JULY 2019
irishamericannews.com

Francis O'Neill Irish Arts Kids Day Camp (Northside) July 29 - August 2

Irish Cultural Camp at Gaelic Park (Southside) August 13-15

Phil Coulter Show
Sep 29 pg 13 & 48

iBAM! 11 Pg 14-15

Irish Fest Spread
pages 25-40

Front row is Edward Zulkey, Eoin Lawless, Eamonn Shevlin
Back row Charlotte Johnston, Ellie O'Connor, Meghan Flynn, Eloise Klinger

Story Page 59

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Expecting Excellent Weather and Great Craic for the 34th Irish Fest July 12 - 14

Get your Irish on at the 34th Irish Fest this July 12, 13 and 14. The celebration is truly a showcase for all that's special about our Center and the opportunity to show off what we do throughout the year. This year's fest promises a stellar music lineup built for all ages and tastes and cultural programs that make us stand out from your average street fest.

McPeake

This year's music lineup welcomes some fresh faces and some long-time favorites back to the fest including several bands and musicians direct from Ireland including guitar virtuoso Shane Hennessy and one of Ireland's most-acclaimed bands, Tupelo. For those into Americana and American folk and bluegrass music come out on Friday night for California band Dustbowl Revival and local bluegrass band Coyote Riot.

We are pleased to welcome back to the festival NYC Irish rockers The Prodigals and Rory Makem will be there for two not-to-be-missed performances. Of course, the weekend also features local favorites such as The Boils, The Larkin and Moran Brothers, The Dooleys, Whiskey Mick, The Chancey Brothers, St. Stephen's Green, The Joyce Boys, Kennedy's Kitchen, Mulligan Stew, Jim Sullivan and Friends and The Dirty Wellies.

Interested in researching your family tree? Visit the library for research tips from our genealogy. Irish theatre your thing? Catch an original one-act play about modern romance. History buff? Pull up a chair and learn about the Women of the Easter Rising or the Castles of Ireland in 2 multimedia presentations.

Head to the Art Gallery to see the work of world-renowned Irish photographer Barry Butler for his one-of-a-kind photo exhibit "Along the Lake and Across the Pond" featuring world-class photos of Chicago and the Irish countryside. Butler will have framed pieces and prints for sale we're thrilled to have him back.

Want to learn a new instrument? Join us for bodhran workshops on Saturday from Michael Austin and Jackie Moran, two of the best players that Chicago has to offer.

Something fun for the kids? Our Children's Area offers crafts and games all weekend. The Chicago White Sox Street Team is on hand all weekend with activities for your young slugger. Dog lovers can meet Irish Wolfhounds from the Great Lakes Irish Wolfhound Association.

Tupelo

A cuppa tea perhaps? One of our most popular offerings is our Shamrock Tea Room. Stop in for tea, scones, music and air conditioning!

The pipes are calling all weekend with the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band and Bagpipes and Drums of the Emerald Society, CPD.

Interested in dancing the night away? Stop by Friday night and join the Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor for free lessons and a ceili under the stars with Tommy Masterson and friends. Or take in performances from the best in Irish dancing from The Trinity Irish Dancers, The Mullane Godley School of Irish Dance, Weber Irish Dance, Foy School of Traditional Irish Dance, The McNulty School of Irish Dance and the O'Hare School of Irish Dance.

House of Hamill

Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfetones

If trad is your thing, don't miss performances from The Academy of Irish Music, Shepherd School of Irish Music, Murphy Roche Irish Music School and Irish Music School of Chicago. They all promise a taste of the talent that our Center has to offer among our student musicians and their talented teachers.

We'll be featuring some of Chicago's most acclaimed traditional Irish artists including John Williams, Dennis Cahill, Steve Morrow, Peter Brady, Kathleen Keane, Aislinn Gagliardi, Annie Andrews, and a very special tribute to local legend Noel Rice from Baal Tinne.

Visit www.irishfest-chicago.com for the full schedule and to purchase tickets. Tickets are $10 in advance and $15 at the door. Children 12 and under are free.

Hours are: Friday, July 12 from 6pm-Midnight, Saturday, July 13 from Noon-Midnight and Sunday from Noon-11pm. Mass is at 10:30am on Sunday (fest ticket required) and BreakFest follows at 11:30am with a full buffet from Harrington's Deli and Catering. Tickets are $12 for adults and children 12 and under are $8.

Want to leave the car at home? Free shuttles run from the IAHC entrance to a parking area at Wilson and Lamon starting at 7pm on Friday, 1pm on Saturday and Noon on Sunday.

We hope you can join us all weekend long and help this make the best Irish Fest ever!

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UPCOMING CONCERTS AND PROGRAMS

Project Pins and Needles Class, Series Two

Learning sewing and quilting with the IAHC's very own Nimble Thimbles. Instruction covers include sewing machine instruction, fabric selection, finding fabric grain, cutting with a rotary cutter and using a cutting mat. Ages 12 and up.

Wednesday evenings: 7/31, 8/7 and 8/14, 7pm-9pm • $135

Connla in Concert

Hailing from Armagh and Derry, Connla are a five-piece Irish Celtic band who play traditional Irish music and music inspired from across the globe. The band returns to the Fifth Province Pub for a free concert this summer. **Thursday, August 23, 8pm • Free**

IAHC Children's School Summer Camp

Kids ages 8-14 have fun as they learn the basics of Celtic art, Irish dance, music and drama.

August 5-9, 10am-2pm

Tuition: $100 members, $125 for non member per student

Irish Fest

Get your Irish on at the 34th annual Irish American Heritage Festival on July 12, 13 and 14 with 3 days of music, dance and fun for the whole family on 6 stages. See Irish Fest section

July 12, 13 and 14 • Friday, 6pm-Midnight

Saturday, Noon-Midnight • Sunday, Noon-11pm

$10 in advance and $15 at the door

Children 12 and under: Free

For all upcoming IAHC events, visit www.irish-american.org

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President's Message

As the calendar turns to July, we turn our attention to the 34th Annual Irish Fest weekend on July 12 -14.

Irish Fest is truly a showcase for all that is special about our Center and our opportunity to show off all that we do throughout the year. This year's festival will be no different with cultural activities throughout the building all weekend long and a great music lineup built for all ages and tastes. Discounted pre-sale tickets are available until Thursday July 11, so get your tickets now! Come out and join us for one of our largest fundraisers and if you'd like to volunteer during the weekend, reach out and join the team!!

In other news, the IAHC is pleased to announce that there are several concerts in the works for late summer and fall with our Fall Concert Series. We are pleased to welcome back one of the hottest bands on the Irish music circuit, Connla, on Thursday August 23rd. Connla has been wowing audiences around the world for the past few years now and we're thrilled to welcome them back to our Center for an intimate pub show next month.

Perennial favorites The High Kings are back for TWO shows on Friday, September 6 and Sunday, September 8. Tickets are on sale now and these are sure to be sell-outs, so get your tickets now.

Critically acclaimed Mayo band, Billow Wood, makes their IAHC debut on Thursday Sept 19 in the Fifth Province.

We will continue to keep you updated as we add concerts to what is sure to be a full slate of fantastic Irish music this fall.

Finally, board elections were held in June and I'd like to ask that you join me and the Board in welcoming back to the Board of Directors; past-President Gene Cooney along with first-time board members Eileen Griffin, Caroline Hennessy and Anne Marie Herlehy. Their commitment to our Center is imperative in continuing on with the successful fiscal and cultural mission of the IAHC.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Irish Fest!

Mike Shevlin, President

Visit www.irishfestchicago.com to lend a hand at Irish Fest!

No Cover *Free Parking*

the fifth province

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

JULY ENTERTAINMENT

Music Starts at 8pm unless otherwise noted

7/5 TBA
7/6 Jim Conway and Friends
7/12 Irish Fest
7/13 Irish Fest
7/19 Seamus Fun Band
7/20 Sons of Susan
7/26 Dave Dunne and Joel Batty
7/27 Party Music

Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions: July 4, 11, 18 and 25

July 2019

7/4	Independence Day	Building Closed	
7/5	Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor	Room 111	8pm
7/12-14	Irish Fest	Full Venue	
7/16	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7pm
7/28	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Mon-Fri	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	4pm-8pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
Wed	Weekly Genealogy Consultations	Library	10am
	Traditional Irish Music Session	Room 111	7pm
	Na Gaeil Irish Language Class	Library and Room 304	7pm
	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	7-10pm
Thurs	Na Gaeil Irish Language Class	Library	11am
	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal	Room 306	7pm
	The Thursday Shindig Music Session	Fifth Province	7pm
Fri	Francis O'Neill Club Ceili	Room 111	8pm
Sat	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	10am-8pm

Library Hours: Tuesday 10am to 2pm | Wednesday 4pm to 8pm | Saturday 10am to 2pm

The Heritage Line Staff

Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Meg Buchanan, Laura Coyle, Catherine Kelly, Nancy Moore, Sheila Murphy, Mike Shevlin, Becky Tatz

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Irish American Heritage Center
Chicago, Illinois

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34th ANNUAL IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL
JULY 12, 13 and 14

FRIDAY JULY 12

MAIN STAGE
The Byrne Brothers	6pm-7pm
Coyote Riot	7:30pm-9pm
Dustbowl Revival	9:30-11pm

SOUTH LOT
Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band	7pm-7:15pm

CHILDREN'S AREA
Ceili Mor Lessons	7pm-8pm
Ceili Mor	8:15pm-10pm

FIFTH PROVINCE STAGE
Kathleen Keane and Peter Brady	6pm-7:30pm
House of Hamill	8pm-9:30pm
St. Stephens's Green	10pm-12am

ROOM 109
Vendors	6pm-9pm

AUDITORIUM STAGE
Foy School of Traditional Irish Dance	7pm-7:30pm

LIBRARY RECEPTION
Genealogy and Book Sale	6pm-8pm

ART GALLERY
Along the Lake and Across the Pond: A Photo Journey of Chicago and Ireland with Barry Butler	6pm-8pm

SATURDAY JULY 13

MAIN STAGE
Irish Heritage Singers	12:30pm-1:30pm
Dooley Brothers	2:30pm-3:45pm
Larkin and Moran Brothers	5pm-6:15pm
Tupelo	7:15pm-8:45pm
The Prodigals	9:30pm-11pm

FOLK STAGE
Kennedy's Kitchen	1:30pm-2:30pm
Trinity Irish Dancers	2:30 - 3pm
Jim Sullivan and Friends	3:45pm-4:45pm
McPeake	6:15pm-7:15pm
Comedy Showcase	9pm-10:30pm

SOUTH LOT
Bagpipes and Drums of the Emerald Society, CPD	4:45pm-5pm

CHILDREN'S AREA
Games and activities	12pm-6pm
Meet the Irish Wolfhounds	2pm-2:30pm

SATURDAY JULY 13 *(continued)*

FIFTH PROVINCE STAGE
Aislinn Gagliardi and Annie Andrews	12pm-1pm
John Williams, Dennis Cahill and Steve Morrow	1:30pm-2:30pm
Byrne Brothers	3pm-4pm
Rory Makem	4:30 - 5:30pm
Baal Tinne: A Tribute to Noel Rice	6pm-7:30pm
The Boils	8pm-9:30pm
Whiskey Mick	10pm-11:45pm

ROOM 109
Vendors	Noon-6pm

ROOM 111
ShamROCK Stars Singing Contest	3pm-4pm
Bodhrán Lesson with Mike Austin	5pm-6pm

