

**December 2017**

*Wishing you a  
Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year*



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for Misericordia  
Residents  
Story on page 26*

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## SS Irish Parade Announces 2018 Grand Marshal and Parade Honoree

The South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee announced Special Olympics Chicago will lead the 40th Annual parade as the Grand Marshal. In 2018, Special Olympics Chicago will celebrate its 50th year of offering athletic training and competition to children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Amyloidosis Support Groups and The Martin McGarry Family were named the 2018 Parade Honoree. The nonprofit organization is dedicated to the support, education and empowerment of Amyloidosis patients, caregivers and former caregivers. The Grand Marshal and Honoree will lead the parade set to step off at noon on Sunday, March 11, 2018, from 103rd and Western in Chicago's Beverly/Morgan Park neighborhood.

"It's been a long standing tradition for the South Side Irish Parade to honor nonprofit organizations that work hard to help others in our neighborhood and this year we are especially proud to honor Amyloidosis Support Groups, the McGarry Family and Special Olympics Chicago," said Ed Haggerty, co-chair of the South Side Irish Parade Committee. "In fact, the first Special Olympics Games were held right here in Chicago in 1968 at Soldier Field and we are excited to toast their 50 years of serving athletes in our community," added Haggerty.

Special Olympics Chicago is one of the largest programs in the country offering training and competition for more than 7,500 athletes in 22 sports throughout the year. The organization provides opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendships with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. Special Olympic programming is available in over 122 Chicago Public Schools throughout the city and in 23 Chicago Park District locations.

"We are honored to be selected as the Grand Marshal of the South

Side Irish Saint Patrick's Day Parade and look forward to sharing the experience with many of our local athletes, their families and our supporters from the Southside and throughout Chicagoland," said Kevin Magnuson, president of Special Children's Charities and Special Olympics Chicago. "2018 is going to be a huge year for our organization as we prepare to host a week of exciting events in July featuring the first-ever Special Olympics Unified Cup and a Global Day of Inclusion, where the public can join in athletic competition alongside Special Olympics athletes," added Magnuson.

Special Olympics Chicago's largest fundraiser, the annual Polar Plunge, will return to North Avenue Beach on Sunday, March 4, 2018. To show their support, the South Side Irish Parade will jump in with a special Parade Polar Plunge team including many members of the Parade Committee. Those interested in sponsoring the South Side Irish Parade Team or creating a Polar Plunge team can visit [sochicago.org/polar-plunge](http://sochicago.org/polar-plunge) and sign up today.

The parade will also honor nonprofit organization Amyloidosis Support Groups and The Martin McGarry Family. Amyloidosis is a rare disease caused by deposits of amyloid protein fibrils in one or more organs causing the organ to malfunction. The heart, kidneys, nervous system and gastrointestinal tract are most often affected. There are many variations of amyloidosis each with a wide range of symptoms, requiring different treatments; therefore, the correct and early diagnosis is vitally important to patients and their families.

Amyloidosis Support Groups provides information and resources from the medical community involved in the research and treatment of Amyloidosis to individuals and families suffering from the disease.

Martin McGarry is a local Beverly resident and former Golden Gloves Boxing title winner bat-



ting familial Amyloidosis who has lost several members of his family to the disease including his mother, brothers, sister, aunts, uncle and cousins. He resorted to seeking medical treatment for his rare disease as far away as Germany and later in Boston before more local medical centers and doctors became familiar with the disease. McGarry hopes to help more patients and families find medical resources available with access to treatment plans early on in the disease cycle to support stronger outcomes.

"We are thrilled to be a part of the South Side Irish Parade and look forward to raising awareness of this rare disease that has taken multiple members of my family and so many others," shared McGarry.

Amyloidosis support groups offering a wealth of resources on the disease can be found in Chicagoland by visiting [amyloidosisupport.org](http://amyloidosisupport.org) or calling 866-404-7539.

### About The South Side Irish Parade:

The South Side Irish Parade will kick off the festivities with a pre-parade fundraiser on Saturday, February 3, 2018. The event is held earlier this year and will feature raffle prizes, a silent auction, the South Side Irish Parade Queen Selection, live Irish music and much more. The party will be held at 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 West 115th Street, Merri-

nette Park, IL, 60803.

The parade is operated by the South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade and Heritage Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, where more than 100 volunteers work year-round

to ensure this family-friendly celebration continues for future generations.

[www.southsideirishparade.org](http://www.southsideirishparade.org) for more information on the pre-parade fundraiser and the South Side Irish Parade.

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# Quade's Christmas Bingo Returns: It's a Ho-Ho-Ho-Holy Night Out!!!

Vicki Quade returns as our favorite bingo playing former nun in the holiday comedy, Christmas Bingo: It's a Ho-Ho-Holy Night, opening Nov. 24 at the Royal George Theater in Chicago for the 2017 holiday season.

The production runs Nov. 24 through Dec. 31, 2017.

And this year, the show will feature lots of new material and a special twist on the story of the Annunciation.

Three actresses will share the role during the holiday season. They are Vicki Quade, Kathleen Puls Andrade, and Lisa Braatz.

Written by Vicki Quade, co-creator of the comedy, Late Nite Catechism, Christmas Bingo is the second installment in Quade's bingo series, which also includes the long-running hit Bible Bingo. The show was selected as one of 10 holiday

shows highlighted by Chris Jones, the Chicago Tribune's theater critic.

In this interactive comedy, audience members play bingo while also answering questions about Christmas traditions, the origin of St. Nick, where do candy canes come from, miracles in the Bible . . . and a clever re-creation of the Annunciation, complete with audience members in angel wings and halos.

In its review, The Chicago Reader recommended the show, saying, "Vicki Quade has made a career out of Catholic comedy (Late Nite Catechism, Bible Bingo), and she's in top form here."

Today's Fan, an online review site, calls Christmas Bingo, "delightful." "You will be engaged by the show's uniquely interactive approach that involves a bingo game with real prizes. Its entertaining aspect comes from



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the hilarity that ensues as Quade tackles off-beat myths and outrageous facts about Christmas."

Tickets are \$30, with discounts for groups.

Show dates are: November 24 through December 31. Times are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays. For tickets, call the Royal George Theater, 1641 N. Halsted, Chicago. 312-988-9000.

For more information about the show, go to [www.nuns4fun.com](http://www.nuns4fun.com)

**IF YOU GO:**

**ROYAL GEORGE THEATRE**

Performance Dates: November 24 through December 31, 2017.

Performance Times: Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.

Location: Royal George Theater, 1641 N. Halsted, Chicago.

Run Time: This show is approximately 2 hours long, with one intermission.

Tickets: \$30, group rates available.

To Purchase: 312-988-9000



The Irish  
Fellowship  
Club of  
Chicago

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank everyone for making this a truly memorable year for the Irish Fellowship Club. Your support makes this Club the success it is today. We recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of our Educational and Cultural Foundation. 30 Catholic high school administrators and student scholarship awardees filled the Brunswick Room at St. Ignatius College Prep. It was great to meet all of these remarkable young people and their parents. It helps us to remember the importance of our mission and the positive impact we have on



*Chris Kozicki, President*



families. Yes, we do have fantastic parties, but it makes me feel good knowing that the money we raise goes to excellent use. I believe in the mission of Catholic Education and am so proud to be a part of this organization.

I want to thank Gene Callahan and his committee for another sold out golf outing at Beverly Country Club. The weather was perfect and everyone had a great time. We also hosted a lunch to welcome the new Ireland Ambassador to the United States, Dan Mulhall.

I am looking forward to our Christmas luncheon on Friday, December 1st at the Hilton & Towers. Chairman James F. Coyne, General Chairman of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee & Business Manager of Local 130 for the Plumbers Union, will be hosting a great afternoon of Christmas cheer.

On a personal note, this year as President has been the greatest honor of my professional life.

I have had an amazing time representing the Club and hosting so many successful events. I am proud of all of our accomplishments this year: Highest grossing dinner, Taoiseach Enda Kenny Party, New Members Reception, Partnership with Irish American News and the recently

mentioned 40th Anniversary celebration. None of this could be accomplished without the remarkable men and women who serve on the Board of the Irish Fellowship Club and the membership. I thank you all and it has been great working with our Executive Director, Kathy Taylor. I wish incoming President, John Griffin, the best of luck. I also want thank my family, Siobhan, Deirdre, Cormac and Maeve for sharing this unbelievable experience with me.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Christopher J. Kozicki  
116th President.





## Clutter Buster

By Rita Emmett

**Procrastinate  
No More!**

## Procrastination, Fruitcake And Christmas -- Oh My!!

My step-father often -- and loudly -- claimed that he worked best under pressure. So his favorite shopping tip was to wait till 6 PM on Christmas Eve to begin selecting gifts for his loved ones. If someone dare imply that the choice at that late date might be mighty limited, he argued that everyone ALWAYS loved the gifts he gave.

When I was eleven, he gave me a fruitcake.

also a fruitcake.

Possibly the dumbest, least appreciated Christmas gift ever.

If you are ready to stop pretending that you work best under the pressure of last minute holiday gift shopping, here is a Guide just for you. Keep it and use it every year.

**YOUR GIFT SHOPPING GUIDE**  
(to conquer procrastination)

1.START NOW. Find it hard to get started? Did you read "The

My big brother Tom did not stop laughing until he opened his gift....

Procrastinator's Handbook"? Hmmmm, if not, consider buying it as a gift for yourself. Your life will become SO much easier. (end of commercial)

2.MAKE A LIST. Until you make that list, you will feel overwhelmed. Once it's made, you will be more in control and can make a plan.

If you discover you have way too many people to buy for, suggest a grab bag. OR is there anyone on your list who might also feel overwhelmed with too many to buy for? One year an aunt suggested that we NOT exchange gifts anymore because her list was getting out of hand, and I was relieved and grateful for her suggestion. Might that work with someone you know??

3.RESEARCH. When possible find out what your friends and family want ahead of time. Plan

your calendar around getting those must-haves before they run out

4.TAKE INVENTORY. Before you start shopping, wander your house, check your closets, under your bed or anywhere you might have hid purchases you've made in the past. Think back. Did you buy a ton of bargains during last year's Day-After-Christmas-Sales to give as gifts this year? Track them down.

5.SET UP A HIDING PLACE. Find a permanent spot for gift storage -- closet, shelf, drawer or under-bed storage unit and make it your year-round "hiding place". Locate all previously purchased gifts and stash them in your secret location.

Now, make a file on your computer (or a hardcopy) and list everyone on your gift list, plus all the gifts you've already bought. Match up who gets what. Now every time

you buy more gifts, add them to your list. See how organized you will be? AND that overwhelmed feeling will melt away. You might even enjoy the holidays this year.

Don't forget, as you buy more gifts on sale throughout the coming year, keep them all together in your secret hiding place.

6.SHOP ONLINE. The Internet is a great place to find unique gifts. Once you know the "likes" & hobbies of people on your list, go to web sites that address those subjects. For example, if they would love to stop procrastinating, conquer clutter or prevent burnout (ohhh nooo, another commercial) you can get books, DVDs, CDs and even some online courses at [www.RitaEmmett.com](http://www.RitaEmmett.com)

And if you are looking for a great gift for teachers or parents, you can purchase autographed copies of "The Procrastinating Child: A Handbook for Adults to Help Children Stop Putting Things Off" (retail \$11.00) at half price for only \$5.50 at that same website.

7.HIT THE MALL. If on-line shopping isn't for you or you don't have time for items to arrive (What's that?? You procrastinated?? OK, no commercial this time. I used to procrastinate and know how bad you already feel.) it's time to hit the mall.

Avoid peak mall hours. Saturdays between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. are the worst. Go early in the day, preferably weekdays, or try dinnertime, between 5 and 7 p.m. Monday night at 9 p.m. can be very quiet, even in mid-December

8.GIVE GIFT CERTIFICATES. Why not? Then they can buy what THEY want.

9.STAY WITHIN BUDGET. Start by considering your income, savings balance, financial obligations, and hopes for your financial future. Then set a dollar amount for each person on your gift list. If you stay under budget, reward yourself by buying a little something just for you.

If you have hit a point in your life that you don't need anything more (don't laugh, it happens to many & might even happen to YOU some day) contribute to your favorite charity.

10. DO IT NOW. (nope, not

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Happy and Safe New Year!**

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## Your Chance to Tour Liverpool and Ireland with Barleyjuice!

Hey folks, Kyf Brewer here, the whimsical, whiskey-soaked howler of Barleyjuice. I thought I'd put my personal mark of approval on this upcoming trip because we hand-carved it and I think it's gonna be the most awesome trip we've offered yet. I hope you agree! Whether you're a fan of the Beatles (like me) or a loyal follower of Game of Thrones, I think you're gonna love this... For those who haven't heard, we're taking reservations for our third trip across the pond in Spring of 2018, and the trip we've worked out is like no Ireland tour I've seen before! We wanted to invite our friends and fans to join us for something unique and exciting that no other band is offering, so here's our plan:

The trip is April 21 - 30, 2018, and we hand-picked only four cities - LIVERPOOL, BELFAST, GALWAY & DUBLIN - for a few nights in each to cut down on packing and unpacking and travel time.

We arrive first in LIVERPOOL, where we'll have a lunch at Albert Docks and a tour of the city many call Little Ireland before embarking on a Magical Mystery Tour of BEATLES landmarks. We'll see former schools of John, Paul, George and Ringo including Liverpool Art College and the childhood homes of Ringo, George, Paul, John and Stuart Sutcliffe, as well as the former home and school of the Beatles manager, Brian Epstein. We'll rediscover Penny Lane, the places in and around the area that were the barber shop and the shelter in the middle of the roundabout mentioned in the song. We'll see St. Peter's Church Hall, where John and Paul met, Eleanor Rigby's grave, and of course, Strawberry Fields. We'll explore Mathew Street on foot with our guide to see the many places associated with the Beatles, including the pubs where they went for a drink when the Cavern was a coffee bar, and finish the tour at the legendary Cavern Club where the Beatles performed in the early 1960s. The afternoon is at leisure before we meet up again this evening for the first Barleyjuice performance of the tour at the Cavern Pub.

On April 24, we'll fly to BELFAST to see the grounds of Queens University and travel along the Golden Mile to Donegal Square where we'll see the ornate Victorian buildings that include the Grand Opera House and the Crown Liquor Saloon, before stopping to visit the imposing City Hall. Afterward, we'll see

both St. Anne's Cathedral and the Albert Memorial Clock Tower, as we make our way out to Shankill and Falls Road, the main Catholic and Protestant areas that were home to the bloody battle grounds of the "Troubles." Belfast tells the story of the Titanic, from her conception and construction to the discovery of the wreck and the current marine explorations. And of course we'll visit some of Belfast's most iconic pubs, including The Crown, Robinson's, and Kelly's Cellars. We'll enjoy dinner tonight at our Europa Hotel. We'll see lots of GAME OF THRONES filming sites, like the Dark Hedges, portrayed in the series as the King's Road, and enjoy the spectacular Glens of Antrim and Dunluce Castle, also featured in the show. This evening, you're in for an unforgettable experience as we dine in the Winterfell Castle! Upon arrival, you will be greeted by the Maester and escorted to the Armory & Forge to choose your authentic costume. You will then be escorted to your table by the ladies of Winterfell for your medieval banquet. Your dining experience begins with dimly lit candles and smoke flowing from open fire pits, traditional music and everyone in the appropriate garb for an authentic medieval meal with fantastic entertainment. Afterward we'll return to our Europa Hotel.

April 27, we travel to GALWAY, sightseeing along the way, through County Sligo and Cong, filming site of John Wayne's *The Quiet Man*, and closer to Galway, the large modern Cathedral of St. Nicholas, set on an island in the Corrib River; Eyre Square; the Old Quays; Spanish Arch; and the Claddagh area, the Connemara region, and the shores of Galway Bay. Then we'll explore the rugged yet serene Connemara region. Much more sightseeing and pub visitation ensues.

April 28, we'll make our way slowly to DUBLIN, including the Kilbeggan Distillery, which was established in 1757, the oldest licensed distillery in the world, and the beautiful Vico Road, home to Enya, Bono, and other Irish notables. We see Bray in County Wicklow, where we visit The Harbour Bar, rated the best bar in the world by Lonely Planet. Visit some of Ireland's legendary pubs, Grogan's, The Temple Bar, or The Long Hall. Stroll pedestrian Grafton Street where artists, plenty of shopping and Bewley's Café, a city landmark. Tonight, we'll end our vacation in style with an evening farewell dinner at The Irish House Party, the famous pub featuring traditional Irish music and Irish dancing at its very best. We'll be overnight once again at Camden

Court Hotel.

And there you go - some of the highlights that I think are very cool. But there are so many more, so feel free to email me for a full PDF, read away, then call or email to sign up. The link is <https://grouptripsandtravel.com/barleyjuice-ireland/> and we've also created a Facebook page just for the event - <https://www.facebook.com/BarleyjuiceTour2018/>

Of course Barleyjuice will sing to you every day and sing you to sleep at night... I truly hope to meet you in Liverpool next April!

Cheers, Kyf

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## Procrastination

*Continued from last page*

another commercial). In closing, I beg you not to give a fruitcake to an eleven year old, unless she really, really, really wants one.

Trust me --- most do not.

Happy "anti-crastinating" and Merry Christmas.

