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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



based on every poll held, Sinn Féin could nevertheless perform well enough to form a Sinn Féin-led

Crisis Upon Crisis

The leader of Fine Gael, Leo Varadkar, (pictured) is scheduled to become Taoiseach again this December. However, his party is in the doldrums and, after 11 years in government, the option of a period in opposition is starting to appeal to some of its elected representatives. It does not help that their party leader’s actions regarding a leak of sensitive information regarding a medical contract to a friend of his in 2019 are still under investigation.

If a crisis were to cause the collapse of this government and force an election, Fine Gael’s chief antagonist, Sinn Féin, may well lead the next government. While an overall majority is unachievable

coalition that Irish politics has never seen before. Yet the prospects of such a coalition would be dramatically hindered



by three devilishly difficult crises.

The main crisis is housing. The acuity of the housing situation in Ireland was highlighted on June 14th by President Michael D Higgins’ use of the word ‘disaster’ to describe it. In off-script remarks at a public event, the president implicitly lambasted the government for its adoption of policies that led to the housing crisis. He argued that housing is what is important and not being “a star performer for the speculative sector internationally”. A few days later, Taoiseach-in-waiting, Leo Varadkar, issued an implicit rebuke: “It’s always much easier to describe a problem and to make pronouncements about it than it is to actually come up with solutions and operationalise them and implement them”. The dire failure of successive Irish governments’ housing policy is bringing the president and the government close to open sparring. And while improving the drastic shortage of housing is possible, there is no way to resolve this crisis within a few years.

The precipitous rise in the cost of living affects everyone and is also a crisis for many. While inflation in Ireland is running at 8.3%, which is below the EU average, that statistic is of no use and little interest to people who cannot pay their bills. And there is a growing awareness that Ireland was close to the top of the league table of a cost of living crisis that predated global inflation: data from Eurostat show that the average costs in Ireland are between 30% and 40% higher than the EU average. That fact is infuriating to people who see the price of commodities and services in Ireland as a failure of the government.

Thirdly, a crisis has been afflicted by an act of legislation introduced in Westminster in June designed to override the Northern Ireland Protocol. The protocol is a complex agreement on post-Brexit trade and customs negotiated between the EU and UK. The protocol’s complexity is due to the unique position of Northern Ireland and the provisions in the Good Friday Agreement to honour the will of the Irish people for an open border. Technically, the legislation does not take effect unless and until the British cabinet decides to implement it and disapply the protocol. Even so, the legislation made the government apoplectic with the British. Taoiseach

Micheál Martin, responding to it, said: “For a country like the United Kingdom to renege on an international treaty is something that does present a new low point because the natural expectation of democratic countries, like ourselves, the UK, and all across Europe, is that we honour international agreements”.

The UK reneging on an international treaty (only two and a half years after it negotiated, signed and sold it to the British public) is indeed a new low, albeit for a British government whose reputation can hardly fall much further. The legislation, if it passes through both houses of the UK Parliament, means that the British have permanently put a gun on the table in its negotiations with the EU.

Firing it would cause a trade war. If a trade war between the EU and the UK begins, there must be border checks on the only land border between the EU and the UK, namely on the Irish border. The composition of the current government is similar to its predecessor (a ‘confidence and supply’ government in which Fianna Fáil propped up a minority Fine Gael government). So, it is reasonable to assume that the current government’s policy on the issue of a hard border will be similar to that of its predecessor. If it comes to the cliff edge, the government will opt to do its duty as a European Member State and protect the Single Market. In other words, it will superintend customs checks on the Irish border.

Despite all the projections that Sinn Féin will lead the next government in the South, nobody has asked the party what it would do if it were in power and faced with the conundrum of choosing between the Single Market membership and enforcing customs checks on the border. While the choice would be excruciating for any Irish party, it is a plank walk for Sinn Féin: accepting either outcome would be suicidal.

Even though the office of the Taoiseach is so close in sight, Fine Gael strategists may well seriously weigh up the consequences of their remaining in government. If these three major crises are on its head while Sinn Féin continues to vilify it from the opposition benches, that would have long-term benefits for Sinn Féin and it would irreversibly damage Fine Gael.

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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

It so happens the month of July is enormously special in my life. On the morning of July 3, 1955 I stood on the top deck of a Cunard Luxury Liner with my younger brother and sister as it sailed from Cork to the New York Hudson River accompanied by my younger brother and sister. I recall making the sign of the cross, blessing myself as the ship passed the Statue of Liberty feeling the breathlessness of the Manhattan skyline, wondering with escalating anxiety if there was room enough for fresh air to move within the cluster of skyscrapers. We three siblings were arriving in America to join our mother Nora Hamill McCaffrey who at the age of thirty was widowed in Ireland. Back there in the early fifties the economy in Ireland was steeped in the bottomless tank of no money, no jobs. For men, employment was as scarce as hen's teeth and unavailable for women. I was the eldest at ten years old, the sort of a young one who listened intently to adult conversation around me. Hence, I knew the adult plan hatched was that our Mother would travel to Boston, join forces with her brother Michael, leaving her children in the care of her sister, our aunt Bridget McCourt. We lived in Dundalk, County Louth. To my knowledge that was the beginning and the end of the plan. One lesson I learned in my youth was that good follows bad, and soon after our living quarters changed my aunt requested I fetch her fountain pen and her good stationary. Then and there she wrote to her brother James who left Ireland on the run from the Black and Tans, studied medicine, morphed into a physician and the distinction of being the first doctor to open a practice in Las Vegas

where sprawling growth was at its roar. I was given the sealed letter to post to Dr. James Hamill on Charlestown Boulevard, Las Vegas, Nevada, and en route curiosity got the better of me so I carefully peeled open the envelope and read my aunt's appeal announcing their youngest sister Nora was widowed with three young children and if there was anything he could do to help all involved she'd be most grateful. I told no one until now what I did and what I knew!

Did you listen when I wrote up front that good things follow bad? Well, listen again! Within weeks our Uncle Jimmy sent a long letter announcing that education was the only key to success and promised when the "orphaned" children came of age he would send then (us) to the best schools in Ireland. I also learned that he sent money to my aunt now and again. Meanwhile, my mother who launched herself into a domestic job with a New England protestant political family, also sent money that arrived in the post once a month. That is except for one month when no money arrived and my aunt decided the two of us would buy a bushel of apples, make apple tarts, place a "Apple Tarts For Sale" notice in our front window and just make tarts until the delivery of money was restored. The front door brass knocker never stopped and queues of people lined up, money in hand, during the late afternoons to purchase what was claimed "the best apple tarts in the whole of Ireland." The peeling of apples went on night and day, the money piled up in an empty milk jug on the table and as soon as the envelope with money from America arrived, we shut down shop and slept for three days and five nights!

We grew and as promised attended the best schools in Ireland. Our aunt aged, became ill, a telegram was dispatched to our mother seeking a decision whether she'd return home or bring her children to America. Thankfully, she decided on the latter. Our Irish passports declared on page two we were "Scholars from Ireland." By then I was seventeen traveling with my tennis racquet and my violin. We were the first passengers announced off the ship when it docked in New York because we were considered "minors." Mother and Uncle were on the dock waiting, my Mother who left Ireland dressed in the required black mourning garb was blonde and spoke with an American accent. I thought she was a film star. Uncle Michael had an automobile and drove us from the ship to Dochester an Irish American community a subway ride from downtown Boston. It was the third of July. Uncle Michael informed us when we arrived to an apartment in a triple decker house that due to our long journey there would be fireworks the next evening celebrating our arrival to the United States. It was a grand event! I am of an age and so no longer embarrassed to admit it was a good many years later before I realized he was fibbing, although I still savor the Fourth of July Fireworks as our coming of age in America!

Back in the day immigrants in the United States were referred to as "Aliens," a label that adhered itself until the privilege of citizenship was bestowed, a title I cherish. I recently uncovered a copy of an article published in mid-August 1991 in the Irish Echo Newspaper. It was a feature story about me entitled "Toughing it out." As I re-read that interview I was both flattered and amazed answering a reporter's question about relocating from Boston to Chicago. Once out of Ireland, all I knew was the Boston area and I thought the city and the state of Massachusetts a fabulous place to work and live. That is until I

arrived in Chicago. Not immediately, but quickly I realized I would never go back to the East Coast. In comparison, Chicago is easier, friendlier, a city filled with talented people but its less competitive than the East Coast. It reminds me somewhat of New York City without the hassle. Incidentally, the news media in the Windy City is less harsh and less ruthless than the East Coast. During the long interview that I'm actually reading from now I was asked if I'd ever go back to live in Ireland again. When I do go back I always live through a period of experiencing real envy toward the people I grew up with. The quality of their lives is far superior to mine, even though by any American standard I live a high lifestyle. I feel a tremendous emotional pull, and when I arrive back home in America I am unsettled for a long time. For reasons I cannot explain, when in Ireland I'm very creative as a writer and for many years entertained a plan of purchasing a bungalow in the mountains outside my home town of Dundalk, stay there for three months a year and write. Some years ago I did rent a bungalow for the month of July. I froze to death! As soon as the sun set, if it ever rose, the temperature dropped. Very unappealing, it shattered my dream. Irish American News readers will relate to the stronghold the Catholic Church held on just about everything, religious or secular. Growing up we were repressed and I especially felt restricted. If you were different in any way, the harsh gossip began, its part of the Irish psyche - - the Irish being great critics or as Churchill once commented about the us: "Contentness is better than loneliness." Therefore, its a huge but powerful adjustment to be part of American society where compliments are spoken frequently and criticism held at bay. I was asked in that long ago interview whether "Is being Irish an integral part of your professional life?" The answer

Irish Music Guitar Great Dennis Cahill Passes at 68

June 21, 2022 (CHICAGO) - Dennis Cahill, an American guitarist renowned in the world of Irish traditional music, passed away on Monday, June 20, after an extended illness. He was 68.

Cahill was best known for his genre-defining duo with Irish fiddler Martin Hayes, with whom he toured the world and recorded three albums on Green Linnet Records. His guitar accompaniment style was considered groundbreaking in Irish music.

With Hayes, he was also a founding member of The Gloaming, a Meteor Prize-winning Irish-American group.

"Dennis has been a very big part of my life for the past thirty five years," Hayes said today. "As a musician and as a friend I will miss him terribly. His beautiful musical ideas will echo far into the future and his friendship will live on in my heart. He impacted my life and expanded my musical horizon. I was lucky to have

known him, to have had him as a friend and to have had the privilege of making music with him for so many years."

Irish President Higgins paid tribute to Cahill today, saying, "it is with great sadness that those with a love of traditional Irish music across Ireland, his native Chicago and around the world will have heard of the death of Dennis Cahill. Dennis brought a unique and innovative style to his guitar playing, while being deeply respectful of the essence of traditional Irish music. He and Martin Hayes explored new musical territory and helped create a phenomenal interest in traditional music among a new generation of people both within Ireland and across the world."

Cahill was born and raised in Chicago to parents from County Kerry, Ireland. He studied classical guitar at the Chicago Music

College, and was well known on the local music scene, playing folk, rock, and blues. He met Hayes in Chicago in the 1980s,



where they first turned their hand to the experimental Celtic-rock-fusion group Midnight Court.

Later, Cahill and Hayes would perform for President Obama in

Washington, for President of Ireland Michael D Higgins at the Royal Albert Hall in London, and for the European Union in Brussels.

The duo collaborated with a wide range of artists including jazz musicians Bill Frisell and Cassandra Wilson, country music star Ricky Skaggs, Spanish composer Jordi Savall, the Irish Chamber Orchestra, and Sting.

Writing in The New York Times, Ann Powers described Hayes and Cahill as "stripping old reels and jigs, leaving space for whispered blue notes...a Celtic complement to Steve Reich's quartets or Miles Davis's 'Sketches of Spain'. Simply exquisite."

Cahill worked with numerous Irish and Irish-American artists including Jimmy Keane and Liz Carroll. He was also a record producer and art photographer.

Cahill is survived by his wife, Mary Joyce, and stepdaughter Clionadh.

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ISSN #1085-4053 USPS #013454
JULY 2022 Vol. XLVI #7

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(Periodicals Postage Paid at Palatine, IL, and other mailing offices)

POSTMASTER:

Address changes to **Irish News Inc**
PO Box 7, Zion, IL 60099



PUBLISHERS STATEMENT

The opinions and statements expressed in this newspaper are entirely those of the authors, and do not reflect in any way the opinions of Irish American News.

Distribution 12,013 monthly

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of course is obvious, here I am sixty plus years living in America and still writing about Ireland! I admit in my early years I rushed to assimilate until I realized I could not be someone I wasn't. I discovered that being Irish and female I possessed skills other people did not have. One example is matriarchal, translating into all Irish women tend to be bosses. Being an aggressive female at a time when the women's movement was beginning having an Irish accent in Boston was a real attribute and I thrived.

Life changes, sometimes slowly, most often in haste. An example are the current Irish immigrants go back and forth between America and Ireland seeing the US as it is, the land of opportunity while those born in America either don't see these opportunities or simply dodge them. In my own case in national news heralded as an Irish woman, the first to enter the Locker Room of the Boston Red Sox, the headline read: *Toughing It Out: Shanley's Bold Moves Paying Off.* Still is!!!
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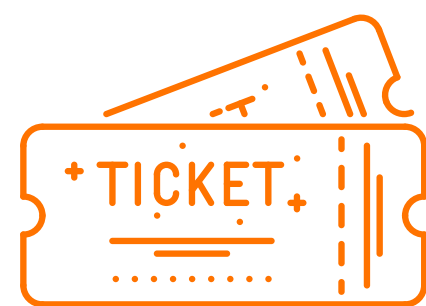
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Thomas Byrne, Ireland's Minister of State for European Affairs Visits Chicago

By Michael Danahey

Ireland's Minister of State for European Affairs visited Chicago and briefed the Irish Consul about events surrounding Ireland. While in town he also made a visit to the Ireland Network and to the offices of Hinshaw and Culbertson at the request of Matt Walsh II.

"Brexit was a bad decision for the United Kingdom that they have to live with, while Ireland sees great benefit in being part of the European Union." So said Thomas Byrne, Ireland's Minister of State for European affairs, during his visit.

"We're trying to live with Brexit now and deal with the consequences from it," Byrne told *Irish American News*.

Chief among those are moves the British government is considering toward changing agreements it had made regarding Northern Ireland upon leaving the EU, particularly regarding the trade of goods.

Byrne explained that Brexit's Northern Ireland Protocol called for no hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. However, goods coming from England, Scotland and Wales now have to be checked at ports in Belfast and Larne and meet EU standards.

