likely wondered why you get so many calls offering auto coverage.)

Or you could use 5.7 billion to profoundly change the culture and laws of some 86 large nations. In 2020 billionaire George Soros, well pleased by his success in prior political 'investments', poured nearly \$70 million into the 2020 US elections, tripling his previous record. He gets results far superior to Bloomberg who spent over 500 million on his presidential campaign only to be humiliatingly gobsnacked speechless before a national TV audience by goofy old Faux-cahontas Warren in his very first debate. Overall Soros has donated over \$32 billion over the past 30 years to advance his agenda.

Homeland Security reported figures of less than 11.4 million illegals in the U.S. in 2018. But a Yale / MIT study that year put the figure over 22 million, midway between a possible low of 16.5 million, or a high of 29.1 million.

Pew Research found that since Democrats re-entered the oval office in 2021 a record number of encounters have involved people from countries other than Mexico. The Border Patrol reported 608,037 encounters

with Mexican nationals last year, 37% of the total. The remaining 1,051,169 encounters, 63%, involved people from other countries- by far the highest total in records dating back to 2000. The number of encounters involving people from Romania rose from 266 in fiscal 2020 to 4,029 in fiscal 2021, while the number involving people from Turkey increased from 67 to 1,366. By far the largest number of encounters were single adults: 1,063,285 encounters in fiscal 2021, up from 317,864 the year before.

By comparison, the US State Department reports the number of visas issued to Ireland in 2020 was a mere 167. If you include temporary 30-day B-1/B-2 visas issued to visit the States temporarily for business or pleasure, the Irish figure rises to 6,428. The fact that the Irish have proven skills moving contraband people and goods across their own 6-county border makes me wonder why they haven't yet taken advantage of Biden's invitation. I've suggested before that a slather of Australian Gold tanning lotion and a few phrases in Gaelic might get you across disguised as an oppressed Romanian; that's if you were spotted at all by the overworked proud and few guards trying to cover a 1,954 mile border.

It's safe to say no one other than the occasional fugitive from the law is sneaking across our border from the U.S. side. Progressive media and officeholders constantly warn that America is a toxically masculine patriarchal rape culture filled with sexual harassment, violence and predation; an evil cesspool polluted by tribal prejudice, race hate, murder, inequality and oppression. It's hard to believe anyone would consider coming here.

And the border is the worst. It's 'haram'. When CNN's Anderson Cooper asked Biden about visiting, he said "I've been there before, and I haven't -- I mean, I know it well. I guess I should go down." White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki helpfully reported Biden "did drive through the border when he was on the campaign trail in 2008".

The Democrat by-word is apparently "It's not broken, so don't fix it... Don't even look at it... Pretend it's not there".

America's first black female Vice President and official Democratic Border Czar, Kamala Harris, has yet to discover it. In Guatemala last June she said: "At some point, you know, we are going to the border". She told NBC reporter Lester Holt: "We've been to the border" Holt replied, "You haven't been to the border." Harris responded: "And I haven't been to Europe", then broke into her version of the "Clinton cackle", as if to imply "what's the big deal".

Border states like Texas are trying to protect themselves by resuming the wall building, but though \$100 million worth of border wall materials lie rusting, unused, the administration plays dog-in-the-manger, refusing to let states use the taxpayer funded steel. Steel for wall in Arizona allegedly turned up for sale in Sonora, Mexico scrap yards. CBS found an ad touting posts for \$50 each; \$800 per truckload, delivered.

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WE GET LETTERS

Bloody Sunday: Remembering Loss and Commemorating Resistance

a Chara,
Last weekend marked the 50th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday in Derry 1972 when the British Army Parachute Regiment killed fourteen civil rights protestors and injured many more. All were unarmed and innocent.

It remains a tragedy for the people of Derry who lost loved ones. It also marked a turning point in modern Irish history. A point when it became clear that the call for equality, change, and justice could not be intimidated or beaten off the streets.

The protestors were attending a march against Internment.

Internment laws allowed the state to arrest any citizen at any time and detain them for any period of time. Some were held for years. It was a power that the Unionist government gave itself in 1921. It had been used exclusively against the Nationalist/Republican community in every decade since the foundation of the state to imprison and suppress dissent.

In August 1971 with the support of the British Gov-

ernment, the Unionist regime reintroduced Internment. But this time circumstances had changed. The Nationalists were a risen people and openly challenged the Unionist regime. Internment had failed to break the will of people so they sent in the parachute regiment.

This regiment had killed 10 people the previous August in Ballymurphy. They had killed with impunity then and would do so again on the streets of Derry.

After the killings in Derry, like in Ballymurphy, a cover-up operation was put into effect and would remain in place for 40 years. In the case of Ballymurphy, it took 50 years to uncover the truth.

The Unionist regime and the brutality the British Army unleashed on the streets of Derry failed to intimidate and oppress the people. It was an injustice that intensified resistance. After Bloody Sunday all had changed.