Rita Emmett is a "Recovered Pack Rat", Professional Speaker, and author of *The Procrastinator's Handbook*, To subscribe to her free monthly "Anticrastination Tip Sheet", go to her website [www.RitaEmmett.com](http://www.RitaEmmett.com)

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# The Flood Brothers

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## Piping It In

Jack Baker



and a man who knows his job. Cue dramatic music again. So I get the call from Dan and he explains that for quite awhile it was the intention of the station to restore the 2 hour

## Some Good News, & a Merry Christmas!

Back in July, my old buddy, Shay Clarke, called me up and asked if I would be his co-host on his radio show, Blarney On the Air, Monday nights at 8 PM on WDCB, 90.9 FM. I've worked on various projects with Shay for 20 years or better and it's always interesting. I said sure and off we went. We worked together as co-hosts for awhile until Shay's new business got to be too much and I found myself handling the show alone. Shay's new business is tours, the most entertaining way to go on tour is with Shay Clarke, check it out. But I digress, back to the story. So here I am doing a one hour radio show, once a week and having a ball. Having a ball for several reasons, the staff at WDCB are lovely welcoming folks who did all they could to help me out, especially Clarise Kavooras, who did her level best to make me feel at home; Maryann Keifer had the show following me and was always there to help and advise me; I had the best engineer, Josh, a multi-talented whiz kid who was always a pleasure to work with and kept me out of trouble; my wife Gayle pitched in with support and ran the social media aspect of the show and I was finally able to share all the music I'd collected in my life that I felt never got the exposure it deserved. One thing I did find out quickly was that it is darned near impossible to do any serious radio on a one hour show. By the time you get a good interview going or a good theme with the music, boom! The hour's over. My buddy Karl Colon always referred to the show as the fastest hour on the radio and he was all so right. The show had been a two hour show originally but had been broken up into two one-hour shows at some point.

Cue dramatic music. Then came the call from the station manager, Dan Bindert. I must digress a moment again to tell you about Dan. He's the kind of guy I feel good about trusting our public radio money with. The kind of boss that isn't afraid to pitch in and get his hands dirty when there's a job to be done. Dan is a true gentleman and a very kind man

show and that they felt that this was a good time to do so. He further went on that the decision was made to make Maryann the host of the show. I have to agree that this is the logical and correct choice to make. Maryann has far more



experience than I and knows the music and musicians as well or better than anyone and she has total access to my music collection. All these changes will take effect on January 1st. All to the good we now have a 2 hour show on WDCB, 90.9 FM, Monday nights from 8 PM till 10PM, with the lovely and talented Godmother of Irish music, Maryann Keifer and I'm off to Florida in January, where I'll listen to WDCB on line at [wdcb.org](http://wdcb.org), and all is right with the world.

Now lets talk about some music. The Heron Valley Band, [www.heronvalley-band.co.uk](http://www.heronvalley-band.co.uk), has a cd out that I really like. "Roam" is the name of the album and it contains some of the best contemporary Scots music I've heard in awhile. The band consists of Alex Mackechnie on



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Sonda

Richard Neylon

fiddle, accordion, guitar, mandolin; Nick Hamilton, who plays a mean banjo and also handles drums, guitar and percussion; Abigail Pryde, whose vocals are one of the groups real strengths; Arlene Mackechnie, doing excellent work on piano; Euan McNab, who rocks the bagpipe and Callum Cronin on bass. Nicely blended backing vocals add depth to Abigail already stunning vocals. There are no weak links in their musical chain, they're solid in their playing and tight in their arrangements. Good stuff and fun to listen to.

Then, along comes Richard Neylon, www.irishpiper.ie, and reminds us just how much we love uilleann pipes. His album, "Sonda", features himself on pipes, flute, whistle, saxophone, bodhran and drums; Conal Early on guitar piano, keyboards and bouzou-

ki; Fiachra Hayes, the talented fiddler from Socks in the Frying Pan; Stephen Doherty on accordion and James Frawley on concertina. Together they have produced one of the finest traditional recordings to come out of Ireland in more days than I care to count. This is the music that you sit back, close your eyes and let it feed your soul. Customers in the shop have had lovely reactions to this cd, praising the quality of the music and then, thankfully, buying it. A lovely bit of work from these boys and one that you will enjoy.

I sincerely hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday season, you can catch me in the store at 630-834-8108, on line at store@rampantlion.com or, for this month, on the radio, Monday nights at 90.9 FM or at wdc.org.

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**Terry From Derry**

by Terry Boyle



## Not One Of You, But One With You

In the past year I've made a discovery that has surprised and delighted me in a way I had not thought possible. My interest in religion has led me down many paths, some exotic and interesting while others were more like cul-de-sacs. I've always enjoyed the analogy of being on a journey when it comes to pursuing any form of spirituality. There is never a neat package when it comes to truth. The path to discovery is one of learning just how little we know when it comes to the metaphysical.

I've never really thrived in religious institutions, and I'm sure that there are many, like me, who prefer not to be shackled to a set of dogmas. There's something about dogmatism that destroys the sense of journey. A credo can be like a tar baby that you cannot escape from. In the story the tar baby, Br'er rabbit becomes more entangled when he encounters the fox's trap. 'The more that he struggles against the tar figure the more stuck he becomes. It can be that way when it comes to institutional faith. The more you try to get yourself unstuck, the more it sticks to you. There is a visceral sense of guilt and fear in trying to abandon what you've become stuck to.

There is a plethora of recovering Catholics, Jews, Hindus, Muslims etc. finding their way back to what they knew. People feel a need to re-connect to their cultural religious roots. It could be that as we get older we look for a security, something that offers impermanency. Life moves so quickly, and we become disorientated by changes that the forgotten country of the past becomes a familiar a place of security and as such offers us the comfort of being at home. All of which, I think is perfectly

understandable.

But there has to be something more to what we believe than simply security, or fire insurance. Soren Kierkegaard, the 19th Century Danish theologian, describes faith as a reaching out. As a reaction to those around him who were apathetic about faith, Kierkegaard believed that our faith should be passionate, active, and not passive. I find the Dane's perspective enlightening. He does not try to offer reason, or logic, as the sole explanation for believing, but instead he makes us aware of how belief is ridiculous to rationalism, in much the same way as passionate love can be incredibly irrational.

Kierkegaard inspires wonder and tension into the idea of belief. We can never absolutely prove anything, especially the existence of a creator, but there is something that can drive us to 'reach out' towards what we cannot fully understand. I find the 'uncertainty' in his speculations a gift. Too many times we are given so called facts, and theories that promise to alleviate our sense of insecurity. Whether it be the latest new diet, a new psychological step programme to happiness, or a new religion, we are constantly bombarded with seeming certainties to cure our deep seated anxiety.

We do not like the feeling of uncertainty. It mires us into a mindset that undermines everything we know and believe. We avoid, at all costs, thinking too deeply about the meaning or lack of meaning to life because it evokes this sense of uncertainty. Kierkegaard allows us to see the lack of certainty as an opportunity to make a leap into faith. It's not a blind faith, but one that is willing to live with the tension of doubt and despair. It is also something that is universal to every faith.

I recently spoke at a synagogue

on the subject of Abraham, the father of faith. For Martin Luther, of Reformation fame, Abraham's obedience in offering up his son Isaac was seen as an example of perfect faith. The patriarch unquestionably accepted the will of God over the universal law of 'thou shalt not kill'.

No one in their right mind would ever consider that a man who would be willing to sacrifice his own son as a model of faith. Obviously, the story is a way of taking a man from a culture where child sacrifice was acceptable, and practiced, to seeing that this new faith would be different. God, who is supposed to be testing Abraham, asks for a burnt offering. Abraham is allowed to suffer the three-day journey, build an altar, tie up his son, and raise the knife before the angel intervenes to save Isaac.

What I see happening in this story, is a man undergoing a paradigm shift in belief. He is being educated to be different. To leave behind the primitive notions of a capricious, and demanding gods to a new spiritual awakening of a creator who is unlike any other god. In our journey towards understanding, we change, we grow, but it is seldom without pain and suffering. Change is never easy. We want to remain unchanged, to have life stay the way it is, but it doesn't. Life intrudes with all sorts of complications. We can refuse to leave the old ways and learn nothing, or we can, like Abraham, become changed by what life shows us.

This God who does not demand child/human sacrifice makes Abraham's faith radically different from those around him. His prophetic, and morally evolved, faith take him on a journey that no one else had taken. He is changed by his faith, but it also separates him from those around him, and that is never an easy thing to live with. He has to embrace the tension of wanting to be a part of society, and, yet remain apart. As I shared some of these thoughts with my friends, I finished by saying 'that while I'm not one of you, I'm one with you in this journey towards faith.'

## Irish Books and Plays in Review

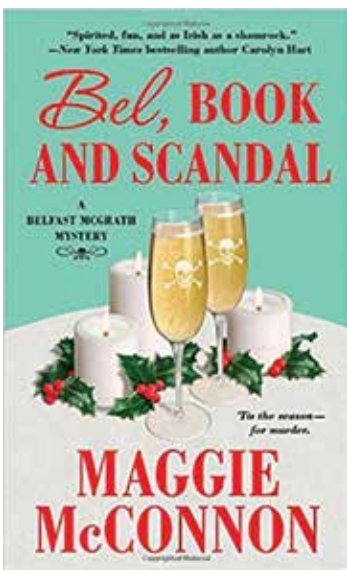
Frank West



### Bel, Book and Scandal—A Belfast McGrath Mystery

By: Maggie McConnon  
Minotaur Books

Belfast McGrath is the main character—the detective, if you will. She has red hair, and about six feet tall. She was raised in the small town of Foster's Landing in New York State. The town is about 40 miles north of New York City and is located in the beautiful Hudson River Valley.



Bel, called this by family and friends, graduated from the local high school. A close friend, almost a "second sister" to Bel, was Amy Mitchell. She disappeared, and Bel was the last person to talk to her.

Mitchell's family, and many people in the town, believe Bel knew why she disappeared and also knows where she is today. Bel denies this and even though many years have elapsed, almost 20 in fact, she decides to find the truth of Amy's disappearance.

After graduating from high school, Bel went to New York City, where she became a noted chef. She has returned to Foster's Landing to help her parents

and their large, close-knit, Irish family, to run their banquet hall. It is called Shamrock Manor, and is decorated for Christmas. There she prepares and cooks awesome dishes. But she is also determined to find out what happened to Amy, and where she is today.

Some of the characters Bel meets are so comfortable to know that we could feel that we already know them. But we learn that these people are complex and that they keep secrets for a long time.

An unusual feature of this readable book are the observations about Irishness. About Bel's search for the truth: "I nothing if not stubborn: the blood of a thousand intractable Celts ran through my veins."

About our feelings: "We were supposed to keep our feelings bottled up...killing you with their vice-like grip on your heart and soul."

Self-doubt: "Was it the Irish in me, constantly self-flagellating for transgressions that most people wouldn't even remember?"

Outlook on life: "Was it that lethal combo of Irish and Catholic...that eschewed self-reflection...and made sure that a healthy helping of guilt accompanied every joyful experience?"

About her Irish family: "I felt a kinship with my brothers. We lived in a beautiful place with parents who loved us, even if they didn't often express it verbally. We had each other and that was a lot more than a lot of people had."

### Married Quarters

By: Shane Connaughton  
Doubleday

The author so uses words and beautiful language that it is a pleasure to read this book and *Married Quarters* is sure to become a classic.

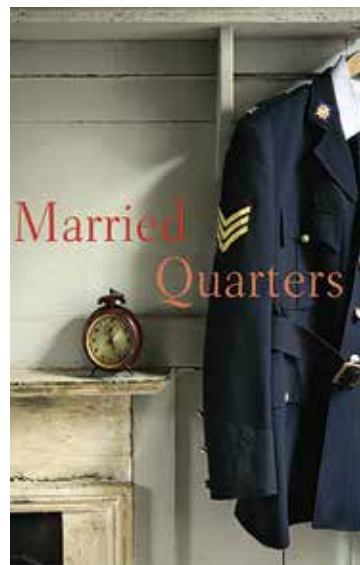
Connaughton grew up in a ru-

ral Garda barracks in the 1950's. These are his memories, vivid and detailed, of that experience. He has created 16-year-old Danny to convey his impressions of the time, the place, and the people he observed.

The barracks was in the small, remote town of Butlershill. The town is in Co. Covan, near the border with the north.

There are seven parts to the novel. Each named after a Guard that he observed so well. The focuses of the book are the passage of Danny from youth to adulthood and his learning to adapt to the unpredictability of life.

Shane Connaughton was born in 1941. He is married and has two grown children. As a young man, he studied the theatre and acting. He is an author of books,



screenplays, and plays. Among the works he has written are *The Run of the Country* (1991), and the film adaptation. He was co-writer of *My Left Foot*.

Quoting from an article in *The Irish Times*: Connaughton "knows how to set up a scene and fill it with full-blooded, alive...characters, and then give them the funniest, most muscular and tender dialogue and telling details. Like Joyce, he reveals the local universal, and makes the ordinary utterly extraordinary. He loves the texture of life."

There are many possible quotes from *Married Quarters*, but these give a sense of the

*Continued on next page*



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## Married Quarters

Continued from last page

book's beauty.

A Garda Inspector: "He was a squat man with powerful shoulders and a blistering red face. His nose had been broken by a rifle butt wielded by a Black and Tan in 1920. Concave as a result, he spoke with a forceful guttural snort...He looked like an ex-heavyweight boxer."

Description of the barracks office: "The small room was thick with dark-blue uniforms. Bull's wool...Silver buttons. Black boots. Caps. Batons holstered in shiny black leather cylinders, handcuffs hanging from coat hooks...Shiny whistles on

silver chains. The big map of the district on the wall..."

The wall around the Big House: "the wall kept the village out and Lady Sarah Butler—Coote and her Angle-Irish world in."

"A great oak tree at an intersection of roads marked the spot where in 1649 Eoghán Roe O'Neil took the final salute of his troops as he lay dying from the poison in his boots, put there by the perfidious English."

Walking in the fields: "the air was warm and perfumed with new mowen hay, woodbine, wild roses, bluebells, the damp grassy fields. Descending the hills...almost bust my lungs with pleasure."



## House Leader Durkin Honors Billy Lawless for His Leadership and Immigration Efforts

House Republican Leader Jim Durkin (R-Western Springs) honored Irish-American advocate and restaurateur Billy Lawless with a resolution in the House of Representatives for his years of dedication to improving relations between Ireland and Illinois.

"Billy has become the leading voice in Illinois for Irish-American relations and has fought diligently for the well-being of Irish men and women living in our state," Durkin said. "In addition to being advocate for the immigrant community, Billy is also a successful entrepreneur having opened six restaurants and creating hundreds of jobs across the Chicagoland area."

A native of Rahoon in County Galway, Ireland, Lawless is an independent politician and businessman who emigrated to the United States in 1998. In the last 19 years, Lawless has fought tirelessly as an advocate for Irish-American rights in Illinois and in Washington, D.C., having become a prominent voice on immigration reform. He is the co-founder of Illi-

nois Business Immigration Coalition, former Vice President of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and former chairman of Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform. In May 2016, Ireland's Prime Minister Taoiseach Enda Kenny appointed Lawless as the first Irish Senator to represent Irish immigrants living overseas.

Lawless began his restaurant business in 1998, opening a small Irish-themed pub in Wrigleyville with ten employees. Today, Lawless's restaurant empire includes six restaurants in the Chicagoland area that employ over 300 people. He is also a former member of the Illinois Restaurant Association.

"I am humbled to receive this honor from the Illinois General Assembly and accept it on behalf of all hard working immigrants, particularly those of Irish descent, who continue to make their mark in this great country," Lawless said.

House Resolution 617 passed the chamber unanimously.

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# From Ireland to Chicagoland

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



Caroleann Gallagher  
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cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com

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



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# Ireland Made Easy!



## Co Carlow

This month I will cover Co. Carlow. It has a population of roughly 57,000 it is the second smallest county. Carlow lies on the river Barrow, it flows through the historic boundary between Laois and Carlow. The town has played a major role in Irish history serving as the capital of the country in the 14th century. St. Mullin's monastery is believed to have been established around the 7th century. The ruins of which are still in evidence today. Old Leighlin was the sight of one of the largest monastic settlements in Ireland. It was the location for a church synod in 630AD which is said to have Carlow castle was constructed by William Marshall and his seven sons whom also are credited for the construction of the Butler castle in Kilkenny city. The town of Carlow is mentioned in the song, "Follow me up to Carlow". It was written about the battle of Glenmalur part of the Desmond rebellions of the late 16c. Lastly a famous person from Carlow some of you might know the actress named Saoirse Ronan. She was actually born in NY but raised in Carlow.

I would like to follow up with a true story. I was in my wife Mary's church in Kiltimagh, Mayo on one of our trips home. The priest (Fr. John Taylor) told us this story, he started, there was a boy named John in a village who had a good friend named Bridie. They both met where you get the spring water and they would fill up there pails. They lived in opposite directions of each other. They started to meet at the well at the same time so they could see each other. John said to Bridie I think about you all the time and Bride said the same to John. John said can we get to know each other?