As of this writing, Boris Johnson's government was planning to override parts of the protocol

and have goods to flow into Northern Ireland without being checked portside. Instead, goods would be monitored as they crossed the Irish Sea and would only meet UK standards.

With the current situation, hardliners from the DUP in the North have been blocking a vote for a Speaker at Stormont

since the assembly election on May 5. This means an executive can't be formed, effectively paralyzing the government, despite the fact that as of May elections, Sinn Féin is now Northern Ireland's largest party.

After Brexit, which went into effect Jan. 31, 2020, Byrne said, "Their (Great Britain's) economy isn't growing as fast as in Ireland, Northern Ireland and other European countries."

Byrne noted 2023 will mark 50 years since Ireland joined the EU, where Ireland punches above its weight class.

"We see our sovereignty being enhanced by belonging. Unfortunately, the British don't (see that for themselves)," Byrne said.

Per Ireland's relationship with Northern Ireland, Byrne said instead of a uniting, the focus for many, if not most, now is on a shared island. As is, in the North, the split right now is about 40 percent toward reunification, 40 percent Unionist and 20 percent of people somewhere in the middle, Byrne said, and the nation voted in 2016 to stay part of the EU.

"There are practical measures we can take to bring us closer together," he said. "Support for the peace process, that's what US involvement is about."

With that, Byrne said that

while Ireland is proudly European, it knows it has strong ties to the United States, which played a key role in the 1998 Good Friday Agreement bringing that peace.

"We nurture it (the Good Friday Agreement) everyday," Byrne said.

Byrne was in Chicago for a June 6 meeting with The Ireland Funds Chicago Regional Advisory Committee where he thanked the organization for its long-time support of Ireland, through thick and thin.

Byrne also talked about a number of topics, including the war in Ukraine.

Ireland has taken in more than 30,000 refugees, with about 7,000 children attending Irish schools, Byrne said, helping more per capita than Great Britain is.

Byrne said Ireland also backs a path to membership in the EU for Ukraine. Ireland has supplied medical supplies, other items and €20 million in humanitarian aid to support Ukraine's people.

With energy prices soaring globally, Byrne said Ireland remains committed to a greener future through such means as wind and nuclear power.

About his first trip to Chicago, Byrne said, "It's a beautiful city...it's a really important city in the world."

He noted that while both Chicago and New York have strong ties to Ireland, the respective cities each have a different feeling. Byrne stayed at the Drake Hotel on Chicago's Gold Coast and commented on how beautiful the view was from the hotel and on the beauty and history of the hotel itself. "I didn't expect to see beach bars (at Oak Street beach nearby)," Byrne said.



Minister Thomas Byrne, Irish Consul Sarah Keating, & Matthew Walsh II whose office held a roundtable.



Eamonn Cummins, Minister Thomas Byrne, Pennie Taylor and Matthew Walsh II.



Gaelic Park's new beer garden is now open and is much bigger than this photo allows. It's perfect for a Summer reprieve in the open air with friends and relations. Parents going to see the kids play in the Continental Youth Championships July 28-31 have a new place to relax and brag!

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Fenian Memorial Committee Honor Irish Who Escaped British Prison in Australia on Catalpa

The not-for-profit Fenian Memorial Committee of America works to honor the memory of Fenians and other Irish revolutionaries now buried and forgotten in the USA. The Committee has located the unmarked U.S. graves of six Fenians who were rescued from an Australian prison colony in a daring 1876 escape organized by Irish Americans: The Catalpa Rescue. To date we have provided headstones for the graves of James McNally Wilson (Rhode Island), Michael Hogan (Chicago) and Robert Cranston and Thomas Darragh (Philadelphia). We also placed a commemorative stone at the gravesite of Father Patrick McCabe (Minnesota), who helped facilitate that escape and later lived a life of exile in America as a parish priest.



Two members of the *Catalpa Six*, both from Cork, (pictured left to right), Michael Harrington and Thomas Hassett lie today in unmarked graves at Calvary Cemetery in Queens, New York. We hope to place their gravestones by the end of this year. Thankfully, an anonymous donor has pledged a matching fund of \$3,500 for this effort. Every dollar you donate will be doubled and will help us significantly with the remaining costs (\$10,000) for the two engraved headstones and ancillary expenses. Without you, our work cannot proceed.

But, with your help, these brave Fenians and other such Irish men and women will not lie in anonymity. Help us to honor these two Cork men, Michael Harrington and Thomas Hassett. You may

donate by mailing a check to Fenian Memorial Committee of America, P.O. Box 10416, Cranston, RI 02910.

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Go Fund Me is Organized for Kevin McCartin

Irish American Heritage Center past President, John Gorski, has organized a fundraising committee and a “Go Fund Me” for long time North Side Irish resident and Irish community friend Kevin McCartin.

Kevin donated over 30 years of volunteering and coaching coaching at St. Thecla, Weber High School and St. Mary of the Woods .

Kevin McCartin was employed for 26 years at People’s and North Shore Gas, when in late 2021, he learned he had an organ failure.

Kevin’s condition did not allow him to continue to work after November 2021.

As Kevin’s conditions worsened, the University of Chicago determined he would require a transplant. Kevin has been on full disability status since November 2021.

Kevin’s sister Carmel has been helping Kevin as he rests and prepares for the transplant.

Finding a living donor match who has agreed to help save Kevin is a miracle come true.

That transplant is scheduled for June 29, 2022 at the University of Chicago. Extensive rehab will then follow.

In order to help Kevin afford the transplant and the extraordinary expense , we are asking for prayers and help for his donor and Kevin.

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Kevin McCartin for the donate page.

Tom and Peggy (nee Haddock) McCartin married in Dublin, Ireland in 1951.

Tom hailed from Leitrim, Peggy from Armagh.

Many of their family still reside in Leitrim as well as in England.

Tom emigrated to America in 1953, Peggy followed in 1955.

Arriving in Chicago, they settled on the west Side of Chicago in the Columbus park area where they raised their 6 children.

Their daughter Theresa and Marion were born in Ireland. Carmel was born in Chicago as was Kevin, Peter and Nuala.

When the family moved to the NW Side of Chicago, they became members of St. Thecla Church.

Tom and Peggy enrolled their children in St. Thecla School.

Tom worked for People’s Gas for his while Peggy cared for the children and the house.

Kevin was baptized at Resurrection Church in February 1964. Kevin started 1st Grade at St. Thecla in 1970. There at St. Thecla, he received his 1st Holy Communion and was confirmed. He played football at St. Thecla where many of his playing records still stand. He graduated in 1978.

Kevin then enrolled at St. Patrick HS .

Graduating from St. Patrick in 1982, Kevin then attended DePaul University where he majored in Business and graduated.

Kevin then attended DePaul Graduate School.

Kevin married in 1997. In 2004, his daughter Claire was Born. Kevin is very involved in Claire’s life, taking her to Cub games and even a trip to Ireland. Kevin is very proud of her accomplishments. Claire will be attending Northern Arizona University in the Fall of 2022.”

While he was studying at De Paul, Kevin volunteered as a Football Coach at St. Thecla where he was the Head Coach of the JV team and later the Head Coach of the Varsity Team.

After coaching 14 years at St. Thecla, Kevin went on to be head Football Coach for Weber High School’s Freshman team in 1998.

After coaching at Weber until 2000, Kevin continued his 31 years of volunteering as Head Football Coach at St. Mary of the Woods in Chicago.

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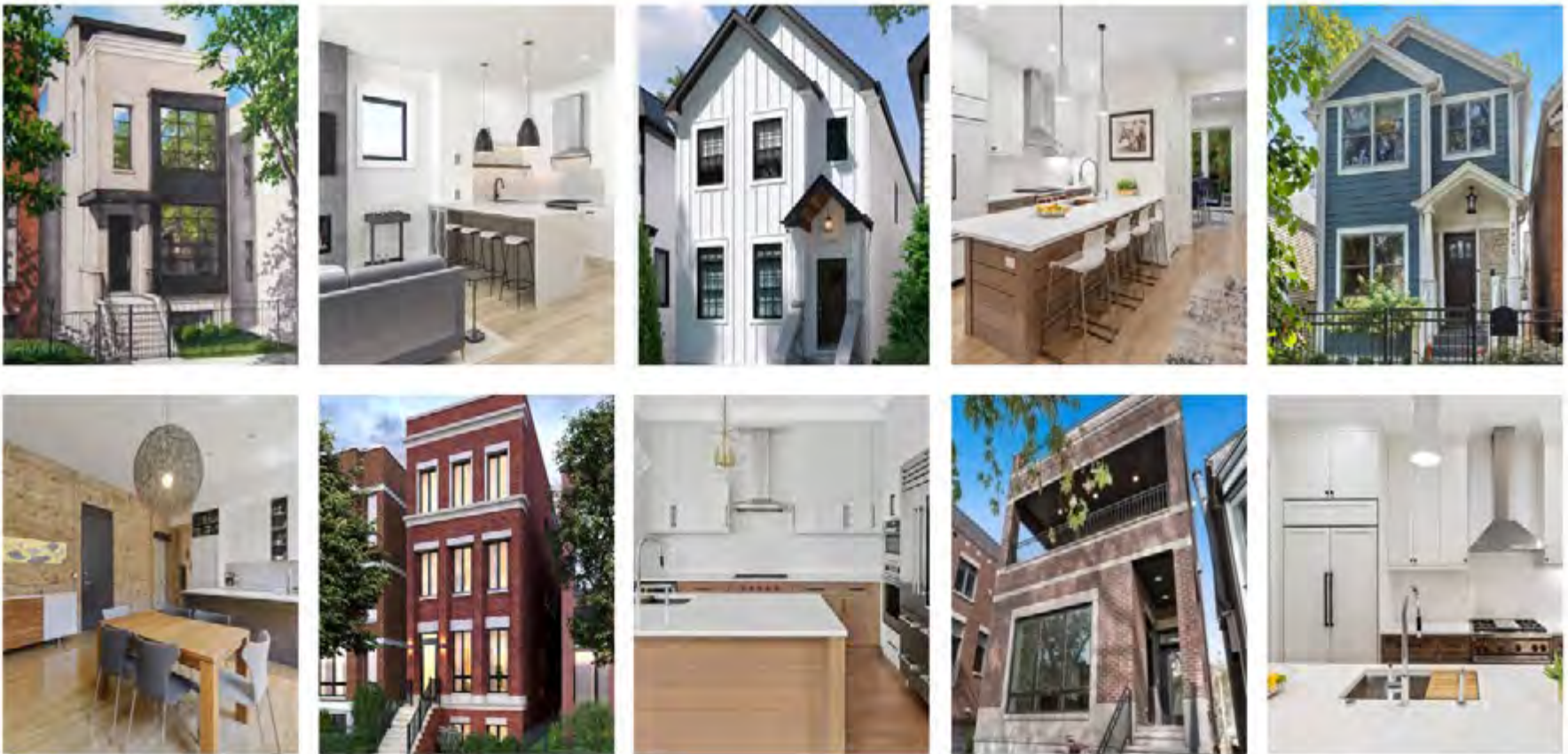
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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Thoughts For Consideration

We have been living in a strange world for the last two or three years. Hopefully you will be able to use some of my thoughts to help you be as successful as you can be as you move forward this year. These recommendations could help regardless of your station in life.

I have been doing executive coaching and outplacement for many years. I have seen several characteristics or traits that have gotten in the way of people's success. Let's just deal with the behaviors that seem to be the most egregious to me. You can then decide if your career or life would be improved if you were to focus on one or more of these issues.

1. MAINTAIN YOUR INTEGRITY: We have all heard the expression that the truth will set you free. Shakespeare said, "To thine own self be true." My favorite book on leadership, "The Leadership Challenge" by Kouzes and Posner, states that THE number one characteristic that people seek

in their leaders is honesty. But we see that societal pressures chip away at a person's integrity all the time in business. The process can be insidious; like a cancer that grows unseen, you must be continuously on guard.

For example, my neighbor was a nice fellow, but he allowed himself to be compromised when he became an "outside" business partner when he took favors from his client. He believed a small bribe was acceptable, if not expected in his work.

2. SOLICIT INPUT FROM OTHERS: Let your staff members know that you value their input, regardless of whether or not you agree with it. If you do, they will continue to provide you with potentially valuable input. Conversely, if you treat them like fools and immediately trash their ideas, you are not likely to get any significant input from them.

3. TREAT PEOPLE RESPECTFULLY: We have all observed others being treated disrespectfully; particularly people who perform service functions, e.g. cab drivers, waitresses, receptionists, hostesses, flight attendants, etc. Some people treat them like they are part of the furniture. Every person, of any color, creed, or religion deserves our respect. There is a practical reason for treating people respectfully. If our colleagues observe our oafish conduct, they will note it and brand us as tactless. They will quickly recognize that we are not the warm and friendly person we want them to see. They might question whether they want to do business with us.

4. BE PLANFUL: Take the time to develop a plan of action for any significant block of your time. You will find yourself getting far more done than the person who is always just stumbling onto the next task. Think of the pluses and minuses of the contemplated action. Many people can do this planning in their heads, but others of us need to write it down, particularly if it is a complex issue. Often, the very act of writing it down will be valuable for us; it provides some clarity to the issue.

5. HELP OTHERS: You can begin to help people very quickly even in a new job. Once you have been there even just a few weeks you could be of help to the newer hires. Your kindness will be remembered long after your actions. Surprisingly enough, good deeds do have their own reward or payback. All kinds of people and situations would welcome your time and support.

6. LEARN TO SPEAK IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE: As you grow in your responsibilities, you will be challenged to present effectively to various groups. Take a Toastmasters course, the Dale Carnegie course or a

speech class at the local community college. Get in the habit of giving speeches, practice makes perfect.

7. ACCEPT THE CONCEPT OF LIFETIME LEARNING: We have all heard about this concept. It is absolutely imperative that we continue to expand our base of knowledge. Former Director of Clinical Cardiology, Loyola University Medical Center, Dr. John F. Moran, once told me that the overall treatment for cardiology patients was continuously changing and improving. Wouldn't you flee from a doctor who told you that s/he had not read a medical journal since medical school? Would you hire a tax consultant who said that s/he hadn't referred to the tax code for years?

8. RETAIN A SENSE OF HUMOR: Find ways to enhance your sense of humor. Read the funnies, listen to humorous CD's, and watch funny TV shows or comedic videos. Humor is invaluable in allowing us to make light of a very serious situation. It allows us to laugh; and sometimes even to giggle. Frankly, a good laugh will help you think better, because it relieves the tension of the moment; it can lighten the load for everyone.