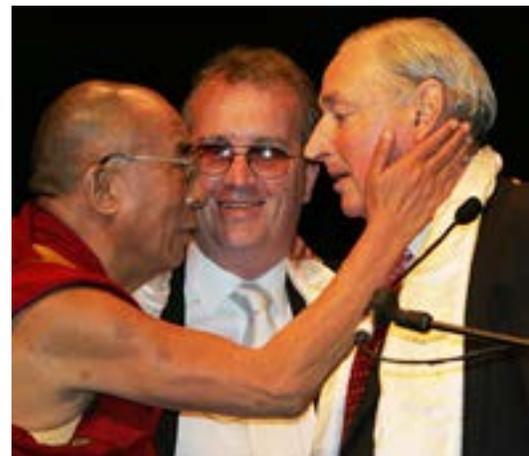
The truth about Bloody Sunday is out. The Unionist regime is gone.

Now is a time to commemorate the resistance and resil-

ience of those that came before us. Thankfully this generation does not have to face those challenges and we look to a future free of threat and violence. A time to build a new and united Ireland. *Ciarán*

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America .

Pictured: (l to r): The Dalai Lama, Richard Moore, who was blinded by a rubber bullet on Bloody Sunday, January 30, 1972, and the soldier that fired the bullet, Charles Inness, who apologized to Richard. Richard forgave him, and they have met several times since.



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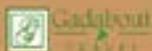
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The Irish Memory Box is an intergenerational podcast that captures the memories of the Irish community. A podcast is a recording that can be accessed at any time on the internet.

The Irish Memory Box is a way for the youth and elders in our community to connect by telling stories and asking questions. It is a place to immortalize real Irish lives and share lived experiences. If you or your loved one would like to be involved, please call the ICS office at **773-282-8445** or email info@irishchicago.org.

EVENTS FOR SENIORS

We WILL be back!

Due to the worsening pandemic, we have made the difficult decision to move **ALL** senior group meetings back to an online format until it is once again safe to meet in-person. This return to remote programs is heartbreaking; since last September, we have so enjoyed being with one another again. We are committed to resuming our mornings together as soon as possible. Until then, please join us online or by phone for upcoming programs and know that you are missed!

Monthly Musical Gathering

Wednesday 2nd February: 10.30 a.m. - 11.30a.m.

Join us for another morning of good craic and live Irish music performed by Terry Byrne on vocals and guitar.

Train Your Age

Wednesday 9th February: 10.30 a.m. - 11.30a.m.

Joni Grant is a personal trainer who will teach you how to 'train your age'. As we age we face bone and muscle loss, balance issues, and loss of mobility; Joni will tell us how to combat these issues!

Wild Irish Women

Wednesday 16th February: 10.30 a.m. - 11.30a.m.

Theresa Choske is back to share the wild stories of lesser-known women from Irish history!

Chair Yoga

Wednesday 23rd February: 10.30 a.m. - 11.30a.m.

Our friends over at Body & Brain Yoga will be teaching us some low-mobility yoga. Yoga can increase flexibility, muscle strength, and energy! Join us to learn how we can stay fit without leaving our seats.

HOW TO JOIN ONLINE MEETINGS

Our online meetings are held on the platform **Zoom**.

You can join using a computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone!

Remember: Participate at your comfort level! Feel free to leave your video and audio switched off, you can still enjoy the program and presentation without being on display.

A few minutes before the program is scheduled to begin, use your internet browser to go to the website listed below.

www.zoom.us

Click on '**join meeting**' at the top right side of your screen. Enter the Meeting ID listed below in the box titled '**Meeting ID or Personal Link Name**'

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Click on the '**Join**' button and you'll be joined into the meeting - welcome!



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23rd Chicago Irish Film Festival: March 3-13, 2022 - HYBRID STYLE!

This year, as a hybrid festival you can join us at our wonderful screening venues for four days and nights enjoying films on the big screen with friends and family as we celebrate Irish films and filmmakers! You can also enjoy the festival online! We will be bringing much of the festival program to our Elevent platform so all you need to bring is the popcorn!

If you've missed traveling, and who hasn't, this year's festival will transport you across Ireland with humor, horror, and history, from Dublin to Belfast, Ballylough to Killyleagh and Cork to Carlingford, capturing a landscape of untold beauty and creative storytelling from coast to coast.

Opening the festival is **DOINNEAN** (STORM) the first Irish language mystery



thriller shot in Northern Ireland and directed by Damian McCann. Set on a remote island off the northwest coast of Ireland, investigative journalist Tomás (Peter Coonan) and his family live a quiet life, until one day his wife and son go missing while he's on assignment on the mainland. Suspecting the worse Tomás looks to retired policewoman Labhaoise (Brid Brennan) for help, desperate to find them before a deadly storm shuts the island down.