Bridie said yes. John noticed Bridie wearing something on her neck. She said it is a Rosary beads and I am a devoted Catholic. John paused said oh ok, I am a devoted Protestant this relationship will never work. So life went on as normal they went for their water but didn't pursue anything. Bridie told John she mentioned everything to her parents and they said don't ever speak to John again. John said I



told my parents and they told me the same thing about you. They both left the well in tears. So the next day they planned to say their goodbyes. John asked Bridie can I have something to remember you by? Can you break your Rosary beads in half? Bridie said no way John, they are blessed. But she changed her mind and she broke it in half and gave half to John. They parted ways and whispered I love you. Time went on and they never saw each other again. However, John thought about Bridie a lot and he finally told his parents he wanted to become a Catholic. He went to College and the Seminary. On the very morning he was to be ordained he received a letter. It read Bridie has passed away this morning. The day John was to be ordained a priest was the day his love passed away. The father giving us the ceremony pulled out a half broken Rosary and said that priest was me, I am John who loved that Catholic girl Birdie.

Happy Christmas everyone. Keep believing in the spirit of hope & love!

Questions or comments [Kilkennycat1@yahoo.com](mailto:Kilkennycat1@yahoo.com) *Tom Butler*



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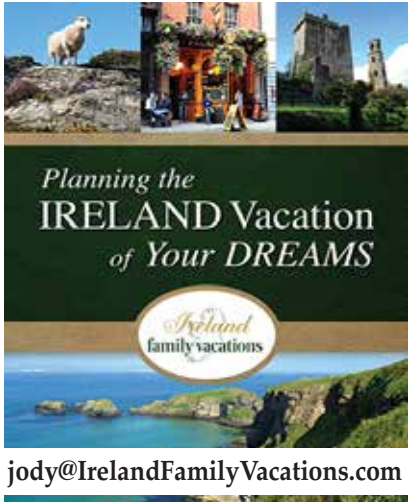
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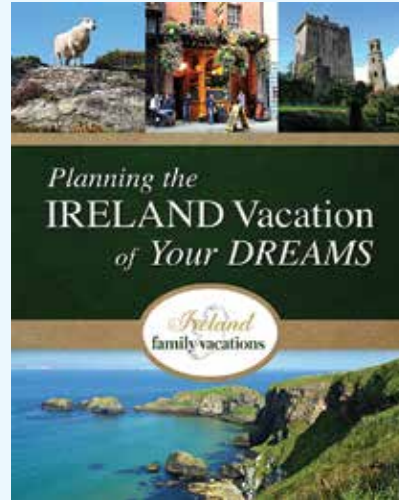
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## Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



### Nursing Home Abuse and Neglect

*Do not cast me off in the time of old age;  
Do not forsake me when my strength fails.*  
Psalm 71:9

The elderly amongst us are our most precious people. Yet they are often hurt, neglected and abused in their twilight years. The statistics reflecting incidents of abuse involving elderly residents in nursing homes is staggering and disheartening. More than two million cases of elder abuse are reported every year and many more remain unreported because of fear and intimidation. The figure of two million sadly reflects a growing national epidemic of violating our most vulnerable citizens but also grossly understates the problem of elder abuse in the United States.

The Nursing Home Care Act was incorporated in Illinois in 1979—amid a growing concern about the treatment of Nursing Home residents. The Act addressed the concerns of the public surrounding the quality of care at nursing homes and it created a new cause of action for private citizens who had been abused, neglected or had the rights afforded to them under the Act, violated. The Illinois Department of Public Health is in charge of enforcing the Nursing Home Care Act throughout the State of Illinois and all facilities that fall under the definition of a "long term care facility" are required to comply with the Act as well as other State and Federal Regulations. A nursing home will fall under that definition so long as it provides personal care, sheltered care or nursing

care for three or more persons, not related to the owner of the home by blood or marriage.

The Illinois Department of Public Health ensures compliance with the Act, by providing nursing homes with licenses which they will grant, after yearly inspections have been carried out and minimum requirements have been met. The Illinois Department of Public Health is also charged with investigating any complaints made about a nursing home by a resident or a member of a resident's family. Despite the watchful eye of the State, within our nursing homes and assisted living facilities, an increasing number of seniors experience elder abuse and neglect within the nursing home arena every year.

Nursing Home Abuse is a difficult issue to face. Elder abuse exists in many forms and includes any physical, mental or sexual assault, inflicted upon a resident other than by accidental means. Many cases of elder abuse may not be evidenced by clear, physical signs.

Many victims are frail and vulnerable and as a result, they are often unable to protect themselves or seek needed help. Elder abuse can be difficult to prove once suspicion arises. A sad truth is that a number of nursing home abuse cases go unreported and unpunished. It is estimated that roughly 1,800 deaths each year occur due to elder abuse in the United States.

#### Types of Nursing Home Abuse include:

Physical abuse where residents are actually physically harmed by being hit, shoved, scratched, pushed, pulled or inappropriately restrained. This type of abuse is often easily spotted as you will likely see a physical injury or manifestation of the abuse, such as scratches, bruises, burns, broken bones, dislocated joints and evidence of restraints like strap marks on a person's wrists or feet.

**Emotional Abuse** includes

causing emotional distress to a resident, ridiculing them, humiliating them, terrorizing and ignoring them. This type of abuse is much harder to spot than physical abuse. Generally our elderly are vulnerable before being abused and afterwards after being subjected to such cruel behavior, they are even more vulnerable, scared and intimidated. All of that means that they generally will be less likely to speak up and tell a loved one what is going on. Some signs of emotional abuse include, a lowering of a resident's self-esteem and confidence, avoiding eye contact, withdrawing from family and friends, seeming scared and anxious, expressing reluctance to complain about the home or caregivers, sudden mood changes, and sudden changes in a resident's eating or sleeping patterns.

**Sexual Abuse:** The unthinkable is happening at facilities throughout our country and vulnerable and frail residents are being raped and sexually assaulted by the very people they trust to care for them. By far the biggest concern with the elderly and sexual abuse surrounds those elderly persons who do not have the mental capacity to be able to give consent to sexual contact and worse still are unable to report it after it has happened. Some of the signs of sexual abuse, are similar to what you would look out for concerning emotional abuse, such as withdrawing from and disengaging with family members and friends, agitation, panic attacks, fear, inappropriate or unusual behavior, changes in sleep and eating habits, particular dislike or distain for certain caregivers, as well as physical signs of pelvic injuries, sexually transmitted diseases and bruises and cuts in a person's private areas.

**Financial Abuse:** Elderly people are at increased risk of being financially manipulated and taken advantage off as they are more vulnerable and

perhaps less likely to be aware of what money they have and do not have. In many cases residents may not even be aware that they are being financially abused. Financial abuse can be committed by anyone who has any element of control over a nursing home resident. In many cases it does happen by those that are in close family relationships with the senior person, for example after being given a power of attorney over a person's financial concerns. If you suspect that an elderly person is being financially manipulated the following are some signs to be aware off; - unexplained transfers of money to another person, sudden changes in a person's will, frequent and regular checks being written to the same person, missing personal belongings, additional names appearing on a person's bank account, the residents living conditions or personal appearance, appearing less than what they should be based on their resources.

Nursing Home Neglect is similar to nursing home abuse in many ways but they are also quite different. Abuse implies a specific intent to harm the elder, neglect on the other hand is a breach of duty or a form of substandard care that results in harm to the resident. Neglect includes a facilities failure, intentional or not to provide a person with the care and services necessary to ensure freedom from harm or pain. Nursing home neglect most commonly occurs when a nursing home resident does not receive proper medical, physical or emotional attention. It can cause a serious risk to nursing home residents and it can escalate to physical and emotional abuse, serious and sustained injuries and even death.

#### Types of Nursing Home Neglect include:

Violation of basic human needs: The State maintains certain minimum standards for nursing homes and every

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nursing home resident is entitled to be treated with dignity, respect and consideration at all times. If basic human services such as being kept clean and dry and in a safe environment are lacking in a nursing home then this can be evidence of nursing home neglect.

**Malnutrition or dehydration:** a nursing home has a duty to provide its residents with adequate nutrition and hydration and to account for each residents unique medical and dietary needs. Some residents are more susceptible to certain conditions such as the development and deterioration of bed sores because of their conditions or diagnoses.

It is the responsibility of a nursing home to assess each individual resident's needs, create a care plan to address those needs and put into place the necessary interventions to ensure that those needs are met so as to avoid the development and deterioration of worsening conditions. If these basic assessments, plans and interventions are lacking this is often evidence of neglect on the part of the nursing home.

**Falls:** Many residents of nursing home go to nursing homes because they are unable to live independently anymore. Their needs are greater and they now require assistance with getting in and out of bed, using the toilet, walking and generally getting around. They place their trust in caregivers to assist them with these needs by being there for them when they are at their most vulnerable. Due to increasing staffing issues at nursing homes, many residents who need assistance to transfer and ambulate are ignored and falls are one of the most common signs of neglect in Illinois nursing homes. A fall for an elderly person can have a devastating and life alerting effect on their life and sadly for many can be the end of their life.

**Medication Errors:** Many residents in nursing homes

rely on caregivers to give them their correct medications at the correct time. Errors in medication administration are often the result of nursing home negligence.

The following are some signs of nursing home neglect that might be an early warning sign that all is not what it should be at the nursing home:

- Sudden weight loss,
- The development of new bedsores and/or the deterioration of existing bed sores,
- Injuries from falls, including broken bones, dislocations, bruises and cuts,
- Dehydration, malnutrition and urinary tract infections;
- Unusual change in behavior and mood,
- Changes in personal hygiene or appearance,

• A growing lack of friendly interaction with staff at the nursing home,

• Environmental hazards such as poor lighting, trip and fall hazards, unsafe mobility equipment or unsafe furniture in the residents room.

• If you suspect a loved one or friend has suffered abuse or neglect while a resident of an Illinois Nursing home you can call the Illinois Department of Public Health Hotline 1-800-252-4343 and make an anonymous complaint. The Department will then have to carry out an investigation into the alleged complaint by carrying out inspections, surveys and interviewing residents and staff at the nursing home. The Department are the watchdog for these facilities, use them

and make them do their job!

\*Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney now licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of personal injury law – including nursing home litigation, medical malpractice law, wrongful death claims,

transportation injuries, premises liability claims, defective product claims, construction site injuries and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com or at 312-543-4642.



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**Irish Books and Plays in Review**

Frank West



**It's A Wonderful Life Live in Chicago!**

*Adapted from the movie by Frank Capra*

The play is life-affirming, cheerful and optimistic. It gives a wonderful sense of the importance of life and the influence we have on others.

In 1946, Frank Capra made It's A Wonderful Life into a movie. He was an outstanding director and producer of many award-winning movies in the 1930's and 1940's.

About the hopeful and uplifting views in the movie, he could say: "We influence many people in our life times. The film wants us to influence them for the good."

American Blues Theater presents the play as a radio drama, as was common before TV. Radio drama is a form of storytelling broadcast on radio. It depends

on dialogue, music and sound effects.

Quoting Theatre in Chicago and the press release: "For 16 years, the American Blues Ensemble has treated Chicago audiences to a live 1940's radio broadcast of holiday favorite, It's A Wonderful Life. The incredible cast recreates the entire town of Bedford Falls with Foley sound effects, an original score and holiday carols. The Bedford Falls 'residents' extend their hospitality after each performance by treating audiences to milk and cookies served by the cast."

Artistic Director, Gwendolyn Whiteside says: "this story reminds us of the fragility of life. Frank Capra's line - "Each man's life touches so many other lives. When he isn't around, he leaves

an awful hole, doesn't he?" - resonates throughout the year.

Whiteside is the director of this skilled, creative and versatile ensemble of actors.

Another unique feature of the presentation is "During each performance, American Blues Theater honors one serviceman or servicewoman with a short personal tribute, a projected photo, and two complementary tickets. This recognition received a standing ovation the evening I was there.

This lively, uplifting production of It's A wonderful Live: Live in Chicago! is presented by American Blues Theater, adapted from Frank Capra's film and directed by Gwendolyn Whiteside and runs through January 6.

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays at 7:30

Saturdays: 4:30 and 7:30

Sundays: 7:30

Stage 773, 1225 W Belmont Ave, Chicago. Tickets \$19 to \$49. 773-327-5252 or

americanbluestheater.com.



James Joseph, Ian Paul Custer, Gwendolyn Whiteside, Zach Kenney, Dara Cameron perform it's A Wonderful Life. Photo by Michael Brosilow



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## Celtic Angels Christmas 12-10

The must-see show hitting Chicago this holiday season is Celtic Angels Christmas. Mark your calendars for December 10 at the Irish American Heritage Center and get your tickets right away; this writer predicts an ear-

technical and artistic expertise is astonishing.

The Sheeva Quintet mingles the celestial purity of such carols as O! Holy Night and It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, with secular selections like Jingle Bell

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ly sell-out. (847.572.0700)

Straight from Ireland, this heavenly performance paints Christmas in Celtic colors. Blending best loved carols with traditional Irish in perfect balance, these lively young performers present the picture-perfect family holiday show.

Celtic Angels producers worked a miracle when they brought together some of Ireland's most talented youth. Celtic Angels Christmas is an immaculate combination of pristine vocals, flying feet, unerring musicianship, glitzy costuming, and the exuberance of youth.

The Celtic Knights is an all-male, supremely athletic dance troupe lead by All-Ireland Champion Patrick O'Mahony, who has performed with such groups as Riverdance and Spirit of the Dance. Their rhythm and precision is awesome, and their

Rock and Let It Snow. These lovely ladies smoothly transition their holiday program to the traditional songs of Ireland, rounding out a veritable vocal feast. Combined, Victoria Kenny, Emily Carroll, Tammy Browne, Amy Penston, and Ellie Mullane, have studied with the best teachers in Ireland, and performed in a plethora of productions including Joseph and His Technicolor Dream Coat, West Side Story, Grease, and Celtic Woman.

Throw in the Trinity Band Ensemble of Dublin and you've got the complete package. Flawlessly segueing from their trad instrumentals to backing the singers and dancers, these Irish musicians easily prove their authenticity; they're the real deal.

You really don't want to miss this fine evening of music right out of Ireland; its the best way I've seen to kick off the holidays!



## The End of the Innocence

Along with many other parents, I attended my daughter Sophie's sixth class graduation ceremony at Eglantine Primary School in Cork some years ago. All in all, it was a very enjoyable and moving occasion. It started off with some messages from the graduating girls, followed by

in Ireland. The general aims are to enable the child to live a full life as a child and to realise their potential as a unique individual. They are also taught to live and interact with others while also being prepared for further education.

At the beginning of the ceremony, one of the girls happened to mention 'ni bheid ár leitheid ann arís' ( you'll never see the

We are all made unique, and there is nobody like us on the planet. We all leave our mark, maybe written in the smaller history books, and we will all be missed. That is why murder is such an evil act, as we are taking the life of a unique entity that can never again be replaced.

It can be a wonderful world out there from the vantage point of youth, and there is always the prospect of opportunities and the unexpected being around every corner. Imagination is more important than knowledge, and should always be cultivated. One of the advantages of being very young is that you don't



Mass and then each of the three classes entertained us with their respective musical productions. Canon Crowley was very participative and Ann Ryan and her staff are to be congratulated on the quality of the occasion and for allowing us, as parents, to be part of this great event. Refreshments were also provided afterwards for the benefit of both pupils and parents.

It was a watershed moment for the young girls, now moving away from their primary incubation nest, after having spent eight of their twelve years here. For the past four decades there have been close on a half a million pupils participating in primary level education

likes of us again). This struck a chord with me as I had come across it previously in the literature of the Blasket Islands, who were lamenting the loss of their particular way of life at that time.

How right the young girl was.

have to let the facts get in the way of your imagination. It's going to be both a challenging and interesting world out there to absorb their talents.

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– E.E. Cummings.

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# Chicago Gaelic Park

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## A Cháirde

Where did 2017 go? The speed with which the end of the year seems to come is a sure sign that we've lived a lot in 2017. We send our deepest thanks to everyone who has been part of our year, and we look forward to 2018. We could not do what we do without all of our volunteers, and they deserve a special thank you.

Our December will be fun and busy, and will include the return of Chicago favorite and Cork native, Paddy Homan to our stage in December, along with his band, The Noble Call. We will journey with the Paddy back to the "hearth" of an Irish Christmas, filled with songs, stories,

rousing music and traditional Irish dancing. Tickets are available in the office.

Our Mingle Jingle parties are filling up fast, and we'll have lively nights in the pub and at our Carveries. December ends with our very popular Family New Year's Eve Party, and we'll welcome 2018.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff, the volunteers and all the constituent groups of Chicago Gaelic Park, I wish you and your family members a Happy Christmas, and safety, freedom, health and prosperity in 2018.

Slán go fóil,  
Bill O'Sullivan

## 2017 CGP Calendar of Events 2017

### DECEMBER

Dec 6	Monthly Musical Luncheon*	1:00pm
	Music provided by: TBA	
Dec 8	Ladies Auxiliary	7:30pm

\*Reservations Required 708.687.9323

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

**Monday Evenings Set Dancing** 7:30pm

**Tuesday Evenings Pub Trivia** 7:30pm

**Tuesday Evenings Ceili Dancing** Lessons 7pm/Ceili 7:30pm

**Sunday Evening CGP Radio Live WCEV 1450 AM** 7:05-9:00pm



CGP Office 708.687.9323 [www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org)

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Sat	Dec 2	Larry Nugent & Billy O'Donahue	9:00pm
Fri	Dec 8	Kieran Byrne	6:00pm
Sat	Dec 9	Mulligan Stew	7:30pm
Wed	Dec 13	Frank Rossi (Rib Night)	6:00pm
Fri	Dec 15	Ray Gavin	7:30pm
Sat	Dec 16	Bernie Glim	8:00pm
Fri	Dec 22	Jerry Haughey	7:30pm
Sat	Dec 23	Jerry & Kara	8:30pm
Fri	Dec 29	The Rockets	7:30pm
Sat	Dec 30	TBD	8:30pm

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# Mingle & Jingle



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Gaelic Park's Annual Mingle & Jingle Christmas Party is perfect for businesses who want to celebrate the holidays in a fun and spirited atmosphere.