AUDITORIUM STAGE
Weber Irish Dance	3pm-3:30pm
Trinity Academy of Irish Dance	5pm-5:30pm

SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY NORTH
Academy of Irish Music	2pm-3pm
Irish Music School of Chicago	3:30pm-4:30pm

LIBRARY RECEPTION
Genealogy and Book Sale	12pm-6pm
Irish Textile Demonstrations	1pm-5pm

LIBRARY (SOUTH ROOM)
Rainbow's End: One Act Play	1pm-1:30pm
Introduction to the Irish Language	1:30pm-2:15pm
Lecture: Irish Literary Revival	2:30pm-3pm
Lecture: Women of the Rising: Healers & Heroines	3:30pm-4pm
Love's Old Sweet Song: Tenor Mark Piekarz	5pm-6pm
The Castles of Ireland	6pm-6:45pm

ART GALLERY
Along the Lake and Across the Pond: A Photo Journey of Chicago and Ireland with Barry Butler	12pm-5pm

MUSEUM
Exhibits and Tours	1pm-5pm

ROOM 302
Irish Passport Tutorial	3pm-4pm
Irish Citizenship Tutorial	5pm-6pm

ROOM 311
Children's Irish Dance Lessons with Trinity Irish Dancers	1pm-4pm

TEA ROOM *(Shamrock American Room 2nd flr)*
Tea, sweets and live music	12pm-4pm

SUNDAY JULY 14

MAIN STAGE
Mass	10:30am
The Byrne Brothers	12:30pm-2pm
McPeake	3pm-4:30pm
Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones	5:30pm-7pm
Tupelo	8:15pm-9:45pm

FOLK STAGE
Misericordia Heartbreakers	12pm-12:30pm
Shane Hennessey	2pm-3pm
ShamROCK Stars Contest Winner	3:15pm-3:30pm
Rory Makem	4:30pm-5:30pm
House of Hamill	7pm-8pm

SOUTH LOT
BreakFEST	11:30am-12:30pm
Young Irish Fellowship Club Bags Tournament	1pm-4pm
Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band	8pm-8:15pm

CHILDREN'S AREA
Games and activities	12pm-5pm
Meet the Irish Wolfhounds	1pm-1:30pm

FIFTH PROVINCE STAGE
Academy of Irish Music	Noon-1pm
The Joyce Boys	1:30pm-3pm
Mulligan Stew	3:30pm-5pm
In Spite of Ourselves	5:30pm-7pm
Dirty Wellies	7:30pm-9pm
Chancey Brothers	9:30pm-11pm

ROOM 109
Vendors	Noon-6pm

ROOM 111
ShamROCK Stars Contest Finals	2pm-3pm
Bodhrán Lesson with Jackie Moran	3:30pm-4:30pm

AUDITORIUM STAGE
Mullane Godley Irish Dance Academ	1pm-1:30pm
McNulty School of Irish Dance	3pm-3:30pm
O'Hare School of Irish Dance	4:30pm-5pm

SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY NORTH
Murphy Roche Irish Music School	12:30pm-1:30pm
Shepherd School of Irish Music	2pm-3pm
Academy of Irish Music	3:30pm-4:30pm

LIBRARY RECEPTION
Genealogy and Book Sale	12pm-6pm
Irish Textile Demonstrations	1pm-5pm

SUNDAY JULY 14 *(continued)*

LIBRARY (SOUTH ROOM)
Rainbow's End: One Act Play	1pm-1:30pm
Introduction to the Irish Language	1:30pm-2:15pm
Tracing Your Roots: A Genealogy Primer	2:30pm-3pm
Songs and Ballads of the Irish Tradition: Clara Lyons and Mark Piekarz	3:30pm-4:30pm
Uilleann Piping Demonstration with Patrick Cannady	5pm-6pm

ART GALLERY
Along the Lake and Across the Pond: A Photo Journey of Chicago and Ireland with Barry Butler	12pm-5pm

MUSEUM
Exhibits and Tours	1pm-5pm

ROOM 302
The Memory Lounge	12pm-3pm

ROOM 311
Children's Irish Dance Lessons with Trinity Irish Dancers	1pm-4pm

TEA ROOM *(Shamrock American Room 2nd flr)*
Tea, sweets and live music	12pm-4pm

MEMORY LOUNGE
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Irish Musicians and Industry Come Together on 'Street Lights' CD for Charity

A host of Ireland's musicians have joined forces as 'Street Lights' an album to generate funds for the most vulnerable, the homeless. Peter McVerry Trust, Simon Community Ireland and Focus Ireland will be the recipients of all profits of the single and album sales, which they have agreed will go directly to rehoming and rehousing on a national level.

The Street Lights collective, consisting of artists and Irish Music Industry professionals, have come together to record and release Paul Simon's classic single 'Homeward Bound'. Recorded in Camden Studios with producer/arranger Cian Boylan, the single features performances from a host of prolific artists including The High Hopes Choir, Gary Lightbody, Cathy Davey, Villagers, Loah, BONO, Little Green Cars, Roisin O, Join Me In The Pines, Saint Sister, Colm Mac Con Iomaire. Street Lights single 'Homeward Bound' is available across all digital platforms now and is followed by the release of the full 'Street Lights' album.

15 songs have been carefully selected by artists and organisers to feature on the self titled album 'Street Lights. The album features songs from Bell X1, Snow Patrol, Saint Sister, Richard Hawley with Lisa Hannigan, James Vincent McMorrow, Damien Dempsey, Luka Bloom, Villagers, Stephen James Smith, David Gray, The Frames, Lisa O'Neill, Glenn & Ronan and Celtic Woman.

Street Lights' is available across all digital platforms now , cd at www.celticcollections.com - also on Instagram: Facebook: Twitter:

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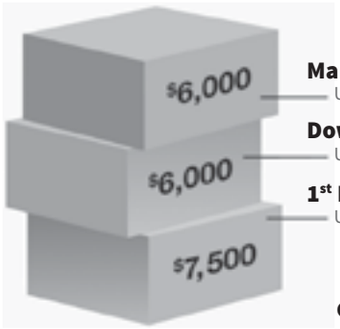

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Making Waves at Milwaukee Irish Fest with a Galway Showcase

Milwaukee Irish Fest is excited to feature the vibrant music and culture of Galway! In 2020, Galway will reign as the European Capital of Culture, which is one of the most recognized EU projects. The initiative began in 1985, with the idea to put specific regions at the heart of cultural life across Europe. Through culture and art, European Capitals of Culture improve the quality of life in the selected regions and strengthen the sense of community.

The concept for Galway2020, as the European Capital of Culture, is Making Waves. It is about creating new ways of thinking, new ways of working, new conversations and new partnerships aimed for ensuring a more creative Galway. Galway2020 will explore themes of Migration, Landscape and Language - to celebrate the diversity of cultures in Europe on the backdrop of Galway whilst promoting the city, county and the collective imagination of the Galway region.

The Galway showcase at Milwaukee Irish Fest is presented by the festival, Galway2020 and Culture Ireland.

Get a taste of Galway in Milwaukee, August 15 - 18 at the Henry Maier Festival Park in Milwaukee, Wisconsin! Tickets are on sale now for only $15 at irishfest.com. Get your tickets before the price goes up after July 1!

Galway Showcase Performers

Galway 2020 Gaillimh European Capital of Culture

BackWest - a highly energetic four piece group that consists of Irish traditional music and dance

The Kane Sisters - a traditional Irish fiddle-playing duo from Connemara

Galway's Own, We Banjo Three

Leo Moran & Padraig Stevens - a folk duo, both of whom were a part of The Saw Doctors

We Banjo 3 - a set of two brothers performing a blend of traditional, folk and bluegrass music

The Whileaways - a captivating group performing original Irish roots music

Galway History & Culture

In the Cultural Pavilion, you will find exhibits and displays featuring the art and history of Galway, such as the Galway Historic Maps Exhibition, which is a part of the Royal Irish Academy's Irish Historic Towns Atlas series. Author Paul Walsh and Jennifer Moore from the RIA will be available to offer further insight.

Artisans from Galway will showcase and demonstrate their artwork near the Galway showcase stage. Irish painter Joan Finnegan will showcase her latest artwork at the festival's Cultural Village.

In the Hedge School pavilion, you can listen in on a presentation from Paul Walsh about renaissance Galway in the mid-seventeenth century. On Sunday, August 18, Milwaukee Irish Fest invites fest-goers to attend the international launch of the Paul Walsh's new historical work Renaissance Galway. The subject of the book is the remarkable "pictorial map" of Galway, which was produced in the mid-seventeenth century. It offers a bird's eye view of Galway city at this time and presents insights into the cultural, socio-political and religious outlook of the local ruling elite—the so-called "tribes" of Galway. Walsh will also present in the Hedge School on Saturday, August 17 about happenings in Galway during the middle of seventeenth century.

At the Meehan Boat House (an area that displays currach boats for fest-goers to see along with historical facts) at Irish Fest, there will be a feature of the famous Galway Hooker sailboats, brought to you by the Milwaukee Currach Club and the Galway City Museum. There will also be a 3D model of the famous Galway Bay, as well as a display of sails and rigging systems.

More information about the cultural highlights of the Galway showcase is available at irishfest.com. Get tickets to Milwaukee Irish Fest at irishfest.com. 4-Day passes are currently on sale for only $35 and general admission tickets are only $15 (until July 1). The festival takes place August 15-18 along the shores of Lake Michigan at the Henry Maier Festival Park in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brody

Welcoming Trump… and Other Words We Mustn't Use

I've been thinking lately about climate change. And about golliwogs.

There you go: if talk of climate change has begun to bore you as much as it does me then that word - 'golliwogs' - probably grabbed back your attention.

It is one of the many words that are no longer acceptable in polite company. It's a relic of a past where hurtful and casually racist expressions were used regularly. Yet those of you who are old enough to remember it will recall seeing that bizarre caricature that it represented for much of your early life, when it peered out at you, unremarked on, from the labels of Robinson's jam jars.

It is an image that has quite rightly been consigned to History's overflowing rubbish bin. After all, we're all a bit more 'woke' now… supposedly, in any case. But it came back to mind recently due to - of all things - the visit here to Ireland of President Donald Trump.

I was listening to the usual hysterics getting themselves into a right old trousers-wetting frenzy about the cheek of the man to come here on a private visit, conveniently forgetting that he had in fact been invited by then-Taoiseach Enda Kenny. (Lord, was that only just over two years ago? It feels like a lifetime.)

And it seems to me that if you invite someone to your home then you at least have manners enough to be a good host. And in the main Ireland was that, I'm glad to say. In fact, apart from the expected contingent of headbangers who were out there demonstrating against the visit - the visit of a sitting American President who also actually employs people in this country, to me a very good thing - it all went off quietly enough. At least this time we didn't make an unholy show of ourselves, as we did when he paid a previous visit, back in the days before he was President and considered to be the harbinger of the End of Days or one of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse…or something.

On that memorable occasion a no-doubt bewildered Trump stepped off the plane only to be confronted by comely maidens dancing at the crossroads; harpists; singers; and a nice red carpet. All we were short of doing was dressing a couple of guys up as leprechauns, with Darby O'Gill and the Little People on backing vocals, and the country's humiliation would have been complete. Of course, we did instead wheel out some government representatives to bow and scrape to him, doffing imaginary caps and all but mumbling, with heads low and eyes averted: "Gob 'n' begorra, sir, but is it to be throwin' a bit of the ould work our way you do be here for? "

Bloody Hell, those images are still burned into the national psyche and may take a generation to get rid of.

