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Bride in wedding dress being escorted down the aisle by her father on the Gaelic Park patio.
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Chicago Gaelic Park

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A Cháirde

The hot air balloon was approaching jump altitude of 8,000 feet. The sun was getting low in the sky and all was still except for the intermittent blasts of the air heater. As we made a final check of our straps and handles, the pilot asked us where we would be landing. Looking out at the patchwork of western Illinois farmland that stretched for miles below us, we pointed to a field just southwest of an intersection. We told him we'd be down there in five minutes,

and then we climbed up on the gondola facing the balloon, counted down and began to fall backwards, watching the balloon get smaller. That was back in the late 1980s and everything seemed much more certain then than it does now.

We trust that today's uncertainty will change and we will all be together again this summer. Please continue to take care of each other.

Is mise le meas,
Bill O'Sullivan



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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell

How Was It For You?

How was it for you? The Lockdown I mean.

Depending on your point of view we are now at a watershed moment in the struggle with the Virus. The emergency is not over yet by a long chalk. People are continuing to die and in large numbers. The total number infected is nudging five million, the deaths well over 300,000, 90,000 plus in the USA alone. Both these figures are almost certainly underestimates. More testing throws up more cases and there is no agreed uniform way of counting and categorising the dead, with some stark differences in how individual countries report. (Here Ireland, with 1561 dead to date is among those most transparent and upfront.)

Yet there are signs of falling numbers for infections and new deaths in the countries of the Virus' second Epicentre, with the figures falling or flattening in those countries most affected - Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the Benelux, Ireland and Portugal, with Britain and Sweden just behind. The falling figures have prompted the first cautious moves towards relaxing countries' individual Lockdowns, with shops and businesses beginning to reopen. There are similarities to what is underway in the USA, though the Europeans appear to have more concrete evidence to back up the growing belief that the worst is over. "Festina Lente" is very much the order of the day lest relaxation too soon generates a second wave of infection, **as happened a century ago, undoing all the good work**, for it is abundantly clear that social isolation and lockdown was fundamental in halting the progress of the Virus. Ireland's cautious and carefully calibrated recovery plan will stretch over several months.

With the cranking up comes the New Reality - Life with the Virus. Whether temporarily, for a year or two, pending a vaccine or some suitable treatment, or far more long term as the Jeremiahs would have it, with wave after wave of Corona 19 and its mutated successors. But in any event a significantly altered lifestyle. Queues, social distancing, new rules, regulations, and restrictions in shops, restaurants, bars and pubs when they are once again open, and a new code of conduct with colleagues, neighbours and other people.



There's no doubt we will adjust; we've already had a foretaste with the weeks of the Lockdowns; and inconvenient as the experience was, it wasn't a war, and there were

few privations or hardship for those not personally affected.

Now, as we pick ourselves up it is to grasp that many everyday assumptions have been upended. Holidays this year look unachievable and certainly air travel on vacation can be largely written off for 2020. We have not yet grasped fully the economic cost from earnings and jobs lost in whole swathes of our economy (what future for the hospitality sector, for example?), nor how we approach leisure pursuits like spectator sports. Remote working and transition to a cashless economy have been given a huge boost and overall we wait and watch to see whether and how swiftly our economies and lifestyles will/can rebound.

The above predicated of course on the assumption that the worst is over. Certainly if wishes and hopes could come true then a vaccine or suitable treatment must be near. The optimists shout about three to six months, the more cautious somewhat longer, though all are agreed that the likely demand for a vaccine - in billions - when proven, will outstrip supply for some considerable time. 2020 can be written off; probably also much of 2021 - and that's taking the optimistic view.

Whatever happens, expect a slew of memoirs and journals of the Corona Year(s). I won't be writing one but a few brief personal observations. As someone in his seventies, and a Diabetic to boot, I have at least one hefty strike against me faced with a virus that overwhelmingly targets the old and infirm (even granting that "seventy is the new fifty"). So, together with my wife, we embraced the Lockdown totally and the "cocooning" the Irish doctors recommended. "No going out" did not of course apply to our modest but ample gardens front and rear. This provided some relief and our hearts went out to those less fortunate in cramped city apartments. With Portmarnock's Velvet Strand a mere 200 metres away, the temptation to defy advice and venture out was strong but we stuck with it. It was all the more sweet when that first relaxation came and since then we have fulfilled our vows to walk on the beach daily. We talked to the neighbours, but the lack of contact with other family members proved annoying and upsetting - the phone, Zoom and Skype no substitute.

Our sons shopped for us, a task they

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performed heroically, always conscious of the risk of bringing the virus back and taking extreme care accordingly. Thank you boys! Shopping now involves queueing to get access; the supermarkets limit numbers to ensure social distancing, tedious for everybody, but where up to now bonhomie and good nature has reigned; a factor in this has been the absence of rain itself as April and May here have been unusually dry and sunny. A twenty or thirty minute wait in damp cold and wet weather might chill that cosy feeling. At least by the autumn appropriate covered waiting areas should be in place.

To minimise risks further we confined shopping to once, perhaps twice, per week. For the moment the luxury of the casual visit daily to the shop for one or two items has gone. Initially there was panic buying and consequent hoarding before restrictions were imposed. Toilet paper and paper towels were early targets for the hoarders (and online comedians), then eggs and flour supplies ran out. The supply line kinks have now been

sorted though eggs disappear from time to time, less down to the virus and panic buying than to an epidemic of bird flu which has led to the slaughter of around half a million egg producing birds. Some days random items can be unavailable and if this is on the shopping day then..... tant pis for a week! Choice and opportunity

are somewhat restricted though it's a far cry from something akin to the old Soviet "perhaps bag" experience.

The Virus has also changed my reading and writing habits. I've rediscovered or caught up with authors after years away (John Le Carre, Donna Leon, William Boyd and Martin Cruz Smith among them). My columns have also been affected: the Virus can hardly be ignored, but how to make writing about it at least readable and relevant?

And finally, personally, the reality of the Virus has stopped my fictional work-in-progress in its tracks. I had a theme, I had a plot, I had good characters and I had 50,000 words written. It was a novel about Ireland in a post-apocalyptic world devastated after a global catastrophe. It promised to be a sure fire success - in my mind anyway. Then came the Corona virus, probably, like the plot in my novel, a cock-up rather than a conspiracy. Clearly reality trumped fiction. I may change and adapt the novel. I hope the Virus does not do likewise!

Sean Farrell is a retired Irish diplomat and former Irish Consul General in Chicago in 2006-7. Previous posts included Irish Abroad Director in the Dept of Foreign Affairs & Irish Ambassador to Estonia from 2001-4. He was also an EC Peace Monitor in Croatia and Bosnia in 1991-2 before serving in Belfast from 1992-95 as Deputy Head of the Anglo-Irish Secretariat in Maryfield, a period that saw the first ceasefires and moves towards the settlement of the Good Friday Agreement.

Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



During these times of not going outdoors very much or at all I started thinking of fashion. My fashion sense and style since I don't have any at the moment. I hear about people wearing their finest clothes to take out the garbage, I am not in that camp. There are days I do dress up in an effort to cheer myself up but most days, let's face it none of us are probably putting much effort into our attire. My mind is on the health of my loved ones, my bills & if I will have a job in the fall. I put my worry in God's hands though and I try to continue my days with a smile for what I do have at the moment.

So, this Summer I want to write about fashion. What is fashion? Who are your fashion icons? Jacqueline Onassis, Audrey Hepburn, Nicki Minaj maybe.

Fashion is: "A popular trend especially in styles of dress, ornament or manners of behaviors." Its art applied to clothing & accessories. A few American designers include: Tom Ford, Donna Karan, & Marc Jacobs.

I will give a brief introduction of a few Irish designers which include Philip Treacy, Jacqueline Quinn, Orla Kiely, Paul Costelloe, & Simone Rocha. Designers must spend time researching trends and interpret them for their audience. They attempt to design clothes that are functional as well as pleasing. Some clothes are made specifically for an individual, haute couture or tailored. However, most clothing is designed for mass market for everyday ready wear. Designers may work full-time for one fashion house which owns the designs, or they work alone. Freelance designers work for themselves selling

their designs to fashion houses, directly to stores or the clothing manufacturer. Some designers are self employed and design for individual clients. Most designers work for apparel manufactures creating designs of men and women's fashion for mass market. Large designer brands which have a 'name' as their brand such as Justice or Juicy are designed by a team under a director.

Fashion design is generally considered to have started in the 19 century with Charles Frederick Worth who was the first designer to have his label sewn in the garments he created. Fashion is a huge industry that's only getting bigger. The global apparel market is worth over a trillion dollars. It's a serious industry, apparel. Whether we put much thought into our clothes, where they were produced or the type of fabric they are, clothes matter. Because they tell the world who we are and how we want to be treated.

When we think of fashion, countries like France & Italy probably come to mind first but Ireland has been working behind the scenes and is producing a lot of fashion designers. Eddie Shanahan is chairman of the council on Irish fashion Designers has said, "Many young talented Irish designers go abroad to Italy and Poland due to the lack of purposeful manufacture structures. His ideas and input might produce some changes, maybe make state agencies capitalize more on Ireland's potential of becoming a fashion capital.

Fashion today is a global industry and most major countries have a fashion industry.

Philip Treacy is an award-winning Irish hat designer from Co. Galway. He was described by Vogue as "perhaps the greatest living milliner". He had interest in sewing at 5 years old & he was obsessed with the weddings in the church across the road from his house. Treacy was invited by the Chamber Syndiclae de la Haute Couture to participate in Paris fashion show the first hat designer to be invited in 80 years. Treacy was awarded an honorary OBE (Order of the British Empire) for services to the British fashion industry.

Jacqueline Quinn is a fashion designer & consultant she was born in Dublin. She currently lives in New York. She developed a big following among women in the Jewish community. "They're finding high-end black designer clothing appropriate for synagogue from an Irish Catholic girl" said Quinn. She has helped raise money for breast cancer awareness. She has made dresses from entirely of shoe material, parts of sunglasses. She launched a handbag collection, twelve embellished bags, a tribute to 'old Hollywood". Quinn is a passionate philanthropist she partnered with stay-at-home mom's living in India to create the handbag collection. Go raibh mile maith agat Jacqueline! I am a huge fan of women helping women! I believe when people do these acts to help women around the world, they are making a difference and it can spark a thousand acts of goodwill.

Orla Kiely is a fashion designer from Dublin. She started her career in hats, handbags and moved onto design work in kitchenware and cars. She credits her grandmother for being the creative influence in her life.

Paul Costelloe is from Dublin. He was the personal designer for Princess Diana. He designed the British airways uniform for the airline. He also designed the Irish

Olympic team uniform for the 2004 Summer games in Athens, Greece. He is very outspoken but also extremely talented.

Lastly, Simone Rocha is a designer from Dublin who followed in her father John Rocha's footsteps. Her designs have been worn by former first Lady Michelle Obama. She is married to Irish photographer Eoin McLoughlin. Rocha is passionate about her Irish roots & incorporates it in her designs.

I don't have any fashion icons that I look up to, maybe I need one. I just like simple and neutral colors, clothes that fit right and I don't overexpose, modesty is key.

I think the singer/rapper, Trinidadian Nicki Minaj is very creative in coming up with interesting looks for the red carpet. She said once that her dream is to meet Enya (Donegal) I thought that was intriguing as Rap music and Celtic music can not be more opposite. However, I'm sure if the singers were to meet, they would have a lot to chat about.

Gaelic for the month Fashion-faisan, Clothes-eadaí, Design-dearadh, Hat-hata, Style-stil

"Don't be into trends. Don't make fashion own you, but you decide what you are, what you want to express by the way you dress and the way to live." –Gianni Versace

"What you wear is how you present yourself to the world, especially today, when human contacts are so quick. Fashion is instant language." Prada Molanive@yahoo.com

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Barry Stapleton

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From Ireland to Chicagoland

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



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



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**Even in Midst of a
Pandemic, Big Biz
Continues to Steal
From Small Ones**

As we've spent the last few weeks in our homes with our families, news from the outside world continues to flood our phones, TVs and the internet. Protests against stay-at-home orders, implications from the President that injecting disinfectant into the lungs would be effective in killing COVID-19 and excitement about incoming stimulus checks make up a mere fraction of the tidal wave of information that bombards us each day.

In the midst of this torrent, it can be hard to glean what really matters from the regular news cycle. You may have heard whispers about a grant program by the federal government meant to keep small businesses afloat during this economic shutdown. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is meant to provide these businesses with the means to continue paying their employees, utilities and other fees. These loans may also be forgiven if the recipients can prove that they used the money in this manner. This means that businesses won't be obligated to pay the money back if they can prove that they used it to pay and retain employees, pay rent, etc.

Sounds like a pretty good deal, right? The idea is that free money for small businesses will help kickstart the economy once quarantine orders are lifted nationwide and things start going back to normal. In many ways, the program will help take some of the burden of this pandemic off of the small businesses struggling



to make it. The PPP passed with a \$349 billion pool to draw on, but quickly ran out before it was replenished with an additional \$310 billion with Congressional approval. While it's great that the program is being utilized, the question remains: where is all this money going?

That's where things get a little hairy: it's recently come to light that several publicly-traded companies applied for and received the loans. These companies have the funds and liquidity to easily weather the pandemic, yet received funds that were specifically meant for small, private businesses. Shake Shack, a national restaurant chain that still provides to-go ordering for customers, received a \$10 million dollar loan from the program. AutoNation, a nation-wide company that has more than 360 retail outlets, received \$77 million from the fund. After receiving well-earned public criticism, both companies said that they would return the money.

So who's deciding where the money from the PPP goes? The answer to that question is also somewhat complicated. The Small Business Administration (SBA) is the instrument through which people may obtain the loans, but it seems that many applicants go through their own private banks to get the money funneled to them. This means that there isn't a ton of direct oversight from the federal government on who exactly the

banks approve for the loans, which allows for big businesses to sneak under the radar and nab these highly desirable loans.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act established the PPP as part of its official legislation. The initial \$349 billion allocated to the program contributed to the \$2 trillion price tag of the CARES Act and has only increased since the funds in the program ran out so quickly. The act gave quite a bit of leeway to the Secretary of the Treasury, Steve Mnuchin, in how to distribute the PPP money. As a result, many have taken to blaming Secretary Mnuchin for the botched manner in which the PPP was carried out.

In my mind, however, both the government and the people of the United States aren't pinning some well-deserved criticism on the middle men in these transactions: the banks. In the United States, banks hold quite a bit of power over the welfare of the economy. In 2008, the variable-rate mortgages that banks contracted to wannabe homeowners contributed to the Great Recession, yet very little legislation was passed on a federal level to prevent the same practices from being carried out again. Now, banks are major players in how these PPP loans are distributed. These major financial institutions continue to demonstrate to the American people that they can't be trusted.

All in all, I think it's important to give some leeway to the government as they figure out how to best deal with this unprecedented pandemic. That being said, the upper echelons of the administration shouldn't be giving out free money to businesses that have no need for the cash. When a big business receives a PPP loan, a dozen small businesses across America might fail as a result. If this administration is truly pro-small business, they need to start acting like it.

