irish american news
March 2018

Tis the Season To Be Irish!

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Pictured: Dillon Patrick Schel
Born on St. Patrick's Day!
photo by Portrait Innovations

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PUNCH 154

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St. Patrick's Day Breakfast at Union League Club With Irish American Partnership 3 - 16

Join The Irish American Partnership for their annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Friday, March 16, 2018 at the Union League Club of Chicago, and enjoy remarks from Irish Minister for the Diaspora and International Development Ciarán Cannon, T.D.

The event takes place at 8 a.m. and includes guest speaker, Maeve Liston, Coordinator of the Partnership's STEM program.

Celebrate your Irish heritage with fellow Irish and Irish American members of the Chicago business community and have a chance to win roundtrip tickets to Ireland courtesy of Tourism Ireland.

The Irish American Partnership's mission is to empower the next generation of Irish leaders by supporting educational initiatives and community development programs in Ireland, North and South.

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'The Irish in Chicago' Lake Forest Library 3-17

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Presented by Anne Barry, (pictured) Assistant Professor of Music at Lake Forest College." Kasian Room – Lake Forest Library - 360 East Deerpath, Lake Forest, IL 60045 - (847) 234-0636 Contact Name: Felicia Song Email: fsong@lakeforestlibrary.org / Phone: 847.810.461

Registration will close on March 17, 2018 @ 2:00pm – 3:00pm or when full.

A library card is not required / 72 Seats Remaining (Karen Schachtschneider)

Story on site at

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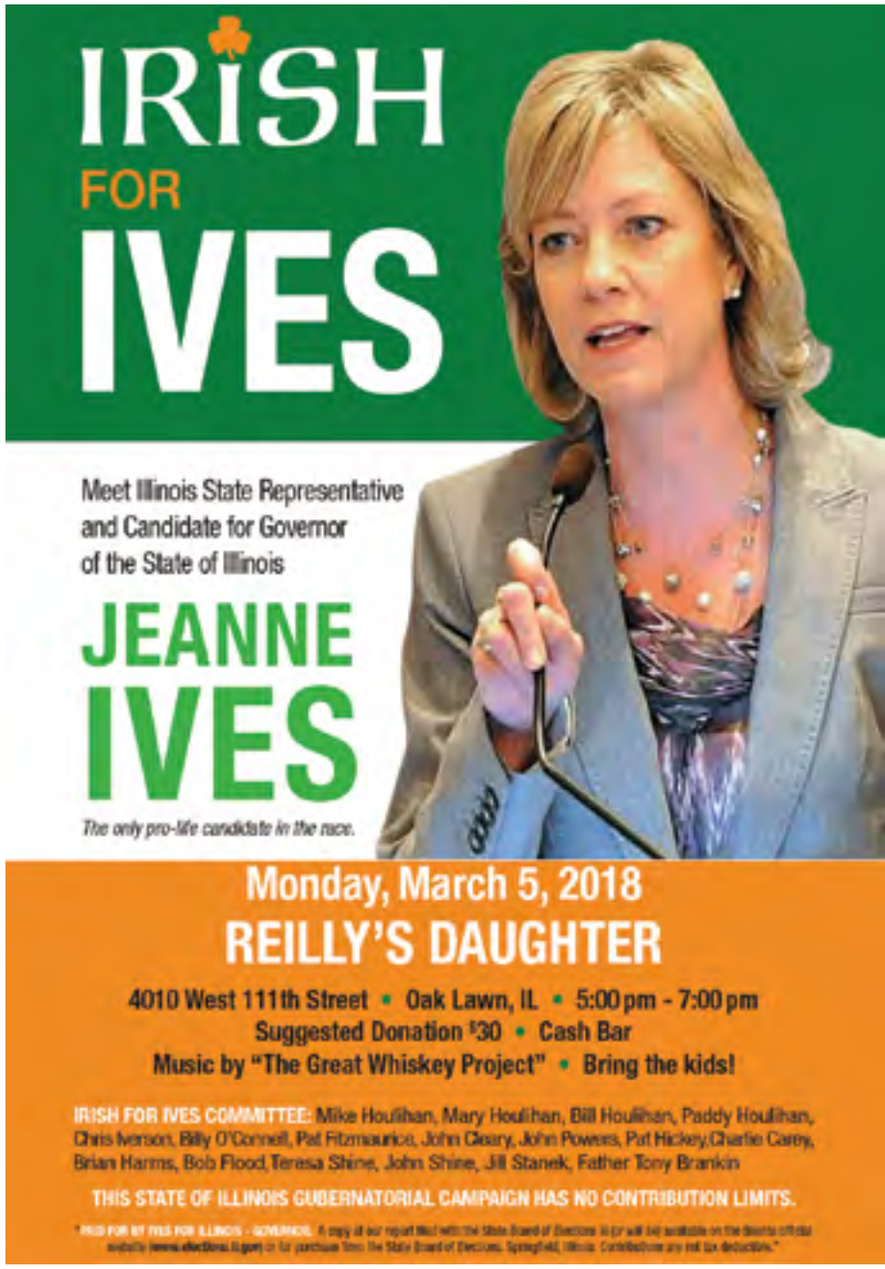

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N. American Comhaltas Convention 2018 in Northbrook April 5th Thru 8th

"If you went last year, this year promises to be even better. Murphy Roche Irish Music Club and School of Irish Music are hosting the 2018 North American Comhaltas Convention at the Hilton Hotel / 2855 N. Milwaukee Ave, Northbrook, IL 60062 (847) 480-7500 Code: CCE18

"Do you come to the 2018 North American Comhaltas Convention to dance? Well you're in for a treat. Like last year, there will be seven Ceilithe at the convention over a four-day period. Count them – seven. And then there are the dance workshops. Bring your most comfortable dancing shoes and be prepared to dance your feet off.

Like last year we will have a live dance floor which was so popular last year and has been expanded to an even larger size this year. So, it's really important for both the Convention's success and your total enjoyment of the weekend that you make your reservations at the hotel and register at the www.murphyroche.org for your convention packages as soon as possible

2018 CCE Convention Update: Brian Ó hAirt offering a chance to learn Sean nos dancing. Brian is going to be doing the workshops at the convention this Spring. Several of our members have taken his classes in the past and been delighted with the outcome. Brian O hAirt, champion singer, dancer, and musician from the band Bua will be teaching the singing and Sean nos dancing workshop.

In addition, Maureen O'Leary and Tony McLaughlin will once again run the "Jive" dancing workshop that was so very popular last year." www.murphyroche.com

Get Out and Vote!

Here is a list of our Political Advertisers and Their Punch #'s for you to take with you to your polling place if you like.

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Dem	Marty Durkan	# 64
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Dem	Michael Hayes	#152
Rep	Jeanne Ives	# 2
Dem	Timothy John Leeming	#131
Dem	Myron Mackoff	#162
Dem	Lorraine Murphy	#153
Dem	Michael O'Malley	#128
Dem	John Andrew O'Meara	#153
Dem	Clare Joyce Quish	#141
Dem	Kathryn Vahey	#122

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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell

Through the Glass, Dimly

As I write, Ulster appears to be saying "No" – yet again - with the Democratic Unionists having just scuppered the latest attempt to reinstate the North's Power –Sharing Executive after a year of stalemate. Two weeks ago agreement appeared tantalisingly close, with Arlene Foster and her team apparently ready to agree a deal with Sinn Fein. Then, on Valentine's Day, she pulled the plug over the issue of a separate law for the Irish Language. Opposition to the almost-deal had gestated over a weekend allowing local opponents within the DUP to join forces with the Gang of Ten – the DUP's Westminster M.P.s, revelling in their current role of shoring up the minority British Government .

The two Governments are now faced with picking up the pieces, with the malign prospect, should all else fail, of returning to Direct Rule from London, something Dublin most certainly does not want. There's no indication that London wants that either but the problem of advancing separate budget and spending plans for the North must be addressed rapidly; inter alia this involves providing for the economic sweeteners the DUP were promised as part of the deal to support the May government. There's also the little matter of the ongoing preparations to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, planned for 10 April, with guests to include Bill Clinton plus the rest of the Great and the Good who had a hand in getting the Agreement over the line.

What appeared a little local difficulty when Sinn Fein pulled out of the Power Sharing Executive in January 2017 has now metastasized into something much bigger with the possibility of getting even worse. Sinn Fein acted following the refusal of Arlene Foster to agree to step aside temporarily owing to her involvement in the "Cash for Ash" scandal when she was Minister for Enterprise in 2012. Under the scheme generous subsidies were paid to companies and individuals burning renewable heating sources such as wood pellets. When word got around that money could actually be made from the scheme, with the subsidy exceeding the cost of the fuel, a surge in applications ensued before it was finally terminated in February 2016, to the accompaniment of much bad blood. The estimated cost was just under half a billion sterling, which would have to come out of the North's block subsidy from Westminster, leaving less money for everything else.

Sinn Fein's walkout was probably tactical - to wrong-foot the DUP (at no cost to themselves), with which there were ongoing frictions including over parity of esteem issues such as funding for the Irish language; it seemed a good idea at the time. Their action precipitated fresh elections in early March, the results of which saw some changes in seat numbers but no shift in tribal allegiances, despite claims to the contrary. Then came Teresa May's disastrous decision to call a snap general election in June, apparently to provide her with a mandate for the Brexit negotiations. The results in the North again saw little change in allegiance but seat gains and consolidation for both the DUP (up two seats to ten) and Sinn Fein (up three to seven), at the expense of their rivals. The results in Britain however, gave a huge and unexpected political bonus to the DUP. The result, a disaster for May, saw the Tories lose their overall majority and left May dependent on the ten DUP MPs to remain in office. It also left May considerably weakened and more beholden than before to the hard line Brexiteers in her cabinet and party.

There are existing uncontroversial arrangements in Wales and Scotland to cater for the minority languages there. So why not in the North? The answer is embedded in the history of the last century and the relations between the two communities; put simply Irish Language issues matter in the zero sum game that is ongoing, despite the Good Friday Agreement. It is frankly not relevant how many people in the North use or speak Irish; it is perceived by the Nationalist side as an important element in their heritage and so championed by Sinn Fein. The often offensive and dismissive language and tone used by many DUP politicians when commenting on the Irish language indicates the distance still to go before parity of esteem is reached. Indeed that attitude may have hardened the resolve of Sinn Fein in the matter.

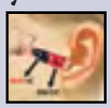
It appears that the deal to restore the Executive would have seen Sinn Fein agreeing to accord considerable status to Ullans – the distinctive Ulster Scots dialect spoken in some areas of the North – in order to secure a free standing Irish Language Act. That there was no agreement is to be regretted, the more so because there were some recent signs that Foster and some other senior DUP figures were waking up to the appalling vista that could present itself to both parts of the island after Brexit. Quite what will now emerge is unclear. Constructive ambiguity may save the day eventually.

However, with Brexit casting an ever darker shadow, time is of the essence if the North's politicians are to have a voice. It is one thing for Westminster DUP MPs to be romanced by the hard line Brexiteers (as appears to be happening), quite another to be on the ground in the North absorbing the fears and trepidations expressed locally at what Brexit could entail. It is now little over a year before Britain is scheduled to leave the EU, yet still she has set no definite goals for the negotiations. There have been exasperated noises from Brussels, demanding to know what Britain wants. The answer seems to be that, beyond a vague wish to leave, and get the best possible deal - to have its "cake and eat it" to quote Boris Johnson - the British government still does not know. The Cabinet is split between the gung -ho Brexiteers , who seem blind to reality, and those around May , who are stuck with the referendum result and are desperately seeking for silver linings among the dark clouds.

One of the mantras is that "Nothing is Agreed until Everything is Agreed." This, combined with another cliche, that "it will be all right on the night" is the line being pushed by the Brexiteers – i.e. that the anticipated gold plated trade deals with third countries (and indeed with the EU) will somehow happen overnight and that meanwhile the European heavy hitters, fearful of losing the British market, will bring the EU to heel and agree favourable terms . We shall see. The central problem in the negotiations remains: either Britain remains in the Customs Union and the Single Market or it does not. There's talk currently of a "soft" transition arrangement for a minimum of two years. Whether the Brexiteers will buy into that remains to be seen. If they do not then who knows? There is some wild talk of casting aside the whole Good Friday Agreement as necessary collateral damage to "solve" the Irish Border problem. Peace in the North was dearly bought. Could Perfidious Albion yet put it in jeopardy?

Mel Dermody

Hearing Instrument Specialist



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The Fourth Dublin Writers' Conference June 22-24 2018

The Fourth Dublin Writers' Conference will take place in Dublin's Academy Plaza Hotel from 22-24 June 2018. The Conference was established in 2015 by successful Irish thriller author Laurence O'Bryan (The Istanbul Puzzle, The Jerusalem Puzzle, the Manhattan Puzzle) and founder of BooksGoSocial Authors' Group, as an event dedicated for authors and would be authors. It has now become an annual fixture on the Dublin literary scene.

This year's Conference theme will be "Finding New Voices" with talent spotters from the publishing industry in the US and Britain there to assess and advise aspiring and established authors alike.

The Conference will feature five separate sessions over three days covering the New Self-Publishing, the Evolving Nature of the Publishing Business, " The Writer's Journey" in which successful authors recount their writing and publishing experiences, a session offering advice on what readers want, and a final session on Book Marketing and Finding Readers.

Susanne O'Leary

There will as usual be additional break-out sessions and, as last year, these will include the popular "Pitch a Producer" feature in which participants get a chance to make a brief oral presentation of their work to Ken Atchity, veteran Hollywood producer. New this year, for the first time outside the US, will be a feature on the Algonkian Method on alternative ways to pitch your book to a publisher or on Amazon with feedback provided.

The Conference is structured to maximize opportunities for networking and there is the traditional opening evening informal get together at which participants can read out their works and discuss. Saturday evening will feature the Annual Conference Dinner and Awards with a topical and timely guest speaker, retired Colonel Colm Doyle who is in process of publishing his first book, " Witness to War Crimes"an account of his service in Bosnia, with the EU and later as personal representative of Lord Carrington, Chairman of the Peace Conference on Yugoslavia.

The impressive list of speakers this year includes David Gaughran, the self-publishing guru and author of "Let's Get Digital" who will make two presentations, one on Successful Self- Publishing, the second " The Reader's Journey " on hints to maximise marketing potential. Also new this year from the USA are Amy Collins, President of new Shelves Books and Michael Neff, founder of the Algonkian Writers Conference, who will contribute a bonus workshop on Day Two.

Other speakers will include bestselling Irish Crime Writer Arlene Hunt, award winning historical fiction author Alison Morton, as well as Jacq Burns, founder of the London Writers Club and Rikard Sommer, the latest Norwegian thriller writer. Returning also to speak are Susanne O Leary the popular Irish light fiction author as well as Michael Russell T.V. scriptwriter (including Frost) turned author of atmospheric period thrillers of Ireland in the Stefan Gillespie series, who will be bringing back his popular one to one critique sessions on Friday afternoon.

Full details of the Conference, including discounts for early registration are to be found at admin@booksgosocial.com.

Concern Worldwide to Host Madeleine Albright for 50th Anniversary

Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, pictured at a Concern Worldwide refugee program in Rwanda in 1997, will be the Leadership Honoree for the **Women of Concern Awards Luncheon to be held June 1, 2018 in Chicago**. Concern's Humanitarian Honoree will be Dr. Joanne Smith, president and CEO, of the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab. Details will be announced on Concern's website at www.concernusa.org as soon as they are available. This year is the 50th anniversary of Concern's work as a global leader addressing extreme poverty and emergency relief around the world. Save the date to attend.

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West

Beyond Absolution

By: Cora Harrison
Seven House Publishers

This intriguing mystery is set in Cork city during the Irish Civil War. The Civil War lasted from June, 1922 until May, 1923. That period of destruction and desolation, and the years immediately after, were tumultuous and chaotic. The newly formed Civic Guards, or Garda, in Irish the "Guardians of the Peace" did their best to restore peace and public order. Another island of peace and tranquility in Cork, was the convent of St. Mary's Isle. The head of the convent was the Reverend Mother Aquinas. She was good at getting people from different backgrounds to work together. She is also the crime solver, or "detective" in this book. She is determined to help the new "Guardians of Peace."

She gets the facts surrounding a crime from former students. She remembers them: is interested in their progress in life, and keeps in contact with them. She skillfully assembles the facts about a crime and uses her formidable mind and imagination to find a solution.

The Reverend Mother knows

former students, who are now part of life in Cork city. One of them has even become an inspector in the new Garda.

Her own background is unusual in that she was raised a daughter of the Anglo-Irish Ascendancy. That was years ago, but she still has many, many friends in it. She has a gift for making and keeping friends.

A childhood friend became a friar. He is a quiet, peaceful man who serves people of all backgrounds and classes. When he is murdered, in a confessional, Reverend Mother Aquinas determines to find his killers.

The Reverend Mother mysteries are written by Cora Harrison who "lived in Cork city for most of my life." She now lives in the west of Ireland, in the Burren. She and her husband have two grown children. She is very proud of her grandson. Harrison was an elementary school teachers for 25 years and has written many books for children.

"I love history…" she says, and since retirement has written 14 novels that combine Irish history and mystery.

These quotes are from this intimate and dynamic book.

"In Cork, it was assumed that everyone knew everyone else's business…sensible people spent the first few minutes exchanging remarks about the weather… before moving on to matters that were more private. And the Reverend Mother, trained in discretion, never uttered a word that she would not have been happy to shout from the spire of Shandon Cathedral."

To republicans: "A cottage, they reasoned, was of the same importance as the grand houses of the Ascendency class, who were alien to the country by race, upbringing, accent, and religion."

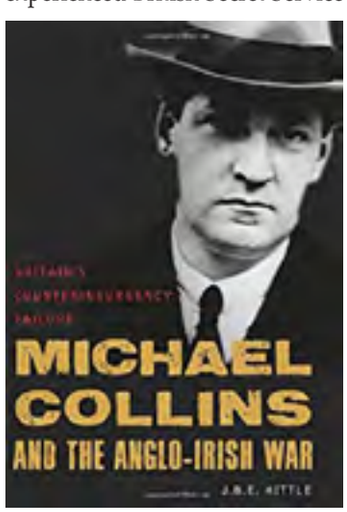
The Bishop of Cork had been hostile to the Irish War of Independence, and now in the Civil War: "The Bishop of Cork had issued an edict against the republican activists in 1920, banning them from the sacraments and few had ever returned to the Church…"

A man of vision was Michael Collins: ***"Give us the future. We've had enough of the past. Give us back our country. To live in. To love."***

Michael Collins and the Anglo-Irish War

By: J.B.E. Hittle
Potomac Books

Michael Collins won the 1919-1921 War for Irish Independence. He was a 31 year-old farm boy from Cork and a former bank clerk. The British Army was the largest in the world and it had recently won a World War. The powerful and experienced British Secret Service



reached around the world. Yet Collins defeated them. How did he do it?

The goal of this book is to answer that question. Michael Collins and The Anglo-Irish War is unique because the author, J.B. E. Hittle, "is a highly decorated veteran of the U.S. intelligence." He is an authority on guerilla warfare and counter-insurgence.

Hittle says the British failure was caused by "bureaucratic infighting," turf wars of intelligence agencies with overlapping responsibilities, political interference and plain ineptitude." Collins "accurately identified its vulnerabilities and attacked it ruthlessly and relentlessly."

Collins knew that "British informers and spies had betrayed all past rebellions…" In 1919, at the beginning of the struggle, he said, "Without her spies, England is helpless."

Collins, "was an unlikely intelligence mastermind." He had a "gregarious personality, a broad country accent…was astute, charismatic, and an organizational wizard capable of quickly assessing a problem and acting decisively."

The author says further, "British arrogance, insensitivity to a distinct Irish culture…and disorganization played a major role in their defeat. Collins' genius was to recognize and exploit these conditions…:

Collins led about 2,500 Irish Volunteers (about 1,200 of them in Dublin) in a guerilla war against about 50,000 British troops, Black and Tans and Auxiliaries, while de Valera, his erstwhile superior was safely in the United States.

"De Valera very much disapproved of Collins 'ambush tactics and he conveniently avoided association with…the conflict by going to the United States…But de Valera had little to show for his overseas mission: he had failed to get official American support for the Irish Republic, he had alienated… Irish groups and…Irish American members of Congress, and he was therefore in danger of becoming marginalized."

De Valera's series of meetings in London in July 1920 likely convinced him that the British would not give an "Irish Republic" and that the best that could be hoped for would be a partitioned Ireland…with dominion status. With this knowledge, de Valera cajoled Collins into leading the Irish peace

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delegation…" to London.

The Treaty they signed was what de Valera knew the British would only agree to. But "he attacked them privately and publicly, declaring his vehement opposition to the Treaty terms and condemning Collins and the other delegates as traitors." The author, Hittle, has profound contempt for this action by de Valera.

"His decision not to participate in the treaty talks appear now, ninety years on, to be one of the most cowardly political acts in history."

The civil war that resulted brought suffering to the Irish people and death to Michael Collins. His death deprived Ireland of a man with vision to make Ireland become a modern European nation. Ireland was an economic backwater and a theocratic state until recent times.

Irish Crossings

By: Terence O'Leary
Swan Creek Press

This is a perfect time of the year to review this book. It is a sympathetic and generous of heart look at the bravery of our ancestors—forced to leave Ireland in the mid 1800's—and then to endure the very long sailing time to cross the 3,000 miles of the Atlantic.

It is a perfect time because St. Patrick's Day is here, with its parades and parties. It is a day to celebrate being Irish and to celebrate our rich and beautiful literary and artistic heritage.

The author, Terence O'Leary, was born and raised in Chicago, but lived most of his life in northwest Ohio, where he lives today. He is a graduate of the University of Toledo and has degrees in Psychology, English, and Journalism.

We are in America largely because of the brutally unfair system of land ownership. The Anglo-Irish owned the land—sold the crops and animals raised by the Irish—and then left them to subsist on the potato. When blight destroyed the potatoes, famine resulted.

This review marks the beginning of the 41st year of this column! Its purpose is to encourage learning about our Irish heritage. Readers know the facts of the Great Huger or Famine of 1845-1851. Terence O'Leary tells that story through the intimate feelings and caring actions of two young person, Paddy and Caitlin.

Paddy has asked Caitlin to marry him. However, the Great Hunger forces them to flee Ireland and then to endure the long sailing time to America.

Even if our ancestors did not come here because of the famine, their precarious dependence on the potato remained the same throughout the 1800's. It was a 3,000 mile journey from Ireland to the United States. Even with favorable winds, the sailing time was 6 to 14 weeks! That's 3 ½ months to be cooped up on a sailing ship—the food was poor and the living conditions primitive, even on 'good' ships.

Paddy and Caitlin eventually land in New York. We see them being cheated out of the money they had carefully brought for the train tickets to Philadelphia. There a relative would help them get work. They sell their last possessions to get the money for the tickets.

I guarantee that you will have tears when you read how their love makes them sell their last precious possessions.

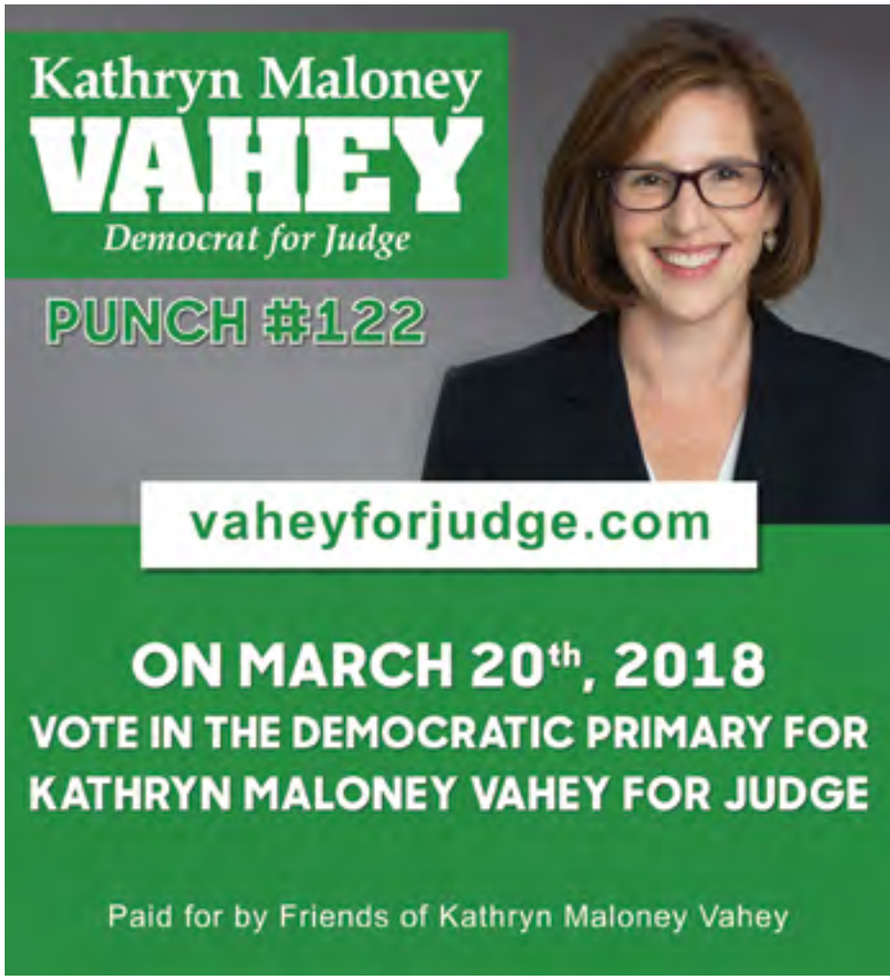
The book has many colorful, telling quotes. I think you will like these.

A relative in Galway advises them about which ship to take: "The Liberty is what you need. She's a packet ship that carries mail and goods between here and America…but it will cost you more than a British ship. Three pounds on a British ship; it'll cost you five pounds with the Liberty. The Americans don't let their crews drink…the food's better too, but you'll still need to buy some extra."

They meet a man who talks about Ireland's past of great learning: "Can you read and write your name? That's what a scholar is in Ireland today. We Irish once were the light of the world. During the Dark Ages, the monks in our monasteries copies and preserved the great books of mankind. Our greatest king, Brian Boru, was a scholar long before he was king."

He continues, "How far have we fallen? I hate the British not because they took our land, but because they tore down the towers of learning."

"Greatness still lies within us. Give your children the tools. They may not grow up to be kings, but they will grow up to be presidents."



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Celtic Thunder A Perfect 10 in 2018

By Ryanne Gallagher Johnson

Celtic Thunder has turned ten!

The internationally acclaimed group is celebrating its first decade anniversary with the release of a new album, Celtic Thunder X, this spring, and a 75-city tour in the fall.