So all in all I'm glad that this time it was a more subdued affair. But there still was that Trump Blimp on show. You know the one, the 'witty' caricature of a Baby Trump complete with a little nappy. And it got me wondering what would have happened if, during HIS visit here, those of us who didn't like President Obama had floated a golliwog above their demonstration.

Can you imagine? Seriously, can you imagine? There would have been such howls of protest that they would have been heard on Pluto. And rightly so. I'm all for the right to protest but that baby balloon is just pathetic. It was even worse in the U.K. where he had been the week before and there was a giant image of Trump sitting on a toilet seat.

I just don't get it. We have welcomed other statesmen (and some of them with seriously dodgy track records) and you didn't get that kind of ignorant and insulting behaviour displayed towards them. But, for whatever reason, when it comes to Trump it is open season. Anything goes.

Of course, his attitude to global warming sends people off on one as well. It's outrageous, I tellz ye! Outrageous! And his visit came at around the same time as we were getting our results on the latest round of elections, something else that I find harder and harder to pay any attention to. Yet you would need to have been in a coma not to have noted the rise of the Green Party.

Now you would expect them to have a few words to say on the environment in general, what with the giveaway in their name - but all I could think of was how they behaved in Ireland the last time they got in shouting distance of a little bit of political power. Guess what, they behaved EXACTLY like every other political group you ever heard of. In other words, they were all for themselves and screw the people who elected them.

Playing a particular blinder this month was Dublin's Ciarán Cuffe, who has been with the Greens since 1982. In fact a new savior of the planet is all but announced now, so well did he do. Congratulations.

Still, it's amusing to recall that in 2003 Mr. Cuffe stepped down temporarily because it had to be dragged out of him that, quite apart from fighting the good fight for the future of Planet Earth, he had a nice little earner on the side in the shape of substantial shares in ChevronTexaco, Exxon and four other oil companies. "Just a misunderstanding", sniffed Green leader Trevor Sargent at the time.

I guess that another misunderstanding was with the shares he had with the American Sara Lee corporation, which at that time was getting it in the neck from concerned environmentalists over their unfortunate tendency to *ahem* pay rock-bottom prices to Third World farmers.

I'm not really having a go at Mr. Cuffe; well, nothing more than a half-hearted one anyway. It's just that I don't believe any of them anymore. If a politician told me that Hell was black at midnight I'd still be checking it out first. And all politicians - of every party - felt that this time they had to spout some half-assed rhetoric on how they were concerned to their caring little fingertips about the effect we are having on this genuinely amazing globe of ours. We are and there's not a doubt about that. But do I believe that they give a rat's ass about it beyond droning out some tedious buzz-words? Not a bit of it.

Some of my younger acquaintances really DO give a damn. In fact, this old cynic's heart has been gladdened at just how much they are seriously concerned. I like that. Stops them playing with their phones.

But I've been here before. In the sixties and early seventies we had it drummed into us how overpopulation would have us living in cupboards by the year 2000 on a staple diet of Soylent Green. Well, that didn't happen because this planet has a way of taking care of itself. This planet will survive us. Look at the way the soil around Chernobyl has begun to cleanse and heal itself in a totally unforeseen way, with wildlife now thriving in the area.

Whether we ourselves will survive us - and whether we really deserve to - ah, that's another days' work.

chasbrady7@eircom.net

25th Annual
Leprechaun Hunt©
Family Fun Day
Sunday, August 4, 2019
Gates open at 11 am C.D.T.
Hunt from noon to 5 pm C.D.T.
Food & Entertainment noon to 6 pm C.D.T.
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No Carry Outs
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A Community for Other Abled Adults
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• Hayrides • Moonwalk • Fishing • Obstacle Course •
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6357 N 300 E, La Porte, IN 46350
Entrance fee: $50* in advance, $55 at the gate
Seniors (65+): $45* in advance, $50 at the gate
Children 13 and under, FREE if accompanied by parents or grandparents
*Money must be received in our office by Friday, July 26 to qualify for advance sale price
Reservations: (219) 778-2585 — www.leprechaunhunt.com

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IRISH COMMUNITY SERVICES IMMIGRATION NEWS

"No Match" Social Security Letters

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has recently announced that they are issuing "no match" letters to employers. These are sent when a name or Social Security number on an employer's W-2 does not match with the SSA's record. This practice first started in 1993 and ceased in 2012. It was reinstated this March. These letters are sent either to the employee's home address or to an employer. Since the "no match" letters started in March, around 575,000 employers have received them. The main purpose of these letters is to ensure that employee's earnings are being correctly tracked for retirement or disability benefits but can have disproportionate effects on immigrants.

A "no match" letter does not necessarily mean that you are not authorized to work. Often times they are due to an administrative error or a name discrepancy. For these reasons, immigrants can be given "no match" letters more often due to use of compound names, misspelled names, or inconsistency in legal documents.

The letters clearly state that employers should not "take adverse action" against you if they receive a "no match" letter. Employers have no reason to fire, discipline or discriminate against someone with a "no match letter". They also have no authority on the "no match" letter alone to require employees to bring in their Social Security card or other immigration documents. If an employer does any of these things they may be violating the law.

The SSA itself has no authority to enforce immigration laws. However employers receiving "no match" letters may have a higher chance of I-9 inspections. If ICE is doing an I-9 audit they will likely ask employers for records of "no match" letters and how the company responded. As of now it is unknown whether the SSA is directly sharing information with DHS/ICE but it is possible.

What To Do If You Receive a "No Match" SSA Letter

Review the information in your W-2 and I-9 forms for errors.

If you receive a letter at home you do not need to tell your employer. Just because you received a letter does not mean your employer did too. If your employer did receive a letter, ask them for more information. You can also ask for a copy of the original letter.

If you are part of a union, contact your union representative. Your representative can go with you to meetings with management. Additionally if you are a part of a union you may have additional employee rights. If you are not part of a union, you can ask a trusted coworker to be present in meetings about the letter. If need be, seek legal advice of an immigration or employment attorney.

You should not be fired or discriminated against for receiving a letter. If this is the case you can again utilize your union or an attorney. If you are authorized to work you can also file a charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. It is important to remember that employees can seek to enforce their workers rights without fear of ICE intervention.

Temporary Visitor Driver's License

A Temporary Visitor Driver's License (TVDL) allows individuals without a Social Security number to legally drive within Illinois. TVDLs are not a valid form of identification, they are only for driving purposes. TVDLs are available to both visa holders and non-visa holders; as such, law enforcement officers cannot assume someone with a TVDL is undocumented. The Secretary of State office has stated they will not be providing information to, or turning anyone over to ICE.

ILLINOIS

Get Your TVDL

Preparation	What to Bring	At Your Appointment
-Go to the CyberDrive Illinois website to find a facility location -Some locations require you to make an appointment which you can make on the website -Check your driving record with the Secretary of State to make sure you have no outstanding tickets or suspensions	-Proof of 12 month residency in Illinois -Proof of current residency (Two documents) -Proof of name, date of birth, and signature -Valid Passport or Consular ID Card -Verification of Residency Form (found on CyberDrive Illinois website) -Proof of Car Insurance -If you are 18-20 years old, proof of completion of a six hour adult drivers education course	-Take a vision screening, written, and road test -Pay a $30 fee -Have your picture and signature taken -All documents will be scanned -If approved your TVDL will be mailed in 15-20 business days

Learn More: https://www.cyberdrivelllinois.com/departments/drivers/TVDL/home.html

If you have received or are concerned about no match SSA letters please contact ICS to make a free appointment with an immigration attorney. All consultations are confidential, call 773-282-8445 or email info@irishchicago.org to make an appointment.

*This article is meant to be informative and is not legal advice. For legal advice contact ICS

*Employer and employee implications may be different. It is better to seek advice individually.

Immigration Legal Clinics

Free 30 minute consultations, *by appointment only*. Call 773-282-8445 to reserve your place. Additional clinic dates may become available.

Wednesday July 17th
3:30-6:30pm

Thursday August 15h
4:00-7:00pm

Irish American Heritage Center
Suite 301
4626 N. Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL

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Support for people with memory loss and those who care for them.

Connections
Monitoring Against Memory Loss

MEMORY LOSS 101

Here's the need-to-know basics of memory loss and dementia. For more detailed information and resources, contact the Alzheimer's Association (see reverse for contact details)

DEFINING THE ISSUES

Let's take a look at some of the most common terms used when talking about memory issues.

Memory Loss

- Being unable to remember previously learned information and experiences.
- Being unable to retain new information or make new memories.

Dementia

- A collection of symptoms that are the result of a brain disease or physical conditions such as an infection or stroke.
- Memory loss is a very common symptom of dementia. Others include changes in behavior and personality, and reduced problem solving skills.

Alzheimer's Disease

- Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia.
- Alzheimer's disease causes physical changes to the brain.

COMMON TYPES OF DEMENTIA

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE	Alzheimer's is the most common type of dementia. It is caused by a buildup of proteins in the brain. This causes problems with thinking and memory. Alzheimer's is a degenerative disease meaning it gets worse over time.
MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT	People with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) have problems with memory, language, thinking or judgement that are greater than the cognitive changes associated with normal aging. MCI may or may not develop into Alzheimer's or other dementias.
VASCULAR DEMENTIA	A Vascular Dementia happens when the blood supply to the brain is blocked or damaged. The brain cells are deprived of oxygen and die.
FRONTOTEMPORAL DEMENTIA	Sometimes also referred to as Pick's Disease and Primary Progressive Aphasia. Frontotemporal often affects younger people. This dementia is caused by damage to the frontal and temporal lobes of the brain which control personality and behavior.
LEWY BODY DEMENTIA	Lewey Body Dementia impacts the parts of the brain that involve thinking and movement. Symptoms can include those of Parkinson's Disease - muscle, stiffness and shaking.

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF DEMENTIA

- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]

5.8 million

alzheimer's association

1-800-272-3900

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alzheimer's association

Support Group

for those with an early-stage memory loss and their caregivers

Wednesdays

9th July - 27th August

10 AM - 11.30 AM

Chicago Gaelic Park

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

773-282-8445

THE

MEMORY LOUNGE

AT CHICAGO IRISH FEST

The Memory Lounge offers a more relaxed environment for those with memory loss to enjoy a range of Irish cultural performances, activities, and traditional refreshments. Visitors can stay as long as they like while their caregivers enjoy other offerings throughout the building. This program is FREE and professional caregivers will be on hand to assist guests who need a little extra help.

