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**Tom Mulvey,
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My Experience With COVID-19

In mid-July, I decided to drive down to St. Louis to visit a few of my friends from school. This decision would ultimately prove to be costly. The day I was supposed to drive back to Chicago, I came down with a low-grade fever, body aches, and chills. I immediately knew that something was wrong. Who gets the flu in July? I called my parents

Since she'd already signed a lease for the space and was not yet living there, it was the perfect place for me to live during my period of quarantine. By this point, I had convinced myself that I probably didn't have COVID.



to set in: I'd have to be completely alone for at least 10 days. My heart sank. Those first few days were easy to get through, but another week? Yikes.

After notifying my family and employer, I called my friends in St. Louis to let them know about my diagnosis. Turns out, many of them had started experiencing symptoms and one had even gotten a rapid test that came back positive the same day I got my results. Despite feeling alone, I was glad to know that my friends and I were all fighting this together.

After my fever and body aches disappeared in the first day or so, I noticed that I couldn't really taste or smell anything. Taking a walk from room to room in the apartment took my breath away. At night, the muscles in my chest were tender and sore, causing pain when I moved or readjusted myself. A cough lingered. These symptoms persisted for about a week and a half. Towards the end of my second week in quarantine, I finally started being able to move about with ease. Plus, I started being able to taste all the gourmet sandwiches I was making.

I couldn't have made it through my time in isolation without the help of my friends and family. My parents set up my living arrangements and dropped food off at the apartment, my grandpa called me daily, and I played hours and hours of video games with my infected friends to keep my spirits up. Ultimately, I stayed in quarantine for a total of 14 days, just to ensure that my family, especially my 83 year-old grandmother, stayed safe. All-in-all, it was easy

to see how this illness could prove lethal for someone with a compromised immune system or a preexisting condition. If anything, catching COVID has made me more conscientious about wearing a mask around others, because such an act isn't about protecting yourself, but rather the people around you.

Don't end up like me, isolation is no fun. Plus, every case is different. You just don't know if you'll make it out of COVID-19 alive. Take this virus seriously. Keep your loved ones close, and hold each other accountable. And, most of all, take care of others, even if they're strangers to you. We truly are all in this together, and we all have a role to play in defeating the coronavirus.

After all, only a very small percentage of the U.S. population has been infected with the virus, and I had only been around a few select friends. What were the chances that I had somehow been exposed to this life-threatening disease during my 5-day stay in St. Louis?

Those hopes kept my happiness buoyed for the next few days as I awaited my test results in quarantine. I kept myself occupied by watching movies I'd had on my list on Netflix forever, and by playing video games with my friends. Three days after getting my test done, I finally got the call I had been anxiously awaiting: my test results were in.

"Hello, is this Mr. Van Santen?" a man with a thick accent said after I picked up. "Sure is!" I anxiously replied, knowing this was the call I had been waiting for. After confirming my date of birth, the man sighed and simply said: "You've tested positive for COVID-19. Stay isolated for 10 days after your symptoms appeared, and for at least 3 days fever-free. If you develop any alarming symptoms, go to the emergency room." In the moment, I remember feeling more numb than anything.

Positive? For coronavirus? How is this possible? I thought to myself as I struggled to process what the lab technician on the phone said. After hanging up, reality began

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in a bit of a panic, knowing that I probably had been infected with the coronavirus. While my parents were justifiably concerned about me, it was decided that the best course of action to keep my family safe would be for me to go into isolation and get a test done.

That afternoon, after a sickly 4-and-a-half hour drive from St. Louis to Chicago's suburbia, I voluntarily submitted myself for a coronavirus swab test. The nurse nonchalantly twisted and turned the long q-tip at the base of my nostril, making me squirm in discomfort. After leaving the urgent care where I got the test done, I headed to what will be my sister's apartment for the upcoming school year.

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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell

John Hume

John Hume was not the only person I know to die last month. Some days later one of my closest friends in Chicago, Pat Martin, wife of my BEST friend, Jim Martin, passed away after a stroke. She was a lovely woman, generous and hospitable and a loving companion of Jim, her husband of over half a century, she from England, he from Monaghan. I knew them from back in the 70's, when Pat showed many kindnesses to my wife and me from the moment we first arrived in Chicago in 1973. She will be sorely missed by Jim, her three children and her grandchildren. May she rest in peace.

John Hume's passing has been rightly commemorated and there is little I can add that has not already been written by people who worked with and knew John far better than I did. The tributes and assessment by former Irish Ambassador to the USA, Sean Donlon, and his fellow diplomat Michael Lillis, are particularly important since both worked extensively with him and became close personal friends, as did Sean O'Huiginn, another former Irish Ambassador to the USA. *The Irish Times* produced a compre-



hensive souvenir supplement summarising his life and career, is well worth reading.

"By their Fruits Ye shall know them," applies very much to John Hume. His "Fruits," his enduring monument, is the Peace which reigns in Northern Ireland which he did so much to bring about. (Regular readers may recall I used the same quote in my December 2014 column on Paisley - the very antithesis of John Hume. Enough said.) Two years ago at the celebrations to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, which cemented the Peace he had striven for, the only major figure missing from the occasion was John Hume, by then sadly already in the dementia twilight. It is equally sad too that the Corona Virus restrictions recently robbed him in death of a fitting funeral.

On that anniversary I wrote of John's role over the decades as a monumental and tireless worker for peace and reconciliation. He was there at the outset of the Civil Rights campaign in 1968. He was there through Sunningdale. He it was who conceived and worked at bringing in the benign involvement of Irish American politicians whose role and influence proved so important. He was there during the dark days in the aftermath of the Hunger Strikes

and the relentless violence of the mid and late Eighties. He was the vital element in helping to bring Sinn Fein in from the cold when he undertook the dialogue with Gerry Adams, for which he was widely and unfairly criticised at the time. The Hume Adams Dialogue eventually found fruition in the Downing Street Declaration of December 1993 with its crucial reference to Britain having "no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland," a declaration that led some months later to the IRA Ceasefire and all that subsequently flowed from it.

Throughout he was consistent. The Irish Times has reprinted an article a young Hume wrote in 1964 - well before the "Troubles" - in which he criticised existing traditional nationalist attitudes, called for more involvement in the political process and an acknowledgement that the Unionist tradition in the North was as strong and legitimate as the nationalist one, arguing that the only alternative to accepting the Constitutional position was that of Sinn Fein. He suggested also that for progress to be made Unionists had to accept and respond to olive branches the nationalist side might make. Failure to do so and end discrimination could only exacerbate and harden attitudes. Adherence to non-violence and to the recognition of the legitimacy of both traditions was and remained

the central tenets of his approach. It was a short step to the concept of the Agreed Ireland that he saw begin to emerge as the violence ceased.

He was persistent; he never gave up, despite setbacks. After decades of peace, younger people have little concept of just how grim the situation in the North was during the Troubles era. Tribal loyalties were entrenched and strong, particularly on the Unionist side, which produced no major political figure for decades except Paisley, who wielded a wrecking ball through the various attempts at political settlement and compromise. And inevitably violence beget a steadily escalating violence. Marches generated counter demonstrations and violence. Nationalist rioting provoked a weaponised RUC and drew in the British Army. Rioting intensified. The Provos emerged. The first Army casualty was in February 1971. The violence ground on reaching new heights after the Internment of Nationalists in August 1971.

The killings on Bloody Sunday during a peaceful Civil Rights March headed by John Hume were a new low. Bloody Sunday galvanised Nationalists and further polarised the communities. Britain, now directly involved politically, sought, together with the Irish government, a political settlement along the principles advocated by John Hume. The result was



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the 1973 Sunningdale Agreement and the first attempt at power sharing. It was brought down by a Loyalist strike in 1974. Violence, alienation and polarisation were now chronic and the next decade was to feature nothing beyond a continuing grisly cycle of violence, with landmark atrocities, ten IRA hunger strikers starving to death, and an effective military stalemate. It was not a period for optimism. Yet through all this John Hume campaigned on as a voice of moderation, by now the dominant Nationalist politician, an MEP and one continually exploring new possible initiatives to find a solution including international and specifically US involvement.

My limited direct contacts with John were at this stage. As First Secretary in the Irish Embassy in Washington D.C. from 1975 to 1977 I got to know John at the beginning of his odyssey to win over top Irish American politicians to influence official US policy on Northern Ireland towards the non-violent approach he was advocating. Indeed he and his wife Pat

stayed with us during one of his first visits. He was from the start determined and focused. He cut an impressive figure to all who met



him. Yet it was a formidable task. The IRA had vocal supporters and advocates among the Irish American community and politicians were initially leery about getting involved. Official US policy was to avoid involvement in the internal affairs of their closest ally - the UK - and institutionally the USA was unsympathetic to Irish na-

tionalism. Yet John persevered, working closely with the Irish Embassy and Irish diplomats. He was extraordinarily successful. Anyone interested should read Maurice Fitzpatrick's book "*John Hume in America.*"

By the late 1980's the Anglo-Irish Agreement had signaled a new departure and era of cooperation between London and Dublin. Yet the violence and polarisation persisted. So too John Hume's quest for peace. Hence his dialogue with Gerry Adams. He was widely criticised, criticism which hurt. Yet as historian Ronan Fanning remarked to me at the time "Somebody has to talk to them." Those talks contributed vitally to the hard won Peace in the North that eventually emerged. While it involved many people and elements for John Hume above all it was a signal and crowning success.

The debt that we owe him is enormous.

Sean Farrell is a retired Irish diplomat and former Irish Consul General Chicago, 2006-2007.

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



and the North. As alien as it now sounds, the Southern media avoided covering the North; the silence was

reciprocated by the Northern media.

It is notable that Hume began his life as a public figure by breaking this mould, creating a nexus between the two jurisdictions on the island of Ireland through the articulation of a 'Northern Catholic' perspective. He used the platform in the Irish Times to express views that the political classes in Belfast and Dublin fervidly wished to suppress. He advocated unity only by consent and non-violent means and, most crucially, that the Northern Catholic end anti-partitionism, accept the constitutional position and use the politics process to seek redress for their grievances. The form of Hume's entry into public life was as significant as the arguments he advanced.

Hume was to remain, as journalist Robert Fisk called him, 'a very intelligent media operator'. He identified journalists and editors he could trust and, through their offices, he helped to shape the news. By contrast, journalists and editors who raised his suspicion never got a story from him. He treated them to a 'single transferable



speech' which, though valid in all its assertions, enervated reporters who had to listen to it a thousand times. Among the concepts Hume propounded in his stump speech were: difference is an accident of birth; agreement threatens nobody; if a problem is political, violence only deepens the problem; you cannot eat a flag; despite pooling their sovereignty in Europe, the French are still French and the Germans are still German; the basis of our problem is that we are a divided people.

Hume's moderation stood in stark contrast to the inflammatory and absolutist language espoused by those who believed (as Hume did) that an all-Ireland republic was a desirable political outcome, but who believed (as Hume did not) that violent methods would deliver it. Time has shown which position has been vindicated.

Yet moderation is an inadequate designation for the fundamental rethink Hume's politics represented. Eamonn McCann, his sometime political rival, recalled in the days after Hume died on August 3rd, his first experience of Hume as political activist in Derry. Hume addressed a large group outside Derry's Guildhall urging the necessity to establish a university in 'our city'. It was only later that McCann realised the remarkable aspect of the speech: Hume had, in contrast to almost all traditional political stances, embraced an idiom that reflected a priority for all sections of Derry's divided society. If you want unity, why not start with a unifying cause? And, remember, agreement threatens nobody.

Hume's logic may have been incontrovertible, but he faced tremendous difficulties in reforming the institutions and laws of a society so determinedly irrational and hostile to pluralism. In a film I made and a book I wrote on Hume's political life, I attempted to trace the wider spheres of political influence he recruited to further his agenda. Hume was a born internationalist and the broadening geographical pattern of the political offices he held—in Northern Ireland, Britain and Europe—reflected his outlook. However, it was in a sphere in

which he was not elected (nor could he have been) that he exercised the most consequential influence.

Hume began a twenty-five year period of advising senior American politicians how and why they should intervene on the Irish Question during an encounter with Senator Ted Kennedy. Kennedy was visiting Germany for a NATO meeting in 1972 and he telephoned Hume's house to ask if Hume could travel to meet him. Kennedy later recalled the substance of the meeting: 'He looked at this as a political process that was going to be built upon different traditions and mutual respect...I believe it's important to listen to the ones who are risking their lives and are attempting to do it in a non-violent way'.

Out of Hume's friendship with Kennedy, other relationships rapidly developed and, with time, a quartet known as the 'Four Horsemen' formed: Kennedy, Governor Hugh Carey, Speaker Tip O'Neill and Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan. This alliance in turn spawned, after the Reagan landslide, a bipartisan caucus in the US Congress called the Friends of Ireland which endures to this day. The Friends followed Hume's principles and used their political clout to force the British to recognise the Irish dimension of Northern Irish society and to encourage the British to negotiate an inclusive approach in good faith. That entailed shifting from their exclusively pro-unionist stance to accommodate Irish nationalism.

These developments appalled the British who did all in their power to impede them. They failed. Hume's huge success in the US thus had immediate and lasting consequences in Anglo-Irish relations and in Ireland. Irish political leaders before Hume energised enormous the good-will towards Ireland in the US at the grassroots level, but nobody before Hume mobilised the White House to shift the traditionally British-dominated State Department. Hence the series of special envoys to Northern Ireland including, most notably, George Mitchell who chaired the Peace Process negotiations.

The death of a public figure throws their full life into sharp relief and this is strikingly the case with the passing of John Hume. Hume's contribution to our country is without parallel in modern times. While in 2010 the Irish public voted Hume's 'Ireland Greatest' historical figure, it is only beginning to recognise the magnitude of Hume's legacy.

Maurice Fitzpatrick is the director & producer of John Hume in America and author of John Hume in America: From Derry to DC.



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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

During my journalist career, wed to an historian, I was fond of slyly slipping a vibe into conversation declaring that all historians wished they were journalists. After all, we write the first draft of history, and ten or more years later historians conducting research on issues of the time, read reporter’s published articles as part of their research. News copy provides a glimpse of the societal, political and economic norms of the period under study.

A case in point, on July 30, 1981 on assignment in London covering the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer. He was thirty-two, his bride twenty. The dazzling event was broadcast globally as “a fairy tale come to life.” In time we learned this was not the case. In July of that year the usual pundits speculated why Diana was chosen.

Those who believe in the monarchy contended the marriage of his Royal Highness Charles, the Prince of Wales to Lady Diana, was made in Heaven. And that’s exactly what I wrote in an article under the headline: Observers Still Wondering Why Diana was chosen.

Speculation among London visitors and the international media pondered whether the wedding was arranged or as the British claimed, it was magical, love at first sight. No use speculating, Diana had passed all the tests including a reported three-day interrogation by the Queen Mother. No one could deny that on the Prince’s arm, the bride looked magnificent, smiling shyly and demurely. Also, the wedding provided a real psychological boost to the United Kingdom where inflation skyrocketed and unemployment at its highest in years.

Covering this international story necessitated press credentials requiring a series of correspondence between the Association of America Correspondents, the English Government Press Center, seeking permission to attend the event plus a request for a space designation on the wedding route. A Press Card issued by Mass State Police, Commissioner of Public Safety verified the character and professionalism of this reporter on the city staff writing for a Massachusetts daily newspaper. The UK government also required two passport photographs.

This laborious to and fro heralded the sanitation of all media personnel assigned coverage of the royal wedding. A notification from the London Press Center dispatched a nasty warning, niftily camouflaged as a word of advice: “It’s going to be a mob scene. Reporters may want to advise news room personnel back home it

will not be easy to just come to London and expect to get a good view of anything. The Palace is being arbitrary about priorities and the Commonwealth and British press provides a much higher property than foreign media.”

Despite the red tape, I earned the distinction of the first American journalist to apply for and receive press credentials Hence, I was issued a view near the wedding sight close to Saint Paul’s Cathedral.

Foreign stories always challenging but especially so in pre-computer days. There’s time differences involved to meet deadlines, inadequate telephone service difficult to dictate an article or two. The Royal wedding occurred in the primitive period prior to the



convenience of a laptop. However the Government’s Press Center provided exemplary provided exemplary perks for the working press. A huge press center akin to the one used for the Rhodesian Conference in Lancaster House in 1979. The Brits declared a ceasefire, ending the Rhodesian Bush War leading to the creation of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

The Press Center provided hundreds and hundreds of IBM Select typewriters. It also provided pre-wedding briefings. In a stroke of genius, the Government rounded up all teletype operators in the UK and reporters handed articles to operators for dispatch to appropriate newsrooms across the world. A welcome perk, an enormous convenience.

The day of the royal wedding, from my viewing spot the wedding route was a scene of splendor and pag-

eantry. Lined with hundreds of police clad in their best uniforms showcasing white gloves and medals. Also members of the Scot Guards, the Royal Airfare, Irish Guards, and the Regiment of Canada. All wore red tunics, black trousers, anthe English traditional bearskin head-dress.

The best pageantry was yet to come, as foreign dignitaries in horse drawn carriages began the journey from Buckingham Palace to Saint Paul’s Cathedral. Queen Elizabeth presented first, wearing light blue in an open landau carriage, red velveted, gold edged, so dazzling, so regal. She sat with husband, Prince Philip, followed by a seemingly nervous Prince Charles attired in his breast buttoned commander’s uniform.

Both carriages were flanked by red plumed calvary-men. Other dignitaries included King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvie of Sweden, Margarethe and Prince Henrik of Denmark. The sight of Princess Grace Kelly sitting alone in her cushioned carriage waving majestically was a combination of beauty and glamor.

Last to arrive for the eighty-minute Church of England ceremony was the bride, riding in a Glass Coach, two bay horses driven by a coachman in blazing gold and scarlet state livery. Lady Diana wearing a frilly wedding gown of ivory silk taffeta and old lace with a 25-foot sweeping train. She smiled radiantly from behind a lace veil.