While members have come and gone over the years, the band's current five-man lineup consists of Neil Byrne, Emmet Cahill, Ryan Kelly, Damian McGinty, and Michael O'Dwyer. "Over the years, the lineup has changed," explains long-running member McGinty, who joined as the group's youngest contributor in 2007, at the age of fourteen. "There's been people that have come in and out, people who do a year here and there. But this current five have been together for (around) two years, and we get on great. The chemistry is brilliant. We support each other in our solo endeavors. It's the easiest it's ever been, which is great."

The most recent album, which will be out March 2nd, is a completely new production, with 26 new songs that were recorded last October. "It's back to basics for us, what we sort of did ten years ago. It's quite theatrical. We open up with a new song, called "Songs of Light", which is really dramatic, really theater based and quite powerful. Then as the show goes on, in true Celtic Thunder style, we get a lot of Irish classics in there, and some international hits as well. I really think people are going to like it. It feels to me like our first show, which I think, personally, was our best show, so I'm excited about that."

When not touring or recording together, each member is busy with his own life and solo work, and the downtime between now and their tour in the fall is well-deserved. "Last year, our Celtic Thunder schedule was very busy, because we were creating a bunch of new material, which always takes up a lot of time. This year, we have a little more (down) time. Apart from releasing (the new album) in March, we just have the tour in the fall, so we kind of have a clean slate. We all have a lot of other things going on before then," says McGinty, who will have his own solo tour in the States this April and May.

"It's certainly not as glamorous (as it seems). There's definitely this perception outside of the entertainment industry. I don't blame them… before I began all of this, I used to think the same," he continues. "All the average person ever sees is the final product off television or in the movies or on the radio... They don't see the process, what goes behind making that, and all the late nights, all the hours, all the flights, all the travel… those elements, too, sort of bring us down to earth. It's actually not easy, it is quite difficult. But the good thing about it is that I love it, it's what I love to do. I wouldn't change it for the world. I'd rather be busy than looking for work, so I feel very fortunate to be so busy."

Although four of the members have their home bases in Ireland, McGinty himself resides in L.A.. "When we're not doing Celtic, they've got their own things going on, but I think it's fair to say that most of us spend at least more than half of our year in the States. I spend ten or eleven months here. This is where our home has been for the last ten or eleven years. We love working here, it's where our fan base is… it's great."

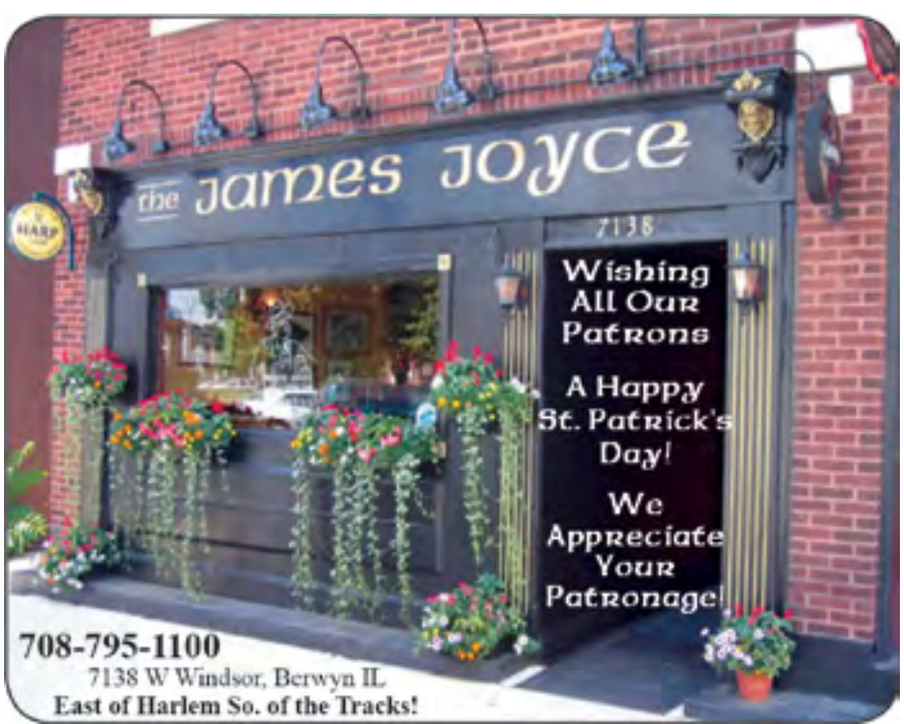
As fellow Thunder member Neil Byrne says, "10 years on and it's getting even more exciting! Our latest production 'X' is the brand new Celtic Thunder show that is already critically acclaimed. As a performer it is the most exhilarating and entertaining show I've ever been a part of.

Enjoy 'X'!"

And Michael O'Dwyer puts his two cents in as well! "CTX is Celtic Thunder's brand new show. It was filmed in the Helix in Dublin in October and is due for release on March 2nd. It is an amazing show packed full of brand new music. It certainly has something for everyone. It will make you laugh, it will make you cry, it will make you want to jump out of your seat and dance and sing along. It defiantly brings that Irish party feel that CT is notorious for. It is just such a fun new show and is guaranteed to give both new and seasoned fans something to be very excited about."

Tour dates and locations for the new tour have yet to be announced, but if your city has a healthy Celtic Thunder fan base, you can almost guarantee that they'll be performing in your area. "We'll get around as much as we can in a three or four month period… we get out there as much as possible. (But) where we've played before, and where our fan bases are, we go back there a lot."

For information, including new album details and tour stops and dates when they're announced, you can visit the band's website at celticthunder.com.



About the Cover

Publisher, Cliff Carlson, took the liberty of putting his grandson on the cover this month.

Dillon Patrick Schel was appropriately born on St. Patrick's Day in the fair city of Chicago.

Dillon lives in Myrtle Beach with his younger sister, Madison, Cliff's daughter, Rachel, and his father, Ken Schel.

Union League Club of Chicago Presents Wild Women of Ireland 3-14

When women everywhere were expected to be seen and not heard, to marry and have children these Wild Irishwomen were traveling the world and seeking out adventures. They spoke out against oppression and used every creative means available to express their ideas and beliefs. Some were... famous writers, killers, politicians, entertainers, courtesans, revolutionaries, lovers, warriors, witches, and eccentrics are among the eclectic roster of Wild Irishwomen resurrected from the dustbins of history.

The Union League Club of Chicago, Young at Heart Group invites all to come and enjoy an afternoon of Irish story-telling by Chicago's own Wild Irishwomen; Mary Pat Kelly, Author and Story Teller along with Irish songstress, Catherine O'Connell as they delight the audience with tantalizing stories of famous wild Irishwomen who helped form Irish history.

The cost of the event will be $45 per person inclusive and **the Club adheres to a no denim and athletic wear dress code policy.** The cancellation policy that is in effect is 24 hour in advance of the program.

The event begins at 11:30 a.m. with a reception and a luncheon and program at noon. If you or your guest have any dietary restrictions, i.e., dairy, gluten free or specific food allergies please let us know by contacting Club Services at 800.443.0578 or email at clubservices@ulcc.org.

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Game On For Chris Kennedy In Governor's Race

By Cyril Reagan, J1 Ireland

Growing up in Ireland, there were two indelible images ever-present in kitchens across the country – a picture of Pope Paul VI illuminated by the sacred heart light and that of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, a fitting reflection of the warmth, fondness and esteem that the Kennedys held then and still enjoy in Ireland to this day.

When learning of the tragic news from that fateful Dallas day, everyone remembered where they were and what they were doing. One account of a hardened veteran of the war of Independence in Ireland breaking down and crying in a local shop reflected the impact of JFK's loss in Ireland.

And yet in the face of adversity was endurance. As Attorney General in his brother's administration, Bobby Kennedy tackled crime and gun control. As Democratic candidate for the presidency in 1968, he was a champion for Civil Rights in America in a time where tackling the issues of racial inequality was neither profitable nor popular.

While on the Presidential campaign trail in 1968, Bobby had to announce the death of Martin Luther King Jr to an African American audience. The tragedies he had endured personally enabled him to reach out and quell the potential for an inflammatory backlash.

In film footage of Bobby on the campaign trail, a vivid moment was recorded when meeting a number of young African American school kids. He took the time to listen to their questions and to answer them, with the respect they showed him. Their impression upon him was evident in the warmth of his goodbye as he placed his hands warmly on the face of one young boy in a compassionate display of empathy for the challenges they faced and for which he vowed to fight.

In June 1968 however, Ireland once again came to a standstill, in shock and disbelief at the death of Bobby - another fallen proud Irishman.

Again, the Kennedy family continued to carry the baton for justice and equality. As the 'Lion of the Senate', Ted Kennedy commanded respect from both Republicans and Democrats alike often crossing the aisle to forge bipartisan links for common causes. His tireless work for Ireland, along with his sister and former US Ambassador to Ireland, Jean Kennedy Smith, saw the realization of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

That new dispensation for peace was celebrated when the founder of the Special Olympics, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, brought the World Games to Ireland in 2003, the first time for the games to be hosted outside the US.

The Kennedys have always been seen as extended family by the people of Ireland, in spite of being an ocean apart. As the Irish uniquely put it, no matter how long you've been away, "when will you be home again"?

Despite being hit by tragedy after tragedy, which could diminish the resolve of the most formidable of clan, the Kennedys have picked themselves up and time and time again to put themselves forward to serve the public and to champion traditional Democratic causes. They recognize what it meant to be disadvantaged in America and while proud of their Irish heritage, they never see the color of one's skin or flag as a hinderance to equal rights.

The enduring legacy of the Kennedys is their commitment to serving the people – their commitment to public service. As proud Americans they have been unwavering in that commitment. Ethel Kennedy who saw her husband Bobby pay the ultimate price, has never hesitated in supporting her family in their desire to serve their country.

Today, their son Chris Kennedy renews that commitment in his efforts to be selected as the Democratic candidate for Governor of Illinois. His unique insight into the challenges that faced the Irish when they came here and the challenges that continue to face the Undocumented Irish who do an honest day's work, pay their taxes and whose kids were born in a country whose flag they plead allegiance to. Causes not unique to the Irish but common also for Hispanics, Eastern Europeans, Asians and Africans.

Chris works closely with the Celts for Immigration Reform and the Illinois Coalition for Refugee Rights and stands proudly to support Chicago's Sanctuary City status and Illinois as a Sanctuary State. He and "Chuy" Garcia share the same goals as they endeavor to work for a comprehensive immigration reform bill to protect the rights of those marginalized by inaction by a Republican majority in Washington.

In a State that has become home to so many nationalities, working families know the challenges of income inequality, employment opportunities, affordable healthcare the rising cost of utilities,

We all have family and friends who have been disadvantaged by Republican policies for our State and marginalized by right-wing immigration policies. Chris Kennedy will fight for families working to make a better life for themselves and for those who are hampered in trying to do so. If you are unemployed, working, a member of a union or not, he will stand and fight for the traditional Democratic policies that afford a sense of respect and dignity for families struggling each day to make a better life for their loved ones in a safe, secure environment.

Colm Egan and Chris Kennedy

The Kennedys of course always had key Irishmen as part of their team, including Kenny O'Donnell, Robert McNamara while also working closely with Mayor Richard J Daley in the interests of the people of Chicago and Illinois. Today, Chris also has some notable Irish names involved in his campaign such as Daley, Regan, Joyce, Sheehan and O' Sullivan work for those very same goals

In a world where it's much easier to be cynical and critical of political representatives, a vote for the Kennedy/Joy ticket, gives you a say in the future direction of the great State of Illinois, to say I want what's best for my family, for equal opportunities and equal rights, the right to a job and a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle

Boiled, Fried Or Fricassee

For those familiar with Jonathan Swift's *A Modest Proposal*, will know the absurdity of the proposal. Swift, a writer full of what Yeats calls 'savage indignation', does not pull punches when it comes to dealing with poverty. Sick of seeing the results of social ills produced by such extreme deprivation, he seeks to prick the conscience of those immune to the harrowing effects of financial desperation.

18th Century Ireland, crippled by absentee landlords, famine, social and political inequity, sees a rise in homelessness, begging, domestic abuse, 'voluntary abortions' and infanticide to name a few. The good people of England, oblivious of the plights of the Irish peasant, or indifferent, remain unaffected by the cruelty enacted by callous evictions. Hunger drives children to steal, women to beg, and men to either fight against the woes of colonialism or accept the most intolerable work conditions for a mere pittance.

Swift thinks poverty a crime; a demonstration of our inhumanity and calculated injustice. Poor Irish Catholics are demonized as enemies of the crown in league with 'the Pretender' in Spain. And, as we know, the act of dehumanizing any ethnicity is politically expedient in order to justify a lack of compassion, and excuses inaction. We see this much later when it comes to the extermination of 6 million Jews by the Nazis. Images of Jews in the streets, interspersed with images of rats, is enough to make the point. A whole group of people, deemed to be vermin, are killed to make Germany great again. So, while the latter action, is an active sign of hostility, and the former a passive expression of prejudice, the outcome is still the same, Women, men and children die in their droves.

Keeping in mind that the worst famine is yet to hit Ireland, Swift's work is prophetic. If something is not done to address the effects of poverty, it will get worse and the consequences greater than we can conceive. A passionate, believer in compassion and Christian charity, Swift finds the harrowing fate of the poor so shocking he writes a proposal that is so morally repugnant to shock his audience to the core.

The proposer's ingenious scheme sounds rational. If society follows his plan, women will find themselves gainfully employed, men will not treat their wives badly, abortions and infanticide will decrease. Swift's proposer outlines the many benefits of his proposal with deftness. The rich will get richer while the poor also enjoy some of the benefits of this wealth. It will be a win-win for all. There is, however, only one problem. In order to implement such a proposal society needs to push their prejudice of these 'creatures' one step further.

If we think of these beggars, low-lives, as 'breeders', and livestock then it is possible to improve their lot with little or no cost to ourselves. His argument, so creatively pointed to skewer the hypocrisy of those who claimed to be 'good', is plain. If we think of the poor as livestock instead of people, they will be treated better. The way to a 'good Christian's' heart is through his wallet, and the proposer's plan is quite lucrative.

Women are to be encouraged to bear children. Feeding the child on breast milk for a year will cut down some of the costs necessary to invest in such a project. After two years, a child would then be sold for food; thus rewarding the investor with a great profit. The plan, while economically driven, will also have social implications. Men will treat their wives better once it is understood that the woman is a 'cash cow'. The absurdity of this plan is worked out with precise detail complete with the outlining of a range of possible exotic dishes. The modest proposer goes as far to state that the skin of the child will make soft gloves for a lady, and boots for a gentleman.

Swift's point is clearly made. If we are not content to watch people suffer the hardships of poverty, then we should do something. Rather than complain about their begging, and become intolerant of the rising crime rate, is it not better to do something that will benefit us and them. If, the Dean of St. Patrick's cathedral, cannot appeal to people's conscience then he is forced to expose where their real faith lies, mammon. The 'good' people of the day will only be motivated to action if there is some monetary gain to be got. He reads the hearts of his congregation and readership accurately.

They might be appalled by his plan to use the poor as livestock since the argument is that it's a sin. We are commanded not to kill, but are we also not commanded to feed the hungry? Is poverty not also a crime? Swift's proposer is a mask, behind which lies a man who is indignant about the hardness of heart that ceases to care. His savage reaction to poverty is enough to get our attention but is it enough to get us beyond the shock effect?

A Word With Father Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Reverend Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO

As Catholic Charities winds down our year-long 100th anniversary celebration next month, we hope you will consider joining us for one final celebratory event. Catholic Charities Centennial Week of Service will be April 9 through April 15, and we are planning a whole week of fun and meaningful volunteer opportunities. We felt this would be a most fitting way to usher in the second century of serving those in need because volunteers have formed the bedrock of Catholic Charities, and volunteers are the roots of our future.

One hundred years ago, the U.S. entered into the depths of World War I and our city was in the grips of the Spanish Flu epidemic. Needs were great. Parishes and religious orders were overwhelmed with requests for assistance and did not have the capacity to respond. To stem the rising tide, Cardinal Mundelein called together a group of prominent business and civic leaders to help him raise money and develop an organized and efficient way to provide charitable care to the growing numbers of needy people in the Archdiocese of Chicago. This group of leaders would become the first Board of Advisors of Catholic Charities, and they not only got involved themselves, but inspired thousands of others to do the same.

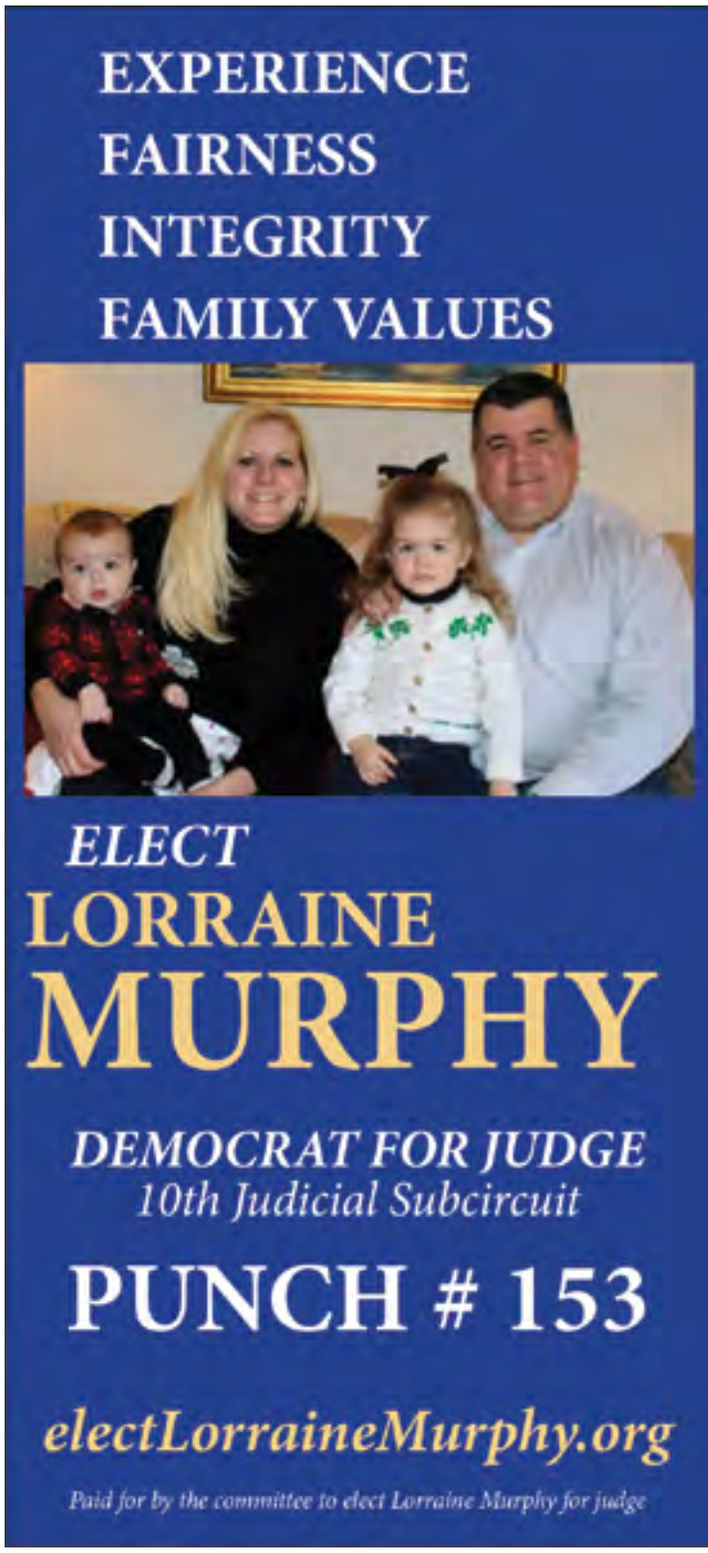
By the time of the first annual meeting of the Board, Cardinal Mundelein was amazed by the response: "During the past 12 months, 50,000 people in this city and diocese have contributed their money, their time, and their services that we might efficiently carry out these works of mercy, that we might feed the hungry, nurse the sick, protect the orphans, shelter the homeless, and help the poor in our midst." That same dedication to charity and volunteerism have been with Catholic Charities ever since. Jesus' love has truly been poured out to millions of people over the years through the merciful hands of our dedicated board members, volunteers and supporters.

In the spirit of Cardinal Mundelein's remarks, Catholic Charities Centennial Week of Service will be organized around the corporal works of mercy. Each day there will be a different work of mercy highlighted and various activities will be planned for people to volunteer, advocate, and donate. For example, on Monday, April 9, our theme will be "feed the hungry" and we are encouraging donations to our food pantries across Cook and Lake Counties. There will also be volunteer opportunities for corporations and groups to assemble packaged food kits, serve dinner to the elderly in our senior residences, or deliver meals to seniors in their homes.

On Tuesday, April 10, we will "clothe the naked" by requesting donations of socks and underwear for the homeless, as well as baby clothing, diapers and necessities for new mothers. Volunteers can sort donated clothes or help guests find professional clothing in our clothing rooms. The other days of the week you can help us shelter the homeless, welcome the stranger, care for the sick and lonely, or give alms to the poor. There will be plenty of opportunities for parishes, businesses, schools, families, and individuals to get involved. But of course, if this week does not work with your schedule, Catholic Charities always has multiple needs throughout the year for volunteers!

For 100 years, the Holy Spirit has moved many generous souls to support our brothers and sisters in need in the Archdiocese of Chicago. We hope that Catholic Charities Centennial Week of Service celebrates our rich volunteer history, and inspires new volunteers to join us in fulfilling the Gospel mission to love and serve the poor. Together, let's embark on a second century of bringing Christ's mercy and hope to those who need it most.

Please see www.catholiccharities.net/volunteer or call (312) 655-7322 for more information.



Help Palos Country Club Celebrate 100th Anniversary

Some milestones must be celebrated! 100th Anniversaries are such. 2019 will be the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Palos Country Club.

In the coming months we will be recording our history, traveling back to the Club's founding, exploring the physical changes over the years, acknowledging the contributions of so many who have been instrumental in making Palos Country Club what it has been and is today. We would also like to introduce the families who have made Palos Country Club their home away from home while playing an integral part in the Club's history. All will culminate in looking to our future and the role Palos Country Club can play in our community so that our golfing and banquet facilities may be enjoyed for generations to come.

We are also requesting our friends, neighbors and employees (past and present) to please share historical or nostalgic artifacts, photos or anecdotes they may have to help us celebrate our 100th Anniversary!.

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Dun Deal! Dundalk Football Club Sold to Chicago Group

By Dean Arrowsmith

The League of Ireland may not be at the forefront of US soccer fans minds but in Chicago, that may all be about to change.

On January 18th, Dundalk FC broke the news that a group of US investors, led by Chicago group Peak6 Sports, had acquired 100% stake in the 2017 SSE Airtricity League Runners-Up.

The Investment has garnered a lot of attention both in Ireland and in soccer circles across the world. The new investors have stakes in teams such as Roma in Italy, Bournemouth and Swansea in the English Premier League, so it is an exciting time to be a Dundalk FC supporter.

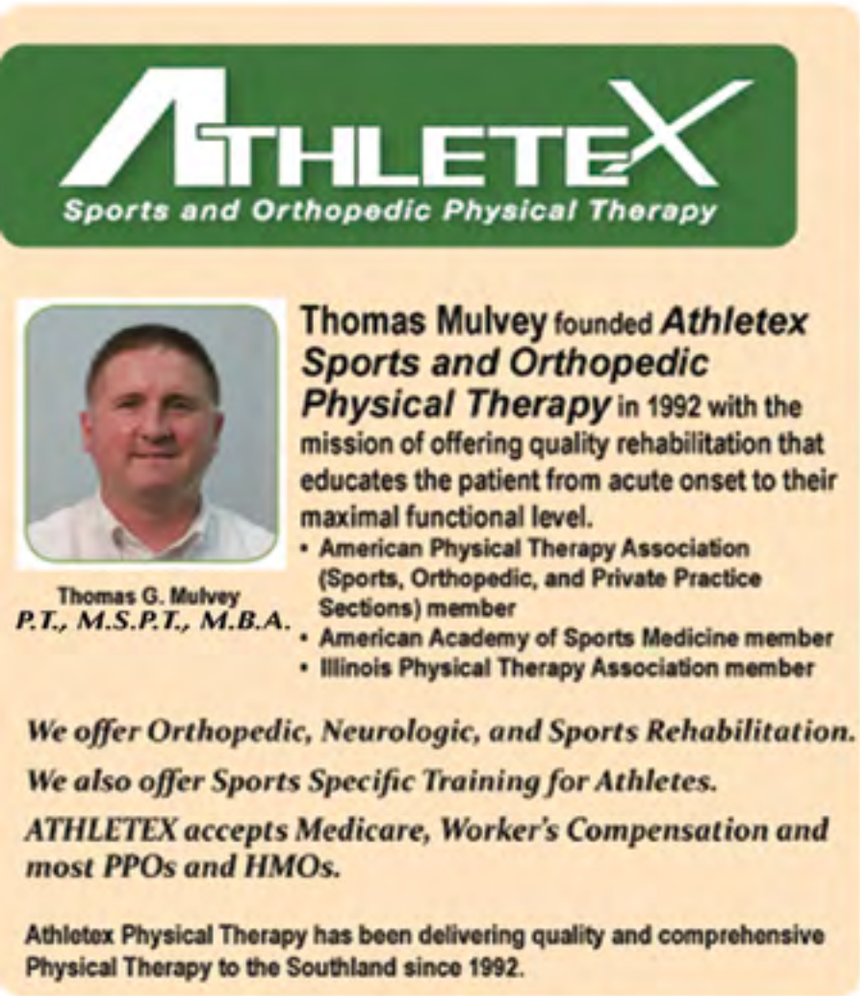
Dundalk FC garnered the attention following the team's heroics in the 2016/17 Europa League campaign which saw them claim 4 points in the group stages, something no other Irish team have done in European competition.

Having met 3 of the new investors, they outlined a desire to build the brand of Dundalk FC and Irish soccer so that they have similar recognition as an elite European club like Glasgow Celtic are to Scotland.

They plan in the coming months to begin promoting the club in this part of the world and hope to stream games live in the bars and homes across the US and beyond. There is a hope to get some merchandise into the many Irish stores in Chicagoland.