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



The Secret Guests

By: B.W.Black, Penguin Books

There has long been a rumor, no evidence or proof at all, that the two daughters of the king and queen of Britain, were evacuated to neutral Ireland during the early days of World War II.

“The Irish Times” in a recent review of *The Secret Guests* says, “the book is a sort of speculative historical fiction...”

The time is 1940 and the book is set in Ireland. The girls were given assumed names: Ellen and Mary. They are princesses and Ellen is the future heir of the crown, she is Queen Elizabeth today. The book is an intriguing mystery, and the language used throughout is compellingly beautiful. Great psychological insight is shown too.

About the beauty of the book’s language “The Wall Street Journal” says, “the lyrical magic is shown in scenes that unfold with a poet’s grace.”

After Hitler and the Nazi forces had conquered most of Europe, they brought their full fury on Britain. During 1940, their constant bombing raids on London and other major cities led to many children being evacuated to rural areas for safety.

The British King and Queen felt it their patriotic duty to remain in London. The princesses could have been evacuated to Scotland, but fear of a planned Nazi invasion of the United Kingdom prevented this. No place had the range to fly to Canada and the Atlantic was too dangerous due to the submarines. So, neutral Ireland was chosen.

However, it was only twenty years since the Black and Tans, Auxiliaries, and the British Army terrorized Ireland. Painful memories hadn’t gone away.

The British Secret Service chose Tipperary as the place of refuge for the princesses. What were they thinking? Tipperary

had a strong, century’s old, republican tradition. The Secret Service sets the scene for powerful drama.

This amazing book was written by B.W. Black. Who is B.W. Black?

B.W. Black is the pen name of acclaimed Irish novelist John Banville. He was born in Wexford in 1945. He lives in Dublin with his wife and two daughters. The mysteries he writes have great psychological insight. “The Washington Times” says about him and the mysteries he creates: “There are very few writers who can write elegantly about murder, but there is no question that Benjamin Black is one of them.”

John Banville won the Man Booker Prize. It is the leading literary award in the English speaking world. It is “awarded to the best novel of the year written in English.” The review of *The Secret Guests* in “The Irish Times” said, “Banville has had a long fascination with individuals who conceal their true selves...” We will see this clearly with the person the British Embassy sends to take the princesses to Clonmillis Hall.

The British Secret Service, with the British Embassy, choose as the place in Ireland for refuge to be in Tipperary. The Garda sends the young Irish detective Strafford to watch the princesses and to keep them safe. He is a keen observer and has the gift of knowing when to keep his mouth shut.

Detective Strafford says, “Ireland has been held in British overlordship for eight hundred years... and although the larger part of the country was independent now, that it had been occupied for so long had a potent, abiding and visceral significance for a considerable portion of the population.”

The competency of the British Secret Service, and the British Embassy, could be questioned. This is because instead of being

understated—they sent princesses and their minders in a Bentley. Instead of not drawing attention, this luxurious and stately car meant that everyone knew that something important was up.

Detective Strafford observes of the British Embassy official driving the Bentley: “He was one of those languid-seeming Englishmen...with a ruthless



light glinting behind a carefully maintained easy-going smile. He wore a British Warm overcoat and

glossy, handmade brogues and wore a bowler hat...”

Saying little during the ride, the detective observes: the Embassy official “was handsome, in a refined, yet brutal sort of way, with a narrow forehead and high cheekbones and dark, oddly glinty eyes. His skin had a leathery quality as if he had spent many years in an equatorial climate.”

They arrive, finally, and the girls climb the front steps to Clonmillis Hall. Strafford observes, “They walked with slow, deliberate tread, as they had been trained to do since they were toddlers. In their buttoned-up coats, neat hats and brown leather gloves, their pink handbags looped over their wrists, they had a quaint, grave, antique look to them. Months pass peacefully, when Strafford learns from sources that it’s known who the girls are.”

He tells Celia Nashe, the Secret Service minder, “The girls, we have to move them. Men will be coming. They’re set fire to the wood.” The man from the

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embassy, with his Bentley, had recently been staying at the Hall. They went down the front stairs in a flurry and got into the car, Celia in the back with the girls, “and the detective in the passenger seat. Doors slammed, the engine gave a deep throated roar, the rear wheels threw-up twin sprays of gravel.”

The car was driven at a very high speed: “the car streaked forward...” They rounded a “curve in the road when they saw the Ford stopped in front of them...” The driver “jammed his foot on the brake and the Bentley...crashed into the ditch...” The car’s headlights were still on, two out from behind the Ford. “One had a semi-automatic pistol...” Then, the shooting began.

Later, when had gotten back to the Hall, the embassy official “had hurried off somewhere and furtive. Strafford wondered if he might have soiled himself—when he had followed the Englishman in he’d thought he caught a fecal whiff. Also, he had the suspicion that the fellow had not been knocked out when the car had plunged into the ditch, that he had feigned unconsciousness. If so, he thought it was hardly cricket now was it, old boy?”

Beautiful language is used throughout *The Secret Guests*. The scenes are vivid, with lively characters and constant suspense.

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Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



75th Anniversary of World War II

75 years ago we celebrated VE Day on May 8, 1945, and VJ Day on August 14, 1945.

In the past I reported my memories of these events, when we took the bass drum and the flag from the stage at St. Mary School in Des Plaines, IL and paraded all around town. People were jubilant!

My friend, Kevin Quinn, recently told me about his father who was in the battle for the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, Germany in 1945. The bridge was captured on March 7th. Sgt. Thomas M. Quinn was with the 286th Combat Engineers. He graduated from S.E. Catholic High School, Philadelphia PA in 1943. He studied physics, algebra, Spanish, Latin, English and geometry.

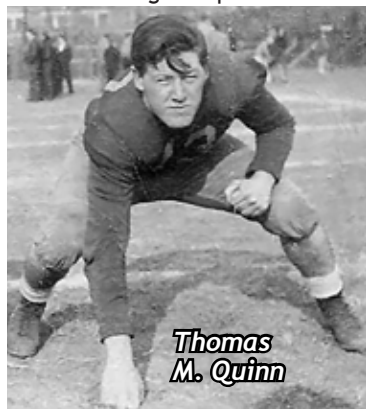
The 286th Combat Engineers were also at the Battle of the Bulge in Dec., 1944. It's a safe bet he was at the Midnight Mass said by Father O'Donnell of St. Patrick's Church in Chicago, who was chaplain of the 101st Airborne. Mass was said on Christmas Eve.

Sgt. Quinn was a foreman of construction. As foreman he was attached to the 286th Combat Engineer Battalion in France, Belgium and Germany. He was in charge of a platoon of 43 men engaged in bridge building, road building, planting and removing mines, and demolition work. He directed all operations of men and supervised work done. He was sometimes required to work under enemy fire and in blackouts. He assigned duties, kept duty rosters and made frequent inspections on projects.

Capturing the Bridge Crossing Rhine River at Remagen in 1945

The Americans quickly launched a full-scale assault on the bridge while the defending Germans scrambled to detonate the explosive charges that had been set to destroy it. The fighting was fierce

as both sides realized what was at stake. The American soldiers scrambled under withering gun fire from girder to girder returning fire and ripping the explosives from the bridge's super structure.



Thomas M. Quinn

The German's were successful in detonating some explosives - but not enough to destroy the bridge. By 4pm approximately four minutes after the assault began, the Americans had reached the other side of the river. While we were running across the bridge I spotted a Lieutenant completely exposed to enemy fire that was pretty heavy by this time. He was cutting wires and kicking demolition charges off the bridge with his feet! Boy that took plenty of guts. He's the one who saved the bridge and made the whole thing possible.

Soon the bridge was swarming with Americans while Mitchell, joined now by other engineers,



Quinn and his fellow soldiers on the bridge after capturing it from the Germans

cut and jerked out wires leading to dynamite charges. Gingerly they detached detonators and lifted boxes of explosives from the piers.

The battle for control of the Ludendorff Bridge caused both the American and German forces to employ new weapons and tactics in combat for the first time. Over the next 10 days after its capture, the Germans used virtually every weapon at their disposal to try to destroy the bridge. This included infantry, armor, howitzers, mortars, floating mines, mined boats, a railroad gun and the giant 600 mm Karl-Great super heavy mortar. They also attacked the bridge using the newly developed Arado Ar 234B-2 turbo-jet bombers. To protect the bridge against aircraft, the Americans positioned the largest concentration of anti-aircraft weapons during the war, leading to "the greatest anti-aircraft artillery battles in American history."

The American counted 367 different German Luftwaffe aircraft attacking the bridge over the next 10 days. The Americans claimed to have shot down nearly 30% of the aircraft dispatched against them. The German air offensive failed.

The bridge finally collapsed on March 17, 1945, ten days after it was captured, killing 33 U.S. Army Engineers and wounding 63. While it stood, the bridge and newly



Sgt. Quinn on the bridge at Remagen

established pontoon bridges enabled the U.S. Army to establish a bridgehead of six divisions, about 25,000 troops, with accompanying tanks, artillery pieces, and trucks, across the Rhine. Capturing the bridge shortened the war, and VE Day came on May 8. After the war, the bridge was not rebuilt; the towers on the west bank were converted into a museum and the towers on the east bank are a performing arts space.

Hall of Famer, Warren Spahn

23-year-old Warren Spahn was a Tech-Sergeant of the 286th Combat Engineers in March, 1945, working feverishly to shore up the Bridge at Remagen on the Rhine River in Germany. On March 17, Spahn was ready to lead a security detail onto the span to protect engineer repair crews. Suddenly, without warning, the heavily damaged 1,000-foot bridge collapsed, killing 33 engineers and injuring 93.

My friend, Kevin Quinn, remembered meeting his father's friend, Warren Spahn, in the parking lot of the Philadelphia Phillies. Spahn received a Purple Heart and a battlefield promotion. Kevin said he and his brothers would take his father's medals into the woods when they went to play Army. I asked what medals were they? Kevin replied, "two Silver Stars and a Purple Heart," which caused me to react and say, "your father was a real hero!"

VJ Day

The war with Japan brought us into the Atomic Age. Following the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Japanese surrendered, leaving behind hundreds of thousands dead.

We must remember my uncle Bill Boyle, an Army medic who won a Bronze Star in the Philippines, and Ambassador James C. Kenney's father who fought with the Marines on Iwo Jima.

Minstrel Boy

Brian Costello, Pipe Sergeant with the Shannon Rovers Bagpipe Band lives in Elmhurst near the Illinois Prairie Path Trail.

Each night at sunset, Brian goes outside and plays his pipes to lift the spirits of his neighbors.

Each night Danny boy, Amazing Grace and When Irish Eyes are Smiling are played in memory of his parents!



Brian, and Katy Costello



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Eighty-One Year Old Activist Liz McAlister Faces Prison...

*Kings Bay Plowshares Activists
to Be Sentenced at the end of June*

By Sabina Clarke

Three of The Kings Bay Plowshares: Carmen Trotta of the New York City St. Joseph House Catholic Worker, Mark Colville of the New Haven Amistad Catholic Worker and Clare Grady of the Ithaca Catholic Worker will be sentenced in the Southern District Federal Court of Brunswick, Georgia on May 28th.

On May 29th Fr. Steve Kelly, S.J. held for the last 2 years in GA county jails; Martha Hennessy of the NYC Mary House Catholic Worker and the granddaughter of Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker movement; Elizabeth (Liz) McAlister of Baltimore's Jonah House and the widow of Phil Berrigan, and Patrick O'Neill of the Garner, North

Carolina Catholic Worker will also be sentenced by the same court.

There is a possibility that they may be sentenced by video conferencing with the judge but supporters may not be allowed in the courtroom.

On March 23 the United States Navy said that it had awarded a contract for up to \$592.3 million



to prepare the Kings Bay Naval Base for the new generation of Trident nuclear submarines. The plan to modernize the U.S. nuclear arsenal is projected to cost as much as a \$2 trillion.

This April 4th was the second anniversary of the Kings Bay Plowshares, (KBP7) action at the largest U.S. Nuclear Submarine Base in the world which houses one-quarter of the US deployed nuclear weapons.

The group decided to act on April 4th to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination to lift up his message to end the triple evils of racism, poverty and militarism while emphasizing that all must be eradicated together

The sentencing recommendations by the court are as follows: 18 months for 81 year-old Liz McAlister who suffers from dementia, 47 months for Father Steve Kelly, S. J, and 30 months for Patrick O'Neill, a father of eight.

I spoke with Patrick O'Neill who said that the COVID pandemic could result in result in house arrest for the short term

but "prison for all 7 of us is likely."

The sentencing dates have been changed. Liz McAlister will be sentenced by video conferencing with the court on June 8 at 9:00 am. She will remain at home in Connecticut. There will be an audio feed for people to call in and listen to the proceedings. We do not have the number yet but will post when available.

The other defendants are expecting to be sentenced in person in the courtroom in Brunswick, GA at the end of June. This is their preference and legal right to be present in court. Martha Hennessy is scheduled for June 29 at 3:30 pm. The others are expecting sentencing dates around that time but do not have definite dates and times yet.

GOOD GRIEF

BY JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



Today I Saw a Nurse

By D. Rodgers

Today I saw a nurse. Dressed head to toe in blue. A mask a gown and some gloves too. Fearlessly working for me and you.

She moved from bed to bed. Tirelessly doing all her checks but even in the midst of chaos her kind words to me had great effect.

She said I'm here beside you, please do not despair. This helped calm me down as my lungs gasped for air.

No visitors can come to me. No flowers will pass my door. For Virus has come for us that make our chest, throat and head sore.

Yet there is my little Angel. Walking around the room. Looking after us all and fighting of our gloom.

I watched her hold a patient's hand. And guide them to the light. These nurses truly understand as they're full of courage and might.

After each one passes. She softly hides her cries.

Then takes a moment to mourn anyone who dies.

Today I saw a nurse. A mighty powerful persona hero, an angel, friend.

Helping people who have come to the end.

Today I saw a nurse. She stayed awhile beside methods when I knew this awful curse was going to come find me.

I thought of all my family outside. And those that I so loved. And felt a hand grab mine. Through a blue powdered glove.

Today I saw a nurse. She was there at the very end.

I felt the love pour from her as she held me like a friend.

So do not worry friends and family. Stay safe at home and fight.

For today I saw a nurse and the light she had was bright.

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**A Word With
Kathleen
Donahue**



We have all developed a much greater appreciation for the lesser-known “essential workers” during the pandemic—grocery and warehouse employees, delivery personnel, maintenance staff, mail carriers, truck drivers and thousands of others whose jobs are essential to our day-to-day lives. I hope these unsung heroes have been properly recognized and that we never take these important jobs for granted again. There is another group of essential, front-line workers who may not be traditionally recognized as such—the employees and volunteers of social service agencies who are playing a critical role in fighting the pandemic.

It is the mission of Catholic Charities and other social service agencies to care for those hardest hit by this or any other crisis, often developing creative ways to ensure the unemployed, the homeless, children, seniors, or victims of domestic violence receive the help and mercy they so need and deserve. These vulnerable groups are least able to navigate the treacherous waters in which we find ourselves and charitable agencies, with the support of donors and volunteers, are on the frontlines working very hard to stem the tide and mitigate the effects the pandemic.