Have more fun with more people as you join together with other offices in the area for one of these two big holiday celebrations! Everyone attending will enjoy a delicious buffet dinner, a four hour open bar and live DJ.

Call Gaelic Park and make reservations for yourself or the entire office! Reservations must be made as soon as possible. Payment in full due by December 1st. Adults Over 21 Only.

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filled with songs, stories,  
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Mick Broderick on Bozouki • Dave Curley on Banjo • Larry Nugent on Flute • Brendan Bulger on Fiddle  
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Family New Year's Eve Party!

**Sunday December 31, 2017**  
4:00pm-8:00pm • Buffet Dinner 5:00pm  
Kids Sparkling Juice Toast 6:00pm  
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as well as new ones  
and we would like to  
thank them all for their  
wonderful performances.  
We are also thankful

to our cast and crew  
and everyone who  
volunteered their time.

Our Spring 2018 show  
will be announced  
soon. Please watch our  
web page for audition  
notices at [www.gaelicparkplayers.org](http://www.gaelicparkplayers.org)

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who is interested in  
either auditioning for  
our spring production  
or being a part of the  
crew, please join us for  
a meeting or contact  
us via the Website  
[gaelicparkplayers.org](http://gaelicparkplayers.org).  
Wishing you all a joyous  
holiday season.

## Women's Little Christmas at Gaelic Park

Saturday January 6, 2018 7:00pm

Join us for a fun-filled night

Of music and laughter and  
who knows what else!

*Little Christmas is a "ladies night out", rewarding  
women for their labors during the holiday season.*

Drink specials and complimentary snacks.  
No Cover Charge

Please RSVP to reserve your seats. Phone 708-687-9323 Over 21's only

## Monday Night Set Dancers

cordially invites you to a

## New Year's Eve Ceili Sunday, December 31, 2017

4:00 – 10:00 P.M.

Light Supper/Dessert

6:00 Irish New Year Champagne Toast

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James F. Coyne, General Chairman of the 2018 Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade, announced plans for a city wide search for Chicago's fairest Colleen. She will represent the Chicago Irish community as the Queen of the 2018 Annual Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Queen and her court of four will be expected to attend civic, neighborhood, parish, and Irish events on behalf of the parade committee.

**Entry Information** - Any girl of Irish ancestry, never married, 18-28 years old, is eligible to en-



ter the contest. Entrants should send a snapshot with name, age, address, phone number and brief biography and explanation on why you would like to be the "2018 Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen".

Contest finals are held Sunday, January 14, 2018, in the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Hall, 1340 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60607. Deadline for entries is Midnight, Monday, 01/08/2018.

(Pictured) Maura Connors, Queen of the 2017 Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade

# Are You Chicago's 2018 St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen?

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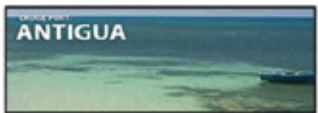
- Monday, January 8, 2018: Deadline for contestant applications
- Sunday, January 14, 2018: Queen Contest  
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- Saturday, March 17, 2018: Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade  
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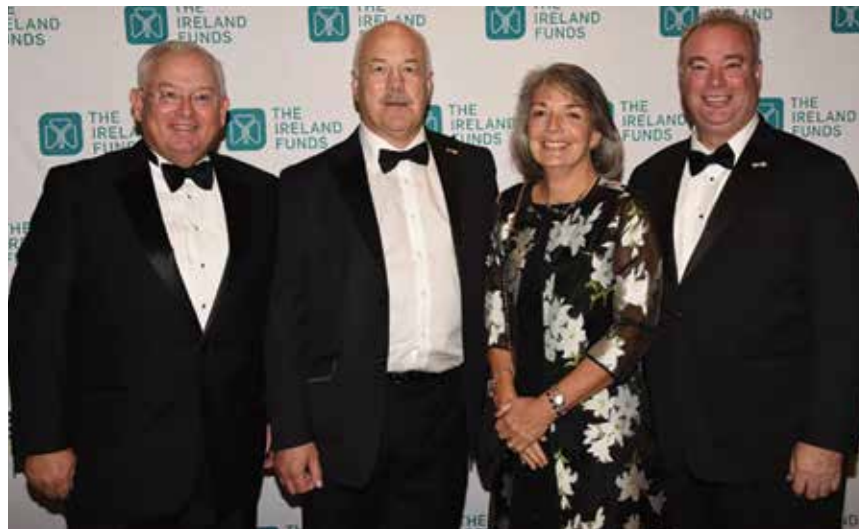
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## Father Jack Clair: Helping Make Life Wonderful for Misericordia Residents

By *Ryanne Gallagher Johnson*

Father Jack Clair, Associate Executive Director and Administrator of Auxiliary Services for Misericordia, has been working with one of Chicago's most successful and heart-filled programs in the city for nearly twenty years.

Raised on the Northwest Side by a police officer father and public school teacher mother, he knew very early on that he wanted to enter the priesthood. Beginning at St. Mary of the Woods for grammar school, he then spent his first year of high school at Taft before transferring to Quigley Preparatory Seminary for his remaining high school years.

"I knew kind of before high school (that I wanted to go into the seminary), and I was thinking of going away to the Capuchin Franciscans. But my sister got ill and my mother didn't want me going away at the same time (that she was not well). I hadn't taken a placement test anywhere, so I ended up at Taft, and then on to Quigley... It's something I've always wanted to do," he says.

After Quigley, he attended Niles College Seminary, which is now known as St. Joseph College Seminary of Loyola, and then up to Mundelein for his post-graduate studies. His assignments

have included St Michaels Parish in Orland Park, St. Hubert's in Hoffman estates, and before moving to join the Misericordia family, he spent time on the faculty as administrator at his former college, Niles.

Now, he's been with Misericordia for eighteen years. "I didn't realize how big a thing I was getting into here," Father Jack recalls. "To come here to this 365 day a year setting was very different."

Open since 1976 and set on a sprawling campus of 31 acres right within Chicago's city limits, Misericordia's own little "mini city" has been offering a place where a continuum of care and a network of services can be provided for people with developmental disabilities for over forty years. With a paid staff of 1100 and a vast number of volunteers, the community's 600 live-in residents and 550 participants in the outreach program are offered an abundance of assistance and care in their daily lives.

"It's a community within the city. It's an amazing thing. We're so lucky to have this

amount of land within the city limits, so the residents have access to everything around us. There are sporting events, everything. And you're able to draw your staff from the city of Chicago," says Father Jack.

The program is an incredible labor of love, and indeed a heart of mercy.

Providing a wide range of services to meet the diverse needs and aspirations for each individual, the residential settings include community integrated arrangements for small groups in neighborhood homes outside Misericordia's main campus



(CILAs), on-campus apartments, on-campus group homes, and a nursing residence (misericordia.com). In addition, there is a skilled medical facility on-campus, a chapel, and a few shops and restaurants that residents and visitors can utilize. "Everything is built well. Everything is bright and sunny and cheery. We're always ready for visitors."

Job placement is an essential part of life for those residents that are able. "They love to work, and they want to be busy. That's why we keep the campus operating and we keep looking for jobs anywhere we can. Like anybody else, they want to be active and doing things... Even the ones who live in the homes off campus."

They have thirteen off-campus homes, but prefer their participants to be no more than a half hour away so they can easily return for activities

and events. Most join Misericordia after they finish school, around age 22, but they have residents as young as eight months old. And although they are a Catholic program and facility, you don't need to be Catholic to apply or be enrolled.

In addition to being a key staff member at Misericordia, Father Jack also has a loved one in residence on campus. "It's a blessing to be here. My sister Sheila is here... she had twenty-some years in state facilities and nursing homes, and since she's been here, she's like a new person. Medicine got her to where she could be here and functioning, but now she's got a job and she takes three buses to get there and three buses to get home, and she has her own money, and she's happy as a lark," he says of his sibling.

Many on-campus residents are cared for by staff, but Father Jack explains that they want families to remain as involved as they can. "We don't take your child from you, we share you child with you." And higher level of involvement is always the hope, but between 20-30% of their population either have no family or come from poverty.

Volunteer workers and monetary donations are essential to keeping the facility running and the residents within care. The annual budget for Misericordia is in the tens of millions, and while a large portion of that comes from state and federal funding, it's still up to staff and administrators to raise about \$21 million in funds each year. Fund-raisers and charity events are a large contributor to the cause, but small individual donations are greatly appreci-



ated and can go a long way to sustaining the program.

"The thing we say is 'come for a tour'. When people come for a tour and see the need, and see how their money is going to be spent, then they're willing to let us be one of their charities. There's loads of great charities out there. I see them and support them myself. But when people come here and they see the lives that our residents have, I think that it really does touch hearts.

Chicago is a great place. The Irish community has always been very supportive, but so many people are supportive of us, and we're blessed to make our home in Chicago. Chicagoans are very generous, and any way people can get involved in Misericordia, we're grateful, said Fr. Jack."

For information on Misericordia, volunteering, or donating, you can visit [www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)





## From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



### Where Are We At?

Albert Reynolds reflected ruefully after his downfall that it was the small hurdles rather than the major ones which tripped you up. Leo Varadkar would do well to keep those words in mind as well as Harold Macmillan's dictum that the best laid plans could be negated by "events, dear boy, events." Several occurrences over the last month demonstrate that unknown unknowns can suddenly materialise with potential to wreak unexpected damage. One in particular, still very much current, could have profound ramifications.

First up was the latest Irish postage stamp featuring a famous person. Not normally something to generate controversy, but in this case the image was of Che Guevara, a gentleman with, to say the least, a chequered reputation, and who still generates strong feelings for and against fifty years after his death (the excuse for the timing of the stamp's launch). The initial print run of the stamp – 122,000 – sold out rapidly. Apart from the usual stamp collectors, who buy every new issue, one can assume that purchasers included some admirers of Che, together with others hoping that the stamp might one day acquire scarcity value because of its potential notoriety. There were the expected squeaks from the Irish right, some protests and complaints from circles in the USA – especially among Cubans in Florida – and matching sounds of pleasure from the Irish left.

It wasn't of course just an image of Guevara. It was THE image - the iconic portrait by Irish artist Jim Fitzpatrick which has adorned millions of T-shirts and wall posters worldwide over the decades since Fitzpatrick put it

into the public domain in the late Sixties. When Castro died I wrote in my column that, for most people "the image of the Cuban revolution that comes first to mind is Jim Fitzpatrick's iconic rendering of the 1960 Korda photo of Che." It conferred a type of romantic immortality on Guevara and the Cuban revolution, making it possible to ignore the fading and aging Castro (not to mention the dubious and mixed record of the revolution) while cherishing that preserved sanitised image of Che.

The choice of Guevara was justified as meeting the criteria of showcasing some aspect of Irish life, culture or history, having a subject and design with international appeal and of contributing an outreach to the Irish diaspora of Latin America. Amen to the design; indeed Jim Fitzpatrick could well merit a set of Irish stamps for his Celtic artwork alone. The diaspora argument is less convincing – Guevara's Irish connection goes back to an emigrant of the mid 1700s, posing the question of how many other people of the 80 million Irish diaspora are likely to feature on future Irish stamps. The question might also be asked as to the relevance to Ireland of a stamp issued a week after the Guevara one commemorating the centenary of the supposed Apparition at Fatima. All proposed new stamps are routinely run past the Government for approval; expect future lists to be scrutinised more closely.

More seriously came the revelation last week that three Irish T.D.s propose to visit North Korea early in the New Year to seek to engage in talks with Kim Jong Il. And not just T.D.s but the three Government Ministers from the loose-knit Independent Alliance grouping who, together with Fianna Fail, are essentially keeping the Fine Gael Government in

power after the painstaking Coalition –cobbling by Enda Kenny last year. The announcement has been greeted with derision in some quarters, dismay in others and plenty of uncomplimentary comment in the social media. The Taoiseach, with limited room for manoeuvre, while not banning the visit, has voiced disapproval, as has the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Whether the visit will go ahead remains to be seen. The trio are to be briefed this week by Foreign Affairs and have apparently been invited to discuss the visit by the North Korean Embassy in London.

The potential for any such visit to go wrong is clear. This is, to put it mildly, a fraught period in relations between North Korea and the international community, spearheaded by the USA, with Trump and Kim not far away from an eyeball to eyeball confrontation. Indeed some of the more pessimistic observers rate the possibility of war as upwards of 50%, with each bellicose exchange between the two presidents ratcheting the tension up further and increasing the chances for a miscalculation. Observers are unanimously agreed that a military conflict would be disastrous, with even a conventional war generating tens of thousands of casualties and a nuclear exchange very many more. Much hope is being pinned on the Koreans acting rationally – which is fine as long as Trump does likewise.

A visit by Irish Government Ministers, even by members of the Independent Alliance, and even if described as private and not official, is open to immediate misinterpretation, coming as it would at a time when the major players - who do NOT include Ireland - are seeking to exert pressure on North Korea and the international community is being exhorted to isolate the regime. At the very least any visit would hand Pyongyang a propaganda boost which Kim and Co might seek to exploit as proof both to their unfortunate citizenry and to the rest of the world that their policy has international support.

Worse would be were Pyongyang actually to BELIEVE their own propaganda. Right now the stakes are very high and the role for Irish politicians is surely to avoid fanning the embers.

Finally on November 2 Apple refused to confirm that it would go ahead with a planned data centre in Athenry Co Galway, after a two year planning process. What was particularly galling was that the refusal to confirm was made by Tim Cook, Apple's Chief Executive, in a face to face meeting with the Taoiseach in California. The Taoiseach's response, to announce that henceforth data centres would be designated as strategic infrastructure on a par with motorways and railways indicates just how worried the Government is.

The Athenry project was stalled, inter alia over public objections and appeals. There were audible sighs of relief (and local rejoicing) when the appeals were rejected several weeks ago and again when the Irish High

Court refused leave for further appeals. Yet the worry for the Government is that Apple, in tandem with announcing the Athenry project, announced a similar one in Denmark. Two years on, while Athenry has been mired in the planning process, the data centre in Denmark has been built and is about to go into operation. A decision is to be announced shortly regarding a further data facility. It would be a supreme optimist who would put money on the new project going to Ireland.

Whatever ultimately happens over Athenry (and Apple could still say yes) the worry right now is that Apple could decide that the planning process here is not worth the candle and opt for elsewhere (there will be no shortage of candidates), and that this would sway other companies planning future or further investment. Nobody disputes the need for planning, but a way must be found to streamline and speed up the process. Big Boys Rules, Leo.

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**An Immigrant's Musings**

**Michael Leonard**



**Tax & Immigration**

As I begin this month's reflection, the US House and Senate Republicans are busy at work on the reform of the federal tax laws. Most economists agree that this is an exercise that is long overdue. And whatever your opinion on the subject, the result is bound to leave many people unhappy.

In an ideal world, we would all pay a fair proportion of the tax burden. Taxes, it has often been are a necessary evil. We need to spread the burden of community services over as large a group of individuals and corporations as possible.

Problems of course arise whereby the middle class ends up bearing a portion of the load that is often unfair. This is made worse when the very wealthy are able to get away with paying a light share of the burden. It is also compounded by the fact that corporations are often guilty of avoiding or in some cases evading to pay taxes at all. In fact some major corporations because they have their corporations located in foreign places, end up paying no tax at all in the US.

There is a myth that I have often heard from folks who are no fans of undocumented immigrants, they say, "these people are a burden on our system and they don't pay taxes."

FACT: Undocumented immigrants pay taxes. Between 50-75% of undocumented immigrants pay federal, state and local taxes. They also contribute to Medicare and provide as much as 9 billion dollars a

year to the Social Security Fund. Further still, undocumented workers pay sales taxes where applicable and property taxes—directly if they own and indirectly if they rent. (Source: "The Impact of Unauthorized Immigrants on the Budgets of State and Local Governments," Congressional Budget Office, (Dec. 2007), p. 6; Immigration Policy Center, "Undocumented Immigrants as Taxpayers," (November 2007), <http://www.aifl.org/ipc/factsheets/UndocumentedasTaxpayer.pdf>;

**Lessons from 9/11, The Annoying Little Things:**

- As you might know, the head of a major company survived the tragedy of "9/11" in New York because his son started kindergarten.
- Another fellow was alive because it was his turn to bring donuts.
- One woman was late because her alarm clock didn't go off in time.
- One was late because of being stuck on the NJ Turnpike because of an auto accident.
- One of them missed his bus.
- One spilled food on her clothes and had to take time to change.
- One's car wouldn't start.
- One went back to answer the telephone.
- One had a child that dawdled and didn't get ready as soon as he should have.
- One couldn't get a taxi.
- The one that struck me was the man who put on a new pair of shoes that morning, took the various means to get to work but before he got there, he developed a blister on his foot. He stopped at a drugstore to buy a Band-Aid. That is why he is alive today.

Now when I am stuck in traffic...

- miss an elevator...
- turn back to answer a ringing telephone...
- all the little things that annoy me...
- I think to myself...

this is exactly where God wants me to be at this very moment.