A day to remember, a chronicle for historians to read the media’s reporting a historicwedding. This reporter added a post-script about King Juan Carlos of Spain who set off on a Mediterranean cruise snubbing the wedding. He returned his invite as a protest against the royal couple’s honeymoon stop in Gibraltar, which Spain claimed. Gibraltar, a British crown colony protected the entrance to Mediterranean.

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Tom Mulvey of Athletex Sports and Orthopedic Physical Therapy in Orland Park and Oak Lawn Working to Restore Patient's Strength and Abilities

By *Ryanne Gallagher Johnson*

Tom Mulvey is doing everything he can to help front line workers and the general public during the COVID 19 pandemic. And he wants you to please wear a mask.

As the owner and operator of Athletex Sports and Orthopedic Physical Therapy in Orland Park and Oak Lawn, Mr. Mulvey, M.S., P.T., and M.B.A, not only has the education, background, training, and job experience to make this request, but he is also surrounded by four females educated in the medical field, and is thus over-qualified to do so.

A first generation Irish-American, Mr. Mulvey's mother is from Castlebar, and his father hails from Louisburgh in Co. Mayo, Ireland.

"Since we were kids, they would have us come over," he says of his Irish grandparents. "So we've been to Ireland many, many times... My wife's father is from Barna, Galway, and her Mom is from Kenmare, Kerry, so it's kind of expanded my exploration of Ireland by visiting her people there, too."

Raised in Chicago and educated at St. Nicholas of Tolentine for grammar school, Mr. Mulvey went on to attend the University of Illinois Chicago, where he studied Kinesiology, then on to Northwestern University Medical School for his Physical Therapy degree, followed by a Masters degree in Physical Therapy/Exercise Physiology back at the University of Illinois Chicago, and finally an M.B.A. in Finance from St. Xavier University's Graham School of Management, before opening his business in 1992 with the mission of "offering quality rehabilitation that educates the patient from acute onset to their maximal functional level." (athletext.com/staff)

"The M.B.A. was to help me to think emotionally and psychologically," Mr. Mulvey explains. "I opened up a clinic and I really didn't know much about business, so I would take a business class every semester just to kind of get some knowledge of it, and the next thing you know I was doing the M.B.A. program, and it helped me a lot."

He cites his interest in physical therapy going back to his formative years, when he had a good friend growing up who was severely injured as a kid. He had multiple fractures that resulted in significant permanent injury.

He credited his physical therapist with getting him up, out, and back to participation in any activity that he could do.

The notion stuck with Mr. Mulvey, and thus began a lifelong love of the idea of helping people this way.

When he was in Ireland for a visit with his grandparents one year, his grandfather arranged for him to spend three days working at the hospital in Castlebar, to see the differences between the strengths of programs over there versus the ones over here.

Starting with volunteering at nursing homes, Mulvey got his early experience through this kind of work, and finds that this is an overall good idea for kids getting ready to attend college for a particular subject they think they might be interested in.

"It's so important for these kids to talk to the people that do the job they're thinking about, to see why they went into it, and what they think the future is in that job. I think that would help. There's a lot of kids changing majors and driving up college costs because they don't know what to do."

Since opening in 1992, Tom chose to be heavily involved with his community. Mulvey and his wife are members of Gaelic Park, where they sponsor, donate, and find different ways to support the Irish community. "We participate in programs to help benefit the city and southwest suburbs. We sponsor High School teams, golf outings, and benefits for people in need. Every year, we are proud sponsors with other businesses in "the Get Behind the Vest Campaign." This program was created by Alderman Matt O'Shea with Mr. Phil Cline.

When police officers take a bullet or the vest becomes old, the officer must purchase their own new vest. Alderman O'Shea's program provides vests to Chicago Police, Cook County Sheriffs, and State Police. They start at five hundred dollars per vest. We personally donate 6-9 vests per year. Chicago police officers get a uniform stipend, but if they take a

bullet, the vest isn't really usable again, so they have to turn around and buy their own. I strongly support Matt O'Shea; Alderman of the 19th Ward, and former Police Superintendent, Phil Cline, who now runs the Gold Star Memorial fund which helps set up funding for the program. They have put this program together and we've been supporting it for many years now, just to do our part."

Owning this family-run business, Mr. Mulvey splits his time between the two locations, on top of raising three daughters with his wife, Margaret. His knowledge

really something I enjoy doing. In this day and age when people are pushing these kids to workout and do all these things, so much of it is wrong. So to be able to focus them on doing some of the basics that are right, is really a nice experience."

Wanting to go into the medical field appears to also run in the Mulvey family. Margaret is a dental hygienist. Their oldest daughter, Siobhan, is a Physical Therapist graduate from Marquette, middle daughter Eilish is an ICU nurse at Christ Hospital and a Marquette graduate, and youngest daughter Aislinn is going into her final year of nursing school at Marquette.

So, when Mr. Mulvey asks that his patients, and the general public, wear masks during a pandemic, it's coming from a place of knowledge and concern for his family, the city of Chicago, and the country as a whole.

"They're all geared up for a second surge. (Eilish) will tell you how (COVID 19) just evolved, with regards to (how much) these people didn't know, as knowledgeable as they were. They didn't know exactly how to be prepared for this and the evolution of it... It's irritating to hear people talk about how 'this is the government' and 'this is being blown out of proportion' and 'it's not really that bad', when you know from the inside that this thing was always for real, and these people are the ones doing battle on the forefront."

Wanting to do more for his community, outside of all the amazing work he's already doing in his business, and

that his family is doing in their respective medical fields during this time, Mulvey looked for a project that would allow him to donate something to help those on the front lines.

"It's a simple thing... when (these front-line workers) receive something donated, it's a sign that someone is thinking about them.

When I got masks for my office, there's a little bit of an expense to them, so I didn't just want to give them away. So I thought I'd sell them at a discount for what



To best care for his patients, Tom installed a state-of-the-art Hydra-Track machine in both facilities.

and experience with Physical Therapy has come in handy as a dad, since all three of his children played competitive soccer from a young age, and he was able to translate this knowledge into education for his daughters' athlete peers as well.

"I knew the better they were conditioned, the less likely they were to get a significant injury, and it worked well for them... over the years, we were asked to work with the skaters in Oak Lawn, at the ice arena there, and I've trained some of the Sandburg High School hockey players and some of the other athletes, and that's

I paid for them, and take that money... Originally I thought we'd buy PPE (personal protective equipment), but the N95 masks were impossible to get, so then I thought I'd donate a check, but looking at the bureaucracy, it's not easy for them to be able to divert that money just to Christ Hospital, if you put it into the system.

My daughters, who are into fashion, thought 'what about socks? It would be great to have, a pair of simple ankle socks that everybody loves because they're comfortable.' So I got involved with the Bombas company, and told them what I wanted to do... They allowed me a discount because of the quantity I bought, and at the same time, for every pair I purchased, a pair went to (someone in need)."

Mulvey has been working this project since the start of COVID in the U.S. He sells the masks he's purchased for \$5, and saves the money, which accumulates quickly, as people buy them for friends and other family members. Mulvey then matches all the donations from his patients, and the end result has been about 1,000 pairs of socks given



The Mulvey Family (l to r): Siobhan, Tom, Margaret, Aislinn, and Elish enjoying a little down time.



to medical professionals on the front lines.

To those who aren't taking this pandemic seriously, Mulvey says, "This is a virus that, in order for it to live, it needs a host. It needs somebody that it can live off of, thrive off of, so it can reproduce and then be distributed. If there's no host, the virus will slowly start to eradicate itself... But in order for it to continue to be viable, it needs to live off of people. Entry is in large part through the mouth and the nose... we now know that you can (also) have it and not know. Have respect for the people that are around you, because you don't know if you have it, unless you're getting tested daily, which none of us are. So have enough respect to not potentially give it to someone else unwillingly... If everyone wears a mask, this thing would drop in as quickly as a few weeks, and (would allow us) to get it under control." So please, everyone, wear a mask.

On top of the pandemic, Mulvey also has concerns about the shifts in healthcare coverage and how people are treated through sickness and injury.

"To people's education in re-

gards to healthcare, right now they're slowly losing their opportunity to have choice. We're starting to have organizations now that are all-inclusive, in that they provide everything for their patient. In some situations, that's convenient. But in other situations, they're giving away their right to choice, and a lot of them pay a lot of money for insurance that gives that choice. You're able to go to a specialist or someone who isn't necessarily within your group. I think it's important that people think about that. When they live blocks away from an independent clinician like myself, it's a shame that they have to go to someplace that's less convenient because it's within the system.

People do what the organization that they're involved with tells them is best for them. I think it's important that they maintain the ability to have a choice. I hate to see choice continue to evaporate away. We're drifting into a system that we don't want."

In order to maintain his health and sanity, Mulvey enjoys running, taking particular pleasure in finding different terrains on

which to run in different ways.

"When you don't do the same thing over and over, it helps you avoid injury. Manageable intensity is important. I'm not going to train for a marathon, because I want to do this for a long time.

"I believe that the next form of medicine will include proper exercise as an adjunct to other treatments.

They know that exercise increases the production of certain enzymes that have positive effects such as increasing immunity, decreasing plaque, and even fighting certain cancers.

Exercise also has positive effects on breathing, weight, blood pressure, and Mental Health.

The question is how do we graduate the intensity and duration for these patients."

Tom makes it clear that a great staff is the key to their success. "None of this could be accomplished without my great staff and the best patients in the Southland!"

For more on Mr. Mulvey's practice, you can visit his business website at athletex.com.

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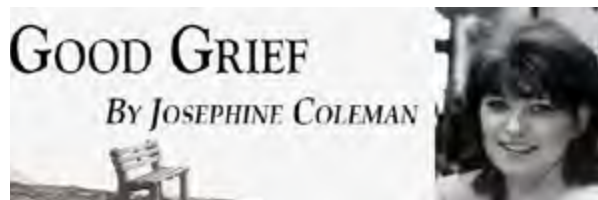


THE LARKIN & MORAN BROTHERS



GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



Hello Everyone. Yes I know. I hear you!! Unfortunately we are still in the thick of it. For the sake of our kids and our own sanity we are trying to adjust to our 'New Normal'. I remember my mother telling me about how they came through the last war and how they had ration booklets. Letterkenny Donegal .She laughed when she told me that stockings were hard to come by so they used to paint their legs probably with pan stick foundation then use their eye liner to paint a line up the back of their legs. I miss her sorely but part of me is glad she isn't around to see this worldly virus and to have the worry of her children living in the midst of it. What would she do? Exactly what I am have been doing since March. Staying busy sewing masks, helping our community.

We live on a park and these past few weeks the sanctions have been lifted. It was so delightful to hear the squeal of excitement from our local children on the swings and slides. The park district put up a sign saying that you play here at your own risk!! That kind of brings you back down to earth.

People have been going crazy trying to buy swimming pools with a little motor even blow up pools or hard plastic pools paying five times the price trying to find ways during this long summer to entertain their young children. We are fortunate to have our pool we bought when our son was two years old...He going on 22 yrs. old. My hubby threatens every year to get rid of it when he cannot get the ph. balance right! Little

does he know I throw a bucket of shock treatment in it every now and then? Seriously they are a lot of work but looking out from my kitchen window to a body of blue water remembering fond memories with our kids and friends it's so hard to picture our yard without it. Our daughter had friends over to swim and they said ".Its ok Mrs. Coleman Donald Trump said its ok we should drink Chlorine to kill

the virus." Yes we love our teens they have a wonderful sense of humor.

Anyways going back to our neighbors and friends and how they are coping and entertaining themselves. I see lots of volley ball nets in their front yards which double for tennis and badminton. Some have been taking music lessons, cooking, knitting, crocheting classes online. We even have exercise classes in parks just bring a chair or yoga mat water bottle and definitely a mask. No I am not teaching it much as I would like to but its great way to stay fit and we all need that human interaction in these trying times. Walking around our neighborhood the gardens look absolutely beautiful. People have more time to plant and manicure their yards. Driving by the garden centers their car parks are full. They have signs up looking for staff. We are also trying to support our smaller owned business in any way we can. It's also great to see neighbors volunteering to help not only at food pantries but to pick up their medications, groceries whatever they may need. Next I thought I would venture out to get my hair done. I called Shelley my beautiful Mexican hairdresser of 10 yrs. Our kids go to school together. I was nervous but desperate as I had a white line like a skunk down the middle of my cranium. I could have bought a box of color myself but she had put in so many highlight I didn't want to mess it up. She was amazing. She took my temperature at the door sanitized my hands. Looking around I was happy to see she had totally boxed in each station with plastic glass dividers in accordance with CDC guidelines. She was masked up like our medical staff. Gone was her warm friendly, homely saloon. I felt like I was in twilight zone. Anyway she did my hair with clinical prestige then whispered in my ear....Jo sorry I forgot to tell you we cannot blow dry your hair. CDC rules but I can try to towel dry it.



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I laughed as she knows I have two Donegal parents with whom I have inherited that thick wild hair you just cannot towel dry. I was a little disappointed as it takes me hours to straighten it no matter how long or short it is but safety first.

Fast forward 4 weeks later yes!!! Shelley can now blow dry my unruly mop of hair. Many thank Shelley. So appreciate her. Just want to give you ladies a heads up bring two masks if you're having your hair colored it can be quite tricky. Who knows I may venture out to get my nails done!

We are all in this together. It's changed our lives but doesn't have to change who we are. Look around you there is a lot of folk's worse off. Check out your community there is other ways to volunteer your time with no person to person contact or drop of items to food banks. I am still sewing FREE masks with my friend, neighbor Janet. If you need some you know where to find me. May God Bless us All.



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Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler



I came across a John McCormack tape, so I wanted to honor him by reminding us of McCormack & introducing some of you to who he was. John McCormack was Ireland's greatest tenor, Ireland's first global celebrity and cultural icon. McCormack was extremely smart and talented but also sincere, kind, humble & charming.

John Francis McCormack was born in Athlone, Westmeath. His parents were from Scotland but moved back to their ancestral home. He had dual Irish and American citizenship he was offered but rejected British citizenship.

A tenor is a type of classical male singing voice, the highest voice type. McCormack started his singing career in the church choir. His parents originally wanted him to become a priest. However, McCormack wanted to pursue singing.

There were fundraisers on his behalf that allowed him to travel to Italy to receive voice training. He trained with Maestro Sabatini. He learned to sing in and speak Italian. While in Italy he didn't use his real name, he used the stage name, Giovanni Foli.

McCormack went to America to perform Operas & concert engagements. He became the most celebrated lyric tenor of his time. It was said he could sing 65 notes in one breath. He made several recordings and sang on the radio. He also sang songs of Irish nationalism, such as Wearing of the Green. He married a singer like himself, Lily Foley.

McCormack was very generous and donated to the USA world war effort,

Irish famine relief & Catholic charities. McCormack had a luxurious lifestyle & passion for learning. He had fancy cars, many residences & owned several thoroughbred horses.

Toward the end of his life sadly McCormack was sick with emphysema and he died of pneumonia. Ireland has honored the legendary tenor in different ways including: he's on a stamp, he received the title Papal count from the Pope, a life size bronze statue in Iveagh gardens in Dublin, he is on collectors coins and another statue of him in his hometown of Athlone. McCormack is in a few movies: Song o my heart & Wings of the morning. A few of his famous songs include Machushla, Mother Machree & I hear you calling me.

I will leave you with this story I hope you enjoy it as I did:

Three Feet From Gold

“During the gold rush, a man who had been mining in Colorado for several months quit his job, as he hadn't struck gold yet and the work was becoming tiresome. He sold his equipment to another man who resumed mining where it had been left off. The new miner was advised by his engineer that there was gold only three feet away from where the first miner stopped digging.

The engineer was right, which means the first miner was a mere three feet away from striking gold before he quit.” We need to believe things will get better soon and our lives will be golden again one day.

If you have any questions, please call & we can have a chat (708) 425-7021

Wolf of Clontarf

In early medieval Europe, Viking marauders are pouring down from the north. Steppe riders threaten from the East and Islamic invaders are surging up from the South. After his father is slain defending their home, a little Irish boy and his young mother are taken in bondage to Norse-controlled Dublin. His mother is later murdered by a jealous Viking matriarch and the orphan is beaten and starved for years before being rescued by Irish warriors on the eve of the millennium, January 1st, 1000 A.D.

Several years later, as more Viking invaders from across Europe storm into Ireland, her aging king, Brian Boru, must somehow protect his nation. Nordic sagas tell us an obscure and unlikely hero arises to crush the enemy and save his people. Wolf the Quarrelsome leaps into history as a nightmare to the Norse and avenger for the Celts. This is Wolf's story spanning 15 years and leading up to an underrated and arguably the most decisive battle of the Middle Ages. It is also the story of a young woman who develops a vast network of female spies and two young Irish men who lead medieval special operations forces.

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Thirteen, an unlucky number? Not so with super group SíFiddlers comprised of thirteen of the best female fiddlers from the County Donegal. The ladies, Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh, from Gaioth Dobhair, is well known as a founding member of Altan and the String Sisters. Liz Doherty of Bunrana is also a String Sister and was a member of Nomos. Brid Harper of Castlefinn is a well known, much in demand traditional musician as is Friel Sister member Clare whose roots are in Derrynamansher. In 2017, she was the recipient of the 2018 TG4 Young Musician of the Year Award. Denise Boyle of The Glenties has toured with Carlos Nunez as part of the Galician Celts. Also hailing from The Glenties is Tara Connaghan whose playing is highly requested for album appearances and is often seen on TG4. The far north town of Malin brings Melanie Houton who has played all over the world and is also a frequent TG4 guest, and Eimear McColgan, a young, extremely talented and award winning musician. Clodagh Warnock now of Moville was a founding member and multi-instrumentalist of the great band Déanta. Claire Gallagher comes from a strong family background of musicians held in high esteem

in Donegal and the world. Add in Culdoff's Róisín McGrory, who was Eimear's fiddle teacher, and Theresa Kavanagh a well respected composer and educator from Gortahork who has travelled worldwide playing and writing music. Last, but by no way least, is Aisling Drost Byrne from one of my favorite towns, Glencolmille, who is only 3 years out of the



University of Limerick and already well known and respected. Good friends with Conal O'Kane of Goitse, they have been regulars at the Blas Festival.