Staff and volunteers are working tirelessly to package and distribute food at our 9 food pantries that have seen double and triple the number of people requesting help. We have ensured mothers and children residing in “food deserts” have access to nutritious food and nutrition education at our 16 neighborhood WIC Food Centers. We are providing individual hot take-out meals to anyone in need 5 days a week at multiple locations throughout Cook and Lake counties. We have bolstered

our home-delivered meal programs for homebound seniors; our homemakers continue to help seniors with the tasks of daily living; and we continue to do home visits to stabilize at-risk families. We are daily transporting the homeless to shelter through our Mobile Outreach program; we continue to safely shelter those who flee their homes due to violence; and



Catholic Charities doing what they do!

our counselors and case managers are busy providing virtual sessions to children and adults suffering from mental health, anxiety and substance use disorders. To be sure, Catholic Charities professional social work staff are critical to our operations, but our amazing volunteers and our own band of dedicated warehouse staff, truck drivers, and maintenance personnel are also going above and beyond during this time.

With each direct service encounter, there is another import-

ant role that social service staff play in fighting the pandemic, and that is providing health education. Many people still lack a basic understanding of the virus and how to slow its spread. Perhaps they do not have televisions or access to social media, don’t understand English or cannot read, can’t weed through the information overload, or simply don’t trust the news media. With every interaction, Catholic Charities teaches people how to keep their families safe and educates them about hand-washing, mask-wearing, proper cleaning in their homes, meal planning to avoid extra trips outside the home, and what social distancing looks like in practice. Even our security guards and receptionists are playing a critical role in this process as we properly distance people who must visit our sites and pass out masks to those who have none.

I could not be more proud of the staff and volunteers at Catholic Charities, and I am so grateful for their service. Despite the risks, they are out there every day feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, comforting the sorrowful, counseling the doubtful, educating the uninformed, and truly engaging in every one of the acts of corporal and spiritual mercy. Please keep our essential social service workers in your prayers as they battle the effects of the pandemic and bring help and hope to the most vulnerable among us.



This month I would like to highlight a woman from Co. Cork. (the rebel co.) Mary G. Harris Jones (1837-1930) commonly known as Mother Jones. She was an Irish born schoolteacher and dressmaker who became a famous union community organizer.

The Irish had a great influence on the formation of unions in America. We are known for standing up for each other especially in the name of work. Jones was born in Co. Cork to tenant farmers. Her family were victims of the Famine. It drove the family to emigrate Canada, when Jones was ten. The family had more hardship to endure when they landed. They suffered discrimination because they were immigrants and Catholic.



Jones moved to Chicago, where she met & married George Jones a member and organizer for the Union of Iron molders. It represented workers who focused in building and repairing steam engines and mills. Jones and her husband had four children, but tragedy struck, and the children and her husband died of yellow fever, (viral infection spread by a mosquito).

Jones started her business of dressmaking, she worked for the upper class but sadly a few years later she lost her home and business due to the Great Chicago fire. After that catastrophe Jones helped to rebuild the city and organize strikes. She believed that working men deserved a wage that would allow women to stay home to care for their children. Jones is a notable person some might say controversial in any case she was inducted into the National Mining Hall of Fame in 2019. Active as an organizer and educator in strikes throughout the country at the same time involved in the Socialist

party of America. She was termed the most dangerous woman in America. Jones’ ideas, approaches and interests were different from many women of her time. She didn’t push or work toward women’s right to vote. She was quoted saying, ‘you don’t need to vote to raise hell’. She opposed many of the protesters because she thought it was more important to liberate the working class itself.

Jones was known as a very effective speaker, occasionally using props and visual aids for effect.

Jones fought for children, she fought child labor laws. She organized children who were working in mills and mines to participate in a “children’s crusade”. They walked with a banner that read, “We want to go to

school and not the mines” Jones remained a union organizer and continued to speak on union affairs until she died. Jones died in Maryland. Her burial site and monument is at the Union Miners Cemetery in Mount Olive, Illinois. Jones left a legacy; her fearless actions changed working conditions and pay checks for countless men and women.

Jones was criticized by the government as “grandmother of all agitators” her reply, I hope to live long enough to be the great-grandmother of all agitators! There is a magazine called, Mother Jones, it became the largest selling radical magazine of the decade. There is a school in Maryland named after Jones. If you would like to learn more about Jones there is a documentary titled, Americas most dangerous woman. I wrote this in May for “Mother’s Day” in the memory of Mother Jones. Thank you, Mother Jones, for all your hard work, persistence and dedication to the working men and women! Questions, 708) 425-7021.

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Mallory O'Meara and The Lady from the Black Lagoon

by James Bartlett

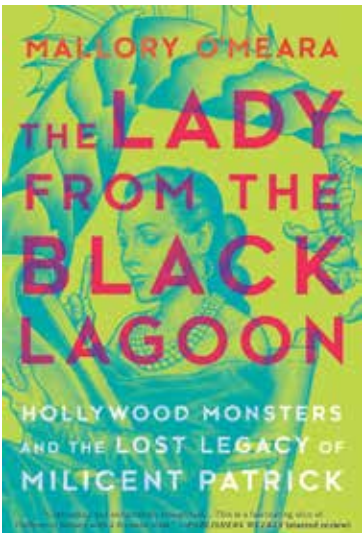
Even if you're not a film fan, you would surely recognize Dracula, Frankenstein and The Mummy. Their characters have been remade, rebooted and reimagined for decades - sometimes with mixed results - but there's another Universal Studios monster who only appeared on the silver screen three times in the 1950s, but has never been forgotten.

1954 saw the 3-D release of The Creature from the Black Lagoon, and it's gilled, human-like underwater beast (known as Gill-Man) is arguably still as famous and just as recognizable as the others are today.

Gill-Man became an icon of classic horror monsters too, but for some reason it has resisted many remake attempts over the years (Guillermo Del Toro, a huge admirer, paid tribute in the Oscar-winning smash hit The Shape of Water).

But more than any of that, The Creature from the Black Lagoon has an interesting and, until recently, rather secret story -

something that Mallory O'Meara explored in her book The Lady from the Black Lagoon: Hollywood Monsters and the Lost Legacy of Millicent Patrick.



Patrick, a former Disney animator and pioneer make-up artist and special effects designer, was the creative genius behind the design for Gill-Man.

But even though she was sent on tour as "The Beauty Who Created The Beast," her jealous department head ensured she was sidelined, uncredited and

eventually fired from the project. After all, a mere woman couldn't be getting the credit, surely?

O'Meara, a young, up-and-coming horror fan, podcaster and producer - and fan of "Black Lagoon" - has tried to change all that, weaving in her own story of frustration and sexism in Hollywood with that of Patrick's.

An examination of both Patrick's skills, the role of women in front and behind the camera within the horror genre, it was also a condemnation of how little things have changed in Tinsel Town - something bought to the fore most recently when former super-producer Harvey Weinstein was sentenced to 23 years in prison for one count of criminal sexual assault in the first degree and one count of rape in the third degree.

O'Meara grew up in New England and lived in New York before coming to her current home in Los Angeles, but her last name - like

her blue hair - is very memorable.

"Yes," she says. "My family is Irish on my father's side, and I finally got to visit Ireland in the fall (Spring) of 2018," she adds. "It was absolutely wonderful, and my



favorite memory was just driving around the countryside! It was so beautiful."

Perhaps unsurprisingly, O'Meara says that if she could go back in time she wouldn't want to visit the set of "Black Lagoon": she would try to meet and talk to Patrick,

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who died over 20 years ago at a hospital in Roseville, California.

As for her life in Southern California, O'Meara says that a perfect day would be spent reading with her cats, but that seems to be a rare treat since she has plenty of projects going on at the moment - and in the future.

She shares duties on the weekly literary podcast "Reading Glasses" with filmmaker and actress Brea Grant, and is always looking to add to her producing resume. Her last co-producing effort Yamasong: March of the Hollows, a stop-motion fantasy animation about a girl and tortoise warrior on a quest to save their world, was released in 2017.

As for her favorite (recent) movies, Oscar winner Parasite is on her list, as well as last year's low-budget releases The Wind, a supernatural story set in the 19th century, and After Midnight, another gritty effort about a monster stalking down a human. Sounds familiar?

Her next book is titled Girly Drinks: A Women's History of Drinking Through the Ages.

Full details are under wraps right now, but she admits to being someone who came to cocktails late (drinking beer and other drinks she didn't really like just to appear "cool" and fit in during those tough teenage years), and then being disappointed (but not surprised) to find that books about the role women played in the history of alcohol were thin on the ground.

Even ones that did look at some of the historical figures - from rum runners to distillers to entrepreneurs - were written by men, so she felt it was time for a women's history actually written by a woman.

Though St. Patrick's Day was marked by cancellations around the world, O'Meara admitted that she was to celebrate in due moderation with an Irish adult beverage or two. "I like both Guinness and Irish whiskey!" she laughs.

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Staying Alert

It is a known fact that if a frog is immersed in a pan of water and the vessel is heated up ever so gently; the frog will fall asleep and will eventually be boiled to death. This is for illustrative purposes

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only to stress that we always need to stay wide awake and vigilant to external threats around us.

A CEO of an American company I once worked for remarked on one occasion: 'We always need to stay sharp, focused and constantly walk on the balls of our feet and continually sniff the air'. We cannot afford to become complacent or we will quickly be overtaken by our competitors'.

In the USA, during the 1840's, the Wells Fargo company had risen to high prominence and delivered the mail from coast to coast. Their strategy in this particular year was to breed faster horses so that the mail could be delivered faster and save them on overall costs. What they had not noticed was that Samuel Morse was a few hundred miles down the road put-

ting the finishing touches to his telegraph machine which was to have a revolutionary effect on business. Wells Fargo never saw it coming and it had a detrimental effect on their business. They thought they were in the mail delivery business, but, in actual fact they were in the communications business.



threats, and a programme of continuous improvement must always be in place to ensure competitiveness and future survival. We cannot afford to become complacent and live in the shadow of past glories. Cost competitiveness is a critical

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If businesses are out of control and in constant turmoil there will not be time to look around to see what is going on elsewhere. We must make time to do this or we can be put out of business overnight. Take a look at your own operation and business and if it looks like a slowly boiling frog, take remedial action immediately to correct. We need to keep an eye on the bigger picture and be alert to the changing trends.

When the lion wakes up in the morning he has to run faster than the slowest antelope or he does not eat. When the antelope wakes up he has to outrun the fastest lion or he will get eaten. One thing is certain though, both the lion and the antelope have to wake up each morning and hit the ground running.

It is no different in business at the moment. We must constantly remain alert, awake and vigilant to the external

factor in modern technology and business.

Take a look around your own business to see where duplication can be removed and wasteful processes eliminated. In our modern environment there is no room for excessive fat and the cloth must now be cut to suit the measure.

As we live through this global pandemic, we should never lose hope and always be positive for the future. Our ancestors had to deal with wars and the steady loss of life to diseases that have now been eradicated for decades. Our challenges are small in comparison. We are made of the same stuff as our ancestors, and like them, we'll cope with this present challenge also.

'The heights by which great men reached and kept, were not attained by sudden flight, but they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night' - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

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In the beginning I welcomed the shelter-at-home concept. It represented a reprieve from a myriad of community responsibilities all sidelined as Covid-19 scourged the globe. Out came the Kitchen Aide mixer, the Ballymaloe Cookbook, the mixing bowl. I was ready to roll and continue my life-long singular Irish Bake-off Series proving Irish women could cook. It was easy to get sidetracked. Suddenly my life changed I had nothing pressing. Breakfast in bed, a cup of Irish tea, a leisurely read of the NYTimes, a phone call or two, three, sometimes four. Upon introspection I gleaned I was committing one of the Deadly Sins and for the first time, the sin of sloth. Self composed absolution served me well. I showered, dressed for success despite quarantine, and developed a plan. Two issues headed the To-Do-List: purging a bulging closet, hire an earth remover to clear out and organize my at-home office. Desk top no longer visible, groaning from the weight of books, aged brochures, rough drafts, angry critical letters written in heat, never sent, a desk dominated by a wide screened unused desktop long ago abandoned in favor of an Apple Laptop. Piles of paper, a box of Christmas cards, two years of Irish American News, a bulletin board displaying a faded article: The Conscience and Creativity of Seamus Heaney, a Belfast pamphlet, a reminder to submit an article on the Titanic Experience, the true legend of the Titanic in the city where it all began.

I'm digressing. Two plus months later The Kitchen Aide Mixer, the Irish cookbook remain untouched attesting to a deluge of distractions and the daily deluge of a to-do list displayed as a large poster on a blank wall. My home barren of friends, cleaning ladies, when out of the blue I

experienced a bolt of inspiration. It rushed and consumed body and soul with ferocious energy. An idea, sent from Heaven, a Divine Intervention, held me in its grip for more than two months, often had me on my knees, pleading for mercy. Would it every end?

Emma, a baby girl presents in my family this month. She bestows on me the coveted title of great-grandmother and I am over the moon. I recall when thirty years ago her mother Ashley was born. She took her first steps in our lakefront condo in Chicago overlooking the park and the Lake Michigan.

Here was my plan, transforming my fifties wedding dress into a christening robe. The project struck a historical vibe in my immigrant soul. Stored in a trunk, the retrieved dress never preserved, hence yellowed, smelling of dust and moth balls featured an abundance of fabric, flounces

upon flounces barring a bride's entry into a phone booth! The dress sported fifty, sixty tiny covered buttons, the waist, the size of a honeydew melon, an embellishment, truthfully the circumference of a watermelon.

The Irish are noted for embellishment but what unfolded left no room for exaggeration.

Did I mention the Kitchen Aide mixer is still unused in the kitchen? Did I note my home is in shambles? Nothing mattered for the past two, near three months, but the creation of this christening dress, matching bonnet and shoes. The wedding dress once released from trunk hung airing in my private courtyard in the sunshine of California. Hung for days, air and sun did its refreshing job but little to nudge out the aging yellow. The Ballymaloe Cookbook was back on the book-shelf, the kitchen transformed into a chemical lab as swatches of fabric pre-soaked overnight in mixtures of laundry products. Experiments continued for days, until a laundry whitener product White and Bright guaranteed to remove "rust and yellowing" wrought its magic and the delicate fabric brightened.

A dining room table, an all purpose piece of furniture served its purpose as Sewing Central. News from Boston, an ultrasound logged the baby's weigh at five pounds and by delivery in early June Emma could weigh in at nine. Each day, often passing up a meal or two, focused on

bringing the necessary amount of fabric bright again, drying and pressing. Creative ideas swarmed, seemingly wedged into frontal lobes, recognized as addiction. Cutting, pinning, measuring, sewing, hand stitching morning 'till evening as living quarters took on the persona of a sweat shop. Nothing else mattered, each morning prompting another idea for enhancement of the child's robe. Flounces added, flounces upon flounces. So fixated I ceased noticing pins, thread, fabric cuttings ankle deep on the marble floors. Always the sewing machine, the ironing board at the ready to press seams, household ambience of no consequence. In time, daughters stopped phoning, fed-up listening to the daily

saga of yet another creative stitchery triumph. I couldn't stop talking, explaining details, the success, the new idea of sewing a line of tiny white pearls across the bodice, a process requiring savaging jewelry cabinet, the intense hand sewing spanning three days, the ripping out when the pearl line appeared crooked. The patience. The prayers. And of late I've noticed a sharp decrease in friends calling to catch up, to talk about the virus, being a shut in, the loneliness, the hardships and I rattle on about soaking fabric in White and Brite, and running a sweat shop!