Closing the festival are two screenings that have more than their fair share of nonsense. With the support of the Irish Film Institute the festival is delighted to be screening the recently restored 1938 classic **BLARNEY** starring the much-loved



Irish actor and comedian Jimmy O'Dea and Irish stage legend Noel Purcell in a farce that lives up to its title. Shot in County Louth the film centers on a cross border rivalry between a southern garda and a northern RUC man for the love of a local girl and a hapless cough-medicine salesman (O'Dea) who works the border and accidentally gets involved with jewel thieves when they give him a lift to Greenore. The second film is the delightful Irish language comedy **RÓISE and FRANK** (MO GRAH BUAN) directed by Rachel



Rose and Frank

Moriarty and Peter Murphy, starring Bríd Ní Neachtain, Cillian O'Gairbhi and Lorcán Cranitch and filmed in the Waterford. **Róise**, a recent widow, has all but given up on life, until one day she encounters a stray dog and becomes convinced it's the re-incarnation of her hurling-loving husband Frank after he leads her to their favorite spot. Despite doubts concerning her sanity, by family and friends, **Róise** follows her heart and finds a new way of looking at life.

In between the opening and closing screenings is the caustic black comedy **REDEMPTION OF A ROGUE** directed by



Redemption of a Rogue

Phil Doherty and starring Aaron Monaghan as nihilist, Jimmy, who has a hilariously bleak view on life. Filled with guilt and shame Jimmy returns to his rain-soaked hometown of Cavan to atone for his sins only to find himself stuck in a Groundhog Day-like purgatory. Tom Cosgrove's **HILLWALKERS** finds us out on the bogs of Glenkill as a group of urban dwellers head off for a charity walk that turns into a life-or-death scramble in the foggy

wilderness that borders an off the grid backwoods farm. Back in Dublin we meet Mags, a hot-headed pizza delivery cyclist, who sees herself as totally self-sufficient until her bike is stolen and she's on the verge of eviction during Dublin's housing crisis. Conor O'Toole's **BICYCLES THIEVES: PUMPED UP** is part investiga-



tive thriller, part heist and part magical action comedy that is a wild ride from start to finish. And **KEEP IT A SECRET** is the ride many people wish they could take on the glorious surfing waves on



Ireland's western coast. Sean Duggan's documentary is the amazing true story of establishing the country as an international surfing destination during the ongoing conflict of the Troubles as Ireland hosted the 1972 Eurosurf championship.

Other features screening during the festival are Connor Slattery's **ONCE UPON A TIME IN IRELAND**, Emma Bowell's **THE QUAY CO-OP**, Niall Owen's



Hillwalkers

GATEWAY, Peter Kincaid's **ALIQUIPPA, PA**, Jonathan Creasy's **THE BLUE SHROUD**, Colin Hickey's **WHERE THE MERROWS ROAM** and Danny Patrick's **THE MALTESE CONNECTION**.

And in keeping with tradition the festival will screen over forty short films with such fascinating topics as artificial intelligence, pig branding, vampires wee folk, bank heist and chicken suits!

Chicago Irish Film Festival-Hybrid Style: IN PERSON March 3-6 | ONLINE March 7-13

FULL PROGRAM & TICKETS @ chicagoirishfilmfestival.com

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2022 CIFF IN PERSON Screening Locations:

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THE LOGAN THEATRE: 2646 N. Mil-

waukee Avenue, Chicago SOCIETY FOR ARTS Gallery Theatre: 1112 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago

PLEASE NOTE: Not all films will be available Online or In-Person please check program for each film's screening options.

COVID 19 UPDATE: All guests and staff will be required to comply with the City of Chicago's Health & Safety protocols while attending any of the festival's screenings at all locations. All guests and staff are required to provide proof of vaccination. Please arrive early to be checked in. Updates to this policy will be on our website.

The 23rd CIFF is presented in partnership with the Consul General of Ireland-Chicago, IFI-International & Culture Ireland with aims to strategically build an audience for Irish film through worldwide cultural exhibition.



Art of Irish Conversation

You probably have heard that the Irish are famous for the gift of gab and something about the famous Blarney stone in Co. Cork. (limestone built into the castle and kissing it gives you the gift of flattery) I am partial to that belief, but it also might imply that we make a lot of stories up and they are not credible. That I don't believe to be true. English is the most spoken language in the world, and I think that Irish speak it very eloquently and creatively.

Conversation is the exchange of thoughts, feelings and ideas and it involves observing facial expressions that shows one's emotions. Hopefully when it's needed, we can express empathy and compassion to each other.

It has often been said that Irish people are always joking and laughing and seem to live carefree. That is very true, perhaps the Irish have a great talent for making the world laugh, God knows we need it in these trying times. We engage in very serious conversation that any culture might have we do however try to put some balance and at times a joke in the mix when we can. We speak a type of Hiberno-English, our syntax, pronunciation, vocabulary and idioms are all our own.

In France they are known to enjoy a good debate. In Sweden I heard they dislike small talk; it just isn't valued in the "Elongated country" (their nickname). In Ireland small talk is very welcome, for example the people could talk about the weather all day and they do. (humidity, rainfall, type of rainfall) Conversation as we all know is a two-way street (dialogue/debate) but often someone in a group usually dominates the discussion. It is said that the most talkative country in the world is America. I think face to face conversation is richer than tech conversation. And sadly, it seems tech conversation is on the rise and face to face conversation is becoming rare. Conversation is a skill; it needs to be practiced, it stimulates growth and our cognition skills.