The ladies first played together at the Earagail Arts festival which is 18 days of music, theater and visual arts held in July all along



On the Upbeat

By Maryann
McTeague Keifer

the Wild Atlantic Way in Donegal. Much like Canada's Celtic Colors, a variety of venues in each town offers attendees a mélange of

BITTERSWEET CRIMSON. While the songs are not "Irish," they are lovely and sung with the heart and feeling we expect from Luka

A special addition is the last song on the album, "VISION FOR 2020" where Luka is joined by the amazing Niamh Farrell whose voice he heard and fell in love with just as many of us have. Their voices mesh as if they have been singing together for many years. Hopefully, this is the first of more to come.

For Luka Bloom fans, you will be

entertainment.

The fiddle has played an important part in the music of Donegal, but it is only within recent times that female fiddlers have been given status. The album DONEGAL FIDDLE, is a treasure chest of mostly traditional tunes with several others composed by Francie and Mickey Byrne, Brid Harper, Tommy Peoples, and Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh. You will experience toe tapping reels such as the opening set "Jackson's and The Oak Tree." Jigs, slip jigs, and barndances, "The Stirling Castle Strathspey" easing into the "The Gladstone Reel," and even the set of mazurkas, "Francie Mooney's, Vincent Campbell's." Thirteen fiddlers, thirteen individual styles, thirteen different years of experience, but the play is well timed and melds together into a solid and sophisticated Donegal sound.

Like The String Sisters, the large number of band members may restrict their travel for appearances, but we can always have hope. DONEGAL FIDDLE is available for order on the band's web and Facebook sites.

Another brand new offering is crooner Luka Bloom's new album

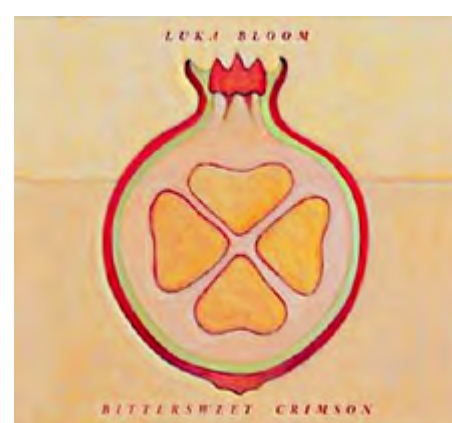
and his folk ballads. The album is a collection of songs he composed over a period of two years with a general theme of appreciating nature, human and all around us. Accompanying him are ace guitar and bouzouki player Steve Cooney, Jon O'Connell on double bass and electric guitar, Adam Shapiro on fiddle, and Robbie Harris on percussion. Their playing beautifully sets off his rich evocative voice. He sings of true love in the opening song, "CAN WE STAY." His imagery of human feelings being represented by trees, animals,

thrilled with this new album. For those not familiar, BITTERSWEET CRIMSON is a beautiful introduction. It is now available on his website.

Kudos need to go out to the festival organizers who have been putting on virtual fests for the musicians and us. Some have been small with sets from bands who would have been playing at the fests, others, such as Milwaukee, have put on extravaganzas including music, culture, cooking, you name it! Michigan's Irish Fest is coming up yet, so check their web-

site. Many, like Milwaukee, will have Utube and Facebook reruns available for you if you missed the weekend. It has been a pleasure to be able to watch and enjoy what we are missing. There is nothing like being there in person, though, where your attention is not divided, home responsibilities are not sitting on your shoulders, and you can ride on the enthusiasm of the crowd. Here's to hoping we

can get our collective act together to contain this virus to be able to enjoy our festivals and concerts by next summer. It is said music heals the soul, and I know this soul yearns for that. Slainte!



moonbeams, and crystal looking pomegranate seeds give us vivid pictures to heighten our feelings as we listen. His cry in "WHO WILL HEAL THE LAND" is poignant for our times.



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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



The Death of Love

A Peter McGarr Mystery

Bartholomew Gill—Avon Books Paddy Power was a long-time friend of her family as she grew up. She says: “He was so alive and irrepressible and brilliant. He radiated hope. He had wit without malice, obviously a

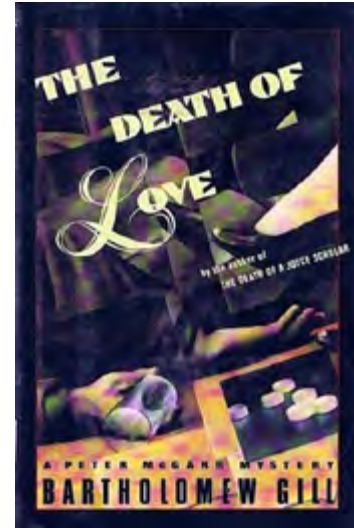
keen intellect—and he loved the small, fine details that make life interesting. You know, the sort of person you could point to with pride and say, now he’s Irish.” Paddy Power was a fabulously successful international banker. But, he never forgot where he came from or who he was.

At a conference of interna-

tional bankers held at a luxurious hotel in Kerry, he had a heart attack. He seemed to have taken the wrong medicine. At first, his death had been seen as a tragic accident. But, when it is learned that his medicine had been switched, his death becomes murder.

Peter McGarr is the Chief Superintendent of the Murder Squad of the Irish Police. He is called in to investigate. What does McGarr look like? Average height, bald on top, he kept long the light red hair that remained. He had “a long face, morning murky gray eyes, and aquiline nose that had been knocked off center more than once and now looked a bit flattened.”

McGarr realizes that vast amounts of money are discussed at the conference, and because of this there are many suspects. The topic of the conference, and the plot of the book, is really the future of Ireland. “Ireland was a small agrarian nation with...little future beyond whatever Britain, still Ireland’s major trading



partner, was willing to grant us. Historically, that had prime Ireland’s economy with borrowed money, got some industries going and Irish-made goods on the world market. When money would begin coming in the whole mechanism would become self-sustaining. And there would be a modern, productive republic for nothing more than the courage and foresight to risk debt. However, interest rates soared...and economic contraction set in...the debt had to be paid back in hard currency.”

Some of the suspects want to sell off parts of Ireland to repay the debt!!

Bartholomew-Gill is the pen name of Mark McGarrity. All 22 of the mystery novels he wrote are set in Ireland. He never tired of “mining” Ireland for themes for

his novels. McGarrity earned an undergraduate degree from Brown University and a master degree from Trinity College Dublin. Born in 1943, he died in 2002. The New York Times said he “died of a fall” and hit his head. This was at his home in New Jersey.

The book has an intriguing mystery and uses beautiful language and sparkling quotes. These are some you’ll like:

The detective makes a detailed observation when a suspect opens the door. “In it stood a short, older woman with wide shoulders that were marked out by the sheen of a stylish golfing jacket, thin-lipped, she was wearing slacks of the same tan material and athletic shoes that were new and white. “Her hair, which was dark and wavy, had been cut short, and a deep tan made her look younger than her fifty-five or so years. With smooth, regular features and a definite chin, she was still what McGarr thought of as fetching.”

One of McGarr’s fellow detectives was born and raised in the country. “In the fields, she could hear the plaintive, pulling cries of lapwing. Overhead, swallows and swifts were working the currents, streaking the sky for moths and flies that the warmth had brought. To the west, the sun was just beneath the dense bank of clouds. She kept her eyes on the horizon, as the brilliant tones of crimson and magenta muted through royal blue to the deeper, dim tones of purple and finally abiding shade of mauve that would in time simply fade into starry blackness.”

“Good traditional Irish music touched something deep in people. Having been preserved with fierce racial pride, it was a mixture—curious in this day and age—of life and antiquity.”

“The deep, rapid throbbing of the bodhran was the wild beating of the smitten heart. The fiddle, concertina, and flute, were the spirits soaring and provided the need for mental activity of reality and the need to make connections in life.”

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rimand is more than enough. The scales of justice are tipping to the left.

VOTE Another shallow attack on President Trump? "Neither rain nor snow, nor dark of night, the mail must go through." However, it doesn't always work that way. The Democrats are claiming Trump is trying to keep people from voting. What he doesn't like, are "universal ballots" being mailed to everybody in the country, when anybody can request an absentee ballot.

U.S. Postmaster General, Lewis DeJoy is being accused of helping to limit mail in the voting process. President Trump brought him in to stop the bleeding as the U.S. Post Office has a 120 billion dollar unfunded mandate for pensions and other costs. The Post Office Union has voted to support Joe Biden, surprise! Elizabeth Warren says Trump is trying to "destroy" the Post Office - no Liz, he's trying to stop the bleeding.

LOOTING Chicago has hit a new low. But turnabout is fair play, no peace for the looters. Let's bring the looters to justice and lock them up. Mayor Lightfoot has to stop trying to avert criticism by blaming President Trump for all the problems here.

Chicago's economy depends largely on

the trade shows and tourism. Even if we weren't dealing with Covid 19, who wants to visit a city exploding with violence? It was just announced that Navy Pier will close again on September 8th for the season. The survey found that Chicagoans were still going to the pier but out of state tourists were not coming.

AGE MATTERS If Joe Biden 77 wins the election, he would be 78 on inauguration day. If he makes it through four years it is doubtful that he would run again at 82 years of age. He has already passed life expectancy for a man which is 76.86. If elected, Donald Trump would be 74. My mother used to say, "the devil you know is better than the devil you don't know!"

VIRTUAL The virtual Democratic Convention was unremarkable. Keynote speaker, Michelle Obama, rambled on about Joe Biden and what a nice man he is and how he has a plan for a new economy. Let's be clear. It was Covid 19 which ground the economy to a screeching halt and drove unemployment to record highs. At the present time there is still no solution to the Covid 19 virus.

The Democrat Platform has not been mentioned as of yet, although it was already revealed that they want to forgive student loans.

MED MAL A friend of mine in Pensacola, Florida got lymphoma as he regularly used the herbicide, Roundup, while doing yard work. He contacted the law firm handling the class action suite against Bayer. He was interviewed by an attorney who had a long list of questions. The last question was, "how old are you?" He replied, "81." The lawyer said, "we can't take this any further."

Another man who was taking Valsartan which is linked to prostate cancer, called his attorney who referred him to the firm who was handling the class action. When told he was over 80 the lawyer told him that they didn't take anyone over 65. Age discrimination is evident.

CBS "Meet the Press." Margaret Brennan is the CBS attack dog for the Democrats. She will contort, interrupt, talk over and take every opportunity to be unreasonable when it comes to interviewing Conservative Republicans.

FINALLY It doesn't matter what your political persuasion is, what matters is that you vote. Democrat, Republican, Independent, Socialist, Liberal or Conservative or some other philosophy, just get out and vote! Then whatever the outcome of the election, live with it. Let's not have anymore riots or looting over who won and who lost.

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- US Civics Questions Review
- Reading & Writing Preparation
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- Study Materials Available

Class Details

- Classes will take place via Zoom at the following dates & times:
Tuesday, September 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th
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

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

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

IASCW Slate of Officers/Directors for 2021 Announced

The Slate of Officers and directors for 2021 are hereby published for the membership review:

- President, Jim Lawler
- VP, Bettie Komar
- Secretary, Brian Conroy
- Treasurer, Dan Maher
- 2023 Director, Mary Whelan Johnson
- 2023 Director (OPEN).

Those remaining on the board include:

- 2021 Director, Tim Broderick
- 2021 Director, Mary Beth Gannon
- 2022 Director, Beth Brophy Starceovich and
- 2022 Director, Dave Maher.

The following committee chair positions are open and to be appointed:

- Cultural committee;*
- Membership committee;*
- Public Relations; and Scholarship.*

Interested members are encouraged to contact IASCW Executive Director Tim Brophy to volunteer--815-791-6424, or tmb777@aol.com.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING TO GO VIRTUAL

Due to the current pandemic-related restrictions, the annual meeting of the IASCW membership scheduled for Sunday November 1, 2020 will be virtual. Members are encouraged to join the meeting. Specific meeting instructions will be emailed to all members in October. Members without access to necessary hardware or software to attend the virtual meeting should contact IASCW Executive Director Tim Brophy (815-791-6424) for alternative arrangements.

2020 Will County Celtic Fest Cancelled

The 2020 Will County Celtic Fest, scheduled for Saturday August 22, 2020 was not held due to the Covid-19 pandemic-related restrictions. St. Joe's Park in Joliet sent our notice in May that the summer schedule of weekend picnics and festivals was entirely cancelled. IASCW members and friends will certainly miss the music, fellowship, and fun! Hopefully the 2021 schedule of events will return-- Manhattan Irish Fest scheduled for March 5-6; and Celtic Fest scheduled for August 28th.

IASCW 2020 Manhattan Irish Fest Donates \$58,141 Back to Community Partners

The Manhattan Irish Fest is an event that benefits from the partnership of the IASCW management and local community organizations. The volunteers necessary to carry out the event are rewarded

with donations to their organizations. This makes the MIF a truly community-based and supported organization. Thousands filled the entertainment tent to capacity to hear a fantastic line-up of musi-

cians. The Saturday morning parade was a huge success with a record number of participants. Large crowds surrounded the route to cheer on the many floats, marchers, and vehicles.



Carmel Quinn

Carmel Quinn still remains one of the great singers and storytellers in entertainment today. She was a headliner during the first Milwaukee Irish Fest in 1981 and over twenty years later she remains a crowd-pleaser as her fans will testify to from her shows at Irish Fest 2002.

Carmel Quinn was born in Dublin, Ireland. Her father was an excellent violinist and the family was quite musical. Upon completion of her early schooling, she entered college with the intention of becoming a teacher, but soon thereafter took a chance on an audition for singers at the Dublin Theater Royal. She won a week's engagement, and went from there to the Crystal Ballroom for two months. Another audition won her a permanent spot with Johnny Devlin's Orchestra, and other orchestra and theatrical engagements followed. At length she went to London and made her radio debut over the BBC.

Carmel married Bill Fuller who at the time owned

ballrooms in Dublin and in London. Because of the large amount of Irish immigrating to the States he decided to open ballrooms in New York, Boston, Chicago & San Francisco where the Irish were amassing again. His ventures were all successful. When Carmel came to America, in March of 1954, it was to perform in these ballrooms.

A few months later she appeared on the Arthur Godfrey Talent Scouts program and won the contest. Her husband was back in Ireland and didn't even know that she was on the program until he heard that she won it. The prize was to appear on the show for the next three days. She did; and she stayed on as a "regular" for six additional years. American audiences loved her songs and her humorous tales about life.

Carmel was one of many popular stars today that got their start from Irish-American Arthur Godfrey's show. These include Pat Boone, the McGuire Sisters, Tony Bennett and Connie Francis. Two big stars missed by the show's screening staff were Elvis Presley and Buddy Holly, both flunked the show's auditions.

After leaving the Godfrey show, Carmel became a popular guest on many of America's favorite talk shows. These include the Today Show, the Tonight Show, the Ed Sullivan Show, the Dick Cavett Show, the Merv Griffin Show, Nashville Now, Live with Regis and Kathie Lee, the Ralph Emery Show, and Candid Camera too! Once again it is her unique charm and talent that endears her

to the audience.

Carmel appeared in numerous stage musicals such as Finian's Rainbow, The Sound of Music, Wildcat, The Boy Friend and many others. She also performed for Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. Her annual concert at Carnegie Hall has sold out for over 25 years. Her numerous recordings have received accolades from every sector of the populace. Her special love for children engendered "Patrick Muldoon and His Magic Balloon" - a recording which earned her a prestigious Grammy Award nomination, and a recent offer to do her own children's show. She is also only the second woman to have received the John F. Kennedy Award for Excellence in her field of activity.

Whether singing or telling her wonderful outrageous anecdotes or meeting the great demand for speaking engagements, she immediately has the audience in the palm of her hand - making them sing, laugh or reminisce. As one critic from the Canada Evening Times Globe remarked "She is a graduate of the Dublin school of stage artistry... their finest and best known living product...mixing humor with the pathos of story-telling and superb showmanship... no one quite beguiles an audience so quickly or more effortlessly."

Carmel has a great affection for America. Nearly all of her concerts contain some patriotic songs. She does a lot of charity work in New York for Catholic schools and for literary programs. She also spends time with her four children and three grandchildren. After 50 years in show business Carmel is still going strong.



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A Cháirde

We are very grateful to you, the Irish community, for all your support. Many of you responded to our appeal for funds, and many of you have been supporting us through the Carraig Pub's curbside pickup and by enjoying food, drink and live music on our beautiful, spacious patio. Thank you!

Thanks, also, to all who have renewed their memberships, especially those that selected one of our multi-year terms. If you haven't joined yet, it is not too late. Our membership link can be found at <https://chicagogaelicpark.com/support-us/>. We hope you will join us.

I've mentioned a very important group before, and am happy to do so again. We owe a very big thank you to

our wonderful volunteers. As soon as restrictions were barely lifted this past spring, our daily volunteers started to return. They were few in number at first but it wasn't long before most families gave in and allowed the volunteers in their homes to return to their calling at Gaelic Park. Now we see many of them every week, maintaining and improving the place they love. Go raibh maith agat, Cead Mile Failte!

We are pleased to welcome you to the Carraig Pub as we operate on the patio. Reservations are recommended, especially on Wednesday barbecued rib nights.

Is mise le meas,
Bill O'Sullivan

*Gaelic Park's Patio is open
for cocktails and dinner
Wednesday through Sunday*



Let's Keep this Endless Summer Going!!!

September Entertainment

Frank Rossi Thursday September 10th

Friday

Saturday

4th - T.B.D.

5th - T.B.D.

11th - Gerry Haughey 7:30pm

12th - Patio Closed for Private Event

18th - Bernie Glim 7:30pm

19th - Kieran Byrne 7:30pm

25th - Patio Closed for Private Event

26th - Joe Cullen 8:00pm

Selected Dates are Available for Your 2020-21 Weddings and Events in Our Newly Remodeled Emerald Room, Our Tara Room, Our Celtic Room, Our Patio and in Our Pub

Gaelic Park Irish Heritage Scholarship Awarded to Two Providence Students

Two Providence Catholic High School students, Kevin Conway of Mokena and Sarah McCarthy of Wilmington are the recipients of the Gaelic Park



active in her parish volunteering for the Knights of Columbus fish fry each spring.