9. DEVELOP YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS: The vast majority of us would be well served by improving our written and oral communication skills. Our world has become a digital one---emails by the basketful, text messages, I Pods, etc. An oft quoted statistic states that the actual words we use only represent 7% of a message delivered in person, whereas the other 93% is communicated by the tonality of our voice, its volume and our body language. If this bromide is correct, one really needs to gear up and be very crisp in their writing so as to make their point. An executive friend of mine says he has two ways of responding to emails: a brief direct response, or a request for a face to face meeting. He feels that the brief answer does not allow for any real discussion that would have to be accomplished in person. He wants to see the person's body language.

There is an old saying which states that any angry response should be shelved for 24 hours, lest you regret dispatching it. The mood we are in can dramatically affect the tone of our response. Sure hope you have a wonderful 4th of July holiday. God Bless America! CARPE DIEM.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: The best leaders are the ones who have the sense to surround themselves with outstanding people and the self-restrain not to meddle in how they do their job. Unknown

James F. Fitzgerald was the president of his consulting firm, Fitzgerald & Associates. He is now retired.

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Continental Youth Championships to be Hosted by Gaelic Park July 28-31

Gaelic Park will be hosting the Continental Youth Championships (CYC for short) on July 28th - 31st. The CYC is a Gaelic Games tournament that takes place annually in the United



States and is the largest Gaelic Sports competition outside of Ireland.

Each year, between 2,500 and 3,000 youth representing the US GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association), Canadian GAA and the New York GAA descend upon a city to compete in this annual competition.

The youth, both boys and girls, are aged under 6 to under 18 and participate in hundreds (700+) of Gaelic Football and Gaelic Hurling games over the course of 4 days. The competition draws thousands of participants, parents, relatives and curious spectators to the host city.

Chicago is the host city for 2022 and Chicago Gaelic Park, Chicagoland’s premier Irish Center, will provide the venue.

The CYC is special and is one of the best weekends on the GAA calendar. This competition

is about young people celebrating their love of Gaelic Sports, bonding communities, allowing friendships to be made, and above all having fun.



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Telling her ancestors’ stories through historical fiction and nonfiction narrative, author Jean Mahoney brings us four generations of intrepid immigrants, travelers, settlers, lovers, survivors, artists, homemakers, business owners, dressmakers, house painters and farmers.

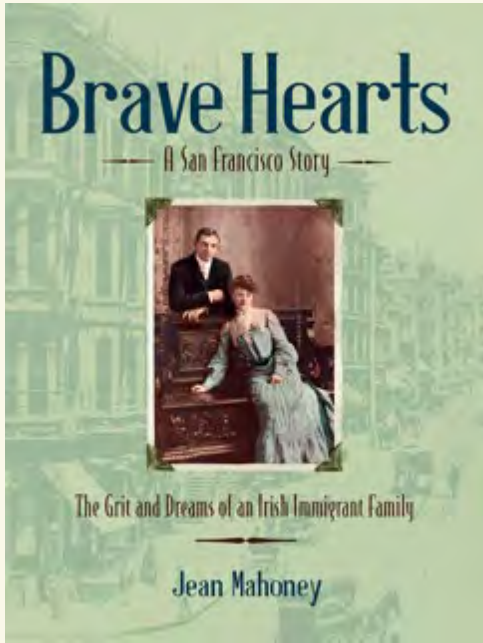
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a gifted writer.

About the Author

Jean Mahoney is a San Francisco native, grew up in Palo Alto, and has studied San Francisco and the greater Bay Area history for decades. She is a writer, poet and award-winning educator whose writing has appeared in the Santa Cruz Sentinel and Sisters Singing: Blessings, Prayers, Art, Songs, Poetry and Sacred Stories by Women. She taught



sixth grade in public school in Santa Cruz for twenty years, and worked as a pioneer in environmental education and the movement for Life Lab school

gardens. She later helped to design and present teacher training programs in the California Environmental Education Initiative curriculum. She lives in Santa Cruz, California.

Praise for Brave Hearts

“Brave Hearts is such a vivid account of the Irish immigrant experience that as a college librarian I would enthusiastically recommend it to students of California and US history. As a reader, I recommend it for the sheer pleasure of a page-turning

family epic, brimming with love and heartache, adventures and reversals of fortune. The resilience of these brave hearts is inspiring!”

Mary Camille Thomas, author and Librarian, Foothill College

“Jean Mahoney has brought the immigrant experience vividly to life in this warm, authentic, humorous, historical fiction saga of her Irish ancestors and the early days of San Francisco. The tales, trials and triumphs of Charlotte, Philip, their children and everyone

they encounter will live on forever and deeply touch the hearts and minds of readers.”

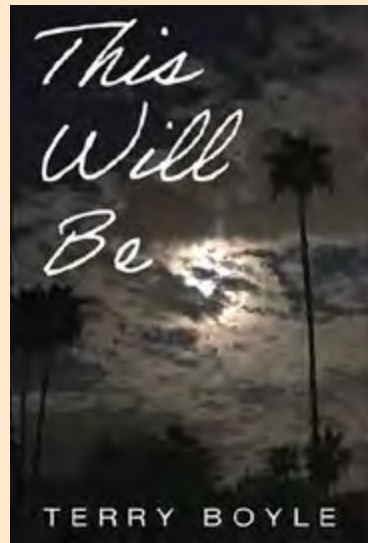
Kate Aver Abraham, author of Joey’s Way and What Will You Be, Sara Mee?

immigrants and potential immigrants unbearable. Sit down with a cup of tea, open the book, and settle in for Mahoney’s engaging, imaginative family tale.”

Patrice Vecchione, co-editor of Ink Knows No Borders: Poems of the Immigrant and Refugee Experience.

Poetry By Our Columnist, Terry Boyle

Liturgy and poetry share a lot of common properties. The liturgist and poet aim to transport the imagination of the reader beyond simple language and into an experience of the universal word. Through liturgical and poetic language, we come to discover a rich trove of possible meanings that surpasses the simple reading of the word. This Will Be is a collection of poems that explores the wonder and mystery surrounding our modern complex lives. Through the medium of these poems, our humanity is sympathetically rendered in the gentle interplay between Moses and his friend, the longing to connect to something more than materialism, and a joyful celebration of the beauty of language itself. There are no easy answers in this work to our daily fears and struggles. If there is any truth to be found in this collection it is that while we can be self-destructive, we’re more than simple lemmings looking for the nearest cliff.



Terry Boyle is a sensitive, funny, observant poet whose poetry emanates from a life fully lived and from biblical and Jewish references. What a gem.” —Lizzi Heydemann, founder and senior rabbi, Mishkan Chicago

“Terry’s poetry escorts us along a spiritual pathway that resists the overhang of youthful certainties. He often journeys with Mr. Moses, but not the Moses whom many of us see

as the arch-legalist. He allows us to contemplate ‘the One who muddles and obfuscates the known.’ The journey may be long, confusing, and fun, but we are not left exhausted, for we are encouraged to ‘face the finish line with the breath of God burning still in your lungs!’” —David Gillett, assistant bishop, Diocese of Norwich, England

“These forty-five poems explore the mysteries of the spiritual life with the courage, honesty, and maturity Boyle has gained from hard-won personal experience. Many spiritual traditions come into play, yet there is great humor, too: the frequent interruptions by ‘Mr. Moses’ come to mind. And then there’s the poetry—the striking, beautiful, and penetrating images that stir the soul.” —Francis Fennell, professor emeritus of English, Loyola University Chicago Buy Book Here!

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they each must navigate new issues at home.

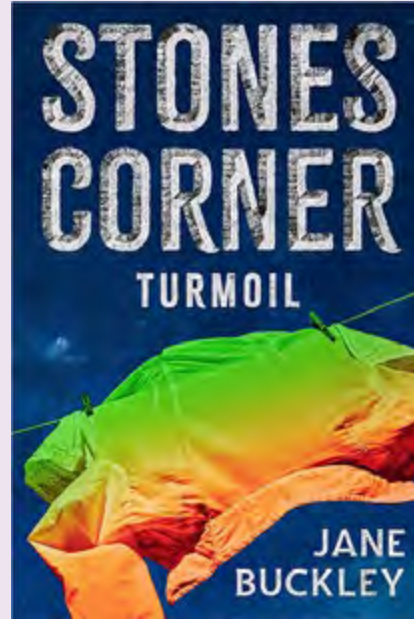
Will Michael’s chance at the solo career he’s always dreamed of draw him away from the band? Will Aidan lose Fionna as new opportunities in her art career take her to New York? Can Patrick & Moira’s marriage survive the strain of Patrick’s music career? Are Niall and Pauline able to overcome a wrinkle in their relationship?

Join Macready’s Bridge members as they try to find their way through rough seas and unknown futures. Available at BetterWorldBooks.com and others.

Stones Corner, Turmoil, Wins 2022 Indiereader Discovery Fiction Award

IndieReader, one of the original review services for self, hybrid and independently published authors in the USA and around the globe, announced the winners of the eleventh annual IR Discovery Awards (IRDAs) for 2022. *Stones Corner, Turmoil* by Jane Buckley won in the fiction category.

IndieReader launched the IRDAs in 2011 to help notable indie authors receive the attention of top publishing professionals, with the goal of reaching more readers. Noted Amy Edelman, author and founder of IR, “The books that won the IRDAs this



year are not simply great indie books; they are great books, period. We hope that our efforts via the IRDAs ensure that they receive attention from the people who matter most. Potential readers.”

year are not simply great indie books; they are great books, period. We hope that our efforts via the IRDAs ensure that they receive attention from the people who matter most. Potential readers.”

“I’m delighted at the award given there were thousands of entrants. This together with many five-star reviews gives me hope and enthusiasm to keep on writing. Although I’d like to have won - maybe I will with *Stones Corner*, *V2 Darkness!*” Jane says, laughing.

About Jane

Jane Buckley was born in Derry/ Londonderry, Northern Ireland, in the late 60s and is the author of the *Stones Corner* Volume 1, *Turmoil* and Volume 2, *Darkness* Volume 3, *Light* is complete and will be published in late 2022. Like many of her generation, she had to leave to find work elsewhere. At 17, she moved to London, where she lived and worked for over 25 years before moving to Nice, France.

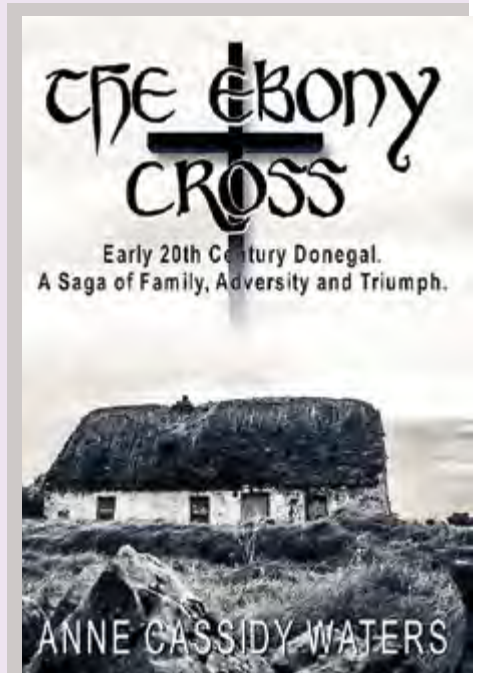
Along with her husband John (born in Cork, Ireland), they finally returned home in 2017 and live in Derry. They love it but had forgotten how unpredictable the weather is!

Over recent years, the couple rec-

ognised that many of the people they’d been fortunate enough to meet on their travels worldwide didn’t understand why or how the conflict in the North of Ireland began and why it continued for three decades. Jane decided to take it upon herself to inform them and others by writing a historical fiction series based on her own childhood from this horrific period in Ireland’s history.

She says writing was a frightening prospect at first, given she’d never written anything substantial before but, being Jane, she’d write not just one novel, but a tetralogy, hence *Turmoil*, *Darkness*, *Light* and (*Hope!*).

Jane believes that we need to move on from “The Troubles” as a country while never forgetting how and why they occurred. In recognition of the hardship and suffering endured by so many of our friends, family, and neighbours on both sides of the divide. We should continue to embrace the healing and reconciliation process.



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Calculating Workers’ Compensation Benefits

If you are an employee and suffered a work-related injury or illness, you may be entitled to Workers’ Compensation benefits. The benefits payable to an injured worker are complicated and hard to grasp. This article is my attempt to walk you through the various benefits available to you under the Illinois Workers Compensation Act (“IWCC”) and hopefully give you a better understanding of what types of benefits you may be entitled to should you suffer an injury in the course of your employment.

Temporary Total Disability Benefits (“TTD”) - IWCA §8(b)

If you are unable to work as a result of your work-related injury or illness, you are entitled to TTD benefits. TTD will also be awarded in the situation, where your doctor places you on specific work restrictions and your employer is unable to accommodate those restrictions. TTD benefits continue until your doctor releases those restrictions or places you at maximum medical improvement (“MMI”).

The TTD benefits that you are entitled to will be based on two-thirds of your gross (before tax) average weekly wage at the time of your injury. If you are off work for less than 14 days, your TTD benefits will not be paid for the first three days of your injury. If you are off work for longer than 14 days, then your TTD benefits begin the day after your work-related injury or illness.

Example: If your gross weekly wage at the time of your injury is \$1,000.00 a week; your TTD payments would be 2/3rds of this or \$666.66. If you were off work for only 10 days, then you would be entitled to one TTD check in the amount of \$666.66. If you were off work for 4 weeks, then you would be entitled to four TTD checks in the amount of \$666.66 each.

Permanent Partial Disability Benefits (“PPD”) - IWCA §8(b)

PPD benefits are often received as a lump sum payment and are calculated based upon the “nature and extent” of your injury. PPD payments will be

paid at the end of your medical treatment and when you are back to work and/or when the doctors advise that there is nothing further, they can offer you in terms of medical treatment for the injury. The nature and extent of your injury will be based on a determination of the permanent aspect of your injury.

There are generally four types of PPD Benefits:

1. Wage differential;
2. Schedule of injuries
3. Non-scheduled injuries
4. Disfigurement

Wage Differential: This type of benefit is given to workers who get a new job due to an injury at their previous job, and their new job pays less than they were making before they were hurt. The award is calculated based on two-thirds of the difference between what they were making at the job when they were injured and what they are currently making at their new job. Wage differential benefits are paid for five years after the award is determined or until the person reaches age 67, whichever is later.

Example: You were making \$1,000.00 a week at the time of your injury and are currently making \$700.00 a week because of your inability to perform certain duties because of your disability. \$300.00 is the difference and you would be entitled to two-thirds of that difference, which is \$200.00, for up to 5 years or when you turn 67 years old.