Years ago, there was a thing called, Ar cuirt in Ireland where people would call to each other's houses and talk for hours sharing news about relatives or anyone in the town. People would gather round and talk by the fire-side. The art of conversation was in full swing because it had to be, there was no emailing, no internet, cell phones or TV. Information was repeated, was savored, shared and probably mixed up at times. It took time for friends/anyone to get the information. For everyone to know the news/story instantaneously or the same day something happened was unheard of and impossible. The sound of Irish speech is unique in that Irish speak in softer tones and sometimes when we say the word, yes it accompanies a little gasp. Irish people can talk for hours at a time, we are famous for storytelling. The irony in the amount of talk is they don't need to share anything personal however if an American is talking for a shorter span, they have usually shared their life story. It is not a criticism just a difference in culture. Irish people tend to keep private things to themselves and are not used to

sharing. Maybe some things would have been better said and shared instead of going with people to their graves. I think conversation is such an important skill and I know it's a dying art because I don't hear it from young people.

I hope one of your New Year's Resolutions is to try to have a conversation everyday with someone other than the people you live with. Put the texting, emailing, smartphone down for a while. "limits of my language means the limits of my world" "the English took our land and made it a barren waste, we took their language and made it beautiful" Oscar Wilde

For February I'd like to highlight St. Bridget, I was born on St. Bridget's Day.

"Saint Brigid" by Paul Neeley

You were a woman of peace.

You brought harmony where there was conflict.

You brought light to the darkness.

You brought hope to the downcast.

May the mantle of your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious, and may peace be firmly rooted in our hearts and in our world.

Inspire us to act justly and to reverence all God has made.

Brigid you were a voice for the wounded and the weary.

Strengthen what is weak within us.

Calm us into a quietness that heals and listens.

May we grow each day into greater wholeness in mind, body and spirit.

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Game On!

By Chris Wheaton



I am going out on a limb here and saying that winter in the Chicago area is not fun. An ice storm followed by a snow storm followed by sub-zero temperature is just not right.

How is one to train for the upcoming hurling season when your hands are numb and your face has grown icicles? Yes, the USGAA National Tournament at our own Gaelic Park is not until August 19 but the work done today is what brings success in August.

The attitude that "I can always start training when the weather warms up" doesn't work. Every day builds upon the last and waiting for the summer to start will set you back. I ask people on our team if they would wait until the month before a marathon to start training? Of course not, you can't just "jump in" and run 26 miles. Similarly you cannot expect to be at your best on the hurling pitch at the National Tournament if your hurley has been in storage for six months.

That being said, what is the aspiring or even the veteran

hurler to do when the weather does not cooperate? Here at the Naperville Hurling Club we have taken our act indoors and are playing a Pub League season through the cold, snowy months.

Indoor hurling is a completely different animal than the traditional game known as the "fastest game on grass". The purists do not particularly like the game, and I too am not a fan. I can only

describe indoor hurling as pinball on a big field. The turf is far nicer than anything we play on outside, the ball (sliotar) bounces far truer than it ever would on a grass pitch, sideline cuts are contested with more of a golf swing than anything else and a "65" is really about a "35".

The use of ground hurling which has not been a huge part of the traditional game for many years is the dominant way of moving the ball down the field.

The weakest player can advance the ball simply by whacking at it and never has to develop the skill of getting the ball into the hand and actually using a hand pass or the

hurley to advance down the pitch. The indoor game presents other challenges with 4 walls surrounding the pitch but that actually forces a team to concentrate on crisp passing in order to keep the ball in play.

The key to being successful in hurling is possession. If you don't have the ball, you can't score so any activity that emphasizes possession will hopefully pay dividends come the outdoor season.

There are some other benefits to indoor hurling that I would be remiss if I didn't mention even though I have made my personal feelings known. First of all,

our indoor league has opened up our club to a bunch of new players. I don't know where they have all come from but it appears that the warmth of the Naperville Yard has been a great recruiting tool for us. Secondly, indoor hurling is a fantastic workout. It is high intensity interval training using short bursts of speed with little rest between those bursts. The shorter pitch and indoor turf makes the game faster, and the lack of wind adds an element to the game rarely seen outdoors.

Naperville is not the only place where GAA sports have moved indoors. A few weeks ago the Connacht Air Dome in Ireland hosted the first ever inter-county GAA game. The air dome is the largest indoor facility of its type in the world with a roof height of 26 meters (twice the height of the goalposts) and a full length field. The temperature controlled arena was a huge hit and may become the wave of the future in Ireland as it has here for sports such as lacrosse and soccer. I don't see a downside to any "gimmick" that advances GAA sports even if it means playing hurling indoors for a few months.

If you are intrigued by the possibility of getting to learn hurling in a warm, inviting atmosphere, reach out to the Naperville Hurling Club. We can be found at Naperville Yard at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings or at naperhurling.com. Our mission is to advance Irish culture and promote the Gaelic sports. All levels from beginners to county level players are welcome and I can guarantee you will never meet a better group of people.