Steps are already in motion as there is now an official Supporters Club in Chicago, based out of the north west part of the city, and they hope to announce membership details very soon, with a potential first meeting to take place at the Irish American Heritage Center. This is sure to be an exciting time for fans of Irish sports in Chicagoland.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Dundalk FC Supporters Club Chicago you can like their Facebook page or follow on twitter (@ChiLilywhites)



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Doris Kearns Goodwin, Joe Biden, Charles Feeney, Sr. Ann Ida Gannon, BVM, Ph.D, and Charles Comiskey Among the 2018 Inductees Into the Irish American Hall of Fame

The Irish American Hall of Fame is proud to announce its 2018 Class of Inductees. Eight outstanding Irish Americans in seven categories were selected as this year's honorees and will be honored at the 8th Annual Irish American Hall of Fame Awards Gala on April 28, 2018 at the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago.

The IAHOF will also recognize its 2018 Hometown Hero, Mark Doyle, founder of Rags of Honor.

2018 Irish American Hall of Fame Inductees

ARTS & HUMANIIIES

James T. Farrell

James Thomas Farrell (February 27, 1904 – August 22, 1979) was an American novelist,

short-story writer, and poet. Born in Chicago, he is well-known for his realistic descriptions of the working class South Side Irish in the first half of the 20th century, especially The Studs Lonigan Trilogy. Farrell authored more than 50 books and is widely considered one of the finest Irish-American writers whose realistic and naturalistic writings continue to influence authors to this day.

Doris Kearns Goodwin

Doris Kearns Goodwin is a world-renowned presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of six critically acclaimed and New York Times best-selling books, including her most recent, The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism. Others include Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln and No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II for which she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in History. Ms. Goodwin has served as a consultant and has been interviewed extensively for PBS and the History Channel's documentaries on LBJ, the Kennedy family, Franklin Roosevelt, Abraham and Mary Lincoln, and Ken Burns' The History of Baseball and The Civil War.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Charles Feeney

Charles Francis "Chuck" Feeney (born April 23, 1931) is an Irish-American businessman and

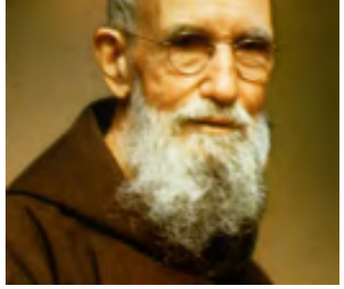
philanthropist and the founder of The Atlantic Philanthropies, one of the largest private foundations in the world. He made his fortune as a co-founder of the Duty Free Shoppers Group, which pioneered the concept of duty-free shopping.

Referred to as the James Bond of philanthropy, over the last 30 years he's crisscrossed the globe conducting a clandestine operation to give away a $7.5 billion fortune derived from his empire of duty-free shops. His foundation, the Atlantic Philanthropies, has funneled $6.2 billion into education, science, health care, aging and civil rights in the U.S., Australia, Vietnam, Bermuda, South Africa and Ireland. He gave away his remaining $7 million in late 2016 to his alma mater, Cornell University, and Atlantic Philanthropies will close its doors in 2020.

RELIGION

Blessed Solanus Casey

Blessed Solanus Casey, Capuchin Franciscan, was born Bernard



Francis Casey on November 25, 1870 on a farm near Oak Grove, Wisconsin. He joined the Capuchin Order at Detroit in 1897 where he received the religious name of Solanus. After his ordination in 1904, Blessed Solanus spent 20 years in New York City, Harlem, and Yonkers. In 1924 he was assigned to St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit where he worked for 20 years. He died at the age of 86 on July 31, 1957 at the same day and hour of his First Holy Mass 53 years earlier. On November 18, 2017, he was beatified by the Catholic Church after a miraculous healing attributed to him was approved by Pope Francis.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. (born November 20, 1942) is an American politician who was the 47th Vice President of the United States from 2009 to 2017, having been jointly elected twice with President Barack Obama. A member of the Democratic Party, he represented Delaware as a United States Senator from 1973 until becoming Vice President in 2009. He was first elected to the Senate in 1972, and became the sixth-youngest senator in U.S. history. He was re-elected to the Senate six times, and was the fourth most senior senator at the time of his resignation to assume the Vice Presidency in 2009. He was a long-time member and former chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and served as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

SCIENCE

John Phillip Holland

John Philip Holland (February, 29 1840 – August 2, 1914) was an

Irish engineer who developed the first submarine to be formally commissioned by the U.S. Navy and the first ever Royal Navy submarine, the Holland 1. In 1875, his first submarine designs were submitted for consideration by the United States Navy, but turned down as unworkable. He continued his research and in 1881, Fenian Ram was launched. The submarine is now preserved at Paterson Museum, New Jersey. Holland continued to improve his designs and worked on several experimental boats, prior to his successful efforts with a privately built type, launched on May 17, 1897. After rigorous tests, she was purchased by the United States Navy, on April 11, 1900 and was commissioned on October 12, 1900 as USS Holland. The USS Holland design was also adopted by others, including the Royal Navy and the Imperial Japanese Navy.

SPORTS

Charles Comiskey

Charles Albert "The Old Roman" Comiskey (August 15, 1859 – October 26, 1931) was a Major

League Baseball player, manager and team owner. He was a key person in the formation of the American League and later owned the Chicago White Sox. Comiskey Park, Chicago's storied baseball stadium, was built under his guidance and named for him. Comiskey was inducted as an executive into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1939.

EDUCATION

Ann Ida Gannon, BVM, Ph.D.

Sister Ann Ida Gannon, BVM, Ph.D., is a Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and served as the President of Mundelein College from 1957 to 1975. She was a champion of the great social

movements in America in the second half of the twentieth century and a scholar in the fields of education and philosophy. She was an ardent supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment and served as Chair of the Illinois Commission on the Status of Women from 1965 to 1971. She was appointed by President Nixon to the Presidential Task Force on Women's Rights and Responsibilities in 1969. From 1976 to 1977, she was the co-chair of ERA Illinois and chaired the Governor's Committee on Women. After Mundelein College became affiliated with Loyola University, the University established the Gannon Center for Women which prepares women to lead in every sector of society. Sister Ann Ida Gannon resides in Dubuque, Iowa at the BVM Mount Carmel motherhouse and is now 103 years old.

2018 Hometown Hero

Mark Doyle

Mark is the founder of Rags of Honor, the only silk screen shop that is 100% operated by homeless and unemployed veterans with the mission to provide them with an opportunity to rebuild their lives after serving in the U.S. military. In 2010, Mr. Doyle was engaged

by the United States Army as a financial subject matter expert and deployed to Afghanistan as part of Task Force 2010. It was in Afghanistan where he saw firsthand the sacrifice of service men and women in Afghanistan. He was sickened by the injustice suffered by homeless veterans in Chicago and chose to make a difference. In response, he created Rags of Honor. At Rags of Honor, employees are paid a living wage, are offered continuing education and training and assistance with life skills that they need to continue their life's journey with dignity. And all of the silk screen machines are made in the Chicagoland area and every tee shirt is made in America.

About The IAHOF

The Irish American Hall of Fame is national in scope and operated under the auspices of the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago. Nominations were solicited throughout the U.S. in the Fall of 2017. Over 400 nominations were received and a rigorous screening process was applied to produce a final slate of more than 43 candidates. A voting body over 300 prominent Irish Americans from across the country elected the winning 8 inductees. To date, 70 Irish American have been inducted into the Irish American Hall of Fame.

The purpose of the Irish American Hall of Fame is to preserve the "story" of the Irish in America, by recognizing and honoring the outstanding contributions of Irish Americans to society in the seven categories listed above. For tickets to the Hall of Fame Gala, www.iahof.org. 773-282-7035.

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Playwright Miriam Gallagher: 1940-2018

By Mia Gallagher

In January, acclaimed Irish playwright, screenwriter and author Miriam Gallagher died in Dublin. Miriam had been battling illness since 2012, but in typical creative form, this period also saw many

new productions and publications of her work.

Born Miriam O'Connor in 1940 in Waterford City, she was the second of five children. Her father, Michael, was a manager at Bank of Ireland, a job which involved the family regularly moving home. Perhaps this is why the deeply imaginative young Miriam was enthralled by the idea of running away—a theme she later explored in her work, most memorably her short film 'Gypsies' (1994).

After attending boarding school at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in Roscrea, Miriam left Ireland in 1957. She worked as an au pair in Europe before studying in the UK at the London College of Speech Therapy. Later she would regale her young family with tales of these penniless but glamorous student days. As well as qualifying as a speech therapist, Miriam studied Drama at LAMDA, where she was awarded a silver medal.

In 1962, Miriam returned to Ireland, setting up in Dublin as one of only four speech therapists in the country. Her empathy and skill soon saw her practicing in many different hospitals and clinics. A regular speaker at conferences, she co-founded the Irish Association of Speech & Language Therapists and was later appointed its chair.

Miriam and her husband, Gerhardt celebrate 50 years together.

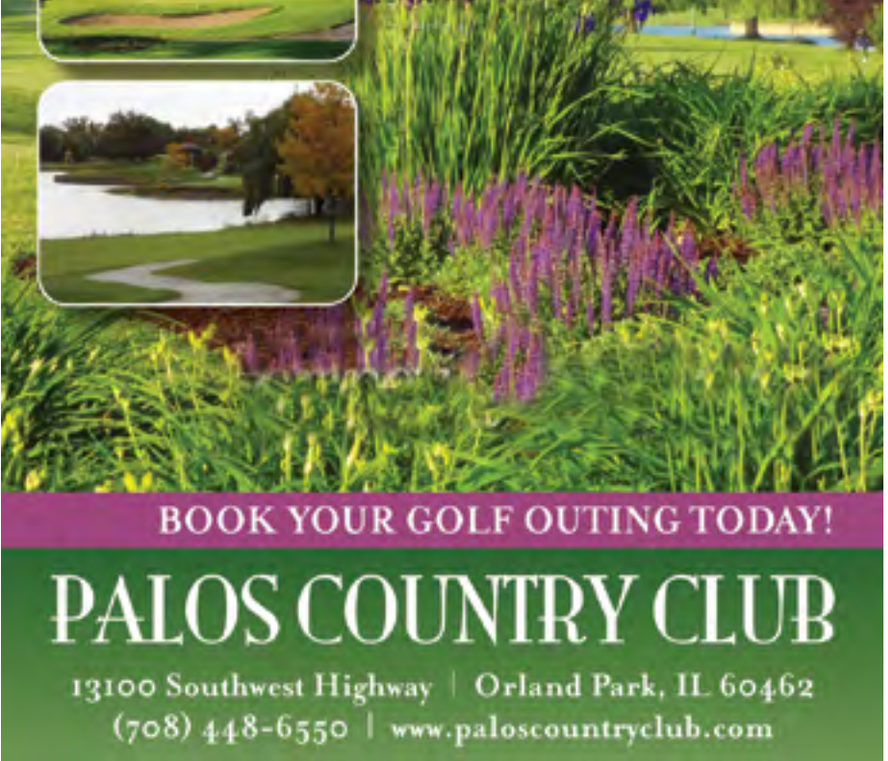
In 1963, she met artist and forester, Gerhardt Gallagher, also a native of Waterford. After marrying in 1966, they had three children: Mia, Donnacha and Etain. Miriam successfully combined parenting with her professional speech therapy practice and her writing—the result was her first book, 'Let's Help Our Children Talk' (O'Brien Press, Dublin: 1977).

Late 1970s Dublin was a hothouse for bohemians and Miriam became an active member of the Grapevine Art Centre and the Focus Theatre. She began writing plays and in 1983, received her first commission. 'Fancy Footwork' was set in the world of boxing and performed by prisoners from Dublin's Mountjoy Prison. The play opened in the Dublin Theatre Festival to critical success – making further headlines when one actor escaped during the run! 'Fancy Footwork' went on to have many professional productions, first reaching Stateside audiences in Chicago.

By 1988, Miriam's artistic reputation was well-established. In the next three decades, she would write over 20 plays—bringing her to new audiences in Britain, Europe, the US, Canada, India, Australia, South Africa and the Philippines. Her screenplay Girls in Silk Kimonos (celebrating the Gore Booth sisters) received Arts Council and European Script Fund Awards. Other awards included MHA TV Script Award, EU Theatre Award and a Writer's Exchange to Finland.

Miriam was a member of Irish PEN, serving on its committee and as vice president. She also served with the Irish Writers Union, the Society of Irish Playwrights and was judge for the O.Z. Whitehead Play Competition. In 2004 her novel 'Song For Salamander' was published by Trafford (US), followed by her first story collection in 2008.

Hailed by Bord Gais Theatre as one of the 'wonderful women in Irish Theatre through the ages', Miriam was an artist till the end. 2017 saw the publication of her second short story collection 'Night in Havana' and in her very last week, she had pen in hand as she edited a new story. She is greatly missed by her husband Gerhardt, her children Mia, Donnacha and Etain, her sisters Valerie and Fidelma and her brother Michael and their families.



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From Ireland to Chicagoland

Hailing originally from Arranmore Island, off the Donegal coast, Caroleann has been living and priacticing 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 tunnell miners so she has a deep rooted affinity for the working man and their families

Caroleann Gallagher
312-543-4642
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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Counties of Ireland –by Tom Butler

This month I'd like to cover is Co. Kerry, it's located on the southwest region and part of the province of Munster. The population is about 150,000. It is the 5th largest by area in the country and it is bordered by Limerick and Cork. The diocese is in Killarney which is one of Ireland's most famous tourist destinations. The lakes of Killarney are a natural wonder and beauty, located in Killarney National Park. The tip of Dingle Peninsula is the most Western point of Ireland. Kerry faces the Atlantic Ocean with many beautiful peninsulas' including the Dingle, Iveragh and the Beara. Kerry might be one of the most mountainous regions in Ireland. To name a few mountains/reeks: Carrauntoohil, Caher, Beenkeragh, Cruach Mhor and Cnoc na Peiste (hill of the serpent). Kerry is also home to the Blasket Islands (6) in the Atlantic they are an uninhabited group of Islands. There is a beautiful monastery founded on Skellig Michael, it is a world heritage site. Skellig means unique rock formations. There are Irish speakers all over Ireland but where they have concentrations of Irish speakers it's called a Gaeltacht. There is a Gaeltacht located in Kerry it consists of two areas: Dingle, and Ballinskelligs there are roughley 10,000 Gaelic speakers in that one. Co. Donegal has the largest Gaeltacht in the country.

A popular tourist destination in Kerry is the winding roads off the coast called the, "Ring of Kerry", it's very scenic and people can take in the views by car or cycling their way around. Kerry's senior Gaelic football team is by far the dominant sport in the county and Kerry has the most successful of all the football teams. Kerry football have won the Sam Maguire cup 37 times. Hurling is also popular at club level although the county has only won one all Ireland and that was in 1891. The senior team currently competed in the Christy ring cup. Kerry is to football as to my county is to hurling. Some famous people from Kerry include: John B. Keane (playwright) Fr. Hugh O'Flaherty (monsignor at the Vatican) and of course our liberator, Daniel O'Connell. Some famous songs about Kerry include: cliffs of Dooneen, the lonely Banna strand, wild colonial boy and as I leave behind Neidin

Another notable Kerryman Michael (mick) O'Dwyer a Gaelic football manager, won 4 All Ireland football championships he also managed 8 winning football championships for Kerry. There is a statue of Mick in Waterville Kerry. There was a famous American golfer named Payne Stewart who tragically died in a plane crash at 42 years of age and Co. Kerry honored him by a statue in Waterville also.

I will wrap this month up with this anecdote

A very old folktale from Longford tells of the two farmers who were in earnest discussion on the comparative usefulness of the sun and the moon. Translated loosely from the Irish, their conversation went as follows: Sure, and the sun is more useful, said one. It gives a stronger light. Yes, but the moon is more sensible, argued the other. Sensible? How so? Put your mind to it mana, and you'll agree with me. The sun comes out in broad daylight when even a one-eyed man can see without it. But the moon - ah - the moon shines at night when we really need it!

My wife and want to wish you a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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Irish Culinary Heights

By Estelle Shanley

Ireland is no longer the land of mutton and spuds. Many years ago, Irish chefs were dispatched to Belgium, the epicurean center of the world, a distinction, far too often dismissed by the French. Cookery men and women studied, and returned armed with new innovative culinary skills, but wise enough to preserve the best of Irish food, fresh grown vegetables, fresh fish including the famed Irish salmon, and Irish spring lamb. They adapted new skills to Irish cooking. The investment has paid off a thousand fold, and it is not far fetched nor an exaggeration to proclaim Ireland as an impressive evolving culinary island.

In the early nineties, I spent three weeks in Paris, then on assignment to Dublin for the Irish Tourist Board, writing about Irish food, hotels and inns to attract discerning American travelers. On return, meeting my spouse at O'Hare International Airport, my first comment, "I arrived in Shannon with the taste of Paris on my palate, and I'm back in the US with the taste of Ireland that surpasses French cuisine."

Julia Dupouy

Back in the day, McCormick Place hosted an international Chef's Convention, enticing a group of Irish chefs to participate in culinary competition. Teams were provided a list of ingredients coupled with an assignment to develop a menu, shop for food, cooking, dishing it up for a formal dinner numbering approximately 150-guests. Interviewing the Irish Team, they were amazed at the displays of fresh produce at Treasure Island but initially stumped by the cat fish assigned on their menu. Following several hapless cooking attempts it became clear that catfish does not hold up to baking or poaching, but adheres well to deep frying. The team rose to the top, returned to Ireland proudly carrying a bronze medal. In a Chicago interview, they bemoaned that chefs in Ireland, unlike America, were neither touted, honored or revered. In recent times, that scenario has drastically changed, and the names of high end Michelin starred restaurants and their chefs are held in high regard and profiled continuously in the news media

> *"Ireland is no longer the land of mutton and spuds"*
>
> **Estelle Shanley**

Michelin Guide food critics are in Ireland 365 days a year and several starred restaurants currently sprinkle the country, including an exceptional two-star restaurant, Patrick Guilbaud, at the Merrion Hotel in Dublin. The Greenhouse off Grafton Street has earned a one-star, a well appointed restaurant where every course is an event, so long as your pockets are bulging with Euros! In this new year, Irish sommelier Julia Dupouy, who works in the Greenhouse, was feted and named the third best sommelier in the world!

In breaking news, a restaurant pub in Lisdoonvarna, County Clare, is the first Michelin Bib Gourmand gastro pub to obtain a coveted Michelin star. The Wild Honey Inn, a historic facility dating from 1860, is currently owned and operated by chef Aidan McGrath and his partner Kate Sweeney.

Several years ago, Michelin expanded its focus and began critiquing pubs in Ireland and the United Kingdom, recognizing restaurants offering good food at affordable prices of forty euro or less for a three course meal. That distinction is offered as a Michelin Bib Gourmand award.

In Belfast, two one star restaurants, Epic and Ox have retained Michelin star status and for the first time, also in the North, Wine and Brine, in Moira, County Armagh, was recently awarded A Bib Gourmand listing.

Despite the elevation of fine dining, the traditional Irish breakfast continues to be dished up with fried eggs, sautéed tomatoes, Irish sausages, black and white pudding, brown bread with lashings of Kerrygold butter and an endless steaming pot of tea. Visit Ireland, for golf, sightseeing, theatre, shopping, but above all partake of the culinary experiences that awaits and the hospitality to match.

On the Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.

Founding Partner

HEALYSCANLON LAW FIRM

Formerly Healy Law Firm

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

HealyScanlon, formerly The Healy Law Firm, is comprised of 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. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

By: Martin Healy, Jr.

(left) John P. Scanlon

(right) Patrick C. Anderson

ITLA President, John Scanlon, responds to continued attacks on the workers' compensation system in Illinois

John P. Scanlon, a partner at Healy Scanlon, currently serves as the president of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association. In that role, John continues to fight for the rights of injured workers across Illinois, just as he has done throughout his career by representing those who are injured. One major area of concern is that Illinois' Workers' Compensation system is continually under attack by insurance companies and private interest groups, attempting to strip away the rights of injured workers.

In a recent letter to the editor published in the Chicago Sun-Times, John addressed some of these attacks and issued a reminder of the reasons that our workers' compensation system was instituted in the first place:

In the early part of the last century, the only legal remedy for a worker injured or killed on the job was to bring a lawsuit against his or her employer. It was a lengthy and expensive process for both those who were hurt and businesses.

"Looking for a solution, employers and workers came to a 'grand bargain' under which employers agreed to compensate injured workers for medical expenses and lost wages. Workers, for their part, forfeited the right to take employers to court over job-related injuries. Each state thereby enacted its own workers' compensation system aimed at protecting both injured workers and employers."

"These days, states are abandoning that mutual agreement. In re-engineering workers' compensation laws to lower costs for employers, they're sacrificing protections for injured workers. In Illinois, a 2011 overhaul came at the urging of business and insurance companies. Lawmakers rewrote the statute to cut costs for insurers and employers while injured workers gave up longstanding rights based on the understanding that the insurance industry would pass along savings to employers through premium rate reductions. But while costs dropped dramatically for insurers, the insurers did not pass those savings along. They instead pocketed enormous profits."

NASI findings demonstrate substantial savings for insurers

In his letter, John also reported the results of a study compiled by the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI) after the 2011 overhaul of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act. NASI is a non-profit, non-partisan organization made up of the country's leading experts on social insurance. NASI's findings included:

- Total benefits paid to medical providers and compensation paid to injured workers dropped 19.3 percent between 2011 and 2015. This was the second largest drop of overall costs in the country during that time. Throughout the rest of the U.S., NASI reported, such costs actually increased by 2 percent.
- Medical costs here fell 23.3 percent, representing the steepest reduction in the U.S., during the five-year period. Illinois also experienced the third largest decrease in benefits paid, compared to payroll, and the tenth largest reduction in employer costs during the same time frame.
- Profits of workers' compensation insurers in Illinois have grown substantially. In 2015, insurers had a profit margin of 17.2%, generating nearly a half a billion dollars.

Insurers are still clamoring for deeper cuts to the rights of injured workers

In light of these findings, cries from the business and insurance industry for deeper cuts to the benefits received by injured employees, punctuated with false claims that businesses avoid Illinois because of our workers' compensation costs, are nothing more than a ploy to pressure lawmakers into stripping what remains of workers' rights.

The truth is, Illinois is good for business. It's home to 36 Fortune 500 companies – only three other states have more. And according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, we are ranked fifth in the country for gross domestic product.

Illinois is especially attractive for insurers. There are 332 insurance companies writing workers' compensation policies here – more than in any other state. They come here precisely because there is little oversight and the laws favor their interests over those of seriously injured workers and their employers.

The 2011 workers' compensation revision is producing the intended result of cutting costs. If there is another revision, it must focus on insurance companies and the unjust premiums they charge business owners. Deeper benefit cuts for injured workers, diminished medical reimbursement and denied claims only will boost insurance industry profits while shifting the cost of caring for injured workers onto the backs of taxpayers through Medicaid and other publicly funded programs.

That is a proposition that neither the worker nor the Illinois taxpayer can afford.

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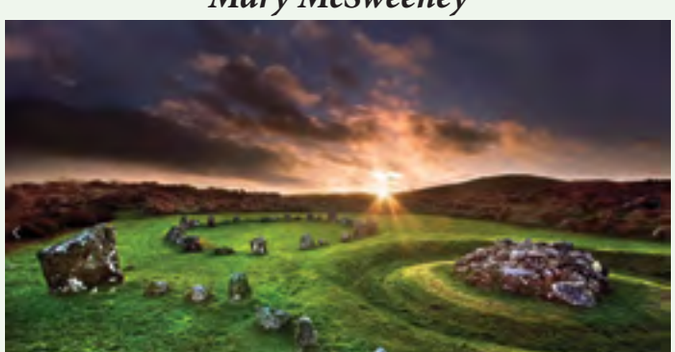

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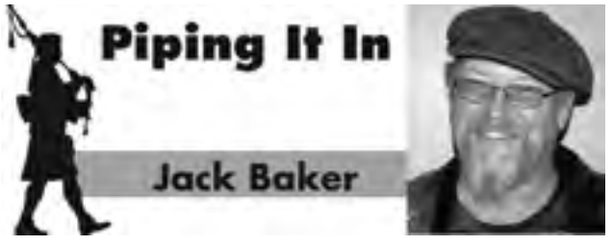


"And the Lion Once Rampant Is Lying Like Dead"

Well, here's wishing everyone a cheery, blessed and healthy Saint Patrick's Day. Unfortunately I also have some sad news, in that we are forced to close our store, Rampant Lion Celtic Traders. Sales for brick and mortar stores have been declining for several years and specialty stores like ours have been hit especially hard. Bagpipe supplies are easily found online, as well as music books, gifts and I don't even want to discuss cds. Recorded music, that was once 99% of our business is now less than 1%, and dropping. We were extremely lucky to have several serious music collectors that continued to buy cds from us and I feel bad that I will no longer be able to provide their musical fix. Mind, we're not crawling off to a hole somewhere, we will continue to work festivals and Gayle has promised to whip my website skills into shape so that you can shop online with us {She doesn't know what a task she has assumed!}. The store though will cease to be and I am sad about that. No more bagpipe lessons on Tuesday nights {Neighbors will probably appreciate that} and no more longwinded discussions of the pros and cons of music, musi-

cians, etc. It is those longwinded discussions I will miss most of all.

Our store was honored over the years with visits by many of the brighter lights of Irish and Scottish music and a few other figures of Celtic culture. For instance, I will never forget the visit by Mike Houlahan when he was filming his award-winning movie, "Our Irish Cousins". The craic was mighty that night, several bottles were emptied and one of the silliest parts of the movie was filmed. Our piping group was responsible for many a memorable night, most recently at their last Christmas party when Tony Karz played his heart out all the while wearing a green tutu. Still not sure where the tutu came from. Another night we had a visit from two pipers from Argentina, in town for business; they came by for reeds and damn near spent the night.

Over the years we helped people figure out how to wear their kilts, came up with unique wedding presents and even helped a customer find an appropriate container for her husband's ashes {give you a hint, it previously held whiskey}.

All in all it was a fun 13 years but there was one thing that the store never did and that was make money. On a good month we broke even and on a less than god month we made up the deficit with earnings from the festivals we worked. Eventually we came to the realization that closing the store was the only reasonable course of action. We will continue to work festivals and I will continue to review cds for the Irish American News, as long as there are cds to write about. I'll even guest host on Maryann's radio show when she'll have me. No more pipe lessons or evenings of alcohol fueled frivolity or long involved conversations, such is life.

I apologize for the lack of cd reviews this month. I planned to have some but circumstances prevented it. Next month we'll have several. Should be getting a new one from Kennedy's Kitchen, always a treat and I still hld out hope that Pat Broaders will get me the new Open the Door for Three, and then there is a new Lunasa, and the story goes on and on.