Congratulations to both!

Irish Heritage Scholarship for the 2020-2021 school year.

Kevin Conway is a member of the football team and volunteers at the youth summer camps. He also volunteers his time at the NAWS animal shelter in Mokena.

Sarah McCarthy is a member of the school's award-winning marching band. She is also active in the school's Habitat for Humanity student chapter that participates in summer builds throughout the country. She is also

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Thursday, Friday, Saturday

Starting at 5pm

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Live Entertainment Friday & Saturday Night



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Wed, Thurs, Fri 3-7pm



The Carraig Pub's

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Thursday
September 17, 2020
Shot Gun Start 1:00pm

George Dunne National Golf Course
20,310 Central Ave - Oak Forest

\$120 Per Goller

Prizes, Dinner & Drinks at Gaelic Park Immediately following end of play

Closest to the Pin on Par 3's Longest Drive
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2019 Rose of Tralee, Shana Pembroke, Will Serve Until 2022 Rose is Selected

In April of 2019, Shana Pembroke of Oak Lawn, IL, was selected as the 2019 Chicago Rose of Tralee. Shana is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and recently graduated with her Master's in Speech-Language Pathology from Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame. Shana will begin her career as a pediatric speech-language pathologist later this month. Since her selection as the Chicago Rose, Shana has made the most of her year as a Rose finalist and has promoted her Irish heritage as well as the City of Chicago.

This month marks a year since Shana traveled to Tralee, Co. Kerry proudly wearing her "Chicago Rose" sash at all of the many events she attended during the International Rose of Tralee Festival. She was interviewed on RTE television, which broadcasts the Rose Selection, live from the



Roses and their escorts in Chicago recently.

With the decision by the International Rose of Tralee Festival to postpone this year's festival in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Shana and her 2019 Rose of Tralee class is making the most of these unprecedented times. They have kept in regular contact through zoom meet ups and FaceTime calls. They have also virtually connected over the past couple of months to participate in philanthropic events. The first of which was a social distance relay race benefitting Pieta House. The 2019



class raised over \$62,000 for mental health services and collectively ran the length of Ireland. The second virtual relay the 2019 Rose Class completed benefited Olivia Mulhern, a young girl from Donegal who was diagnosed with a serious neuromuscular condition called Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Shana is looking forward to reuniting in person with her Rose of Tralee Class when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, Shana will spend the rest of her time as the Chicago Rose of Tralee connecting with the Irish community here in Chicago and abroad. The mission of the Chicago Rose of Tralee is to provide enrichment opportunities that will encourage young women of Irish descent to be exemplary role models for tomorrow's youth and to make a positive difference in the world. The winner of the 2022 Chicago Rose of Tralee will receive an all expense paid trip to Ireland for an experience of a lifetime and represent Chicago in Tralee, and beyond. Apply online at www.roseoftralee.ie/apply. For more information on the Chicago Rose Selection, Rosebud Application or Sponsorship information for the Chicago Rose of Tralee Centre, please email: chicagoroseoftralee@gmail.com.

International Rose of Tralee Festival. Shana displayed the musical skills she garnered during her time spent as a member of the UIUC No Comment A Cappella group by beatboxing and singing a rendition of "Make You Feel My Love" by Bob Dylan. During her time in Tralee, Shana visited many sites around Ireland, meeting the welcoming locals and connecting with her family from Co. Kerry and Co. Mayo.

Shana reunited with her Rose of Tralee class over this past year at two of the spots which hosted her during the 2019 Rose Tour last August. In October, Shana travelled with her class to the Rose Hotel in Tralee and in January, they reunited again for a New Year's Eve Ball at the Glenroyal Hotel in Kildare. Shana also hosted a few of the

CELTIC

AN IRISH JOURNAL FOR SENIORS



WELCOME

Celtic magazine is a mere four pages but pulling it together each month is quite a feat for us novices! However, we're starting to get the hang of it. The September issues is choc-full of interesting and informative articles. Covid-related scams are on the rise, warns

the Cook County Sheriff's office in a helpful piece below. Taking our cue from nature, this month's puzzles are all about birds and we call on the work of one of Ireland's great poets to conjure images of wide-open spaces while we remain largely cooped up inside. Inspired by May - who last month shared a recipe in the

Celtic Kitchen - I'm including one of mine this month which reflects both my sweet tooth and modest culinary skills. Join in some socially-responsible house calls in our *Front Porch Profiles* segment and who knows, maybe we'll be on your porch next!

Paul Dowling

Fraud Prevention

Finding new opportunities in the COVID-19 pandemic, scammers are hard at work trying to get your valuables. Our friends at the Cook County Sheriff's Office have some sage advice for protecting yourself from fraud and theft.

Scammers have been stealing valuables from senior citizens in recent weeks under the guise of working for the local water department and needing to check their in-home water supply for COVID-19, according to local police reports. Such scams have surfaced across the Chicago area and involve an offender coming the door of a senior's home claiming to be from the local water department and stating they need to enter the home to inspect the homeowner's water supply or

spray for COVID-19. Once inside, the offender distracts the senior by leading them to various parts of the home to check the water. Simultaneously, a second person enters the home to steal small items of value including cash and jewelry. This type of scam is known as a "ruse burglary scam," in which an offender tricks a person, often an elderly homeowner, into letting them into their home and distracting them under a ruse. Often the offender uses scare tactics and insists action needs

to be taken right away to ensure the homeowner stays safe. Scare tactics and a sense of urgency are used so victim homeowners don't have time to think things through logically and instead are focused on trying to stay safe. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID-19 has not been detected in drinking water and there is no evidence coronavirus spreads to people by drinking treated water. The Cook County Sheriff's Office offers the following safety tips. If someone comes to your door claiming to be from the village or a local utility and is requesting entry to your home:

- Never leave your front door/screen door unlocked.

- Never let strangers into your home.- If they claim to be from the village or a utility, find a customer service number on your own and call to verify their employment. If they are legitimately from the village or a utility, they will gladly provide you with their work ID and wait for you to complete the call.
- Be especially wary if the person did not arrive in an official work vehicle, ie. truck with official village or utility logo on the doors.
- Keep valuables in your home locked in a safe, including jewelry and other financial documents.
- Don't be afraid to call 911 if anyone is knocking at your door, even if it is the police.

CARTOON CAPTION COMPETITION

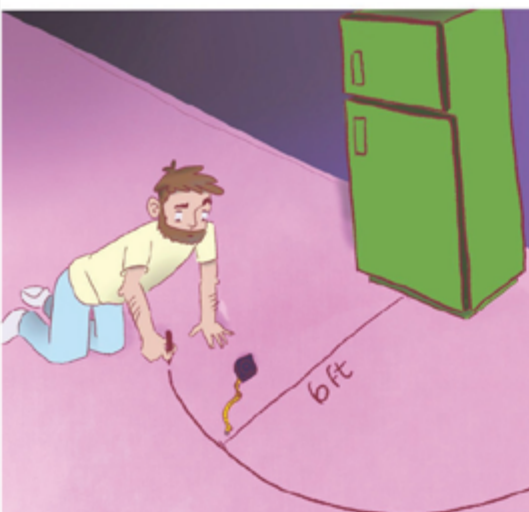
Each month, we provide a cartoon and ask you to give it a caption. Send us your entries by mail or email before the 15th of the month to be considered for the competition. We'll announce the winner in next month's *Celtic*.

Irish Community Services
4626 N Knox Ave #301
Chicago, IL 60630
Info@irishchicago.org

This Month's Cartoon



Last Month's Cartoon



Winning Caption

Who am I kidding? This is NOT gonna keep me from packing on the 'COVID-19' weight!

- Susan, Chicago -



The Celtic Kitchen

Paul's Chocolate Biscuit Cake

If you need to impress your guests but don't have the skills or percision needed to bake up a storm, this sweet and simple biscuit cake is for you. As an assembly of already tasty ingredients melted and mixed together, no baking is required! Sliced into small pieces, Chocolate Biscuit Cake is a big hit at kids' parties, or dressed up with a little ganache or frosting it can be a classy centerpiece at any formal function.

- 10oz butter
- 1/2 cup corn syrup
- 8oz milk chocolate
- 7oz Digestive biscuits
- 7oz Rich Tea biscuits
- 1 Packet (1.3oz) Maltesers

Directions

1. line 2lb loaf pan with parchment paper.
2. Melt butter, syrup and chocolate in a pan over medium heat.
3. Roughly crush biscuits/ crackers. Add biscuits and Maltesers to mixture and stir.
4. Transfer to prepared tin. Level top and press down well. Store in fridge until completely set.

Watch our Biscuit Cake 'how-to' video on our YouTube channel (go to www.youtube.com and type 'Irish Community Services' into the search bar at the top of the page). Want to share your recipes? Call 312-371-0937, email info@irishchicago.org or send your recipes to; ICS, 4626 N. Knox Ave #301, Chicago, IL 60630.

Mystic Message

John O' Donohue (1956-2008) was a poet, scholar and mystic Christian from the west of Ireland. Through study and deep reflection, he developed a profound wisdom about life and what it is to be human. Here are some of his musings on living fully in the present.

'Once the soul awakens, the search begins and you can never go back. From then on, you are inflamed with a special longing that will never again let you linger in the lowlands of complacency and partial fulfillment. The eternal makes you urgent. You are loath to let compromise or the threat of danger hold you back from striving toward the summit of fulfillment.'





Front Porch Profiles

After months of lockdown and social distancing, we are all longing to gather once again as a community. While we wait to see when this might be possible, our *Front Porch Profiles* hope to keep us connected by highlighting community members and asking what self-isolation has been like for them.

Norman Corfield

Where are you originally from?
Liverpool, UK.

How long have you lived in Chicago?
60 years!

What 3 words best describe how you've felt since the start of the COVID pandemic and self-isolation?
1) Confused 2) Bored 1) Sad

What have you been doing to stay busy?
Reading, word finding and watching lots of soccer.

What have you learned during the pandemic and self-isolation?
It's so easy to become lazy! And how much I love tea and chocolate!



Kay Corfield

Where are you originally from?
Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

How long have you lived in Chicago?
60 years.

What have you been doing to stay busy during self-isolation?
phone 'visiting', sorting clothes and 'stuff' for donation, watching tall men walking tiny dogs (😊) and Sunday mass on TV.

What are you looking forward to doing once self-isolation is over?
Being free to visit with friends freely. Returning to my exercise program and going to church and the IAHC.

Grace and Lincoln Odumosu

Where are you originally from?
Dublin, Ireland.

What have you been doing to keep yourselves busy?
Lincoln and I take at least two walks a day. We've been trying to drench ourselves in Nature. I've also been creating a lot - I've written two children's stories and I started work on a sci-fi novel. Lincoln has learned how to go on his scooter. He's somehow mastered it one handed!! We've been taking advantage of 'face-timing nanny' - Lincoln talks to my mom (in Ireland) almost every morning.

What are you looking forward to doing once self-isolation ends?
People and community. Lincoln was born nine weeks early so we've limited his interaction with the outside world. I'm looking forward to him having conversations with 2/3-year-olds and I'm looking forward to conversing with adults more often. I'm also looking forward to safely create Art again and resuming the playgroup that I run at the IAHC- I can't wait to see the kids!



I ate a whole clock yesterday. It was very time consuming!

Which country's capital has the fastest-growing population? Ireland. Every day it's Dublin.

Yesterday, a clown held the door open for me. It was such a nice jester!

Watch our Comedy Club videos online : go to www.youtube.com and search for 'Irish Community Services'

Think it Over

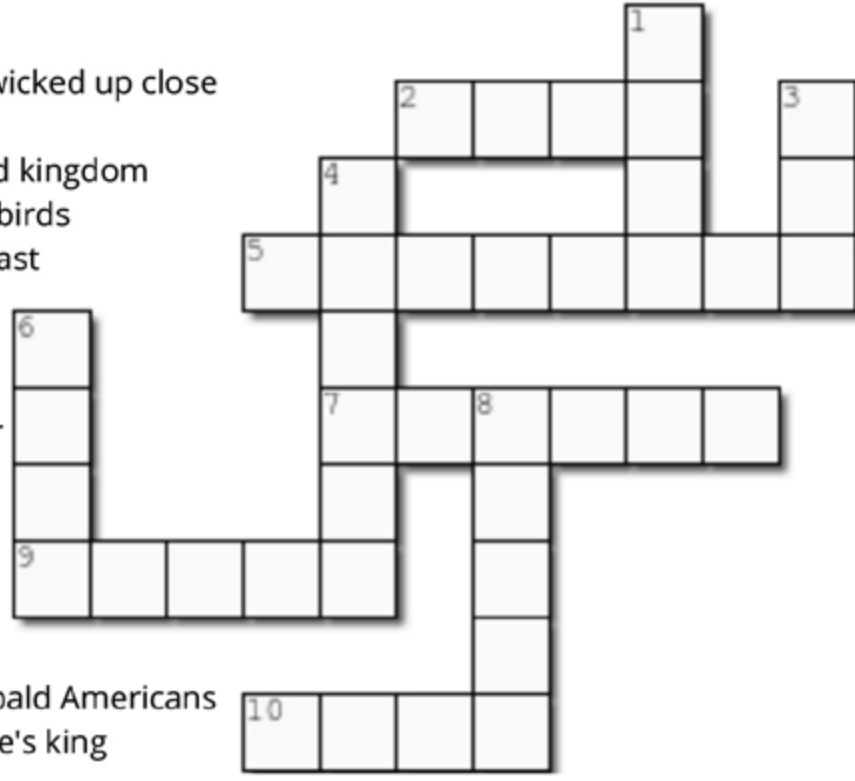


Down

- 1. Graceful from afar, wicked up close
- 3. Wise old bird
- 4. Jewel thief of the bird kingdom
- 6. The peace maker of birds
- 8. He bares his red breast

Across

- 2. There's murder when they get together
- 5. The Bishops and the birds were red
- 7. She's in the jungle or on the captain's shoulder
- 9. He's golden among bald Americans
- 10. In Ireland's west , he's king



Birds of a Feather

W	H	W	P	E	N	G	U	I	N
S	O	G	M	P	C	P	L	F	Z
T	U	O	O	E	I	X	X	R	E
A	S	L	D	S	P	G	A	E	R
R	E	D	M	P	T	U	E	P	E
L	F	F	W	Y	E	R	C	O	C
I	I	I	V	V	Z	C	I	P	N
N	N	N	M	R	M	P	K	C	C
G	C	C	Q	A	M	V	W	E	H
L	H	H	N	A	L	U	Y	L	R

- GOLD FINCH
- WOOD PECKER
- PIGEON
- STARLING
- PENGUIN
- HOUSE FINCH
- OSTRICH

THE AMBASSADOR'S POEM PICK

Austin Clarke (1896-1974) was the first major Irish poet to emerge after W.B. Yeats. He was a critic of what he saw as an excessive conservatism in the Ireland of the 1920s and 1930s and some of his poems are quite hard hitting. 'The Lost Heifer', one of Clarke's early works, will be familiar to anyone who went to school in

Ireland over the past 50 years. It conjures up a vivid image of the Irish countryside on a wet day: "When the black herds of the rain were grazing/In the gap of the pure cold wind", in which the cattle and the weather seem to merge. Those who love Ireland's mild, moist climate will respond to Clarke's line, "Brightness was drenching

through the branches". The second verse has some lovely lines, "And her voice coming softly over the meadow/Was the mist becoming rain." All in all this is a beautiful poem that lodges in the memory and will remind readers of their own favorite rural scenes, be they in Ireland or in the great American outdoors.

The Lost Heifer

When the black herds of the rain were grazing,
 In the gap of the pure cold wind
 And the watery hazes of the hazel
 Brought her into my mind,
 I thought of the last honey by the water
 That no hive can find.

Brightness was drenching through the Branches
 When she wandered again,
 Turning sliver out of dark grasses
 Where the skylark had lain,
 And her voice coming softly over the meadow
 Was the mist becoming rain.



Dan Mulhall
Ambassador

Integrated Communications Agency - Heron Agency - Celebrates 20th Anniversary

One of the nation’s leading lifestyle communications firms celebrates 20 years of growth, while being honored as one of PR NEWS Agency Elite Top 100 US firms for 2020

Heron Agency, one of the nation’s leading, award-winning lifestyle communications agencies, is thrilled to ring in their 20th anniversary this month by celebrating receiving the PR NEWS Agency Elite Top 100 “It List” Award. This prestigious award is a highly sought after designation in the PR industry, and means an agency has continuously delivered innovative, memorable and results driven campaigns, and has a solid reputation for results. CEO and founder of Heron Agency, Noreen Heron, a native of Chicago’s Southwest side of Chicago, and now a resident of Lincoln Park, started the agency after serving for five years as the Director of Public Relations for Hyatt Regency Chicago (Hyatt’s largest property in the world and Chicago’s biggest hotel) before founding her own agency. Prior to Hyatt, she represented various Chicagoland theaters including Candlelight Playhouse. Over her long and illustrious career, she has represented more than 30 hotel brands, more than 1000 theater productions including national tours, 400 restaurants, and count-

less events including the Taste of Chicago, the Race to Mackinac, Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, the Jeff Awards, the Grand Chefs Gala, the Randolph Street Market, the Highland Games, the Chicago Boat & RV Show, and the One of a Kind Show. Heron Agency has managed corporate campaigns for Paper Source, Jet’s Pizza, Luna

Chicago, the American Writers Museum, and more. Executing dynamic, integrated campaigns for a variety of corporate, hospitality and lifestyle clients, Heron Agency focuses on creating strategic initiatives that reach specific audiences, build brand exposure, and increase revenue.

Heron is the daughter of John

Champaign, and Ava, a sophomore at St. Ignatius College Prep.