Schedule of Injuries: The Illinois Workers’ Compensation Act sets a value for certain body parts which dictates how many weeks of PPD benefits an employee can receive. The PPD weekly rate is 60 percent of a person’s gross average weekly wage (AWW). To calculate the number of weeks a worker will be compensated for, they would take the percentage of loss in their body part and multiply the percentage by the value found in the table. The award amount



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is determined by taking the PPD weekly rate and multiplying it by the number of weeks.

Non-Schedule Injuries: Sometimes, an injury is not listed in the table, but still constitutes a significant loss for an employee. In these cases, an employee may be eligible for a percentage of 500 weeks of benefits, with the percentage being based on the loss of the person as a whole. The calculation is then similar to the calculation for listed injuries, in that the person’s PPD weekly rate is multiplied by the number of weeks of benefits which will be received.

Disfigurement: When an injury affects a worker’s head, face, neck, chest above the armpits, hands, arms, or leg below the knee, and the injury causes serious and permanent disfigurement, they may be entitled to up to 162 weeks of benefits. The number of weeks is then multiplied by 60 percent of the person’s AWW

Additional benefits available under The Illinois Workers Compensation Act:

Medical Benefits - IWCA §8(a)

Your Employer, through workers compensation, is required to pay for all reasonably necessary medical treatment related to your work injury or illness.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Maintenance Benefits - IWCA §8(a)

Vocational Rehab and Maintenance comes in the form of job counseling, training, education, and other assistance for finding new employment, if you are unable to return to your old job.

Death Benefits and Burial Expenses - IWCA §7(a) & §7(f)

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It is important to have an experienced workers’ compensation attorney, like my colleagues and I, who will better ensure that all your rights are represented, that you receive every benefit owed to you, and that you are not being taken advantage of. My team and I have decades of collective experience in representing injured employees and we have the knowledge, experience, and resources to walk you through the process and obtain the most desired outcome possible.

**Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney now licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of personal injury law and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at cgallagher@cgtrial.com or at (312) 782-7482.*

Púca Officially Unveiled in Burren

The Burren community in North Clare gathered at the Michael Cusack Centre, the birthplace of the founder of the GAA, this afternoon (Saturday, 25 June 2022) for the official unveiling of the Púca.

Inspired by Irish folklore and the locality’s equine heritage, the 2m-tall bronze art piece is expected to be a significant draw for visitors to the visitor attraction.

The Michael Cusack Centre in Carron, which is located in an area historically named ‘Poll a Phúca’ or ‘Lair of the Púca’, was

commissioned by the Arts Office of Clare County Council to produce the artwork, said, “I want to thank the people of Carron and the Burren for making this scallywag welcome. I couldn’t pick a better backdrop. The Púca has come home. A wild place for a wild thing.”

Commenting about his first public art, the Kilkenny artist described the Púca as one of Irish folklore’s great characters.

“Douglas Hyde, the first President of Ireland (1938-45), described ‘a terrible steed’ carrying



selected as the artwork’s home following an expressions of interest process managed by Clare County Council.

Dónal Ó hAiniféin, Chair of the Board of Michael Cusack Centre, commented, “We are delighted to be selected to host the Púca. Tá áthas an domhain orainn go bhfuil an Púca ag fillleadh abhaile go Poll a’ Phúca. We are thrilled that the fantastic Púca artwork is coming home. The Michael Cusack Centre is a most appropriate setting for this magnificent figure.”

Mr. Ó hAiniféin confirmed that plans to develop an annual event celebrating the Púca are at an advanced stage.

“The annual Samhain / Púca Storytelling Festival on November 1st will celebrate the folklore around the Púca with a programme of events ranging from the academic to children’s art,” he explained. “The inaugural event later this year also will coincide with the 175th anniversary of the birth of Michael Cusack here in Carron.”

Artist Aidan Harte, who was

mortals to fairyland on his back,” he said. “Catch him in the right mood, said Hyde, and the Púca tells fortunes and grants wishes. People who never heard these stories want to know if the Púca is bad or good. He’s neither. Like the rest of us he’s inconsistent.”

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development with Clare County Council, described the Michael Cusack Centre as “a fitting home for the Púca and will add value to both the installation and the community-run visitor attraction.”

The Púca was originally commissioned by the Local Authority in 2021 as part of a capital project investment to increase visitor dwell time in Ennistymon and further enhance the overall appearance of the town. Following extensive consultation with Elected Members and the local community, a public survey on the Púca and its proposed location influenced the decision to relocate the artwork elsewhere in North Clare through an Expression of Interest process held in early 2022.

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Pam Carroll: Thirty-Five Years at Gadabout Travel

Ask Pam Carroll, owner of Gadabout Travel in Palos Hills, to share the secrets of her company's success, and she will go out of her way to mention its previous two owners (with whom she remains close friends), her family members, employees, and clients. Left unsaid are the remarkable passion, vision, and perseverance that she has displayed to sustain the business and keep her and her colleagues busier than ever as the world opens up to travel again.

How It Came To Be
Pam began working at Gadabout in 1987, a decade after Rose Lynn, a Belmullet native, founded the company, which originally focused on booking clients travel to Ireland on AerLingus. Pam helped to expand its offerings to include cruises and vacations, and she bought the business from its second owner, Marie O'Donnell, in 2000. In 2010, Pam took over Gaffney Travel, based in Oak Lawn, when its owner - another Belmullet native named Kathleen Gaffney - wanted to sell.

Today, while Gadabout still specializes in travel to Ireland, Pam and her team have expanded their areas of expertise to include intricate European itineraries, Hawaii, River Cruises, Caribbean/Mexico getaways, Disney, and cruises. They also specialize in group travel offerings like destination weddings, family reunions, bachelor/bachelorette parties, and Gadabout's own yearly group cruises.

Challenges And Opportunities
Few industries have undergone more disruption than travel over the past forty years. For all of the challenges, however, Pam has kept her business thriving and in many ways sought out opportunities to grow. First, the rise of the internet provided individuals the chance to book travel on their own, leaving many travel operators without a steady stream of business. Facing this, Pam has evolved her strategies, crediting her employee Felicia Garcia for



building the company's presence on social media so that they now service clients from across the world. Then there was 9-11, which caused many travel agencies, including local Irish agencies, to close. Thanks to Gadabout's strong financial footing, Pam was able to weather that disruption.

"I didn't think anything could be worse than 9/11," she said, until COVID-19 hit.

While the pandemic tested Gadabout as it did any other travel agency, Pam was able to draw upon her reputation and strong personal relationships with her clients to keep the lights on. She recounted one story of successfully securing a refund for a client who had booked a major Scandinavian cruise prior to the pandemic, only to have that client drop off a check for \$3,000 in gratitude for her efforts.

Now, business is booming, and once cost-conscious clients are willing to pay top dollar to travel again, with Ireland being what Pam describes as an "ideal, comfortable destination."

Irish Community
With a company with such deep roots to Ireland and the local Irish community, it is no surprise that Pam credits this community as a major driver of her success. She remains active at Gaelic Park and maintains close relationships with Paula Curtain-Svedlana at AerLingus, Siobhainn O'Connor at Chicago Irish Radio, and Cliff Carlson here at the Irish American News, among many others.

Hers is a true small business, and over the years she has relied on her family members to pitch in to help in ways big and small. This

helps to explain why she tries to support other small businesses, in any industry, and encourages others to do the same.

The Future
"I tell my daughters that few people really love their jobs," Pam said, "but I am one of them."

With this passion still going strong, Pam is aiming to keep the business running for another 20 years before selling it to another owner who will keep the tradition alive as she did. In the meantime, she will continue to provide the "personalized service and experience" that has come to represent the hallmark of Pam - and her small business - for such a long time.

Gadabout Travel, located at 10552 S. Roberts Road in Palos Hills, is open Monday-Friday from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm and Saturday by appointment. For more information, visit www.gadabouttravel.com or call 708-974-1300.

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A Recession? Maybe, But Not for the Rich

There’s a war on in Ukraine. People are still dying from COVID-19. Gas prices have nearly doubled in the last year. The stock market is in shambles. People have understandably grown fearful that these events indicate the onset of an economic recession. Maybe they do. At this stage in the game, however, I think it’s worth asking: who stands to lose the most in the event of a recession? And who stands to gain?

Our country has weathered many economic downturns. From the Panic of 1837 to the Great Depression, America has been able to pull itself out of some pretty dire circumstances. But recovery hasn’t always brought society back to the way it was before the economy tanked.

Take, for example, the Great Recession. When the economy took a nosedive, then-President George W. Bush began to bail out the massive banks that had financed the recession in the first place. President Obama continued this practice. These banks had footed the bill when everyday people took out risky loans and variable-rate mortgages. They knew that, even while these loans carried a significant risk of default, the government would finance their recovery if a worst-case scenario came to pass.

And they were right. The American taxpayer paid for the carelessness of these banks while simultaneously bearing the brunt of the negative effects of the recession. The top executives at dozens of different financial institutions paid themselves millions of dollars in cash bonuses after receiving taxpayer bailouts, effectively patting themselves on the back for screwing over the working and middle-class.

While the Great Recession ended on paper over a decade ago,

everyday Americans never recovered from the massive downturn. Income inequality is at a high. Wealth inequality is even worse. And, if another recession is truly on the horizon, I know that the ultra-wealthy will find a way to profit from it.

Here’s a hard-to-swallow pill: during the pandemic, while pretty much every average person was penny pinching and avoiding social interaction, the net wealth of billionaires almost doubled. Between March 18th, 2020 and October 15th, 2021, billionaires went from owning \$3,000,000,000,000 to over \$5,000,000,000,000.

For reference, the gross domestic product of the entire country is \$21,000,000,000,000. If you multiplied the net wealth of these billionaires by 4, it would be equivalent to the value of every good and service sold in the United States for an entire year.

Want another fun fact? 3 American men are worth more than half of the country...combined. Warren Buffet, Bill Gates, and Jeff Bezos have a combined net worth greater than the combined net worth of 164,750,000 other people. Taken from an even broader perspective, 5% of Americans own 66% of America’s wealth. This situation simply isn’t sustainable.

And I know that, if another recession does come soon, there is no legal recourse to utilize when the rich start to gorge themselves on the suffering of quite literally everyone else. It is almost a certainty that the figures I quoted above will only get more outlandish and awful if the economy slows down. Hold the wealthy accountable and make them pay their fair share-especially if they end up being truly responsible for the hardships you experience.

Ian Flanigan Releases New Album

Country music singer/songwriter and The Voice Season 19 finalist Ian Flanigan claims what’s his with the release of his latest single “Last Name On It.”

Flanigan delivers a sweet and upbeat tune, saying that he has just the thing to complete his relationship - his last name! Flanigan’s unique voice combined with his smooth confidence makes for the perfect summer love song. “Last Name On It” is available to download and stream on all digital platforms today!

“I’m very excited to be releasing “Last Name On It.” I hope it brings you closer to the one you love this summer!” shares Flanigan.

Flanigan recently made his debut CMA Fest performance on the Maui Jim Reverb Stage, performing fan-favorite original music! His previous single “Under A Southern Sky” set the scene for those familiar hometown nights, where it doesn’t get much better than taking a drive with the windows down, sitting around a fire, and making memories. His bold vocals set the stage

for hard-working, small-town dreamers, highlighting his one-of-a-kind talent and pure creativity. The lyric video for “Under A Southern Sky” was premiered by Music Mayhem

About Ian Flanigan:
For the last decade, troubadour Ian Flanigan has toured his whiskey-soaked voice and evocative lyrics across America, with a country sound reminiscent of Joe Cocker and Chris Stapleton. In 2020, Flanigan was a celebrated finalist on NBC’s The Voice, finishing third as the representative from Team Blake. The country music world has since tapped him as an up-



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and-coming artist to watch. Flanigan has since then, continued to tour as direct support to Trace Adkins and Chris Janson, he has released his debut single, “Grow Up” featuring Blake Shelton (over 1.2 million streams), he represents Taylor Guitars and KICKER AUDIO, gains exposure as a Reviver Publishing writer in Nashville and looks forward to releasing his debut album in 2022 on Reviver Records.

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 Bio

Cronin's stories have appeared in Woman's World Magazine, The Golden Domer, Good Old Days Magazine, Spark, Kaleidoscope Magazine, and

Dappled Things. Wein and Eber published her poem "Ode to Fr. Mulcahy" in their 2020 anthology. Cronin is the author of The Gift Counselor, endorsed by Publishers Weekly 2021 Indie Spotlight as "goodwill for adults." Best of All Gifts is the sequel.

She is at work on the third installment in the Gift Counselor series.

Sheila was raised in South Shore on Chicago's south side. This photo of the author was taken in the lobby of the Hamilton Movie Theatre on 71st Street and became the humorous Christmas gift she gave her parents that year.

Sheila was onboard escort to James A. Michener and his wife Mari during a cruise through Alaska. Here they are in



Skagway. On a trip to the Caribbean, she had dinner at the home of author Madeline L'Engle.

Besides writing and reading, Sheila enjoys playing piano, composing songs, drawing and painting.

Her two favorite spots are the Farmers Market in Los Angeles and the beach.

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The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

By Emily Tegenkamp, Program Coordinator, LOSS Program

Catholic Charities Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) Program was established 43 years ago by Fr. Charles Rubey and three families who had lost a child to suicide. At the time, there were not many resources available specifically for survivors of suicide loss, whose grief journey is much different. And while each story is unique, there are common elements that every suicide survivor experiences that have informed and refined LOSS’s carefully and lovingly crafted services over the years.

The primary goal of the program has always been to accompany people during a time of great need and give them hope that they will one day regain a sense of stability and joy. LOSS gives survivors the practical and compassionate help they need to learn to live with their tragic loss, enable them to celebrate and honor the life of their loved one, provide strength to create a new life for themselves and their families, and ultimately, to find a sense of peace and acceptance. The program accomplishes this through support groups that are co-facilitated by survivors of suicide loss and mental health professionals, individual counseling, special programming and counseling for children and teens, events and other opportunities to memorialize loved ones, a writer’s group, grief speaker presentations, a bi-monthly publication, and ongoing pastoral support.

Beyond providing immeasurable hope to thousands of families, one of the major contributions of the LOSS Program has been to help de-stigmatize suicide and mental illness. At the time of LOSS’s inception, there was a tremendous amount of stigma associated with suicide. Since then, we have learned that significant numbers of people who complete suicide suffer from depression or other mental illness. De-stigmatizing mental illness and bringing greater awareness to the many treatment options are critical to suicide prevention.