The result, a museum quality creation for baptizing Emma and future new babies christened wearing a replica of a great grandmother's decades old wedding dress. Meanwhile, I will spare you details of the baby bonnet and artistically decorating baby shoes.

estelleshanley@aol.com



Do you ever feel like you are standing in a room with hundreds of people, screaming at the top of your voice, yet nobody is listening to you? I have felt like this for quite a few years now but more especially in the last few weeks since the Covid-19 pandemic. Home care is what I know, it is in my heart, it is in my soul-it is personal to me. The care that our seniors need through the aging process it such important work, work that needs to be stellar and memorable for all the right reasons. I am not just an advocate for our seniors but for their caregivers too.

I firstly want to thank all the health care professionals that get up every day to go to work to keep us all safe and to provide us with the essentials we need to live. You are all heroes and you are very much appreciated. It would be remiss of me as a home care agency owner not to be an advocate and speak up for those that never appear to get the recognition they so rightly deserve. I am speaking about the home care aides, caregivers, care pros, home care assistants, certified nursing assistants, and or health aids to mention but a few. The caregivers who work in the private homes of our seniors or wherever our seniors call home. These groups of individuals deserve much recognition.

I have observed signs everywhere stating, "Thank you to our First responders, and Health Care professionals". What I find interesting is the fact that not one sign says, "Thank you to our home care workers". Home care workers are essential workers. When is the home care industry going to be recognized for what it is? Home care is a vital component of our health care. In Illinois currently we have almost 800 small business Home care agencies. Our work force is massive and growing rapidly as we try to keep up with the demands of the "bursting at the seams" baby boomer generation. Now more so than ever I have witnessed home care agencies raise the bar delivering the vital and necessary care to keep our seniors at home safely and out of the hospitals.

Although home care is licensed by the department of health under the terms "non-medical" Home care is rapidly becoming an extension of the skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities and hospitals. We deliver the care needed in home on a one-to-one basis. So often caregivers become as close family and maybe the only visitor seniors see day to day. Home care companions in this current Covid-19 pandemic are most definitely some of our unsung heroes.

In the last few weeks, we have received many urgent calls from desperate family members inquiring about home care on order to move their loved one out of a facility. The journey for families considering placing loved ones in a community or facility is very challenging and stressful to begin with, only exacerbated in the reverse because of the Covid-19 pandemic. I believe in education and community. I believe in the value of community resources. Furthermore, I believe that

there is no place like home-home is where the heart is. Most especially I believe that you need to surround yourself with the people that can assist you in your time of need.

For all of the reasons mentioned above I invite you to a four part series free webinar, each Thursday evening in June from 7 -8.30pm .These webinars will identify the community resources available to you, and give you an opportunity to ask the experts in the home health, home care , hospital, and senior communities spaces the burning questions that u Have .

- June 4th (7-8.30pm) The value of home care,
- June 11th (7-8.30 pm) The differences between home health, home care and home placement.
- June 18th (7 - 8.30 pm) How do I pay for home care or senior living and what free resources are their available to me?
- June 25th (7 - 8.30 pm) What is case management and what happens upon discharge from the hospital, my rights and my options for home care and home health, hospice, and palliative care.

Education is the most powerful weapon especially during a pandemic. Please email information@aishlingcare.com or call us on 708 361 7845 ext 105 to register for this free information webinar series. Stay safe and stay home!

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hello everyone,

I've been awol this last while, so my apologies for neglecting my monthly writeup, which I always look forward to. I hope you are all staying safe in these crazy times. My crazy time started back in February. The first part of the year was a joy, I had a lovely family holiday with my family in Cancun and was lucky enough to take another trip to Tokyo and Thailand with my friend Basil, from the Irish Cottage, Galena. Then on Sunday, February 16th, I was out having breakfast with my son, Declan. As we were eating, my cell phone rang, it was Nathan Carter, so I said: "How's it going, Nathan". We keep in touch pretty often, so I just thought he was calling for a chat. Then he said, "Have you heard from Nick (my brother) lately?" I said, "I called him yesterday but he didn't pick up, but I guess he was busy, funny, he usually texts me back to say he'd call me back later." Nathan said, "I'm worried about him, he hasn't answered anyone's calls in a few days". I just thought he was maybe away somewhere and all was good. I told Nathan I would call my sister Kathy (she lives in the same town). I said, "I'll call you back Nathan, I'm sure all is good". So I called my sister's cell phone and she was crying and said: "We're at Nick's house and his van is outside, but we can't get in touch with him and the police are here." So she told me they were going to have to break the door down. They didn't know if he was there or not. So I asked her to call me back as soon as possible. It was then my heart started to beat faster and I prayed that he was away somewhere and all was good. It was probably the longest half-hour I can remember putting

in, in my life, waiting for word back. Then I spoke to my sister again and that's when my world just fell apart, my best friend and younger brother had passed away. The reason I'm explaining these details is, hundreds of people have been asking me what happened to Nicky James. My brother had passed away in his sleep caused by thrombosis. The doctors said he wouldn't have felt any pain. Maybe someday I will get some comfort from that. I guess we were lucky that we were able to have a proper funeral before the lockdown. They said it was the biggest funeral that St. Patrick's church had ever had. Right now I am on lockdown at my brother's house, me and the memories of one very loving brother and missing my wife and son. They were over for the funeral and made it back to Chicago. I spoke to Nathan last week and he said he would love to write something about Nick, they were very close, and Nick was so proud of him. So I'm going to hand you over to him, to write the rest of this column.

Nathan -

I first met Nicky when I was 8 years old, he was playing at the local Irish club for the pensioners which my NAN attended.. she pestered the life out of Nick to let me get on stage with him and play my accordion. Nick being the encouraging type always brought me up and let me play away... I then lost contact with nick until I was 16. Then by chance, I happened to be passing an Irish pub in town called the Liffey and heard this wonderful voice singing from down the street, as we walked up to the pub. Then I saw Nicky on stage and the whole place was rocking with people dancing on tables (Nick had a way of playing songs that really got people going) that was the moment I decided this is what I wanted to do... a lot of people normally follow in the footsteps of Elvis or Michael Jackson but for me, I wanted to do what Nick could do so well which was to entertain the people and play music as best I could. From that moment on Nick took me under his wing as a prodigy. He took me to a recording studio where I recorded 3 albums, he also filled my diary with gigs all over the country for the next year and never took a penny for it!! when I look back now I actually Can't believe he never took money for any of it as he was clearly my manager and booking agent. I honestly believe there is no one in this world who would have done as much as he did for me only Nick.. when I got the news he had passed earlier this year it was the saddest day of my life as I have never lost anyone that close to me before.. not only had he become my mentor, he was my best friend who I would ring twice a week. I still think of him every day and think I must ring Nick about that and then I remember the sad truth that I can't. I'm lucky I met his brother Joe who is one of the

nicest guys I've ever met and we now share stories about his brother, I am so glad between Joe, John and myself, we wrote this song in memory of Nick.. he is sadly missed by many people and will never be forgotten!

As always, be good to one another, and stay safe.

Joe and Nathan

'Wings To Fly'

Written by Nathan Carter,
John Farry, and Joe Mcshane

Verse 1

I dreamed a dream
That we both shared
Soon I could see
How much you cared
Your faith in me
It never died
You gave me wings
The wings to fly

CHORUS

Now you are an angel flying high
You left us here on earth alone to cry
Memories of you will never die
For you gave me wings to fly
For you are an angel flying high
You left us here on earth alone to cry
Memories of you will never die
For you gave me wings
The wings to fly

Verse 2

Always there
To lend a hand
You watched me grow
From boy to man
Then I heard
The sad, sad news
So hard to take
So hard to lose

CHORUS

Now you are an angel flying high
You left us here on earth alone to cry
Memories of you will never die
For you gave me wings
For you are an angel flying high
You left us here on earth alone to cry
Memories of you will never die
For you gave me wings
The wings to fly

BRIDGE -

I dreamt I saw last night
In my dreams
I felt a gentle breeze
Maybe a touch of angels wings,
Maybe a last goodbye
Maybe that old familiar
smile.....

CHORUS

Now you are an angel flying high
You left us here on earth alone to cry
Memories of you will never die
For you gave me wings
For you are an angel flying high
You left us here on earth alone to cry
Memories of you will never die
For you gave me wings
The wings to fly,
The wings to Fly...

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You Never Miss Those Little Freedoms . . . Until They're Gone!

"We are living in an artificially induced state of consciousness that resembles sleep..."

Yeah, well; that's the problem with free speech, isn't it? It's not only free for you or whatever you believe. The other person is entitled to their free speech as well. So if you take it to its logical conclusion then you're going to have to eventually listen to that other person, accord them the same respect that you hope they are according you - and they just might have some ideas that you don't like.

What are you going to do? Decide that their free speech is less important than yours? Label theirs as 'destructive' and yours as 'instructive'? It stops being straightforward, doesn't it?

You know, it had all started out innocently enough. There I was, lazing back on the couch (something I'm doing a lot of, just over two months into these self-isolating days) and listening to the soundtrack of John Carpenter's film 'They Live'.

Now for all you kiddies under thirty out there, who are under the notion that film history began with 'Iron Man' and the Marvel Universe, this was a movie made 'way back in...oh, 1988 - practically the Silent Era -- and was a science-fiction comedy about a guy who finds an unusual pair of sunglasses. They open his eyes to the fact that we are being fed a whole shed load of subliminal advertising which keeps humanity in a docile trance that makes us want to spend and consume and spend and consume with every chance we get.

And along about now, you're probably asking how this is even classed as fiction, never mind science fiction; isn't this just what happens all the time? Have a listen to the rest of the dialogue that opened this article:

"...the poor and the underclass are growing. Racial justice and human rights are nonexistent. They have created a repressive society, and we are their unwitting accomplices. Their intention to rule rests with the annihilation of consciousness. We have been lulled into a trance. They have made us indifferent to ourselves, to others. We are focused only on our own gain. They

are safe as long as they are not discovered. That is their primary method of survival. Keep us asleep, keep us selfish...keep us sedated."

Good stuff, right? It would remind you a bit of the premise of 'The Matrix'...except that Mr. Carpenter got there first. See? You can learn from 'old' movies.

So this little speech kicks off the soundtrack and it got me to thinking: Didn't that slightly barmy conspiracy theorist who used to play soccer - David Icke - say something about all this just after the movie came out?

And off I went to check him out on YouTube. Only to discover that not only is Mr. Icke still around but he is still getting himself into trouble. He's been saying things about the Coronavirus lockdown. Things that have gotten his free speech taken away. Things that might corrupt you if you listened to him.

And for that reason I can't hear what he said about a fantasy comedy from 1988. Because all of his stuff is gone now. All of it. That'll teach him to think differently, the bloody nerve of him.

He's been...what's that word the virtue signalers love to use when they're bragging to each other about how righteous they are? Oh yeah - cancelled. Mr. Icke has been cancelled.

So I could have listened to it in March, after it having been available for decades...but not now? I find that just a bit...off, to put it mildly.

Last month in this column I wrote of the many headbangers who have popped up during this grim time:

"There are people out there whose actual mission in their miserable lives is to frighten you. Not having much of an existence themselves and with something here that makes them feel important, they are in their element. But c'mon now, don't encourage them. I mean, if you read on your latest unmissable Coronavirus update that holding your breath for fifteen seconds whilst drinking upside down from a glass of water and swinging from a vine yelling 'Me Tarzan!' will keep you safe...use a bit of cop on. Apply a bit of logic."

In other words, think for yourselves and make your own minds up. David Icke has been spouting out of him for about four decades now, ever since he was a sports commentator and Green Party spokesperson (either one of which would be enough to make me view him with DEEP suspicion) who received a vision that told him he was

the Son of the Godhead. Big deal; it happens to me at least once a week.

In fact he can be pretty entertaining and - let’s be honest about this -- a lot of his stuff actually hits home; although I’ll never forgive him for saying that Kris Kristofferson was one of the Reptilians or Lizard People or whatever who are secretly ruling the globe. George Bush & Co.; the British Royal Family; yes, I’m with him there and Andrew is definitely some slimy kind of reptile. But why pick on Kris? I’ve always loved that guy’s music. [In any case, wasn’t the Lizard King Jim Morrison? Little conspiracy theorist joke there, boom boom!]

Anyway, Mr. Icke is not buying this whole pandemic business and reckons it’s a conspiracy to keep us docile (which we’ve definitely proved we are, mind!) and destroy the global economy and set us up for even more round-the-clock surveillance than we are under right now.

Being Icke, I have no doubt that he had a LOT more to say than that, but that’s the gist of it. To me, it’s hardly like shouting ‘Fire!’ in a crowded theatre...and I’m going to defend his right to say it.

When the hell did we stop being adults? When did we start needing to be mol-

lycoddled and minded and looked after every step of the way? Why can’t we be trusted to listen to a person, check out their background, decide for ourselves if they are genuine or a nutter and make our own minds up?

No bloody wonder we now live in nanny states. Or a Matrix. We asked for it.

And just as I came across Mr. Icke’s cancellation by accident, so we will begin to discover that more and more of our liberties are being chipped away at, without us really noticing it, under the guise of it being in our best interests. And I happen to think that - in the main - the curtailments that have been put on our freedoms during this time really have been for the common good.

But here’s the thing: throughout history governments have always been good at taking things away ‘temporarily’. They haven’t been very good at putting them back again.

And when the dust has settled and we are living in a post-lockdown world, I wonder how many little nuggets of freedom - the kind you never even notice -- will be gone.

Temporarily. Except that they won’t be back. charleybrady@gmail.com

Academy of Irish Music Raises Funds for the Irish American Heritage Center

By Sarah Godley

The Irish American Heritage Center has been affected by the pandemic, but these young adults set out to make sure you had live music.

The Academy of Irish Music set up outside IAHC on Mother’s Day weekend during curbside pick-up, and played for few hours.

Aileen and Liam Godley did “Drive by Irish sessions” to have the music come to members of IAHC and others for Mother’s Day gifts!

As there have been many efforts by many volunteers to keep a connection during these times, this is just one gesture of how IAHC’s young community is keeping the spirit of Irish music alive.

The music performances were volun-



ter efforts, all donations helped support the fundraising campaign for IAHC.

Until we meet again...



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Lawrence John McCaffrey, Irish American Hall of Fame Inductee Passes at age Ninety-Four

Born a South Sider August 10, 1925 in Blue Island, Illinois, Lawrence passed on May 15, 2020 in Evanston IL.

Larry and his younger sister, Patricia, were raised in Riverdale and Dolton by their immigrant parents, John and Alma (nee Kelly). John immigrated to the US in 1912 and worked many years for the IC Railroad. Larry graduated from Leo High School (1943), and in 2013 was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame.