Her many accolades include receiving the American Airlines/Where Chicago Magazine “Someone Special” Award (1999), Today’s Chicago Woman Magazine’s “Chicago’s Top 100 Women Making a Difference Today” (1999), National Association of Women Business Owners “Corporate Woman of Achievement” Award (1998), Public Allies “One of Chicago’s Top 100 Young Leaders” (1993), SE Magazine’s “Outstanding Business Achievement” (2001), Massage Envy “Streetfighter of the Year” (2014), Chicago Business Journal Women of Influence (2016), Professional Irish Women of Chicago Professional Marketing & Events Award (2017), PR Couture Bespoke Award The Maven Award (2018), National Customer Service Association “Service Excellence to the Community” (2019), and Ragan Communications and PR Daily’s Top Women in Communications “Dynamic Doer” Award (2020). Highly networked, she has served on numerous boards through the year and planned many charitable fundraisers.

She has taught communications classes at Northwestern University, Roosevelt College, DePaul University and Kendall College. Having served two internships herself in college, Noreen is a

proponent of mentoring communications students and has built over the last twenty years one of the most sought after internship programs for PR and Journalism students.

“We view ourselves as our clients’ teammates, not just consultants, and we strive to produce the best campaigns and results possible,” said Noreen Heron, CEO & Founder, Heron Agency. “The last twenty years have flown by, but I always take satisfaction in knowing that we helped so many brands grow and prosper. Now we are offering new services to our clients, including website development, SEO, blog writing, and photography, and we have always evolved innovatively, looking for new ways to help insure maximum exposure for our clients.” The agency is known as a one-stop-shop that provides creative public relations services, targeted advertising strategies, digital marketing, grassroots marketing efforts, and innovative social media practices. Heron Agency prides itself on cultivating successful long-term relationships with clients and collaborative partners. The company’s unique combination of dovetailing strategic PR campaigns with grassroots marketing efforts creates results that are truly measurable in terms of profitability for their clients.



*Owner,
Noreen Heron*

Carpet, Smirnoff, Orange Theory Fitness, Bailey’s, Massage Envy and others. She has represented numerous celebrities in Chicago and around the country including Prince, Jerry Seinfeld, Janeane Garafalo, Gabriel Byrne, Dan Aykroyd, the Beach Boys, Celtic Thunder, and Jewel, among others. They have also represented several non-profit organizations including the National Hellenic Museum, Alliance Francaise

Heron, who was a native of Dublin, and Eileen O’Connor Heron, whose parents hailed from Cork and Kerry. Noreen’s maternal grandfather was Dan O’Connor, who was the President of the Corkmen’s Association in Chicago. Noreen is a graduate of St. Symphorosa School, Mt. Assisi Academy, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has two children, Connor, a freshman at the University of Illinois Urbana

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER NIMBLE THIMBLES QUILT RAFFLE



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Adoption, a Birth, 911, Someone Familiar, a Family Reunion

By Katie Iannitelli

While watching the morning news from her Queens home on September 11, 2001, Detective Debra Duffy McCarthy of the New York City Police Department, on her last week of maternity leave, saw the first plane hit the World Trade Center. Her husband, Battalion Chief Thomas McCarthy of the Fire Department of New York, on his day off, made a quick call and headed for the FDNY command post at the World Trade Center.

"The phones were dead, and I couldn't call him," she says. "He called me at two o'clock in the morning. He told me he had watched the buildings collapse in front of him, and he was putting together the death list for the FDNY."

The days after the attacks brought one funeral after another.

"We were burying a lot of friends and coworkers," she recalls, explaining that she had lost 12 friends, while her husband knew more than 98 of the deceased, personally.

Six days later, Debra went back to work at One Police Plaza. Another officer in full dress uniform, a woman Debra didn't know, caught her eye. Debra pointed her out to a colleague.

"Doesn't she look like me?" Debra asked.

Debra's friend concurred and added, "That's Sergeant Mary Ann Young. She's attending the funerals of her cousins, Peter Milano and Patrick Sullivan." The cousins, both employees of Cantor Fitzgerald at One World Trade Center, perished together.

"I had never seen anybody in my life who resembled me," says Debra, who was born to Irish Catholic parents in Brooklyn and raised by an adoptive family, also Irish Catholic, in Lynbrook. Her adoptive parents, a NYC Rescue Company 1 firefighter and a real estate businesswoman, were wonderful to her, she explains, but she always longed to reconnect with her biological relatives.

"I waited a long time," she says. "I didn't want to hurt my family."

Seeing Sergeant Young's oddly familiar face, in the wake of 9/11's life-altering losses and the birth of her daughter, prompted Debra to start the search. She found her mother, Maureen, first.

Maureen "was forced to give me up for adoption at two years old. I have a brief memory of being ... with her. She told me that my father had called her every year on my birthday for the last 35 years."

Debra searched Brooklyn and found her father, Charles Sullivan, a former merchant marine and iron worker who told her he had always hoped to find her again, she recounts.

Debra agreed to reunite with Charles at the home of his nephew Al

Milano in Breezy Point, a beachfront enclave of Queens with a full view of the Manhattan skyline.

"My father waited for us in the parking lot," she says. "Then he brought me into a beautiful house on the beach. My entire family was there."

And, unbelievably, in attendance to meet Debra, along with three dozen Milano and Sullivan family members, was Debra's first cousin, Sergeant Mary Ann Young, the officer Debra had seen at One Police Plaza a year before. It didn't take Debra but a minute to realize that the late Peter Milano and Patrick Sullivan had been her first cousins, too.

Debra learned that Patrick Sullivan's parents, her Uncle Patsy and Aunt Mary Sullivan, stood on the same beach, one year earlier, and watched the buildings collapse. The entire family had not been together since.

"My aunt and uncle came up to me and said 'Debra, we lost our son and our nephew in 9/11; but now God has brought you and your family into our lives.'"

Debra has remained close to her mother, Maureen, her half-brother, David, and her extended Sullivan and Milano families. A few years ago, she went to Ireland to meet the rest of her cousins in Donegal.

Today, with the 20th anniversary of 9/11 approaching in 2021, having written a book about her life story, Debra is seeking a publisher.

"My true story is one of tremendous loss, love, and finding family," she says. "We lost so much that day. My desire is that people gain a sense of hope for the future after reading it."



Debra McCarthy and her new daughter, Devin, in 2001



Debra reunited with her father, Charles Sullivan



Debra, husband Thomas McCarthy, with their children, Devin, Kelly, and Thomas

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The Barbara Conroy/Glynn Story: Representing the Irish from Galway to Chicago

By Michael Glynn

On August 6th, 2020, God called my grandmother, Barbara Glynn (née Conroy) home after 88 years. Barbara's story, which I recorded on tape four years ago, parallels the tale of many Irish immigrants. From growing up on a poor farm in Galway to immigrating to America, she lived a wholesome life, allowing for a lasting legacy through her children, grandchildren, and imprint on Irish life in Chicago. This interview allowed me to gain an appreciation for her life, the obstacles she overcame, and her long journey to arrive at where she was in Chicago.

My grandmother was born in 1932 into a family of ten in Maam



Barbara dancing with here husband, Michael

Cross, Connemara, Co. Galway, Ireland. I have traveled there three times in my life, and each time, I marveled at the rolling green hills, clear waters, and charm of the area. The funny part is that she never realized how beautiful it was until returning home many years later. After traveling to London and the United States, she gained a great appreciation for the majesty of her homeland.

Barbara describes her childhood as "happy but poor" and paints a picture of the hardship her parents had raising ten children on the farm. Like how she did not realize the beauty of her hometown until later in life, it also took her years to realize the hardship her parents had raising ten kids. Their farm was poor, unable to have a tractor due to all the rocks in the soil. All meals came strictly off the land, as they grew oats, carrots, parsnips, cabbage, and potatoes. Sunday was their favorite day, as their parents would kill a turkey or chicken, preparing a Sunday dinner with jello and custard. After supper, the children would clean the dishes, needing to use a kettle to boil water over a fireplace, as there was no source of heated running water. After reading my eulogy at mass, a family friend came up to me, appreciating her childhood as his parents grew up in the same area and had a similar upbringing. He told me that his fa-

Sheila Ann Gallagher, 1987 St.

Patrick's Day Parade Queen Passes

Sheila was born Sheila Ann McCloy on May 25, 1961 to Kathleen and George McCloy. Sheila was the youngest of nine children: Tom, Kathy, George, Maureen, Patty, Colleen, Sean, and Brian - the classic Irish Catholic family. She married Terry Gallagher in 1989 and raised three children: Kathleen Dey (Justin), Colin (Jessica), and Grace, and her dogs - Dudley, Bosco, and Bear. Sheila Gallagher was a woman of many, many talents: artist, chef, volunteer, designer, art teacher, painter, photographer, dog trainer, fundraiser, tri-athlete, dental assistant, home and school board member, workout fanatic, and 1987 Chicago St Patrick's Day Queen...just to name a few. Sheila's creativity, determination, and enthusiasm knew no bounds. Sheila was diagnosed with metastatic urothelial carcinoma in July of 2019 and after over a year of an arduous battle, transitioned to hospice care, where she was able to spend her final days in



Barbara Glynn, Kitty Luskin

ther would say, "there were more dinnertimes without dinners." Interpretation of that quote helped me realize how difficult it truly was for many Irish families in the 1930s and 40s.

At 17, she said a tearful goodbye to her parents and left to work in London for three years before returning home again for Christmas. Her and her cousin,

the comfort of her lake house in Michigan (completely designed by her) surrounded by her family. She



passed away peacefully on August 21, 2020. Due to the pandemic, there will be a celebration of life at a later date. Family has prepared an online remembrance at sheilainthesky.com. As Sheila was a strong advocate of giving back, she asked that in lieu of flowers, please consider donating to one of her favorite charities, listed on the donation page at sheilainthesky.com.

Kitty Luskin (née Fitzhenry), had a pact that wherever they moved, they would move together. They were supposed to leave for America together, but plans changed when Kitty met the love of her life, begging Barbara to stay in Ireland. However, Barbara felt that when she planned something, she planned it for a reason, so she still decided to make the journey. It took nine days for the boat to cross the Atlantic Ocean, arriving in Hoboken, NJ. My grandmother was the only one of her friends who did not become ill on the trip, instead going to dances every night. She knew she had arrived in America upon seeing the Statue of Liberty. After a short stay in New York, she boarded a plane for the first time ever, arriving to Chicago on April 6th, 1953.

In Chicago, she had to write letters to stay in touch with her family for about ten years until her

sister Kathleen got the first phone in Maam. She started working a "boring factory job", inspecting every knob of stoves and refrigerators before eventually spending most of her career working as a waitress at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Barbara frequented Irish dance halls, a hobby that continued well into her later years, meeting her husband Mike at a dance at Carpenter's Hall. They would later enjoy 63 years of marriage, four children, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Both were active members of the Irish American Heritage Center and Galway Fellowship Club, assisting in running benefits for Irish families who had fallen on hard times and fundraising through planning social events. Barbara is gone but will not be forgotten by the Irish community, who will miss her smile, her glamorous outfits, and a voice that frequently sang, "Up Galway!"

Patricia A. Carlson (Hoban) Passes

Was surrounded by her immediate family as she took her last breath on Sunday, July 19th just before 8 am. At the time of her passing, she was at peace up in the mountains of her Colorado home. The home she built with her lifelong love Harold (Bingo). As she transitioned to the next life, stories were shared, deep appreciation was expressed, and words of love were spoken. It was an elegant, peaceful, and loving parting from this world. Her family is grateful to have been by her side in a place that she so deeply cherished.

Patricia had many gifts which she shared freely. A mother of three, foster mother to three more and grandmother (Nanna) to yet another set of three. She generously expressed her love and made daily life a simple act of joy. Always an artist at heart, Patricia's lifelong creative journey manifested in many ways - she played piano in her early years, pursued the harp

and sang in the choir at Old St. Pat's in Chicago. She was also a photographer/graphic designer for a school newspaper, an incredible decorator, an award-winning neighborhood gardener, and an extraordinary floral designer.

Her love of life, her devotion to family and her spirit will ever be remembered.

Patricia is survived by her husband Harold (Bing) Carlson, three children - Maja Bosen with husband

Brian, Cristina Carlson, Thomas Carlson with wife Gale, two grandsons - Quinlan and Eric Carlson, and granddaughter - Onah Bosen, her two sisters - Mary Jo Keane BVM and Kay Wendell (Hoban), as well as



many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and cousins in the US, Ireland and UK.

A memorial to celebrate her life will be held in Chicago at a future date. In lieu of flowers, please donate in her name to the Lester Turner Foundation of Chicago at events.lesturnerals.org/goto/pcm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 2020



As we leave summer and head into fall, I hope everyone is hanging in there to the best of their ability! It's been strange navigating new normals: virtual learning, working from home, and not being able to get up and go wherever we want whenever we want, but we're doing it! While we may have more spinning plates to balance than we might have had at this time last year, I encourage everyone to find ways to take care of yourself.

Autumn is by far my favorite season. Fall brings cozy evenings, warm apple cider, bon fires, and an opportunity for transition and change. At the Irish American Heritage Center, we traditionally enjoy Irish and Irish-American culture in person and at the Center, yet this year has thrown us a curveball. Due to the pandemic, we quickly shifted our approach from in-person events to online events, and just as autumn brings the opportunity for transition, we're taking this time as an opportunity to shift towards virtual events.

This Fall we have virtual lectures and performances for almost every taste, and have already began selling tickets online for our Nimble Thimbles Annual Quilt Raffle! (We will draw our winner on December 6th; don't wait to get your tickets!) Our Gift Shop has been accepting orders online for curbside pick up on Saturday afternoons, and are also open for in-person shopping each Saturday from noon until 4:00 pm CST. The Gift Shop has Irish-themed masks and a beautiful twin-sized quilt called "Autumn Harvest" sewn by the Nimble Thimbles for sale; be sure to stop by and check them out!

If you're a fan of Flannery O'Connor, we are offering a documentary film through September 20th featuring the life, work, and legacy of this interesting Southern Gothic author. Visit our Irish American Heritage Center website for more information on this film and to rent it. On this topic, if you enjoy writing, our Anam Cara Memoir and Creative Writing workshops continue through the fall and meet online every Tuesday at 1:00pm CST. Be sure to sign up on our website for a class with the wonderful Virginia Gibbons!

Be sure to check out our social media pages and to sign up for our weekly "IAHC Insider Update" newsletter, where we share everything that's happening with the Center and events other Irish centers are offering. And until we meet again, be well!

Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel
President, Irish American Heritage Center

Take advantage of the IAHC's growing virtual programming by visiting the Irish American Heritage Center Facebook page, or by going to irish-american.org, where you can find offerings like these:



Memoirs and Creative Writing
with Virginia Gibbons
Every Tuesday • 1pm, [Sign up on irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org)



Virtual Viewing of "Flannery," Documentary on the Life of Flannery O'Connor
8/20 through 9/20, [Sign up on irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org)



Fridays in the Fifth Facebook Live Performance by Mulligan Stew
9/11 • 6pm, [View on Irish American Heritage Center Facebook page](http://irish-american.org)



Chicago's Sweet Candy Virtual Lecture with Visuals by Leslie Goddard
9/14 • 7pm, [Sign up on irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org)



Watercolor Class
Five Weeks with IAHC Instructor Kathy Kelly,
9/16–10/14
[Sign up on irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org)



Portrayal of Zelda Fitzgerald with Actress Lynn Rynarz
9/24 • 7pm - [Sign up on irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org)



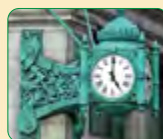
Fridays in the Fifth Facebook Live Performance by Rory Makem
9/28 • 6pm, [View on Irish American Heritage Center Facebook page](http://irish-american.org)



Portrayal of Emily Dickinson by Actress Paddy Lynn
10/8 • 7pm - [Sign up on irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org)



America's First Ladies Virtual Lecture with Visuals by Leslie Goddard
10/28, [Sign up on irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org)



Remembering Marshall Field Virtual Lecture with Visuals by Leslie Goddard
11/16, [Sign up on irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org)



History of the Formal Tea Virtual Lecture with Visuals by Leslie Goddard
12/23, [Sign up on irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org)

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Beachcombers and River Explorers

The Mesolithic Prehistory of Oughterard and Lough Corrib in Co. Galway

On account of the Bann Flakes (small stone tools) which were found in 1975 and again in 1984 at River Island, where the Owenriff River flows into Lough Corrib,



Oughterard can claim a pedigree to be amongst a very small number of places in Ireland where the first settlers to this country came to live and build their homes, almost 7,000 years ago.

The Bann Flake was found by Jim Higgins, now Galway City Heritage Officer, in 1975 where the Owenriff River enters Lough Corrib just outside Oughterard. Jim also found a scraper and a piece of discarded flint in the same location in 1984. This provides us with evidence that there was a Mesolithic fishing community on the shores of the Owenriff or along the banks of Lough Corrib in Oughterard. Evidence for the Mesolithic is very hard to find because of the perishable nature of what they were using.

The Bann Flake from 1975 doesn't show much evidence of having been 'rolled' around in the Lake for a long period of time and may have been dislodged from the banks of the Owenriff River in times of storm and high flooding.

14,000 years ago marked the end of the last Ice Age. The era between the retreat of the ice and the development of farming is

called the Mesolithic, or the Middle Stone Age. This phase lasted from 8,000BC to 4,000BC, which is over 40% of our recorded time on this Island. Ireland at that time

was completely different than it is now and everywhere was covered in a thick canopy of trees. The new settlers could move more easily on rivers and lakes, and sought out these places for their refuge. A good supply of water was very important, for drinking purposes and also to attract wild game.

They were the last of the Hunter-Gatherer people, before humans were to become involved in farming (Neolithic) or metal-working (Bronze Age), but they were also very creative and inventive. Because they did not grow any crops, or have the ability to store their produce, they had to become very skilled at hunting and fishing. The main animals at the time in Ireland were the wild pig and hare, along with fowl, and the rivers and seas yielded salmon, trout, eels, oysters and mussels. They always had to be on top of their hunting and fishing game, or they did not eat.