Similarly, when the program began, the Church’s position on suicide was not widely understood. Fr. Rubey, in particular, has helped so many families find peace in God’s tender mercy, explaining that God recognizes the mental anguish of those completing suicide, and “By ways known to Him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance.” (Catechism #2283). Fr. Rubey and Fr. Larry Sullivan are also available to say home masses, perform blessings of homes and locations where loved ones have died, offer prayers at a gravesite, and provide counsel around questions of faith.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, LOSS was able to quickly shift to an on-line format, providing support groups over zoom and telehealth counseling sessions. We were amazed at how well people adapted to this new format, which is often more convenient and enables them to participate from their own homes. Even as we resume some in-person groups, LOSS will continue the on-line options, particularly the support groups, which now have participants from coast-to-coast. We have also conducted an on-line speaker series covering topics

such as Spirituality and Grief, Teens and Grief, as well as many others that are now accessible by anyone at any time on our YouTube channel.

It is an honor for me to be a part of this incredible program that has been replicated both nationally and internationally and given hope to so many people. Fr. Rubey often indicates how profoundly the LOSS Program has affected his own willingness to accept the mystery of God and the mystery of life. Survivors of suicide loss are asked to live with many unanswered questions and with a mystery that can seem unbearable. All those involved in the LOSS Program accompany each

other on this difficult journey, working together to bring the peace and acceptance that is so desperately needed.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the services of the LOSS Program,

which are provided free of charge to individuals and families of all religious and economic backgrounds, please call 312-655-7283.

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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Jimmy Keane (Accordion coach), Eileen Estes (Vocal coach), Devin Shepard (Shepard School of Irish Music).

I came back to America about two years later. Then, one day I woke up thinking about Marty and decided to take a drive down the Kennedy Expressway, to see if Marty was still around. We had become pretty good friends although I never got to know his surname. I pulled over under the viaduct and there was no sign of him, I asked a couple of folks who were living there but no one knew where he was.

Hello everyone,
 First of all, I want to congratulate a good friend of mine, Myes McVeigh, who will be performing with his band the Hoyle Brothers, at the 'Clonmany Festival' Gort, Clonmany, Donegal. They will appear on August 5th, and 7th, along with bands like Nathan Carter, Robert Mizzell, and many more of the biggest names on the Irish music scene.

This month's song is one I wrote with Jordan Moge. I was telling Jordan about a homeless man that was living underneath the bridge by the ramp at North Avenue. I used to give him a dollar when I stopped at the lights there, then one day we got talking. It turned out he had been overseas in Vietnam with the military and his name was Marty. Shortly after that, I was sent back to Ireland for overstaying my visa.

Immediately, Jordan said, Joe, we have to write that song. So, about half an hour later we finished the song. Unfortunately, these men are taken off to war and sadly some of them end up like Marty, who, as far as I could see was forgotten about. It's called 'Marty's Gone'

As always, be good to one another, Joe

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I met Myles a good few years back now when he came to Chicago. We hit it off instantly and have been friends ever since. He reminds me so much of my brother Nick, for the simple reason he is someone that would help a fellow human if he could. That is a very rare thing in the music business. My brother and I were very lucky to have been reared by a loving and very giving mother. Unfortunately, the music business is not at all like that.

There are a lot of musicians that would put a rock on the pathway of your musical journey. My advice to upcoming talent is to NOT ask other musicians and or managers etc, for help. Unless you meet some genuine friends, they are out there too, just not in big numbers. Instead, please your audience, they are your friends that will support you and they are the ones that will bring promoters to you.

I also want to mention my son Declan, who came first place in the piano accompanist section of the Midwest Fleadh in St. Louis, back in May. This qualifies him to compete in the world championships at the 'Fleadh Cheoil' in Mullingar on the first week of August.

I thank Pauline and Kathleen Conneely, Gerry Carey, and Larry Nugent, who gave Declan a chance to play piano with them two or three years back. He is now a regular with them at the Harp and Fiddle, Park Ridge on Thursdays, Mystic Rogue, Northwest Highway Sunday afternoon, and an occasional Sunday evening at Chief O'Neil's, on Elston. He also gets a call to do the Ceali Dances along with Tommy Master-son. We are so lucky to have people like

'Marty's Gone'

Written by Joe McShane and Jordan Moge

Verse 1

The first time I ever saw him, he was sitting all alone
 A homeless man that no one knew, just like a bag of bones
 He was always warm and thankful, though life had left him cold
 So I flipped him a dollar, you'd have thought I'd gave him gold

Verse 2

Thank you, sir, for stopping, the first words he spoke,
 I told him that a dollar wasn't gonna leave me broke
 So any day I'd take that ramp by the Kennedy express
 I'd shoot the breeze with Marty and leave him feeling blessed

Verse 3

After two years gone I was back in town and Marty came to mind
 So I searched beneath that big old bridge but nowhere could I find
 I asked around about him, but they said they didn't know
 I told them if he came back, the man who called was Joe

Verse 4

I couldn't help but fear the worst, and a tear rolled from my eye
 I trembled at the very thought, that Old Marty went and died
 This man of honor and respect, throughout life's lonely trials
 This man who always welcomed me, with one big shining smile

Chorus

He was just a bum upon the street, A loser in this life
 But he fought for his country, beneath the stars and stripes
 Is this how men of courage are honored by the state
 No heroes funeral he receives, no friends to congregate

Verse 6

These cold Chicago city streets ain't all they're cracked up to be
 I've seen people turn their heads away, for they don't want to see
 The likes of my friend Marty, on the sorry side of life
 But once he had a happy home, and a darling wife
 Bridge (spoken)

I was raised to never judge another person's different ways
 Or folks like my friend Marty, the heroes of the day

Chorus

He was just a bum upon the street, A loser in this life
 But Marty fought for his country, beneath the stars and stripes
 Is this how men of courage are honored by the state
 No heroes funeral he receives, no friends to congregate

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July is the month to celebrate our nations birthday. This year is the 246th anniversary of our founding, Lots of parades, firework spectacles replete with Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture, and barbeque of every manner.

In Northern Ireland, from where my wife hails it is marching season, with the big one on July 12th celebrating the defeat of King James the second by King William of Orange in 1690 at the battle of the Boyne. This was the last hurrah for any Catholic every occupying the English throne. After the defeat James fled to France never to return. Every year masses of Orangemen converge on Belfast and every other city and town in the North to celebrate, and celebrate they do. Fife playing marching bands beating on Lambeth drums all decked out wearing their orange order sashes and bowler hats parading up and down High Streets and assembling in a field celebrating a king who wasn't even English but Dutch.

William's claim to the throne was his marriage to the daughter of King Charles the second Mary, and the fear of a Catholic dynasty on the English throne. William arrived in England with a fleet larger than that of the Spanish Armada and with no opposition claimed the English throne, which eventually led to the confrontation at the Boyne with James. I guess it was anybody but a Catholic. There actually is a law in Britain banning any Catholic from becoming King or Queen. Ironically the battle was nearly over before it began. A premature cannon volley struck William and came inches away from killing him, but he survived and led the English to victory. After 310 years this defeat of the Papish King is still a really, big deal in Ulster.

The food eaten in Northern Ireland is very similar to the food served in the Free

State with a little bit of Scottish and English influence thrown in for good measure. Some recipes are unique to the North and some just go by different names. For example, a full Irish breakfast is called an Ulster Fry. It always includes fried eggs, sausages, bacon white and black pudding, grilled tomatoes, button mushroom, Heinz baked beans, and potato bread, farls, or fadge. You don't see it very often over here but the folks from the north love their potato bread. Another dish is Champ. Simply a buttery mashed potato with the addition of scallions. You can upscale these items by adding addition herbs, or cheese. Rosemary, thyme, parsley, sage, and garlic are just a few. In the fall apples are often added to fadge which is a thicker version of a farl.



Another recipe I came across is soda farls which are scones cut into a triangle and cooked on a griddle. I've seen these plain and with raisins. My favorite is a treacle soda farl. My mother-in law Rosie Dobbin used to make these along with what she called apple cakes which was actually an apple tart. This tart has less sugar than its American counterpart and no cinnamon.

If your from the North I'm sure you will enjoy these recipes, and even if you're not these easy to prepare and very tasty.

POTATO BREAD serves 4

1 ½ pounds Russet potatoes peeled and halved - 1 tbs melted butter
¼ tsp salt ¼ cup all purpose flour

Cover potatoes in a pot with water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer

for about 20 minutes or until fork tender. Turn off heat and drain potatoes. Return potatoes to the pot and allow them to dry out completely. Add butter and mash potatoes until smooth. Place warm potatoes in a bowl and stir in flour and salt. Mix until dough forms. On a well-floured surface knead dogs lightly. Dough should be slightly sticky. Use a rolling pin to flatten the dough into a 9 inch circle, about ¼ inch thick. Cut into quarters and sprinkle with a little flour. Cook in a skillet or griddle over medium heat for 3 minutes on each side. Farls with brown slightly. Serve with breakfast instead of potatoes.

CHAMP serves 4-6

1 ½ pounds Russet potatoes peeled and quartered

1cup diced green onions/scallions
2 oz butter 3oz milk Salt and pepper

Cover potatoes with water in a pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer about 20 minutes or until fork tender.

Drain potatoes and return to pot. Completely dry over low heat. Add milk, butter, and salt and pepper. Mash until smooth. Add chopped scallions reserving some of the green part to sprinkle over the top. Serve as you would mashed potatoes with any entrée.

This is a basic recipe for Irish Soda Farls. You can add treacle/

molasses or diced apple to change it up

Irish Treacle Soda Farls 4 servings

12 oz All-purpose flour 1¼ tsp baking soda
8oz Buttermilk 1/4 tsp Salt
1oz sugar 1oz melted butter

2tbs Treacle or molasses Flour for shaping
Mix four, salt and baking soda, and sugar in a bowl. Add treacle and melted butter to buttermilk and mix with your hand to form a soft dough.

Turn dough on a floured surface and shape into a round flattening in until it is about ¾ inch high. Place pre heated heavy bottomed pan dusted with flour. Cast iron is perfect. Cut the dough with a knife making four equal quarters. Cook 10 minutes. Per side until the bread is nicely risen and cooked through. I like to stand

the farls on edge and cook the sides for an additional minute or so

Serve warm with butter

Rosie's Apple Cake/Tart PASTRY

2cup all purpose flour 4 unsalted butter
1oz shortening 1tsp salt

2 tbs sugar 3 tbs cold water

FILLING 4 large Granny Smith Apples
approx. 1 ½ pounds

Sugar Lemon juice

Sift flour, sugar and salt into a large bowl. Cut in butter and shortening into the flour. Rub the butter into the flour to create a breadcrumb like consistency. Rub the flour into the butter with your hands above the bowl. This helps add air into the mixture ensuring a light pastry. When the butter is incorporated into the flour add the cold water and mix until the dough comes together. Empty the bowl on a floured surface and mix together to form a smooth pasty. Do not over work. Wrap pastry in cling film and refrigerate for 20 minutes. Preheat your oven to 400 degrees. Peel core and slice the apples. Place then in a bowl and squeeze with fresh lemon juice to prevent browning.

Remove pastry from the refrigerator and divide into two pieces, one slightly bigger than the other. Roll the smaller ball into a circle and place in a 9inch pie pan leave a little pastry to overhang the tin. Layer half the apples over the pastry and sprinkle with half the sugar. Repeat with the remaining apples and sugar making sure you leave an edge around the pastry. Roll out the remaining pastry into a circle large enough to cover the tart overhanging at least ½ inch. Rub the edge of the bottom pastry and place the top on the tart. Evenly trim the pastry with a knife, and crimp to seal. The remaining pastry can be used to decorate the top of the tart. Cut four slits near the center of the tart to release steam. Brush top with a little milk and bake for 30 minutes. The tart should be golden brown and the apples soft.

I hope you enjoy this little taste of Northern Ireland. If you plan on traveling to Ireland don't forget to include a visit to the North. Northern Ireland has some of the most beautiful scenery in Ireland. A lot of Games of Thrones was filmed here, and Bushmills and Tayto are both made here. A drive on the Antrim coast road is absolutely breathtaking. It's well worth the trip. See you next month



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We Get Letters

Dear Editor:

It was with sadness that I read Conor O'Connor's June article on abortion. His byline "The Next Generation" compels me to respond.

If Roe v Wade is overturned, as suggested by the leaked draft, the elected state legislatures will determine the legality of abortion for the citizens of their states. Many states passed legislation in anticipation of this eventuality. The Illinois Reproductive Health Act of 2019 ended abortion restrictions. There is no waiting period, no ultrasound. Taxpayer funded Medicaid and most private insurance plans are required to cover abortion. Religiously affiliated hospitals are required to offer information on obtaining an abortion. Husbands have no legal ability to block their wife's abortion. Illinois legislators also repealed the Parental Notification act in 2021.

Conor's description of a woman with an ectopic pregnancy having to curl up in a corner and die comes across as fear mongering. I hope that was not the intent. Pro-life groups have long held that the case of an ectopic pregnancy is morally distinct from abortion. The American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists "recognizes the unavoidable loss of human life that occurs in an ectopic pregnancy, but does not consider treatment of ectopic pregnancy by standard surgical or medical procedures to be the moral equivalent of elective abortion, or to be the wrongful taking of human life." Even Catholic moral theology allows for the surgical removal of an ectopic pregnancy to save the mother's life. Proposed pro-life legislation generally includes carve-outs for life saving emergency care for the mother.

Conor also uses the the example of rape which is a small percentage of abortions. Most states that have abortion restrictions

make exceptions for rape and incest. However I will still address the issue with some questions for the next generation to ponder. As sad as it is that a woman has been raped will an abortion make it so the rape never happened? Or will it be another act of violence perpetrated on another innocent human being? Do we advocate for capital punishment for the offspring of a rapist? A woman does not have to raise a child conceived in this way. There are many on waiting lists whose arms and hearts are aching to have a baby.

James Kelley Publishing Co.y LLC is opening as new office at 515 Ogden Ave., Downers Grove Illinois and will be releasing their new paper called Celebrating News Downers Grove. He will also assist Irish American News as an independent contractor, distributing the paper in more places in the area, and selling advertising. For papers or adverts email: jfkjrone@gmail.com



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The 41st Milwaukee Irish Fest - August 18 - 21 at Henry Maier Festival Park

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The annual Milwaukee Irish Fest, presented by CelticMKE, is set to return for its 41st year along the shores of Lake Michigan at the Henry Maier Festival Park for four days, August 18 - 21, to celebrate Celtic music and culture. The festival features hundreds of musicians, dancers and entertainers from around the world, with music running the gamut of genres, from traditional Irish to the most contemporary sounds of today.