See you next month. Catch me in the store, for at least this month at 630-834-8108 and online at store@rampantlion.com (The title for this month's column comes from Gaberlunzie's recording of "Shehalion" Slainté

SCHIEHALLION

Gordon Menzies

Come charge up your glasses and lets drink a toast,
To the bold Scottish heroes and the proud Scottish host,
To the battles we've won and the few that we've lost
Here's a health to the back of Schiehallion.

Chorus :
Schiehallion, Schiehallion, I hear your voice calling,
Across the Great Glen to the coast of Argyll.
The Lowlands, The Highlands, The Borders, The Islands,
I'll drink to the back of Schiehallion.

The bluebell of Scotland is hanging her head,
And the lion once rampant is lying like dead.
They grieve for their country whose courage has fled
Far awa' tae the back of Schiehallion.

God speed the day when the Scots shall awake,
The fetters of England to crack and to break.
And stand by the freedom their birthright to take
Here's a health to the back of Schiehallion.

Step into March at the Irish American Heritage Center

Celebrate St. Patrick's MONTH with a full lineup of programs and activities.

ADMISSION:
$12 in advance
$15 after March 15

CHILDREN:
12 and under
FREE

To purchase tickets, visit irish-american.org or call (773) 282-7035, ext. 10

St. Patrick's Festival

Saturday, March 17, 2018 • 1pm-Midnight

AUDITORIUM

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

FIFTH PROVINCE

1:30pm Youth Ensemble of the Irish Music School of Chicago
3pm Dooley Brothers
3:30pm Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band
5:30pm Mulligan Stew
7:30pm The Chancey Brothers
9:30pm In Spite of Ourselves

ROOM 109

Meals from Harrington's Catering and Deli

ROOM 111

1-7pm Arts and Crafts Fair

2ND FLOOR–1-6pm

Museum: Exhibits
Library: Genealogy workshop and book sale
Art Gallery: The Kite Maven: A Celebration of the Art of Frank Crowley

ROOM 309

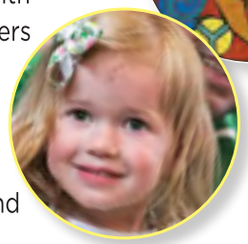
3:30pm Academy of Irish Music
4:30pm Murphy Roche Irish Music Club
6:30pm Shepherd School of Irish Music
7:30pm Patrick and Karen Cannady and Friends

ROOM 311

1-4:30pm Dance Lessons with Trinity Irish Dancers

ERIN ROOM

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



March with our award-winning float crew in two St. Patrick's Day Parades

- **Sunday, March 11, Noon**
  Northwest Side Irish St.Patrick's Day Parade
  Meet at 11:30am at Onahan School at 6634 West Raven.
- **Saturday, March 17, Noon**
  Downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade
  Meet at 11:30am on the corner of Columbus Drive near Balbo.

Visit www.irish-american.org for more information on float positions.

11th Annual Wearing of the Green Dinner Dance

Kick off St. Patrick's Day season with dinner dancing, prizes and a cash bar. **Sunday, March 4, 5-10pm, $45**

Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry

Bring the whole family through March 30 during Lent for our traditional Irish Fish Fry. **Fridays through March 30, 6:30-9pm, Adults: $14, Children: $9, IAHC members receive $1 off with valid membership card**

The Kite Maven: A Celebration of the Art of Frank Crowley

The IAHC Art Gallery presents a multimedia art exhibit by the late Frank Crowley, IAHC Art Gallery Director. **Friday, March 9-Sunday March 8.**
Opening reception: **Friday, March 8, 7-9pm**
Hours: **Saturdays Noon-6pm, Sundays 1-4pm**

Billy Gogan, American Book Signing

Author Roger Higgins brings his historic fiction novel to the IAHC Library. The story is the tale of a young man fleeing Ireland on the eve of the Famine for America.
Sunday, March 11, 3:30pm, free

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Fourth Dublin Writers' Conference June 22-24 2018

The Fourth Dublin Writers' Conference will take place in Dublin's Academy Plaza Hotel from 22-24 June 2018. The Conference was established in 2015 by successful Irish thriller author Laurence O'Bryan (The Istanbul Puzzle, The Jerusalem Puzzle, the Manhattan Puzzle) and founder of BooksGoSocial Authors' Group, as an event dedicated for authors and would be authors. It has now become an annual fixture on the Dublin literary scene.

This year's Conference theme will be "Finding New Voices" with talent spotters from the publishing industry in the US and Britain there to assess and advise aspiring and established authors alike.

The Conference will feature five separate sessions over three days covering the New Self-Publishing, the Evolving Nature of the Publishing Business, " The Writer's Journey" in which successful authors recount their writing and publishing experiences, a session offering advice on what readers want, and a final session on Book Marketing and Finding Readers.

There will as usual be additional break-out sessions and, as last year, these will include the popular "Pitch a Producer" feature in which participants get a chance to make a brief oral presentation of their work to Ken Atchity, veteran Hollywood producer. New this year, for the first time outside the US, will be a feature on the Algonkian Method on alternative ways to pitch your book to a publisher or on Amazon with feedback provided.

The Conference is structured to maximise opportunities for networking and there is the traditional opening evening informal get together at which participants can read out their works and discuss. Saturday evening will feature the Annual Conference Dinner and Awards with a topical and timely guest speaker, retired Colonel Colm Doyle who is in process of publishing his first book, " Witness to War Crimes"an account of his service in Bosnia, with the EU and later as personal representative of Lord Carrington, Chairman of the Peace Conference on Jugoslavia.

Laurence O'Bryan

The impressive list of speakers this year includes David Gaughran, the self-publishing guru and author of "Let's Get Digital" who will make two presentations, one on Successful Self- Publishing, the second " The Reader's Journey " on hints to maximise marketing potential. Also new this year from the USA are Amy Collins, President of new Shelves Books and Michael Neff, founder of the Algonkian Writers Conference, who will contribute a bonus workshop on Day Two.

Other speakers will include bestselling Irish Crime Writer Arlene Hunt, award winning historical fiction author Alison Morton, as well as Jacq Burns, founder of the London Writers Club and Rikard Sommer, the latest Norwegian thriller writer. Returning also to speak are Susanne O Leary the popular Irish light fiction author as well as Michael Russell T.V. scriptwriter (including Frost) turned author of atmospheric period thrillers of Ireland in the Stefan Gillespie series, who will be bringing back his popular one to one critique sessions on Friday afternoon.

Full details of the Conference, including discounts for early registration are to be found at admin@booksgosocial.com.

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TRIAL ATTORNEYS

Front Row: Martin Healy, Jr., John Scanlon, David Huber, Kevin Veugeler
Back Row: Terence Geoghegan, Jack Cannon, Matthew Healy, Terry Sullivan, Patrick Anderson, Jill Fowler, Matthew Gannon, Dennis Lynch

Lá Fhéile Pádraig 2018!

(Happy St. Patrick's Day)

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Emerald Dinner
Elements on Water Street, Naperville
Saturday, February 24th
6:00 pm – 11: pm

St. Patrick's Day Parade – 25th Anniversary!
Downtown Naperville
Saturday, March 10th: 10:00 am sharp

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

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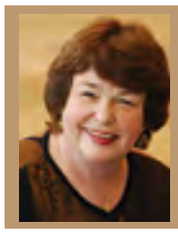

Clutter Buster

By Rita Emmett

Procrastinate No More!

Waiting until everything is perfect before making a move is like waiting to start a trip until all the traffic lights are green.
~ Karen Ireland
Life is not a having and a getting, but a being and a doing. ~ Anonymous
The best things in life usually are not things. ~ Anonymous

Clutter Facts That are too True to Argue

Emmett's Basic Clutter Fact: If Tomorrow You've Got To Get Organized, Then Today You've Got To Clutter-Bust.

Simply BELIEVING this fact will make your life so much easier. Trying to get organized with clutter surrounding you is so difficult, it's almost impossible.

Becoming organized once your clutter is gone is so simple, it's almost effortless.

Besides, some people who APPEAR to be organized simply have all their clutter boxed up in nice looking containers. They don't know what they have and can't find it when they do remember that they have it. They feel organized because their clutter looks neat, but they don't feel organized when they are frantically searching and wondering "Where the heck did I put that?"

Stashing stuff in containers or closets does not reduce or conquer clutter. The reality is it's simply doing the Clutter Shuffle.

You'll be able to move towards conquering your clutter as you ponder and begin to believe this concept about getting organized, along with a few other simple facts, such as:

Emmett's Second Clutter Fact: When You Have Chaos And Clutter In Your Work Or Living Space, You Have Chaos And Clutter In Your Mind And In Your Heart.

That's a fact. When clutter surrounds you, your mind becomes jumbled; it's hard to focus, hard to decide what your priorities are and what you should be taking care of first, hard to think clearly or to even know what you feel. Your mind becomes cluttered, right?

Emmett's Third Clutter Fact: If You Don't Have A Place To Put Something, Ka-Boom You've Got Clutter.

That's an undeniable fact.

When you look around and find that you don't have enough room for all your stuff, you don't need more room, you need less stuff.

Remember the old saying, "A place for everything and everything in its place"? If you can't find a place for something, then it doesn't belong with you. Get rid of it. Pass it on to someone who will appreciate and use it.

When clutter-busting stacks of paper, set up a file, or box or basket or envelope for each group of paper. If you don't, then you'll look at it, not know where to put it, decide "to decide later" and shuffle it to another spot. Same with your other clutter. You need to designate a place for each item to belong, or you won't be conquering your clutter. You'll be doing the Clutter Shuffle.

Years ago, I wished we had a spare room. Then we had a house with a spare room. I would hold something in my hand, not know where to put it, and with a sigh of relief, plop it in that spare room. When it finally came time to clear it out, I stood holding each item and thought "I didn't know where to put it before and I still don't know where to put it."

That's when I realized that clutter-busting involves making decisions. And the decision for most things that didn't have a place to belong was … get rid of it.

Now take these three facts and either sear them into your memory or tattoo them on your arm. Because once they become "part of you" your clutter will begin to melt away.

Happy Clutter-Busting!

Rita Emmett is a "Recovered Pack Rat ", Professional Speaker, and author of The Clutter-Busting Handbook,

To subscribe to her free monthly "Anti-crastination Tip Sheet", go to her website www.RitaEmmett.com

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

Coming Soon in Irish American News 2018!

April:	Irish American Hall Of Fame
May:	Suicide: What's Being Done To Prevent It
June:	Irish-American Weddings
July:	Gaelic Park And Summer Sports
August:	Who Is Going To Be At Ibam! X !

Hybrid Nation

Remnants of a Viking settlement were discovered in Cork City a few years ago in line with development work that was being carried out in this area. This settlement and artefacts are over 1000 years old and once again reinforces the City of Cork as an original centre of Viking settlement and investment.

In the late 1970's there were many protests in Dublin in order to preserve the very important Viking settlement at Wood Quay. It was the largest settlement of its type ever unearthed and considered a very significant archaeological find for this country. In the height of the Wood Quay controversy a comment was made that if this site had been discovered as a Celtic settlement rather than a Viking one, it would have been much easier to get support and funding in relation to its preservation. Wood Quay could not be saved and it yielded to become the IFSC Financial Centre.

In the study of Irish history, the Vikings have always been considered as outsiders and have received a pretty 'bad press' overall. They are primarily remembered for plundering and pillaging, but we must also remember that at this time the centres of wealth were the Monastic settlements. The Monastic scribes were also the journalists of their day who wrote about and chronicled these events, and would subsequently pass into our historical studies for this period. The writings are biased against them, unbalanced, and the overall Viking contribution needs to be viewed in a much broader context.

These early seafaring multinationals, Vikings or Danes, were beginning to come in large numbers to Ireland from the 8thto the 10th centuries and founded the now important cities of Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Waterford. They introduced the first system of coinage to Ireland, replacing the old traditional barter economy. Apart from the early raiding and plundering of Monasteries they were primarily involved in fishing, shipping and commerce. Viking words which have passed to the Irish language include 'pingin',(penny) 'margadh'(market) and 'bad'(boat).

I have heard recently about our sometimes unwelcome attitude to refugees who are seeking asylum in this country. As a race, we are not as pure as we think we are. From the beginnings of habitation on this Island, in the Mesolithic period over 10,000 years ago, we were populated in turn by the great Celtic tribes of the Fir Bolg, Tuatha de Danann and Milesian peoples. Each of these would replace and intertwine with each other. In subsequent periods we were forcibly settled by Vikings, Normans and English Colonists. We are, in effect, a hybrid nation of people, conditioned by centuries of intermarriage. The west coast of Ireland was also very much influenced by seafaring contact from North Africa, in particular from Morocco and Algeria. Our 'shamrock' plant is now believed to be Moroccan in origin. To live anywhere in the world today and be against equality because of colour or race is like living in Alaska and being against snow. In recognising the humanity of our fellow beings, we will ultimately pay ourselves the highest tribute of all.

'Once the game is over, the king and the pawn go back in the same box'

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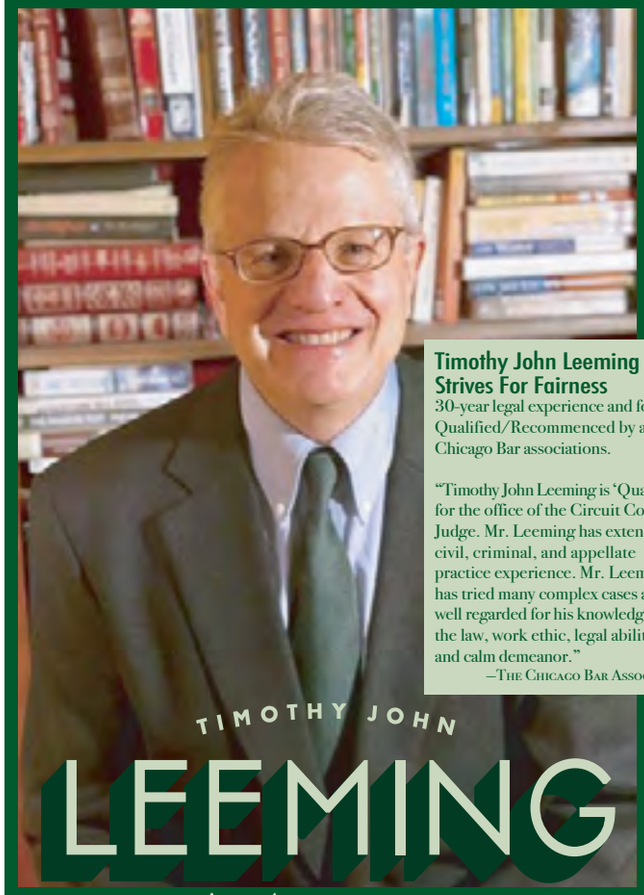

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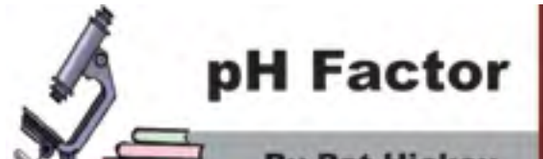

Goodbye to All That - 43 Years of Catholic Secondary Education

I had a ball! Since 1975, I have worked exclusively and loyally in Catholic secondary teaching and fund-raising. I taught thousands of young people who have grown into remarkable men and women. I have worked with brilliant people at Bishop McNamara, La Lumiere School, Leo High School and Brother Rice High School.

It was a privilege to work for Alpha-male teachers and school leaders like Bob Foster of Leo, the late Fr. Ken Yarno of Bishop Mac and with Headmaster Larry Sullivan of La Lumiere School. These gentlemen led the herd and protected its flanks – always. Leading from the front is the action of a true servant.

I was out of the classroom for twenty-one years and when I returned the passive aggressives seemed to dominate. I went to work as substitute/permanent sub -and at-will, no contract, we can fire without cause, salary saver.

I thought I was part of an old-timey, collegial faculty. In fact, I was welcomed to the work by the key administrators with all the warmth of a Turk at a christening.

The faculty was very nice. They offered a great deal of help in matters like computer-based learning and scantron testing.

The bosses, not so much.

Wherever passive-aggressives thrive, the culture dies hard. For years this seemed limited to 'downtown' – the educators who mandated directives, issued policy contortions and relayed third-hand dispositions, like "The Cardinal will never agree to that."

Bob Foster said, "Well then, let's go and ask His Eminence!" And he did and learned that the Cardinal was in full agreement with Bob Foster.

Today, the Beta primate-in-charge shrugs and smirks in too many Catholic high schools.

I ended my four decades of work in Catholic high schools on January 26, 2018. Let's let things go at that.

Safe to say, I walked into a passive-aggressive booby-trap and took the bait.

I got to get back to fishing; don't open your mouth and you won't swallow a hook. The story is sad and sordid.

The day that my position as a substitute teacher was terminated, I applied for work as a laborer on one of the Flood Brothers Disposal Trucks, where my talents would suit the charisma of that corporate culture. I would rather haul trash than teach wonderful young people, while second guessing every assignment, lesson and word that I might dispense.

The school I worked at is staffed by some phenomenal teachers and administered by a passive-aggressive cohort, not unlike the 'downtown' crowd of alumnae of closed girls' schools who dominated the education chancery.

I wondered about that. Maybe that is all part of the 'thinking-outside-the-box' corporate culture that requires no candor and plenty of empty-sizzle- Marketing 101 stuff.

Anyway, I am out of it for keeps. I loved teaching and the students seemed to appreciate what I was presenting. Now, I am an acquired taste, I know.

What worries me is the rooted nature of Catholic secondary school administrator passive aggression. It will not go away.

It is not only the school for which I last worked but many of them. There are no leaders like the Father Kens, the Larry Sullivan's, or the Bob Fosters.

Teachers hunker down and wait for things to pass over, but Catholic schools do not have much time left.

Forbes magazine noted in 2013 that, " Passive-aggressive behavior in any company is one of the most destructive cancers to a culture that ends up killing both a great company, and the self-esteem of the individuals working there. "

Forbes offered these signs of the creeping cancer in an organization – Leader(s) who:

•on the surface appears to be agreeable and supportive, but behind the scenes will back-stab, undercut, and sabotage.

•constantly states that you can trust their words when their actions have consistently shown that not to be true.

•makes promises about things when they have no intention of ever following through, often then blaming things that were "out of their control" for precluding them from being able to fulfill their promise.

•smiles and agrees with you to your face, but then disagrees or even sabotages things behind your back.

•states "I was supportive of you, but this other person wasn't so there is nothing I can do" in order to place blame on someone else rather than voicing their own lack of support for the matter.

•gives positive praise and feedback to you directly, but then takes actions to undercut you to coworkers and management. . . .

Demoralized faculty members are silent at meetings. Coaches and teachers who had been part of a school's golden age of recruitment, school spirit and instruction watched their programs, camps, mission goals and successes shoved aside, or dismantled, in favor of new blood that was anemic at best. Hey, what's the big deal? It's all good!

Things are not all that good. If enrollment is down, it is not only the latest census figures to blame. Kids want to go to a school with a sparked-up faculty and leadership that is willing to have the backs of its teachers and students; not merely, complaint department for helicopter parents.

My last lesson to my Theology 3: Social Justice class

was this. "We are, who we used to be. If we do not honor the Bishop Bernard Sheils, Mother Cabrinis and Terence Powderlys, how can we know what the hell Social Justice is all about?"

Likewise, if Catholic schools do not honor Alpha Dog leaders who built our schools, nurtured their traditions and reputations, how will they keep operating? If I do not remain faithful to the creed that ran my family to America, I must be a Unitarian.

Catholic high schools will go the way of the carburetor, I am afraid.

Sour grapes? Oh, hell no. I had a ball. The job is about the kids. If I did a good job, or bad, they tell me. They are far from Passive Aggressive.

the heritage line

Irish American Heritage Center

Chicago, Illinois

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UPCOMING CONCERTS AND PROGRAMS

PÍOBAIRÍ

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

11th Annual Wearing of the Green Dinner Dance

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

Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry

Bring the whole family out every Friday during Lent for our traditional Irish Fish Fry. The meal Includes fish and chips, cole slaw and a vegetable. Live music begins at 9pm. **Fridays through March 30, 6:30-9pm, Adults: $14, Children: $9, IAHC members receive $1 off with valid membership card**

The Kite Maven: A Celebration of the Art of Frank Crowley

The IAHC Art Gallery presents and hosts a multimedia art exhibit by the late Frank Crowley, IAHC Art Gallery Director. **Friday, March 9-Sunday March 8. Opening reception: Friday, March 8, 7-9pm, free**
The Art Gallery is open Saturdays Noon-6pm, Sundays 1-4pm or by appointment

Billy Gogan, American Book Signing

Author Roger Higgins brings his historic fiction novel to the IAHC Library for a signing. The story is the tale of a young man fleeing Ireland on the eve of the Famine for America, where he gets caught up in underworld activities. **Sunday, March 11, 3:30pm, free**

St. Patrick's Festival, Saturday, March 17, 1pm-Midnight

Celebrate all things Irish with a full day of music, dance, a craft fair, food and drink and children's activities on 4 floors. **$12-15, Children 12 and under free, see page 26 for more details**

The Power in the Words: Speeches of Inspiration and Resistance

Some of Chicago's finest actors and musicians perform speeches and music from Irish and American politicians, activists and citizens, including William Faulkner, Padraig Pearse, Countess Constance Markiewicz, Meryl Streep, Mahatma Gandhi, Billy Bragg and Woody Guthrie. **Monday, March 19, 7pm, $10**

Quiz Night

Show off your skills at one of Chicago's longest running trivia contests. There are prizes for the top 3 teams and proceeds from the evening benefit a local charity each month. **Friday, March 23, 8pm, $60 per team**

Anam Cara

Pull up a chair for stories from past and present students of the IAHC Memoir and Creative Writing classes. **Saturday, April 21, 6:30pm, $5**

Carnegie's Maid Book Signing

Author Marie Benedict discusses *Carnegie's Maid*. In the industrial 1860s, Irish immigrant Clara Kelley works for prominent businessman Andrew Carnegie and they fall in love. When she disappears, Carnegie's search for her unearths revelations that lay the foundation for his legacy.
Wednesday, April 25, 7pm, free

IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

Irish American Hall of Fame Gala, Saturday, April 28, 6:30pm

Celebrate the 2018 class of inductees in the fields of Arts & Humanities, Business & Industry, Public Service, Sport, Religion, Education and Science **$150-200, see pages 18-19 for more details**

The IAHC's 33rd Annual

St. Patrick's Festival

Saturday, March 17, 2018
1pm-Midnight

ADMISSION:
$12 in advance
$15 after March 15

CHILDREN:
12 and under FREE

IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

2018 Gala Awards Dinner
Saturday, April 28 • 6:30pm
This Year's Inductees:

Arts & Humanities:
Doris Kearns Goodwin
James T. Farrell

Business & Industry:
Charles F. Feeney

Public Service:
VP Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Sports:
Charles A. Comiskey

Religion:
Blessed Solanus Casey

Education:
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Science:
John Philip Holland

Home Town Hero:
Mark Doyle,
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the heritage line

Irish American Heritage Center

Chicago, Illinois

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President's Message

This March is predicted to be the busiest in the history of the Irish American Heritage Center and I am so glad that many of you will be a part of our month-long celebration. I will keep this brief so we can have more room to promote our many events. The Wearing of the Green Dance is on Sunday, March 4 from 5pm-10pm and is a kick off to a full month of programming. It's a great start to the St. Patrick's Day season.

Thank you to our wonderful committees who continue to work so hard on our events. Our St. Patrick's Festival is Saturday, March 17 at 1pm after the downtown parade. So, you can march on the 17th, join our party, and sleep in on the 18th. Some of the finest music, dance, food and drink will hallow the majestic halls of the Center. If you want to join us as a volunteer for any of our programs, email info@irishahc.org.

On Friday, February 2, we hosted our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and it remains my favorite event. It is an honor to show our true gratitude for the army of volunteers, who, for more than 30 years have been the heartbeat of the Center. Their work has been a labor of love without paychecks or time clocks and their work shows a true passion for our history and heritage. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Eugene M. Cooney, President

March 2018

3/2	Friday Night Fish Fry	Fifth Prvince	6:30pm
	Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor	Room 309	8pm
3/3	Píobairí	Fifth Province	6pm
	Shamrock American Club Social	Shamrock American Room	7pm
3/4	Wearing of the Green Dinner Dance	Erin Room	5pm
3/7	Tara Club Senior Meeting	Room 306	10am
3/9	Friday Night Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
3/10	St. Patrick Fathers Social	Room 109	8pm
3/11	Great Books Club	Library	1pm
	The Mark and the Void		
	Billy Gogan, American Book Club Signing	Library	3:30pm
3/16	Friday Night Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
	Shamrock American Club Meeting	Shamrock American Room	8pm
3/20	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7pm
3/21	Tara Club Monthly Musical Gathering	Room 306	11am
3/23	Friday Night Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
	Quiz Night	Room 309	8pm
3/25	Genealogy Workshop	Library	1pm
3/30	Friday Night Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

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

Library Hours:

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

No Cover *Free Parking*

the fifth province

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MARCH ENTERTAINMENT

Music Starts at 8pm

3/2	Joe Cullen
3/3	John Devlin
3/9	Fonn Mor
3/10	Baal Tinne
3/16	Sullivan Brothers
3/17	St. Patrick's Festival, 1pm-Midnight (cover charge)
3/23	Mulligan Stew
3/24	Whiskey Mick
3/30	Joe McShane
3/31	the Joyce Boys

Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions: March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29; 7pm

Annual Appeal

Below are the names of donors to the 2017 Annual Appeal who have given through February 14, 2018. The campaign runs through April 2018 where final donations will be listed here in the April issue. Each year, Patrick and Peggy Burke generously pledge $25,000 in matching funds for the Appeal. We thank them, and you, for your generous support.

Center Champion ($1,000-2,499)
Doyle, Richard

Patron ($250-499)
Bruce, Devon
Hamman, Michael J. and Jeanette

Friend ($1-99)
Bloch, Marguerite
Carroll, Michael
Flaherty FSC, Michael
Kelly, Teresa
Richardson, Timothy and Maureen
Mellon, Edward and Mary Ellen

Love a Parade?

Join the fun and walk with our award-winning float crew in two St. Patrick's Day Parades.

This year's float theme is "Irish in Service to Others: Anne Burke and the 50th Anniversary of the Special Olympics". The The Northwest Side Parade is Sunday, March 11. Meet at 11:30am at Onahan School at 6634 West Raven.

On Saturday, March 17, the Downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade steps off at noon and our float is staged near Balbo on Columbus Drive. Marchers should gather no later than 11:45am on Columbus Drive near Balbo. Visit www.irish-american.org for more information on float positions.