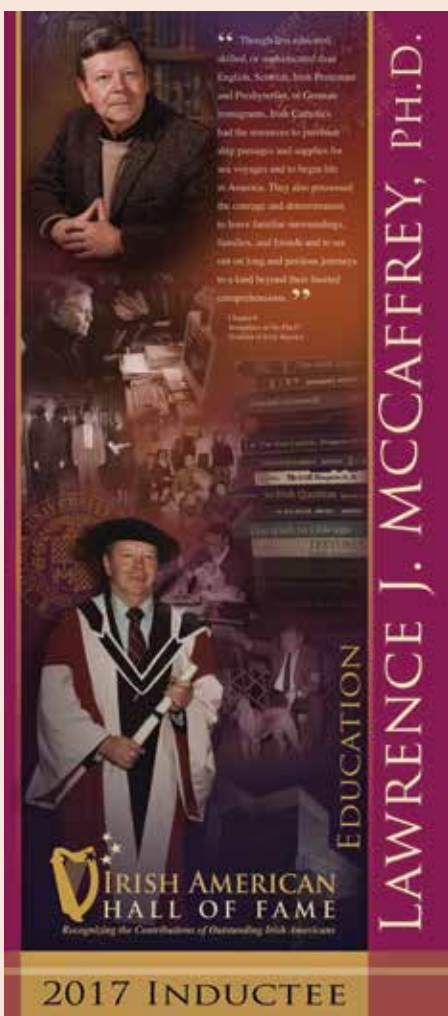
He served in the U. S. Coast Guard during World War II as a Signalman on a vessel patrolling the waters off Newfoundland. The vessel's home port was in Brooklyn, which mostly explains why (to his father's great chagrin) he became a Brooklyn Dodgers' fan. His service in the Coast Guard allowed him to take advantage of the GI Bill and become his family's first college graduate. It was during his undergraduate days at St. Ambrose College that he met, and then married, Joan Elizabeth McCaffrey (nee McNamara), in 1949.

The path to his PhD started at St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa for his B.A.; then, to Indiana University for his M.A.; and finally, to the University of Iowa for his PhD.

In his teaching career, he called Michigan State University, St. Catherine's (Minnesota), University of Iowa, University of Illinois-Champaign, Marquette University, University of Maine, and, finally, Loyola University Chicago as his academic "homes". His teaching career also took him to Ireland, Montreal, Detroit, and, Burlington, Vermont for visiting fellowships and teaching positions. He earned honorary Doctorate degrees from St. Ambrose College (Humanities, 1982) and, the National University of Ireland (Literature, 1987).

A highly respected, beloved, engaging and supportive teacher throughout his career; especially remembered fondly by those who attended his history classes. He proudly noted that his Western Civilization classes were half about Western Europe, and half about the Irish. He retired as Professor Emeritus from Loyola in 1991, after 21 years of service.

He authored 5 well-known monographs on the Irish and the Irish-American experience, including the ground-breaking *The Irish Diaspora in America* (1976), as well as co-authoring or editing 5 other significant works. *The Irish Diaspora in America* became the standard text for university work soon after its publication. He also wrote more than 30 scholarly articles,



hundreds of book reviews, and, guided many aspiring historians on the path to their own academic success. Along with close friends and colleagues, Gilbert Cahill (SUNY-Cortland), and Emmet Larkin (University of Chicago), he co-founded the American Committee for Irish Studies (later, the American Conference on Irish Studies) which became the preeminent organization for the study of scholarly investigation into the Irish experience.

He appeared on numerous television and radio shows, most notably NPR, the Milt Rosenberg Show, and, Radio Eireann. He was the only American historian to be part of the Thames TV series, *The Troubles* (1981); was the historical consultant for the PBS series, *The Irish in America: Long Voyage Home* (1991); and, was a technical advisor for *The Road to Perdition*, starring Tom Hanks (2002). In 2017, he was inducted into the Irish-American Hall of Fame in Chicago at the Irish-American Heritage Center, sharing the stage with fellow inductee, Bill Murray.

A jovial, conversational fellow who enjoyed walking his West Highland White Terriers around Evanston neighborhoods

and stopping to talk to new friends that he hadn't yet met. In his Milwaukee days while at Marquette University, he even bred, raised, and, showed Irish Terriers.

An avid watcher of classic movies. A big fan of Bing Crosby, Mel Torme, Frank Sinatra, and the Big Band era. Also loved Irish folk music, especially The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem. Once hosted a party while teaching at University of Illinois - Champaign in honor of the Clancy Brothers, and had a young journalism student, Roger Ebert, crash the party.

A big fan of the Los Angeles Dodgers, the

Indiana Hoosiers, and, the Iowa Hawkeyes.

Loved a good conversation, especially when accompanied by a good beer or a strong cocktail. Spent the last 50 years of his life living in Evanston, Illinois with his wife Joan, who preceded him into eternal life in 2018.

Firmly believed that his 7 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren were the brightest and most amazing descendants a person could have. Proud father of Kevin, Sheila, and, Patricia.

Hall of Fame banner art designed by Laura Coyle.

Teaching Kids How to Save Today for Tomorrow is a Mission Brendan Houlihan

If this pandemic has shown us anything, it is that a great number of us are financially ill-prepared for an emergency, let alone a global crisis. Income and insurance losses, work hour cutbacks, bulk buying for lockdown preparations, pay reductions, huge stock market fluctuations, and general uncertainty in what lies ahead, are all creating great amounts of stress surrounding monetary stability moving forward.

Hard though it may be for a lot of people to think about financial planning at a time like this, it might just be the exactly right moment to begin, or to even take a second look at what your long term investment goals are and how well you're moving towards them.

Gaelic Park board member and volunteer, Brendan Houlihan, wants to help families save more for tomorrow, today! "I'm a financial advisor, like a GPS," explains the South Side native owner-operator of BFH Wealth Management LLC and the Learn to Earn Investment program for kids.

"I am a fiduciary who specializes in financial plans for individuals and families. As a fiduciary, I have an ethical and legal responsibility to put your interest first. My comprehensive approach starts by gathering financial information of where you and your family are at right now to help you determine the route to your investment goals and objectives. I am your financial GPS. The goal is to help families achieve financial security and save more for tomorrow, today!"

Houlihan also understands the importance of learning about financial health from an early age. Shaping these skills in children can be as, if not more, important than any other subject they will learn in these formative years. Financial literacy is a life skill that empowers children and their families to make rational and intelligent decisions.

"I introduced the Learn to Earn Invest-

ment program to St. Michaels in Orland Park, where my daughter attends school," he says. "I met with the principal and stressed the importance of introducing the concepts of financial literacy to children and teaching them the importance of it. The sooner they learn it, the more productive they will be in understanding how it works, and how they can make it work for themselves.

"With Principal Smith's approval and support, I was able to conduct classes at the school, pre-COVID 19. Now I am using Zoom twice a week, teaching kids the basics of financial literacy. Understanding the benefits of being an early investor and learning what would work for them and getting them to think about it. These future talented investors are really excited to share the information they are learning with their families and friends."

Covering a wide variety of topics, the program does not just dip kids' feet into the waters of financial planning but helps them start to critically think about the way money moves through their household and the economy. Growing their understanding this way teaches them to anticipate the markets and plan accordingly. "Kids do catch on, and they do understand the importance of being smart with their money."

"Understanding how to save more for tomorrow, today...is powerful!"

Focusing on the fourth to eighth grade age range, Houlihan's goal, like how he encourages his adult clients, is to teach them the importance of being disciplined and having consistency with their savings. Then, as they grow older and gain more earning power and responsibility, they are armed with the tools to make informed investment decisions.

Using a multi-faceted approach to advising individuals and families on their financial futures, Houlihan's business specializes in money management, retirement plans,

401k plans, 529 college savings plans, among other topics. There are important and specific factors in reaching the goals you set for yourself and your family, and Houlihan spends time helping you comprehend these skills when managing your money.

“The way I look at it... as a financial advisor, I provide an important role. I help families navigate towards their financial goals.”

Brendan Houlihan started his career in the Financial District in Chicago after graduating from Northern Illinois University. Houlihan began at the Chicago Board

Options Exchange as a price reporter, followed by several years at the Chicago Board of Trade. He



spent most of his career in interest rate futures market, and honed his skills with market makers, traders, and brokers. He served

as an elected Commissioner at the Cook County Board of Review, where he supervised property tax analysts and facilitated seminars throughout the county to educate taxpayers on the appeal process, and was contracted by the Illinois Department of Revenue to market and modernize the property transfer tax recording process. (bfhwealthmanagement.com)

For more information on Brendan Houlihan’s business, you can visit his website at bfhwealthmanagement.com, call him at (708)280-8753, or contact him by email at brendan@bfhwealthmanagement.com

Stay at Home Stay Alive Song Raises Funds for Frontline Healthcare Workers

Some of Ireland’s leading musicians have banded together on a new track reminding people how important it is to stay at home during the coronavirus outbreak. 100% of funds raised from sale of the single entitled Stay At Home Stay Alive will be donated to charities supporting

joined on the track by an all-star line-up of Irish artists including Irish Singer/Songwriter Brian Kennedy, three-time Eurovision winner Johnny Logan, Celtic Woman star Chloë Agnew and PBS darlings Tommy Fleming and Sean Keane. The track is accompanied by a video featuring a glimpse

“With the help of my manager and co-writer John Farry, we put the lyrics together pretty quickly” says Carter. “Once we got the words and music down, I mentioned it to a few friends in the industry and the offers to get involved came flooding in. We are all in awe of the work people are doing to keep us safe, so it was so important to include them in the video. While the rest of us are safe at home, they go to work for us. Soon, we hope to sing and perform again for them and everyone else, but in the meantime, stay safe and stay home.”

Nathan Carter is a household name across Ireland and the UK. Weaving folk and pop genres spanning the Atlantic, Carter’s fusion of Celtic and country is unique and electrifying. Now at age 29, the highly acclaimed singer songwriter is one the most successful live acts on the Irish music scene. He has achieved huge chart success with five albums, two singles and two music DVDs all reaching No.1 on the Irish music charts. Nathan Carter will be on tour in the US later this year with his 6-piece band and signature sextet sound. See nathancarter.com or see the video on youtube.



the frontline workers in the Irish and UK Healthcare systems.

The single is now available for download on iTunes for \$1.29, and all proceeds will be split between the Republic of Ireland’s #OurHospitalHeroes and the Northern Ireland’s #HelpourHealthHeroes funds. Additional donations can be made directly to either fund by clicking on the links above. More details can be found here.

“Stay At Home Stay Alive” was penned by Irish Celtic and Country star Nathan Carter and his manager John Farry. Carter is

into the artists in their homes, as well as some of the brave frontline staff working tirelessly to keep us all safe. Click to view the video on Facebook or You Tube.

The inspiration behind creating Stay At Home Stay Alive came to Carter whilst reading an article by community leader, author and journalist Father Brian D’Arcy where he opined that someone should write a song for this time. Carter, who is used to a hectic touring schedule in normal times, reflected on what he could do to help while on lockdown in his Co. Fermanagh home.

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Morton Downey

Known throughout his long career as "The Golden Voiced Irish Tenor," "The Irish Troubadour," and "The Irish Nightingale" Morton Downey was the first Irish-American superstar in the twentieth century.

Morton Downey was born on November 14, 1901 in Wallingford, Connecticut. His grandfather, John Downey, was born in Co. Kilkenny, Ireland and was Wallingford's fire chief and tavern keeper. From as early as eight years old Morton was singing. He sang at club affairs, smokers, and church sociables. By the age of fourteen he had left school and was earning as much as four dollars per evening, which was just half of what he got for an entire week's work at his full-time job at an insurance company. At sixteen he enlisted in the Navy but after his father notified the authorities of his age he was held in the "jug" until his folks could pick him up. After trying numerous other jobs that didn't pan out Morton decided to devote his life to singing.

Like all aspiring entertainers on the East Coast he moved to New York and moved in with relatives in Brooklyn. A friend of these relatives got Morton a gig at the old Sheridan Square Theater in Greenwich Village where Morton was signed up for two weeks at \$40 a week. It was at the Sheridan were a talent scout for the Paul Whiteman band noticed him. He then became known as the first band vocalist. Up until then vocalist were expected to play an instrument in the band. This was so unusual that he was given a dummy saxophone to look like he was part of the orchestra.

In 1926 he left the Paul Whiteman Orchestra when he was signed for Ziegfeld's Palm Beach Nights in Florida. Then he went on his own to London, Paris and Berlin and gained international stardom. In 1929 he made the movie Syncopation where he sang the hit song "I'll Always Be in Love With You" to his co-star Barbara Bennett who would soon become his wife. He eventually made two other films but movie-making was not his style.

Radio became his claim to fame. In the 1930's he signed with CBS. He sang for sponsors such as Camel, Woodbury

and Pall Mall. He was the featured singer at the New York World's Fair of 1939-1940 and the following year he signed with the Coca-Cola Company for a daily radio program,

singing with the Raymond Paige Orchestra. Still somewhat popular on radio he appeared on TV in 1947 and in 1949 had his own show on NBC. In 1952 he signed an exclusive five-year contract with Coca-Cola that covered all of his radio and TV appearances. At the peak of his career in the middle 1930's Morton was receiving over 95,000 fan letters a week and earning, with nightclub and theatre appearances, as much as \$250,000 a year.

His successful relationship with Coca-Cola allowed him to ease out of the entertainment industry. It would lead him to eventually become president and director of the Coca-Cola Bottling

Company of New Haven. He became a very successful businessman and was on the boards of numerous corporations that included banks, publishing and news companies.

Morton had five children from his first wife, Barbara Bennett. He married two more times and died in October 1985 in Palm Beach, Florida. Many of you probably remember his son Morton Downey, Jr. as being America's first "Shock Jock" on radio and TV.

According to the Mikroscope Album & Log Book Radio Guide of 1935 "Morton likes plain foods, steaks, roast beef medium, chops, et cetera. He's five feet nine and a half inches tall. His favorite radio entertainer is Bing Crosby. He usually wears dark clothes and solid ties. His favorite color



Morton Downey and his wife, Barbara

is blue. He gets a haircut once a week. He has dark brown hair and greenish blue eyes. Next to sleep and reading comics, his favorite relaxation is driving fast cars."

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – JUNE 2020

I am hopeful that all of you are safe, happy and healthy in these challenging times.

I'd like to report that your Irish American Heritage Center is doing OK as we navigate the waters of the COVID-19 crisis and that this is due to the generosity of all of YOU and to the dogged efforts of our volunteers and staff! Thank you for your support and for your belief in our organization to continue on with our mission as we have been doing for the past forty plus years.

As of this writing, the City of Chicago is getting close but not yet open and it will likely be a while before we can open our doors to all in ways that we have become accustomed to. Until then, we continue to march.

Our GoFundMe fundraiser has been more than 70% fulfilled and we've received generous support with our Spring Appeal outside of the online fundraiser. It is truly heartening to see what our community of members, partners, volunteers and friends has been willing to do to keep the Center up and running and at as close to full strength as we can possibly be throughout these difficult days. It is this support that will lead us out of the lockdown and hopefully back to full strength when we can be fully functional again.

I'd like to send a couple of shout-outs to good friends of the Center, Sexton Flooring, for their donation of a brand-new floor in the 5th Province. We will all be the beneficiaries of their kindness when we can open again.