IAHC IRISH FEST
Sunday 14th July
12 PM - 3 PM
Room 302

For more information call Irish Community Services
773-282-8445

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Memory Enrichment Program

A FREE 8 week program for those with mild memory loss to exercise their mind and strengthen memory

Wednesdays

10th July - 28th August

10 AM - 12 PM

Chicago Gaelic Park

773-282-8445

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July Event Schedule

- **Memory Loss Support Group:** Tuesday, July 9th (10am) in Gaelic Park
- **Memory Enrichment Program:** Wednesday, July 10th (10am-12pm) in Gaelic Park
- **Youth In Action Summer Discovery Program:** Monday, July 15 (10am-4pm) in the IAHC
- **Memory Loss Support Group:** Tuesday, July 16th (10am) in Gaelic Park
- **Youth In Action Summer Discovery Program:** Tuesday, July 16 (9am-4pm) in the IAHC
- **Youth In Action Summer Discovery Program:** Wednesday, July 17 (9am-4pm) in the IAHC
- **Memory Enrichment Program:** Wednesday, July 17th (10am-12pm) in Gaelic Park
- **Immigration Legal Clinic:** Wednesday, July 17th (3:30-6:30pm) in the IAHC (by appointment only)
- **Youth In Action Summer Discovery Program:** Thursday July 18 (9am-4pm) in the IAHC
- **Memory Loss Support Group:** Tuesday, July 23th (10am) in Gaelic Park
- **Memory Enrichment Program:** Wednesday, July 24th (10am-12pm) in Gaelic Park
- **Memory Loss Support Group:** Tuesday, July 30th (10am) in Gaelic Park
- **Memory Enrichment Program:** Wednesday, July 31th (10am-12pm) in Gaelic Park

'The Songs I Love So Well' A One Man Show With Phil Coulter

Performed in the Newly Renovated Mayfair Theater in the Heritage Center

The great Phil Coulter will perform one show only in the newly renovated Mayfair Theater at the Irish American Heritage Center on Sunday, September 29, at 3 pm. Tickets under "Upcoming Events" at www.irish-american.org.

Phil Coulter is an acclaimed Irish artiste with an international reputation as a songwriter, pianist, music producer, arranger and director.

The Songs I Love So Well celebrates Phil's storied career. With his warm Irish brogue and his distinctive keyboard style he presents some of his most personal and best loved songs and tells the stories behind them.....songs like Steal Away, The Old Man, Ireland's Call, Scorn Not his Simplicity, My Boy and his classic, The Town I Loved So Well, recently voted one of the Top Ten most popular Irish songs of all time.

Phil is one of the biggest record sellers in Ireland with numerous Platinum, Gold and Silver discs. His career spans more than five decades, garnering a Grammy Nomination for his Celtic New age album Highland Cathedral, two Grand Prix d' Eurovision Awards and amongst other honours, the prestigious Gold Badge from the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors. His songs have been recorded by a wide range of global stars from Elvis Presley to The Bay City Rollers and a who's who of Irish acts including Van Morrison, Sinead O'Connor, The Dubliners, The Irish Tenors, Celtic Thunder and The High Kings.

This promises to be a one off evening, not to be missed by lovers of good music.

The address is 4626 N Knox Ave., Chicago IL 60630.

We Get Letters

Dear Editor:

Have to tell you how shocked I was to see your "We Get Letters" section on page 3 of the recent June issue of the ***Irish American News***. The writer, Judy Deever, applauded the IAN and the Irish American Hall of Fame committee for their fairness and good sense, but then went out of her way to trash myself and a couple of other columnists with this bon mot, "Sure, writers like Boyle, Brady and Houli are not always pleasant reading...."

Judy...Judy...Judy! While I'm flattered to be included in their company, Judy, it appears that you haven't been paying attention. Perhaps if you could drag yourself away from the Rachel Maddow show you would realize that I haven't written regularly for the IAN for over three years!

While I'm proud of my twenty-year tenure as a columnist in the IAN with my "Hooliganism" column, I stopped writing it in 2016. I haven't written for IAN since, other than occasional promo pieces on my radio shows, film festival, or trips to Ireland, which my old friend Cliff Carlson has been kind enough to run in the paper.

I'm also proud Judy, of the fact that I obviously made such a lasting impression on you that you still feel my presence three years after I've left.

I had a lot of fun with Hooliganism, and it spawned two published anthologies you can purchase online if you'd like to re-read my brilliant yarns Judy. But please be careful, I wouldn't want to trigger you darling.

Actually there's been quite a bit of conjecture in the Irish American community as to why I no longer write for the paper. So I'd like to put that to rest.

Many folks thought I was fired for my "offensive and politically incorrect" humor, but that's nonsense of course. How can you be fired from a gig that doesn't pay?

I will forever be grateful to Cliff Carlson for giving me an opportunity to indulge my whimsy and entertain myself and hopefully some readers from 1996-2016.

The fact is, I got busy. In 2014 I founded a public charity dedicated to Irish and Irish American culture and found myself busier than a one-legged man in an ass-kicking contest. It was tough keeping up with all that culture.

That's also about the time I became aware of a disease in our culture: misandry. This disease manifests itself in a nihilistic, secular world view, hell bent on destroying the sacred, the spiritual, and even the silly. They want to take the magic away. And much of the laughter as well. They just can't understand normal thinking!

We know these people as "Houli-haters", and they've followed me throughout my career, casting aspersions and contempt in my wake. Rather than suffer their slings and arrows I chose to walk away, but still you haunt me, don't you Judy Deever.

So here's my olive branch. My good friend Brian Harms recently designed a terrific new t-shirt specifically for all you Houli-haters out there. You can buy them online at brianharms.threadless.com Go the site, click mens or womens t-shirts, pick your color and size and you're in business, Judy!

Here's a photo of my cousin Meghan, modeling her shirt, which she just loves. And yes, ladies, we do carry the Houli-Hater t-shirts in Triple XXXL sizes for all you full figured gals! Order your shirts in pink to match your pussy hats!

Mike Houlihan, Chairman, Hibernian Transmedia NFP

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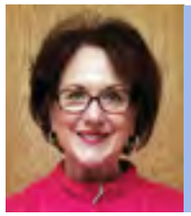

On the Upbeat

By Maryann McTeague Keifer

Tis the season of introducing new albums, and a real corker has just been released by master musicians Kevin Crawford, Colin Farrell, and Patrick Doocey. MUSIC AND MISCHIEF is a stunning collection of newly composed and traditional tunes arranged with a brightness and high-spirited touch that will immediately take you to a happier place feeling relaxed and joyful. It has been a steady companion since I received it.

All three are exceptionally accomplished musicians. Kevin, born in Birmingham, moved to Clare for many years, and now living in New York is a long time member and spokesperson for the iconic band Lunasa. I would run out of room listing the musicians and events he has been a part of. He has long been considered one of the foremost flute, whistle players, and composers in Irish music. Born in Manchester of Irish parents from Cavan and Galway, Colin has been playing since he was 8 and in bands since 12 years of age. If you can name an Irish musician, he has played with them. Presently, he has been a regular member of Lunasa, especially here in The States, when Sean Smyth is unable to be with them due to his physician duties at home. I love when both are playing-deadly! An award winning fiddle and whistle player, as well as an accomplished composer, Colin is fast becoming one of the most talked about Irish musicians. Patrick has long been a highly respected and sought-after accompanist in Irish music. American born in Massachusetts, he moved to Foxford, Co. Mayo before returning and settling in New York. He is an award-winning multi-instrumentalist, and amazingly self-taught on the instrument on which we know him best-the guitar.

Anyone who has spent time with Kevin and Colin or been to a concert of theirs, will have a chuckle at the album name. The humor and banter on and of stage well supports the title of MUSIC AND MISCHIEF! As you enjoy the music and think of their smiles, laughs and lighthearted chiding, you cannot help but feel happiness as you have a listen. Opening with a set including a waltz, jig set, and a reel, Mouse in the Mug orients you to the album's balanced mix-

ture of tunes which also includes a march, slide, hornpipe, polkas, and Galician selections. If you have a favorite, it is included. Their play is fluid and consonant with harmonies that would suggest a familial relation. They are that good. Also accompanying on this album are the prodigious piano keyboardist Stephen Markham, Alan Murray on bouzouki, and Tony O'Flaherty on piano.

I haven't been able to choose favorites yet, well, other than Maryann's choice which I was humbled and so touched that Colin wrote for me... All tunes are well chosen or composed and pull at you in different ways. I do keep getting drawn to the slow pieces, The Headspinner and The Road to Foxford. Kevin and Colin each have solo sets that feature their mind-blowing talents. Kevin chose an unusual piece by Ferdinando Carulli, Opus 34 Duo in G that he gives incredible feeling to as he plays. Colin's set Head First/The Night Heron/The Happy Shadow/The Wild Lime is a combination of a jig and reels that will have you up dancing in the kitchen. We'll have to find out the story behind The Wild Lime! Patrick has no solo, but if you head to the beginning of The Road to Foxford, you'll get a taste of great guitar. His accompaniment keeps the sets solid and flowing with great balance. The Pure Irish Drops featuring Colin and Kevin both on whistles and Patrick's guitar forefront is uplifting and absolutely delightful! You can almost hear the stomp of the dancers' shoes as you listen to the Johnny Cope hornpipe. While they opened with a waltz, MUSIC AND MISCHIEF takes us out with a lilting set named Pelican Marsh that is so delightful, it has you hitting the restart button to listen to the album one more time.

We are so very fortunate as listeners with all the great music available to us. MUSIC AND MISCHIEF is sure to be one of the most talked about and enjoyed this year and for years to come. It is a gift of tunes and talent that is a must own for all who love Irish music.

Sabrina Palm, Steve Crawford.

A quick mention of another new album and musical duo you will want to check out and enjoy is two by guitar and vocalist Steve Crawford and fiddler Sabrina Palm. CONNLA's super piper Conor Mallon sent me this album which he is featured on assuring me I would enjoy their music, and enjoy I have! Steve is a singer, guitarist, and composer from Aberdeen who loves to feature the great Scottish themes of lost love, the sea and the hills of his homeland. Sabrina is a beautiful fiddler from Bonn Germany who has been playing Celtic music all her life. You will immediately enjoy her style which has a beautifully light touch taking you flowing through the music. Also joining them on accompaniment are the great bodhran player Robbie Walsh and Paul Bremen on viola. This album is a fine mix of traditional, several Sabrina compositions, and tunes from well known musicians such as Brian Finnegan, Kris Drever, and Gordan Duncan.

It is well worth adding to your collections. Thanks, Conor, this is a winner!

It has been a very busy spring. We sang our hearts out in March. In April, we opened with a selection of Irish poetry set to music for the Palestrina Choir from Dublin. They were wonderful. I must say that we were quite good as well. In May, we sang for the Benedictine sisters at St. Scholastica. We did a professional recording at that session. I've heard a couple of the recordings and they are very well done. We are in the throes of rehearsing new music for the fall concerts. And we must not forget that Irish Fest is coming in July. We do a concert in the main tent on Saturday, July 13, at 12:30 and we will sing mass on Sunday, July 14, at 10:30. July is also the month when we sing at Hines Hospital for the veterans. This performance each year is very special to us. The vets particularly enjoy hearing from our Bob Healy. Bob was a Marine in the Korean War and was wounded. He tells his story and he sings Danny Boy for them. Emotions run high on both sides.

We're still looking for a few basses, baritones, and tenors. Even if you don't know where your voice fits but you love to sing, come and audition for our director, Paul Matijevic. He'll place you in the right section. You don't have to read music, but it helps. We work hard and sing interesting Irish-based music. Irish music isn't just familiar folk songs. Though we work very hard, we also have fun along the way. Give it some thought. We'll be glad to see you.

This month I'm introducing you to Melissa Penny. Melissa is the youngest member of the choir.