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

Contributors: Meg Buchanan, Gene Cooney, Laura Coyle, Elizabeth Ellis, Catherine Kelly, Sheila Murphy, Nancy Moore

Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle

Commander Paul Bauer

CPD Commander Paul Bauer was murdered by Shomari Legghetti outside the Thompson Center in the Chicago Loop. He is a four time convicted felon and should have never been allowed back in society.

Chicago's loss is Heaven's gain as Commander Paul Bauer leaves behind his wife, Erin, (nee Molloy) and his daughter, Grace, just eleven years old.

Watching the funeral service

on WGN TV, the tributes painted the portrait of an exceptional man. Husband and father foremost, and good neighbor, As CPD Top Cop, Commander of the 18th District he served the city of Chicago. He embodied the best traditions of the department.

He was eulogized by CPD Superintendent, Eddie Jones, who delivered a magnificent tribute. John Escalante, former CPD Deputy Superintendent grew up with Paul in Gage Park, Mayor Rahm Emmanual, and Governor Rauner spoke. Captain Mel Roman, quoted a verse from Tecumseh:

"So live your life that the fear of death can never enter your heart." That's the way Commander Paul Bauer lived his life. The tributes paid to him spoke volumes about who he was.

The funeral was held at Nativity of our Lord Church in the Bridgeview neighborhood where he lived.

Thousands of Chicago Police officers attended, and the Honor Guard fired 3 volleys over the coffin, before it was placed in the hearse. During the recessional, the center aisle in the church was lined by the Knights of Columbus in full uniform.

The Emerald Society Pipes and Drums played Amazing Grace, and a bugler played taps.

Governor Rauner mentioned the book, ***End of Watch***, written by Alderman Ed Burke and Tom O'Gorman, which details the history of Chicago policemen who died in the line of duty.

Notables in the group leaving the church were Joe Ahern, President of the 100 Club of Chicago, and Monsignor Kenneth Velo.

Keep the Bauer family in your prayers. Erin Molloy Bauer was born on St. Patrick's Day, and comes from a large Irish family.

"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal; Love leaves a memory no one can steal."

Pope Francis

Patriot News, Harrisburg PA. From the Associated Press. Letter belies Pope's claim of ignorance. "Author says Pontiff got his letter in 2015 detailing abuse by a priest and the coverup by the Chilean clergy."

Members of the Pope's commission for the protection of minors, say that in April of 2015 they sent a delegation to Rome specifically to deliver a letter about Barros. The letter from Juan Carlos Cruz detailed the abuse, kissing and fondling he said he suffered at Karadima's hands which he said Barros and others saw, but did nothing to stop.

Four members of the commission met with Francis' top abuse advisor, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, explained their objections to Francis recent appointment of Barros as a Bishop in Southern Chile and gave him the letter to deliver to Francis. When we gave O'Malley the letter for the Pope he assured us he would give it to the Pope, and speak of the concerns. At a later date O'Malley assured us that this had been done.

The curse of pedophile priests continues to haunt the Catholic church. On the plane home, confronted by a reporter, the Pope said, "you in all good will tell me that there are victims, but I haven't seen any, because they haven't come forward."

Confession is good for the soul. The approach so far, hasn't worked the wounds keep on oozing. Years ago it was noted in this column the problem is pandemic. The reason Pope Benedict resigned is evident.

Sr. Joseph Boyle

Born 21, January, 1909 in Ballinglanna Causeway, County Kerry, Ireland. Nora Cecelia Boyle who would become Sister Joseph and spend her life at the convent of Mercy in Naas, County Kildare.

One of my father's younger sisters, she was an adventurous young woman. She would climb out the window at night and go to a dance with friends.

When sister Joseph passed her dear friend, Sister Catherine O'Neill wrote a tribute to her. Here are some excerpts from the tribute.

Educated in the local Presentation Convent and later in F.C.J. College, Bunclody, Co. Wicklow and Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary, she taught for a short time before entering the Mercy Convent, Nass in 1934. As a young sister she taught in the Primary School for two years and a year after her First Profession in 1937 she enrolled as a student in University College Dublin. She often recalled the happy memories of her student days in Earlsfort Terrace - the great scholars who lectured in the Arts and Commerce departments - Professor Cormon O'Cadhla, Robert Chauvire, Louis Roche, Michael O'hAoda, Patrick Timony and especially Professor George O'Brien for whom she had a tremendous admiration. She followed both the Arts and Commerce courses and obtained the B.A. degree in 1940 as well as taking the course for the Higher Diploma in Education under Dr. Corcoran's guidance (with practical teaching in Social Bhride where the renowned Mrs. Gavin Duffy was her supervisor) she also did the final year course for the B.Comm. degree and graduated with honors in 1941. She had a lifelong affection for the Hostel for Sisters in Muckross Park, Donnybrook, where she stayed during her four years' study. Her college friendships were enduring and Srs. Oliver and Xavier of Moate are just two fo the surviving members of the 1937-41 group who remembered her marvelous sense of humor, her helpfulness and understanding, her appreciation fo the gifts of others and her modesty with regard to her own talents - qualities for which she is still remembered in Muckross Park as one of the outstanding characters of the early days.

Sister Joseph was involved in teaching a wide range of subjects - Irish, history, geography, english and latin. Her special love was history and many of her former pupils will remember her devotion to Stair- Sheancas Ereann and "the Ascendency of France," which she duly translated into Irish each night for the following days class.

There was a great lack of Irish texts at the time and it is a proof of Sr. Joseph's love for the national language that she painstakingly translated Latin Grammar terms and of course Ceaser and Virgil into Irish. The quality of her teaching was of a high standard. She is still remembered as a brilliant history teacher.

Sr. Joseph built a new school, St. Mary's College in Naas, and also the very first library in St. Mary's. She also served two terms as Reverend Mother and was Principal of the school.

She was loved by her former students and they visited her regularly in her final days.

I brought her to Chicago, on May, 3, 1982 arriving at O'Hare International Airport and departed on June 10, 1982. She had a great sense of humor. While she was in Chicago I asked if she would like to see Old St. Patrick's Church, and Holy Name Cathedral. She answered, "I have been looking at churches all my life!"

Sr. Joseph was just one of many great Irish men and women who have left their mark on the world. I will always miss her.

Boycott

Boycott stores who sell clothing and greeting cards that trash the Irish as drunks. One of those stores would be Walmart and another is Target.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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By Catherine Gallagher

Ginger. Red. Carrot Top. Gingersnap. Lobster. Casper. You name it, I have been called it.

According to Google, Redheads make up less than 2% of the world's population and out of all the gene pools in the world, I somehow managed to score one of the very few golden tickets.

I loathed my red hair growing up. It felt like I was walking around with a bullseye plastered to my head. As if I wasn't already self conscious enough, daily jokes about my hair color just reaffirmed the belief that this red hair was more of a curse than winning the lottery.

My ginger insecurities grew from my constant comparison to others. My eldest sister shared the same genetic mutation, luckily for her though, she never seemed to be self-conscious about her red hair. But there I was: a freckled covered chubby face mopped with scorching red hair and skin as pale as a ghost. The ugly duckling stuck between my two tanned skinned, beautiful, brunette sisters. In case you are having trouble keeping up, my three sisters and I were born; red hair, brunette, red hair, brunette.

Tanning, or as the cool kids call it, laying out, has never been a favorite of mine. I never got the point of it, especially the part where you have to lay still in the hot heat for hours. I learned early on that my skin has only two shades; translucent or blistering. Yet, there I was, heading to the pool every day in the summer trying to be just like the rest.

I could feel the annoyance sizzling from my friends, accompanied by the instant regret for inviting me, everytime I dragged them across the lawn to find some shade. We were always off to the side, far away from the prime boy watching spots. Draped in one of my dad's oversized tees and a large sun hat, I found it hard not to be embarrassed and jealous of other girls, mostly because they got to show off their cutesy bikinis, oil their skin, and lay out in the sunniest areas. All the while I sat there looking like a beekeeper slathering on SPF 100. I always dreamed of having tan skin, but no matter what methods I tried, it just would not happen naturally.

I never thought red hair and pasty skin could actually be cool until seeing a fellow ginger in one of my favorite movies, The Parent Trap. Yes, that redhead. Lindsay Lohan. I had always idolized Ginger Spice, but there was something about this particular young starlet that made being a pale freckled face redhead feel sought-after. Lindsay (or as I like to call her; LL), and I were around the same age with very similar facial features and of course, flaming red hair. I can recall the exact moment that this little obsession with LL began. I was on a flight to Florida when a flight attendant came up to tell me I looked just like her; it was the happiest moment of my young, red headed life.

In my teenage years following that movie, LL dove into the world of tanning sprays and hair highlights. Although amazed with her transformation, it was hard not to feel a bit let down that she, too, seemed to be trying hard to look anything but her true ginger self.

Trying to keep up with my new idol, and the rest of my friends, I started to think of other ways I could change my look. Since tanning naturally was never going to happen and spray tanning was out of my 14yr old budget (not to mention the fear of turning myself orange), I focused on something more realistic: dying my hair.

My older, brunette sister was constantly adding a variety of colors to her hair, always keeping up with the latest trends. If she could change her hair color why couldn't I, right? Wrong. To my dismay my mom shockingly always told me "NO". My mom, being a redhead herself, would very lovingly tell me that red hair is special and once you dye it, it will never fully return to its natural color. No matter how much I begged or pleaded, she never budged. There was no escaping this wretched red hair. I was forever doomed to live my life out as a ginger.

Dealing with my biological mutation made it difficult for me to appreciate the beauty in having red hair. I mean, can you ever fully enjoy something that you are forced to do - or not do in my case? Even though I was often told by hairdressers and passerbyers that I am very lucky to be blessed with such a beautiful color and a face full of "angel kisses", it was hard to believe it.

Being the good daughter that I am (or not wanting to give my mom reason to ground me), I listened to my mom's advice and did not tinge the ginge. Since there was nothing I could do to change my appearance, I started taking the steps to accept and fully embrace all that makes me, me. With this new mindset I began to build confidence in myself - red hair and all.

In my early twenties, it was astonishing how quickly all the negatives about being a ginger turned positive. I could feel this new-found confidence radiate out of me. I was approached more often by others who were intrigued and interested in learning more about my hair. Everyone asks the same question; is it natural? I became proud to admit that my red hair has never been touched by color and learned quickly that this trait is pretty rare and unique. In a sea of ordinary blondes and brunettes, there is no denying that red hair stands out.

The young boys who once made ginger jokes are now the men chatting me up and offering to buy me drinks at the bar. The girls who were once annoyed at me for cramping their style, are now delighted with all the free drinks I am easily able to acquire for them.

At the end of the day, it's all about accepting what you have and rolling with it. Everyone has something about themselves that they do not like or wish to change. When you constantly compare yourself to others, you never give yourself time to love and embrace everything that makes you, you.

Everyone has their own "ginger". Own it. Accept it. Be proud of it.

Catherine Curry Gallagher is a city dweller, coffee lover, and devoted nanny. Catherine is turning her passion for helping others by becoming a Nutritionist. As a new Health & Wellness Blogger and writer for IAN, she is excited to engage and help many others to achieve a healthy, happy lifestyle. Follow her along on this new journey with many laughs here and her Instagram account @ginginthecity

Tionól Celebrates 21 Years of Traditional Irish Music in St. Louis

Some of the world's top traditional Irish musicians will be gathering in St. Louis over the weekend of April 20-22 for the 21st annual St. Louis Tionól, a three-day musical celebration that includes educational workshops and a concert at the Sheldon Concert Hall.

Pronounced "chun-awl," tionól is the Irish word for a gathering and it captures the essence of the weekend. Tionól as a way to bring together people interested in traditional Irish music, because of heritage or exposure to shows such as Riverdance, together with world class performers and teachers for a weekend of workshops and sessions and concerts. With a total attendance of close to 3,000 over the years, it has become the event in the Midwest for lovers of traditional music.

The highlight of the St. Louis Tionól will be a concert at the Sheldon Concert Hall showcasing our teachers who hail from Ireland and across North America.

The Saturday (April 21st) concert begins at 7:30 pm. Tickets are available through Metrotix (metrotix.com, 314-534-1111) or at the door. Children 12 and under are free.

Workshops for beginners, intermediate players and advanced musicians will be held Saturday (April 21st) at Nerinx Hall High School in Webster Groves. The daylong workshops are an excellent opportunity for those who have always wanted to learn the penny whistle (tin whistle) or bodhrán (Irish drum). No experience necessary and you don't need to read music. The workshops also provide an outstanding opportunity for more experienced musicians to improve their technique and learn new tunes from the masters.

Rose Flanagan and Dylan Foley, two amazing fiddle players will be here joining us. Dylan is frequently at McGurks and will be known to many in St. Louis. We will, of course, feature the iconic uilleann (pronounced 'illin") bagpipes which were just placed on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. Our teachers will include Nollaig MacCarthaig, Tom Creegan, all-Ireland winner Michael Stribling, Pat Broaders, and Kieran O'Hare. We're delighted to welcome Liam O'Brien, the TG4 young musician of the year on concertina. Tommy Martin, our own St. Louis pipemaker, and the long time piper with Celtic Women, will be doing the reeds, essential for playing the uilleann pipes. We're thrilled to have Eimear Arkins who hails from Co. Clare and was the first place winner of the prestigious All-Ireland title, as our ballads instructor. And of course, there'll be classes in Bodhrán with Chris Weddle and Jim Wenham and guitar with Keith Reins. We've many more workshops featured, all of which can be seen on the website – www.tionol.org

More information, including a schedule of all events, online workshop registration, and concert tickets can be found at www.tionol.org. To register by phone, call 636-926-9192.

For additional information, or to schedule an interview with Tionól musicians, please contact Mike Mullins at mmullins@tionol.org or 314-578-1333.

The Michigan Irish Music Festival Line-up for the 2018 St. Patrick's Party and Fundraiser

The Michigan Irish Music Festival is excited to announce its annual St. Patrick's Party March 16 and 17 at the Bella Maria Ristorante & Event Center, 513 West Pontaluna Road, Norton Shores, MI.

The party will feature live entertainment both nights. Headliners Jimmy Keane and Dennis Cahill have played together for over 30 years and are considered two of the most inventive musicians in irish music today. Keane is an all-Ireland star on the piano accordion, and Cahill has been recognized as one of the finest guitarists in traditional Irish music.

Jimmy Keane and Dennis Cahill

Other highlights of the event include performances by Brother Crowe, a Detroit-based duo who plays Indie folk music in a traditional Celtic style, and traditional Irish dance performances from the Ardan Academy of Dance. Additionally, a silent auction will be held each night with a variety of items that guests will not want to miss!

Back by popular demand is McGovern's Corned Beef and Irish fare, plus Irish soda bread and soft pretzels from the Village Baker. Pigeon Hill Brewing Company's MI Irish Stout, Magner's Irish Cider, Irish cream, Jameson Irish Whiskey, and Budweiser products will also be served. Doors open at 5:30 pm both nights with music starting at 6pm. Tickets are available at the door for $8, and kids 12 and under get in for free.

The mission of the Michigan Irish Music Festival is to produce a quality Midwest Irish Music Festival that promotes Irish culture and heritage while enhancing the community through entertainment, tourism, education and philanthropy. The festival is proud to support Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry and Kids' Foot Basket with gifts of non-perishable food items and cash donations. In 2017, due to the success of the St. Pat's Party and the Festival, the Michigan Irish Music Festival was able to donate 4,620 pounds of food and over $49,000 back to the community.

The Michigan Irish Music Festival will return this fall, September 13-16, 2018, at Heritage Landing in downtown Muskegon. The festival kicks off with a Pub Party on Thursday, September 13th. The festival and the St. Patrick's Party are sponsored by G&L, Budweiser, Van's Car Wash & Quick Lube, and Family Financial Credit Union. For complete festival information, visit www.michiganirish.org.

Support Your Local Family Owned Irish Store

Chicago Author Brings Historical Tale of Irish Immigration and Survival to Local Events in March

Tapping into the hot topic of immigrants, author Roger Higgins's timely book Billy Gogan, American follows the life of an orphaned Irish child who immigrated to America in 1844. "I chose this time period because it was really at the cusp of the modern era," says author Roger Higgins. "The biggest challenge was staying alive. It was putting food on the table, or in this case in Billy's mouth. It was having somewhere to live, some shelter." This riveting historical fiction is told in the first person, which lends an immediacy to the story that will reverberate with readers. It is the story of what all immigrants are in search of: a better life.

Higgins will discuss his novel

March 11 3:30pm, at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, IL 60630 and on March 18, from 2-4 pm at Bookies New Used Bookstore Hosting their book club at: Open Outcry Brewing 10934 S. Western Ave. Chicago, IL 60643 For more information go to www. billygogan.com

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Southwest Symphony Orchestra Announces St. Patricks Day Jubilee With Cross Keys Irish Dancers!

Southwest Symphony Orchestra under the skillful direction of David L. Crane will present their Sunday, March 18 concert, 4:00 P.M. in the Ozinga Chapel, 6601 College Drive, Palos Heights, Illinois on the campus of Trinity College with featured guests the Cross Keys Irish Dancers under the direction of Kathleen O'Carroll

Launching the Irish musical afternoon will be the delightful tunes performed by the Murphy Roche Irish Music Club in the lobby.

Musical selections for the afternoon with the orchestra are Irish Suite No 1 Leroy Anderson,The Irish Washerwoman, The Minstrel Boy(interlude),The Rakes Mallow, For the Star of County Derry Down (interlude in middle of piece), I'm e Dance.Shipping Up to Boston, Gap of Dunloe (interlude), Lord of the Dance.

Musical selections the Cross Keys Dancers will perform will be announced the day of the show.

Guess the Mystery Piece and be entered for a drawing after intermission to win a complimentary dinner for two!

Tickets available at southwestsymphony@gmail.com or by calling 708 802-0686

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This program is partially sponsored by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council.

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Ireland's Ancient East Brings Over 5,000 Years Of History To Life

by Liam Cassin
1. Inside Newgrange in County Meath; 2. Kilkenny Castle; 3. Blarney Castle in County Cork.

Ireland is a land full of myth and magic, legends and lore. Its story goes back more than 5,000 years to before the time of the Celts. Its landscapes, cities and towns bear witness to an ancient, sometimes turbulent, always unique past. Prehistoric monuments, opulent mansions, castles and round towers tell the tales of the Irish down through the centuries—the Gaels, the Celts, the Viking and English invaders. All left their own imprint on the land and on the Irish people.

The glory and wonder of all this history can be experienced throughout Ireland, but it is particulary concentrated in the east, geographically the most accessible and fertile part of the island for the ancients to settle in. 'Ireland's Ancient East' aims to showcase the rich tapestry of the island's past. It comprises 17 counties stretching from the River Shannon in the west to the Irish Sea in the east, and from Meath in the north down to the coastline of Cork in the south.

Here you will find the some of oldest monuments in Europe. The passage tombs at Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth—and dozens of other tombs, standing stones and henges—are older than even the Egyptian Pyramids, dating back more than 5,000 years. The area, known as Brú na Bóinne, lies about 8 miles east of Drogheda in County Meath and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993. It is renowned by archeologists for its fantastic examples of megalithic art. Cairns, burial sites and standing stones inscribed with the ancient ogham script literally dot the countryside. Ireland's Ancient East is home to more than 1,200 discovered megalithic structures.

After the introduction of Christianity to Ireland, courtesy of the great missionary Saint Patrick, Mother Church began to shape the surroundings. Monastic ruins are widespread, maybe the best example being Glendalough, an early medieval monastery founded in the 6th century by St Kevin. Glendalough takes its name from the Irish—gleann dá loch, meaning "valley of two lakes."

Another Christian site of major archeological interest is the Rock of Cashel in County Tipperary. Also known as Cashel of the Kings, this raised plateau was the traditional seat of the kings of Munster for several hundred years. Around about 1100 AD, King Muirchertach Ua Briain gave the walled fortress to the Church. Inside the walls are the Round Tower, Cormac's Chapel and the Cathedral, built between 1235 and 1270.

Ireland is home to a great many cathedrals and churches. Many are hundreds of years old and are still in use today. Some are favorite places to visit by dint of their sheer beauty.

The Vikings landed on Ireland's shores around 800 AD and their influence for the next three centuries is plain to see. A seafaring people by nature, they never strayed too far from the east coast and its many deep water natural harbors. Some of the most stunning archeological finds from this period are to be found in the port city of Waterford. In fact it was the norse invaders who laid the original foundations of Waterford in 914 AD. The Viking Triangle is a part of the culture and heritage area in the middle of the city. It is the location of several of the Waterfords biggest attractions, including Reginald's Tower, a 13th century defense fortification named in honor of the Viking Ragnall, who ruled the area in the 10th century. Visitors can ascend the narrow spiral staircase of this impressive structure.

Also to be found inside the Viking Triangle are the of the Medieval Museum, the Bishop's Palace Museum and the new Waterford Crystal Visitor Center where you can learn the 200 year old story of Ireland's, and the world's, most famous glassware.

In the twelfth century came the British, in the form of Oliver Cromwell and his army. The legacy of this period includes a large number of very imposing, and impressive, castles. Perhaps the finest example is Kilkenny Castle, built in 1190. This massive stone edifice stands proudly in the heart of Kilkenny, the Marble City, formerly the capital city of Ireland in the Middle Ages. Now publicly owned, visitors can tour the castle, its grounds and the adjoining parklands.

Further south lies another of Ireland's most famous castles, Blarney Castle in County Cork. Built in 1446 by Dermot McCarthy, King of Munster, this castle is one of Ireland's greatest treasures and most popular attractions. That might have something to do with the legendary Blarney Stone, aka The Stone of Eloquence. If you're brave enough to ascend to the very top of the keep and kiss the stone it is said that you'll never again be lost for words!

Ireland's story continues on into the 18th and 19th centuries, a time of stark contrast between the affluent lifestyles of the Anglo Irish ascendancy, the ruling class, and the poverty of ordinary people of Ireland. It was a time of great imperial wealth for some and of starvation and rebellion for others. In the mid nineteenth Century came An Gorta Mór, the Great Hunger, the greatest disaster ever to befall the Irish people. The failure of the potato crop eventually caused the starvation of over a million people and caused the forced emigration to the New World of over almost two million more. Combined this was half of the country's population. Many emigrants set sail from the small port of Cobh in County Cork, and the town now boasts the state-of-the-art Cobh Heritage Center where you can experience first hand their plight. Cobh's maritime significance is also highlighted in the Titanic Experience Cobh—it was the last port of call for the ill-fated liner before it sank on its maiden

Hand blowing glass at Waterford Crystal

voyage.

The Anglo period was an era of industrialization and innovation. It was during this time that Dublin and Belfast became two of the most important ports in the British empire.

The legacy of the protestant ascendancy can be seen in the many examples of stately homes. Powerscourt in County Wicklow, with its 47 acres of manicured gardens, is a great example. Another is Castletown House in Celbridge, County Kildare. This 18th century palace was built by the Speaker in the Irish House of Commons, William Conolly, for entertaining his political colleagues and adversaries. Conolly was the wealthiest and most powerful politician in Ireland at the time and spent much of his money on Castletown, a house which oozes luxury and abundance. Like most historic houses in Ireland, you can take a guided tour of the house and grounds at both Powerscourt and Castletown

A visit to Ireland brings you face to face with all this history. You really get a feel for how life was lived hundreds, even thousands of years ago. Stroll through the ruins of a 1,000-year-old monastery or walk the ramparts of a medieval castle, perhaps surveying the site of an ancient battle. Pay a visit to a stately home or any of the many museums dedicated to one aspect or other of Ireland's past. See up close and personal how the Celts, early Christians and Vikings lived. However long ago it was, it somehow always seems to be very much in the present in Ireland. And be sure to talk with the local people. Apart from the famed Irish welcome, you'll learn a lot about the secrets of any given area from those living there now. A word of warning; some of the tales will be more reliable than others, but when you are sitting in front of a fireplace with a nice pint or a cup of tea, what's a bit of artistic license between friends!

For Great Vacation Deals and Ideas for Planning Your Trip to Ireland Visit ireland.com. Other resources on pages 22 and 23 in this issue.

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Call to Artists: Ridge Park Art Fair & Festival

Chicagoland artists are invited to apply for the Ridge Park Art Fair & Festival to be held Saturday, June 23, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Ridge Park Cultural Center, 9625 S. Longwood Dr., Chicago. A $20 application fee is required and will be used toward the $85 booth fee for artists who are accepted into the juried fair. Space is limited. The application deadline is April 15.

Eligible fine art media include paintings, sculpture, ceramics, leather crafts, textiles, jewelry, and art glass.

The Ridge Park Art Fair is being coordinated by the Ridge Park Advisory Council and John H. Vanderpoel Art Association through the Chicago Park District Partners in Art program. The John H. Vanderpoel Museum is in residency at the Ridge Park Cultural Center, and hosts a world-class collection of 19th and early 20th century paintings, works on paper and sculpture. Find information about and applications for the Ridge Park Art Fair at www.ridgeparkartfair.org

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Chicagoland Irish Community Mobilizing Around Jeanne Ives in Republican Primary

A groundswell of support for State Representative Jeanne Ives in the upcoming Republican Primary for Governor on March 20th is coalescing in the Irish community. Irish American radio personality Mike Houlihan is spearheading a fundraiser, IRISH FOR IVES, on Monday March 5th at Reilly's Daughter Irish Pub in Oak Lawn, at 4010 West 111th Street from 5-7PM.

Houlihan says, "Jeanne Ives is the only pro-life candidate in this race, and the only candidate with the courage to confront not only failed Governor Bruce Rauner, but also Illinois Speaker of the House Michael Madigan, whose iron grip on the legislature is dragging the state into bankruptcy and insolvency. I want to see Jeanne Ives elected and so do many of my friends in the Irish community."

An elite committee of Irish Americans have joined the IRISH FOR IVES bandwagon, including Billy O'Connell, John Cleary, John Powers, Pat Hickey, Bob Flood, Mary Carney, Charlie Carey, and pro-life activists Chris Iverson and Jill Stanek, along with Father Tony Brankin. The event is open to all and parents are encouraged to bring the kids for a "hooley" including some lively Irish music from "The Great Whiskey Project". The "suggested donation" is only thirty bucks but larger donations are encouraged as well. Kids are free and there will be a cash bar.Ives campaign has been gaining momentum every day since she trounced Rauner in front of the Tribune editorial board in late January, triggering major donors to step forward and Houlihan says, "Rauner is afraid to debate her and we're hoping to bring Jeanne over the top for St. Patrick's Day and help her win the Republican nomination for Governor!"

Ives is also expected to be marching in The Southside Irish St. Patrick's Day parade on Sunday March 11th.