Our club, like most USGAA clubs, are always looking for people interested in trying something new. The beauty of hurling for Americans is that most everyone started

at the very bottom, never having played the game before. It is a fun game played with great people with no judgment whatsoever. And some of the players become very good at it!

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Hibernian Media Poised for Global Syndication of "Our Irish Pub" TV show

By Izzy Cusack

It's been eight years since the Houlihan family founded Hibernian Media as a public charity dedicated to Irish and Irish American culture, "telling stories to enlighten future generations while honoring our ancestors".

Mike Houlihan says, "We had to change our name from Hibernian 'Trans' media to just Hibernian Media because everybody kept asking me where was my dress? It meant something a lot different back then, the world is crazy."

Crazy for the great work of the Houlihan family and their ever-widening circle of friends with radio shows, films, film festivals, pilgrimages to Ireland and plenty of music.

International Irish fiddler Katie

Grennan returns with OUR IRISH PUB 2022 as she takes us back to "The Cork & Kerry Irish Pub" to party with The Larkin & Moran Brothers, Jimmy Cloonan & Friends, young Irish step dancers Jack Bullington, Michalene Donnelly, Maggie Olk, and the pipes and drums of the



Chicago Garda for a Southside of Chicago "hooley" of music and craic. Then she's off to Ireland to visit with The Chieftains legendary flautist Matt Molloy as he and his son Peter kick it with Katie and Chicago's own All-Ireland squeeze box champion John Williams at "Matt

Molloy's Irish Pub" in Westport, County Mayo. Katie then introduces us to "The Mystic Rogue Irish Pub" in Edison Park where she jumps on the stage with local favorites The Chancey Brothers, as they bring down the house with many a tune that will get your toes tapping. Don't miss this latest installment of OUR IRISH PUB this St. Patrick's Day at 11PM on WTTW Chicago Public Television.

More info at hibernianmedia.org

How did you all get over Christmas? Ours was quiet as we had quite a gathering for thanksgiving. It was so lovely to have our vaccinated friends and family with us. We emptied out the

sunroom put up banquet tables and chairs my kids said it looked like we were having a wedding. We lit the fire and candles decorated the tables in fall flowers I was in my element as I love decorating. We made the most of it not knowing when we might all get together again. We played charades with the kids and wrapped up weird prizes. That was huge part of it too people love getting something free yes they were weird but functioning prizes. They had the last laugh when it was the adults time to perform they loved seeing us make a fool out of ourselves. Shout out to Mj, Sorcha, Bridie and Michael for keeping us entertained.

Christmas seemed to come upon us really fast but you know in reality it never does. We know it's straight after thanksgiving but we leave everything to Christmas week trying to be traditional like our parents.

Running around like chickens with our heads cut of as my Donegal dad used to say. We put a lot of pressure on ourselves putting up decorations buying gifts cleaning the house from top to bottom as if someone's going to walk in and do the white glove test!.

Then there's all that baking. We feel guilty if we don't get something in the oven and try to bake like our mothers, grandmothers traditional mince pies or Christmas cakes or whatever your family did for you growing up. (you know you can always take the stress away by stopping by our local Irish import stores)Yes everyone thinks they have to

make or bake something even if its frozen cookie dough. i love cooking but I actually found a really good German light fruit cake without all the huge big red cherries I iced it with royal icing no marzipan my husband doesn't like it .I decorated with the famous silver balls and miniature Santa and Christmas tree. It looked so adorable just like my mothers. Why did I do this because I had already finished my Christmas baking on the first week in December but we have two legged mice that have sugar cravings so everything was pretty much gone by Christmas. I did make more of our traditional sweet mince pies for our new year's party. Unfortunately we had to cancel it but health and safety first. Naturally our kids were disappointed as they always love to blow up tons of balloons and put them inside an old net curtain the same old raggedy one that we have used for many years. Tape

GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



it to the ceiling hoping it doesn't slip down before its time. Then as the clock strikes midnight with the much anticipated balloon drop the kids go crazy it's like a stampede of Frisian cows trying to bust every balloon into tiny pieces that I still find lodged in weird places months after the cleanup. But a whole lot of red faced smiling kids. So this New Year it was just us but we made the most of it. My favorite thing is to play their baby, toddler videos of course you know I shed a little tear. We try and just watch the Christmas ones. I love watching their faces remembering gifts Santa had brought. For me now that they are grown I feel so lucky that we have all this footage. Growing up we barely had a photo. You were lucky to have a Holy Communion photo. Kids are so busy these days just being together in one room is enough for me.

January 6th we celebrate little Christmas for all the hard working women who slogged over the Christmas festivities. Normally I try and meet up with some close friends. One year we met at the Heritage Center for a high tea. Everything has changed now with covid as we avoid large indoor gatherings.