From flints and sharp stones, they made sharp blades, creating tools and knives for cutting, and they were the first humans to create a vital new weapon - the bow and arrow. Long before there

was any hint of farming practices in Ireland, they would have been hunting wild boar, also collecting hazelnuts and berries. They would have known their landscape, and developed knowledge of what was available in certain areas at different times of the year.

Where did our early settlers come from? It has been determined over the years that the exit point was possibly Scotland, Wales or the Isle Of Man. Over recent decades the Isle Of Man has emerged as the strongest contender, as the people on the small islands off the coast of the Isle Of Man would have been forced westwards due to the rising sea levels after the last Ice Age. If this is the case, it brings us to another interesting piece of information in relation to our locality. The ancient name for Lough Corrib was Lough Orbsen, called after an expert navigator and merchant trader named Orbsen Mac Alloid, who was commonly called Manannán Mac Lir. Now, the proper name of the Isle Of Man is the Isle Of Manannán, and this opens up some interesting discussions for future years.

Teach Your Children to Save More for Tomorrow, Today

By Brendan Houlihan

As the coronavirus pandemic continues... There is no better time to start saving more for tomorrow, than today!

The issue is financial literacy is not always accentuated in our schools. Educating and developing the skills our children need to mitigate financial woes starts with us, the parents. We need to teach our children to take a personal responsibility on their future economic security! This will empower our children to make sound future fiscal decisions.

This process begins by thinking about some initial questions. What are the benefits of being an early spender vs. being an early investor? What strategy would better serve you and your family? Understanding and learning the impact of financial literacy at an early age are life lessons that all children and adults should master. NOW!

To start, be consistent and

disciplined!

We need to teach our kids to avoid the common mistakes that families make with their money decisions. Sometimes the principles that we do not know can have a profound impact on our children and ourselves!

Money does not grow on trees!

Our children need to learn how to budget their money. When Johnny receives money for doing his chores or for his birthday, he needs to learn how to save a portion of that money. The sooner Johnny learns to save and be more diligent the better. Now is the time to develop and teach children the skill set to budget for savings, bills, and spending money.

Understanding credit card debt and the pitfalls are lessons that should be taught as soon as possible. Sometimes debt is a necessity and sometimes debt is a developed bad habit. Make sure your kids understand that the credit card bill arrives

every month and that borrowing money has a consequence. Teach Johnny to save up his money for a new video game rather than borrow money for the purchase.

Children and their parents need to appreciate how powerful compound interest will be on their savings. Albert Einstein said "Compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world. He who understands it, earns it ... he who doesn't ... pays it." We all enjoy experiencing our money make money, make sure your children comprehend this concept too!

--Brendan Houlihan, a fiduciary, is Financial Advisor at BFH Wealth Management and Learn to Earn Investment program for children.

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@BFH-WealthManagement.com

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Alert and Knowledgeable

As of writing, Kevin Clinesmith, a corrupt FBI lawyer and Mueller Probe investigator is pleading guilty to helping concoct the Democrat's Russia conspiracy, designed to smear, handicap, and remove a sitting President of the United States. A spokesman for Special Counsel Mueller's team had downplayed Clinesmith's role as "administrative". But a US Inspector General's report described Clinesmith as the "primary FBI attorney" on the Trump-Russia investigation in early 2017.

The day after election Clinesmith was so worried about his role in the frame-up of the Republican campaign that he wrote nervous text messages to (as yet unidentified) fellow agents: "I am so stressed about what I could have done differently. Plus, my god damned name is all over the legal documents investigating (the President's) staff. So who knows if that breaks to him, what he is going to do." To another FBI employee, he wrote: "And it's just hard not to feel like the FBI caused some of this. It was razor thin in some states.

But apparently Clinesmith and the FBI cabal rallied quickly to

get things under control. Just two weeks later, in a Nov. 22 text message discussing President Trump, Clinesmith appeared thrilled with his role, writing: "Viva le Resistance!"

More than a month BEFORE the election, September 2016, Obama administration officials leaked news that a classified investigation existed, and hinted Trump foreign policy adviser Carter Page was a Russian agent. FBI surveillance began in October.

By June 2017 the Russia probe was collapsing, having uncovered no credible evidence. That's when Clinesmith stepped in to modify a third Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act Court request. He eliminated part of a document which stated that Carter Page had been a CIA asset for years! CIA Director John Brennan surely knew this.

Democrats and the bulk of America's news media tried to downplay the significance of Clinesmith's guilty plea. House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff dismissed prosecutor Durham's investigation as "tainted" and "political." Candidate Biden offered a typical folksy comment: "Give me a break. Gosh almighty."

Mick

Mike Morley

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But this is a plea deal, indicating Clinesmith has flipped and will likely testify against superiors higher up the government food chain than FBI attorneys.

Our nation has just commemorated the 75th anniversary of VE Day and the surrender of Japan that ended World War II. At the forefront of the host of heroes who eventually triumphed in that long and incredibly difficult struggle for the future of mankind was General Dwight Eisenhower, who later led America through the end of war in Korea, and beyond as President. Eisenhower bade farewell to that high office in a speech that contained a singular warning: "In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert

and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together... The prospect of domination of the nation's scholars by Federal employment, project allocations, and the power of money is ever-present"

A smug and complacent America has ignored that warning and is now faced with that "disastrous rise of misplaced power" endangering "our liberties or democratic processes". And "an alert and knowledgeable citizenry" has been doubly subverted by its news media and educational institutions now committed to political and corporate agendas.

CNN's Evan Perez, Jim Sciutto, Jake Tapper, and Carl Bernstein served as useful idiots to launch the Russia collusion hoax, accepting leaks from "multiple" anonymous "intelligence officials" without demanding confirmation. The next day, 9 days before the inauguration, leftist BuzzFeed reported Obama administration briefings to the Trump team concerning rumored allegations, the Steele dossier: "The classified briefings last week were presented by 4 of the senior-most US intelligence chiefs – Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, FBI Director James Comey, CIA Director John Brennan, and NSA Director Admiral Mike Rogers."

Most publications reported the dossier's conclusions with no skepticism, with the exception of the Wall Street Journal, which near the end of their breaking story quoted Andrew Wordsworth, who often works on Russian issues for his London-based investigations firm Raedas. He strongly disagreed, saying the memos in the dossier were "not convincing at all... It's just way too good... If the head of the CIA were to declare he got information of this quality, you wouldn't believe it."

3 days prior to the inauguration, Mollie Hemingway of The Federalist warned: "Top political appointees at intelligence agen-

cies are engaged in a dangerous and discrediting full-scale war against Donald Trump. it's worth taking a closer look at the motives and allegations of political operatives in intelligence agencies... Far from discrediting Trump, it paints a worrisome portrait of the deep state gone rogue, desperate to stop a man who, whatever his considerable flaws, is an outsider to Washington. Trump's made emphatic promises to dramatically alter America's foreign policy priorities and governmental operations. Given all the craziness, we have to ask ourselves: Does the intelligence community genuinely believe Trump is a real-live Manchurian candidate, or are they simply trying to protect their power and bureaucracy?"

In contrast, Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) told MSNBC's Rachel Maddow that President-elect Donald Trump is "being really dumb" taking on the intelligence community and its assessments. "Let me tell you, you take on the intelligence community, they have six ways from Sunday at getting back at you." Counterterrorism analyst Philip Mudd warned on CNN: Trump "cannot humiliate the people who've offered their lives" to collect intelligence. David Frum, political analyst, and GW Bush's speechwriter tweeted: "CIA message to Trump: you mess with us, get ready for a leakstorm of Biblical proportions."

The left was warning the "outsider" President he'd best bend the knee- since ancient times "a formal act of submission to a king, queen or lord, recognition of authority and a demonstration of fealty". Thankfully, Donald's made of stronger stuff. Bending the knee is a public display of surrender and defeat. We're seeing a lot of that lately. Incredibly, many in America have now been coerced to willingly bend the knee in honor of an organization espousing a foreign ideology, Marxism, during the very minute the traditional honor to the American flag and nation, "land of the free and home of the brave"- our national anthem- is performed. © 2020 Michael P. Morley, email:IrishTV@att.net

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The Irish Fellowship Club will host its 47th annual "Irish Open" on Monday, September 21, 2020 at the beautiful Ridgemoor Country Club.

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The \$450 ticket price will include green fees, driving range, golf cart, one fore caddy per foursome, all liquid refreshments, a box lunch and heavy appetizers for dinner.

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Irish Movie News

by James Bartlett

Things are still crazy here in L.A., only now it's sweltering temperatures and forest fires as well as more victims of Covid-19. On the movies front, it seems like there are some small glimmers of hope regarding the reopening of movie theaters, as AMC re-opened 100 cinemas, albeit it at far-reduced seating capacity.

Regal and Cinemark are starting up slowly again too (though the big markets here and in New York are still shuttered), and leading the way back was independent Russell Crowe b-movie thriller Unhinged, which opened around the world around the same time, got mixed reviews, and could have disappeared without trace by the

time you have read this.

Either way, the Sept. 3 re-release of the long-delayed blockbuster sci-fi/spy thriller Tenet from Christopher Nolan should trample over anything else that's out there. Costing close to \$250,000,000 dollars (yes, you read that right), the studio is desperate to try and make some money off it.

However, only Disney+ fans were happy when it was announced Mulan was not going to be delayed anymore. Their digital release cost of \$30 for a household



ticket seems steep on top of the subscription, unless of course you're a family home - when a trip to see it at the movie theater would have cost way more than that - and Mulan is aimed more at that kind of audience.

Also coming back to the big screen is Ballymena's favorite son, Liam Neeson, who has had not

one but two movies out recently. There was the heartwarming father-son comedy Made in Italy in which Neeson, 68, played a bohemian artist who returns to Italy with his estranged son Jack (his real-life son Micheál) to sell the house they inherited, and then next month - all things being well - he's back in action in Honest Thief.

A story about Tom, a reformed bank robber who falls in love with Annie (Kate Walsh), we meet him when he says "I've robbed twelve banks in seven states. I have a little more than nine million dollars in cash. And no one knows who I am." Of course, he wants to change his life now, and so he calls the FBI and turns himself in. However, the two agents they send get greedy and want his cash, and when someone gets shot in the confusion Liam finds himself on the run as a wanted killer, with Jai Courtney (Suicide Squad) in pursuit.

As I mentioned last month, the 72nd Emmy Award nominations were announced, with Netflix getting a huge 160 nods and coming out top of the pile overall (at least before the envelopes are opened).

Their show "Ozark" and HBO's "Succession" led drama categories with 18 nominations each, while Amazon's "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" dominated the comedy side with 20. However, HBO's "Watchmen" landed the most nominations of any series, securing 26 noms.

As ever, there's Irish and talent in the running for the golden trophy.

In Lead Actress in a Comedy Series, Irish-Canadian Catherine O'Hara ("Schitt's Creek") is up against Christina Applegate and Linda Cardellini ("Dead to Me"), Issa Rae ("Insecure") and Tracee Ellis-Ross ("Black-ish"), but also Rachel Brosnahan ("The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"), whose father is Irish.

In the category of Supporting Actress in a Drama Series, Laura Dern and Meryl Streep are both nominated for "Big Little Lies",

as is Helena Bonham Carter ("The Crown"), Samira Wiley ("The Handmaid's Tale"), Julia Garner ("Ozark"), Sarah Snook ("Succession") and Thandie Newton ("Westworld"). A very tough category there for Cobh-born Fiona Shaw, nominated for her role in "Killing Eve".

Dylan McDermott has some Irish roots in his background, and he's nominated in the Supporting Actor in a limited series or movie category for his role in "Hollywood", as is his fellow star Jim Parsons. They're both up against Tituss Burgess ("Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: Kimmy vs. the Reverend") and three names from Watchmen: Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Jovan Adepo, Watchmen and Louis Gossett Jr.

There was a nod too for Dublin director Lenny Abramson (2015 movie Room), who is nominated in the Directing for a Limited Series category for his work on an episode of the Hulu series "Normal People", and Belfast-born Peter Devlin, a production sound mixer, is in the running for a Sound Mixing Emmy for his work on "Star Trek: Picard".

Keep your fingers crossed for all of them on the big night, which is hosted by Jimmy Kimmel on ABC on September 20th.

Since *Back to the Future* has been proving popular at the drive-ins, I had to mention some news about the legendary Northern Irish-built DeLorean and the upcoming 35th anniversary of the movie.

Kid's favorite Playmobil have released a new toy BTTF DeLorean DMC-12 to celebrate the ever-popular movie, which comes with figures Marty McFly and Doc Emmett Brown (played by Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd), to say nothing of Doc's loyal dog "Einstein".

You have to assemble the famous time travel vehicle, which includes the plutonium tank, flux capacitor, and dashboard time travel indicator, and when you go to flight mode, all four wheels can be folded by 90 degrees before take-off (just don't forget the 2 AAA batteries!).

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

Moving Statues: Exiling the Last Four Virgins in Dublin

It was with growing bewilderment, irritation and finally anger that I recently read of the removal of four historic statues from Dublin's Shelbourne Hotel; and I began to wonder just why I was getting so bloody vexed and riled up over it. I do surprise myself sometimes.

But in another life that started on December 2, 1983 I worked in the Shelbourne Hotel for many years; and, despite some really great people being employed there, I didn't care for the company who owned it at the time - Trust Houses Forte. Come to think of it, even now I break out in a rash when I hear that name.

In fairness to them, with the attitude problem and well-balanced chip on both shoulders that I carried around for far too long, it probably wouldn't have mattered who I was working for.

Yet it turns out that, despite everything, I have a deep respect for the building and the memory of events that have taken place there over the decades. In other words, I care for Irish history. Which is more than the current owners do, since they cravenly caved into an implied threat that was half-assed and ill-informed at best.

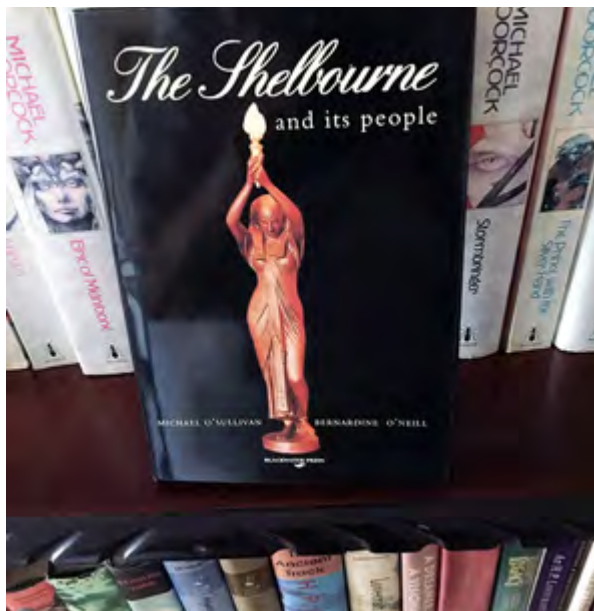
A few weeks ago the management released a weasel-like statement to the effect that they had taken the noble and virtuous decision to remove four statues which portray African and Egyptian women (two of them mistakenly identified as slaves) that have apparently been offending Dubliners for over a century and a half. Amazingly, I worked in Dublin for nearly twenty years and was totally unaware of and not at all offended by all this! Neither was the rest of the population; but you live and learn. We now know that we were wrong in our indifference to the suffering of those poor statues.

The management went on to say that the decision to desecrate the front of the building was in light of *sigh* 'world events' and...wait for it... the Black Lives Matter movement. Virtue signaling at its finest.

And then it got even worse: it turned out that the management hadn't had a sudden rush of blood to the brainpan after all! With utter incredulity I learned that the original complaint had been made by - and I'm still trying to get my head around this - the editor of Irish Central, Niall O'Dowd. And he says that he had received an email from 'an angry Irish American.'

Ah well, it all makes sense now: an angry Irish American got a bee in his backside, wanted to be seen as caring and -that appalling new word - 'woke'; and got on to Irish Central, who were outraged on behalf of all we uneducated peasants who actually live here. And I'm an easy-going kind of guy so I was more than happy with that explanation, although rather concerned for where the statues have been moved to. Are they locked in a room with other statues of evil Christopher Columbus and wicked Winston Churchill? We need to know.

Fortunately Senator Michael McDowell isn't quite so



easy-going - in fact he's been described as a bit of a Rottweiler - and he wasn't having any of this nonsense.

[And wouldn't you know it? I'd just had my bi-annual rant about the uselessness of the Seanad chancers when along comes one of the few who is worth listening to. Talk about Sod's Law. Then again, McDowell is a senior council and genuine, battle-scarred politician, so the exception proves the rule. That's my story anyway and I'm sticking to it.]

McDowell said: "I am objecting to the woke generation operating for all. The removal of the statues was wrong. It was unlawful. It is part of the complete idiocy.

"The Shelbourne is a protected structure [my emphasis] and, as such, permission is required to take down the statues. Permission is required to take any action under Section 8 of the Planning Act 2000. The removal is 'unauthorised'.

"I notified the council and they served a warning letter. The penalties under the Act are a fine of up to €10m or two years imprisonment!"

Dear oh dear. Let me catch my breath for a moment here. Solitary angry Irish American sticks his oar in; writes to an American publication that I would have thought was on the side of sanity; management of famous Irish hotel thinks it will look good if it sucks up to the Black Lives Matter movement; lots of people end up with egg on faces. Right. I think I've got it. Carry on, Senator McDowell:

"Mr. O'Dowd announced he had discovered they were slaves and said 'for shame...' What's amazing is that on Mr. O'Dowd's website he calls the statues 'cretinous'.

"An ignorant error has been made here. The statues do not depict slave girls."

This farce has escalated into the defacement of a beautiful and iconic Irish building, with the willing complicity of a cowardly management; there are no excuses for them, but again in the interests of fairness I can see where Niall O'Dowd has screwed up.

I dug out my copy of *The Shelbourne and its People*, published in 1999 and written by Michael O'Sullivan and Bernardine O'Neill. I had forgotten what an enjoyable read it is, with some great anecdotes from a fairly recent past that seems now to be in some ways impossibly distant.