She sings first soprano. Melissa has always loved music. At a young age she loved to watch performance programs on PBS such as Cats, Les Mis, Celtic Woman, and Celtic Thunder. She started taking private voice lessons in grade school, which led her to apply and be accepted to School District U-46's Visual and Performing Arts Academy, with a focus on vocal training. In March 2015, she saw the Irish Heritage Singers perform at the Poplar Creek Library. After the performance she walked up to Paul, the music director, and asked to join the choir. He warned her that besides having to drive "300 miles" she'd also be adopted by all the grandmothers in the choir. Joining the choir has been one of the greatest decisions in her life. The choir gets to perform great Irish music at a variety of locations. Everyone is amazing, and it really is a family, according to Melissa. Melissa says her greatest fan is her amazing mother, Monica. Melissa wouldn't have made it as far as she has without her mother's love and support. She is forever grateful to her.

May I add that Melissa is one of the nicest people you will ever meet? The IHS are grateful to have her, and we're happy that she likes us too.

Stay tuned for a busy fall and winter season. Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 10 at 3:00 in the Erin Room. We will be presenting our annual concert with new, beautiful Irish music. You won't want to miss it.

A Stitch In Time

By Monica Dougherty

"Crafts make us feel rooted, give us a sense of belonging and connect us with our history. Our ancestors used to create these crafts out of necessity and now we do them for fun, to make money and to express ourselves."

Phyllis George

In the early 1980s a passionate and ambitious volunteer crew began transforming the abandoned and derelict Mayfair School building into the Irish American Heritage Center. It was to be a home to celebrate and preserve their Irish culture and heritage. They also asked themselves some questions. How could they share the gifts of their heritage? How could they pass them down to future generations? How could they make a difference?

Many visionaries and dreamers began forming groups where dance, language, music, theater, education and festivals could be preserved and celebrated. Led by many of the original founders, a group of women formed a sewing group and named themselves The Nimble Thimbles. Using some of the skills passed down to them by mothers or grandmothers or aunts and also learning from each other, they grew into a group of quilters and artisans who work at all forms of needlecraft including quilting, embroidery, fabric art, knitting and crocheting, tatting and lace making. They work both independently creating bags, dolls and doll clothes, needlepoint projects and they work together on group pieces. All of this creativity takes place in a room located on the second floor near the library, archive room, museum and the art gallery. The entire floor is an ongoing tribute to Irish heritage, culture and learning, and is a perfect answer to those early questions, a way to pass down the information and foster new interest.

Each year The Nimble Thimbles create a quilt that they begin showing at the St. Patrick's Day festival. The last date of each year that people can buy tickets for that year's quilt is at the annual Christmas Bazaar. And right after the holidays they begin planning and working on next year's quilt. They also sell many of their other handmade items and quilts at all the other festivals and major events throughout the year and 100% of all the profits go directly to the Irish American Heritage Center. To date the group has contributed a little over $162,000 from the raffles and sales over the years.

They also make a positive difference in the community by making articles for the homeless such as sleeping mats, mittens and scarves; doing various projects for the Heritage Center; donating quilts to Rainbow Hospice and crocheting and knitting hats for preemie babies. Last year they began making Christmas stockings for the troops through Operation Support Our Troops-America. Last year the group sent over 200 stockings to Operation Support and hope to increase that number this year.

A very special project they are currently working on is a wall hanging made from ties donated by many of the volunteers who still come each week and continue to give of their time and talents to make sure the building remains in in good shape. The ties are cut and pieced together and then sewn to a background. The piece will hopefully be displayed throughout the year, a fitting and wonderful testament to the crafting skills of The Nimble Thimbles and the dedication of all the craftsmen and women to the original vision of the founders!

The group meets every Tuesday morning from 9:30 a.m. until about noon and on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in their very busy room on the second floor. You don't have to be an expert to join. It's the perfect place to learn. Recently they offered a short series of sewing lessons. The next series will begin at the end of July. When you visit the Center be on the lookout for some of the displays on the second floor and be sure and visit their table at Irish Fest, iBAM! in the fall and the annual Christmas Bazaar. Details can be found at www.irish-american.org.

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Shepherd School of Irish Music Taking Their Music to Ireland

Devin Shepherd and Marta Cook Lead the Way

By Monta Monaco Hernon

Traditional Irish music has survived through the ages thanks to passionate people dedicated to teaching the next generation—people like Devin Shepherd and Marta Cook.

World-class musicians on fiddle and harp, Shepherd and Cook are two such individuals seeking to share their great love for their craft with young musicians around the Chicago area.

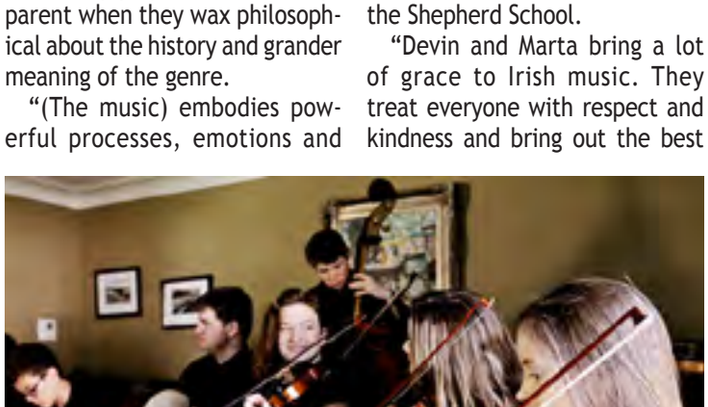
It has only been a few years since the Shepherd School of Irish Music opened its doors (lessons are given at venues like Gaelic Park and Mrs. Murphy's Bistro on the North side), but already Shepherd and Cook have put together winning bands. In fact, the pair is preparing to take a 15-18 Grupa Cheoil to Drogheda, Ireland, in August, to compete in the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.

Perhaps more telling, the Shepherd School has attracted some of Chicago's Irish music elite, whose children are now students. Sixteen-year-old Declan McShane, for example, plays bass in the Shepherd School Grupa Cheoil band. His father is singer, musician, prolific songwriter, and IAN columnist Joe McShane, whose songs have been recorded by the likes of Daniel O'Donnell, Andy Cooney, and Nathan Carter.

"Devin and Marta are top-class musicians. It doesn't get much better than (Devin) on the fiddle. He's fantastic with the kids as well. That's a big thing," Joe said. "Their heart is really into the music. I can see that a mile away."

Shepherd and Cook's passion for music is palpable when they play, but it also is apparent when they wax philosophical about the history and grander meaning of the genre.

"(The music) embodies powerful processes, emotions and intelligence through which we can collectively imagine and create the world we want to live in - as everyone who came before us has done and everyone after us will do," said Cook, whose harp music is inspired by her love of fiddling and piping as well as pioneering Irish harper Máire Ní Chathasaigh.



Shepherd is known for regaling students with the stories behind the tunes they are learning and tales of great Chicago musicians. He readily points out that Irish traditional music in its current form has existed for more than four centuries.

"We are part of something bigger than ourselves when we play this music and take part in these cultural activities. Knowing the history enriches our understanding of the music, and shows respect for the musicians who came before us," said Shepherd, who, at the age of 12, earned an Illinois Arts Council Master-Apprentice grant to study with fiddle-great Liz Carroll, and spent many hours playing with Irish-born musicians in Chicago, including Phil Durkin, Frank Burke, and Albert Neary.

This appreciation for tradition, however, is only part of what led flute player Sean Ryan and his wife, Dr. Clodagh Ryan, a fiddle and concertina player, to have their children be involved with the Shepherd School.

"Devin and Marta bring a lot of grace to Irish music. They treat everyone with respect and kindness and bring out the best in every child. They are very dedicated, hardworking, honest and are always thinking of ways for the children to collaborate, to grow as musicians, and to mix with other students. That is the kind of atmosphere that we are looking for—where the focus is on making musicians out of the children and the business comes second," Clodagh said.

Some of the Shepherd School band members have been to the Fleadh in Ireland; for others the trip to Drogheda in August will be their first time. Clodagh went to the Fleadh every year growing up and says that the experience will be not only about performing at the highest level of Irish music, but also about the opportunity to see other bands, hear other students play, and make friends from all over the world.

"It wove Irish music into my character as an adult, which I would love to pass onto my children," Clodagh said.

Cook won a senior title at the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann when she was 19 and Shepherd won first prize in the Midwest Fleadh Cheoil fiddle competition nine consecutive times. They are excited to take this group of students to compete. While a prize would be nice, they agree with Clodagh the Fleadh is about the journey.

"It's an opportunity to bond as a team while making some music you're ready and excited to perform. Then you get to go and meet other young musicians and have a great time," Cook said.

The fulfillment for Shepherd and Cook comes from teaching and seeing each student advance.

"I have the desire to pass on what I know about the music...I love the challenge of breaking down the music and finding the most effective way to help students improve their technique and their musicality. I love watching their progress over time. Eventually when their understanding becomes advanced enough, it becomes fulfilling to discuss the music with them," Shepherd said.

For those interested in supporting the students of the Shepherd School, these young musicians will be playing at the Gaelic Park ceili every Tuesday in July.

Headed to the Irish American Heritage Center festival? Catch the Shepherd School of Irish Music performance on July 14th from 2 to 3 p.m. Look for Shepherd School parents and friends will be guest bartending; tips will go toward the trip to Ireland.

The IAHC will host a music session with the Shepherd School on July 31 from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.; there will be a split the pot raffle to benefit the trip.

Donations to help defray costs of the kids heading to the Fleadh can be made at any time through the Shepherd School website, www.chicagoirishmusic.com.

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GOOD GRIEF

BY JOSEPHINE COLEMAN

We recently lost a wonderful lady who was very important to my family. Let me tell you all about her and how we met. Her name was Kay and in her late sixties. At that time she worked at our local Jungle Jims, you know the kids entertainment Centre. My son loved to ride the little train but the little rascal would cry when I tried to get him off. This kind lady would wink at me and let him stay on longer even though I had run out of tickets. Few months later I was out walking with my son and our new additional to our family. I spotted kay, we got chatting and discovered we lived on the same street 10 houses apart. She informed me Jungle Jims had closed and she was looking for a part time job, mainly out of boredom as her husband had passed.

It was around that time that I had my first bout with breast cancer. I needed surgery and they were working on a treatment. It was a very scary time as my baby was 4 months and my son 5yrs old. My husband and I knew we needed to hire someone to help me out. I gathered myself together walked up to Kays house, explained my situation, she immediately hugged me brought me inside put the kettle on and told me her son had just passed away a few months ago from cancer. That day was the beginning of a wonderful fifteen year friendship.

Kay came to my house every day after my surgery and during all my treatments. She would have the baby washed and fed and truly bonded with my children. Kay would not accept any payment but we would insist on buying her groceries and her favorite chocolate pecan turtles. Kay very quickly became Granny Kay, my children adored her especially as she had a sweet tooth and would slip them some sugary treats. She fulfilled everything my mother and mother in law would have done with our children had they been living here.