I am hoping we will definitely all get together again for Saint Patrick's Day. Another of my kid's favorites as they get to invite their friends over. My kids tell me mum they just come to hear you and your friends Irish accents? My kids are so funny they call me on the phone and keep me talking about nothing then I realize their friends are listening in to hear my accent so

Margaret O'Donnell, a member of the **Francis O'Neill Club**, passed away in January.



She was a native of Letterbrock, Westport, Co. Mayo, Ireland; beloved wife of the late Michael; devoted daughter of the late Anthony Kerrigan and Annie nee Mulroe; loving sister of Monica McEvoy, Agnes Byers and the late Thomas Kerrigan, Teresa Hopkins, Annie Heraty, Philomena Joyce, and John Kerrigan; dear aunt of many; Interment All Saints Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Gibbons Family Funeral Home. www.GFFH.com

Interment All Saints Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Gibbons Family Funeral Home. www.GFFH.com

sometimes I try and put on my best American accent which actually sounds more Australian. I dread the drive through as my kids order weird sounding food

and all I can hear from the other end is "excuse me what was that can you repeat it sorry excuse me what was that can you repeat it please." Yes of course my kids are in the back seat rolling around with laughter .So guess what! They are now driving so they can pick up their own food. I do miss us all hanging out laughing together poking fun at each other. Thank goodness my kids have our sense of humor. Our children are precious to us. Recently Ireland was stunned and heart broken by the murder of twenty three years old Ashling Murphy struck down in her prime while out for her morning run. All of Ireland held a candle vigil for her and her devastated family. Ireland has lost a beautiful daughter but gained an Angel to look

down on her family and keep them safe. Rest in peace Ashling justice will prevail.



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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

Is There Anything More Wicked than the Murder of a Child's Innocence?

Yesterday I mentally tossed out everything I had intended to write this month. All of it. After the brutal murder of Ashling Murphy this Wednesday past, anything I had to joke about seemed trivial.

People get murdered every day, right? And the truth - and it's a sad truth - is that we are desensitized to horror and murder. We shouldn't be but there you go. We shrug our shoulders and say that this is just the way the world is, as if that is in ANY WAY an acceptable thing to think.

So why did Ashling Murphy's murder punch all of us here in Ireland so collectively in the gut? Speaking personally, why did I feel so terribly affected by it?

I would imagine that for most women it was the stark fact that Ashling Murphy was murdered in the afternoon. In the town of Tullamore, County Offaly. Out for

a run after finishing work. Sweet Jesus, how do you even begin to get your head around that? And one of the cruelest of ironies: her murder took place on Fiona's Way, named after Fiona Pender, a pregnant woman who went missing along this 3km stretch in 1996.

Ashling Murphy was a 23-year-old primary schoolteacher at Scoil Naomh Colmcille in Durrow, Offaly. And she appears to have lived a life that was full indeed. She had played camogie with the Kilcormac Killoughey club since her early years and was so enthusiastic about her love of traditional music that she gave lessons twice a week. She was in a choir and toured all over Ireland and the UK.

The pain in my heart, when I think of this beautiful young woman, inside and out, who has had her life taken from her. I can't even begin to imagine the agony

her family are going through.

This has affected Ireland in a profound way, nighttime vigils taking place all over the country. And usually I'm cynical about

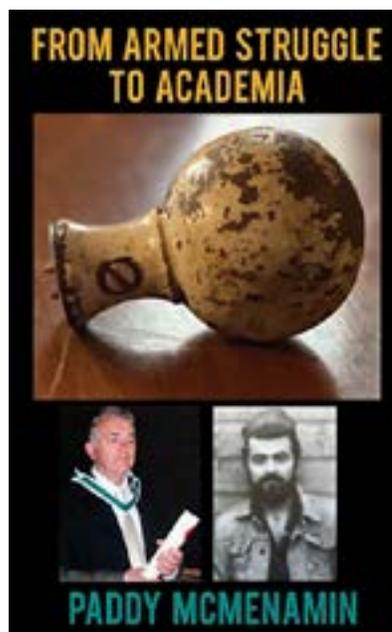
such things - and most certainly will continue to be about the usual political suspects who are turning up to mouth platitudes before undoubtedly disappearing never to be heard from again. Yet this time I see the point. Vigils are for ourselves rather than the person gone. It's not for me but I finally get it.

I can't speak for why anyone else feels the loss of this young woman's life so personally, but in my own case I think it's because I find it hard to get the thought of her little seven-year-old pupils out of my mind.

When I was a seven-year-old my grandmother on my mam's side died of cancer at the ludicrously young age of 50. The C-word wasn't used much back then but little pitchers have big ears and kids tend to ferret out a lot of information that they shouldn't really have.

A couple of years later - 1968 -- we were in class when word came from the then-mysterious land of America that Robert Kennedy had been assassinated. We children were bundled up and sent home, such was the shock among the adults. And when kids see adults put out and upset it has quite an effect on them. For many years afterwards the word 'cancer' and the name 'Sirhan Sirhan', Kennedy's alleged assassin, were strangely mixed up in my mind.