Reilly's Daughter is located at 4010 West 111th Street in Oak Lawn with plenty of free parking. For more info go to https://ivesforillinois.com/

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Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher

"The wheels of justice turn slowly but grind exceedingly fine"

I am sure you have all heard the ancient proverb about justice, which is often understood to mean that despite the slowness of the justice system, it eventually reaches a just result. A speedy resolution in a serious injury case may remain by far the exception rather than the rule, but I wanted to alert you to some steps that I recently took in a case at the very outset, which I firmly believe led to an effective and quick result for my client. My constant advice has been: when you experience a serious injury, getting legal advice and representation immediately is absolutely paramount.

I was recently contacted by a friend who was extremely distraught after learning the news that her young cousin had been involved in a very serious car accident. He was just 21 years old and while stopped in traffic on the 294, his car was violently rear-ended by a Volvo semi-truck, pulling a 53 foot trailer. He was effectively, a sitting duck, when this truck plowed into his rear, sending his car skidding across four lanes of traffic, causing it to impact with a car in front of him and only eventually coming to rest because he crashed into the dividing median barrier.

When my friend called me, the news was not good. The young lad was in a coma at Christ Hospital with his family by his bedside. It was not clear if he was going to make it. They did not know what to do. Obviously, the family's main concern was for their gravely-ill son and brother. It was hard for them to think about tomorrow. It was hard for them to think about protecting their loved one's legal rights, when he was so desperately ill. It was hard for them to accept that while they sat at his bedside waiting, somewhere an insurance company was already working on this case, finding ways and means to lessen the financial impact it would have on their client. It was hard for me to go to that hospital room and break the news to them, that despite their grave concerns over his health, we needed to start work immediately on his legal case.

Unlike car versus car crashes, truck crashes are defended vigorously and the defense springs into action immediately after the impact. Defense attorneys and insurance adjusters often have first access to the vehicle and data as well as the first opportunity to speak to witnesses and police officers. Many trucks are equipped with systems that automatically notify their dispatch offices of a collision and truck drivers are meticulously trained to contact their employers as soon as an incident occurs. Defense lawyers who work for major commercial motor vehicle insurers, often have to commit to being part of an immediate response team that can put experts, investigators and even lawyers at the scene of a crash within hours.

Photo of damage to my client's car.

Thankfully this family, despite all they were faced with, recognized the gravity of the situation and the need to act immediately. They accepted my advice and hired me to work on his case immediately. I was humbled by their vision of responsibility for their son that day. I assured them my job was now to protect his legal rights every way I could and theirs was to continue to sit with him and will him to live. They did their job and I did mine.

As soon as I got back to my office, I sent what is called a preservation of evidence letter to the truck company, their owners and their driver. In that letter I instructed them to preserve the truck and all information in their possession in anticipation of a claim. The letter also informed them of my intention to examine the truck and all of the vehicle data and that once a lawsuit was filed, I would seek to enforce this preservation request with the power of the Courts.

Having had some experience with serious trucking accidents in the past, I was aware that the rules and regulations surrounding the operation of a truck are very different to those surrounding the operation of a car. I was able to immediately investigate this particular trucking company's history, the record of its drivers, and this particular driver, their compliance or lack of compliance with applicable rules, standards and regulations, within a few days. I knew where I needed to look and I knew what I was looking for.

One of the earliest things I needed to know was whether or not this trucking company was going to have adequate insurance for this case.

In Illinois, drivers of a car are required to carry minimum insurance on their vehicle of $25,000.00 per claim/accident. Time and time again I have had personal injury cases where the at fault party carried only the minimum amount of insurance, and it has almost always been inadequate to even cover medical bills in minor soft tissue/whiplash type case.

Thankfully the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations which governs the operation of commercial trucking operations, requires interstate motor carriers to maintain a minimum of $750,000 in insurance coverage with a $5 million minimum required for those trucks carrying hazardous materials. In this case I also knew that if we were facing a situation whereby the truck carried only the minimum insurance it would never be adequate compensation for my client. From extensive investigations I was able to confirm that this trucking company carried a $1 million policy with an additional $1 million excess policy. All of that insurance was going to be available to my client in this situation. A slight relief in the circumstances.

Within two weeks of the crash, I filed a lawsuit for my client in the Circuit Court of Cook County. Immediately the insurance company assigned the case to a large defense firm here in Chicago and we worked out an agreement for our experts to investigate the vehicle and data and capture photographs of the vehicles.

While I carried out my work on the legal case, my client continued to fight for his life. Day by day as he woke up, learned to walk, to talk, to eat, to hold his cell phone, he continued to make amazing progress. He was an inpatient at Christ Hospital for about a month. He was then transferred to an inpatient rehab facility and surprised all of his doctors and therapists with his determination and will to get better.

I am thrilled to be able to say that as I write this today, he is at home with his family, doing better than anyone hoped and growing stronger day by day. My client's primary injury in this accident was a traumatic injury to his brain, caused by the force of the impact of this truck with his stationary car. Having seen him in the early days of his injury and having personally witnessed the damage to his car, I still am shocked this young man survived this horrific crash. As my client continued to make progress, I gathered the rest of the medical evidence to demonstrate the severity of the injuries to him. I presented this evidence to the attorneys for the trucking company and was able to convince them that, even though we were still at a very early stage in the lawsuit process, it was in their best interests to offer all of the available $2 million insurance right away. This meant months and likely years of time would be shaved off of the expected wait, which most people with injuries such as my client's normally experience, while waiting for their case to resolve.

It will not be possible in every case, but this accelerated result was the product of the immediate and focused work that I and my law firm engaged in from the very moment I met with the client and his family. I knew what I was looking for and what I would need to build the case and I went out to get it. Ultimately, the case was strong enough to avoid years of litigation and resolve the matter, obtaining justice for my client.

It is always my advice to people hurt by the negligence of others to be smart and proactive and know that you need someone in your corner protecting you from the very beginning. The Defendants will have someone, you should too. I was honored and proud to represent this young man in getting him justice for all he has and will go through.

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.

The Best of The High Kings "Decade" 10th Anniversary Album Out on Celtic Collections

US Tour March 2018 to hit Batavia on March 24th at Fermilab Lecture Series

Ten years ago, Irish record label boss Dave Kavanagh put together a show for broadcast on PBS in America, and four Irish musicians were invited to take part. The show was called The High Kings, and the broadcast on PBS stations across America launched the band onto the music scene overnight.

Their self-titled debut album quickly followed and reached an impressive No 2 in Billboard's World Music Chart. Within month the four new members– Finbarr Clancy, Brian Dunphy, Martin Furey and Darren Holden – had clicked as a creative unit as well as friends and knew that they were embarking on something special.

Each had a wealth of history in the music business behind them, but founder Dave Kavanagh knew that in order to maintain any level of creative interest they would have to boldly go where no other Irish ballad group had gone before. In truth, back in the mid-late Noughties, Ireland needed a group like The High Kings. The heyday of ballad groups such as The Clancy Brothers and The Dubliners was a distant memory for generations of music fans, and to have another bunch of Irish lads taking up the baton and continuing the tradition was great news to thousands of fans worldwide.

It was during The High Kings second tour of the US in 2011, however – having graduated from playing small venues to larger halls as they promoted their follow-up album, 'Memory Lane', which also crashed into Billboard's World Music chart – that everyone involved realised the fanbase was growing into something that no one had predicted.

The High Kings had achieved what many had thought improbable, if not impossible: they were moving the Irish ballad tradition into the here and now, carrying along with them the steadfast older fans while simultaneously bringing it to a new audience.

More was to come in 2013 with the group's third studio album, 'Friends For Life', which featured original songs among the traditional fare, and was co-produced by Sharon Shannon. This was followed by a two-year tour, culminating in a live CD & DVD release called 'Four Friends Live'. The group's fourth studio album, 'Grace & Glory', was released in 2016.

To say that The High Kings are charting a new course for Irish ballad music – equal parts rousing and reflective, energetic and insightful – is an understatement. They are, essentially, marking out a new and bright era for Irish folk music.

Marking ten years of great music, The High Kings release 'Decade – The Best of The High Kings' on 3rd November. Decade features fan favorites such as Rocky Road to Dublin, Marie's Wedding and Spancil Hill as well as brand new tracks. The High Kings 10thAnniversary world tour follows their new album release, beginning in Ireland in December and hitting the US in the new year!

Pre-order The High Kings new album 'Decade' on iTunes or at www.thehighkings.com.

Finbarr Clancy, George Murphy, Brian Dunphy, and Darren Holden.

Prairie Center welcomes Switchback Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

The award-winning duo Switchback, featuring Brian FitzGerald and Martin McCormack draws on traditional Celtic music and original Americana songs that reflect their Irish heritage and Midwestern roots. Playing an exciting mix of mandolin, guitar, and bass, their harmonies have won them comparisons to famous duos, such as the Louvin Brothers, the Everly Brothers and Simon & Garfunkel.

Music Connection Magazine says "The words 'American Roots & Celtic Soul' only begin to describe this unusual act, whose vocal prowess is as pure as it is unique. There is no denying the stunning vocal blends that are achieved by this duo."

The program will also feature Celtic dancers, adding to the St. Patrick's Day festivities.

Tickets for Switchback St. Paddy's Day Concert are $26 ($24 for seniors and students) and can be purchased online at www.prairiecenter.org or by calling 847-895-3600.

VIP passes are available for Switchback St. Paddy's Day Concert for an additional $25. VIP passes include: guaranteed seating in first 6 rows (not necessarily center section); private "Meet and Greet" reception with artists either before or after performance; commemorative ID and lanyard and custom give-away for each VIP show. VIP passes can be purchased through the box office by calling 847-895-3600.

This program is sponsored by the Prairie Center Arts Foundation.

The Prairie Center for the Arts is located at 201 Schaumburg Ct., Schaumburg, IL.

The Irish American Society of County Will

Since 1981

www.CountyWillIrish.net

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

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

IASCW Sponsors Rialto Theatre Local Music Series Again

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All Will County residents attending high school as a senior are eligible to apply for up to $2,000 scholarships for post high school and skilled training. Completed applications with essays and letters of recommendation are due by April 13, 2018. Students should consult their guidance counselors for more information or go to Countywillirish.net

IASCW St. Patrick's Scholarship Banquet Mar 24th

2-5pm at Knights of Columbus, Infantry Dr., Joliet. Members look for your invite in the mail.

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RSVP for banquet by 3/15 to Sharon Houk: smhouk@gmail.com, IASCW members $30 each / non-members $45 each. Entertainment & Dinner; Cash Bar. Join us for some craic and a pint of Guinness! www.countywillirish.net

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

Countywillirish.net

Northlight Theatre Features The Beauty Queen of Leenane

Written by Martin McDonagh
Directed by BJ Jones
March 15 – April 22, 2018

Northlight Theatre, under the direction of Artistic Director BJ Jones and Executive Director Timothy J. Evans, continues its 2017-18 season with The Beauty Queen of Leenane, written by Martin McDonagh and directed by BJ Jones.

The Beauty Queen of Leenane runs March 15 – April 22, 2018 at Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd in Skokie. The press opening is scheduled for Friday, March 23, 2018 at 8pm.

This Tony Award-winning dark comedy is set in the provincial Irish town of Leenane. Forty-year-old spinster Maureen Folan lives with her manipulative aging mother Mag, stuck in a caretaking relationship that has them both seething with resentment. When a romantic encounter finally sparks Maureen's hopes for an escape from her dreary existence, Mag's interference sets in motion a chain of events that is as tragically funny as it is terrifying.

"I find Martin McDonagh's sense of humor adolescent and amusing; I love his ability to shock

for shock's sake, and I relate to his quirky characters built on a landscape of loneliness and isolation. From the fable like period piece of The Cripple of Inishmaan, through the Leenane trilogy with a side trip to the gory Lieutenant of Inishmore, he has remained true to his own stylistic voice," comments BJ Jones. "My attraction to The Beauty Queen of Leenane is McDonagh's style: theatrical fireworks that light up a dark landscape and reveal even darker crevices, much like the Burren region of western Ireland. So many of his works echo Synge, Beckett, and in more modern synchronicity Tarantino and even Letts. With the gifted artists Kate Fry and Wendy Robie, I take on this overdue date with McDonagh's

seminal masterpiece."

The cast of The Beauty Queen of Leenane includes Kate Fry (Maureen Folan), Nathan Hosner (Pato Dooley), Casey Morris (Ray Dooley) and Wendy Robie (Mag Folan).

Martin McDonagh (Playwright) is an award-winning writer/director. His latest film is Three Billboards Outside of Ebbing, Missouri. Plays: The Beauty Queen of Leenane, A Skull in Connemara, The Lonesome West, The Lieutenant of Inishmore, The Cripple of Inishmaan, The Pillowman, A Behanding in Spokane, Hangmen. As writer/director: Three Billboards Outside of Ebbing, Missouri; Seven Psychopaths; In Bruges; Six Shooter (short film).

The Beauty Queen of Leenane is the first play in playwright Martin McDonagh's trilogy set in Leenane, a small village on the west coast of Ireland where he spent his holidays as a child. The other two parts of the trilogy are A Skull in Connemara and The Lonesome West. A second trilogy is set across the Aran Islands, off the coast of County Galway, and includes The Cripple of Inishmaan, The Lieutenant of Inishmore and The Banshees of Inisheer, which was never published.

Previews: Mar 15 – Mar 22, 2018
Run: March 24 – April 22, 2018
Wednesdays: 1:00pm (except April 4) and 7:30pm
Thursdays: 7:30pm
Fridays: 8:00pm
Saturdays: 2:30pm (except March 17) and 8:00pm
Sundays: 2:30pm (except April 1) and 7pm (March 18 and April 8 only)

Northlight Theatre is located at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie

Tickets: Previews: $30-$57
Regular run: $30-$81
Student tickets are $15, any performance (subject to availability)

Box Office: 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie.

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West Suburban Irish Downtown Naperville 25th Parade March 10th

The West Suburban Irish will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of their annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

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

5K sponsored by Gerald Subaru

The Rotary Club of Naperville Sunrise, in cooperation with West Suburban Irish, is hosting a 5K Race, Run, or Walk on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 8:00AM.

Participation in this event is a great way to join into the St. Paddy's Day Spirit. Proceeds from this event will be used to provide health related services to those in need.

This event is for racers, runner, and walkers. The course is a measured 5K race, and professional timing services (e.g., chip time) will be used to ensure race time accuracy. A disposable timing chip is attached to each numbered race number. Those registering prior to the race will receive a Technical Running Shirt in either men's or women's sizes. Registration is available to 3000 entrants. Race day registration is also available, up to the maximum allowed entrants. Overall and age group awards will be provided.

5K Run Sponsored by Gerald Subaru

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Mass March 13th

The annual Irish **Mass and Soda Bread Reception** will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at 6:30 pm.

The Mass will be at St. Raphael Church in Naperville. Acclaimed Irish singer **Paddy Homan** will return to sing before and during the Mass. A free reception with coffee, tea, soda bread, and dancing by the **McNulty Irish Dancers** follows the Mass. www.wsirish.org

Yorkville St. Patrick's Day Festival

By Timothy Gleason

The western suburb of Yorkville will be hosting their 2nd Annual St Patrick's Day festival complete with Irish parade, 5K, Irish Dance lessons for kids, and live entertainment from 15 musical acts including International Celtic band American Rogues.

Live music starts at 8am at the outdoor stage at Southbank BBQ, followed by the 5K at 9am and the Irish parade at 11am. The American Rogues perform from 11:30am-12:30 at the Southbank stage. There will be live music inside at Yorkville bars and restaurants throughout the day and Irish Dance lessons for kids (and adults) from 1pm-2pm. Other live music acts include Gleeson Irish Trio, Jay O'Malley, & Stephen Bores.

All proceeds of the festival benefit CASA of Kendall County. For more information about the event, please Click Here!

• Additional activities for kids include face-painting and Hunt for Leprauchan's gold

• Participating businesses include YPAC Performing Arts, Southbank BBQ, The Law Office, Casa Santiago, Rowdy's, Suzys, Roadhouse Bar & Grill, and Pinheadz.

• For more information about sponsoring this event, please contact Tim Gleason at stpatricksyorkville@gmail.com

Sidewalks of Elmhurst. photo by Steve Seelig.

Elmhurst St. Patrick's Day Parade March 10th

The parade will begin at the intersection of Wilson Street & Spring Roads & continue North on Spring Road in Elmhurst.

The best parade in Chicagoland, the Elmhurst St. Patrick's Day parade is expected again this year to attract a large crowd here in the western suburb of Elmhurst, Illinois. Ample parking, security & planning will make for comfortable viewing conditions for all family members.

Grand Marshall this year is the ELMHURST AMERICAN LEGION T.H.B. POST 187 with over 550 members.

The parade features floats, marching units & animated characters along with local organizations, businesses & clubs along a mile stretch. Don't miss your chance to see over 80 floats, Irish Dancers, the Shannon Rovers, local team mascots – Benny the Bull, Southpaw & Tommy Hawk. Chicago Highlanders, Medinah Clowns, Elmhurst Armpit Orchestra, featuring the world's largest drum & the York High School Marching Band.

The parade is only the beginning to this festive day – for the food, music & fun is sure to continue as Elmhurst merchants, restaurateurs & friends welcome visitors for this special community celebration. Contact Jim O'Connor at 630-834-0300.

Plainfield Hometown Irish Parade March 11

The yearly parade that welcomes spring to Plainfield is coming up. The 16th annual Plainfield Hometown Irish Parade is set for 1 p.m. Sunday, March 11, once again making its way from Plainfield High School - Central Campus through the village core.

Presented by the Village Preservation Association, the parade is sponsored by James Flanagan, attorney at law, with additional major support from Premium Decking Supply and Window World.

The perennial parade traces its beginnings to a group of young families in the village's east side historic neighborhood who one fine day in 2002 had a little parade of their own. Towing home-crafted floats behind SUVs and pickup trucks, they circled their block, twice, and had such fun they continued the tradition every March.

The event has grown more robust each year since then, now involving bagpipers, Irish dancers and community groups, and attracting several thousand visitors to downtown Plainfield. An Irish princess contest and family activities following the parade also are in the plans.

Serving as this year's Grand Marshals are Ron and Kathy Kazmar, longtime Plainfield residents whose involvement in the community goes back decades.

plainfieldirishparade.org, or via email to info@plainfieldirishparade.org.

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South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade March 11th Announces 2018 Parade Queen

The South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee announces Colleen Krahn will serve as the 2018 South Side Irish Parade Queen. Krahn, 26, is from Mount Greenwood and an alumna of Queen of Martyrs School, Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School and St. Ambrose University. Currently, Krahn works as a flight attendant for Southwest Airlines.

Krahn was one of 9 candidates who took part in the selection process held during the South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Pre-Parade fundraising party on Saturday, February 3 at 115 Bourbon Street. The event raised funds to support the annual march down Western Avenue. The Queen will be prominently featured in the South Side Irish Parade on Sunday, March 11 and will also ride in the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade.

"The South Side Irish Parade has always been a huge part of my life and I'm honored to be a part of this year's celebration," said Krahn. "Growing up my family started parade day with mass at Queen of Martyrs before heading up to Western Avenue to watch the parade rain or shine," added Krahn.

All Parade Queen candidates were interviewed individually by a panel of independent judges including 2015 South Side Irish Queen Mary Kate Love, 2014 South Side Irish Queen Maeve McSweeney and 2013 South Side Irish Queen Margaret McGann. Also in attendance were 2016 South Side Irish Queen Alison Kelly, 2017 South Side Irish Queen Shannon Zofkie and 2017 Chicago Rose of Tralee Teresa Daly.

"I know Colleen is very dedicated to the South Side Irish community and we are thrilled to have her serve as this year's Parade Queen," said Mary Kay Gavin-Marmo, Executive Director of the Professional Irish Women of Chicago Organization and Director of the South Side Irish Queen Contest.

The South Side Irish Parade Queen will also receive sponsorship from the South Side Irish Parade Committee to compete in the Chicago Rose of Tralee Selection as the South Side Irish Rose. This selection process will take place on April 7, 2018, at Ridge Country Club.

(l to r): 2017 Queen Shannon Zofkie, 2018 Queen Colleen Krahn.

The mission of the Chicago Rose of Tralee is to provide enrichment opportunities that will encourage young women of Irish descent to be exemplary role models for tomorrow's youth and to make a positive difference in the world. The winner of the Chicago Rose of Tralee will receive an all-expense paid trip to Ireland for an experience of a lifetime and represent Chicago in a two-night televised event in Tralee, Ireland. For more information or application for the Chicago Rose of Tralee visit www.chicagoroseoftralee.com.

Ways To Support The Parade:
Honor your family or business by purchasing a Western Avenue street pole banner. The banners will line Western Avenue and surrounding streets throughout the month of March. For more information on purchasing Western Avenue street pole banners and parade merchandise visit southsideirishparade.org.

The parade's organizing committee will honor their Grand Marshall by making a march of their own, into frigid Lake Michigan for the Special Olympics Chicago's annual Polar Plunge. The committee is recruiting participants to join their "South Side Irish Pats On Parade" team. With only Irish-pride warming their hearts, these brave team members will take the plunge into the freezing water off the shore of North Avenue beach on Sunday, March 4, 2018. The parade committee plans for 40 people on their plunge team, a nod to the 40th annual parade this year. All the "Plunging Pats" will be asked to raise $200 to support Special Olympics Chicago.

About the Parade
This year marks the 40th Annual South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade will step off at noon on Sunday, March 11, from 103rd and Western in Chicago's Beverly/Morgan Park neighborhood. Special Olympics Chicago will serve as this year's Grand Marshal and Amyloidosis Support Groups and the Martin McGarry family will be the 2018 Parade Honoree. The parade is operated by the South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade and Heritage Foundation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, where more than 100 volunteers work year round to ensure this family-friendly celebration continues for future generations. The South Side Irish Parade is generously supported by sponsors including Lakeshore Beverage, CJ Wilson Mazda, AARP, IUOE Local 399, County Fair Foods, The Beverly Review, South Side Irish Imports, Raising Cane's, Team Hochberg at PERL Mortgage, the Chicago White Sox, Haribo, ComEd, and Blake Lamb Funeral Home.

Skinny & Houli Return to Reilly's Daughter March 7

Southside natives Jim "Skinny" Sheahan and Mike "Houli" Houlihan will return to their roots the week of the Southside St. Patrick's Day Parade with their long-running madcap Irish music comedy radio program. On Wednesday March 7th the Skinny & Houli Show will be taped before a live audience of friends at Reilly's Daughter, 4010 West 111th Street in Oak Lawn. All are invited to share in the craic!

Also performing on the show, (taping begins at 6:30PM), that night will be Irish entertainers Jimmy Cloonan & Friends with Special Guest, i.e. Jimmy Cloonan, Denny Keane, Mark Murphy and Eileen Guest. Look for surprise guests to drop by the show when Skinny and Houli entertain the crowd because there is no telling who might show up from the lads past, present, or future shenanigans on the south side.

Skinny Sheahan, and Mike Houlihan

Reilly's Daughter is a longtime sponsor of the program, along with Flood Brothers Disposal, McCann's Irish Oatmeal, Lizzie McNeill's Irish Pub, Tom Gorman PI Attorney, (another south side native), Local 150 Operating Engineers, and longtime Southside institutions, Sheehy Funeral Home and Smith Village.

Now in its ninth year on the air, broadcasting on WCEV 1450AM, The Skinny & Houli Show has built a loyal audience of Irish and Irish Americans across Chicagoland. Along with the usual comedy, music, and nostalgia, Skinny and Houli also promise a free raffle where many inexpensive prizes will be given away. Don't miss this unique and exciting kickoff to the week of The Southside Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade with Skinny & Houli on Wednesday, March 7th at Reilly's Daughter.

Alderman Patrick J. O'Connor Selected as Grand Marshall of Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade

By: Cathy Chambers

Patrick J. O'Connor, Chicago's 40th Ward Alderman is a recognized community leader who has worked for the development and improvement

in the 40th Ward since 1983. His contributions to the City of Chicago and its Irish community are evident by his affiliations in many diversified clubs, committees, and charitable organizations. He has applied his abilities as a lawyer, community leader and alderman to implement change, improving public schools, creating new jobs, improving health care systems, keeping our neighborhoods safe, and rebuilding city infrastructure. Pat said, "My father encouraged me to go into a profession of service so that I could give back to my community. I consider myself lucky to work on a job with the primary purpose being that of making the lives of Chicago's citizens, and the community we live in, better and better."

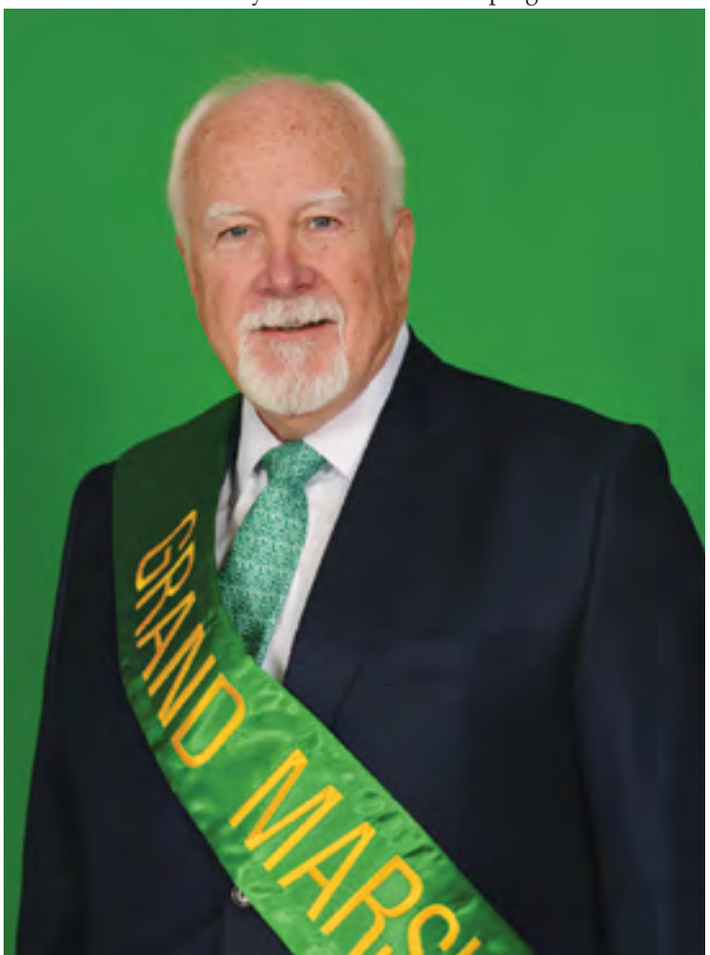
Over his years in the City Council, Pat O'Connor has gone from being Mayor Richard M. Daley's "unofficial floor leader" to Mayor Emanuel's floor leader. He works collaboratively with his colleagues and currently chairs the Committee on Workforce Development & Audit, through which most recently passed all of the current union contracts for the City of Chicago. Pat understands the need for good jobs that pay a living wage and oversaw the passing of a $13 minimum wage in the City of Chicago by 2019. "As a former Teamster union member myself, I have great respect for the men and women who keep Chicago moving forward. That includes all businesses, private and public, and all the employees that comprise the workforce."