Kay was always upbeat and happy, she loved a good laugh, there were days when her and I would banter back and forth and laugh all day. My daughter insisted her granny kay came with her on her first day to Pre School. I soon became involved with the PTA, before long I was running the school dances. I was room mum for both my children. I dragged granny kay in on everything. I had started my own Girl Scout troop. I remember one year we had to teach the school about a craft from your country. I had previously just had a classroom Christmas party and taught the students how to make Christmas Crackers. We grew up with them on the table at Christmas dinner, you cannot have Christmas without them, so anyway I'll explain quickly how to make them as its impertinent to my story you will need Christmas paper cut into 10x6 lengths, the cardboard from inside paper towel or toilet paper, cut into two inches, place two on their side on the paper, stuff them with chocolate candy, balloons, miniature candy canes, little Christmas bell, whatever you can stuff in there ,gather the ends twisting gently, tie with Christmas ribbon. Ok you're with me so far, like I said I dragged poor Granny kay into everything that I volunteered for but sincerely she loved it. On this particular event both of us didn't realize that we would have to accommodate over two hundred students in one afternoon. I thought a few dozen as there were other crafts to make, boy was I ever wrong as soon as the kids saw our table set up with all that Christmas chocolate candy and balloons they made a bee line for us. Luckily I had spare components at home as my girl scouts were making the same Christmas crackers for catholic charities so I ran home but by the time I got back poor granny kays face was flushed, the sweat was dripping of her nose. She had a riot on her hands the kids were grabbing whatever they could but she was still laughing. She was always a trooper. When they built a new park area outside our gate she would swing with my kids slide down the slide with them. We loved to walk so we would walk for miles, we shopped together. She loved my cooking, especially my Irish stews, barley soup, and shepherd's pie so I would call her to wait outside her front door so my children would cycle down with her dinner and of course they never came back empty handed. They would also hang out at her kitchen table doing those little wooden peg games and helping her with her crosswords. It

was a comfort to know she was just up the street.

Granny kay was with us through family tragedies'. Communion .Confirmation. Graduations, you name it she was a huge part of it all. Today it's tough walking up the street past her front door but our family and friends knew how much she meant to us. I want to thank her family for letting us borrow her as we truly loved her and were blessed to have her in our lives. We love and miss you Granny kay. xx

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A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland
Administrator, President and CEO

Whether we start our day with an invigorating shower or end the day with a soothing bath, we all know how much better we feel when we wash away dirt and odors and put on clean clothes. And yet, for people who are experiencing homelessness, finding a place to perform the simple task of washing up can be extremely challenging.

Last month, Catholic Charities celebrated the one-year anniversary of our shower program at the St. Vincent Center on LaSalle Street. Since the showers opened in June of 2018, hundreds of people have experienced the refreshing joy and new hope that a warm shower can bring.

Catholic Charities modeled the showers and accompanying laundry facilities after those created by Pope Francis on the grounds of the Vatican. As the Holy Father explains, the showers and laundry are a concrete way to recognize the humanity and dignity of our brothers and sisters who are experiencing homelessness, and to show God's love and tenderness to people who are too often overlooked.

Almost entirely staffed by dedicated volunteers, Catholic Charities "Pope Francis Ministries" include the showers, the laundry, as well as our Evening Supper program, which has been providing hot meals to the hungry and homeless for nearly two decades. What a blessing these ministries are for us to, in Pope Francis' words, use "our eyes to see, our ears to hear, and our hands to care" for those in need of friendship and a helping hand. We know that we are giving much more than food or place to clean up—being seen and heard by our caring volunteers is profoundly transformative for our guests who feel welcomed and wanted.

One of the main reasons we started the shower program is that we would often hear from our Evening Supper guests that they were embarrassed to apply for jobs, show up for work, or attend counseling or medical appointments when they had not showered or were wearing dirty clothing. We realized that not only was offering a place to shower and change into fresh clothing a beautiful way to offer mercy and grace to our guests, but could be, for many of our brothers and sisters, a critical first step in ending homelessness.

People sign up for the private shower and bathroom in half-hour increments. When guests arrive, they are warmly greeted by volunteers and given a fresh towel and wash cloth; new socks and underwear; shower shoes; and individual-sized toiletries including soap, shampoo, razor and shaving cream, toothbrush and toothpaste, and deodorant. Before their shower, guests are invited to select a new outfit from our clothing room. On days when we have volunteers to staff the laundry, guests can sign up to have their clothing, blankets and other personal items washed, and then come back to pick them up later in the day.

Currently, the showers are being offered three days per week and laundry is offered one day per week. However, with more donations and more volunteers, we could do more! Volunteers sign up in roughly three-hour shifts (9:45am-1:00pm) and can come every week, every month, or on an occasional basis. Needed donations include small or travel-sized toiletries, new socks and underwear, and gently used clothing—particularly men's pants and shoes in larger sizes. Gathering donations would be a great project for school and service groups.

It is amazing to watch the transformation in people as they walk out of the shower with their heads held high, looking and feeling great. Sharing a warm welcome and a warm shower can truly be the first step in restoring a person's dignity and providing hope for the future. We are so grateful to our donors and volunteers who have made this small act of kindness and grace available to those in need.

To donate goods or volunteer for the showers or laundry, please contact Andrew McKernin amckernin@catholiccharities.net or 312-655-7557.

Irish Books and Plays in Review

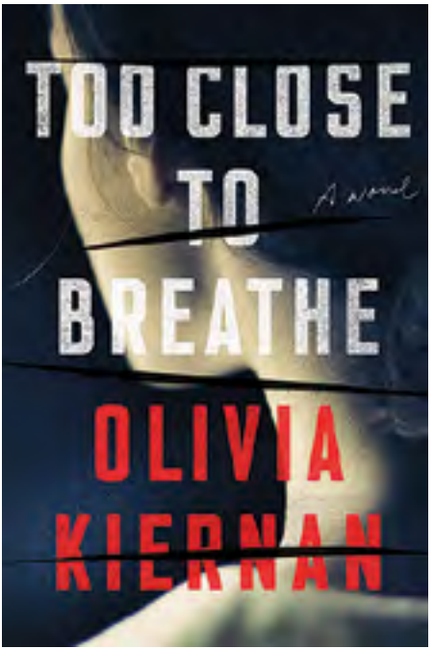
Frank West

Too Close to Breathe

By; Olivia Kiernan, Dutton-Penguin
Available at most bookstores
Review by Frank West

Frankie Sheehan is the fictional Detective Chief Superintendent of police in Dublin. This is a police procedural, as she is investigating the death of a woman who lived in a peaceful suburb of Dublin. At first glance, it appears to be suicide. This is because the body is hanging from a rope. However, there are recent wounds and internal injuries that weren't apparent at first. Frankie is then tasked with the investigation of a possible murder.

Frankie describes the intense emotion-



al pressure that is put on her because the goal of investigating a murder is "to uncover all evidence, investigate each footprint of crime as soon as possible. Each day that passes causes valuable clues to be lost to the mouth of time: DNA samples disintegrate; bodies decompose; statements vary, are revisited; events are reimagined."

Frankie Sheehan's investigation is accompanied by her near death experience four months before. She was pursuing a criminal, when he stabbed her and cut her face. She almost died from the wounds. The skin on her face, where she was cut, is thin and will leave a long scar from hairline to near her mouth. She has frightening memories of the struggle with the criminal with the knife.

Too Close to Breathe is fiction, but clearly shows the dangerous reality that policemen and women deal with every day.

The author of this gripping, and strongly emotional mystery book is Olivia Kiernan. She was born near Kells in County Meath. She earned an MA in Creative Writing from the University of Sussex. Kiernan lives in the UK today. This is her first novel.

I think you will like these quotes from Too Close to Breathe. As the investigation unfolds, Frankie Sheehan observes: "There is an unsettling truth to be learned when profiling a killer. That is how incredibly alike all human are; how worryingly similar our desires, our drives, our fears."

A policeman standing guard says, "I'm afraid that the office is now a crime scene."

The person from an office down the hallway says, "A crime scene? I thought it was a suicide? He mimes the word, 'suicide,' as if his mouth might become contaminated if he says it out loud. Such is the effect of Catholicism on a country: educated, sensible people become blithering elegits in the face of mental illness."

A man in a high building looks from a balcony: "The ambers and yellows of Dublin nightlife play on the scene. Silver fog rolls up off the Liffey and into the chill city, a suitable backdrop for the night: Halloween. A few sirens off in the maze of streets below. Fireworks screech and pop in the distance; backyard fireworks that are launched by the light of family bonfires, children hidden behind plastic ghoulish masks. Trick or treat."

Science, Technology, and Irish Modernism (Irish Studies)

By Kathryn Conrad, Coilin Parsons, and Juli McCormick Weng and 12 others
352 pages, Syracuse University Press Reprint July 2019, Available at Amazon, Kindle and Hardcover

Since W. B. Yeats wrote in 1890 that "the man of science is too often a person who has exchanged his soul for a formula," the anti-scientific bent of Irish literature has often been taken as a given. Science, Technology, and Irish Modernism brings together leading and

emerging scholars of Irish modernism to challenge the stereotype that Irish literature has been unconcerned with scientific and technological change. The collection spotlights authors ranging from James Joyce, Elizabeth Bowen, Flann O'Brien, and Samuel Beckett to less-studied writers like Emily Lawless, John Eglinton, Denis Johnston, and Lennox Robinson. With chapters on naturalism, futurism, dynamite, gramophones, uncertainty, astronomy, automobiles, and more, this book showcases the far-reaching scope and complexity of Irish writers' engagement with innovations in science and technology.

Taken together, the fifteen original essays in Science, Technology, and Irish Modernism map a new literary landscape of Ireland in the twentieth century. By focusing on writers' often-ignored interest in science and technology, this book uncovers shared concerns between revivalists, modernists, and late modernists that challenge us to rethink how we categorize and periodize Irish literature.

About the Author

Kathryn Conrad is associate professor and chair of the English department at the University of Kansas and author of Locked in the Family Cell: Gender, Sexuality, and Political Agency in Irish National Discourse.

Cóilín Parsons is associate professor of English at Georgetown University and author of The Ordnance Survey and Modern Irish Literature.

Julie McCormick Weng is assistant professor of English at Texas State University.

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The Real Red Bloods of Chicago

By Katie Fitzpatrick

The story of the Hughes family is the story of the Irish in Chicago. It is a story of lineage, valor and public service. And, naturally, it is a story that starts with Mrs. O'Leary's cow.

Bridgette McCoughlin Hughes, a widow by all accounts after her husband disappeared in the 1860s California Gold Rush, lived down the road from Mrs. Pat O'Leary. When the infamous fire broke out in October of 1871, her family fled their house at Jefferson and Taylor Streets and witnessed the sheer power and destruction of the Great Chicago Fire. Years later, two of Bridgette's sons, Harry and James, would become firemen, thus setting in motion an unparalleled firefighting family tree that continues to this day.

The Hughes' legacy with the Chicago Fire Department dates back five generations to Bridgette's son James, who joined the force in 1891. Eventually, all six of James' sons, in addition to eight of his grandsons and ten of his great grandsons, would serve with the CFD. At least four of those grandsons and two great grandsons remain on the job today, and that's not counting firefighting in-laws who married into the Hughes family. In all, the CFD force counts an astonishing 40 (or so) Hughes-related firefighters among its ranks.

The CBS television show Blue Bloods pales in comparison - the Hughes are the real deal, Chicago's own Red Bloods. In 1970, the Chicago Tribune Magazine declared: "It was James' branch that forged a family connection with the department that remains unmatched." Indeed, 128 years after James first joined the force, the Hughes have the most men in one family on the CFD.

Jerry Hughes, James' great grandson, is the family historian and confirms that there does not exist a firehouse in Boston, New York or elsewhere with a legacy like the one his family has built.