I'd like to also point out the great work being done by our Gift Shop team led by Irene and Hal Hruby. With Mother's Day and Easter promotions, the Center was able to raise instant money to benefit the Center while providing our IAHC community with the best in Irish food, candy, snacks and gifts. TAYTOS!!! Thanks to all of our volunteers who came out to help! Stay tuned for future dates when the Gift Shop will be open to serve you.

The IAHC continues to provide cultural and community offerings on our social media and website. Whether it is music from our local, national or international artists doing live from home performances, recipes and videos from our partners at Culture Ireland and Tourism Ireland, or the weekly yoga and Paints and Pints series from fellow board members, the Center is alive and well and doing its best to provide content to get us all through our stay-at-home days.

Follow us on Facebook or Twitter or check out our

website for all that we have to offer. Stay tuned for music from our annual Irish Fest musicians to fill the void left without our July festival!

Usually in the month of June, the Center holds its annual election for the Board of Directors. This is a process that begins in April with a mailing to our membership and a call for nominations in May. Due to the building shutdown and financial hardship, we were unable to follow through with the usual procedures for a timely June election. With the building being closed and the funds not available to pay for a proper mailing, a June election just is not a tenable

option. The Board is currently discussing options for the election process that would be most fair for our membership and we'll communicate the process as soon as we can. Please be patient as we get ourselves ready to open our doors again and begin the long road back to some sense of normalcy.

Until then, be safe, be healthy until we meet again.

Mike Shevlin

President, Irish American Heritage Center



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When Covid-19 hit, their business had 23 employees and they were determined to try and keep them working.

Having done the floors at the Irish American Heritage Center a few years back, and understanding that the Center would be in dire straights during this time, the family-run business offered to bring back the lustre of the floors in the Fifth Province Hall - for free!

Knowing they



received an offer they could not refuse, the leaders at the Center readily agreed, and within a week or two, the floors were in beautiful condition again.

"We are very grateful for to Sexton Complete Floor Care, Ed Sexton Sr., and his sons for this generous donation to the Center. Normally, this job is billed at over \$15,000, and there is no way we could have done this during the lockdown," said IAHC President, Mike Shevlin. "This will not be forgotten," he exclaimed.



BOARD MEMBER ON THE FRONT LINES

During the COVID pandemic, elective surgical procedures came to a halt. As the Associate Vice President of Perioperative Services, it has been my role to coordinate a reemergence of surgical procedures.

Some patients have been delayed in having an operation and/or have had a procedure canceled. We are now working on getting surgeries up and running again. It's has been a concerted effort to allocate the resources needed before, during, and after surgery.

Collaborating with surgeons, anesthesia providers, and supporting departments can have its chal-

lenges, during "normal" times. However, our current environment has honestly brought out the best in all of my colleagues... and me. I have the honor and privilege to work with smart, dedicated, and compassionate healthcare workers.

As a nurse, my main purpose is to keep the patient safe and free from harm. As a nurse leader, my goal is to keep the surgical team safe too. This is exactly what I signed up for. I cannot imagine doing anything else!

—Anne Marie Herlehy



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Party Favors

You're likely familiar with President Eisenhower's warning on what he, in his 1961 farewell address, termed the Military-Industrial Complex: "We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes... The prospect of domination of the nation's scholars by Federal employment, project allocations, and the power of money is ever present and is gravely to be regarded."

Three months later his successor, John F. Kennedy, who inherited a plan from Ike's CIA to invade Cuba, reportedly told a top US official he wanted to "splinter the C.I.A. in a thousand pieces and scatter it to the winds". That November, Kennedy presented the National Security Medal to CIA Director Allen Dulles and accepted his resignation the following day. Two years later, Kennedy was assassinated in very suspicious circumstances, and Dulles was appointed to investigate his murder.

America's first president, George Washington, whose memorials are now in danger of being smashed by leftists in pursuit of historical political correction, gave this warning on political parties in his 1796 Farewell Address to "friends and fellow-citizens": "... the spirit of party... agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, foments occasionally

riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption..."

The interlacing growth, influence and power of institutions of corporations, government, and media are once again trending toward a one-party state, as well as a one-world order. Four years on, multiple operators at the highest levels of government have only one item on their agenda: destroy or disable the US president. The powerful were far more at ease with a community organizer at the helm than a seasoned player like Donald Trump, an interloper promising to "drain the swamp". Washington politicians and their corporate and media clubmates from both political parties were thrown into panic by his surprise 2016 victory. Many now believe their latest strategy is to destroy the Trump's "magic wand" economy using this year's flu, no matter the cost to US citizenry. The last campaign in this grim and counterfeit political war was the smearing and imprisonment of General Michael Flynn, once security advisor for the incoming administration but regarded as incoming artillery by Democrats intent on his destruction in a pre-emptive FBI strike.

Flynn is Irish Catholic from a family of nine children. Commissioned in 1981 as a military intelligence officer in the 82nd Airborne Division he worked

hard, moving quickly up the ranks while earning three master's degrees, until nominated by President Obama in 2012 as director of the US Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA).

There Flynn became concerned that radical Islamists were behind the Syrian insurgency and that "Turkey was looking the other way". His agency issued several classified warnings which Flynn said: "got enormous push-back from the Obama administration". Former DIA official W. Patrick Lang: "Flynn incurred the wrath of the White House by insisting on telling the truth about Syria ... they shoved him out. He wouldn't shut up." Others felt differently.

August 16, 2016, the FBI opened a case on Flynn as part of its now discredited "Crossfire Hurricane" Russia investigation. November 18, Flynn accepted Trump's offer for the job of National Security Advisor. New evidence now shows the FBI closed its criminal investigation of Gen. Flynn on January 4, 2017, more than 2 weeks prior to Flynn's initial FBI interview and President Trump's inauguration! FBI memos state: "No derogatory information was identified in FBI holdings". Yet that same day agent Peter Strzok, since fired for "misconduct", ordered the case remain open. Strzok also edited former FBI Director James Comey's statement on Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server, changing the wording from "grossly negligent" to "ex-

tremely careless"; and conducted Clinton's FBI interview.

James Comey's role in government appears to be that of a top-level "fixer", a Liev Schreiber/Ray Donovan type who fixes outcomes for members of the elite- not elite Hollywood moguls and organized crime, but rather for an international cabal of high financiers and government officials.

Comey has a history of cases ending in favor of the Clintons, including that of former Clinton NSA Advisor Samuel "Sandy" Berger, jailed for stealing and destroying highly classified documents in 2003 prior to testifying before the 9/11 Commission. Political researcher Jack Cashill revealed President Clinton had reviewed documents on the 1995 Bojinka plot, hatched by the nephew of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (who later planned the 9/11 attacks). "The documents directly referenced plans to use airplanes as flying bombs" (to destroy CIA headquarters in Langley, Va.) "More damning, he (Clinton) left his own notes on these documents." Mueller's FBI allowed Berger to plea for 2 years' probation and half the maximum fine.

And in 2005 during the Iraq War, Comey (then G W Bush's Deputy Attorney General) joined Lockheed Martin as senior vice president and general counsel. Why would a huge Washington defense contractor hand a top-tier job to a guy with no military experience and no knowledge

of engineering or defense work? Seamus Bruner, Associate Director of Research at the Government Accountability Institute says: "...one reason - aside from his security clearance - is that his buddy Robert Mueller... begin passing 100-million-dollar-plus contracts to Lockheed Martin." Comey's salary was secret, but a fluke in 2009 revealed that year alone he earned more than \$6.1 million in compensation. He also accumulated at least \$11 million in free stock. He made millions more at Bridgewater, the world's largest hedge fund.

Comey was also at the key choke-point in a case involving auditor KPMG and HSBC bank. The Clinton foundation received up to \$81 million in donations from clients of HSBC. One was Jeffrey Epstein, who died mysteriously last August in a NY prison. The bank laundered deposits "from warlords, arms traffickers, drug dealers, dictators and a host of politicians." In 2012, U.S. Attorney Loretta Lynch made a lenient deferred-prosecution deal with too-big-to-fail HSBC. James Comey then became a highly paid HSBC board member, before becoming FBI Director. But by 2015, HSBC faced new investigations from ten countries over a shady tax shelter scheme for rich clients. Two months later, Lynch was sworn in by President Obama as his new Attorney General.

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BANKER**Terry From Derry**

by Terry Boyle

**A Day in the Life**

Each day starts with the same routine; catch up with family and friends, check Facebook, WhatsApp, and avoid the news, at least first thing in the morning. When we take the dogs out for their walk, I deliberately leave the phone at home because it's too tempting, and, as Oscar Wilde puts it, I can avoid anything but temptation. It feels good to be outside but being outside these days is never a simple thing. Have I got my mask on? Keep 6 feet between me and someone else, which is sometimes hard to do when that 'someone' has a dog who wants to be friendly with mine. Without a phone, I reflect on my conversations.

For once, my family in the UK and Ireland are faced with exactly the same challenges as I am even though they are thousands of miles between us. My sisters are finding the lock down, with its restrictions, hard to escape from. And, invariably, our messages are interwoven with a common thread of futile hope and guilt. Each day we wake up hoping that someone, somewhere, has found the miracle cure. Instead, we find the world-changing virus continues to act as our prison guard. We bemoan our loss of freedoms and quickly feel guilty. After all, we could be infected. We could be on a ventilator. We should be grateful for what freedom we have. There are others no so well off. And, so on and so on.

Having choked the inner bird of freedom on the bars of reality, we're ready to think about how we might fill our day without leaving the house. Suddenly, all those domestic chores that could be put off in favour of a more pressing meeting, or something more interesting, refuse to go away. My reasoning to engage with these chores is, if I have to be housebound, I may as well

pretty up the cell. Who would have thought that redecorating has become the substance of my conversations? Who knew that I'd be reduced to discussing the right colour for bathroom cabinets. Sadly, my world has shrunk to a paintbrush and pot.

Right on time, the guilt kicks in and I think of how easy I have it. There are those who cannot go outside at all. Those who cannot go to a store, walk their dog or talk to family and friends. I'm now beginning to appreciate a Catholic education motivated by guilt. The nuns were right to force-feed us our greens while torturing us with stories of starving black babies in Africa. Our parents were right to reign in our childish need for chaos and trouble by reminding us of the omnipresent eyes of the sacred heart picture. You might not see him, but his eyes were never off you. Now, free of nuns, and parents, I'm still careful not to leave anything on my plate and, whether I like it or not, I feel as if I'm being watched when I do something wrong.

Ah, it's good to be outside. Where did everyone go? Traffic has been reduced to almost a standstill, and there's hardly anyone walking. Everyone's at home at their computers enjoying the usual jokes, memes, that make our lives more bearable. Where would we be if this virus didn't stimulate the imaginations of very bored individuals? What else can they do? If you're stuck in the house, you're either a viewer of these witty satires, or you're selling your soul to the devil for a meme that will go viral. And, since I haven't got the patience or motivation to seek such virtual recognition, I'm the voyeur. Besides, my soul has depreciated in value since I gave up believing in the devil. Anyway, if he really exists, he knows he has me in the bag already.

I'm still outside, my mind is wandering as it usually does, and now I wish I'd brought my phone. Why do I torture myself this way? But when I read the news, I'm faced with exactly the same question. When I read about the same culprits doing the same bloody stupid things, I'm uptight again. My anxiety levels would soar through the roof and into the heavens if they could get that far without touching a hard surface. Have you noticed that as our outer spaces have decreased, our emotions have increased in intensity? For instance, who knew I could be so petty?

If only I could meditate. I'm praying, even though it's against my religion, that I'm not the only one who finds the thought of meditation depressing. The mere thought of trying to empty my cluttered mind would drive me to want to eat greens for the rest of my life. I'd prefer to live and die in my religious guilt than try to escape the random inconsequential thoughts of my everyday life. I love my stream of consciousness. It takes me to all sorts of weird and wonderful places. While the sacred heart might see into our hearts and minds, I am truly thankful other people are blind to our thoughts.

The walk back to the house has moved up a gear. Who said that delayed gratification was a good thing? It must have been some sad masochist. My phone has never left my mind since I left it in the house. I keep reaching into my pocket in the hopes that it's there, but, no, the hand returns empty. My connection to the outside world lies at home on a shelf screaming out my name. And, as if by osmosis, the dog senses my neurotic need for information and speeds up. I think he's determined to get away from the person talking to himself, and back to a dish with his name on it.

We're home. The news is not good. With a heavy heart, I take up the paintbrush and consider painting the dog blue. Of course, no sooner do I think this than I find myself being watched by someone out there on a higher plane.

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Shifting Ground

Northern Ireland, having been blessed for so long with an uncomplicated border with the rest of Ireland, is about to gain a second border. The British government is to immediately start erecting border structures at three of Northern Ireland's ports: Belfast, Warrenpoint and Larne. The border ports are being established to facilitate the checking of goods passing between Great Britain and Northern Ireland from early next year when Brexit comes into effect. The border ports formalise the separation of Northern Ireland's customs regime from the rest of the UK. How long can the North maintain a porous border with another jurisdiction to the south and a customs border with the rest of the UK? As they say in Westerns: 'This town ain't big enough for the both of us...it's you or me'.

The shock for unionism of a customs border with the UK being installed really should be no shock at all. In a ground-breaking meeting near Liverpool last October, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar agreed that such a border needed to be established. In so doing, Johnson betrayed the Democratic Unionist Party that had propped up his Conservative Party's government through a Confidence and Supply Agreement since June 2017. More fundamentally, Johnson betrayed unionism since no unionist party would have agreed to border checks with the rest of the UK under any circumstances. Johnson proceeded regardless.

What makes the new border still harder to bear, from a unionist perspective, is that its inception coincides with two landmark court judgements that seem to militate against unionism. The first being on the case of a Derry woman, Emma de Souza, who won the right in court to confer Irish/EU residency rights on her American husband. Initially, the British Home Office denied de Souza's right to do so on account of the UK exiting the EU. Her victory establishes the legal precedent that non-EU spouses of people from Northern Ireland have the automatic right to reside there—as they did before Brexit. While the UK government has now imposed a June 2021 deadline for applicants to avail of this right, it is not at all clear how the government can deny the right after that deadline. After all, de Souza won her case on the principle enshrined in the Good Friday Agreement that people in Northern Ireland have the right to be Irish or British or both. That principle will still obtain beyond June 2021. The precedent of this case, in effect, provides that Northern Ireland will have a different immigration regime to the rest of the UK.

So, a customs barrier with the UK, but a less complicated immigration system than the rest of the UK—you win some, you lose some? Well, that depends on what you consider a victory. It is paramount to unionism to prevent a divide down the Irish Sea and both of these developments appear to force such a wedge.

That brings us to the second far-reaching court judgement. Adding salt to unionist wounds, a ruling on May 13th the Supreme Court of the UK found that Gerry Adams's internment in the 1970s was illegal. The Detention of Terrorists (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 required a Secretary of State sign-off.