The children in Ashling Murphy's class will receive counselling of course, but that wasn't available



in my day. What we did have was a rather marvelous young teacher - I remember that she was 21 years old which seemed a mighty age to us - who guided us through our first assimilations of the concept of death. She was such a good person and when she left to become a nurse we clubbed together as a class and bought her one of those little upside-down watches that they wear. When I thought of Ashling's youngsters this week I was reminded of that young woman for the first time in years; and also reminded that a good teacher is worth more than jewels.

Those children who were under her guidance will now be coming to terms with such adult facts as death and - how truly awful for them - murder. And one other thing haunts me these past few days: it was pointed out to me that for many of these children they would be seeing images of their teacher's face for the very first time. It took a moment for it to dawn on me but yes, of course: the Covid masks. How dreadful and how terribly, terribly sad this all is.

I hope that this idea of bringing violence against women right down to zero tolerance is not simply words thrown into the wind. I don't believe it can be done completely because there are men out there who simply hate women; but men's attitudes have changed for the better these past years. Unlike decades past I know of no man who would laugh at a rape 'joke' or an abused woman 'joke'. In fact, they would very quickly find themselves called out on it.

So yes, bit by painful bit we are getting there; but we have a long way to go.

I hope with all my heart that by the time you read this the monster who has destroyed so many lives is behind bars. That monster has robbed the world of the type of person who contributes so much while they contribute nothing but misery and heartbreak. ###

Over the past few years, I've mentioned the name of Paddy McMenamin a couple of times in these columns. He's a neighbour and friend here in Oranmore, County Galway. Paddy was a political prisoner in Long Kesh who later went back to school and graduated with - among other things - a BA in English and History and a Masters in History. At the urging of his partner Mary, he has finally put his remarkable life down between book covers and 'From Armed Struggle to Academia' comes out next month.

If you happen to be reading this online in Ireland and want to attend one of the book launches, here are the dates; but they're not set in stone so call ahead first.

13/ 14th February - Felon's Club, Falls Road, Belfast.

18th February - Lagoon, Termon, Donegal.

19th February - Bookmark, Lettorkenny.

26th February - Charlie Byrne's Bookshop, Galway.

4th March - Merchant City & Calton Bookstore, Gallowgate, Glasgow.

I'll be at the one in Charlie Byrne's, Galway. If you should happen to be there, say hello!

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St. Patrick's Day! March 17th
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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hello everyone, I'm sure you will have heard by now that Liam McShane, father of Natasha, who was attacked in Chicago passed away suddenly in the early hours of St. Stephen's Day. The people of Chicago really poured their hearts out to the McShane family after that terrible night in Bucktown when Natasha was attacked with a baseball bat by

Heriberto Viramontes on April 23rd, 2010. He is now serving a 90-year prison sentence for his crime. I was able to attend Liam's funeral at St. Brigid's Church in Glassdrummond South Armagh. There was a massive crowd at his funeral. I'm sure everyone in Chicago and elsewhere will keep Liam's family in their prayers. To the entire family circle, we offer our heartfelt condolences at this time. May he rest in Peace.

It seems lately that the music world has suffered some great losses. I also attended the funeral of Tony Campbell, he was a very dear friend of mine for years. Tony was the Engineer at Big Tom's Recording Studios, Castleblayney, Co Monaghan. He recorded stars

like Philomena Begley and just about anyone you can think of. I recorded my first albums there and Tony would always take me to his house every day for dinner, which his wonderful wife Delores would have ready for us. He would always give me encouragement with my songwriting and it's thanks to him that Daniel O'Donnell recorded a song of mine on his first album. The song was called 'My Side Of The Road'. Castleblayney was known back then as the Nashville of Ireland. Tony Campbell was there through it all and not only was he a great engineer, but he was also a gentle soul and a blessing to be around. R.I.P. Thank you Fr. Brian D'arcy for such a loving tribute to Tony.

club. With so much passion for music, Aishling would teach local children every Friday evening and all day Saturday. She wanted the music to live on through the youngsters. To say Ireland is in mourning right now is an understatement. I have never met Aishling but like everyone else, I'm heart-broken thinking of the pain a loving family is going through right now. We send our prayers and deepest sympathies to the Murphy family.

I would also like to send my sincere condolences to Maura Broderick and her family on the passing of her wonderful husband Larry Broderick R.I.P. Larry was the president of the Brian Boru Irish Club in England and a dear friend to my brother Nick and me.

This month's song is only a couple of weeks old and was written by Stephen Smyth and me.

Be good to one another, Joe!