The next time your morning seems to be going wrong,

- the children are slow getting dressed,
- you can't seem to find the car keys,
- you hit every traffic light...
- don't get mad or frustrated;

God is at work watching over you.

May God continue to bless you with all those annoying little things - and may you remember and appreciate their possible purpose.

~ Author Unknown

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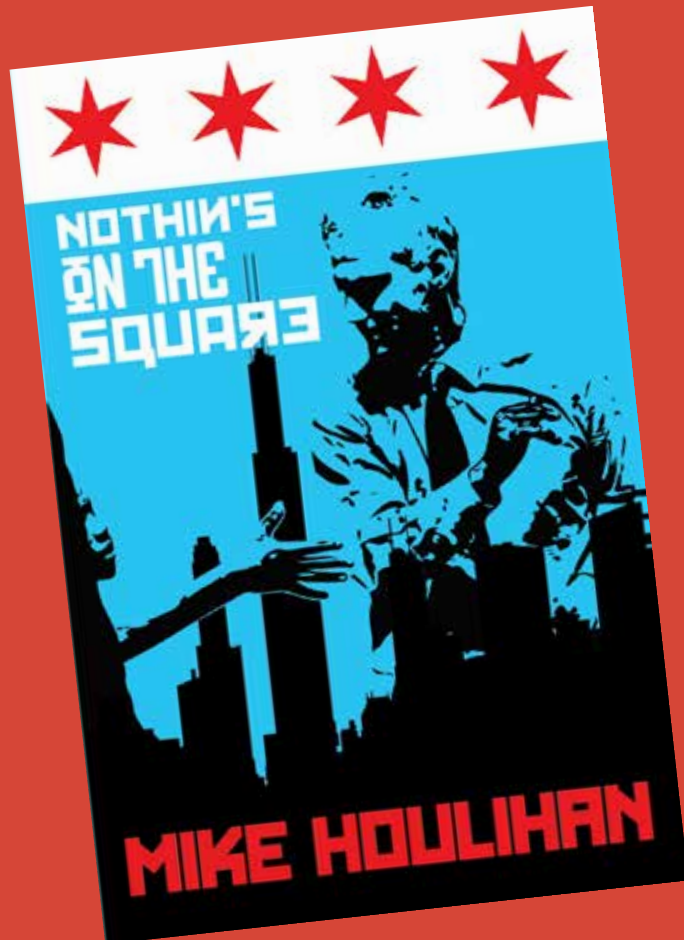
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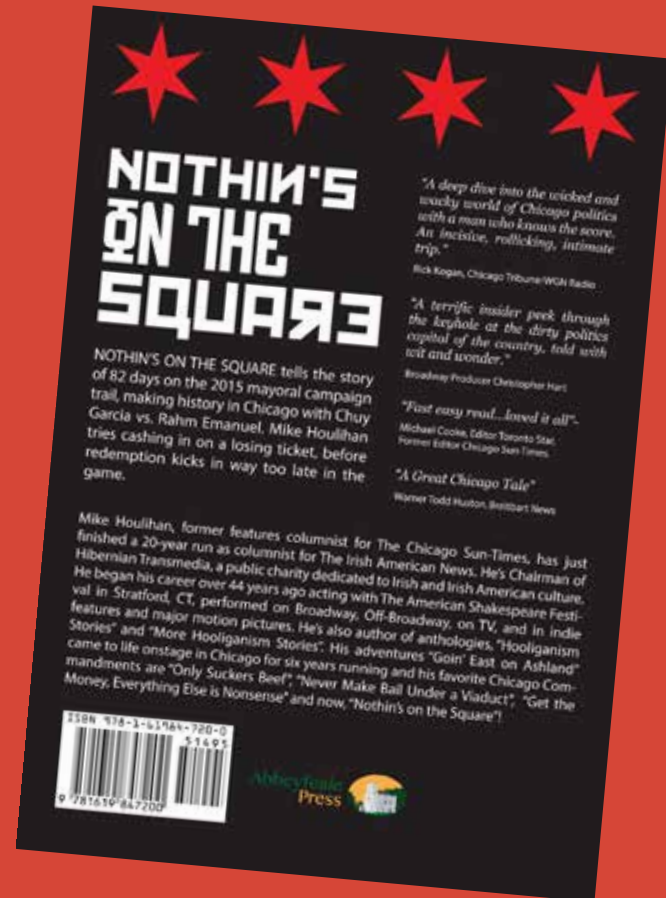
Travis Loller.  
In fact, it has often been reported that, if we were to legalize all of the undocumented people in the US it would result in an enormous boost to the economy. This is because, many of those hard working people, would be able to purchase homes, pay taxes and the result would be that the burden of providing services across the board would be more evenly spread.  
Let's hope and pray that our elected officials will not forget this important part of the puzzle as they try to reform our tax code.  
Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at: [sliabhanoir@gmail.com](mailto:sliabhanoir@gmail.com)

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**Sunday Dec. 10th**, right after mass! 10:45-Noon  
Gaelic Park: 6119 W 147th Street, Oak Forest

**Sunday, Dec. 10th**  
Reilly's Daughter Irish Pub  
4010 West 111th Street, Oak Lawn from 2-5PM

**Sunday, Dec. 17th**  
The Curragh Traditional Irish Pub  
6705 North Northwest Highway from 4-7PM

**Saturday, Dec. 23rd**, Mollie's Public House,  
31 Forest Ave, Riverside, IL 4-7PM

Rick Kogan of  
*Chicago Tribune*  
and WGN Radio calls it:

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Also makes a great compliment to a lump of coal



## The Irish Rover

By James McClure



### Film Director's Lens Has an Irish Flair

James Kerwin always wanted to explore his Irish heritage, having grown up hearing of his father's mother who came to America in 1915. When James' grandfather on his father's side came through Ellis Island in 1921 he had a different name than what ended up on the books.

"And yes, I am absolutely Irish!" says Kerwin with a pride that goes deeply. "I'm from clan Kirwan ('O Ciardubhain' in Gaelic)."

"The original name was spelled Kirwan," the director explains. From that humble and misspelled beginning the Kerwin name has spread far across the land to Hollywood, where Kerwin's latest writing and directing triumph is directing the finale two-part episode of Star

Trek Continues, a web series that perfectly re-creates the look, feel and writing of the original Star Trek. The classic and iconic science fiction television series that debuted in 1965 lives on in movies and other television series despite the starship Enterprise having gone to "full stop" when the five year mission ended due to a cancellation after its third season in 1969.

Kerwin has been with the award-winning fan funded series for several years now as a producer, writer and for many of the 11 total episodes, director.

"The way that I approached it was as a period piece," said Kerwin of the daunting directorial challenge of bringing the late 60's style and technology back to present day in a familiar but fresh way. "We're making it look like they thought it would look back in 1969," notes Kerwin. "You have to be completely genuine and true to how it originally was, just like if you were re-creating the Old West in a film."

It's not Kerwin's first time around the science fiction galaxy, having directed two remarkable science fiction films in the past decade, both with a unique twist. Kerwin would go on to bring his unique and talented vision to a wonderfully blended sci-fi movie with a film noir twist, Yesterday Was a Lie, which he both wrote and directed. It was released in theaters in 2009.

R.U.R., starting with a short version released in 2013, goes back to the future with a script based on a Czech novel written in 1919 about a world 50 years in the future. You might note that puts the film's time period smack in the middle of the same year that NBC executives were getting ready to pull the plug on Star Trek.

His fascinating version of that year isn't really reflective of the 1969 you might remember, but instead blends in one part post-world war visions and art deco designs for a future-past that exists only in an alternate universe where the girls are artificial and the laser bullets fly with the staccato beat of a 1920's Tommy Gun beneath a futuristic neon glow reminiscent of Blade Runner. A full-length version of R.U.R. is still in the works (interrupted by his work on Star Trek Continues).

Accompanying Kerwin in both those sci-fi movies was Chicagoan actress Kipleigh Brown, who traded in her Emma Peel Avengers black leather catsuit from the latter work for heels, trenchcoat and a fedora in the former.

The talented veteran of Steppenwolf Theater and other venues as both stage actor and stand-up comedian, followed Kerwin into the 23rd century as Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Barbara Smith, a nod to a character in the original series' third episode which was actually a second pilot for the series that debuted William Shatner as Captain Kirk.

Kerwin and Brown both joined Star Trek Continues in the third episode of what concluded just last month as an 11 episode arc envisioned by executive producer and lead actor Vic Mignogna, a world renown voice actor best known for voicing American English into wildly popular Japanese Anime cartoons. Brown herself wrote the 9th episode of Continues titled "What Ships are For."

Mignogna's vision, well directed by Kerwin and acted by Brown whose talents are shown full flower as a central player in the final episode, was to bring closure

to the open wound of a beloved series that never had a proper ending. Star Trek's popularity in syndication spawned the arrival and success of Star Wars in 1977, which itself inspired Paramount Pictures to bring the original Trek characters back to life with 1979's Star Trek: The Motion Picture.

What Mignogna, Kerwin and celebrated science fiction writer Robert J. Sawyer created to bridge the gap is a remarkable 10th and 11th episode in two parts titled To Boldly Go.

No spoilers (since most Trekkers know how the mo-



Star Trek Continues actress Kipleigh Brown and director James Kerwin

tion picture started), especially since as usual Captain Kirk saves the Earth while Brown's Lt. (j.g) Smith in a gripping way saves the starship Enterprise in a performance combining action, vulnerability and strength.

Behind the lens and behind it all was Kerwin, who perfectly captured the look and feel of the original show while bringing a pacing and intensity that brings the Star Trek Continues series and the first Star Trek to an immensely entertaining and for old-time fans, a satisfying conclusion.

The final episode includes the familiar Irish expression "May the Wind be at Our Backs" and Kerwin himself is setting sail for the Old Country in a unique way, especially for someone who has never been to Ireland.

"I am currently in the middle of applying to gain an Irish citizenship," says Kerwin who says he wants to learn more about his heritage in the process.

Fair guess that a man who so ably takes us back to the 1960's and to the 23rd Century will also find his way with grace and appreciation to his roots in the green sod of the Emerald Isle.

More information on Kerwin and Star Trek Continues, along with all the episodes, can be found at [www.startekcontinues.com](http://www.startekcontinues.com) E-mail James McClure at [IrishRoverJim@aol.com](mailto:IrishRoverJim@aol.com)

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## On the Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.

Founding Partner



enforcement and a sister who is a nurse. When the group questions concluded, Roberts, who was referred to simply as "Juror 49" by the presiding judge, was separately questioned by the court and counsel regarding his employment. Roberts was subsequently dismissed from jury duty.

Like Roberts, his fellow justices, Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan have also been summoned in recent years, but neither has been chosen to serve. Former Secretary of State John Kerry's story had a different ending. In 2005, while serving as a U.S. Senator, Kerry was summoned for jury duty, chosen, and elected foreperson.

Outside of the governmental sphere, Cook County's favorite juror may have been Oprah Winfrey. The well-known talk show host was chosen as a juror in a murder trial in Cook County in 2004. Rumor has it she pleased her fellow jurors when she offered to cater in food for everyone, rather than have her fellow jurors eat from the County cafeteria.

### Attempts to Change Civil Juries in Illinois

Of course, the noteworthy nature of these stories stems from the fact that the average person dreads the idea of jury duty. One of the reasons it is disliked is because the pay to a juror for each day of service in Cook County is only \$17.20. In 2015 an attempt was made to increase this amount to \$25 for the first day and \$50 for each additional day. To accommodate this increase with additional strain on the government, the jury size in civil cases was decreased from 12 to 6. Criminal cases remained at 12 jurors.

Under the law before 2015, some counties were authorized to pay jurors as little as \$4 per day. The change in the law brought Illinois in line with the federal court system and 38 other states. Criminal cases continued to be heard by twelve jurors.

The change, however, was challenged on constitution grounds by insurance companies and defendants in lawsuits, who claim the change violated a provision in the Illinois Constitution of 1970 which provided that "the right of trial by jury as heretofore enjoyed shall remain inviolate." The challenge was eventually heard by the Illinois Supreme Court, which determined that because 12-person juries were used in civil cases in 1970, no reduction in the number of jurors could be made. Therefore, as of September 2016, the law reverted to its pre-2015 form and jurors, including past-presidents, sitting senators and talk show hosts, are

paid \$17.20/day for their service.

### The Importance of Jury Duty

The importance of jury duty was enshrined 800 years ago in the Magna Carta, one of the first official documents ever to limit the power of a government. Interference with the right to trial by jury was cited in the Declaration of Independence as one of the reasons for America's need to break away from England. Its author, Thomas Jefferson, believed jury duty was the best line of defense against tyranny and more precious to democracy than even the right to vote.

After the last Chicago Municipal elections, Chicago Tribune/Red Eye columnist Ryan Smith agreed with President Jefferson's sentiment. Smith noted that while many proudly wear "I voted" stickers, jury duty is treated "with the kind of contempt reserved for dentist appointments or shoveling snow after a blizzard." Smith points out that while a single vote in an election will be taken into account with millions of others, the single vote of a juror is much more significant.

The power wielded by a jury is also significant. In criminal cases, a jury's verdict can deprive an individual of his freedom. In civil cases, a jury's verdict has a dramatic effect on the safety of our streets, the safety of the products we use, and the care given to our loved ones. Only through a jury trial can a multi-national, multi-billion-dollar corporation and an individual citizen be placed on equal footing.

In talking to jurors throughout the decades our firm has been trying cases, nearly all jurors agree that, regardless of their initial hesitation, jury duty was a very memorable experience. Hopefully, the next time you receive a jury summons, you will quickly get over your initial hesitation and instead think of the importance and significant impact of serving.

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



By: Martin Healy, Jr. (above)

and

Dennis M. Lynch

(pictured here)

## The Highest Calling of Any Citizen

*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.*

*"The highest calling of any citizen is to serve as a juror."*  
-Abraham Lincoln

Cook County residents with a jury summons for the Daley Center on November 8th were given an additional good reason to show up for jury duty- former President Barack Obama was going to be part of their jury pool. President Obama, who was called for jury duty while a sitting President but excused from service at that time, reported to the 17th Floor with the other jurors and patiently waited for his name to be called. He was dismissed from service a few hours later. Reportedly, he was the only prospective juror with Secret Service protection.

President Obama is not the only public servant who has had the honor of being called to jury duty. A few years ago jury selection in a seemingly routine Maryland civil case arising out of a traffic accident included a surprise guest: one of the prospective jurors was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, John Roberts, the highest ranking judicial officer in the United States. While many would assume that Chief Justice Roberts would be quickly dismissed with apologies from the court for the inconvenience, all reports indicate that Chief Justice Roberts patiently waited through the process with all of his fellow prospective jurors.

Here again accompanied by two security officers, Roberts answered group questions posed to all of the jurors - indicating in his case that he had a brother-in-law in law

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## Gerry Adams' Farewell

By Sabina Clarke

We knew it was bound to happen... that Gerry Adams President of Sinn Fein since 1983 would eventually hand the baton over to the younger generation but it still comes as a shock...the moment still stunning.

On the heels of the loss of Martin McGuinness, whose sudden premature death at sixty-six resonated around the world, Adams departure marks yet another poignant chapter in Irish republican history—living history which is disappearing before our eyes but will be forever etched in the minds and hearts of the people for whom they fought and their many supporters around the world.

Before a packed crowd of about 2,500 people—some in tears--Adams gave an emotional address referencing his 10 year plan for Sinn Fein that he said was formulated by himself and Martin McGuinness stating that they both agreed when it would be the time for each of them to step down.

He opened his address in Irish greeting friends and comrades all over the globe and expressing solidarity with the

people of Palestine and the Gaza Strip and the people of Catalonia—and particularly to the widow of Martin McGuinness--Bernie McGuinness—whom he later introduced and embraced onstage—to a thunderous standing ovation.

His opening lines were "This is our time. Republicanism has never been stronger. We will grow



stronger in the time ahead. But leadership means knowing when it is time for change. That time is now."

Adams made it clear that "Contrary to the bogus argument being put forth by some, it is evident that Sinn Fein is fully committed to the power sharing institutions agreed to in the Good Friday Agreement but there will be no return to the Assembly in the North without a 'Stand Alone Irish Language Act' and agreement on the resolution of other outstanding issues."

He criticized the "conservative republicanism" of Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Fianna Fail Leader Micheal Martin which he called "a million miles away from the vision of the 1916 Proclamation" and compared Varadkar to the late

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher—saying "Our legacy lives on in our Taoiseach"—adding that "He needs to be more like Michael Collins and less like Hugh Grant."

He promised that if Sinn Fein is in government they will hold a referendum on Irish unity within five years.

He concluded his remarks by thanking his wife Colette and mentioning how they survived the many ups and downs—such as his incarcerations on the Prison Ship Maidstone, Belfast Prison, Long Kesh and the H-Blocks, and his years of being 'on the run'.

The event was historic. I watched it live. It opened with a moving musical tribute to Martin McGuinness

whose face was on a large screen—as if he were watching as the crowd stood up and cheered their departed courageous Chieftain.

So, it seemed as if Martin was there in spirit as Adams mentioned him several times in his address—at one time saying, "None of us knew that Martin would be terminally ill and that we would meet this year without him. We don't have time now to reflect on these mysteries of life and death or on the loss of such a wonderful comrade and leader."

What Adams and McGuinness accomplished for the cause of peace at the risk of their own lives and personal fortunes will long be remembered

We will not see their likes again.  
 (art by Megan Lawlor).