The full lineup is available to view at irishfest.com, but take a look below at some of this year's featured entertainers.

Adam Agee and Jon Sousa

Adam & Jon journey through the Irish idiom on fiddle, guitar, and tenor banjo, and have been enchanting listeners on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean for over a decade. Adam & Jon put down musical roots in County Clare, where they lived together, and now make frequent visits. Their connection to their instruments and the transcendent energy in their music is guaranteed to captivate and uplift audiences of all ages.

Danny Diamond and Dáithí Sproule

Danny Diamond is a musician, researcher, and sound engineer with a background in Irish traditional/folk music, currently based between



Danny Diamond

Minneapolis, USA and Dublin, Ireland. Let Fly, Danny's latest album of traditional fiddle tunes with accompaniment from multi-instrumentalist Brian Miller, was launched in February 2021. Dáithí Sproule, a native of Derry who has lived for many years in Minnesota, is one of Irish music's most respected guitar accompanists, and one of the first guitarists to develop DADGAD tuning for Irish music.



Dáithí Sproule

Shane Hennessy - Irish virtuoso guitarist Shane Hennessy has established himself as a musical tour de force on the world

stage, known widely for his fingerstyle, flatpicking, and percussive guitar playing approaches. His energetic live performances and his cinematically vivid compositions tie in influences from Bach to Beyonce and everything in between! With a unique style of solo guitar playing that encompasses the range of a whole band covering drums, bass, rhythm, and lead lines mixed with



Shane Hennessy



Adam Agee and Jon Sousa

some smooth vocals & improvisations, Shane builds a complete sonic world entirely on his own. Billed as one of the most exciting live performers of his generation with an ability to move between styles and genres with ease by Irish Music Magazine audiences can never be too sure what will come next during the exciting mix of jazz, blues, country, soul, traditional Irish music, and world music he offers.

Lisa Canny - Hailing from Co. Mayo on the West Coast of Ireland, Lisa Canny grew up immersed in the traditional Irish music scene. 7-time All-Ireland champion on harp and

banjo, Lisa has toured the U.S.,



Lisa Canny



Emma Langford

Canada, Russia, France, Germany, Italy, UK and Ireland extensively as lead singer and music with groups Celtic Crossroads and The Young Irishlanders, playing to live crowds of over 50k and appearing on PBS specials to millions. Lisa holds a BA in Irish Music and

Dance and a MA in Ethnomusicology. **Emma Langford** - Partnership with TradFest TempleBar

Storytelling sits at the heart of everything Emma Langford does, interweaving her live performances, and shining through her recorded works. Hers is an inimitable, dreamy voice in the new wave of Irish folk. Langford was awarded the RTÉ Folk Award for Best Emerging Artist in 2018, and in 2020 and 2021 was shortlisted for Best Folk Singer. She received the Music Network RESONATE residency, and Arts Council Agility Award in '21 to support her continuing musical exploration of women in Irish history. Emma has written and independently released two highly acclaimed albums, Quiet Giant (2017) & Sowing Acorns (2020), laying the groundwork for a bright, busy future. As part of an international tour, 2019 saw Langford make her US debut at the world's largest celebration of Irish music, Milwaukee Irish Fest.

Jill Devlin and Jane Meehan - Partnership with Limerick University's Irish World Academy

Jill Devlin, from Roscommon, and Jane Meehan, from Louth, are a harp and fiddle duo that met in 2020 at the start of their masters in the University of Limerick, Ireland. Having spent the last two years playing together the two have created a blended sound of harp and fiddle music through composition and arrangement. Their performances range from traditional tunes to newly composed tunes to which they add their own personal touch, using their distinctive sound to make a mark.

Skerryvore - Since 2005, Skerryvore have brought their perfor-

mances to audiences across the globe, from their early days in Scottish West Coast halls and bars, to Festival crowds in USA, Canada, Australia and throughout the UK and Europe. Picking up Scottish traditional music's 'Live Act of the Year'

Continued to page 28



Jill Devlin & Jane Meehan



MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST

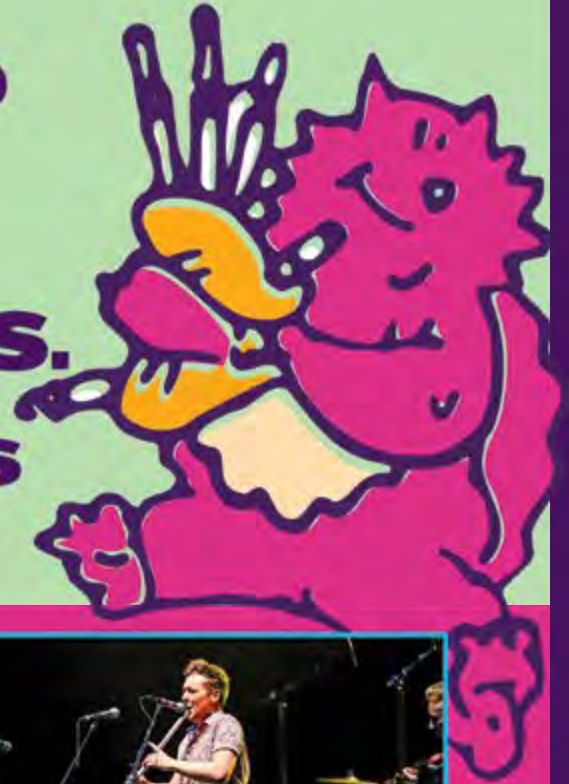
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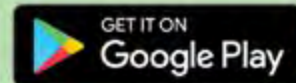
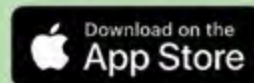


Since 1981, Milwaukee Irish Fest has been dedicated to celebrating and sharing our rich Celtic heritage with the world. We are passionate about preserving the history and tradition of Irish, Irish American and Celtic cultures throughout Milwaukee Irish Fest and other programs all year long with our parent company, CelticMKE.

This year's festival features over a hundred entertainers across 16 stages. Whether it's learning the Irish language with a Gaelic speaker at Gaeltacht, listening to a discussion on Irish history at the Hedge School, catching an Irish dance performance with your family, or dancing the night away with We Banjo 3, there's something for everyone to enjoy at the world's largest Irish music festival!

Plan your Milwaukee Irish Fest experience at irishfest.com and download the official app, for free, to create your own festival itinerary!

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Continued from page 26

twice on the way - in 2011 and again in 2016 - the band's wide range of influences and talent produce a musically expansive, high energy set that excites and captivates audiences.

With a mix of fiddle, accordions, pipes and whistles, alongside guitar and vocals, underpinned by driving bass, drums and keys, Skerryvore represent the best in contemporary Scottish traditional music. Their 6 studio albums demonstrate the wide range of influences the individual musicians bring to the mix - a unique fusion of folk, trad, rock and Americana, with even some jazz in there!

TULUA - TULUA are a traditional Irish fusion band hailing from Wexford, Ireland. Meaning 'Becoming More', TULUA formed back in 2019 after quickly realizing their unique and energetic blend of sounds within Irish trad they could create together and they progressively began working on their style. Since then they have toured extensively at shows and concerts throughout Ireland supporting acts such as Atlantic Arc, Fergal Scahill & Ryan Molloy, Green Road, and many more whilst also playing at festivals such as TradFest Temple Bar and at the renown 'Phil Murphy Weekend' alongside bands such as Altan and Dervish. They have appeared on Radio Stations across the country and were shortlisted in Hot Press' 'Irish Music of the Month' in 2021. They have also appeared on shows such as 'Ireland with Michael', directed and hosted by Emmy nominated Michael Londra. Their music and songs are often described as energetic and tight, while always using traditional music as a foundation in creating a story. After releasing their first EP in September 2020 they quickly garnered support throughout the traditional music scene and have since established a strong name amongst many in the traditional music world.



Rum Ragged

Milwaukee Irish Fest - A Dedicated Area Exploring and Honoring Irish Culture

Milwaukee Irish Fest also puts Irish culture on display throughout the grounds. Their Celtic Canine Area is truly an emerald in the pot of gold. This unique area is unmatched by any other festival. Here, you will have the chance to see and pet some of Ireland's most popular dog breeds, meet and talk with some of the Midwest's top breeders, and learn about grooming, general care and training.

History, genealogy, politics, literature, modern culture and more will be discussed in the Hedge School. Steeped in tradition, brimming with talent and sweetened with native speakers, the Gaeltacht line-up is sure to hit the spot. The Gaeltacht, or Irish speaking area, will showcase the Irish language and traditional Irish culture. You can learn simple Irish phrases or challenge yourself with some flirty chat-up lines! You

can stop in any time and enjoy traditional Irish humor, song, dance and language.

The Gaeltacht is where the Irish go to



TULUA

feel at home! Danielle Enblom returns to demonstrate Irish dancing techniques. The Literary Corner is your stop to explore Irish and Celtic literature - from nonfiction to fiction, children books, and more. Irish author Tony Macaulay is returning to

Irish Fest's Literary Corner with his latest book.

Learn more about all the areas and music featured throughout the 75-acre festival grounds and start planning your Milwaukee Irish Fest experience at irishfest.com.



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Dive into Irish Music and Culture at the Milwaukee Irish Fest Summer School

Registration is Live | Virtual Workshops August 14, In-Person Classes August 15-19

Building on the last two years' virtual events, this year's Milwaukee Irish Fest Summer School will offer a selection of online workshops on Sunday, August 14 as well as in-person classes Monday, August 15 through the afternoon of Friday, August 19. Classes take place in the Village of Wauwatosa, primarily at the CelticMKE Center, which is the parent organization of the Summer School.

The Irish Fest Summer School features classes that showcase the rich culture, history and traditions of Ireland and Irish America, past and present. Come learn to play the Irish fiddle, flute, tin whistle, guitar, harp, Celtic music styles, and more from master musicians. Or take a discussion class and learn about Irish history, Irish language, art, and culture! The Celtic arts classes offer hands-on learning for everyone! Below are a few examples of this year's class offerings.

FIDDLE CLASSES WITH RENOWNED MUSICIANS

The Irish Fest Summer School also provides fiddle lessons at beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels. Get started on the fiddle with an introduction class by Milwaukee fiddler Maria Terres. Irish musicians Danny Diamond and Jane Meehan offer both intermediate and advanced classes, and Fergal Scahill from We Banjo 3 returns to the Summer School with his improvisation and variation class. All fiddle classes take place over the course of three days - Tuesday through Thursday.

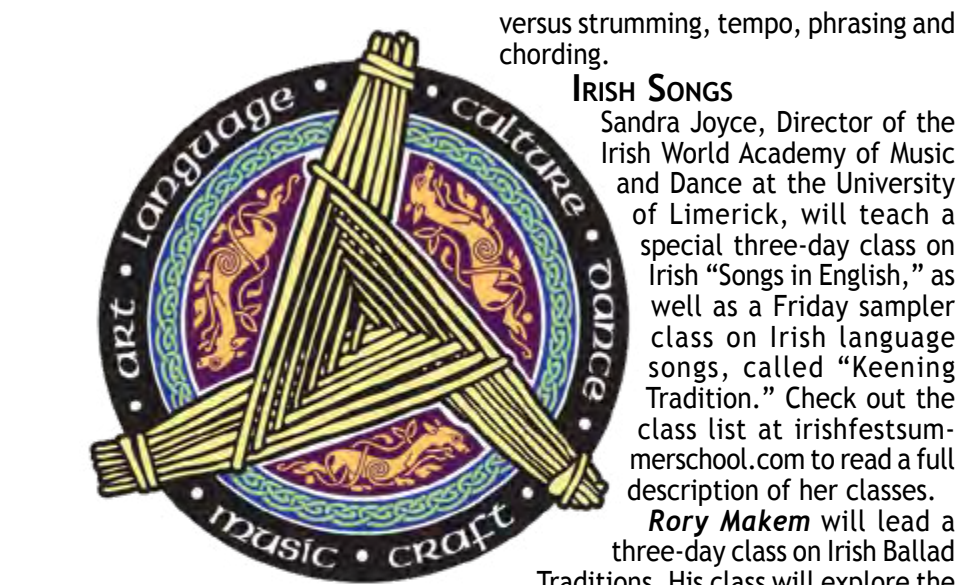
ADVANCE YOUR GUITAR ACCOMPANIMENT SKILLS WITH DÁITHÍ SPROULE

"Unlocking the Mysteries of Guitar Accompaniment" - In this class Dáithí Sproule will draw on his long years of



playing with many of the greats in Irish music to give insights on his approach to accompanying the jigs and reels and other instrumental music of Ireland on guitar. Though Dáithí mainly uses DADGAD for this, much of what he has to say applies to any tuning, particularly in relation to right-hand/strumming and pick-work. His experience with students is that re-focusing basic aspects of your playing can quickly raise your level of execution.

Dáithí Sproule has long been involved with, and fascinated by, the process of arranging traditional songs – which for most of their history existed without any accompaniment – for guitar and other chordal instruments. In his class "Arranging Traditional Vocal Songs for Accompaniment," he will share and discuss examples and show a fairly systematic process for arriving at the best options and making decisions about key, tuning, capo-placement, picking



milwaukee irish fest SUMMER SCHOOL



versus strumming, tempo, phrasing and chording.

IRISH SONGS

Sandra Joyce, Director of the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at the University of Limerick, will teach a special three-day class on Irish "Songs in English," as well as a Friday sampler class on Irish language songs, called "Keening Tradition." Check out the class list at irishfestsummerschool.com to read a full description of her classes.

Rory Makem will lead a three-day class on Irish Ballad Traditions. His class will explore the English language ballad tradition in Ireland and touch on some of the singers that

to irishfestsummerschool.com to view more details about the program.

CELTIC QUILTING

International quilting besties Nikki Foley, Irish quilt artist, instructor and owner of The Sewing Shed Quilt Shop on the Dingle Peninsula and Penny Barnes, quilt artist, instructor and owner of PB & J Quilt Studio in Iowa are teaming up for a wonderful Celtic inspired quilt project - creating an amethyst Celtic cross.

Students will be required to bring their own sewing machines and usual quilting supplies. There will be a small supply fee to cover pattern costs and a few extras. Students will be given a list of fabric requirements with kits being available upon request.