Since the highest British authority in Northern Ireland at the time, Willie Whitelaw, did not authorise Adams' internment without trial it was illegal. (Whitelaw did not authorise hundreds of other internments either and consequently they were illegal too). Unionist ire rapidly ensued. The Ulster Unionist Party leader Steve Aikens took issue with Adams' contention that internment was 'a blunt and brutal piece of coercive legislation' on the grounds that victims of the IRA's campaign had no right of redress when the IRA murdered them. Aikens ignored the fact that hundreds of innocent people were illegally interned (some were tortured). In any case, internment remains incontrovertibly brutal and it was also politically stupid.

Even the pandemic seems to be working against the unionist cause. Three of the four nations of the UK (Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) are at variance with England in their response to Covid-19. Northern Ireland unionist politicians have sensibly aligned with Northern nationalists—and with the rest of Ireland—in maintaining the strategy of lockdown in contrast to England where lockdown is being considerably phased out.

And there is more. On May 6th the Welsh Assembly became the Welsh Parliament, 21 years after its foundation. Presiding Officer of the newly renamed Welsh Parliament Elin Jones said: 'Now, more than ever, our citizens expect a strong national parliament working for Wales...With full law-making powers and the ability to vary taxes, the new name reflects the Senedd's constitutional status as a national parliament'. The renaming may be largely symbolic, but it is symbolic of secession in a UK that badly needs a narrative of unity. The establishment of a national parliament is happening at a time when three out of four of the constituent parts of the UK identify less and less with the UK's policies on the biggest health and economic threat in living memory.

The Northern Ireland Assembly is now the only legislative governing body left in the UK: Scotland, Wales and the UK as a whole have parliaments. It is not in unionists' interest to advocate upgrading it to a parliament in Northern Ireland because it would appear to deepen the cleavage with the rest of the UK that is fast becoming a chasm. Nationalists do not particularly want a parliament either: the memory of the original Parliament of Northern Ireland that represented a travesty of their political identity and civil rights endures. Besides, the nationalists tend more towards an all-Ireland political structure than to entrenching themselves in Northern Ireland. Just now, the momentum is unerringly going that way.

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On the Upbeat

By **Maryann
McTeague Keifer**

As I am writing this, we continue to be under stay at home and be safe guidelines. The house I normally feel comfortable in and its occupants whom I dearly love are now, at times, beginning to wear. A bright spot which has yet to dull is the daily Irish music or music by Irish musicians available to provide some excitement or

soothe the psyche. There has not been a day that has gone by when you had no music to listen to and enjoy. Informal sessions, mini concerts, casual visits, lessons, replays of gigs, remote jams on Zoom, you name it, it's out there for you to enjoy. We owe these musicians here in The States, in Ireland, Scotland, and a variety

of other locations a huge note of thanks for the minutes of sanity and pleasure they are gifting us at a time they are unemployed. Some have a tip jar on PayPal, or are raising money for a charity, but all are free. It is your choice whether to donate. Please show support by at least listening in and messaging your thanks.

Just prior to the visit of the virulent virus, the extraordinarily talented concertina leading lady, Caroline Keane, was putting the finishing touches on her solo album SHINE. The question became, should it be held to see if the quarantine would be lifted and a celebratory tour to introduce it could be held, or should it be released even though the exposure would be less. Thankfully for us, it has just been released, and what an album it is!!

Caroline was born in London to parents from Longford and Roscommon. She grew up in Limerick, an area music rich, and among a family who treasured and encouraged the tradition. Her mother played concertina, her Granny sang and welcomed musicians into their home. Beginning her relationship with the concertina at 7 years of age, she continually admits she is in awe that she is able to make a living doing something she so loves and enjoys. A double degreed graduate of the prestigious Irish World Academy of Music and Dance in Limerick and a now resident of Dingle, Caroline is surrounded by and is a regular participant in the rich traditional music of

the area. Sought after as a performer, composer, and teacher, she is well known and respected nationally and internationally. She is a member of the dynamic quartet, Four Winds, and can be found regularly playing with her fiancé, the gifted piper Tom Delaney.

I was first introduced to Caroline's playing by Fiachra Hayes, Socks in the Frying Pan's fiddler,



the steering wheel as a percussion instrument to accompany her playing. The concertina can, depending on who is playing it, sound harsh. Others love to drive it hard and move a crowd to a frenzy. Caroline takes this wee instrument with the big sound and creates an ethereal flow that at times lulls you, and at other times inexorably pulls you along on the musical journey she is creating.

Opening with a light and happy set of reels, 'Charming Lovely Nancy/Sleamhnan Lios Poil/Jazzin' With Mag Leary,' she has your toes moving with the music from the first measure to its last notes. Her transitions are so seamless that you effortlessly flow from one tune to the next. No matter which of the six sets of reels you enjoy on this album, Caroline is able to

who took me to see her play in Doolin. Sessioning with Tom, Cyril O'Donoghue, and Blackie O'Connell, her concertina was the lead of the tune sets. It was immediately recognizable how the music was a part of her. Eyes closed, she looked to be one with the tune, not simply performing it. She'd occasionally open her eyes and give a patron a wink and a smile that warmed hearts better than the fire in the fireplace on that chilly night. I have had the opportunity of experiencing her playing live several times; each has been a pleasure to relish which I hope you can all enjoy at least once in the near future.

Now to SHINE, a generous collection of fourteen sets of tunes, some her own compositions, which will have your toes tappin' and see you dancing in the kitchen, or as I can be seen doing, using

give you the speed of the reel you expect, but with a smooth energy that truly pleases.

I love a good hornpipe, and no one composes and performs them any better than you'll experience as you listen to "The Wine Strand Hornpipe/The Mountain Top." You can almost hear the dancers stomp of their heels as she puts that special beat in as she plays. Move then to her emotive playing of two glorious waltzes, "Carlisle Bay Waltz/The Waltz of Happiness," and you will not be able to resist getting up to move to the music that is so stunningly beautiful. Having a good background in the Kerry and Sliabh Luachra styles, you'll especially enjoy her slides, polkas (I defy you to stay still as you listen to "The Murroe Polka Set..."), and jigs.

Accompanying Caroline on her album are Goitse's Conal O'Kane,

Tom Delaney, Gerry O'Bierne, Laura Kerr, Robbie Walsh, Gearoid O'Duinin, Ryan Molloy, Jeremy Spencer and Alec Brown—a group of especially talented musicians.

Shine will, without a doubt, have a future as an iconic album of the Traditional Concertina.

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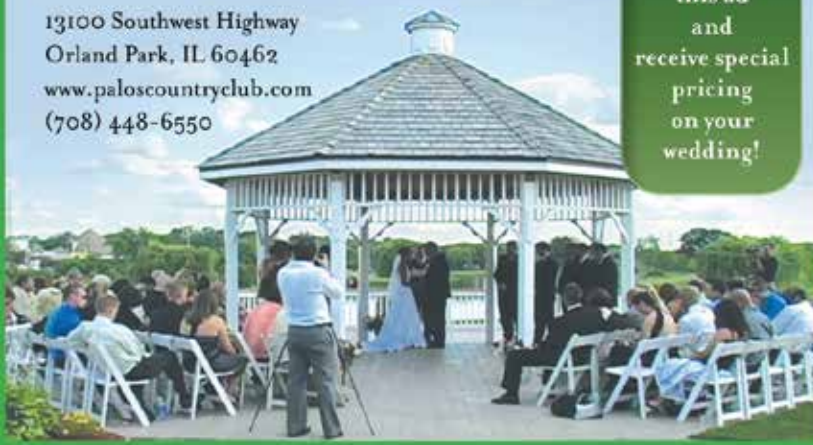
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2020 Chicago eComórtas Ceoil by Fernando Marcos

An historic event for Comhaltas North America took place from the May 15-17, 2020. Several Comhaltas branches from around the Midwest came together to organize the first eComórtas Ceoil or virtual music competition. The groundbreaking event was hosted by Murphy Roche Irish Music Club in Burr Ridge and sponsored by DFAT Immigrant Support Ireland, Clancy’s Pizza Pub, DaBecca Natural Foods, and others.

With the goal of keeping music alive through the pandemic, on April 14, a team of Midwesterners convened to create an event that would fill a gap left by the cancellation of the Midwest Regional Fleadh and that would be safe during a pandemic. The 2020 Chicago eComórtas Ceoil was born. The brilliant committee composed of Kell Chole, Jim Casey, Tony O’Connell, Katie Grennan, Moya



Kell Chole

Townsend and Tiffany Moore (Murphy Roche - Chicago); Dmitri Alano and Tim Jedlicka (Indianapolis Irish Arts); Norah Rendell (Minneapolis Irish Arts); Charlene Snow and Eleanor Carey (DIMA - Detroit) and Teresa Finley (Irish Traditions of Atlanta) organized the event on the same weekend the cancelled Midwest Regional Fleadh would have taken place.

In keeping with the fleadh theme: “Pacing ourselves on the road to excellence”, entrants presented a recorded performance that was later reviewed and evaluated by a team of qualified adjudicators.

The international team of judges hailing from US, Ireland, Scotland and England, ranked the entrants as achieving a gold, silver or

bronze standard and provided them with a much appreciated feedback on their performance.

A wholly new concept, though governed largely by the rules of the CCÉ fleadhanna, adjudication was blind to age, name and location: judges only knew a competitor number as all submissions were audio files. The exceedingly successful event received hundreds of applications from US and international locations and was crowned by a Zoom meeting to celebrate Irish music in the diaspora and its connections to the motherland. The Zoom celebration, featuring Chole as the MC, took place on the last day of the eComórtas Ceoil and featured remarks and live performances from judges, competitors and other attendees. During the celebration, adjudicators revealed the competitor number of their Player of Note. That musician then talked a bit about themselves and performed the tune of their choice.

“I was delighted to see that competitors of all ages and from diverse locations were selected as our dozen Players of Note. It really gave the event an international feel,” explained Chole.

Special guests included Irish Ambassador to the US Dan Mulhall, Chicago Consul General Brian O’Brien and North American Chair of CCÉ Frankie McCormick. The ever-enthusiastic Joe Connaire, Chair of All Ireland Fleadh 2020/2021 in Mullingar, Ireland and President of Comhaltas Vincent Jordan were among the hundreds participating in this most successful Zoom call as well.

Connaire helped wrap



Nora McJannett



Brianna Brown



Conor Fleming

things up at the end of the celebration: “Due to the disappointment of so many musicians, dancers, singers and storytellers worldwide, following the cancellation of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, Kell and her team decided to invite the world to participate in an eComórtas Ceoil and the response was overwhelming. It showed the strength of Comhaltas worldwide. It was a joy to be involved in a Zoom call that lasted over two hours. I pointed out how important the Diaspora is to Comhaltas and to Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann and I welcomed each and every one of them across the globe to

celebrate the 70th anniversary of Comhaltas in Mullingar in 2021”.

“At this time, when we are all at home in lock down, with the all fleadhanna cancelled it has the trad music community feeling a bit cheated of our time with our musician friends. It was our hope that this event would raise the spirits of the competitors, as well as being a bright spot for our organizing team,” says Chole.

Contestants pictured

Nora McJannett, member of Murphy Roche Irish Music Club, selected as the Player of Note by Judge Kerrie Herryty Lenehan of Sligo. Conor Fleming of New York selected as the Player of Note by Judge Pauline Conneely of Chicago. Brianna Brown of St. Louis selected as the Player of Note by Judge Roisin McArdle of Scotland.

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Re-opening Illinois:

In Early May, Governor J.B. Pritzker announced a 5 phase plan to re-open Illinois. At the time of this article, Illinois is currently in Phase 2, the flattening phase. It is expected that most of Illinois will proceed to phase 3, the recovery phase, in June. The City of Chicago also announced its own plan to maintain public safety while gradually re-opening the city. You can see both the state & city plans above.

ICS COVID19 Resources:

ICS has retrofitted our website to provide the community with the most up to date COVID-19 information and resources. ICS will continually update this section of our website as new information becomes available. Topics covered in this section include: Practical COVID-19 information, COVID-19 Travel & Visa information, COVID-19 Elderly Services, COVID-19 Employment & Public Services, Resources for Immigrants during COVID-19 crisis, and Shelter-in-Place Activities. You can view these various tabs on our home page at:

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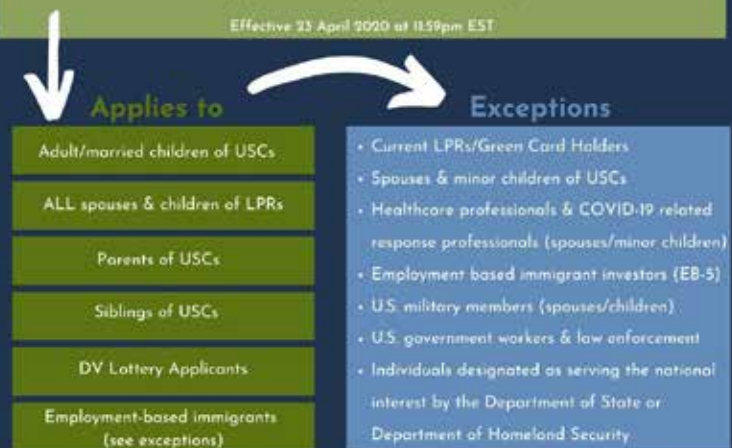
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- If you want to return to Ireland immediately, you should contact your nearest **Embassy/Consulate** who are helping people with organising flights to return.
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- Remember it is important to mind your mental health during this time. Talk to family, friends, and other supports.

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Our June 2020 immigration legal clinic dates & times are below. Clinics will be telephone consultations only. Please call 312-973-9034 or email info@irishchicago.org to register. Additional dates will be added as demand dictates.

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Pandemic Unemployment Assistance: The new federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program provides benefits for many individuals who have been determined ineligible for state unemployment benefits, including self-employed workers and independent contractors. You can learn how to apply for PUA benefits through the graphic below.

How can I apply for PUA benefits?

1. **Apply for regular Unemployment Insurance.** If you have already filed for regular UI and have received a decision or are awaiting a decision, please do not file again.
2. **Enroll in direct deposit to get your payment faster.** Log back into your account and set up your banking information.
3. **Within 7-10 days, you'll receive a UI Finding from IDES & a debit card from KeyBank.**
 - Hold on to your debit card. If you're eligible for regular UI OR if you're denied regular UI and apply for PUA, you'll receive payments on this card.
 - The finding will tell you whether you are monetarily eligible for benefits. If you're not eligible, you can appeal here: bit.ly/IDESUploadPortal
4. **If you did not receive compensation during your base period, you may apply for PUA.** Apply at ides.illinois.gov



Online U.S. Citizenship Classes- June 2020

Irish Community Services is offering FREE classes to help you through the U.S. Citizenship process.

What You'll Learn

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- Citizenship Eligibility & Process Overview
- Study Materials Available

Class Details

Classes will take place via Zoom at the following dates & times:

Tuesday, June 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd
6:00 PM - 7.30 PM

- 4 classes of 1.5 hours
- Classes are FREE. Fees apply for optional study material only.
- Limit 15 people per class

Public Announcements:

For those experiencing anxiety or other mental health issues, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is available to help seven days a week. You can contact NAMI at 833-626-4244.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence and requires assistance, the National Domestic Violence hotline is available to assist. You can contact them at 1800-799-7233.