The O'Connor Family has attended and participated in the Plumbers Local 130's St. Patrick's Day Parade since the beginning, and are staunch supporters. Pat walked with his father as a GAA (Gaelic Football Club) member, the City of Chicago's Bureau of Equipment & Services contingent, and finally with the 40th Ward Regular Democratic Organization. He is a proud first generation Irishman, whose roots stem from the west of Ireland. His father, Patrick O'Connor, Sr. emigrated from Killarney, County Kerry and his mother, Barbara Dever O'Connor's father from County Mayo. However, Patrick is not the first O'Connor to be Grand Marshal of a St. Patrick's Day Parade. In 2016, his Uncle, Michael O'Connor at 104 years of age, led Killarney's Parade as Grand Marshal.

Pat's paternal grandfather passed away at a young age. He said, "My father grew up without a father figure and without an example to follow, yet was a strong and influential presence in my life." Education was always stressed in the O'Connor home from an early age. It was important that Pat and his four siblings attended good universities. After graduating high school, Pat received both his B.A. and law degrees from Loyola University of Chicago.

Third grade was a decisive point in Patrick O'Connor's life. As he tells it, "At the beginning of the school year, the class was seated in alphabetical order and I was one chair behind Barbara Odishoo. And the rest is history!" They dated through high school and college and celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary this past July. Their five children, Hilary, Patrick, Claire, Courtney, and Moira along with their seven grandchildren, Mark, Christian, Colin, Emmett, Kaitlin, Patrick and Norah are fortunate to live within four blocks of each other. Also Pat's brothers Rob and Dan, his sister Cathy, and their mother all live within a few city blocks of each other. As Pat said, "It takes a village of O'Connors to raise a village of O'Connors."

Pat has visited Ireland a number of times, first with his father and older brother when he was four years old. "I remember my brother Michael and I walking in the woods with my father



when my dad called out that he thought he had spotted a Leprechaun and took off after him. The three of us gave chase to find a small pot with Irish coins in it at the end of the path. My dad went on to tell us that the Leprechaun had tricked him. Apparently, before he emigrated

he had caught the 'wee fellow' who promised he would give his pot of money up when my dad returned to Ireland with his sons. My father went to great lengths to help us participate in the magic that exists in Ireland."

Enjoying the camaraderie at house parties until the early morning hours was common among the Irish immigrants, their families and friends. "Whether you could actually carry a tune or not, everyone was encouraged to sing a song," stated Pat. Patrick's father hosted an Irish radio program for several years, which meant Irish music was in abundance, and was often heard in the background.

At the age of 63, Pat has missed four or five parades. Some he remembers vividly, and some during his college years less; however, Plumbers Local 130's St. Patrick's Day Parade has always been a part of the O'Connor Family's tradition. Pat said, "I feel a special kinship for the day because it is my feast day, not just a great day to be Irish. O'Connor marchers reminisce year after year retelling one good story after another. Their pride and awareness of this family day is very apparent."

During the course of his career, Pat has received numerous honors and awards, in particular from the American Cancer Society for work on Smoke Free Chicago. An advocate for children, Pat served for over 20 years as the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Child Development on Chicago's public school reform movement. Patrick was one of the founding members of the National League of Cities Institute on Youth Education and Families, headquartered in Washington, D.C. Formed in the 1990s with former Mayor Tom Menino of Boston and others under the auspices of the National League of Cities, the Institute serves as a resource to elected officials and municipalities across the country. He was instrumental in bringing Northside College Prep to the northwest side of Chicago, a school that has distinguished itself academically as the top high school in the State of Illinois. He has helped secure additions, new playgrounds and infrastructure improvements for almost every school in the 40th Ward over the years.

Pat is extremely honored to have been chosen as this year's Grand Marshal and stated, "While the parade is an opportunity to celebrate my Irish heritage, it is also a day to celebrate the hard working Irish men and women who have, through their hard work and union affiliation, helped to make the City of Chicago one of the best places in the world to raise one's family."

A highly regarded and lifelong resident of the northwest side

of Chicago, Patrick and his wife Barbara, their children and grandchildren, along with a host of family and friends, some of whom will travel to Chicago from Ireland, will proudly walk in 2018's Plumbers Local 130 St. Patrick''s Day Parade.

www.chicagostpatricksdayparade.org

St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 17, 2018 Starts at Noon at Balboa and Columbus Dr.

Mary Kate Manion Queen of Chicago's 63rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

By: Cathy Chambers

Congratulations to Mary Kate Manion! She is Queen of the 2018 St. Patrick's Day Parade and extremely proud to represent Plumbers Local 130, her parents and family. Mary Kate knows that the coming year will never be duplicated. She said, "I haven't stopped smiling since my name was called on stage at the contest. I am truly privilege and honored."

Mary Kate's parents, Tom and Nancy live in Elmhurst, IL and their families are all in the Chicagoland area. She has one older brother, Michael, and three younger sisters, Colleen, Rory, and Molly. She said, "I am never far from family, which is a priority to me." Mary Kate's grandfather, Tom Manion, Sr., a retired Local 134 member, passed away in August 2017 leaving a void. Mary Kate stated, "Since I have never served on the Court, this is a new and exiting experience for me and my family. I am especially thankful and thrilled that my grandmother will be with me and supporting me, as my journey unfolds."

After graduating from Immaculate Conception Grade School and IC Catholic Prep in Elmhurst, IL, Mary Kate attended Saint Norbert College in De Pere, WI. She considered herself a dual-sport athlete, while in school, participating in volleyball and basketball. Mary Kate graduated with a Business Administration major with a minor in Spanish, and is currently working for the City of Chicago for the City Council's Committee on Finance as a Legislative Aide.

Mary Kate serves as a junior board member for Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness Clinics, which uses an integrated care approach that provides healthcare services to youths and families in the Chicagoland area. It is a not-for-profit organization that is available to the underprivileged. Because of her love of sports and competition, Mary Kate is always up for a game of volleyball, softball, basketball, flag football, or kick ball.

Mary Kate's roots stem from the West of Ireland. The Manion family hails from County Galway and the Olsen family can be found in County Mayo. Mary Kate attended Rince Na Cara Irish Dance Academy in Elmhurst for eight years, and her sisters danced with her. Celebrating St. Patrick's Day has been an integral part of Mary Kate's life, which includes attending the Elmhurst and Plumbers Local 130's Parade. Wearing their Aran sweaters and tweed flat caps were mandatory.

As the 63rd Plumbers Local 130's St. Patrick's Day Parade approaches, Mary Kate graciously thanks General Chairman of the Parade James Coyne and all the people behind the scene who make this day happen. Mary Kate stated, "I am proud to represent my Irish heritage and very grateful for this opportunity!"

Photos by Dean Battaglia

Queen and Court (l to r): Catherine Coghlan, Maura Brigid Carr, Queen Mary Kate Manion, Nicole Coghlan, and Madeline Kay Mitchell

Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

As I disembarked the Dublin train to Longford my friend Christine was waiting. Delighted to see each other and the prospect of spending a few days together was exhilarating. While I have some memory of the food we consumed, more than two decades hence, I recall more vividly the quaffing, the relaxation of alcohol, the loosening of tongues, the sisterhood, the confidences shared.

Attending a three day historic conference at Trinity College, the first in Irish history focusing on women, it was enhanced by Mary Robinson, the first female President of Ireland who participated and conducted the opening ceremony. At its conclusion, I departed for Longford, a short train ride from Dublin. Christine was waiting, luggage placed in the boot of the car, my host driving on the "wrong side," of the Irish roads, I posed the question to this matriarch of a near dozen offspring: What is the definition of a successful Irish poet? I can hear her now, the mellow educated tones of a mid-country accent. She hesitated, as I rushed with the answer, and what I observed at the three day conference.

First, you have to be lesbian. Second, the ability to write and publish modern poetry. Christine said nothing. She drove in silence. I waited for some response. Finally, I don't think any of mine are lesbian, at least not now, but do we ever know? We laughed.

Two women, not far apart in age, bonded years before in a myriad of ways by two Chicago daughters, Marian Brady and Dolores Connelly, three of us Irish immigrants, the Longford women had become the bookends, the anchors in my Chicago life. High achievers, creative leaders, they were activists, committed to the downtrodden whether in Ireland, Bangladesh, Lebanon or Chicago. Marian became the mistress and founder of an all-female Irish wait staff at the posh Michigan Avenue residence of Dr. John B. Duff, President of Columbia College/ Chicago. Sister Dolores possessed that unique energy that punctuates the DNA of the Irish. A successful business woman, married to the prominent Scotsman Dan Casey, Ms. Connolly was independent , assured and like her sister the essence of ambition, confidence and reliability. They were respected for leadership, energy, inspiration, and their cohesive glue of wit and charm. I counted them among my dearest friends, awestruck by their visiting mother, the role model of my dreams.

She was a tour de force, and back in the day of a contraceptive no-zone in Catholic Ireland, she and her husband produced a large family, sons and daughters educated and thriving, whether in the United States, Montenegro, Ireland, or Bangladesh, working for Concern Worldwide.

My first night under the Longford Connolly roof, Christine and I got deliciously intoxicated. We wept, we laughed and traded confidences as only women can. In the dark hours before dawn, we pulled ourselves together as my host declared it was time to tidy up, translating into collecting empty wine and beer bottles, discarding them before the beloved long term housekeeper arrived to prepare our breakfast. A full Irish breakfast, the best comfort food to ease the pain of a hangover!

My host conducted a five star sweeping tour through the small and cozy metropolis of Longford, the church and various historic sights. As I recall the pickings were slim until we hit the graveyard, always a requirement for visitors, a ritual of Irish pride to visit and care for graves. Immediately I was confronted by the most impressive

burial tomb I had ever seen outside the Vatican. A vast exquisitely designed gleaming, flawless white marble tomb featuring in its center a carved marble automobile. Awestruck, I also felt the stiffening in Christine. It was a gypsy burial memorial. The Gypsy King's son, killed in an automobile accident, hence the symbolism of the marble car. It was clear my host did not favor the gypsies, the traveling people of Ireland mostly discriminated against, having earned a reputation for drunkedness and stealing. I expressed surprise over a gypsy burial in a Catholic graveyard, and was unfamiliar with Christine's body language when she felt affronted. She admitted the Tinkers were Catholic "but never lived up to it and robbed and stole, even the eyes right out of your head." Ironically, many gypsy people died in Longford. The graveyard sported abundant expensive, impressive and expensive adorned graves. All of their garnishes clearly off-putting to my host.

We stopped at Hugh Connolly's grave, the husband and father of the Connolly clan. We stood at the headstone in silence, each of us mouthing prayers and my friend spoke endearingly of her departed spouse. Nearby, we spotted two grave diggers, whom Christine greeted by name. Bracing themselves on the top of shovels, the diggers paused, revealed with pride and respect who they were digging for, and Christine registered shock hearing the name of the newly departed. She solemnly made the sign of the cross as I studied the shape of the grave, its crisp edges its tight corners, as good as any architectural design. I engaged the diggers in conversation, fascinated since manual grave digging in the United States was a past art, replaced with machinery and cremation.

The chaps had two more graves to dig that day, and not surprising in a small town, Christine knew the diseased persons. Persisting in my line of questioning, I was cut short by my host who complained that never in her life did she think she'd be standing grave side conversing so long with "those pair."

This Irish matriarch is no longer with us, but Windy City daughters continue to contribute to the enrichment of Chicago and its Irish community. When I'm privileged to be in their company, and they launch into imitations of their Mom, we roar laughing, feel the loss, but cherish the memory.

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The Druids ☘ Scythian ☘ The Fitzgeralds

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The Byrne Brothers ☘ Cassie & Maggie

Tallymore ☘ Dave Curley Band

Marys Lane ☘ New Barleycorn

Brigid's Cross ☘ One Shot Paddy

Dennis Doyle ☘ Dermot Henry

Andrew McManus

Kilroy Ceili Band ☘ Ballinloch

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick

Whose Narrative?

There is a theory abroad that some mean-spirited politicians within the DUP (a tiny minority of course) wished to block the re-establishment of the Northern Ireland Assembly until Gerry Adams stood down as President of Sinn Féin. The motive of this alleged plot was to deprive Adams of the chance to gloat in his valedictory about the distance Sinn Féin has come from 1983, when Adams became president of Sinn Féin, through to Sinn Féin's electoral success in Northern Ireland combined with its reasonably strong presence in Southern politics. The theory falls down, however, now that Gerry Adams has been replaced by Mary Lou McDonald and, even so, there is all but no prospect of talks leading to a breakthrough in Stormont. Yet Gerry Adams' legacy, the fate of negotiations to revive Stormont and the DUP's strategy remain linked in curious ways.

The latest crescendo hit Northern Irish politics on February 14th when Arlene Foster announced that she had given up on talks to re-establish the power-sharing Assembly, despite the arrival of the Taoiseach and the British Prime Minister in Belfast on February 12th. The DUP's pretext for withdrawing from negotiations is the threat to their identity that a stand-alone Irish Language Act apparently poses.

That language has emerged as the sticking point between the political factions is far less incidental than it might first appear. So many of Northern Irish identity problems are reducible to language, and it is only when those problems are addressed as being bound up in language that a profound shift can occur in the attitudes of people who live there. Whether or not Foster realises this, it suits her to characterise Sinn Féin's demand for an Irish Language Act as an arrogant and one-sided takeover of the power-sharing structure.

What greatly enables Foster to characterise Sinn Féin thus, is that they are indeed dab hands at arrogant takeovers. For example, in early February, Sinn Féin's national chairman, Declan Kearney, argued that the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s was in fact led by Sinn Féin, stating that the movement had 'multiple parents and many children' – whereas the historical record debars them from legitimately claiming paternity to it. Danny Morrison, former Sinn Féin publicity director, is similarly enthusiastic to portray Sinn Féin as an equal rights party, stating recently that if Unionists had acceded to equal rights on Good Friday 1969 nobody would have lost their lives in violence. Yet Sinn Féin's defence of equal rights is vitiated by its ongoing defence of its terror campaign during the Troubles, including as far back as the 1973/4 period when a power-sharing Executive between Nationalists and Unionists attempted to govern Northern Ireland.

In a post-truth era, these howlers constitute the norm of political whitewashing and airbrushing – an historical revisionism that poisons the contemporary political environment. Founding members of the Civil Rights Movement – Bernadette Devlin McAliskey and Eamonn McCann – rapidly dismissed the canard that the Civil Rights Movement was steered or started by Sinn Féin. McAliskey was scathing of the hypocrisy: 'Those claiming bragging rights from 1968 might reflect with greater humility on the price paid against the degree of progress made since that first march and examine their actual contribution to the reality of 2018 – a stagnant, sectarian, dysfunctional Stormont making the rich richer and the poor poorer; a damaged, demoralised and divided community; justice denied; truth distorted'.

It is worth remembering that the Civil Rights Movement's objective in 1968 was to secure the same rights in Northern Ireland as obtained in Britain. Since Sinn Féin could never risk arguing for the benefit of any form of association with Britain, their claim to an historic quest for rights carefully elides any reference to their campaign to extricate Ireland from the political link with Britain. In Sinn Féin's revisionist project, they must not simply insert themselves into the narrative of a movement that was not theirs, they must reconfigure the original aims of that movement to reflect the image of Sinn Fein. Little wonder, then, that the founding members of the Civil Rights Movement abhor Sinn Féin's forgeries upon the annals of history.

Against this backdrop of the historical narrative hewn to serve tawdry political agendas, a new documentary on Gerry Adams' political life, written and presented by veteran journalist Vincent Browne, screened on TV3 on February 7th and 8th. That there is no Unionist voice in Browne's documentary undercuts the piece because it enables the film to considerably side-step Adams' attitudes towards sectarian killing during the Troubles and to power-sharing. The documentary does detail IRA atrocities and makes it clear that Adams – for all his denials – was a member of the IRA; Adams himself is absent from the film.

The most glaring absence in the documentary, however, is the constitutional alternative to violence that existed throughout the Troubles, which ultimately Sinn Féin embraced after the Good Friday Agreement. A younger viewer of this documentary could be forgiven for thinking that there was no middle ground during the decades of the Troubles, and that Adams' milestone achievement was not so much leading Sinn Féin towards constitutional politics but rather creating the political space in Northern Ireland for constitutional politics to exist in the first place. The role of John Hume cannot be recognised in such a portrayal of history because Hume's entire political life, starting as a Civil Rights leader in the 1960s, is a comprehensive repudiation of this narrative. This is history with pages ripped out.

This portrait of Adams – who Martin Mansergh calls 'a statesman' in the documentary – fails to liberate itself from the web of political fictions spun by apologists for a futile campaign of violence. As the prospect of re-establishing the Good Friday Agreement's institutions becomes ever more remote, the revisionist narrative erodes the basis for their continued survival still further. It is the revisionist attitude of mind, more than anything else, that enables Arlene Foster to dominate and to sabotage Northern Irish political affairs today.

Irish Fellowship Club Dinner Friday, March 16 at the Hilton Hotel

The Irish Fellowship Club will host its 117th Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Friday, March 16, 2018 at the Hilton Chicago. Cocktails will be served at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Dinner chair, Mick O'Rourke, promises to continue the tradition of making this one of the premier celebrations of St. Patrick's Day.

The dinner honors the 2018 Grand Marshall of the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade, Honorable Patrick J. O'Connor, 40th Ward Alderman. Additionally, the Guest of Honor will be Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke and the Special Olympics of Chicago, which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. The St. Patrick's Day Queen, Mary Kate Manion, and her court will be featured. Ciaran Cannon, T.D., Minister of State for the Irish Diaspora is also expected to attend. David Dunne will provide music during the cocktail hour and dinner. There will be a step dancing performance by the Mullard Gogley Irish Dance Academy. Finally, there will be dancing to the sound of the City Lights Orchesta.

The Chicago Hilton has a limited number of rooms available at a special rate for IFC Members. For further information and to obtain tickets to the dinner dance, contact Kathy Taylor at (312) 676 4120 or visit the website at www.IrishFellowship.com.

The Club continues its celebration of Irelands' Patron Saint on Saturday March 17, 2018. All members are invited to march with the Irish Fellowship Club and its award winning float in the Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The Irish Fellowship Club is a major supporter of Catholic Education having raised and donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Chicago Catholic high schools over the past 40 years. The Club raises funds through its numerous events including its St. Patrick's Day Dinner, the golf outing at Beverly Country Club, and the Christmas luncheon. In 2018, it is also planning events at the Irish American Heritage Center and at Gaelic Park.

Finally, as a member a free subscription to Irish American News is included. To become a member, send in the attached application for membership with the dues.

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Go Mad Again!

By Maureen Callahan

Have a few laughs next month and decompress from the winter blues and life-threatening flu season. It'll boost your mood and there are no bigger laughs to be had than at a Kathleen Madigan comedy show. This woman can get a British audience to laugh out loud. She's that good. You can catch her live at her Bigfoot and Boxed Wine tour at the end of April.

A recipient of the American Comedy Awards Funniest Female Stand-Up Comic, Kathleen just has a knack for finding funny scenarios. Or maybe they find her. Madigan has performed guest spots on David Letterman, Conan O'Brian, Jay Leno and Craig Ferguson. Watching her show is like meeting up with a funny friend; the one in tune the hilarious side of anything. No more palpable is her Seinfeld-esque life-approach than alongside the man himself in the 2016 web series Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee. You can catch it on YouTube. There are also a few hour long specials you can stream on Netflix.

How did this hilarious gal officially get into funny business? "It was kind of by mistake. I had graduated college and worked briefly in journalism. For a while, I worked at a bar. One night, there was an open mic night at the place next door." That led to a series of bookings with The Funny Bone, a nationwide chain of comedy clubs. The rest, as they say, is history. Two decades and four continents later, she's still splitting sides. She's had the troops rolling in the desert during two USO tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. "The tours are fun when I do them, and I'm glad when I have the opportunity." Due to security uncertainties, she's mostly been stateside lately, "I enjoy doing overseas shows. You have to tweak the material a little sometimes for places like Australia, Canada and Ireland; mostly cultural nuances, unless it's Great Britain, in which case I sometimes have to change a lot," she says with a chuckle. "I go to Ireland every year and I love it. Those are my people."

How about domestic shows? "I enjoy U.S. travels. I've been to pretty much every major (and minor) city. I've done the U.S. Seriously, I've been to Cleveland about 50 times. Last time I was there, I got so bored that I went to a serial killer's house. Okay, I wasn't invited in, but a friend and I did a drive-by. I've done pretty much everything you can do in most cities." To pass the time when not performing, she would explore the area by car. "I love driving in the huge Pacific Northwest woods. I always wonder about Bigfoot (obviously, by the name of the tour), when I'm there. Is there a whole family of them that moves around? They must, unless they're incestuous, but who would ever know?"

So where does she get her fodder? Everyday life. Being one of 7 kids has helped develop her amusing viewpoint. Her humor is nothing but honest with everyday events serving as the framework for her individual 5 to 20 minute scenarios, several of which make up a show. When not touring, Madigan spends "inordinate" amounts of time with her big family. At the time of this interview, she was laid over for an aunt's funeral. "There were hundreds of us there. I have 11 nieces and nephews and I love hanging out with them. I'm the good-time Charlie."

Does she want to do this herself? According to a segment of one of her shows, "no. No kids for me. It's not even the kids that I think would be the hard part, it's their gear. I almost abandoned a twin stroller in a Target parking lot because I couldn't figure out the release lever. I figured I'd rather buy my sister a new stroller than spend any more time trying to figure the thing out! Then there's installing kids' car seats. You need at least three beers per seat." It then occurred to Madigan that fire stations install car seats for people who can't figure them out. "So I got the idea to set the car on fire and just have the firemen install the seats after they put the fire out. You know, to me, it just seemed like it made more sense."

The kind side of Madigan's personality is in her volunteer work. Friend and fellow comedian Lewis Black got her involved with donating performance time for Cystic Fibrosis. "I enjoy performing to help raise funds, because Cystic Fibrosis is one of those conditions in which improvement is really evident. You see the same people at the benefits from time to time and it's hopeful when you see their progress." She also volunteers her time and talent for Autism, on behalf of her nephew. "I'm happy to give them my free time."

According to Madigan, per the advisement of her defense attorney father, Joe, "90% of people in jail are there because they couldn't keep their @#$ damn mouth shut! He drilled it into us at the dinner table. So at 7 years old, when the priest in the confessional asked me if I had anything I wanted to tell him, that's what I told him. I wasn't taking any chances; I mean, heck, my Dad could have planted the guy there!"

For this and more useful real-life information, order tickets to the upcoming Chicago-area shows on April 27 at College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn or April 28 at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie at kathleenmadigan.com/tour.

You'll laugh until you cry. And you'll know what to say next time you're questioned by law enforcement.

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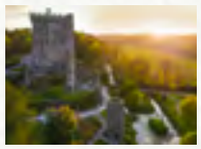

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On the Upbeat

By Maryann McTeague Keifer

I have to admit, I have been rabidly waiting for Lunasa's new album. People often ask me which CD I would choose if I could have only one. That is an impossibly tough question as music is so tied in to one's mood at the time, but if I truly could have only one, it would be from Lunasa. I love their sound, their tune choices, the way they play together-I just love them! So, a new album to add to my favorite list was a happy thought to have. Wait a minute, though, the album is named CAS which is Irish for "change." I don't want change. I want my Lunasa. The Lunasa I know what to expect from; the Lunasa I love; the Lunasa I can close my eyes and hear in my head. You can see where I was going when I got the preview….I opened the file, and first looked at the cover—very striking and colorful, so hard not to notice as you look through a CD rack or browse the new online CDs available—good move, lads!

Now to browse the liner notes, and what do I see? I see four singers, and not just any singers. I see Tim O'Brien, the great bluegrass vocalist. I see Natalie Merchant, folk rock singer, who I remember from 10,000 Maniacs--on a Lunasa album? Then there is last year's much awarded and lauded Irish belt it out singer Daori Farrell. Everyone loves him, but on a Lunasa CD? Mary Chapin Carpenter, the dynamic country and folk alto, wow! Then I see the remarkable bluesman Eric Bibb. Just what is going on here? Trevor Hutchinson on double base, yeah, and on bouzouki, hmm cool, never saw him play that. Whoa-wait just one minute! Trevor on the Lap Steel Guitar?!!? Okay, now I am worried.

With trepidation, I downloaded the album and got ready to listen to what I was afraid I wasn't going to care for. Well, knock me off my chair, this album is brilliant with a capital B. I chatted with Cillian, and he said they felt they wanted to look for some change, thus the title. I am sure many of you who have been Lunasa fans for all these years will have the same feelings I did, but believe me, you are going to be thrilled, not disappointed.

Of the twelve tracks, seven are tune sets, many written by band members, and will be manna to Lunasa aficionados. Gorgeous flute, low whistle sets, alluring pipes, magnificent fiddle, superb guitar, and the beguiling double bass are all there. There is new, though, a freshness to the style, a noticeably lighter touch in the arrangements. I am especially fond of the Pontivy set and its lilting low whistle start with fiddle and pipes weaving in and the double base and guitar holding it all together. The A Tribute to Larry set incudes a tune written by the master, Maurice Lennon, and no one could pay it better than Lunasa does here. There are trad tunes, Lunasa tunes, and tunes composed by young artists like box player Damien Mullane all played as only Kevin Crawford, Cillian Vallely, Sean Smyth, Colin Farrell, Trevor Hutchinson, and Ed Boyd can. The CD will take you to your happy Lunasa place without question.

Let's get to the singers, all so well known and respected, yet now finding themselves singing with a band that has a very established "sound." What is remarkable is that the singers and the band were able to form a sort of symbiotic relationship that results in each enhancing the music of the other. I believe the best example on the album is Mary Chapin Carpenter's deep rich alto voice being accompanied by Trevor Hutchinson. Her voice becomes an instrument that is perfectly paired with the double bass. While you are listening, you can't imagine Mary singing again without it. They are separate, but so well matched. Take one away, and we'd feel a loss.

Who would imagine Tim O'Brien singing with Lunasa, and yet, their accompaniment of The Water is Wise, bluegrass pipes included, give the song a depth and fullness that fascinates you as you are listening to it. Lunasa was able to weave their style, without losing its integrity, into the bluegrass. I can see Cillian's smile as he controls his pipes and gets them to play in this American genre.