IRISH AND CELTIC HARP

Harpist Kim Robertson returns to teach "Harp: The Noble Strains of the Celtic Harp," Tuesday through Thursday of Summer School. In Irish legend, the harp of Dagda had three "Noble Strains" or magical properties that granted the release of sleep, joy or tears. These three strains are still the essence of traditional Celtic harp music today, with the lullabies, laments and dance tunes that soothe, restore and cheer the soul. Each day Robertson will focus on a different strain, learning tunes that exemplify the qualities of slumber, sorrow and merriment. She'll also work with students on some accompaniment ideas to create effective arrangements. *Music Level: Intermediate/Advanced, Hands-on, Lead-sheets provided (ability to read music not necessary but helpful).

Jill Devlin, who is performing at Milwaukee Irish Fest alongside Jane Meehan as part of Irish Fest's partnership with the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, is teaching both an intermediate and advanced three-day class on the Irish harp.

IRISH WOMEN WRITERS

Marguerite Helters is the Rosebush Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. She specializes in word and image relationships, particularly relating to 20th century Ireland and England. Her recent publications include several articles on images from the First World War. Her book Harry Clarke's War: Ireland's Memorial Records, 1914-1918 was published by the Irish Academic Press in September 2015. She'll be teaching a cultural course at the Summer School called "Irish Women Writing Crime." Everyone loves a mystery. Who are some of the Irish women mystery, crime, and detection writers living today? What's

Continued across page



Brídín to Perform at Milwaukee Irish Fest as part of TradFest Temple Bar Partnership

Milwaukee Irish Fest's Melissa Ward Interviews Brídín

Melissa: First off, we are SO excited to have you here in Milwaukee this August! I am hoping that many of our patrons and followers will recall seeing your virtual performance with our parent organization, CelticMKE, from our 2021 St. Paddy's Virtual Program. How did that performance opportunity come about for you? At the time, what was that experience like - performing to an audience you couldn't see, but having your music go out on a platform in the States?

BRÍDÍN- I feel so honored and excited to be playing at Milwaukee Irish Festival this August. When TradFest Temple Bar asked me to do the St. Paddy's Virtual Program for CelticMKE, my jaw hit the floor, what an amazing opportunity which I'm so grateful for. Because it was virtual, it was a strange one, when I'm performing my set, I love to have fun with

my audience and really vibe off them throughout the gig, so I knew I had to make it even more special to give people an idea of who I am and what my sound is. I had Fionn Rogers film my set at the absolutely fabulous Markree Castle, Sligo and I had the wonderful Kevin Donnellan on Fiddle and guitar accompanying me. I am so grateful to everyone who stayed tuned on the day and engaged on the live chat, that was so cool!

Melissa: We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with folks at TradFest Temple Bar - they are great at recommending and helping us discover new and upcoming artists in the Ireland music scene. It is because of

partnerships like TradFest (and Culture Ireland) that we are able to bring newer artists to Milwaukee and give artists a platform to be in front of an American audience. This will be your first time performing in the States? Can you talk about that a bit?

BRÍDÍN - I'm forever grateful to TradFest Temple Bar for their ongoing support of upcoming artists. They've believed in me from day one and completely understand and appreciate my music. I'm still pinching myself that I get to perform at the biggest Irish Festival under my own name! I did live in Chicago for two summers on J1 visas and absolutely loved every minute of it. I used to go around and join in different sessions,

my favorite session was at The Galway Arms with Paddy Homan, John Williams, Denis Cahil, Katie Grennan and so many more. I found there is such a great appreciation of Irish music in America and I'm so glad I get to share my own music over there this time.

Melissa: By the way, I loved your performance for our virtual program. It was actually my first time listening to your music. I had seen looping done before but not with a harp. It was lovely, it was mesmerizing ...I really loved "The Salmon's Tale" and "Ocean of Stars." There's a very natural yet ethereal sound to your music. How did you develop your style?

BRÍDÍN - Thank you so much, I'm glad you stayed tuned! I started by ar-

anging music on my computer, and then I got a loop pedal and my musical style developed from there. I could spend hours on end in the studio writing music and songs with my loop pedal, I love all the different sounds I can create using effect pedals too. I'm also very much inspired by my surroundings in county Sligo, I'm fascinated by the constant movement and flow of nature and the beginning and ending of life. I'm also a funeral director and embalmer so I have always had this fascination with life growing up in our funeral home. It makes you think very differently about life and appreciate every little thing you have.

Melissa: What can we expect from your shows in Milwaukee in August?

BRÍDÍN- I'm going to be performing songs/pieces from my ep 'Ocean of Stars' along with brand new songs/pieces from my debut album. I'll be bringing my harp, loop pedal and singing my little heart out! My sound is contemporary folk so you can expect a lovely relaxing and good atmosphere.

Melissa: Thank you for taking the time to interview with Milwaukee Irish Fest! And congrats on your new EP! We have a few songs included on our Milwaukee Irish Fest Spotify playlist so folks can get a preview of what to expect at the festival. We look forward to having you here in August!

Check out Brídín's performance schedule and more at irishfest.com.



Irish about their novels? Is it the setting? The characters? The themes? This course will offer an introduction to over a dozen women writers to add to your booklist, including Tana French, Jane Casey, Olivia Kiernan, Liz Nugent, and others.

VIRTUAL CLASS

Sign up for a 90 minute workshop virtually on Sunday, August 14, via zoom. Join Edel MacBride virtually with her Irish knitting class! A popular class each year at Summer School, this class allows anyone from anywhere in the world to participate.

Concertina, fiddle, and accordion players can also tune in around the

world and learn from three master musicians online. Niamh Ní Charra (concertina), Bríd Harper (fiddle), and John Whelan (accordion), will each teach 90 minute workshops, giving students the opportunity to learn new techniques, tunes, and ornamentation on their instruments.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Milwaukee Irish Fest Summer School classes take place Monday through Wednesday, in the evenings, and Tuesday through Thursday, in the afternoons. Unable to participate in the three-day courses? They also of-



fer Friday sampler workshops, which are single-day classes that will take place on Friday morning.

Check out some of their Friday samplers:

The Kindness of Strangers: Ireland and North America's First Nations with Niamh Hammill

Beginner's Whistle Learn more about the Irish Fest Summer School class options, and register at irishfestsummerschool.com. Registra-

tions are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Some classes are limited in size. Classes are open to anyone - any age and any playing level. Register online in advance to secure a spot. Each class is

The Irish Fest Summer School is a part of CelticMKE, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Irish, Irish American, and Celtic music and culture. Learn more about CelticMKE by visiting CelticMKE.com



MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST



AUGUST 18 - 21

SCOTTISH ROCK SHOW!

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20
7:45PM | CIDERBOYS STAGE**

Milwaukee Irish Fest's special show this year puts a Celtic twist on Scottish rock! Enjoy this can't miss performance with We Banjo 3, Skerryvore & friends at the CiderBoys stage, located on the North end of the festival grounds. Download the official Milwaukee Irish Fest app, available on the Apple Store and Google Play to create your own festival itinerary, and be sure to add this show to your reminders!



THE SCATTERING



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 21
8:00PM | AER LINGUS STAGE**

A tradition that's been a staple at Milwaukee Irish Fest since the 1990s, The Scattering is when bands and artists gather together on one stage for the last performance of the festival weekend to perform a mix of traditional Irish tunes and traditional Celtic folk songs. It's a special celebration you can't miss!

**VIEW THE FESTIVAL SCHEDULE AT
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JULY 2022

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



MARTY MCDONAGH

Like many members of the Irish American Heritage Center, I am a second-generation member, and I have served on the Board several years ago. I am proud to say that I now have children who are members, and they have been coming here their whole life.



MEAGHAN MCDONAGH

As the granddaughter of founding members, I have been fortunate to be a part of the IAHC community for most of my life. From a young age, my experiences at the Center influenced my passion to get involved, give back and help communities thrive-- values that are still close to my heart today.



JAMES NAUGHTON

I firmly believe in the Center's mission to nurture and celebrate Irish heritage, culture, and our contributions to the American story. I want to ensure that the Center grows even more vibrant so other children, adults, and friends from around the world can have the same experiences that I have had at the Center.



JACOB RODRIGUEZ

My wife Mollie and I have been proud residents of Knox Avenue for 5 years and love the Irish American Heritage Center. I hope to use knowledge gained as a Senior Director at CME Group and my 5+ years in the Federal Reserve System to help improve the long term fiscal health of the organization

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THE BOW TIDES AT THE IAHC!

The Irish American Heritage welcomes The Bow Tides, an all female-fronted Traditional Irish Folk band featuring three fiddlers, Ellery Klein, Jessie Burns and Chicago's very own Katie Grennan, for their first ever performance at the IAHC!

Don't miss the Bow Tides!
Saturday, August 6th
7:00pm - 9:00pm

Tickets are \$25
and \$20 for members

To purchased tickets vitit
www.irish-american.org,
or call 773-282-7035, ext 10.



Join us on the links for
GOLFING FORE GREEN
a fundraiser for the Irish American Heritage Center!

Where: Billy Caldwell Golf Course • 6150 N Caldwell Avenue, Chicago, IL 60646

Date: Saturday, September 17

Start: 8:00am Foursomes go out every 10 minutes • Prices: \$75

Includes: Nine holes of golf, golf cart, tickets for golfer and guest to attend the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day event at the Irish American Heritage Center, voucher for a sandwich and drink at the IAHC event, prizes, awards and more!

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Closest to the Pin	\$200
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Prizes for "Best Kilt" and "Most Green Worn on the Green" will be awarded!



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TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE FOR
THE HIGH KINGS

SATURDAY, JULY 9TH AT 3:00PM.

By popular demand, Irish American Heritage Center favorites the High Kings have added a show on July 9th.

Tickets are \$40, \$35 for IAHC members.

Purchase by calling 773-282-7035 ext. 10,
or at irish-american.org.



On the Upbeat

By Maryann McTeague Keifer

With the ease of Covid restrictions has come the completion and debuts of quite a few new albums which is an absolute thrill both for the musicians and for those of us who exist on their music. Covid resulted first in disabling the collaboration musicians were used to as they wrote and arranged music. It then resulted in those same musicians learning to create and share music virtually. Nothing, however, was able to replace a good week of sitting down in a studio such as that of Sean Óg Graham and working together to get immediate feedback and arrangement ideas as Goitse was able to finally do late winter and early spring this year. Their newly released album, ROSC, two years in the making, had



been completely trammelled by Covid, two new babies, cute as can be, and Tadhg’s move to Indiana to work on his doctorate and teach. A celebration of their tenth anniversary as a band, ROSC is an Irish word meaning anthem or chant or a wave of music that possesses a great sense of emotion or excitement, and is the perfect title for this album. How fondly I remember them arriving at the radio station as pups, fresh faced and excitedly pouring out a small SUV, not large enough for them and all their instruments, and watching Áine crawl out from under guitar and suit cases.

They would share one hotel room, and at times hardly eat, but were so excited to be in the USA touring. How different now being internationally known, respected, and the recipients of multiple awards. Yes, Áine McGeeney, Colm Phelan, Conal O’Kane, Tadhg O’Meachair, and Alan Reid, who took the place of James Harvey several years ago, have come a long way in those ten years! This anniversary collection is a mixture of songs in both English and Irish and sets of tunes composed by Áine, Alan, and Tadhg interlinked with traditional pieces and arranged by the entire band. The songs chosen for ROSC are beautiful and full of meaning. Being a native Irish speaker, Áine is able to express a song such as “Mar-

gadh an lúir” so that one feels the song even though not understanding the lyrics, Irish opera so to say.

Danny Collins does a first class job on backing vocals. Áine is well recognized for her old style Irish singing. “Come You Not From Newcastle” with harmonies with Aoife Scott, and the beautiful “Green Fields of Canada” give us the perfect examples to enjoy. Add in a very different “Write Me Down” ac-

adds a special sound to each piece. Add in Áine’s evocative fiddling and you are assured of a masterpiece which ROSC definitely is. Sean Óg Graham, who is well onto becoming the young generation’s Donal Lunny, has contributed to and guided them through the creation of this spectacular collection of music.

Do I have favorites? Right now, I have a difficult time passing up a replay on “The Trusty Messenger,” “The House on the Hill,” a great ‘Goitse sound’ tune, and “Morning, Noon, and Night,” because who can resist a piano/fiddle duet by Tadhg and Áine...? There isn’t a song or tune I’d say could be left out. Goitse has always been perfect at choosing the music best for them, and they have once again hit the nail on the head.



John Doyle & Mick McAuley

companied by Colm McClean on the lap steel guitar, and you can experience some of her breadth of talent.

Tunes are quite varied on the album which is exciting, but all have that recognizable “Goitse” sound we would be bereft without. The musical chops of each member of this band assures the listener of needing to replay many times to try to focus on all they give to us. Conal is a much sought after guitar master with amazing fingering. Alan’s strings, be they banjo, mandolin, or bouzouki, are expressive. Colm is world known for his creative bodhran play. Tadhg, whether on piano accordion, piano or keys,

ROSC should be and needs to be in your top tier collection of albums.

I just received another treat in the mail-the new album from John Doyle and Mick McAuley, and what an absolute gem it is! Another Covid creation, John and Mick have played together for more than 30 years in their travels as well as members of the inimitable Solas. This is their debut as a duet, and it is a brilliant collection of songs and tunes, most written by the lads. Take John’s stunning guitar and Mick’s expressive button accordion, add in two first rate singers, and how can you lose?

It seems appropriate to have named it John Doyle & Mick McAuley, because doesn’t that just say it all-enjoyment and excellence. Each has solo features such as Mick in “It’s Sunrise” and John in “Bay of Biscay.” With others, such as “Life Upon the Ocean” and “General Owen Roe,” they join voices, and like their instrumentals, blend perfectly. Several songs have a political comment, others tell of lost lovers, battles, and unrepentant burglars. Can’t get more Irish folk than that!

Tunes are toe tappin’ like “The Bird Feeder/The Banks/ Annie G’s” or have you wanting to get up and waltz around the kitchen, “Imogene’s Waltz/Petie Mack’s/The Black and Amber.” All but one trad tune in a set are composed by Mick or John and well showcase the immense talent each possess.

Get onto one of their web or Facebook sites and get your order in for your copy. It is a must have and a concert we will be hoping to attend!

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Who is David O’Reilly? (Dublin) He is the former chairman and CEO (Chief Exec officer) of Chevron. Chevron is an American energy corporation that sells oil. Their headquarters is in California, and they are active in over 180 counties. O’Reilly was with Chevron from 1968-2009.

There is also another well-known David O’Reilly from Ireland, he is an artist, film maker and game developer, from Kilkenny but I am highlighting the David O’Reilly from Dublin. O’Reilly was the highest ranked Irish-born CEO in the U.S. and the longest reigning CEO of an oil company.