On page 16 the authors note that "four granite pedestals support full-sized bronze figures of Egyptian princesses

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and their attendant Nubian slave girls. The four quickly became known by Dublin wags as the last four virgins in Dublin... These four ladies holding their torches stand sentinel in front of the hotel and have become its most enduring emblem."

I knew Michael O'Sullivan back in the day and he was a witty and erudite man, not to mention a meticulous researcher; so I wonder did the original mistake come from Elizabeth Bowen's book on the hotel, written in the 50s? I don't own a copy so I'm only guessing here. Whatever happened, it's one of those instances of political bloody correctness getting totally out of hand as usual.

I'll leave almost the last word to Mr. McDowell:

"If people want to be offended, by all means go ahead. But these were not slave girls and whoever took the decision to remove them did so without knowing Irish law."

Senator McDowell, I think that you've just become my personal hero. FREE THE SHELBOURNE FOUR!

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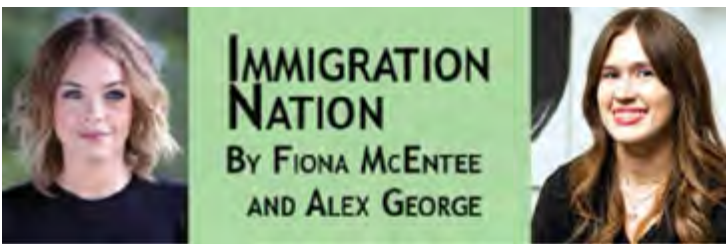
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Immigration Fee Hike Increases the Price of the American Dream

On August 3rd, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the federal agency that processes U.S. immigration applications, published a Final Rule that significantly increases application fees.

This Rule increases fees by a weighted average of 20% across case types and sees the highest increases on some of the most sought-after immigration benefits. On October 2, 2020, the cost of a citizenship application will increase by 83%, up from \$640 to \$1,170. This Rule also adds multiple fees for temporary worker applications and limits the number of applicants per application, forcing some employers to pay the same set of increased fees multiple times over. It also charges

asylum-seekers an application fee for the first time in U.S. history, making the U.S. one of only four countries in the world to do so. These fee increases will put additional financial strain on employers, families, and vulnerable individuals in an already challenging time.

Here's what you need to know: Why the increase?

USCIS operations are almost entirely funded by application fees. This sets USCIS apart from most federal agencies, which primarily rely on funds appropriated by Congress. Under the Trump administration, a series of policy changes have made it increasingly difficult to apply for immigration benefits. Additional policy changes mandated increased scrutiny and review of immigration applications, expanded applicant interview requirements, and

created an unprecedented backlog of applications. USCIS continues to carry out these burdensome directives from the Trump administration, and says the fee increases are necessary to continue these operations.

The backlog at USCIS had already reached historic heights before COVID-19. In 2019, the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) analyzed USCIS data and found that in FY 2019, the overall average processing time for an immigration case was up 25% since FY 2017 and 5% since the end of FY 2018, despite a 10% drop in cases received in that time. The pandemic has further decreased the number of applications USCIS received, and therefore decreased USCIS revenue, but not as much as USCIS originally predicted. USCIS based its

income projections on the number of applications received in March 2020, when the U.S. first went on lockdown due to COVID-19.

Based on those numbers, and despite revised revenue estimates showing that USCIS will end the fiscal year with a surplus, USCIS is still requesting a \$1.2 billion dollar bailout from Congress, purportedly to avoid a budget shortfall and mass furloughs. In its request, USCIS stated that it planned to repay the U.S. Treasury Department by adding a 10% surcharge on immigration applications. If Congress does not bail it out, USCIS is threatening to furlough nearly 75% of its employees by the end of August, leaving tens of thousands of jobs for U.S. workers hanging in the balance. Critics of USCIS' request note that it includes minimal Congressional oversight and does not adequately address the inefficiencies that created the backlog and set the stage for USCIS' current budget woes.

The Impact on Business

The Trump administration has made several changes to business and employment-based immigra-

tion policy in the last four years. The administration states that its primary policy goals are to protect national security and jobs for U.S. workers. We could devote an entire article to how immigrants improve the U.S. economy. Immigrants bring essential skills, run businesses that employ U.S. workers, and pay full price to attend U.S. universities. We could also devote an entire article to how the administration's immigration policies have harmed the U.S. economy to the detriment of U.S. workers in direct contradiction of its stated policy goals.

Increased filing fees could limit the number of employees companies can bring to the U.S. This will impact businesses of all sizes across multiple economic sectors. Businesses will be forced to determine whether they can justify the increased costs of bringing top talent to the U.S. on top of all the additional burdens created by new immigration policies. Companies that simply cannot justify those costs may take their business to friendlier shores. International students may pay top dollar

for a U.S. degree, but may find it so difficult to find an employer willing to sponsor them through this increasingly complicated process that they take their talent elsewhere. We know this may happen because it already has. An increasing number of businesses and high-skill employees are already trying their luck in Canada.

Increasing the price of admission to the U.S. will put another brick in the invisible wall. The cost of lost talent and the economic impact of foregone opportunity in the U.S. is incalculable.

Impact on Future Citizens

Starting in October, permanent residents applying for U.S. citizenship will now pay 83% more. Historically, lower-income applicants could qualify for a fee waiver. Under the new fee structure, fee waivers will no longer be available to immigrants applying for naturalization. This will price out an untold num-

ber of aspiring U.S. citizens with no regard for their contributions to the U.S. and the impact on their loved ones in the U.S. It will force them to continue to renew their green cards indefinitely, paying additional fees with each renewal.

It is also unclear exactly how this increased fee on new citizenship applications will address the citizenship application backlog, including tens of thousands of people who are already approved for citizenship, but may not be sworn in in time to vote in the upcoming U.S. election. Raising the barriers to citizenship sends a message to qualified applicants that the U.S. government does not welcome them to stay and improve life for all U.S. citizens. It sends the message that the U.S. government only wants people of a certain socioeconomic status to become U.S. citizens, despite hundreds of years of American history showing the invaluable contributions and inherent human worth of all immigrants.

What now? If you are a U.S. citizen and any of the above is concerning you, consider reaching out to your Congressional representatives. Despite significant pushback from immigrants and advocates, the fee increases are still scheduled to go into effect in October. However, Congress still has the power to hold USCIS accountable and address the underlying issues that brought the agency to this point. AILA is supporting the bipartisan Case Backlog and Transparency Act of 2020 (H.R. 5971) to increase congressional oversight, address USCIS inefficiencies, and keep USCIS running in an effective and fiscally responsible way.

If you are planning on applying for citizenship or another immigration benefit, you may want to apply sooner rather than later to avoid paying the increased fee. U.S. immigration is very complex, so we would always recommend consulting an experienced U.S. immigration attorney or reputable immigration legal aid organization. If you would like to discuss your options with a member of our team at McEntee Law, we would be happy to hear from you.

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Cold Calls in 9 Effective Steps

By Sam Dobbins

For a salesperson, cold calling can present one of the greatest challenges. Get the most out of your cold calls by following these nine steps. And remember that staying positive, being persistent, listening, and adjusting to customer responses are the personal ingredients to help you succeed.

Nine steps to effective cold calling:

1. SET OBJECTIVES - Know your objective and what you need to say to get there. If you are calling to book a meeting, make that clear to the buyer. You also need to ensure that you offer the target buyer a good reason for spending some of their valuable time with you; what's in it for them? Move as quickly as possible to that connection. This will earn you the right to ask for a meeting. Be prepared to face both resistance and rejection. This is part of the process and should not be taken personally.

2. LIST - Put together a list of potential customers to call. The list can be purchased from a third-party list provider and may contain all or just some of the details you want in order to conduct your call.

3. PRE-EVALUATE - Evaluate the list and target the "low-hanging fruit." How do you recognize a company as "low-hanging fruit"? The starting point is your definition of an ideal target customer. If you have a list of potential customers to call, prioritize the list based on how well they fit this definition. By using your rating system, you increase the chances of success dramatically. And this system spares you expensive time calling on customers who are a bad fit.

4. USE NAMES - For each target on your list, make sure you know the name of the individual to call. Most decision-makers, especially those in large corporations, have multiple gatekeepers whose job it is to protect their boss's time. They will employ various ways of filtering out low-priority calls, so you need to know how to get past the gatekeepers. It can make a major difference whether you ask to speak with "the Chief Financial Officer" or whether you ask to speak "with Adam Smith." In many cases, a quick search on the Internet will help you find the name of the person you need.

5. START AT THE TOP - Even if you know that the CFO might not be the person who would make the buying decision, and that the buyer would be someone who reports to him or her, starting with the CFO is still the better way to begin your sales process. In doing so, you will either get a referral from the CFO directly to the appropriate person, or one of the CFO's gatekeepers will guide you in the right direction.

6. ELEVATOR PITCHING - Make sure you have your elevator pitch, or short standard speech of who you are and what you want, ready before you call. Also have a clear understanding of why specifically you are calling. Before launching into your pitch, ensure that you are speaking to the right person and that they have a couple of minutes to spend with you. If they do not, be understanding, and ask

them when a better time would be. If this person is not the correct contact for you, see if they can recommend a more appropriate colleague.

7. USE A SCRIPT - When launching into your pitch, it helps to have a loosely defined script that lists your talking points as well as a few questions designed to engage the customer in a two-way conversation. While it is advisable to practice your pitch, keep in mind that you do not want to sound too robotic. Having questions related to the customer will allow the conversation to flow more naturally.

8. LEAVING MESSAGES - If you reach your suspect customer's voicemail, provide some brief and relevant information, remembering to include your phone number. Avoid leaving a long, scripted message on someone's voicemail.

9. HAVE A ROUTINE - Set aside time on a regular basis to conduct cold calls, and stick to it. Find uninterrupted time to make the calls so you can build up momentum and get into the spirit of talking to prospective customers. As you call, remember how much you care about your business and how passionate you are about your product. That will both energize and help you approach each call with a positive attitude, something the potential customer will notice.

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In Harmony
By Siobhan O'Neill Meluso

"The Irish Heritage Singers is my passion," shares soprano Loretta Hellstrom, née Halloran. "I can't imagine not being at the Irish American Heritage Center." For Loretta, besides her grandkids and kids, the Singers and the center feel like home. After 21 years of dedicated attendance at rehearsals and concerts, these last few months away have been difficult for Loretta.

In the summer of 1999, Loretta attended the Center's annual Irish Fest, where she was first introduced to the Irish Heritage Singers. Joining the group brought back memories of her mother playing the piano and Loretta singing "Too Ra Loo Ra" in the basement of their Oak Park home, where she and her siblings grew up. Loretta's paternal grandparents hail from Rosmuc, County Galway, and immigrated to Chicago in the early 20th Century. Tragically, her grandfather Patrick Halloran died of the Spanish Flu around 1918 at age 44 and both of Loretta's parents died young, leaving gaps in the family history left to be discovered. Fortunately, Loretta's brother, Dan Halloran, reconnected with family in Galway and realized one of their cousins, Ann Masterson, was very active at the Center. This reunion, and many others throughout the years at festivals and concerts, is why Loretta is so passionate about the group and the community.

Despite her commute from Elmhurst, these past 21 years as an Irish Heritage Singer keep Loretta connected and grounded. "The people, comradery and shared heritage are my favorite parts about this community." The choir has evolved from a group that met in the Fifth Province Pub for a "sing-song" to a more professional ensemble that makes Loretta very proud. The musical directors she's worked with have been incredible and unique in their own way each contributing to the great successes of the group today.

Loretta has kept every single program book and often photocopies the covers and print photos for a personalized scrapbook she compiles for a choir member's departure. Still, her favorite concert was right after 9/11. The Irish Heritage Singers sang a simple concert at the village green of a park in Kalamazoo, Michigan,

two weeks after the terrorist attacks. She remembers: "When the group sang the National Anthem, she felt chills and nobody moved. It was that reverent. It was the most moving experience. I don't remember what else we sang that day, but you could hear a pin drop during the Anthem."

Like most of us, Loretta can't wait to get back to rehearsals and performing concerts. The Center and the Singers truly are her family. Her choir family desperately misses her soda and brown bread bundles too.

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Eat the Peach, Pitch the Stone, but Save the Ball Mason Jar - Hoosier Evolution

Would you like to throw a stone at me? Here, take all that's left of my peach. Blood-red, deep:

Heaven knows how it came to pass. Somebody's pound of flesh rendered up. Wrinkled with secrets And hard with the intention to keep them.

Why, from silvery peach-bloom, From that shallow-silvery wine-glass on a short stem

This rolling, dropping, heavy globule? I am thinking, of course, of the peach before I ate it. Peach - DH Lawrence



pH Factor

By Pat Hickey

Peaches make great sauces and jellies and living in this Hoosier Heaven I am surrounded by Mason Jars.

I have put up peaches. They never seem to live long enough to get par-boiled, peeled and sliced for the Bell Mason Jar.

The Ball Mason jar was born in Buffalo New York, but moved to Muncie, Indiana, in 1889. The glass blown to make the iconic green tinted glass jars came from the sands of now vanished Hoosier Slide right here in Michigan City, Indiana. The Hoosier Slide was over 200 feet at its peak and dominated the lakeshore, until the sands sent by the rail-car load to Ball in Muncie erased the dune from the shorescape 100 years ago. Ubi Sunt?



Well, many of those jars, bottles, ashtrays and glassy geegaws returned to the Lake and now are returning to the shore as indigenous

jewelry which is sold by Michigan City Dunebillies in the many high-end Yuppie Shoppes for Fine People of Illinois (FIPS) on Franklin Street and near Lighthouse Mall.

Lake Michigan Beach Glass is formed by the undulating waves and time from glass bottles tossed into the Lake by idiots for generations. These are beautiful local artifacts that smart locals sell to the Fine People of Illinois for up \$65 per collection. God beat all of us to recycling. When an idiot tossed his Old Dutch Root Beer Bottle, a Drewerys, a Green River, or an empty Ball Mason Jar into the foamy liquid of Lake Michigan. God began setting Nature



to its task. "LO, make some Beach Glass for generations upon generation, while a I Smote this Yamhead's ass!"

And it came to pass!

So, a few decades ago some Yamhead walking along the Lighthouse wall polished off a pint of peaches and tosses his Ball Mason jar into the mighty waves of Lake Michigan and then force and matter come together to make beautiful beach glass.

The great-grand daughters of the said Yamhead take the South Shore Line from

their hipster homestead in Streeterville on the Mag Mile, in order to play at the Blue Chip Casino and win a hundo-a piece on the slots. They take their boodle to Franklin Street and buy beach glass that originated when the grand-Yamhead was too lazy to take his Ball Mason Jar home or find a proper receptacle,

The girls spend the last \$20 on a bushel of Peaches at the market, then, they heft the fruit aboard the South Shore Lines for the long trek back to Streeterville. Peaches, to glass, to beach glass. Science, kids! Everyone loves science.

I love peaches and Mason jars.

Help From Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities has received a tremendous increase in requests for assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and we know that there are even greater numbers of people in need of our help. In lieu of our traditional Voice of Catholic Charities column this month, we would like to use this space to provide a summary of our most-requested services along with contact information. Many of our services have been enhanced to better serve those most in need. All services are performed in accordance with CDC guidelines. Facial coverings and social distancing are required for any in-person services. Please share this information with anyone who may need the help of Catholic Charities.

Information & Referral: Catholic Charities' Call Center helps callers with a wide variety of needs and connects them to programs within CC or other community agencies. 312-655-7700 in Cook County; (847) 782-4000 in Lake County. We can also be emailed at gethelp@catholiccharities.net.

To-Go Meals: In place of our traditional Evening Supper Program that offers hot meals to anyone in need in communal settings, Catholic Charities is offering to-go meals at the following locations: St. Vincent Center 721 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago, M-F 4:00pm; Catholic Charities North/Northwest Regional Services Office 1717 Rand Rd., Des Plaines, T&Th 4:00pm; St. Blase Parish 7438 W. 61st Pl., Summit, Wed. 4:00pm. Meals are available to anyone in need and no preregistration is required.

Meals for Seniors: Seniors are able to pick up to-go meals in multiple locations in Lake and McHenry Counties. Visit catholiccharities.net (COVID Services/Seniors) or call (847) 782-4170 for specific locations. Meals-to-go are also being provided at all of the City of Chicago and Suburban Cook County Senior Centers. Visit our website or call (312) 655-7470. Seniors may also

qualify for home-delivered meals by calling their local Care Coordination Unit.

Food Pantries: Often in cooperation with neighborhood parishes, Catholic Charities operates nine food pantries and several newly created "pop-up" food pantries throughout the City of Chicago (Englewood, Back of the Yards, Near North, Uptown), suburban Cook County (Cicero, Des Plaines, Park Forest, Summit), and Lake County (Waukegan). Visit catholiccharities.net (COVID Services/Food Pantries) or call 312-655-7700 for addresses and service hours.

Counseling Support Hotline: Staffed by Masters-level clinicians, for anyone who needs one-time or immediate help coping with grief, stress, anxiety, or depression. Referral for on-going support available. 312-948-6951 M-F 8:30am-4:30pm; after hours, leave a message and a counselor will call back.

Counseling: We provide a wide range of professional counseling services to children, youth, families, and individuals experiencing grief, trauma, substance use disorder, domestic violence, and behavioral and emotional issues. Call (312) 655-7725, M-F 8:30-4:30. Callers will be assessed and directed to the most appropriate Catholic Charities program. Services are currently provided virtually or over the phone.

A Call to Prayer Line: Established in partnership with the Archdiocese of Chicago, this newly created hotline is staffed by more than 75 English-, Spanish- and Polish-speaking volunteers and provides the comfort and support of a listening ear to pray with. Open daily 9am-9pm, or prayer requests can be emailed. Call 312-741-3388 or praywithme@calleddtoprayer.org; rezaconmigo@calleddtoprayer.org; pomodl-siezemna@calleddtoprayer.org.

Financial, Rent, or Utility Assistance: A limited amount of one-time emergency assistance is available to those who qualify. In Chicago dial 311; Suburban Cook (877) 426-6515; Lake County (847) 782-4000. Due to the high volume of calls, people are encouraged to first view the on-line questionnaire at catholiccharities.net to determine eligibility.