Their playing soothes and rounds out the great Paddy's Green Shamrock Shore standing up well to the robustness and raw strength of Daori Farrell's voice, just as they give Natalie Merchant's very folksy, unique and moving arrangement of The Bonnie Light Horseman a smoothness that takes you for a ride as you listen to her sing. Add this to the dynamic Eric Bibb's gospel song My Lord What a Morning, and you will find the band has masterfully taken themselves and us out of the Lunasa comfort zone.

CAS is not an album you will listen to once and set aside. There is so much to offer, to keep listening to for new experiences each time you push play, to marvel at the talent that is contained and given for sharing. No, this is not an album to be looked at with trepidation, but rather, a new feather in the cap of the talented and influential musicians we know and love as Lunasa.

Irish Films at Chicago European Union Film Festival

Two Irish films will screen at the Chicago European Union Film Festival. Below is the information on the shows and info on the Gene Siskel Film Center. Enjoy!

Maze:

March 30, and April 1

Chicago premiere! Barry Ward in person! (tentative)

2017, Stephen Burke, Ireland/UK, 93 min. With Tom Vaughan-Lawlor, Barry Ward.

The biggest jailbreak in British and Irish history, involving the escape of 38 IRA prisoners from high-security Maze prison in September 1983, is dramatized in a tense but remarkably even-handed story that foregrounds the relationship between failed hunger-striker Larry Marley (Vaughan-Lawlor) and Gordon (Ward, of Ken Loach's JIMMY'S HALL), the steely, arrogant head guard. The republican political prisoners are forced into pressure-cooker conditions under the noses of virulently hostile loyalists in the same cellblock. Marley wins over his compatriots to an escape plan, hoping to play his captor like a fish, but complications grow, along with his grudging respect for the hardened guard. Courtesy of Visit Films. DCP digital widescreen (BS)

http://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/maze

Songs of Granite:

March 10, and March 15

This poetic portrait of the life of traditional Irish folk-singer Joe Heaney is less a documentary than a set of impressionist tableaux that capture the mood of the hard, spare life of Heaney's rural childhood and the footloose career as a laborer and pub-singer that finally takes him to America. Elegant black-and-white cinematography gives the vistas of County Galway a timeless quality, and beautifully accentuates the underlying gravity and melancholy of many of the vocal performances.

Archival footage of Heaney himself blends seamlessly with dramatic reenactments. A must-see for any devotee of traditional Irish music. In Irish Gaelic and English with English subtitles. Courtesy of Oscilloscope Laboratories. DCP digital. (BS) Gene Siskel Film Center of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA

Energize Your Job Search!

Many job seekers hunker down because of the winter weather. But now a lot of the winter is behind us, so maybe it is time to get focused on finding that next great job you have thinking about. St. Patrick's Day is only a few weeks away. It's time to kick your job search up a notch. In this regard, I have listed eight steps you might take to get your search moving again.

1. You need a do-over. Re-start your search with forethought and gusto. You owe it to yourself to look very seriously at the total package you are offering to potential employers. What skills or talents are you selling? Why should someone hire you instead of the other person sitting out in the reception? Many interviewers will tell you that a significant percentage of job seekers cannot articulate what they are looking for. Simply stated, they are looking for a job. They may have some ideas of what they might like about certain jobs but it is fairly common that they have not really thought it through carefully. Try to look at the process from the interviewer's point of view, what kind of information will he need in order to be comfortable with your candidacy? If the job is in the center of town and you live 30-40 miles from there, you need to help the interviewer see how you plan to overcome the commuting problem.

2. Recognize that you may have grown stale in the process. Complacency is inevitable in a long term search. Be honest with yourself, the process becomes boring. It is essential that you don't allow yourself to show that. You must keep projecting an enthusiastic, energized manner if you are to be taken seriously. Your attitude takes center stage in this process. Let's assume that the other candidates for "your" job are as equally qualified as you are, how then is the interviewer going to choose between you and other applicants? Many people would agree that the individual's attitude, manner, and appearance will make the difference between moving forward in the process or not.

3. Prepare a list of your specific skills and abilities. What would you like to accomplish in your next job? What can your potential employer expect from your performance? Simply saying things like I am a "hard worker" won't cut it. You need to expand on such a statement by saying something like "in my most recent job, I worked 10-15 overtime hours in the week that we closed the monthly books".

4. Organize your campaign. Be ruthless in the use of your time. There are dozens and dozens of books that deal with the job search process. Go to your local library and ask a research librarian to help with the process. You can probably do an adequate job of looking for your job by working on the process a good 15-20 hours per week. Some people will tell you that they are "working" 30-40 hours per week on their job search; it is likely that a good part of that time is spent wastefully.

5. Hone a well-crafted resume, which highlights your ACHIEVEMENTS. In fact, you may want to prepare a couple of different resumes if you are approaching various different markets. There is a commonly held view that job seekers overstate their achievements; it is simply not so. In my experience almost no one gives themselves enough credit for their accomplishments until they are really pressed hard. Develop and memorize a list of achievements that you can easily refer to when asked for specific examples of what you have accomplished. Remember achievements are different and far more important than responsibilities.

6. Select your targets. Again, it is a matter of using your time wisely. In major metro areas, there are hundreds or thousands of companies; which ones are you going to call on? Do your homework on those companies of interest. Become somewhat conversant with their strengths and weaknesses. Research is an essential element in the job search process.

7. Personal contacts may be the answer to your search. In my experience, many of the people that I know found their jobs through personal contacts. I have had a lot of jobs over my life and I have come to realize that every job I have ever had came through a personal contact. A personal contact can be a casual acquaintance; it does not have to be a family member or a close friend. Resources like LinkedIn opened a whole new world to many people because it provides the searcher some meaningful pieces of information about potential contacts. Social media has become a vitally important weapon in the process of connecting with people who could be incredibly helpful to you.

8. Persistence will help you to succeed. Some experts in this field would say that persistence is the gold standard of a positive and successful job search. The job seeker who is always willing to talk to one more person is more likely to succeed in their search. Napoleon Hill said "the majority of men meet with failure because of their lack of persistence in creating new plans to take the place of those which fail."

This list of eight suggestions is not exhaustive but it can certainly get you started moving in the right direction. Good luck in your search and your career. CARPE DIEM

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: Every once in a while ask yourself the question, "If money weren't a consideration, what would I like to be doing?"

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brody

Gerry Adams and A View From Ballymurphy

Heaven knows that I'm not exactly the greatest Sinn Fein supporter in the world. Or supporter of any of the other power-based political systems, dress them up how you will. In fact I'd trust that lot about as far as I could throw any political party. With my weaker arm.

And a broken arm at that.

But much to my disgust I've found myself…oh, kind of warming to them in recent years.

And a lot of that is down to Mary Lou McDonald. She is certainly one of the more astute and constructively combative politicians this island has produced.

I've been watching with something less than amazement the attacks on her this week by the mainstream media as she replaces Gerry Adams as leader of SF. She hasn't even been in the job for more than a couple of days and you would think that she was the Devil Incarnate. Well, taking over from the previous Devil Incarnate, maybe!

I could go on at length as to why I like her, but in fact I now need look no farther than this comment:

"Leo is kind of smarmy."

What? Leo Varadkar is kind of smarmy? The only disagreement I'd have with Mary Lou there is the use of 'kind of'.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch…

I was knocked out last week by an article from my neighbour Paddy McMenamin, who has a regular column in the Donegal weekly paper, the Tirconaill Tribune. Paddy is a Belfast man, although before settling in County Galway he had spent thirty years in Donegal. He's one of those guys who is always upbeat when you meet him; a great conversationalist (unlike my more morose self); and a man of rare dry wit. I think it's safe to say that I liked him right off the bat, despite our surface political differences.

Reading him is like listening to the man himself talking, which you'll get the merest flavour from in these excerpts. He has his own unique take on Gerry Adams' retirement, one that is a long way from what you'll read in most mainstream newspapers. And for that alone he is worth quoting.

He writes that:

"…the political career pursued by Adams is totally different from that which a career politico embarks on. Some are born into that lifestyle, especially in Ireland. Despite independence we inherited the British political system lock, stock and barrel; cronyism, clientelism, cute hoor politics, a nod and a wink, family dynasties, the absolute worst of politics to keep a class in power and create power and wealth for those elected."

Talking about the background that Adams grew up in, he points out that:

"…there was community and spirit that never extinguished throughout everything -- poverty, deprivation, discrimination, foreign troops on their streets throughout 30 years of conflict. If anywhere personified refusal to keep the head down it was Ballymurphy!

"Gerry is from that community; it keeps him grounded. No champagne socialist here or Galway tent merchant, if he was ever tempted he would soon know about it the next time he walked up the Whiterock or to Mass in Corpus Christie: 'catch yourself on big man' would be a mild local interpretation of anyone embracing newfound airs and graces".

Both Paddy and Gerry Adams went to St. Mary's grammar school at the bottom of the Falls Road, with a few years' difference between them:

"In fact we are probably St. Mary's Alumni, as well as 'Belfast Bartenders Alumni' and in later years 'Alumni' from the University of Long Kesh.

"I first met him at a ceili in the old Felons Club his dad had been instrumental with other 'ex Felons' in founding, after their 'extra curricular' activities in the failed 1950s campaign….

"We met again the night of the Falls Curfew, just escaping the encroaching web of British 'democracy' as a whole community was imprisoned for three days. The wisdom and foresight of the future TD was valuable as always: 'there would be more prudent days in the future.' Unfortunately the next few times our paths crossed the choice of location wasn't intended.

"The Prison ship HMS Maidstone was docked in Belfast Lough in 1971…we shared our nautical location, 300 of us, all non sailors, with 700 marines who probably thought they were in the Falklands/Malvinas…

"In early January seven of our crew tore up PM Brian Faulkner's personal letter of welcome: 'You are considered a threat to the State and as such interned under Her Majesty's pleasure', or words to that effect, signed 'Brian Faulkner MP', a future failed equestrian exponent.

"'Threat to the State' – we were seventeen FFS, more a threat to family tranquility as teenage rage kicked in. The seven who escaped, slid down ropes naked and covered in boot polish to keep warm in the January frost, swam across Belfast Lough and hijacked a bus to freedom, the poor bus driver in puritan Belfast shocked by seven naked men on his bus rather than 'escaped terrorists'!"

Later, it was on to a new location:

"…we swiftly swapped accomodation from a 'floating paradise' to a hastily revamped WW2 RAF camp outside Lisburn, a place which would soon personify the conflict…Long Kesh."

I suppose that people of my generation will still recall those two words – Long Kesh -- with chills down the spine. Known as The Cages and later as H Blocks, they imprisoned 15,000 Republicans and 10,000 Loyalists over a quarter century, what Paddy calls "a generation of lost youth." But, he adds:

"The Cages were also a place of great creative activity: the Larry Marley's of this world exercised the mind by figuring out how to get out of the place -- under, over, through the wire but definitely not by the front gate.

"Gerry Adams, while a firm advocate of the value of education, also embraced the Larry Marley school of thought and with 'Blue' Kelly decided a blanket fog one night would facilitate early release, but while Blue's 'Sat Nav' was set for Carrick Hill and provided positive results, Gerry was destined for Cage 17, just across from our domicile in Cage 18.

"The rest is history; the Cage 17 'think tank' provided the foundations for the 'long war'…

"The crux of this is that those who continually attack the the outgoing SF President would maybe need to walk a mile in his shoes. Life can be nature or nurture, environment creates the person…

"Ballymurphy created the man Gerry Adams became, his politics community based and not careerist; his little idiosyncracies late in life with his ducks, tree hugging and recently embracing Snapshot show a gentler image than the Dublin 4 caricature."

My thanks to Paddy McMenamin and the Tirconaill Tribune for letting me reprint all that I have space for. Believe me, Paddy is well worth reading in full. It appears in the February 1 edition of the paper under the headline of Gerry Adams… A Ballymurphy man of our times; and it will provide an antidote to what you might otherwise be reading about his departure.

You can always email me at chasbrady7@eircom.net or visit my blog at www.cbsays.com

"Welcome Home"

Mick Mike Morley

Our country has been in the grip of a controversy that arguably began 55 years ago with President John Kennedy's televised assassination. The bright ideals of a booming generation, born into a new atmosphere of freedom following America's victory over fascist dictatorships, were dashed. In a unanimous decision by their government and a replacement president, this generation was cast into a nightmare war to test America's will to thwart communism. In a bizarre coincidence mirroring the growing generational divide, the then smoldering conflict was stoked into raging fire by bogus "enemy" radar blips reported by a destroyer among the U.S. Navy forces commanded by the father of soon-to-be youth rock idol Jim Morrison.

For the next eleven years many American boys traded a comfortable life stateside for a perilous hallucinatory existence, dodging death in a hot, primitive heart of darkness. Nearly 60,000 would never see America again; more than 150,000 were badly wounded. Many of their peers at home, though, protested their struggle, encouraged by an increasingly cynical media and entertainment industry. Growing numbers of young people, students, "hippies", rejected authority, embraced drug culture, and joined protest groups. The movement naturally attracted activists, pacifists and those with radical family ties. That war diluted belief by Americans in the honor and rightness of their country and leaders.

At the fore of our current government gridlock are many with central European roots: Schumer, Feinstein, Wyden, Heinrich. Their outlook may be colored by earlier 20th century conflicts. Billionaire George Soros grew up in Nazi occupied Hungary and now applies his fortune to supporting radical social change. His funding fuels ANTIFA, (modeled on the German Communist Party's [KPD] Antifaschistische Aktion militant political gangs of 1930's Germany) and protests like those seen in Ferguson.

Both political parties, as well as most major media organs were stunned by the 2016 election. They were so confident in the speed and accuracy of their information gathering that they forgot entirely about that election 70 years ago when conventional wisdom and the best polling declared it "inevitable" that Republican N.Y. Governor Dewey would be elected President. But unlike Republicans in 1948, the defeated Democrat candidate and her party are throwing an epic conniption.

The Republican establishment was not too thrilled either to have a non-establishment president. Turns out a conservative Republican website had funded anti-Trump research by Fusion GPS, a company founded by Wall Street Journal writers. Once Trump was nominated the Clinton campaign and the DNC funded the project. A former MI-6 British spy was hired in June 2016 and he collected a series of memos-the dossier, described as interview notes. Bruce Ohr, a Department of Justice official, then brought the dossier to the FBI without disclosing that Fusion GPS was paying his wife, a former CIA employee, for work on the dossier, nor did he obtain a conflict of interest waiver for those payments. The DOJ used the dossier to obtain a warrant to wiretap a Trump adviser, but didn't disclose to the judge that the DNC and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's campaign had funded the research and that Ohr had a financial relationship with the firm that performed it.

For over a year now our government has been held in near paralysis by this new "Russia" scare which has produced nothing of substance. It's bizarre that Russia is now seen as a bugbear by some who saw little threat during the Stalin era.

The jury is still out, perhaps until midterm. Progressives mock deplorable Catholics when parishioners marvel at the occasional weeping statue. Yet they get all dewy-eyed during interviews, saying that if immigration is slowed "the statue of liberty will shed tears." I wonder, can officials promoting a welfare state be unaware that simultaneously promoting open borders and unrestricted immigration must lead to national bankruptcy? That policy appears to have no rational basis other than quasi-religious fervor: Democreligion. Emma Lazarus was a poet and follower of Henry George who advocated a type of socialism based on public ownership and taxing of land. In 1883 when her poem ("Give us your tired, your poor… The wretched refuse of your teeming shore…") was read in a fundraiser for the Statue of Liberty's pedestal, US population was 54 million. It's since increased over 600% to 300 million, while economic opportunities available to unskilled labor have dwindled. By contrast, China's economy in 1952 was about 68 billion. Today China has a GDP over $11 trillion; second only to the US.

And, unlike the U.S., the only immigration encouraged by communist China is by Overseas Chinese. Very few foreigners live there. The 2010 census showed that in China's population of 1.4 billion there are few more than 1 million from all foreign countries; including some 72 thousand US nationals.

Hypocrisy is ignored. Consider Dianne Feinstein in the Clinton era: "Mexico does nothing to enforce its borders. It is my view that if we are to have a NAFTA that Mexico must do its share, because the day when America could be the welfare system for Mexico is gone… You have to concentrate on saying the people who should be here are those who came legally…" Bernie Sanders voted against H.W. Bush's immigrant amnesty, calling it detrimental to American workers. Charles Schumer under Obama: "Illegal immigration is wrong, plain and simple", he declared. The Secure Fence Act of 2006, authorizing the construction of 700 miles of fencing on the U.S.-Mexican border, passed the Senate 80-19. Among those voting in favor were Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Chuck Schumer, Dianne Feinstein, and Joe Biden.

Do you want these people running the country? They can't stand not being in charge, yet can't even win an election they rigged.

If a parade is prepared for Independence Day I'd hope it would focus on members of the military, not their weapons. It would be great if a spotlight is shone on those veterans roundly ignored and hated by the left when they returned from Vietnam. They came "home" were rejected, and most stopped mentioning the war at all; bottling their past. Whether wounded in body, many are wounded in soul. Vietnam vets are known to greet each other sarcastically with: "welcome home".

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Watch a show on the web: http://IRISHTV.US Chicago cable TV: Channel 19: Monday 7PM, Tuesday 2PM

Comcast: NORTH suburbs: Channel 19 or 35: Tuesday, 6PM

WEST suburbs: Channel 19 Tues., 7:30

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An Immigrant's Musings

Michael Leonard

No Deal

So the self-proclaimed "king of deal-making" has come up short again and proved that his word is simply not to be trusted. President Trump had spoken publicly and promised to sign a bi-partisan immigration bill if it were brought to his desk. But, surprise, surprise, Mr. Trump did not have the courage of his convictions and follow through on his promise. He is reliable only in his consistent vacillation and if he keeps this pattern up will very likely go down in history as one of the least trustworthy Presidents ever to occupy the oval office.

What is of or should be a major concern for each and every citizen of this land is the fact that we now have a leader who leaves us wondering, what does this man actually stand for? It is well documented that even among elected members of the Republican Party, there are many who wonder, what principles does Trump really hold?

Every great leader will have a core set of values, which motivate the individual to run for office. Such an individual will have clear arguments with which they can defend their point of view. It really is difficult to know where Mr. Trump stands on a whole range of issues. It is almost incredible that it would take the leader of these United States one whole week before he comes out with a statement condemning domestic violence and violence against women in general.

It is also pretty clear that Mr. Trump is beholding to a small alt-right group of right wing Republicans who come to his defense every time he supports their white only agenda. This was evident again in his response to the mass shooting in the Florida High School. It is not enough to simply condemn this as the action of an individual who has mental health issues. Why can't he and sensible elected officials make a genuine effort to ban the sale of assault type weapons to the public? How many more innocent victims must we see slaughtered in our schools, public venues or churches before this country wakes up and says enough is enough?

King Arthur and the witch

Young King Arthur was ambushed and imprisoned by the monarch of a neighboring kingdom. The monarch could have killed him but was moved by Arthur's youth and ideals. So, the monarch offered him his freedom, as long as he could answer a very difficult question. Arthur would have a year to figure out the answer and, if after a year, he still had no answer, he would be put to death.

The question?....What do women really want? Such a question would perplex even the most knowledgeable man, and to young Arthur, it seemed an impossible query. But, since it was better than death, he accepted the monarch's proposition to have an answer by year's end.

He returned to his kingdom and began to poll everyone: the princess, the priests, the wise men and even the court jester. He spoke with everyone, but no one could give him a satisfactory answer. Many people advised him to consult the old witch, for only she would have the answer. But the price would be high; as the witch was famous throughout the kingdom for the exorbitant prices she charged.

The last day of the year arrived and Arthur had no choice but to talk to the witch. She agreed to answer the question, but he would have to agree to her price first. The old witch wanted to marry Sir Lancelot, the most noble of the Knights of the Round Table and Arthur's closest friend! Young Arthur was horrified. She was hunchbacked and hideous, had only one tooth, smelled like sewage, made obscene noises, etc. He had never encountered such a repugnant creature in all his life.

He refused to force his friend to marry her and endure such a terrible burden; but Lancelot, learning of the proposal, spoke with Arthur. He said nothing was too big of a sacrifice compared to Arthur's life and the preservation of the Round Table.

Hence, a wedding was proclaimed and the witch answered Arthur's question thus: What a woman really wants, she answered....is to be in charge of her own life! Everyone in the kingdom instantly knew that the witch had uttered a great truth and that Arthur's life would be spared. And so it was, the neighboring monarch granted Arthur his freedom and Lancelot and the witch had a wonderful wedding.

The honeymoon hour approached and Lancelot, steeling himself for a horrific experience, entered the bedroom. But, what a sight awaited him. The most beautiful woman he had ever seen lay before him on the bed. The astounded Lancelot asked what had happened

The beauty replied that since he had been so kind to her when she appeared as a witch, she would henceforth, be her horrible deformed self only half the time and the beautiful maiden the other half. Which would he prefer? Beautiful during the day... or night?

Lancelot pondered the predicament. During the day, a beautiful woman to show off to his friends, but at night, in the privacy of his castle, an old witch? Or, would he prefer having a hideous witch during the day, but by night, a beautiful woman for him to enjoy wondrous intimate moments?

Noble Lancelot said that he would allow HER to make the choice herself. Upon hearing this, she announced that she would be beautiful all the time because he had respected her enough to let her be in charge of her own life.

Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at: Michael@straussrealty.com

Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler

What is the Irish fiddle? The Irish fiddle is a violin it's just played differently. Some people might say the fiddle and violin are different instruments, but they are basically the same instrument. Using the term fiddle is a colloquial term used for playing Irish, country or folk music. People say violin when they use it for playing classical music. The difference is in the specifics a violin is a fiddle, but a fiddle is not necessary a violin. For ex. A man is a mammal, but a mammal is not necessary a man, some say any bowed instrument can be called a fiddle. There are several cultures and styles that use the violin too, for ex Klezmer (Jewish tradition), Polish, Indian, Mexican, Jaz, and Bluegrass. Even within the Irish fiddle tradition they have different playing styles including: Silo, Clare, Donegal, etc.. The reason they say Sligo for example is the people in that county influenced each other and so on. A man named Michael Coleman, an exceptional fiddler player was a major proponent of the Sligo style. (born in Sligo, died in NY) The Irish fiddle is heard all over the world, whether it's a pub session, concert or ceili. The Irish fiddle has its own ornamentations that make it distinctly Irish. To play the fiddle they say, use your ears not your eyes. I am always fascinated by how instruments enhance our lives just by listening to them. It's the Mozart effect. When you listen to the fiddle it effects your brain and ignites creativity and stimulates memory.

"The older the fiddle the sweeter the tune." That could be applied to people and wine too!

I spoke with the talented and elegant Liz Carroll from Chicago about her playing the Irish fiddle. Her parents came from Co. Offaly and Co. Limerick.

Liz started playing when she was nine years old. Her grandpa also played the fiddle. She won the All-Ireland Junior and Senior Championships in Ireland in 1974 and 1975. She went on a tour of Ireland in the '70s with Chicago's Dennehy School of Irish Dance. She plays all over the world at festivals and concert venues and she also teaches at Irish and folk music camps throughout the U.S. She has performances coming up in France and Sweden.

Liz fondly states that she enjoys the playing of all fiddlers but growing up one of her idols was Belfast-born Sean McGuire.

I can only imagine the commitment, dedication and hard work that Liz and countless other fiddle players put into their craft. Thank you for continuing the tradition and sharing your love of music! There is usually a fiddler playing in a host of Irish bars all over the city. Hopefully, I have inspired you to want to hear a tune. If you'd like to watch a movie about the Irish fiddle, check out "The Boys & Girl from Co. Clare" starring Colm Meaney.

It's that time again for the Gaelic park queen contest, she will be announced at GPK around 7:30, March 3rd. I hope everyone will come out and march in the St. Patrick's Day parade. The so side parade is on March 11th, starts at noon at 103rd Western. Virginia's Book Club this month will be on, March 11, 1-3pm at the IAHC, the book is title, "The mark and the Void, by Paul Murray.

Gaelic for the month

violin-veidhlin Music-ceol

St. Patrick's Day-La Fheile Padraig

Seanfhocail for the month:

An rud a théann i bhfad téann sé i bhfuaire.

What goes on for a long time loses its attractiveness-

Questions or comments email: Molanive@yahoo.com

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In Honor of Officer Paul Bauer

All Angels Charging!

The snow in Chicago finally began to thaw . . .
releasing more angels . . .
- for the larger, big commanding angels of the city
all ran much too quickly along with Commander Bauer
as he ran to defend us all!
with the largest angels of this town chasing that bad guy
who would dare to hurt us.

All the tall, streamingly lovely angels
of all of downtown Chicago had no choice!
but to run with him!
-just pick up and run!
not even thinking of shields and swords
or halos to bring with-
for they only saw that purest clearest gleam
of truth and light and knighthood and protection shine so!
quickly and clearly circling round
from this officer's heart, mind and soul
who only thought without one more thought
" - Chicago! - I have to defend her!"

-an officer whose life set in motion the high alert
to bring in the biggest squad of accompanying angels . . .

His policeman's soul light was much too glowing to be ignored
or to leave any angels
just standing around in the streets
-for on a grand mission now
quickly they gathered together in force to meet
with him and only charge on! - - -
They were such a brigade!, a division!
Crying their own battle cry and city's song of
"He's charging! - so we are charging too!
This is our only cry! from brothers all along

Then they saw their other mission
as shots rang out and Killed their valiant commanding hero that day!
Their second mission but to gather his soul and spirit body
so quickly in their bravest of warrior arms
and toward bright heavens away!
-as fellow fierce battle buddies with him.
Escorting him beyond the clouds - these angels must ever stay!
-Chicago's angels.

So as the snow melts in Chicago - other angels
must rise up like warrior lilies to live in Chicago too
-to sing or bad guys to slay,
or to pray . . .

These angels will soon be on patrol
in places on the streets
or to watch with their large warrior souls
over all other officers they meet.
But even these beg God now that never again!
must they run to charge together
as such a force with a Chicago's finest
backing his bravery
with their own -

Today they only pray as snow melts in Chicago,
"Please Officer Bauer,
You! - now still must serve and protect Chicago!
You! get rid of all the crime here! - somehow, God-how!
from your angel-filled
God blest - heavenly home!

And a rider-less horse is seen
running through the melting snow in Chicago
awaiting the orders
from it's Commander
as it still patrols somehow
-yet not quite alone . . .

February 13, 2018 Diane Klima

www.100clubchicago.org

The 100 Club of Chicago provides for the families of first responders who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This membership based organization offers several forms of financial assistance, access to resources and moral support. All sworn federal, state, county and local first responders stationed in Cook and Lake Counties are included.

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Michael I. O'Malley

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