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## UPCOMING CONCERTS AND PROGRAMS



### IAHC Holiday Food Drive

Show your holiday spirit by donating to the fifth annual Holiday Food Drive, benefiting the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Drop off items including canned fruit, cereal, pasta, rice and soup to help us meet our goal of 1200 lbs. of food. **Through January 2**



### Christmas Bazaar

Visit a winter wonderland at the annual Christmas Bazaar. Join us for a full day of holiday festivities, including Mass at 10:30am, traditional Irish breakfast, a craft fair and bake sale, Irish music and dance and a visit from Santa.

**Sunday, December 3, 9am-9pm, Breakfast tickets: Adults \$15, Children 12 and under \$5**  
*Reservations are required.*



### Irish Christmas with Andy Cooney

The spirit of Christmas comes alive as Andy Cooney gathers the finest musicians, dancers and performers to celebrate the most wonderful time of year in the Irish tradition.

**Sunday, December 3, 3pm, Tickets \$35**



### Paints and Pints

Budding Picassos can create a painting, while enjoying a pint and bring home their canvas creation.

**Friday, December 8, 7-9pm, \$45 for IAHC members, \$50 for general admission**



### Christmas Tea

Enjoy the sounds of the season featuring music with musicians Kathy Cowan, Kathleen Keane, Steve Zivin and the Old Town School of Music Women's Choir.

**Saturday, December 9, 11am, \$25, children 12 and under \$8**



### The Noble Call Christmas Show

Paddy Homan & The Noble Call takes audiences back to the 'hearth' of an Irish Christmas, filled with songs, stories, rousing music and traditional Irish dancing.

**Saturday, December 16, 7:30pm, \$20 IAHC Members, \$22 Non-members**



### New Year's Eve Party

Ring in the New Year with Annual New Year's Eve Party with dancing, hors d'oeuvres, a champagne toast at midnight, party favors and entertainment by Gerry Haughey and Kara Eadie.

**Sunday, December 31, 7pm, \$35**



### Kevin Burke Concert

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

**Friday, February 16, 2018, 8pm, \$20 Members, \$22 Non-Members**

**Fiddle Workshop: Friday, February 16, 5:30pm, \$40**



### RUNA in Concert

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### President's Message

The holidays have just begun and already I am exhausted. With a month to go in the year, I have to say that November was a whirlwind. We welcomed the very talented Moya Brennan and her band to our Center and honored our Veterans on the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War with Mass and a brick dedication ceremony. We thank those who have served or are serving in our military and the men and women in uniform who serve and protect our citizens.



Bazaar. The decked halls will be filled with Irish arts and crafts for your loved ones to place under the tree. Santa Claus will be coming to town and stopping by the Library. It's a great day for the whole family. An IAHC membership is the perfect stocking stuffer, so don't be a Grinch and join us for a wonderful day.

The building will be bursting with Christmas carols and events so you better watch out for our Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 9 at 11am and concerts from Andy Cooney on Sunday, December 3 at 3pm (no relation, as he has talent) and the one and only Paddy Ho Ho Homan and the Noble Call on Saturday, December 16 at 7:30pm. You can bet that won't be a silent night at the Center. For the sixth year, we'll host a food drive for the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Drop off canned goods and dry groceries to help meet our goal of 1,200 lbs.

The Irish American Hall of Fame Trivia Night was a blast and again I had to forfeit my vast knowledge of the obvious and the unknown and forego joining a team just to keep things fair. Thank you to the Irish Heritage Singers for their outstanding concert of beautiful Irish music and Christmas tunes.

Now that it's December, the Fifth Province fireplace is so delightful and Cooney and Houli are often frightful! Join us for the Craic Radio Show on Thursday nights and the session, led by John Williams that follows. Oh by gosh and by golly, you can find your perfect Christmas gift at the IAHC Gift Shop and on Sunday, December 3 as we HO HO Host our annual Christmas

Finally, I want to commend the Board of Directors who wisely decided to elevate our General Manager Meg Buchanan to the position of Executive Director. Congratulations on a job well done and thank you all for all you do for the Center. Merry Christmas to all, and to all, a good night.

*Eugene M. Cooney*  
President

### December 2017

12/1	Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
12/2	Piobairí Shamrock American Club Social	Fifth Province	6pm
12/3	Christmas Bazaar, Mass and Breakfast	Shamrock American Room	8pm
	Andy Cooney Concert	Full Building	9am
12/6	Tara Club Senior Meeting	Auditorium	3pm
12/8	Paints and Pints	Room 306	10am
12/9	Christmas Tea	Room 306	7pm
	St. Patrick Father's Social	Erin Room	11am
12/10	Shamrock American Club Mass and Brunch	Erin Room	8pm
	Celtic Angels Christmas Concert	Erin Room	10am
	Great Books Club <i>Making Babies</i> by Anne Enright	Auditorium	3pm
12/15	Shamrock American Club Meeting	Library	1pm
12/16	Paddy Homan and the Noble Call Christmas Concert	Shamrock American Room	8pm
12/24-26	Merry Christmas	Auditorium	7:30pm
12/31	Genealogy Workshop	Building Closed	
	New Year's Eve Party	Library	1pm
		Fifth Province	7pm

### Regularly Scheduled Events

Mon-Fri	Gift Shop (Holiday Hours)	First Floor Lobby	Noon-8pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
Wed	Traditional Irish Music Session	Room 311	7pm
	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
	Na Gaeil Irish Language Class	Library	7pm
Thurs	Taping of the Craic Radio Show	Fifth Province	6:30pm
	Thursday Night Irish Music Session	Fifth Province	7pm
	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal	Room 306	7pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili	Room 111	8pm
Sat	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	10am-8pm
	Na Gaeil Irish Language Class	Library	11am

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### DECEMBER ENTERTAINMENT

- 12/1 Ceili Mor
- 12/2 Kieran Byrne
- 12/8 L.J. Slavin
- 12/9 Party Music
- 12/15 Fagan
- 12/16 The Dooley Brothers
- 12/22 Glass Half Empty
- 12/23 The Dirty Wellies
- 12/29 The Boils
- 12/30 St. Stephen's Green



Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions: December 7, 14, 21 and 28; 7pm



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**Saturday**

**10am-8pm**

**The Heritage Line Staff** Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

**Contributors:** Meg Buchanan, Gene Cooney, Laura Coyle, Ellen Folan, Catherine Kelly, Kathy Kelly, Mike Shevlin, Becky Tatz

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## View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



### Brexit Progress Report

Brexit truly has been a runaway success so far. Satirists and cartoonists have never been so busy. Britain's fusty old political system, a rotation between Labour and Conservative governments, has been reinvigorated by a fresh new dynamic—the emergence and fall of UKIP opened the way for the rise to prominence of the DUP in Westminster Parliament. Brexit has even gone some way toward succoring the ailing newspaper industry: in the euphoria that attended the vote for the UK to leave the EU last June three million British newspapers above the average circulation were sold that month. So everyone is happy? Well...

Brexit was the subject of a round table debate hosted by the Irish American Heritage Centre in Chicago last

month in which Terence Boyle, Senator Joan Freeman, Michael Hogan and myself participated. Proponents squaring off with antagonists is the stuff of a lively debate. With a Brexit debate, however, it is almost impossible to find anyone outside England who is willing to advocate it. Chicago was no different. So we rapidly agreed that Brexit constitutes a cascade of disasters and then we opened the debate to the floor.

Predictably, Brexit is hastening the disintegration of the British government. The latest in a series of meltdowns for British Prime Minister Theresa May is the revelation that two of the most senior members of the Conservative Party, Michael Gove and Boris Johnson, sent a letter to May telling her what to do, stating: 'We all want you to push your agenda forward with confidence and have your government articulate the following...' In other words, you have our support, Boss, as long as you do exactly what we say.

Nor did they stop there. Erstwhile bitter rivals, Gove and Johnson have now conspired to push May out of office; and they came within a whisker of succeeding when forty Conservative Party members agreed to sign a letter of no confidence in the Prime Minister.

The reasoning they offer for removing May is that the flailing attempts of her administration to negotiate terms for the divorce bill for Britain exiting the EU is a sign of weak leadership. The Gove and Johnson pairing certainly have a point in their criticism of May. Yet their bid is mitigated by the fact that they are absolutely central to the dysfunction at the heart of the Conservative Party. Moreover, it is highly doubtful Johnson (he is the favourite in the polls to succeed May as Prime Minister) would lead the negotiations more effectively.

The gripe that Johnson and Gove have with the way negotiations have proceeded is as follows: 'We have heard it argued by some that we cannot start preparations [to exit] on the basis of no deal because that would undermine our obligation of "sincere cooperation" with the EU. If taken seriously, that would leave us over a barrel in 2021'.

The 'no deal' scenario is Britain failing to agree terms with Europe and nevertheless proceeding towards exit. It is a high risk strategy predicated upon the notion that Europe needs Britain far too much to allow its relationship with Britain to remain undecided. A 'no deal' scenario is a 'hard Brexit' with all manner of issues left open, including the land frontier between the EU and the UK, which would lie on the Irish border.

Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar upped the ante on Friday November 17th when he said: "What we want to take off the table, before we even talk about trade, is any idea that there would be a hard border, a physical border, or a border resembling the past... Then we'd be happy to move on to phase two". Never so far in the Brexit negotiations has the Irish government set the agenda so clearly, nor has it acted so forthrightly vis-a-vis the British government.

Part of the explanation for Varadkar's move is that the chaos of the Conservative Party's approach to Brexit so badly needs form and clarity. Varadkar is also emboldened by the fact that Ireland is fully part of the EU Bloc and supported by it in this position.

European support notwithstanding, negotiations between Britain and Ireland have now moved much closer to a hostile confrontation. If May is replaced by Johnson, the Irish and British governments could immediately become embroiled in a game of chicken. Given our countries' long history of antagonism, and our more recent history of co-operation, that would be very sad and retrograde. Historically, England's difficulty was Ireland's opportunity, but Brexit bucks that trend. England's Brexit difficulty bristles with difficulties for Ireland as well.

Johnson would not last long as leader of the Conservatives: he would be chewed up by his failure to negotiate a good deal for Britain. Jacob Rees-Mogg is also waiting in the wings to become leader of the Conservative Party—it would surely be party leadership, rather than government leadership, since it is hard to imagine the Conservative government surviving this degree of strain for very much longer.

Yet Brexiteers are unperturbed. Rees-Mogg, recently on BBC Hardtalk, he urged that Britain needs to play hardball in negotiations. While Britain does need to change its tactic from ignoreball, there is scant grounds for optimism given the leadership, both existing and prospective, that they will make the progress necessary to strike a deal.

So, all told, Brexit is a runaway success. Stay tuned for more triumphs.

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# Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler

This month and over the next few I will cover Irish instruments. I'd like to define Uilleann (ILL-in) (Gaelic for elbow) pipes as they are Ireland's national pipe and not to be confused with Scottish Highland bagpipes. I would like to compare and explain each of the instruments as Scotland is our cousin and a Celtic nation. Bagpipes of some form are played all over the world and have been played for hundreds of years. Countries such as: France, Turkey, Portugal, Syria and some African countries, are pipe players. What are Uilleann bagpipes? The pipes of Ireland. I've been told the Irish pipes are among the most difficult instrument to play. To play them effectively a student must learn to pump the bellows (blower) steadily while controlling the pressure on the bag and playing the chanter simultaneously. It's a wind instrument using enclosed reeds fed from a constant reservoir of air in the form of a bag. The bag of the Uilleann pipes is inflated by means of a small set of bellows strapped around the waist and the right arm. The pipes are worn not held, one gets into them. A bellow gets strapped around the right arm, and a waist band holds the bellows on one side and a leather air reservoir bag on the other. The bellows is pumped with the right elbow, hence the name. A strap on the bellows goes around the right arm, a waist band holds the bellows on one side and an air reservoir bag on the other. One clump of the pipes rests across the lap. The chanter is held in the hands, its bottom resting on the right knee on what is affectionately known as "the popping strap". The pipes rest across the player's lap moving hands and arms in four different ways

to produce sound. Pumping the bellows with one arm supplies the air to the instrument and fingering the chanter changes the notes, this is where the melody is performed. Air from the bellows travels



through a tube (worn across the stomach) into the air bag. Irish pipes have seven reeds, four drones and three chanters.

They are living-room instruments. Irish pipes have gained popularity through the Chieftains, Riverdance, Titanic and Braveheart. In the movie, Braveheart you saw the Highland Scottish bagpipes but you heard



*Uilleann (ILL-in)  
(Gaelic for elbow) pipes*

the Uilleann pipes. Uilleann pipes are more lyrical, the instrument for striking up a jig. But behind their sweet tones, uilleann pipes are complex instruments to build, learn and maintain. Most uilleann pipers play by ear, and do not read any music. The uilleann pipes are distinguished from many other pipes by their tone and wide range of notes. They have a different harmonic structure sounding sweeter and quieter than many other pipes. Players can talk and sing while their playing. A clergyman Canon James Goodman from Kerry had his taylor made Uilleann pipes buried with him in Co. Cork. Later his friend Alderman Phair of Cork had Good-

man's pipes recovered from the cemetery and donated them to Cork piper named Michael O'Riabhagh. A few famous players include: Seamus Ennis, (Dublin), Davy Spillane (Dublin) and Leo Rowsome (Wexford) Moving onto the Scottish Highland pipes. Players must blow and exert themselves to fill up the bags that drive the pipes. They are native to Scotland and acquired widespread recognition through it's use in the British military and pipe bands throughout the world. Scottish bagpipes dominate at funerals and formal parades. It can be heard up to 10 miles away. It is a woodwind instrument like the bassoon/oboe. Double reed instrument the reeds are all closed inside the wooden stocks instead of directly being played by mouth as most other woodwinds are. The great highland pipes actually have four reeds. The major difference to the naked eye is the player blows into the Highland pipes and the Uilleann pipes the elbow is pumping and doing the work. In addition the Uilleann pipes point downwards and the Scottish pipes point upwards. Highland Bagpipe plays a role as both a solo and ensemble instrument. In ensembles, it is generally played as part of a pipe band. Highland bagpipes have been adopted by many countries that were former British Empires such as India, Pakistand and Nepal. Some police departments have highland bagpipe bands, the Emerald Society of Chicago is a not for profit charitable organization that play the bagpipes at memorials, funerals for the fallen soldiers and fireman. I spoke to a wonderful Highland bagpipe player who deserves high honors and recognition for his service in the police force and playing the Highland pipes for many years, Bruce Quintos. He said if anyone is interested to learn more about the Emerald society you can visit,

[www.copsinkilts.com](http://www.copsinkilts.com). Bruce has been

on TV playing the pipes and he is the music director and drum major, he leads the band in the parades. He had a mentor named Major Ed Kane who taught and inspired him to play the Highland pipes. If anyone wants more information on the Highland pipes you can call Bruce, he would be happy to share his expertise and his love of Scottish pipes. He can be reached at: (708) 642-9862. I spoke to another talented player of the pipes, Brendan McKinney. He actually plays both kinds of bagpipes, the Scottish Highland and Uilleann pipes! He is originally from Michigan and has been playing for 40 years! His father was from Derry and his mother from Kerry. He said they were great singers and inspired him to learn. Also, there was a strong piping community in the Detroit-Windsor Canada area. He said the Irish pipes are sometimes referred to as the "Irish organ". He was the first American to win the all-Ireland for Uilleann pipes. Brendan and his wife Siobhan own Chief O'Neill's pub and restaurant at 3471 N. Elston in Chicago. They have a session every Sunday at 5pm if you'd like to hear great Irish music you should stop by.

Our wonderful Virginia Gibbon's book this month at the Irish American Heritage Center (library 1-3pm) (Dec. 10th) is titled, Making Babies, by Anne Enright.

Gaelic for the month:

instrument-ionstraim

practice-cleachtadh

elbow-uillinn

Seanfhocail for the month:

teann an saoi thart mar a bheadh eite-

oga air, agus, cuireann gach

aon nollaig bliain eile ar do ghualainn.

Life goes by as if it had wings and every

Christmas puts another year on your

shoulders. Questions or comments please

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## Nothin's on the Square

Wanna know what really went on behind closed doors during the 2015 Campaign? Here it is, in all its ugly and hilarious glory. Chicago-land radio personality Mike Houlihan, former features columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times and Irish American News, documents a behind-the-scenes look at the race for a new mayor. This new book is the perfect Christmas gift for all political junkies. Don't miss these scheduled holiday book signings!

Nothin's on the Square tells the story of 82 days on the 2015 mayoral campaign trail, making history in Chicago with Chuy Garcia vs. Rahm Emanuel. "Nothin's on the Square," published by Abbeyfeale Press, is now available on Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble and other selected retailers.

Take a peek at the bare-knuckled back room brinkmanship and back-stabbing brew that propels Houlihan and company along the Chicago campaign trail, from empty candidate forums to boisterous corned beef bashes to the full Monty of both of Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parades. Setting the scene with daily murder and mayhem stats from the bloody streets of the ghetto, Houlihan peels off the days of the calendar to expose history in the making, as upstart candidate Jesus "Chuy" Garcia clashes with millionaire mayor Rahm Emanuel, the evil incumbent burning through money to protect his ass and toss opponents in front of the bus. Like sausage and politics, it ain't pretty, but this diary exposes the "warts and all" of a seldom seen world of local ward heelers in hand-to-hand combat in the trenches, with all the macabre humor and sensational characters that will forever define "Chicago politics".