Non-Medical, Non-Emergency help: In the City of Chicago, people can call 311 and be connected with Catholic Charities Mobile Outreach Program that provides transportation to shelter for those experiencing homelessness, well-being checks for seniors, delivery of emergency food, and assistance for victims of disasters.

Volunteers and Donations:

Get Involved), or by calling (312) 655-7557; donations can be made at catholiccharities.net or by calling (312) 948-6087.

Adam Ewart of Send My Bag

by James Bartlett

In the last few months, the Covid-19 pandemic has decimated the travel industry, and almost every day we have been reading about airlines reducing their routes, laying off workers, delaying orders for new planes, or even filing for bankruptcy.

Even the idea of going to the airport and taking a flight somewhere far-off and exotic (let alone a short hop nearby) has almost become a nostalgic memory for many, and the idea of flying any time soon seems like something few people are prepared to risk.

Many companies associated with airlines have suffered too, but there are some that are still doing well - even thriving - in these strange times, and Irish company Send My Bag is one of those.

An online-based door-to-door luggage and personal effects pick-up and delivery service, they ship hundreds of thousands of pieces globally each year, helping their customers skip the stress of

bag check, avoiding the horror of unexpected baggage fees, and allowing you to travel light.

Even before Covid-19 travel could be a real trial, and **Send My Bag** seems like one of those services you assumed had existed forever because they’re so obviously useful. Even so, given the current circumstances, how can it be that they are as busy as ever?

“We had a huge spike in March,” said founder and CEO Adam Ewart, (pictured) “as we helped people relocate before the lockdowns began. It was quiet for April and May, then as lockdowns lifted in June many people who were studying or working abroad who didn’t go home now did (many from Italy). Now we’re flat out again, as people are now choosing to avoid the bag drops and busy baggage carousels, and make the travel that is happening as socially-distanced and contact-free as possible. Normal business is coming back too, and it really didn’t take long for us to see golf clubs and other really obvious vacation luggage needing

to be moved.” Ewart, 35, lives in Bangor in the North of Ireland with his wife Rebecca and their baby Amélie, but he regularly spends time in America, where are 25% of their journeys are to or from and where they have a set-up in New York. “We have lots of clients in the movie business,” he explained,



“Though I never thought that it would be the last time I’d be in an airport for 6 months. I remember coming back through Heathrow airport, thinking it was weird seeing so many people wearing

masks. Little did we know....” he says, shaking his head.

Send My Bag was originally created to help students, and was based on Adam’s own experience.

“When Rebecca was at University, I would travel to England to help her get everything home at the end of each semester. One time an airline charged us £50 for being a few pounds over our baggage allowance. This was in the early days of the airlines ramping up their charges, and we’d never been fined like that before. I saw other people being charged too, and thought to myself: ‘I could send this door-to-door for less.’”

By 2011 **Send My Bag** was operating in the UK & Ireland, but in 2014 he returned to America for 3 months to launch their US routes.

“Since then I’ve usually been in the states several times a year, and on both coasts, in part because we have a lot of well-known people in the movie business who use us privately. We found out that a lot of PAs (Personal Assistants) were recommending us, as their clients were shooting on location,

had a second or even third home in LA / NYC / London, and then they would be travelling on promotional tours and so on.”

Ewart wouldn’t give any clues about his famous customers, but did admit that “if you started listing big names, you’d probably hit one of ours pretty quickly.” After a decade handling people’s luggage it’s hard for him to remember anything strange that he hasn’t already seen, though he does recall recently refusing to ship stuffed crocodile heads!

What travel tips does Ewart have for mere mortals like us? “Download the Google map of where you are visiting, because I can guarantee that the one time you’re lost and need it, you won’t be able to get a signal! While credit cards are safe and secure, having some local currency in your pocket is always a good idea. If the city has one, spend 10 minutes working out how the subway system works. Being able to use the subway in somewhere like New York, Paris or London makes the trip so much better.”

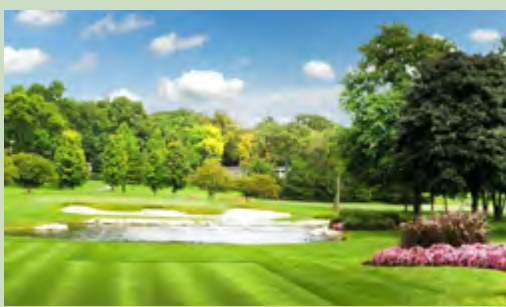
South Side Irish Parade Golf Outing to Celebrate Halfway to Parade Day with Safety Precautions in Place

The South Side Irish St. Patrick’s Day Parade will hold its annual golf outing this fall with added public safety measures in place. The “Halfway to Parade Day” golf outing will be held on Monday, September 21 at Ridge Country Club to support the 2021 South Side Irish Parade.

“This year’s golf outing will be smaller than years past as we value the safety of our communities above all else,” said Don Larisey, South Side Irish Parade Committee Member. “We will abide by all State of Illinois Phase 4 restrictions while continuing to monitor the situation and make changes as necessary. The golf outing is crucial in helping us raise funds for the South Side Irish Parade, a longstanding tradition we hope will return to Western Avenue in March of 2021.”

To comply with social distancing guidelines, this year’s “Halfway to Parade Day” celebration will offer

a limited number of golfers tee times at either 8:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. Golfers will be required to wear masks during check-in and whenever social distancing is not possible. Masks and hand sanitizer



will be available to all golfers, and the post-golf lunch will follow for registered golfers. Golf outing tickets include golf, beverages, and lunch for \$200 per person.

Due to the limited availability of this year’s golf outing and the absence of a post-event celebration, sponsorship is especially vital to raising the necessary funds to operate the 2021 South Side Irish Parade. The 2020 parade would have been the South Side’s 42nd

St. Patrick’s Day Parade celebrating family, community and Irish heritage.

“We greatly appreciate the neighborhood and business support of the Parade and look forward to being able to celebrate our Irish heritage, faith and families,” shares Tim McSweeney, Co-Chair of the South Side Irish Parade.

To purchase tickets for the golf outing and info on how to support the parade, visit southsideirishparade.org and the parade’s Facebook page. “Halfway to Parade Day” sponsorship opportunities available by contacting Don Larisey at (773) 960-7312.

Proceeds from the “Halfway to Parade Day” golf outing will offset costs for operating the South Side Irish St. Patrick’s Day Parade set to step off at noon on Sunday, March 14, 2021. If the golf outing event is canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions, refunds or participation rollover to 2021 will be allowed.



The Girls of Murphy Roche performed on a Facebook Live (virtual) fundraiser for The Irish American Heritage Center last month and helped raise over \$1k during the one hour program to support the Center. The show was organized by Katie Grennan and also featured John Williams and lots of other peeps.

The musicians are (l to r): Molly Mendez (9), Emma Strong (13), Ciara Haran (12), Amelia Kiley (14) and Imogen Kiley (10)

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Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



my annual trip home to Donegal to see my parents, I kept changing flights, but alas it was not meant to be. As I write this, we are

COVID 19 and Liability Waivers?

How can Summer 2020 be over already? I am not sure about you but for me, Summer 2020 was the strangest ever. I felt like it was practically on hold because of this Global Pandemic we are all living through and now I cannot believe it is almost over. I kept waiting for things to get better, I kept waiting for the green light to make

all preparing for the end of Summer, back to college and back to school. Although for many it is true that school and college will look very different this Fall. This month I wanted to alert IAN readers to a new trend I have seen being reported on with some frequency, as our children and teachers attempt to return to some sort of normal life routine.

This week the Chicago Tribune ran an article alerting its readers to the trend of students and parents being asked to sign liability waivers, which waivers are a statement or a promise, that the signer of the document, is accepting the risk of contracting COVID 19, if and when they return to work and/or school.

I have seen these forms called various things from acknowledgments to statements to codes of conducts and student codes. As reported in the Tribune - "IIT, Northwestern University, Saint Xavier University and Illinois State University have all sent out documents to students or staff members with language about the risks of contracting COVID-19, in the course of

school activities. Outside of Illinois, students at the University of Alabama and the University of New Hampshire have raised concerns that such forms could be used as liability waivers to shield universities from accountability."

Many of the forms also include language and statements that colleges and schools cannot guarantee a risk free environment and the documents are essentially alerting all those that are returning, that they are doing so voluntarily, despite this risk. The premise behind the forms being signed by returning students and staff is to alert everyone returning, that there is a risk that they will and can contract this virus at their school or college and that in returning they are being made aware of this risk and indeed accepting it anyway. Their legality and enforceability is really beyond the scope of this article, and indeed I think will be subjected to some litigation in the courts throughout the nation, so if you have a particular question about a particular document you are being asked to sign I would urge you to give me a call and we can discuss the actual facts of your individual circumstances.

As well as for students returning to college and school, I have received a few calls in the last few weeks from teachers and other employees who are being asked to sign such statements and acknowledgements by their employers and those

employees are now worried that by doing so they will then have no recourse if they do in fact contract the corona virus due to an exposure at their work place. As I have written about in the last few IAN Articles, there is now a presumption in the Illinois Workers Compensation Act that if a front line and/or essential worker, contracts COVID 19, and has been actively working, before the positive diagnosis, it will be presumed that the exposure to COVID 19, was and is, as a result of work and the work environment and thus such a case would be compensable under The Workers Compensation Act/Occupational Diseases Act.

I want to also reassure teachers and front line workers, that employers simply cannot contract out of, or skirt their responsibilities under the Workers Compensation Act by asking their staff to sign a liability waiver. It is simply illegal and it does not work. There is language built into the Act itself to outlaw such a thing, so speaking very generally, if an employer asks you to sign a waiver of liability as regards contracting COVID 19, at work, it will not affect your rights to still claim for workers compensation benefits under The Workers Compensation Act/Occupational Diseases Act. As every situation is different I cannot emphasize enough that if you have a particular concern or have been asked to sign such a waiver by your employer, I would be happy to discuss the situation with you. All of our consultations are free and it never hurts to ask the questions. Please stay safe everyone and Be Kind to each other.

**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



Confusing Future for Job Seekers

My days of searching for a full time job have been over for some years. But as a long time job search consultant, I see a frightening period ahead. The future is going to be dark for some period of time before we will see sunshine again. The pandemic is rattling the employment world to its core. Some employment experts are predicting that companies will be rehiring only a fraction of people to replace the people terminated due to the covid-19 layoffs. Some companies have realized that they have been significantly over staffed, while others are just concerned about the future so they will be even more selective in their re-hiring/hiring process. The remote jobs of the past will multiply and become the far more common experience in the future. Many of us know or have heard of the people who moved 500-1000 miles away from their former homes but were able to take their job with them.

So if you are hoping to return to full time employment, you may want to invest some time in expanding your set of valuable skills. Let's be honest, many of us who were employed for long periods of time with a decent employer have allowed ourselves to grow a bit rusty in our skill levels. Are you as savvy in terms of your skills? When did you last do a meaningful review of your skills? Have you

been using this "enforced vacation" to enhance yourself and your professional skills? It is inevitable that Human Resources professionals are going to have a lot of people to choose from when we start returning to offices. Given that reality, it would be desirable to have some ammunition with which to convince the HR professional that they are hiring or re-hiring a person who brings a fuller complement of skills. This does not mean that you have to acquire a Ph.D. in quantitative physics during your imposed sabbatical, but some career driven improvements could prove to be invaluable.

If you are a person who has been employed for a long period, you may have gotten complacent. That's the norm for most of us. To validate this point just ask your best buddy a few simple questions, one being why he or she should be hired. How polished is their response? Likely they will not do a great job of selling themselves. Provide them with your feedback, which will help you to see the flaws in your own presentation. Keep in mind how the interviewer will hear your presentation. For that matter, write out the answers you would anticipate giving to the predictable questions. You want to sound like a person who knows his/her background and can articulate your most important achievements effectively. Your past successes are likely to be seen as indications of your future potential. Your strong contributions with your previous employers will validate the expectation that you know how to get important projects done and why you should be hired.

I have interviewed individuals at all levels. I never cease to be amazed how poorly a majority of interviewees pres-

ent themselves. You need to go back through your career and get comfortable with explaining your achievements fully. Give yourself full credit for your successes. State them with enthusiasm. But recognize that after doing a number of interviews you may grow tired of telling your story over and over, which can be fatal in an interview. So get yourself cranked before every meeting (interview or not), you want to present a positive and energetic story to everyone.

Be sure to set some goals for yourself—daily and long term. Don't wait for the phone to ring; pick it up and reach out to everyone you can think of. The amazing part of this process is its randomness; in brief, you never know who will step up and help you. Most people want to help—you need to believe that. Yes, there are some contacts that will provide you with lip service only. But the other potential supporters need to know what you want to do in your next job and why you feel strongly about that, what locations you are considering, and some idea of your salary expectations. Don't drone on about unrelated incidentals; be sure you have made your points about your interest in their organization.

Don't write off companies just because they didn't initially offer you a job, they really don't know you well yet. Communicate your interest in their company, even if they turned you down. Consider the reality that their first choice may turn them down. Tom Selleck was not the first choice to play "Magnum P.I." but ended up getting the role in the end. I, myself, am included on the list of second choices, I got the job; it was perhaps the "highlight" job of my career. Later, the first choice told me he just wasn't comfortable with the top management of the organization, giving me the opportunity to take the position.

In summary, prepare yourself to shine in your interviews; have a resume that focuses on your accomplishments; have a few of your closest friends review your interviewing skills and your resume;

consider their critique seriously; celebrate your successes; ask everybody for their help (you never know who they know); remember that the vast majority of people want to help, but make sure that you are effectively communicating goals with them; persistence is absolutely invaluable. Practice self-talk as you ready for an interview; it will enhance your presentation. And perhaps most importantly, believe in your ability to succeed in this process.

CARPE DIEM/Seize the day!

FOR YOUR FURTHER CONSIDERATION:

"Much of the social history of the Western world, over the past three decades, has been a history of replacing what worked with what sounded good."

"No society ever thrived because it had a large and growing class of parasites living off those who produce." Both quotes from author and scholar Dr. Thomas Sowell.

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., a Naperville-based Senior

Executive Coaching and Career Transition firm. Jamesffitzgerald.com Jamesffitz37@hotmail.com



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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



Who is Fionnghula O’Reilly?

She was born in Dublin to an Irish father & African American mother. O’Reilly is a model, pageant winner & Director of Space Apps, in Washington DC. She represented Ireland at the Miss Universe 2019 pageant and won! She has a Bachelor of Science in Systems Engineering which she used to become a director of the NASA Space Apps Challenge and a NASA datanaut. So, the adage not just a pretty face definitely applies to O’Reilly.

She encourages women to enter the science field and wants to further promote diversity & equality around the world. “I really hope to do a lot of work for my cause, which is women in tech and women in STEM (science, technology, engineering & mathematics) and empowering women to excel to the tops of their industry in general all industries deserve to have women in the top”.

NASA is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration it is an independent agency of the federal government responsible for space programs and aeronautics. It was created in 1958 and is focused on better understanding the Earth and its connection to the Universe. They use satellites, robotic spacecraft, space shuttles & rocket planes. NASA has a history of women of Alpha Kappa Alpha (black sorority) who have made enormous contributions to the world of NASA. The movie, “Hidden Figures” tells the story of three women in the sorority in their efforts in helping to successfully launch a mission. I ignorantly used to ask/think is NASA is a waste of time. We spend money on NASA, but many say should we when we have a broken infrastructure and lack of jobs. NASA’s budget is one penny on every tax dollar, it is in the billions. Some say that money could be better used in other places. But NASA has generated jobs and

boosted STEM. The Solar panel industry alone employs 210,000 jobs. When NASA innovates, we all win. NASA has helped make artificial limbs, shoe insoles, smartphone cameras, water filtration,



Happy 3rd Anniversary to Mike and Tina!

your computer mouse, weather forecasting, global communication and even baby food. If you want jobs you want space exploration. As far as investing in NASA the government has received \$7-\$14.00 for every dollar spent. The Space Act requires all research to benefit everyone not just astronauts. Curiosity & exploration are vital to the human spirit, I think mandatory for your health & a meaningful life.

Congratulations Miss Ireland, Fionnghula O’Reilly, who goes by Fig! We are deeply proud of you & wish you success in all that you do!

I went to a health store recently, Health Food Flanagans, in Palos Hills. I had the most interesting conversation about Ireland with the owner. He knows his vitamins & is very proud of his heritage, so if you need any supplements or want to discuss Irish history, check out Flanagans.

Gaelic for the month
 African American-
 Meiriceanacha na Afráice
 Science-eolaíocht
 Won-bhuaigh Earth-domhain
 “Mars is there waiting to be reached” Buzz Aldrin
 questions/comments, find me at: Molanive@yahoo.com

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19 Ward Mutual Aid - Free Store

On the southwest side, 19th Ward Mutual Aid group formed. The purpose of the group is to collectively help one another; neighbors helping neighbors. Though the group’s name may indicate just the 19th Ward (Mount Greenwood, Morgan Park, and Beverly), all people’s needs will be addressed.

Free Store We have partnered with the non-profits Turpin Cares and Beverly Area Planning Association to host the distribution of first aid hygiene products. We also distribute handmade masks by the group Nice Chicks with Sewing Machines. Every week, no questions asked. The Free Store is located at BAPA 11109 S Longwood.

The expanded Free Store located across the street at 11052 S Longwood includes food. We have partnered with the Morgan Park Presbyterian church to provide boxes of fruits/veg, meat and dairy. There is also an assortment of non-perishables, such as: oatmeal, potato soup, purred tomatoes, pasta, cereal, Granola Bars, applesauce, peanut butter, Lentil beans, Flour, Pancake Mix; 372 boxes in total.

Food Distribution We focus on perishable items. We have a large assortment of non-perishables. We are here to help fill the need. We are looking to help in whatever our neighborhood needs.

For additional information, call **Tim Noonan** at (773) 852-3080 or email at info@19aid.com.

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