"A lot of us wanted to do it when we we're kids," said Jerry. "For me, I was definitely going to be a fireman." Now retired, Jerry served 32 years with the CFD as Captain at Engine 49 in the Stock Yards. Jerry's career is impressive in itself; what makes it remarkable is that he is but one Hughes in a long line that has dedicated his time and energy to protecting the people of Chicago from fires. "It made me at least want to be as good as my dad, grandfather, great grandfather," said Jerry. "I wanted them to be proud of me even though none of them saw me on the job."

It should come as no surprise that the Hughes clan share an affinity for hard work and a spirit of valor. Jerry describes good firemen as those who hasten to their apparatus in hopes of beating the surrounding companies to the action. Eager to be the first on the scene, Hughes firefighters preferred to work out of the busier firehouses located on Chicago's south and west sides. The results speak for themselves - a member of Hughes family has been on the frontlines of Chicago's most notorious fires, including: Iroquois Theatre (1903 – 602 dead); Chicago Union Stock Yards (1910 – 21 dead, all CFD firemen); and Our Lady of Angels (1958 – 95 dead, 92 children and 3 nuns). In fact, Time Magazine's cover featuring the iconic image of a CFD firefighter carrying a lifeless boy out of Our Lady of Angels was Richard Scheidt, Jerry's step-uncle.

Jerry epitomizes this danger-be-damned ethos that seems to run through the Hughes' family veins. "When the bell rang, it made me want to get in there first. I wanted to be on the nozzle, putting out that fire," he said. Jerry compares firefighting to Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner: "The anvil sometimes misses us… it sometimes hits us… it's luck of the draw. When it's your time, it's your time."

And so, the Hughes have paid their sacrifices to the people of this City. James Hughes (the second of four Hughes in four generations to bear that name), died from complications following the Green Mill Hotel fire in 1955. While he was the sole Hughes to die in the line of duty, others narrowly escaped, including Jim "Stretch" Hughes (Jerry's father), who suffered serious injury while fighting the Mickelberry Sausage Company fire in 1968.

"In order to find the modern-day equivalent of Irish warriors, all we have to do is look to our first responders," said Mike "Houli" Houlihan, who interviewed Jerry about his family on Hibernian Radio (https://hibernianradio.org/). Houlihan, who said he was inspired by Irish mythology, launched his radio show to honor those who risk their lives everyday - cops, paramedics and firefighters - and features an Irish first responder in each episode. Houlihan called the Hughes' legacy "an amazing story."

"The Hughes family has played a role in the history of the CFD going back 150 years" and continues to today, said Houlihan.

Admittedly, the job has changed since James Hughes first joined the force in 1891. According to Jerry, the Department's tough hours and pay made it a less-than-desirable job, one often reserved for the Irish when they came over. Much of that has changed, thanks to advances in technology and medical protocols like smoke detectors and masks that make firefighting safer and limit the extremity of fires when they do occur. But not all changes are necessarily positive. Back in the day, candidates had to pass a grueling physical test complete with an obstacle course to be accepted into the CFD. Today, the Department has a written exam and operates on a blind lottery system to choose candidates. While this widens the net for potential candidates and limits patronage, it also means that the job may not go to the most qualified person on the list.

"In my day, it was the number one guy," said Jerry. "He was a thoroughbred - the fastest, toughest, most driven person. There are people on the job now for whom this is a job, not a calling. Nothing wrong with that. But hopefully they become good fireman."

Nonetheless, Jerry insists that being a firefighter is a great job. "It's a rewarding job. It pays well. And it's certainly a safe job - people will always find a way to burn things."

Another thing that hasn't changed? The continued and lasting contributions of the Hughes family on the CFD and the City of Chicago.

One wonders what Bridgette McCoughlin Hughes, who was born on the boat that brought her family over from County Monaghan, would say about her family's legacy. Odds are she'd insist - with typical Hughes humility - that her family is just doing their job.

"We are no better or worse than anyone else," said Jerry. "There's just more us."

We know better than that, Jerry. Thank you to the Hughes family for their dedication and service to this City and its people. You've made us proud.

(Jerry Hughes is third from left, in the back row)

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick

A Shared Home Place

At a time when exemplars of good politics are all but absent, the recent publication of Seamus Mallon's memoir, A Shared Home Place, is an event indeed. Its pages reveal a personality completely committed to the political process in the teeth of the almost insuperable obstacles of the Northern Irish Troubles. As a former deputy leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party and a former Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, Mallon's role in recent Northern Irish history has been crucial. While the second half century of Northern Irish politics has been deeply traumatic, there is no doubt that it would have been much worse but for such people as Seamus Mallon.

Mallon's background in the predominantly Protestant village of Markethill, Co. Armagh, is key to the solidity he was to display as a politician. No Catholic with ambitions of advancing in society was welcome. The Catholic school—where Mallon's father taught and where he himself was principal for a time—lay outside the village: a metaphor for the way society was organised. Ascendancy bred raw hostility during the Marching Season every July: neighbours who were ordinarily friendly grew vicious. Yet, as with Seamus Heaney (a man who was also born into the heartland of Protestant Ulster) acknowledged: 'it was a place of community as well as division'.

Mallon made fostering that community fabric his political life's work as a means to defuse the toxic division. The precondition of doing so, he argued from the outset, was a total embrace of political means coupled with complete rejection of violent means. As Mallon wrote elsewhere, the 'mission of politics is to try and solve apparently intractable problems with the power of words and accommodation of the other person's viewpoint rather than the rattle of gunfire and the naked screams of sectarian hatred'.

As joint First Minister of Northern Ireland with the unionist leader David Trimble, Mallon presided over an historic achievement: for the first time since the creation of the Northern State, a power-sharing assembly, reflective of the population's communities, successfully withstood the many plots to destroy it and administered Northern Ireland. Trimble, a difficult man, established early in the assembly a name for imploding. Mo Mowlan, the remarkable British Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, once claimed that her every meeting with Trimble culminated in his storming out. Mallon's own capacity to be difficult is also well known, but his instincts in heated moments are very different. Mallon is a bullish demander; a born confronter; a stayer. In his face-offs with Trimble, Mallon learned to lock the door to pre-empt Trimble's walk outs. Through working together and travelling together, the two grew fond of each other.

Mallon writes movingly about the many tragedies that pockmark the last two generations in Northern Ireland. Throughout the Troubles Mallon attempted to attend every funeral in his constituency, irrespective of which 'side' was bereaved. Two sets of funerals, which he jointly attended with Trimble, form pivot moments in his memoir. One was the funeral of two young men from Poyntzpass, lifelong friends, one a Catholic and the other a Protestant, who were murdered by Loyalists—within a month Mallon and Trimble led their parties to sign the Good Friday Agreement. Similarly, at a time of high tension in Northern Ireland (July 1998, in the wake of the Drumcree Standoff) the attendance of Trimble and Mallon at the funeral of the three Quinn brothers, small children who were killed when their home in Ballymoney was petrol-bombed, enabled people to find the courage to continue to support the political process.

Policing, Mallon argues, is the kernel of the North's stability: 'It is only through justice that we can create peace'. It is therefore unsurprising that one of Mallon's central undertakings and achievements as Deputy First Minister was replacing the RUC, whose policing had been compromised through collusion with Loyalist terrorists and which was inhospitable to the Catholic population, with a reformed police force (the PSNI) which has broad-based support. He also worked assiduously to ensure that the IRA decommissioned its arms.

The closing three chapters of the book attempt to articulate a proposal that the Good Friday Agreement requirement of 50% plus one in referenda in Ireland, North and South, to establish Irish unity ought to be revisited. To Mallon, the vista of a very slight majority is unsettling and threatening to the real unity required for the successful constitutional unity, which is unity between people.

While the sincerity and beneficence of his proposal cannot be doubted, it is, sadly, very hard to see it working. The enormous success that the Good Friday Agreement—with its support of 'the two governments', the political parties in Northern Ireland and the majority of the electorates North and South—is seriously undermined by the ongoing inertia at Stormont. Reconsidering a fundamental provision of the Agreement at this time risks both deepening the division that ruptured the assembly, and steering the focus of more towards numerical support in favour or against Irish unity. It is also jarring as the memoir form is not easily amenable to launching new political departures.

Even so, it does nothing to diminish the value of this book, which stands with the best work written on Northern Ireland. The importance of Mallon, now aged 82, giving us the story of his political life cannot be overstated. Mallon's role in maintaining constitutional politics during the Troubles, in negotiating and implementing essential provisions for shared government is immense. (Senator George Mitchell has referred to Mallon as one of the best negotiators he has ever met). Above all, Mallon's courage—an alternative title for the memoir might be Standing Your Ground—and authenticity in all aspects of his political life rings through these pages. I loved this book.

A Shared Home Place by Seamus Mallon (with Andy Pollak) is published by Lilliput Press

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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

In early June Shannon Airport served as the location for a meeting between President Donald Trump and Ireland's Taoiseach Leo Varadkar. Media photographs captured the nearby sculpture of the Children of Lir. It's significant in Irish folklore meant nothing to the president, but Brexit did coupled with a pledge that Edward Crawford, the American businessman, would soon be sworn in as the next American Ambassador to Ireland. Crawford has been nominated several times, but has been critical of Trump, hence never sworn in.

Trump's conversation included support for Brexit, and its benefits to Ireland which he neglected to spell out. He compared the threat of an Irish Border to the building of his wall in Mexico. The Irish PM was polite though seemingly bored as Trump fawned and congratulated him for the "fantastic job" conducting Irish business. Trump further cited the role Irish immigrants played in American society. It was beyond mirthful when he announced "we have millions of Irish. I think I know most of them because they're my friends."

For the record, President Trump does not know me, nor the immigrant men and women in my circle of friends and colleagues in Chicago, Boston or California, I am bold to surmise he was exaggerating, making conversation he believed would go over well. It fell flat.

At deadline I did not have an opportunity to discuss my idea with Cliff Carlson, our illustrious editor and publisher of Irish American News. I respect him as an editor, he listens to ideas, gives them serious thought on whether or not they are acceptable for IAN. The idea: If four thousand Irish immigrants, thriving in the US come forward as legitimate friends of the US President, Carlson will bequeath a lifetime subscription of IAN to every friend. Watch these pages!

Meanwhile, the memory of an event held at Chicago's Irish American Heritage Center back in the day is worth telling, an eventful standing room only crowd to meet and listen to Irish author Maeve Binchy. She was one of Ireland's prolific and successful novelists and attracted a massive crowd from Chicago and neighboring states. As an attendee who stood

Maeve Binchy

over two hours listing to the golden tongued writer, I marveled at the mastery and humor of her language. It was from Ms Binchy that I learned of Theodora Fitzgibbon. a culinary czar and author of Irish cookbooks.

At the time, Binchy served as editor of the Irish Times Cookery Section and Fitzgibbon produced an article on the diversity of veal. It was scheduled to run in the next day's newspaper. Binchy completed her edit, rummaged through the cookery photo file and opted to use a picture of a casserole dish with two serving spoons. Satisfied she left the newsroom, took the bus home to join her father for dinner.

Dinner over, the pair settled down to watch RTE and the evening news. The headline story featured Dr. Michael DeBakey, a Lebanese-American cardiovascular surgeon, the first to successfully use an implanted heart device, an important step in the development of the artificial heart. Binchy remarked the wonderment she felt absorbing that news report. Suddenly, she stiffened, panic consumed as she barreled out of the recliner. On the screen was the picture of the casserole she used to accompany the piece on the diversity of veal. On TV it was a container for surgical instruments utilized by DeBakey. Panicked, she heaved on her coat to rush to the newsroom, stop the presses and remove the bogus photo. Her father, a lawyer, yelling after her, "Admit to Nothing!