Rick Kogan of Chicago Tribune/WGN Radio calls it "A deep dive into the wicked and wacky world of Chicago politics with a man who knows the score. An incisive, rollicking, intimate trip. Mike Houlihan is a raconteur of the first order. This is a remarkably tough look at his involvement in the last mayoral election. He



minces no words here... taking on politicians, media types, and a lot of other folks. This is a unique and essential Chicago book."

### About Mike Houlihan

Mike Houlihan, former features columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times, has just finished a 20-year run as columnist for *Irish American News*. He's Chairman of Hibernian Transmedia, a public charity dedicated to Irish and Irish American culture. He began his career over 44 years ago acting with The American Shakespeare Festival in Stratford, CT performed on Broadway, Off-Broadway, on TV, and in indie features and major motion pictures. He's also author of anthologies, "Hooliganism Stories" and "More Hooliganism Stories." His adventures "Goin' East on Ashland" came to life onstage in Chicago for six years running and his favorite Chicago Commandments are "Only Suckers Beef," "Never Make Bail Under a Viaduct", and now "Nothin's on the Square"! Available on Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble and other retailers. Limited Edition signed copies available at <https://abbeyfealepress.com/>

**Christmas season book signings:**  
Sun. Dec. 10th, right after mass. Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street, Oak Forest, From 10:45-Noon

Sunday Dec. 10th, 2-5PM Reilly's Daughter Irish Pub, 4010 W. 111th Street, Oak Lawn,

Sunday Dec. 17th, 4-7PM, The Curragh Traditional Irish Pub, 6705 North Northwest Hwy, Chicago,

Saturday, Dec. 23rd, 4-7PM, Mollie's Public House, 31 Forest Ave, Riverside, IL

## Boyle the Kettle



We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



### Barbara Blaine

Barbara Blaine, founder of the Survivor's Network of those abused by priests, passed away at the age of sixty one. Barbara had been abused as an eighth grader by a Toledo, Ohio priest who taught at the Catholic school she went to. Her pleas to Toledo's Bishop fell on deaf ears. Rest in peace Barbara. Others are carrying on your work.

### Queen Contest

Is the fairest colleen somebody you know? Give her a nudge and tell her the St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Contest is coming up soon. Maybe she is your daughter or grand daughter. There are many Irish songs have been written about beautiful colleens . . . "If her eyes are blue as skies, that's Peggy O'Neill, if she's smiling all the while, that's Peggy O'Neill, if she talks with a cute little brogue, if she walks like a sly little rogue, that's Peggy O'Neill" . . . sweet personality, full of rascality," that's our queen!

The contest takes place on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at Plumber's Hall. For more information or an application to enter the contest go to <https://www.chicagostpatricksdaysparade.org/2018-queen-contest.html> or email [michele@chicagostpatricksdaysparade.org](mailto:michele@chicagostpatricksdaysparade.org)

### Tuam

The horrifying revelations surrounding the Mother and Baby Home in Tuam, Co. Galway, are more than shocking and more than appalling. They have discovered 796 deaths so far that occurred between 1925 and 1961. The home was run by the Bon Secour's, an order of French Catholic nuns. Unwed women were sent to the home to have their babies. Often times the Parish priest advised

the parents on what to do. They were looked upon as sinners, and their illegitimate children were know as "the spawn of the fallen." The children were put up for adoption and some were adopted by families in the U.S without the knowledge or consent of the mothers. These revelations came about when Catherine Corliss decided to dig into the past of the Mother and Baby home. That was started when two boys playing on the grounds of the old home pushed the concrete lid off of an old septic tank only to discover it was filled with bones and skulls.

You can view a video clip by going to [nytimes.com/taum-video](http://nytimes.com/taum-video).

### NY City Terror

Another martyr with a scraggly-assed beard from Uzbekistan, Sayfullo Saipov, 29 years old, ran down and killed 8 bikers and pedestrians on a Brooklyn bicycle path with a rented truck from Home Depot. He was here through the diversity visa "lottery program." Why are we bending over backwards to accommodate these people? Frankly, we have enough "diversity." The melting pot no longer has a flame under it.

### iBAM! Recap

The dinner and awards was the high tide of our cultural year. Wave after wave of cultural offerings washed over the crowd. Speeches by the honorees went straight to our hearts from their hearts. Perhaps the most compelling was Senator Joan Freeman, who founded Pieta House, the center for the prevention of self harm and suicide in Dublin.

### Greek Life

Elitest college boys, fraternity brothers, would you let your son join a fraternity? Year after

year we hear about young men dying after having to drink obscene amounts of alcohol, during the initiation rites. Young Tim Piazza, at Penn State University, had at least eighteen drinks in one hour and 40 minutes.

New criminal charges have been brought against his fraternity brothers who participated in the ritual.

### Cincinnati Irish

Cliff Carlson and myself journeyed to Cincinnati for the annual "Green Tie Affair." Kent Covey and Maureen Kennedy put together another entertaining program. Conor Cuneen was the Interlocutor, while Dan Shea was the Master of Ceremonies. Irish Vice Consul, Justin Dolan, was on hand to support the event, and spoke about the importance of Irish Heritage Centers and the work that they do in support of Irish culture.

### IFC

The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago Christmas Luncheon falls on December 1st of this year. President Christopher Kozicki will pass the torch on to a new president as he becomes Chairman of the Board. The new president will have a hard time meeting the standards that Chris has set. Sadly, this year we will miss the familiar face of Jim Sloan, who always bought a table for the luncheon and stood out in the crowd by wearing his red vest.

### Tidbits

Thomas Friedman from the New York Times said, "people who don't have a second paragraph." When you elect people who don't have a plan 'B', you get BREXIT!

Opioids: 51,830 people died last year, roughly 142 a day.

Maureen Kennedy, founder of the Greater Cincinnati Irish Center, lost her aunt Catherine "Kitty" Kennedy, who passed away in Buffalo New York at the age of 100. She was in Heaven a half hour before the Devil knew she was dead!

Nollaig Shona Dhuit! Happy Christmas! / Merry Christmas!



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*See you all in 2018!*

## Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



### 50th Anniversary Of Captain Thomas Michael Flatley's Death!

"Thank you for your service", even when said with great sincerity it still seems shallow to me. Recent service members who have been seriously wounded may have to live with the effects of their injuries for the rest of their lives. PTSD for example is a dreadful non-physical scar that can remain forever. Fortunately for us, we live in a country where many brave young men and women are willing to risk a lifetime of such pain to protect us.

On December 8 this year, a number of his fellow Loyola graduates (Academy and University) will attend Mass to commemorate the life of one such hero, Captain Flatley, who died on December 8, 1967. Captain Flatley was an infantry company commander in the First Cav Division in Vietnam.

While a student at Loyola University, Tom was commonly referred to as Lake Shore because

he lived so close to Loyola's Lake Shore campus. I was pledging Alpha Kappa Psi, the fraternity where Tom was already a mem-



ber. He was also a member of the college ROTC unit. Lake Shore had a well established reputation for being a very funny guy; he could provoke laughter even when discussing serious issues.

He was a good student; he also worked in the University's book store. Upon graduation from Loyola, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant (Infantry) in the US Army. At that point we went our separate ways. He was assigned to several different Army posts while developing his skills as an infantry officer.

A couple of years later I was assigned to a four week training course in Madison, New Jersey. I then realized that Lake Shore was stationed relatively close by at Fort Dix, New Jersey. The two of us drove down to the Jersey Shore together; which was really the beginning of a great friendship. Yes, Tom was a very funny guy, but he was also becoming a dear friend. We spent a couple of weekends together that year. Because all four of our parents were "old country Irish" many of our conversations turned into a discussion about Ireland and wouldn't it be fun to visit there together. We repeated the Jersey Shore again the following summer and in a serious moment, we decided that we could go to Ireland the following summer.

As I stepped off of the Columban Fathers charter flight at Shannon Airport, Lake Shore was on the roof of the airport yelling to me. Even with all the noise of the aircrafts, I could hear his command voice. Tom's parents were from County Mayo, where-

as my parents were from Cork and Kerry. I hitched a ride down to Ballylongford, my father's village, with one of my cousins who was at the Airport to pick up some other cousins. Lake Shore had driven his car over from Germany, so he drove over to County Mayo. About a week later, Tom and I reconnected in Schull, County Cork and headed north to take a ferry to Scotland. We had four or five marvelous days in Scotland, after which we headed to London. We stayed with my cousin and his family who owned a pub in Camden Town, a real Irish neighborhood at the time. After a great time in London, we took a ferry to Ostend, Belgium. Tom dropped me off at a corner in Brussels and pointed at a hotel where he had previously stayed which he recommended. From Brussels, I made a swing around Europe and met up with Tom in Mannheim, Germany. I became aware of how much Tom had changed since our college days. He was still a kidder, but he had developed a real serious side. Tom was acquiring the skills that were necessary to be a well-respected officer. He had come to really love the Army. His roommates called him "General"; they said it was clear that Tom was destined to be a general. He was a wonderful guy who lived by the rule: God, Honor and Country.

Tom and I spent his last evening in Chicago together before

his departure for Vietnam at the Tip Top Tap on the top of the Al-lerton Hotel. Tom was with his delightful fiancée, Maureen, and I was with my lovely wife, Sandee. As we said Good Bye, Tom said he knew it was his responsibility as a professional soldier to go where his country ordered him. Truly, a man dedicated to his country and his profession.

Six months later, on December 7th, Lake Shore was wounded while leading an infantry attack on the Viet Cong. At the MASH unit, the doctor advised him that he would survive. Tom inexplicably died during the night. The doctor wrote a lengthy and touching letter to Tom's parents.

Captain Flatley was buried with military honors at a cemetery on the Northwest side of Chicago. This December 8th marks the 50th anniversary of his death. His Academy classmates established a memorial on the grounds of the Irish American Heritage Center, here in Chicago.

I feel blessed to have known Tom. He loved the Army; he was dedicated to his troops. His sacrifice has provided me, and others I am sure, with an incentive to do the best we can. Tom touched a lot of people. My wife prays for him every day. I still miss his marvelous attitude.

So I hope maybe when you meet a veteran, your recollection of Lake Shore Flatley's sacrifice will inspire you to let that vet know that you appreciate all the untold sacrifices that s/he had to put up with in the service of our country. Carpe Diem

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat. Theodore Roosevelt.

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., a Naperville, IL-based senior executive coaching & career transition firm. #630-420-0362 Jamesffitz37@hotmail.com Jamesffitzgerald.com

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## Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



### Christmas Greetings From Bono, Bob and the Banks

They're worse than ever they were, the bankers; worse than ever. More arrogant; more brutal; certainly more divorced than ever from their customers.

I personally think that a lot of it is that they were shown up as being no smarter than any of what they see as the peasants; and in most cases much, much less so. On September 30th, 2008, the gutless Irish government bailed them out – under cover of darkness and with the Dail bar kept open until the small hours lest they become thirsty – and guaranteed through a bail-out the whole of their liabilities. One would think that it would have put some manners on them. After all, in theory we now owned the banks.

What a laugh that was. They kept their heads down for all of two minutes and then, when it was obvious that no one was going to be answerable, back they bounced with more of an iron fist than ever.

The 'tracker mortgage' scandal goes on and on. At the end of September of this year, some nine years after they made saps of us, Bank of Ireland have – under pressure, mind – come up with yet another 4,300 customers who were deliberately overcharged. That is now 10,300 people who were harassed unrelentingly over a period of years.

Harassed and hounded and chased until many had their spirits broken and many more lost their homes.

And what do we get at the end of it? We get Bank of Ireland telling us on November 9th that they will be writing to give those concerned 'a range of options'. A range of bloody options.

I remarked to a friend during the week that if someone had broken into one of their fine establishments and stolen money from THEM that the range of options would range from going to jail for theft to going to jail for theft. This lady, whose opinion I normally respect, told me that my choice of language in calling them 'thieves' was unhelpful.

Unhelpful? Really? Well, I'm going to have a few sleepless nights over that! What else would I call thugs in suits who knowingly steal money from others but thieves? You certainly don't allow them to present you with 'a range of options'. Yet that is just what we are doing.

And now this week myself and thousands of other Allied Irish Bank customers saw drop through our mail boxes a casually dismissive letter that informed us:

"We are writing to tell you that we will shortly begin to send information about you and your borrowings to the Central Credit Register... We will report your personal and credit information as at 30th June 2017 and include information that we already have about you as: your name, address, date of birth and information about your borrowings, if they are €500 or more."

Check out that wording and that date: you don't even have to HAVE any borrowings; and this has been a done deal, in any case.

Perhaps my friend feels that we can trust these gougers. Well, some years ago I wrote in another publication, and I think that it's worth repeating:

"They were some gentlemen, just the same. On the now-notorious Anglo Tapes that were released by the Irish Independent last week, these fine gentlemen spray the F-word around so much that it actually

ceases to have any meaning whilst it operates as noun, verb, adjective and whatever you're having yourself; and all the while these fine, fine gentlemen aren't averse to throwing in the much harsher C-word as well. If you were ever one of those sad sacks—and there were plenty around—who thought that a well-cut pinstripe loaned to the wearer a little class, then you found out how wrong you were, once and for all.

"You are all no doubt familiar with what was said at this stage, so I'll confine myself to one comment from the charming David Drumm:

"'Yeah, and we'll be saying: 'Yeah because a stress, because HBOS were f\*\*\*\*\* sold and Lehman's were bust and f\*\*\*\*\* Bank of America took over Merrill's and other f\*\*\*\*\* non-normal things happened, you c\*\*\*.'"

Hell, these aren't even 'smooth criminals' that we're talking about trusting our personal information with (and hoping that they don't leave more laptops in the back of cars); these are foul-mouthed corner boys who have somehow gotten the idea that they are better than we are. I went on:

"How, cry the bar stool philosophers, how did they ever get so out-of-control?"

"And my answer is always the same: it came to this because we LET it come to this. It came to this because historically the Irish actually LIKE to be told what to do by people that they perceive to be their betters. For years it was the Church, until they blew that one. And then there were the politicians. You knew that they were 'pulling strokes' and you actually admired them for it—well, until it hit YOU in the pocket and then you changed your tune. You have always enjoyed doffing the cap to someone. The bankers? Well, look at the high-level job they have. They must be fierce intelligent altogether.

"Personally I enjoy irony so I'd like to see Angela Merkel with the boots on and a scrotum-cruncher in hand whilst a

naked David Drumm whimpers in the corner. Hell, let's be honest: I'm past expecting Justice; I just want Vengeance and Payback. And blood on the floor. Lots and lots of blood."

I'd like to tell you that I've mellowed since I wrote that. Well, maybe just a bit; but the truth is that I'm still getting the hang of those 'forgive those who trespass against us' and 'turn the other cheek' sentiments. Turning the other cheek has let these venomous banking slugs get away with too much as it is.

It doesn't look as if I'll get my wish, anyway. It looks instead as if it is simply going to continue to be business as usual.

Still, it's not been ALL bad news. Sir Bob Geldof has caused

hilarity and the creation of many jokes in hostelryes up and down the land by handing back his Keys to the City of Dublin. Thanks, Bob; now bugger off and don't let the door hit you on the ass on the way out.

Also adding to the gaiety of the nation was Saint Bono getting caught with his hand in the Paradise Papers. As I've said many times, what is annoying about the insanely wealthy lead singer with the U2 Corporation is not that he likes to avoid paying any more tax than he needs to; it's the fact that he never ever stops to draw breath from lecturing the peasants on what THEY should do with their measly few Euros.

*Continued on page 47*

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## Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

By Michael Collins,  
Executive Director

191 home visits to vulnerable or isolated seniors and have provided 26 seniors with ongoing case management

## Year in Review and Casino Night Fundraiser

As the community gears up for the holiday season, it is time for CIIS to reflect on the past year and begin planning for 2018. Our mission is to serve, empower, and connect the Irish and Irish American community in the Midwestern United States. CIIS is the only Irish direct service charity operating in the Midwest. We have a broad remit and try our best to operate within the three main pillars of our work: serve, empower, and connect. We serve the Irish community by providing legal, social, and referral programs. We provide access to resources and assistance, empowering community members to resolve the challenges they face.

We connect by acting as a voice of the Irish community, liaising with relevant organizations, policy makers, and the government of Ireland. CIIS has a small team and an extensive reach. Currently, we have two full time employees. Paul Dowling is our social worker and I serve as the Executive Director. Fr. Mick Madigan is our part-time Chaplain and chairman of our Board of Directors. We also have regular social work students who complete their internships with us throughout the year.

This past year was a mixed year that included significant challenges and many successes. Over the past 12 months, CIIS and the immigrant community as a whole have been grappling with the changing approach of this administration toward immigrants. The increased anxiety that the anti-immigrant rhetoric has caused has resulted in a 41% increase in demand for our legal services compared to this time last year. Over the past 12 months, CIIS hosted 24 immigration legal clinics directly serving 127 individuals. CIIS has also addressed over 780 total immigration related inquiries over the same time period. Our social services program also had a very successful year hosting 37 senior group meetings on both the north and south side of the city. We had a total of 922 seniors attend these groups encompassing 140 individuals. CIIS conducted

services. Additionally, CIIS provided housing and employment referrals to over 182 summer J1 student visitors.