If you are symptomatic or have been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case and feel that you need to be tested, the Illinois Department of Public Health has released a comprehensive list of testing sites. You can view this information at <http://dph.illinois.gov/testing>.

US Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) offices will remain closed through June 4th. While offices are closed, USCIS will continue to provide limited emergency services. To contact USCIS call 800-375-5283



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I would like to thank the wonderful volunteers and groups and everyone involved who have stepped forward uniting our communities during these times throughout the counties, the states, and the country.

Through these difficult times it gives me great pleasure to help others, and I know that most recipients will pay it forward when they can!

James Kelley,
 JFKjrone@gmail.com


Gallagher's Advice
 By Caroleann Gallagher

Nursing Homes and Covid 19 - A New Pandemic

At least 28,100 residents and workers have died from the coronavirus at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities for older adults in the United States, according to a New York Times database. The virus so far has infected more than 153,000 at some 7,700 facilities.

Illinois has not been left unscathed by the effect of this deadly virus on our most vulnerable population. The Center for Disease Control reports, indicate that Illinois Long-term care facilities now account for 48% of Illinois', COVID-19 deaths overall.

COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, is known to be particularly lethal to older adults with underlying health conditions, and can spread more easily through congregate facilities, where many people live in a confined environment and workers move from room to room.

The Illinois Department of Public Health regulates all Illinois long term care facilities and thus they have a data base available on their website to educate you and your loved ones, regarding the status of

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Covid-19, in any particular nursing home. The information is available at <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/long-term-care-facility-outbreaks-covid-19>.

This pandemic has been particularly difficult for nursing home residents and their families given that since March most facilities are not allowing family members to visit nursing homes. This is particularly difficult for the residents, especially any residents who are suffering from dementia, Alzheimer's or any other cognitive deficits. They might not understand why you're not visiting, and you might feel guilty for not being able to see them as frequently as you used too.

Here at Dwyer & Coogan, we know how hard the pandemic is on nursing home residents and their families and we are here to answer any questions you may have with regard to you or your loved ones residency at an Illinois Nursing home during this time.

While it is impossible to have active face to face contact with your loved ones, know there are other ways to keep in touch such as phone calls, face times, zoom calls and even good old fashioned letters and cards. Some of the most poignant and heartfelt images I have seen have been family members set up outside a loved one's nursing home window just to say Hi and to reassure their family member that they have not been forgotten. This difficult time, shall pass, so please know that all we can do in the meantime is do the best we can with all of the resources we have available to us.

Even though these are extremely hard and unprecedented times, please know, residents in nursing homes still have the right to expect proper care. While preventing the development and spread of COVID-19, is difficult, it is not too much for you to expect that nursing homes are doing all that they possibly can to ensure the best care possible for your loved ones.

To do this, direct communication with facility staff, including the Director of

Nursing and the administrative body of the home is absolutely crucial.

You have a right to ask the facility questions about what policies and procedures they have in place to prevent and control COVID-19, within the facility. Here are some things that nursing homes should be doing to comply with all the appropriate guidelines and recommendations:

- All staff should be provided with personal protective equipment, such as facemasks and gloves;

- All Staff should be directed to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after contact with each resident and after using or touching any medical equipment;

- A general wellness and temperature check should be taken of all staff as they report for duty;

- Residents should have access to hand sanitizer and or the ability to wash their hands regularly. If residents are not able to practice safe hand washing etiquette, then carer's should assist them with this task;

- Medical equipment that is being used between residents and areas of the facility should be cleaned and disinfected after each use;

- Practice safe social distancing if residents are congregated together in one area, such as dining or day rooms;

- Nursing homes should be completing special assessments which have been developed by the Federal Government to ensure that the facility's infection control plan and protections are adequate to both prevent and control Covid-19;

- Nursing homes should be communicating with local and state Departments of Health and the CDC and should be sharing data regarding the number of Covid-19 cases within the facility, this includes communicating with family members.

If you have concerns about any of your loved ones currently in an Illinois Nursing Home, or are concerned about the manner in which the Nursing home is communicating with you, please do not hesitate to reach out. As always, all of our consultations are free.

**Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney now licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of personal injury law - including nursing home litigation, medical malpractice law, wrongful death claims, transportation injuries, premises liability claims, defective product claims, construction site injuries and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com or at 312-543-4642*

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



What To Do Now?

I find myself confused by the awful state of affairs in the United States. How did we get here and where do we go now? If you listen to many of the so-called Elite class, our world is in for a seismic change. The world we have known will no longer exist, to which I say the world is always evolving. Some people feel that the magnitude of change that occurred after World War II will be seen as incidental to the changes we can expect in the next decade. I was a young kid as the war was ending. Were there significant changes, yes? But were there a lot of seismic changes, I don't recall seeing a great number. Many of the changes included: increased air travel, more women in the work force, women having much more important positions in our society, significant changes in the country's racial integration and circumstance.

Having grown up in very modest circumstances on the south side of Chicago, I felt that many of the changes were long overdue. The limited integration of our military forces may have finally given rise to the realization that the color of one's skin was not a notable factor in determining abilities. Some might also speculate that the burgeoning awareness of the variety of abilities that women demonstrated during the war such as pilots, spies, analysts, factory workers and a myriad of other roles were earth-shaking. Personally, I don't think so, they were obvious and inevitable choices again driven by the demands of the war.

Clearly many people had rigid views about the roles that minorities could hope to attain because of their race, color, creed, etc. The changes that took place were inevitable but the war's affect was to force them to take place at an accelerated speed-driven by needs that we hadn't yet faced as a nation before. But did they revolutionize our society, no. Did they change our society, absolutely!

Here's the point I would hope to make. Will this pandemic change our world?

Definitely, yes but fundamentally, I doubt it. The vast bulk of Americans will go back to doing many of the same jobs as before. Surely their lives will change somewhat. But once this terrible scourge is over, hopefully life will return to normal as before. Fortunately, the resilience of the human spirit will allow many people to reach new heights in their lives and careers. We need to prepare ourselves for the future. So, regardless if you lost your job because you were fired, terminated, furloughed or laid off, you need to figure out what are you going to do NOW.

First, decide what do you want to do? Many surveys say that a very high percentage of people are in jobs or companies that they don't like. Maybe your once fun job has grown tedious. What sort of job would "float your boat" now? Does returning to your old job excite you? Do you need more education or skills to do a new job? Seek advice from your mentors. If you don't have any mentors, it's time to engage at least a couple who could provide you with mature, reasonable counsel.

As always, there will be a lot of competition for good jobs. You will need to really "sell" yourself in any interview you have. When you are asked, "What did you do when you were out of work?" it is incumbent

on you to tell the interviewer how well you used your time off. You took a couple of on-line courses. You developed a real competence in a pertinent subject. Maybe you painted your house. You used the time off to your benefit. You gainfully watched a whole "semester" of YouTube presentations on leadership, sales and management. Do not tell the interviewer that you sat around and watched TV 8-10 hours a day; help the interviewer see you as an intelligent and hard working person, not a couch potato.

Don't accept a new position without seriously considering what you would have to do to get promoted out of the job you are about to accept. There is going to be a lot of uncertainty for at least the next couple of years, so don't sell yourself too quickly. The same uncertainty though has the potential to also create great opportunities for those who are risk takers. As Marianne Williamson says "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our Light, not our Darkness, that most frightens us". This is not the time to feel sorry for ourselves.

So prepare yourself for your return to your old job, if that is a real possibility. But first ask yourself, do you

really want to go back. If you decide to explore the market, make sure you have done the following:

- Develop a positive resume that focuses on your achievements.

- Develop a written list of all your possible contacts. Share your expectations of your next job with them. Ask for their help.

- Get outside of your normal experience; it may be time to modify your career goals.

- You need to get out there. The more people you speak to about your search the better.

- Do not allow yourself to feel sorry for yourself. There is no value in doing that.

- Embrace data that is positive and inspiring to you in your job search.

- Be persistent in your search. The average job seeker spends only about five hours a week looking for a job. You can do much more than that. Persistence is key to the process.

In closing, I am reminded that Bill Gates said the most important element in his success was FOCUS. Stay the course. **CARPE DIEM.**

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: "This too will pass". *Abraham Lincoln*

"Never give up! Never give up! Never, never, give up". *Sir Winston Churchill*

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Dealing with Debt and Expenses in the Year 2020

I've been an Illinois attorney for a number of decades now, and a substantial portion of my practice includes assisting businesses and people in dealing with debt and expenses. This work includes the debt and expenses they already have, those they know are just over the horizon, and those which are threatened, but which may never come into existence. The difficulties created by the current financial environment have put a lot of people into very difficult financial positions, making this a good time to review a basic primer on how to get through some of the problems caused by lack of cash flow. These problems may arise while working to stay in business or while working to just getting by.

Let's begin with something you want to keep in the forefront of your mind as the single most important fact to be aware of when you have debt and expenses that you need to manage. That fact is that everything is, or at least effectively, **Most Things Are Negotiable**. Follow that statement up with the fact that you signed on for the challenges of being in business, and those challenges have now arrived, so get to them, you can handle it. Time to decide how much you want to be in business and act accordingly. If you are not in business, this advice can still be important. It wasn't going to be a rose garden, so do what you have to do to move forward.

While working under the "Things are Negotiable" heading, you may occasionally find yourself up against "Mr. or Ms. Brick Wall, Inc.". If you do, you may have to accept a hard situation and go to an alternate plan. Don't be too quick to accept no for an answer. Make a few efforts, try to make it difficult for the party you are working on to say no, and definitely try to see if there is a way to work around whomever is the brick wall, be it a person or a system, standing between you and the relief you need. The party acting as the brick wall is likely not making the best decision for their own business, taking

a short-sighted view that works against them over time.

The primary preparation for the negotiation process is to develop a clear picture of what you need to get for your business to continue (or for yourself to get by), based on your current situation. Give yourself some leeway, and write up a little script. The first part of the script is the listing of what you need to get from creditors to enable you to continue to operate. After that, write down the list of points that you intend to use to persuade the other party to give you what you need. List all the reasons you can think of. You do not have to use them all, but it will be good to have written them out. This script will ultimately be used to help you, or someone else negotiating on your behalf, to clearly focus on their goal and to stay on point in working toward the desired result.

An important part of what you need is dictated by your budgetary horizon (which could also be called your survival horizon). Determine how long can you get by if you are able to attain certain expense modifications, and try to "anchor your time horizon" to a time when you believe your cash flow will improve, or at least could improve, such as a time of a seasonal increase in your business. This is the one place where it is best to be a little pessimistic. Money has a bad habit of arriving later and in smaller amounts than optimistic businesspeople often estimate. This does not mean you are not going to succeed; it just means you want to be realistic and ready if all does not run quite as smoothly as you may have wished. You want to anticipate the length of the rough patch; it will be easier to manage. For example, you may be aware that if you reduce your operations to a minimum you will be able to stay in business (or otherwise get by) for 60 to 90 more days. You may be aware that your business generally picks up in the fall or some other time in the future. Aim for a target date that allows your business to get to where it

can survive.

Make sure you are using the most talented negotiator on your staff (or in your family or group of friends) to do your negotiating and keep an eye on what they are agreeing to. Whom you decide to use as the negotiator could change from situation to situation. Vigorously avoid taking on personal liability by cosigning or providing a guarantee where none existed before. Ultimately, if you can't get what you want and there is no way around it, you accept the result (for the time being at least) and see how it affects your plans, and either move on to your other debts and expenses or plan B (or C or D.....).

By way of personal encouragement for the person who will be doing the negotiation, they should be clear on the fact that, at this particular point in time, there is very little indignity in taking the steps necessary to keep your business intact. The lightning struck; everyone knows. No one will be surprised by your call regardless of what they say. They are lucky you are calling. There is an abundance of articles in the current business press discussing how the burden of the current situation will have to be borne by both debtors and creditors. While we have empathy for landlords who have mortgages and taxes and other creditors who have their own expenses to pay, there are times in business and otherwise when you have to "spread the empathy around a little bit" to move forward. This unfortunate work comes with your businessperson uniform, a hard job that will likely have to be repeated many times and in many businesses to assure that the economy is able to recover.

Now for a specific example and advice for a debt or expense which could become a major problem in the current financial environment. Let's begin with "the landlord." Landlords, like everything else in the world, come in a variety of types. Having seen what can happen to the completely inflexible landlords,

how long their property can be tied up and how little they often get in the end, it is very safe to say that the more capable landlords/businesspeople work with their tenants in light of the facts as they present themselves, with an eye toward getting payments as soon as they realistically can. If you have fallen behind on your rent, or if you believe you won't be able to make future rent payments, you have to determine how you are going to handle it. If times are extremely hard, be sure to include the fact that there will not be much in the way of a recovery for the landlord if they are inflexible. You may need a period during which you don't pay rent, during which rent is permanently forgiven or which is followed by a "catch up" period. You may need a temporary or permanent reduction in the rent. You may need to renegotiate a more favorable lease overall, or you may need to obtain an agreement that you will voluntarily vacate the premises at a time as distant in the future as you can possibly arrange, in exchange for not being pursued for all or a portion of the unpaid rent. You may also agree to a reasonable payment agreement on any balances due upon vacating a premises. Try to get any favorable agreement in writing or at least partially in writing, and, it bears repeating, vigorously avoid taking on personal liability by cosigning or guaranteeing where none existed before. Remember, your landlord is in business, and has expenses too. Getting some payments toward expenses, or sometimes just keeping a property occupied, is part of that business. Having the knowledge that they still have a tenant, or in the alternative, having the knowledge that their property is not going to be tied up for many months during which they are not getting any payment, has value and gives you something with which you can work. One other item, a signature by a tenant on a long-term lease, does not necessarily mean a large recovery for a landlord. The law of the landlords have duties to mitigate damages by renting the premises. That along with other

factors can work against the inflexible landlord. Contact the landlord and begin your work.

At the time this article is being written, new legislation is pending in the State of Illinois which is designed to provide a considerable amount of relief to residential tenants, residential landlords, and the related mortgage holders (The Covid-19 Emergency and Economic Recovery Renter and Homeowner Protection Act). Passage of that bill would considerably change the landscape for residential tenants, at least in the short term. In addition, Federal and other governmental units have programs available to assist small businesses and other groups, and are working on additional options. It is important to become aware of what programs are available for yourself, or your business, to assist you in getting through these times. Looking doesn't mean taking, but informed consideration is a mark of a well run business.

I have a list of other debts and expenses I would like to provide an opinion on how to address them, but I'm short on this month's deadline, so I intend to include more practical detail in next month's installment, if Cliff allows. In the meantime, it is unfortunate that we have entered a new period of hard times. If a business does not work out, it is ordinarily a very painful situation, and it looks like it is going to be a rough patch. Most people have great respect and empathy for people who do the hard work necessary to operate a business. Sometimes they can end up burdened with tremendous amounts of debt which are impossible to service. As a group they have an uncanny ability, that they are not always aware of, to attain acceptable outcomes for themselves. They may not always get what they want but they get what they need. Someone should put that in a song someday.

By Thomas W. Lynch J.D., C.P.A. with the assistance of Noreen C. Lennon, J.D., who work with each other at the Law Office of Thomas W. Lynch P.C. in Hickory Hills, Illinois. 708 598-5999



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