Binchy could not be classified as a slender woman. She ran wildly down the road in pouring rain to catch the bus into Dublin's City Center, and the newsroom, coat flying in the wind, an imposing sight. An alarmed motorist screeched to a halt, lowered the window and inquired if she needed help. Binchy leaned in the car window spilling out the dilemma. Get in, says he, as the Irish do, and whisked her to the Times. Binchy admitted the good samaritan was so enamored by the story he opted to accompany her to the News Room to satisfy his curiosity and witness the rescue mission. As Binchy drawled to her audience, he was a cheeky chap, but "all the same he got me to the building in time."

Composing Room personnel were ready to switch on the presses keenly disinterested and unwilling to change any aspect of the next day's edition. The imploring Binchy begged and pleaded. She was given fifteen minutes to find a replacement photo. Her orders: it had to be a photo to fit exactly in the same space as the DeBakey "dish". Unable to do so, and running out of time, she choose a picture fitting the required size. A photo of a hard boiled egg in an egg cup. It appeared with Fitzgibbon's article the next day with Binchy's caption: "Why eat an egg, when you can eat veal.

Books and the Brits

Few independent bookstores have survived the onslaught and encroachment of the bookseller conglomerates, further decimated by the strength of on-line booksellers like Amazon. Back in the day Chicago enjoyed a thriving bookseller business. The British firm Waterstones opened a phenomenal exciting bookstore, staffed by young Brits, on one corner of Michigan Avenue, and on the other corner Border's Bookstore, a two floors shop stocked with books, both venues staffed by young people who were book nerds, experienced and incredibly helpful. Chicago's own Grace Barry operated a swank coffee shop at Waterstones and conducted a thriving business in the splendor of a British high end book store. Waterstones, also took over the bookstore business at O'Hare International Airport during the reign of Mayor Richard Daley. In turn, Waterstones, bequeath to the newly opened Harold Washington Library a ton of British children's books to stock shelves in the Children's Department. They also underwrote the cost of a Gala soiree to commemorate the opening of Chicago's first class library held in the Winter Garden on top of the highly touted Harold Washington Library.

Businesses fail, and in time Waterstones closed its doors in Chicago and Boston and sold the Waterstone brand back to its original owner Tim Waterstone. Meanwhile

Barnes and Noble has been purchased by Waterstones for an estimated $638 million and will be managed by James Daunt Waterstone's Chief Executive prominent in the book and publishing industries in the UK and the United States. In fact, Daunt is credited with the rescue of Waterstones heading toward.bankruptcy. He will serve as CEO of Barnes and Noble.

Give Your Kids A Summer to Remember at Irish Arts Kids Day Camp July 29 - August 2

The Irish Music School of Chicago's Francis O'Neill Irish Arts Week Kids Day Camp returns for its 9th big year at the Irish American Heritage Center from July 29 - August 2.

The kids day camp gives kids ages 4-17 the chance to immerse themselves in Irish culture with some of the best Irish musicians, teachers and artists from Chicago and Ireland. Days are filled with learning traditional Irish music, singing in English and Irish, lilting, sean-nós and group dancing, drama, storytelling, folklore, and arts and crafts. All campers get the chance to try their hand at bodhrán playing, too. A half-day program is available for ages 4-6 and a full-day for ages 5-17.

The camp welcomes children of all musical abilities—from beginners to those who have been studying for years. If your child has been taking music lessons, they will begin to learn how to play Irish tunes on their instruments. Kids that have never played a musical instrument before can try out the tin whistle or fiddle. All music lessons are taught by ear.

Camp activities are taught in a fun-filled environment, grouped by age and ability. Kids spend the week learning and rehearsing new music, songs and other creative outlets to perform at the grand finale recital for friends and family.

The week of camp costs $279 for the half-day (9am-12pm) or $399 for the full day (9am-3pm). A limited number of scholarships are available on a first-come, first-served basis thanks to generous sponsors of the camp. If you wish to sponsor a child to attend the camp with a tax-deductible contribution, contact info@irishmusicschool.org or call 773-412-5082.

Francis O'Neill Irish Arts Week was created by the Irish Music School of Chicago to honor Francis O'Neill, the first Irish-born Chief of the Chicago Police (1901 - 1905), who worked tirelessly to collect & preserve the rich traditions of Ireland's tunes, songs and stories for future generations.

The Irish Music School of Chicago is a 501c3 nonprofit cultural organization led by Sean Cleland, executive director. The school teaches traditional Irish music to students of all ages, year-round, using traditional methods of teaching by ear and telling the stories behind the tunes all while sharing the significance of being part of a living musical community. The Irish Music School is committed to maintaining the strong tradition of Irish music, song and dance, to involve more people in the community of Irish music, and ensure that this music does not disappear from Chicago and the United States.

To find out more about the 2019 Irish Arts Week Kids Day Camp, including the scholarship application, visit www.irishmusicschool.org/kids-day-camp or call 773-412-5082.

Irish American News readers get a special $40 discount on their first Kids Day Camper (full day) by entering discount code IAN2019 on their registration form.

Let Your Shamrock Shine in Dublin, Ohio USA Aug. 2-4

at the largest 3-day Irish Fest on the planet, #DublinIrishFest! Save a little green and snag your discount tickets now!

The Dublin Irish Festival is sure to be bright when you let your Shamrock Shine in Dublin, Ohio USA, August 2, 3, & 4 2019.

Seven stages, set on nearly 40 acres in Coffman Park, provide the summer backdrop to one of the largest samplings of Irish music, entertainment and culture in the world.

More than 100,000 fans will experience Irish music ranging from traditional to Celtic rock. This year, Ohio is rolling out the green carpet for a one-of-a-kind lineup of international performers and local artists, including headliners Gaelic Storm, We Banjo 3, Altan, The Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Scythian, and more. Check out the 2019 Entertainment Schedule.

From hearty stews to traditional Irish breakfasts, the weekend is a buffet of Celtic cuisine at the Challenge Butter Celtic Cooking Pavilion. Watch and learn from seasoned chefs as they create traditional dishes all weekend long and let you sample recipes on-site.

Cuddle with eight different breeds of paddy pups at the Shoedinger Funeral Home Celtic Canine Area—a Festival favorite and must-see for animal lovers of all ages.

Find creative handmade arts and crafts at the Emerald Isle and Marketplace. More than 100 vendors offer the most diverse Irish shopping experience outside of Ireland.

Gaelic Storm

Wee ones are free ones in the Wendy's Wee Folk Area, where our youngest guests enjoy kids crafts, face painting and other fun activities!

Check out our signature Beverage Menu, featuring Jameson's finest and our signature cocktail, Limerick Lemonade. And don't miss out on a Jameson Whiskey Tasting hosted by their own Master of Whiskey.

Festival fans and potato freaks alike can see the world's largest potato on wheels, The Big Idaho® Potato Truck,

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Come with the family on Sunday, Aug. 4 and save! Bring a non-perishable food item, get in free until 11 a.m. and check out our Pepsi can promotion for $5 off adult admission Friday-Sunday.

Purchase discount tickets now for only $10 (reg. $15 at the gate) or visit the customer service desk at select Dublin Irish Festival Sponsor, Giant Eagle, Central Ohio locations.

www.dublinirishfest.org

Quote:

"Our Irish heritage is strengthened year round by our involvement in the Dublin Irish Festival. To be recognized in such a significant way, by the Festival and Dublin, Ohio where we are proud to live and own a business, is something we will always cherish. We appreciate this grand opportunity to represent our friends and family in Ireland as well as the Irish in the United States. We look forward with great enthusiasm to sharing the hospitality of the Irish in our hometown of Dublin, Ohio with our families and friends in Ireland, and at the Dublin Irish Festival."

Chris and Carol Clinton, 2019 Dublin Irish Festival Honorary Chairs

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Milkman by Anna Burns

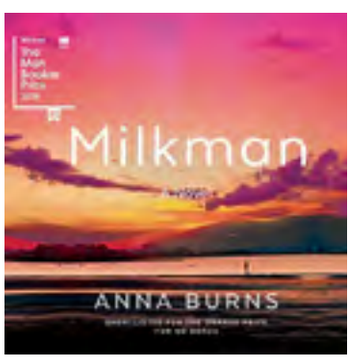
Available on Good Reads and Amazon.

Review by Michael Corrigan

Much has been written about the sectarian violence in 20th century Northern Ireland known as "The Troubles," which reached a violent peak between 1969 and 1972. It concerned a three decade conflict between Irish Catholics wanting a united Ireland free from England's domination and British influenced Protestants known as Unionists. The British military, local police and opposing paramilitary groups made Belfast, Ireland a city under siege. Anna Burns has added to the literature with Milkman, a novel with a unique viewpoint and an Orwellian twist. It takes place in an unnamed city in an unnamed country, but the parallels to Belfast are clear. Milkman won the Man Booker Prize.

Author, Anna Burns

The heroine is an 18-year-old narrator referred to as "middle sister." She walks down the street reading Ivanhoe since she hates the 20th century and its literature. One of her brothers has been shot to death in the struggle. One day, a sinister 41-year-old paramilitary officer from a world of assassins and bomb makers pulls alongside her. He is nicknamed the milkman and indicates that he knows everything about her brothers, her "maybe-boyfriend," and her night studies.



"I did not like the milkman and had been frightened and confused by his pursuing and attempting an affair with me," middle sister says. "I would be startled by every encounter, except the last, I was to have with this man."

"Milkman" is a slang term for hitman, one who delivers crates of bombs instead of milk. Burns lets the reader know that the milkman is eventually killed in the mysterious first sentence. "The day Somebody McSomebody put a gun to my breast and called me a cat and threatened to shoot me was the same day the milkman died."

Somebody McSomebody is a jealous rival to the milkman and her "maybe-boyfriend," and this sentence encapsulates the plot. There are many fascinating characters in this surreal novel; Anna Burns simply lets them reveal themselves, much in the manner of Jane Austen.

Burns had this to say about her novel's inspiration: "I grew up in a place that was rife with violence, distrust and paranoia, and peopled by individuals trying to navigate and survive in that world as best as they could."

Milkman with its long sentences turning into large paragraphs full of rich details and many asides is a daunting read. Her prose resembles Joyce, Faulkner and Virginia Woolf when it comes to fractured but dazzling images strung together and separated by dashes and semicolons. Here is middle sister's description of her father's depression. They were "big, massive, scudding, whopping, black-cloud, infectious, crow, raven, jackdaw, coffin-upon-coffin, catacomb-upon-catacomb, skeletons-upon-skulls-upon-bones crawling along the ground to the grave type of depressions."

Burns also writes with a compassionate irony viewing these tragic people who must name their children with the "right" names, drink the "right" tea and the "right" whiskey, and never marry someone with the "wrong" religion. Informers disappear.

With few exceptions, critics have praised Milkman. Ron Charles of Book World said, "It's the last great novel of the year. Possibly the most challenging one, too." Dwight Garner of the New York Times insists that "'Milkman'" requires so much effort for so modest a result."

The female narrator is a survivor in a dangerous volatile world. How can anyone resist a young woman who reads aloud The Exorcist to her much-younger siblings before bed?

Milkman by Anna Burns will take its place with celebrated Irish Literature.

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