The work that we do at CIIS is so important at this crucial time in our history. The programs and frontline services that we provide for the most vulnerable in our community could not be done without the strong support of the community that we serve. We ask that if you are in a position to do so, please consider supporting our organization financially in this giving season.

CIIS will be hosting our second annual casino night fundraiser on Saturday February 24th 2018. This event will be held in the Erin Room at the Irish American Heritage Center and doors open at 7pm. This is CIIS' headlining fundraiser and



raises essential funds for CIIS to continue to serve the community. Please donate to, attend, or sponsor this event. For more information or to learn more about sponsorship options please call our office or visit our website at [www.irishchicago.org](http://www.irishchicago.org). TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW! To purchase your tickets please call our office or visit our Eventbrite page at the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ciis-casino-night-fundraiser-tickets-29076173618>

CIIS is continuing to host free legal clinics for anyone who has immigration questions. These clinics are held two to three times per month by appointment only. Currently we have a clinic scheduled for Tuesday December 19th in the Irish American Heritage Center from 4-7pm. Each clinic provides a client with a 30-minute face-to-face consultation with an immigration attorney. Call today to reserve your place! Please call (773) 282-8445 or email [mcollins@irishchicago.org](mailto:mcollins@irishchicago.org) to schedule your appointment.

## Our Take on Social Services

By Paul Dowling



### Senior Groups and Events

Wednesday 6th December – Tara Club & Tír na nÓg - 10am- 12pm at the IAHC

A Doctor's Sword is a terrific documentary that tells the remarkable story of Aidan MacCarthy, a doctor from Castletownbere West Cork, who fought in World War 2, was evacuated from Dunkirk, and volunteered for service in Asia where he was captured and survived almost 4 years of brutal captivity as a prisoner of war. Join us for a screening of this fantastic tale!

Wednesday 13th December- Christmas Party – Chicago Gaelic Park -12pm

Gaelic Park will once again be the venue for our annual Christmas party. As always there will be great food, live music, and plenty of craic! Please call the office to reserve you seat! 773-282-8445. Bus will ruin from IAHC. HAPPY HOLIDAYS

### Happy Holidays

The staff and board of Chicago Irish Immigrant Support would like to wish you all a very joyful holiday season and a happy new year!

### Researching the Irish Community

While for many people the idea of being the subject of research inspires feelings of boredom, impatience, or even anxiety, research has a vital role to play in all of our lives. Any important decision should be preceded by thoughtful analysis that takes into account the issues at hand, how they might best be addressed, and the potential consequences of each proposed course of action. Comprehensive, well-designed research should be able to generate some answers to these questions.

I'd like to let you all know about some recent research on the Irish community of Chicago, as well as some research currently being undertaken related to Irish-born people living overseas who wish to return to live and work in Ireland.

Earlier this year the Clinton Institute for American Studies at University College Dublin had two researchers in Chicago charged with learning more about the local Irish community. Funded in part by the Irish Government, this research was quite extensive involving over 75 in-person interviews and an online survey that received over 300 respondents. Following an intensive period analysing the

data generated, a report was published in September titled Irish Chicago: Late Generation Ethnicity and the Future of Irish America.

To many of us some of the findings won't come as a great surprise – there are very few Irish people emigrating to the US now; the Irish that came to Chicago have tended to fare well in terms of education, employment and politics. Other results, however, did give pause of thought. Mental health and addiction are very common among the Irish but there hasn't been a community level response to these issues. The Irish community in Chicago remains strong but is somewhat fragmented with the various Irish organizations not collaborating very effectively. This raises questions about how we might come together better or more often as a unified community. If you're interested in reading the research report contact the CIIS office on 773-282-8445.

The recent uptick in the Irish economy has resulted in an increase in people returning to live in Ireland. Despite a deep desire to move home, there are still many Irish born-people who are unable to do so given the complications and financial burdens of such a move. Emigrant advocacy groups have been asking the Government of Ireland to do what it can to ensure that no Irish person living overseas is unable to return to Ireland if they wish to. Those trying to return have encounter a great number of challenges including the housing shortage in Ireland, the high cost of motor insurance, and difficulty accessing education. In an effort to better understand the experiences of those that have recently returned and those hoping to return, the Irish Government has funded a research initiative which will focus on identifying solutions to address any disproportionate or unnecessary administrative burdens that negatively affect people wishing to return to Ireland. You can access the link to the research survey at [www.research.net/r/irishemigrants](http://www.research.net/r/irishemigrants).



# It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hello Everyone,

I had a Saturday night off recently and my wife Margaret and I went to see the plays at Gaelic Park. There were three short plays and we both really enjoyed them. I've been wanting to go to Gaelic Park to see a play for a long time but never had a night off. The first of the plays was a short story called 'Irish Blossoms' about three young girls doing homework in Ireland. It was hilarious. The three actors were all 6th graders and I have to say, they were so professional. I wanted to take this opportunity to mention them and wish them all the very best for the future. The young ladies were Teagan Schied, who played Colleen. Maggie Gleason who played Molly. And Ella Correll who played Kiera. It's great to see young talent. Keep the great work up, young ladies.

If you are looking for something to do or somewhere to go on the third Wednesday of the month. Head for the Irish American Heritage Center, at 11 am for the 'Monthly Gathering'. I have played there twice so far and it's so nice to spend such a pleasant couple of hours with the seniors. A wonderful morning out, with a singsong some cookies and Tea/Coffee. It's on every month, so swing on by, meet old and new friends and have a fun time. I'm looking forward to coming back in the future. Also, I'll be doing the Christmas party for the same group in Gaelic Park on Wednesday 13th of December. My son Declan will be playing piano along with me that day and we'll be doing some Christmas carols and some singalong songs. I believe there's a bus going from the Heritage.

I met a man from Waverly, Tennessee back in 2009. He had built a guitar for me. I made arrangements to meet him in Nashville, pay him and pick up the guitar. We spoke on the phone to set up a time to meet and he said to me, "I was

looking you up and I see you write songs". Turns out he writes songs also and we met up at a songwriting session in a house owned by a man called James Thackers. James has become a dear friend and songwriting buddy ever since then. Forrest was telling me about a town near his place, which is about an hour and a quarter drive west from Nashville, called Erin, so we wrote a song about it that day. Soon after, I met and became a dear friend of the Queen of Irish Country Music and that's Margo O'Donnell and she called her brother Daniel. Daniel came on board and we finished the song off with him. We got to be present at the live recording of the song at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville. Charley Pride was on the same bill and we got to hang out with him and Daniel and Daniel's wife Majella. The people of Erin, were very happy when they heard about the song and invited us all there to meet up. The welcome we received was really special and I'll never forget it. The mayor at the time Tommy Parchman made us Honorary Citizens of Erin of which I am very proud. I've visited Erin since once with Margo, who is also an honorary citizen now because she was so instrumental in the whole thing. I also keep in touch with two lovely ladies from Erin, Kay French, and Carolyn Sykes. Kay was the Lord High Mayor herself in 2014 as was her father in 1976 and her husband in 2005. Kay has a great amount of knowledge about Erin, and she kindly sent me this information below -

Kay French - There's a billboard on the outskirts of Erin, Tennessee, proclaiming "Welcome to a Wee Bit of Ireland in Tennessee". The small, rural town exists today because of the building of the railroad. This railroad was energetically built by the Irish.

Around 1860, the railroad

tracks were built from what is now known as Cumberland City through what is now Erin and continuing on to the bridge crossing the Tennessee River and heading west. The large camp of Irish contractors and workers saw the rolling green hills, the rippling creeks with the morning mists, the limestone bluffs, and thought the area looked like Ireland---they called it 'Erin'. Those hard workers completed the long stretch of rails in about a year. The new train stop and post office was officially named Erin, and the little town soon followed.

Though the majority of the Irish workers moved on with the building of the railroad, some stayed to find work in the area. As the little town grew and prospered, its love of all things Irish grew. By 1963, the City of Erin and the Houston County Chamber of Commerce held its first Irish Celebration. Over 50 years later, it still celebrates its Irish Heritage on the third Saturday of March each year. The 1200 citizens of Erin welcomes crowds of over 20,000 for a day filled with everyone claiming to be Irish. The parade is led by St. Patrick and the Lord High Mayor, marching bands, beauty queens, and floats. Artisans and food booths line the streets, and everyone loves the carnival rides.

As time has passed, many businesses with Irish names such as the Shamrock Hatchery, Shamrock Motors, The Irish Grille, Trinity Hospital, Shamrocks and Shenanigans, and many other Irish named businesses have flourished. The Houston County High School sports teams are called the Fighting Irish and have a leprechaun as its mascot. The Celtic Quilt Trail boasts beautiful hand painted Irish quilt patterns hanging on businesses, barns, and homes throughout the City and the rural areas in the county. Tourists use a map to guide them throughout the county to find the over 18 quilt blocks painted on wood ranging in size from 3 x 3 feet to 12 x 12 feet... It's a way to continue our Irish heritage and encourage people to visit our county.

## Erin, Tennessee

written by Forrest Lee Jr, Joe McShane, and Daniel O'Donnell  
Verse 1

I left Ireland and crossed the Atlantic  
At home once more there was no work to find  
With a heavy heart, I had to make that journey  
With thoughts of friends and loved ones on my mind  
Verse 2

I landed in New York then traveled Southward  
City life was never meant for me  
I think it must have been God's plan to lead me  
To a little town called Erin, Tennessee  
Chorus 1

There I felt I was back in my homeland  
Far across the sea  
Yes I found a little bit of Ireland  
Way down in Tennessee  
Verse 3

It was very soon I met a pretty lady  
She set my heart a whirl for all to see  
I wanted her to be my one and only  
My Southern Belle from Erin, Tennessee  
Chorus 2

As we walked the hills, I told her of my homeland  
Far across the sea  
I found love in that little bit of Ireland  
Called Erin in Tennessee  
Verse 4

We settled on green rolling pastures  
It was there that she took my hand  
And we lived and we loved and we raised our children  
Far away from my own native land  
Chorus 3

And now I often tell them of my homeland  
Far across the sea  
But we have a little bit of Ireland  
Here in Erin, Tennessee

The former railroad bed is now a walking trail that weaves through Erin and is part of the Betsy Ligon Park. The park has a pavilion reminiscent of the former depot and boasts a map with a list of names of the railroad workers from the 1860's till the 1980's when the tracks were removed. A railroad boxcar and a caboose rest in the park reminding us of its past. There's even a leprechaun dressed in railroad overalls and hat welcoming everyone that enters the park.

In recent years, Daniel O'Donnell, Joe McShane, and Forrest Lee Jr wrote a song about our town, which was recorded by Mr. O'Donnell and later by Mr. McShane. Mr. O'Donnell performed it in his show that ran on PBS. I believe there has been a lot of other people in Ireland

that have recorded it since. We heard a young man called Owen Mac singing it on an Irish TV station and it made us so proud. The song, "Erin, Tennessee" has brought many visitors to our town to find that 'little bit of Ireland in Tennessee', and we're very grateful those three men found us! We owe it all to the Irish!

Thank you, Kay, for telling some of the history of your wonderful town and especially your friendship and for making us so welcome in that "Little Bit Of Ireland in Tennessee". Needless to say 'Erin, Tennessee' is our song of the month.

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year! To everyone!

As always be good to one another.



# On the Upbeat

By Maryann McTeague Keifer

Something very exciting happened in Bantry, Co. Cork last December and we can now, finally, enjoy what was created, THE BLUE ROOM. Martin Hayes put together a quartet to expand the ideas he and his longtime musical partner Dennis Cahill bring to the world of Irish music. Add the divinely talented Liz Knowles, and a surprise, Doug Weiselman on the bass clarinet, and magic has been created!

As I ripped off the cellophane, put the disc into the player, and chucked all I was supposed to be doing, I was expecting different. I was anticipating special, how could it not be with these four top of the top musicians? It is so much more.

Dennis and Martin have played together for so many years, probably pushing 30, that you can hear and see the ease, the interplay, the oneness they have. Martin's style is only his; it is immediately

recognizable. Dennis so perfectly enhances Martin's music with his subtle and sophisticated accompaniments. No one can do it better, and I am well satisfied. They are enough. Their music makes me happy. Now add Liz Knowles, the brilliant and creative fiddler, arranger, composer this time playing the Hardanger d'Amore, a Norwegian fiddle-like instrument with five lower strings that resonate as the upper four are played. This, in its own way, takes the place of the viola and cello, but with a much different tone. Does the bass clarinet belong in Irish music? You'll be a believer after hearing the fourth member of the group, Doug Weiselman. He is a brilliant musician, and his playing adds a richness to the tunes just like good butter does to a lovely sauce. Doug's work spans

four instruments were a limit, their talent and creative playing give the listener the sense of an orchestra. It is at once smooth yet textured, traditional but innovative, and hauntingly seductive.

several musical genres, and he is also involved in the children's TV show THE BACKYARDIGANS.

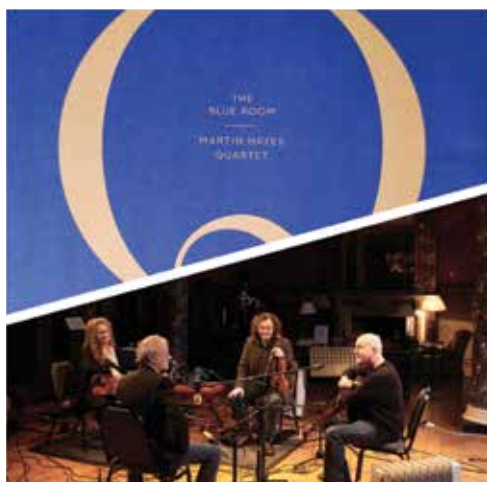
Both Liz and Dennis described how exciting, intriguing, and challenging it was for the four of them to work together to create this collection. All brought incredible talent, wealth of experience, ideas and visions. Dennis said they looked at each other and kind of "let it happen." While

It will be the album you want when you need to be alone; the album you want to spend time thinking. It will be the album you want when you just want to listen. It definitely is an album you want! There will be a debut in Dublin followed by some touring in 2018. Please, God, bring them to our area!

It is hard to believe we are closing in on the Christmas holidays.

I promised several of you that I would give recommendations of newer cds out this past year which will be great presents for family and friends. There is something special about having the actual CD in your hands, reading the liner notes, enjoying the artwork, and being able to listen to the entire album. If you order from the actual artist, you can often ask to have to CD autographed. You may also be able to

order T-shirts, etc. From some of the bands. We Banjo 3 is looking into setting up an ordering site for their fans who wanted merchandise. Scythian and Gaelic Storm have sites like this.



My often cohost, Ed Lesniak, helped me put this list together, reminding me of several good ones I had forgotten, and I am sure we have still left out some you like the best, but here is a good start:

For those of you who just want tunes, look for Niall Murphy's, Cathal & Stephen Hayden's bow brothers, Cuig's NEW LANDSCAPES, Kevin Crawford's, Dylan Foley's & Patrick Doocey's The Drunken Gaugers, Talisk's abyss, Pons Aelius's CAPTAIN GLEN'S COMFORT, Breaking Trad's Breaking Trad, Cordeen's Musical Bridge, Liam O' Brien's THE LANE, IMAR'S AFTERLIGHT, and, of course, THE BLUE ROOM.

If you like singing with your tunes, there is CONNLA'S River Waiting, Open the Door for Three's The Joyful Hour, Andy Irvine's, Donal Lunny's, Paddy Glackin's, Mike mcgoldrick's, & John Doyle's USHER'S ISLAND, Old Blind Dog's Room With a View, Van Morrison's KEEP ME SINGING, The Recollective's THE RECOLLECTIVE, Jig Jam's LIVE IN TULLAMORE, Joanna Hyde's & Tadhg O'Meachair's ONE FOR THE FOXES, The Jeremiah's The Femme Fatale of Maine, Coig's ROVE, Gaelic Storm's GO CLIMB A TREE, and Eilis Kennedy's WESTWARD.

Tickets to concerts, such as We Banjo 3's City Winery concert on March 14th would be a lovely gift. A few groups have concerts set up already. Head to their websites and check for their upcoming tours.

Many of you have asked me if I am going to give out yearly music awards. I thought long and hard and decided to wait until next year and take the time to set them up so that they are meaningful. I am going to give out one this year, though, to a band that "gave back" and dedicated their year to a special, very important cause, mental health and suicide prevention.

We Banjo 3 has earned the MUSICIAN'S HUMANITARIAN AWARD for their Light in the Western Sky Tour. They wrote and performed a song "This is Home" dedicated to this and spoke to the audiences at each

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performance about the importance of acknowledging those suffering. A special T-shirt was designed, and part of the proceeds from each sale, as well as donations, went to this cause. Congratulations to Enda & Fergal Scahill and Martin & David Howley for devoting their time, funds and "banjo love" to people in need of help. We are so very proud of them, and hope other musicians follow their example.

I'd like to wish all of you a very special holiday season. I am so thankful having you in my life. May your celebrations be joyful and your hearts full of love. See you in the new year here and on the new expanded IRELAND TONIGHT on WDCB as we share the music. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

### Charles Brady

*Continued from page 43*

Fair Tax Mark commented: "Bono's attitude is particularly hypocritical in light of his anti-poverty posturing. Poor countries lose far more money from tax avoidance than they get in aid every year."

Saints Bono and Bob giving us a good old belly laugh in the same week. That's my Christmas started early.

And may I take the opportunity to wish all of you a very happy and peaceful one also. See you next year, hopefully!

chasbrady7@eircom.net & www.cbsays.com



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