[Joe's FaceBook Music Page](#)

[Joe's FaceBook Songwriter Page Website](#)

[Joe's ian Monthly Columns](#)

Ireland is in shock right now over the cruel murder of Aishling Murphy from Blueball, Co Offaly. Aishling was 23 years old, a school teacher, an outstanding musician, and a member of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. She had also played camogie with the Kilcormac Killoughy

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'The Heart Of A Real Good Friend'

Written by Joe McShane and Stephen Smyth

Verse 1
 Well I'm sittin' here on the side of the road, just outside my hometown
 In my broken truck in the pouring rain, I see my neighbor slowing down
 He hitch's me up to his pickup truck and tows me to my house
 The very next day he was needing some help, so I gave him my plow
 Chorus
 We all need a friend to lean on when things are going wrong
 And a little deed of kindness helps to pass the love along
 The greatest gifts are not for sale on that you can depend
 The most precious gift in this whole world
 is the heart of a real good friend

Verse 2
 When I was a kid, I remember well sitting on my Granddad's knee
 With a loving smile and some gentle words, he passed along to me
 I could sit all day and listen to this man who loved me so
 I think about the things I learned no matter where I go
 Chorus
 We all need a friend to lean on when things are going wrong
 And a little deed of kindness helps to pass the love along
 The greatest gifts are not for sale on that you can depend
 The most precious gift in this whole world
 is the heart of a real good friend

Verse 3
 There's one more thing I'd like to say in this final verse
 I bet you've never ever seen a tow bar on a hearse
 So you never know what's up ahead as you travel around life's bends
 But one thing is for certain you'll always need a friend



St. Patrick's Day Dinner 2022

The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago is delighted to be gathering members and guest together for our 120th Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Friday, March 11 at the Hilton Chicago.

President John Wrenn commented, "After two years of not being in person, we are excited to be hosting our St. Patrick's Day Dinner again this year. A big thank you to Hon. Bridget Gainer and Jim Tracy for accepting the leadership of this important event for the Irish Fellowship Club and Chicago."

The 2022 Annual Dinner will recognize Hon. John Griffin, the Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Consul General Kevin Byrne, the Guest of Honor. The Irish Fellowship Club is particularly proud that Hon. John Griffin, is a former President of the Irish Fellowship Club and long-time leader of our activities as well as a strong Irish leader in Chicago. Proceeds from the dinner will support the Irish Fellowship Club Education and Cultural Foundation with provides scholarships to each of the Catholic high schools in the Chicagoland area as well as grants to Irish cultural organizations in Chicago.

The Irish Fellowship Club Dinner also recognizes our past Chairman with the Richard J. Daley Award as a thank you for outstanding service to the Club. This year, the Club is pleased to honor three of our past Chairmen, Hon. John Griffin, Kevin Flood, and Rose Doherty.

Chaired by Hon. Bridget Gainer, Cook County Commissioner and James T. Tracy, President, Chicago Firefighters Union Local 2, the event will begin with cocktails at 6pm and dinner at 7:30pm. Following dinner, guests will dance to the music of Rich Daniels and the City Lights Orchestra. Tickets are \$175/person or \$1750/table of ten.

The Irish Fellowship Club also seeks sponsors for the event.

★ Emerald Sponsor: \$10,000 (name in program book and table of 10 near dance floor). ★ Celtic Sponsor: \$5,000 (name in program book and table of 10 Premier Seating). ★ Shamrock Sponsor: \$2,500 (name in program book and table of 10).

For information, go to the website: www.irishfellowshipclub.com or call Executive Director, Kathy Taylor before March 1, 2022 at (312) 858-0628



Kevin Flood, Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, Rose Doherty

The Irish Fellowship Club Educational & Cultural Foundation is the charitable arm of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago

The Foundation supports Irish cultural organizations in the Chicago area and most importantly, provides scholarship assistance to students in need in each of the Catholic high schools in the Chicagoland area. Your participation as a hole sponsor or through raffle tickets will help support our mission. You can further support the Club's mission and be the first to know about upcoming Irish Fellowship events by becoming a member.



(l to r): Governor Pritzker, and former Taoiseach,



(l to r): Parade Grand Marshall; John Griffin, James Coyne, Leo Vadikar, Irish Consul Kevin Byrne, & John Wrenn

Join the Irish Fellowship Club

The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago has been getting the Irish together since 1901. Become a part of this historic organization that has a great time throughout the year, while helping others through their Educational and Cultural Foundation, the charitable arm of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago. The Foundation supports philanthropic causes in the Chicago area and most importantly, provides scholarship assistance to students in need in each of the Catholic high schools in the Chicagoland area.

Apply on the website: www.irishfellowshipclub.com or by mailing the form below to the Irish Fellowship Club at P.O. Box 31604, Chicago, IL 60631

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Or you can mail this form with a \$75 check for membership dues to:			
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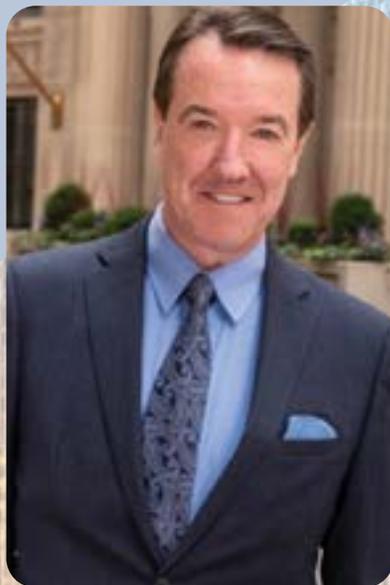
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