The reason I thought of O’Reil-



GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

By Tina Butler



ly is because of our staggering gas prices and I fear they will only go higher! Gas costs at least \$1.50 more today than it did last year. The highest gas prices in the U.S was back in 2008. They say a few factors contribute to high gas prices, wars, inflation or how far you live from a refinery. I thank God we don’t live in California as everyone knows their gas is the highest in the country. O’Reilly worked for Chevron, an energy company. An energy company operates within the

energy industry which involves the production and sale of energy. This includes fuel extraction, manufacturing, refining and distribution. The top five energy companies include: Saudi Aramco, Exxon Mobil, Chevron, Nextera energy, and Conoco Philips.

O’Reilly graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering from Dublin University and also received an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

From his earliest days with Chevron, working in the company’s research center, O’Reilly quietly protested against the oil industry’s ranking/echelon ap-

proach to personnel relations. He was quickly singled out as a new-style manager for both his humor and his total lack of status awareness.

In 2010, he was appointed a director on the board of Saudi Aramco, the national oil company of Saudi Arabia. He also is vice chairman of the National Petroleum council.

There is a movie about Chevron called, “Crude”. It’s a documentary that looks into the environmental disaster in the Amazon, which involves the oil industry in Ecuador. The film explores the human toll of the corporate presence in the jungle, it also presents the circumstances involved in the massive legal case associated

with the difficult situation. The movie shows how big businesses can drastically affect the world. Let’s hope gas prices go down, as a rule gas goes down in Winter. So, we have something to look forward to when we’re freezing. If you are looking for cheaper gas you can go to Costco.

Gaelic for the month

Car-gluaistean (glushton)
Oil-ola Gas/petrol-peitiril
Energy-fuinneamh (fineeve)

“The reason gas prices are so high is because the oil is in Texas and Oklahoma and the dipsticks are in Washington.”

Yakov Smirnoff

If you have any questions/ comments, please email:

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AUGUST 5-7, 2022

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This month I'd like to shine a light on natural remedies/cures and the super food Irish Carageen moss. As we age, we naturally think of our health more because we need to maintain it as long as we can. And it seems there are more mysterious viruses going around we need to pull everything out of our hats to heal ourselves. They say people in their 80's face the most health problems and people in their 50's begin the physical decline of their health. I think the biggest contributor to our health is our mind. First, we need to start with a positive attitude and then begin our work on health such as our physical activity, what we eat, socializing, good sleep & keeping our mind active.



increase or add prescriptions to our pill regime. The difference between western and eastern medicine is western uses a lot of pills, treats the symptoms and uses several surgical procedures and Eastern medicine focuses on the person, acupuncture, herbs etc....a lighter approach to healing instead of strong pills. The problem with strong medicine is it usually disrupts something else in our body and there are side effects, and one often ends up taking more pills to help with the side effects!

Carageen moss is a seaweed it means little rock in English. There are several

different types of seaweed for example there is Wakame, Nori or kombu. It's said that Korean's eat the most seaweed, however Ireland and France have their seaweed dishes as well. Carageen moss has been harvested for centuries. It helps respiratory issues, improves joint health, boosts energy, its high in vitamin E, iron and zinc. There are recipes on how you can use the moss and now there is a supplement you can take if you don't like the taste of the seaweed.

Other natural cures we grew up with in Ireland include nettle soup, which is also high in iron, it helps detoxify the body, regulates hormones and is a natural anti-inflammatory. If you had an upset stomach, we would drink flat 7-up. If you had the flu or a bad cold, we would drink a hot whiskey (hot toddy). If anyone had a burn, they would rub a raw potato on the blister. I will leave you with this story to reflect upon.

"There was a blind girl. She had a loving friend who was always there for her. She hated herself and everyone around her, just because she was blind. Her friend asked her, "Do you want to marry me?". But she replied, "Only when I can see the world, I will marry you. "One day, someone donated 2 eyes and after a long operation she could see everything, including her loving friend. When he got down on his knees, he asked, "Now you can see the world, do you want to marry me now?" She looked at him for the first time seeing that he was blind too. She refused to marry him He walked away sadly, he wrote this short note to his beloved girlfriend: "Just take care of my eyes, dear" The

Lessons:

This is how the human mind changes when the status changed. Only few remember what life was before, and who's always been there even in the most painful situations.

Today before you think of saying an unkind word -think of someone who can't speak.

Before you complain about the taste of your food - think of someone who has nothing to eat.

Before you complain about your husband or wife - think of someone who is crying out to God for a companion.

Today before you complain about life - think of someone who went too early to heaven.

Before you complain about your children - think of someone who desires children but they're barren.

Before you argue about your dirty house, someone didn't clean or sweep - think of the people who are living in the streets.

Before whining about the distance, you drive - think of someone who walks the same distance with their feet.

And when you are tired and complain about your job - think of the unemployed, the disabled and those who wished they had a job.

And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down - put a smile on your face and thank God you're alive and still around."

I hope all the good readers are having a safe and festive Summer!

If you have any questions, please call (708) 425-7021

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(l to r): Ava Hough, Sean Gallagher, Harry Gallagher, Ana Hough. See pg 47

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40th Anniversary of his squadron and the 80th anniversary of Civil Air Patrol, founded a week before the attack on Pearl Harbor. The civilian defense organization originally flew air patrols to secure the coastlines, amazingly bombing, possibly sinking, two German submarines early in World War II.

Wings of Safety

America was shaken, Wisconsin was mourning, and Waukesha was in shock with the senseless and violent act of an SUV driver bent on mass murder at the Milwaukee western suburb’s annual Christmas parade.

Striking at the most sacred of times came a man mercilessly running a barricade and past police at top speed, cutting a swath through marchers and spectators, seniors to babies. Six people were killed, and sixty-two injured in the November 21st attack.

It’s been said that perfect love drives out all fear, and with that in mind so does the arrival of guardian angels with wings to protect and cover all.

Enter the members of the Civil Air Patrol, the auxiliary wing of the United States Air Force. CAP serves communities, states and the nation by bringing a commitment to safety and service.

Some 56,000 adult and teen volunteers aged 12-20 make the USAF commitment to Service Before Self come alive, in part using their dedicated fleet of 560 planes built for teaching and saving lives through search and rescue and humanitarian relief.

Enter the Walworth County Civil Air Patrol Squadron, based at the Wisconsin National Guard Armory in Elkhorn, 15 minutes from popular Chicago summer destination Lake Geneva, known as the Newport of the Midwest. Lake Geneva’s population soared after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, where wealthy families with names like Wrigley, Field, Schwinn and Maytag took up full-time residence in their large lakeside mansions, followed by many more Chicagoland residents following the route of the new Chicago and Northwestern Railway.

The Lake Geneva tourist mecca population swells in holidays not unlike it does when it doubles in summer, but with the Waukesha killings having taken place only two weeks before, the normal peace and joy of their Electric Christmas Parade was replaced with fear. Fear that the CAP officers and cadets could play a vital role in lessening.

Just before the parade began, the guardian angels spread out to mark and place barricades and teamed up with police and fire authorities to add protection and peace to any who might have had second thoughts.

Known for airborne search and rescue, emergency services, aerospace education and a vital youth cadet program to build leaders and a supportive aviation community, the local CAP adults

and cadets wear their Air Force uniforms, the squadron secured the area to ensure a barrier against intruders and stayed as a watchful force with eyes open.

“Safety is what we’re all about,” says Walworth County Composite (meaning adults and cadets) Squadron 184 Commanding Officer Captain Chris Maritz, a former Wisconsin National Guardsman. “What we are doing here has immediate impact, bringing a sense of safety and peace.”

The squadron deputy commander of cadets, former commercial airline pilot John MacDonald put his Civil Air Patrol tasking of safety education into action alongside Maritz and the air cadets.

20 year old Senior Master Sgt. Amanda Harder said, “While we were cleaning up afterwards, several people stopped to thank us for keeping them safe.”

Maritz’s outpost of the Civil Air Patrol has done a variety of relief and search efforts that have seen the

In modern times the role of protecting the country is carried out with CAP’s planes acting as targets for Air Force interceptor jets practicing how to stave off terrorists or aid confused pilots entering restricted airspace at major sporting events or government installations. The Civil Air Patrol aircraft were the first civilian planes to fly over Ground Zero in New York City assessing the damage and recovery challenges immediately following the September 11th attacks.

Most people associate the fourth member of the Air Force team (partnered with the active Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard) with teens learning how to fly. Other missions loom large in times of crisis.

“Covid really tested us,” says Maritz. “Our biggest contribution was taking part with other Wisconsin Wing squadrons in an air and ground mission using our fleet of Air Force Auxiliary planes and vehicles to move vaccination supplies, masks and hand cleaner supplies throughout Wisconsin’s 72 counties.”

Maritz says “As we train and educate our talented and committed cadets in Air Force values, we protect our region not only now but also make it safer for the future as those cadets become the next generation of leaders.”

And yes, some of the cadets get to fly and learn how to fly as part of the CAP experience.

Captain Maritz first saw to the welfare of his adults and cadets before moving his squadron into action. He reached out to them and their families right after the horrific Waukesha event, requiring them to check in with him to make sure they were coping with such trauma hitting close to home.

He ended his mandatory directive, a commanding officer’s right and duty... with an offer of counseling resources and a pledge of healing unity: “You are never alone; we stand strong together.”

Civil Air Patrol, the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, has squadrons in 50 states, Puerto Rico and Washington D.C. One needn’t be a pilot or military veteran to join, though they



Capt. Chris Maritz and Capt. John MacDonald (photo by Amanda Harder)

are well represented in CAP ranks. Being interested in community service and mentoring others is an essential trait for those who join the program, as I have. Best choice I ever made!

There truly is a place there for everyone to use their unique talents and experience for serving others.

I encourage you to visit GoCivilAirPatrol.com to learn more and find a unit near you across the country.

IrishRoverJim@gmail.com

Streaming Live every Saturday at 11am
<https://tunein.com/radio/WPNA-1490-s1224/>



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www.chicagoirishradio.com

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Iowa Irish Fest August 5-7, 2022

lowalrishFest.com

It’s time to don your kilt and dance a little jig - the Iowa Irish Fest is returning to downtown Waterloo! The newly renovated Lincoln Park area will host over 20 live bands, including headliners **The High Kings, The Red Hot Chili Pipers and Gaelic Storm**. In addition to live music, this premier three-day event celebrates the emerald isle in all facets of the Fest, from

the Highland Games to vendors to workshops celebrating Irish dance, instruments, and language and culture. While the event started out as a small, informal family picnic in 2006, it now includes several fan-favorite events, including the High Nelly Bike Rally and the Celtic Cruise motorcycle rally. Tickets to the Fest can be purchased at lowalrishFest.com. All military and first responders will be ad-

mitted into the Fest at no charge with proof of service. Updates on the Fest will be distributed via our website, social media channels and all. Facebook: @lowalrishFest; Instagram: @lowalrishFest; Twitter: @lowalrishFest; YouTube: Iowa Irish Fest; App (available on Apple and Android devices): @lowalrishFest. The Iowa Irish Fest was founded by the Cedar Valley Irish Cultural Association as a way to foster and develop Irish fellowship and outreach into the community.



Irishfest La Crosse August 12-14

www.irishfestlacrosse.org

Our 17th Irishfest La Crosse will be held August 12-14 on the fest grounds in downtown La Crosse, Wisconsin. Irishfest La Crosse is a non-profit, family friendly festival run by a completely volunteer board along with our volunteers.

The annual festival will feature a stellar lineup of Irish music from traditional to harp to rock and everything in between. In addition to music, we will have Irish dancers, cultural displays, workshops, storytelling, Genealogy Tent, Highland games, Tug of War, Kilt Run, sheepherding demonstrations, an Irish Market and more. Our Harp Stage this year will feature the Harp Twins and their eclectic style of music. Our Wee Folks area is sure to entertain the kids with games, activities, contests, sheep shearing, music, puppets, and Irish dogs.

There is the arcade and Aran Islands Golf for the older kids. A variety of food and drinks will be available.

All musical performances will be under tents. Entertainment will include We Banjo 3, Byrne Brothers, Boxing Banjo, Gaelic Storm, Scythian, Socks in the Frying Pan, The Harp Twins, The Spain Brothers, Máirtín de Cógáin, Shane Hennessy, Ian Gould, Tulua and many others.

Advance tickets are available for \$20 for a 3 day pass or \$10 for single day on our website: www.irishfestlacrosse.org. One day tickets will be available at the gate for \$15. Youth 17 years of age and younger admitted free. Additional information is available on the website or Facebook.



‘We’re Back!’ Michigan Irish Music Festival Returns Sept. 15-18

Muskegon, MICH. - The Michigan Irish Music Festival, presented by Family Financial Credit Union, will return to Heritage Landing in downtown Muskegon on Sept. 15 -18th for four days of outstanding live music, culture, Irish food, beverages, and entertainment.

Showcasing over 20 musical acts on six covered stages, this year’s festival kicks off with its Pub Preview Party on Thursday, Sept. 15 featuring food, beverages, and music in the Pub tent only. The full festival opens Friday.

MIMF is offering discounted pricing on single-day tickets and four-day passes when purchased online at michiganirish.org. (Kids 12 and under remain free.) New this year: Sunday is MIMF’s Discount Day; all patrons are welcome to get in the festival for FREE between 10:30 a.m. - Noon and stay through 6 p.m. when the festival ends. And, as always, volunteers who join the MIMF team enjoy the festival for free before or after their volunteer shift.

Online Walk-up
 Thursday \$10 \$10
 Friday \$15 \$20
 Saturday \$25 \$35
 Sunday \$10 \$15
 4 day pass \$50 \$65
 2022 Entertainment Lineup*

- Scythian • Old Blind Dogs
- The Elders • Aoife Scott
- Shane Hennessy • The Alt
- Kittel and Co. • Rory Makem
- The Drowsy Lads
- The Tossers
- The Friel Sisters • Runa
- Connla • One for the Foxes
- Irish Music All Stars
- Blackthorn
- The Moxie Strings
- Kennedy’s Kitchen
- Enda Reilly Music
- Ian Gould • CrossBow
- Conklin Ceili Band
- The Barley Saints
- Black Murray
- Toby Bresnahan Music
- Uneven Ground Traditional Celtic Band

*Live music subject to change
 Look for some exciting changes and new activities at Irish Fest 2022. Whiskey service will now be available at our three main bars and at an expanded craft beer area. MIMF will feature two cultural stages and the Irish Store and Marketplace return for great “shopopportunities.” Wee Ones’ activities will be available, as well as a variety of food and Irish fare in our Celtic Kitchen. On Sunday, Catholic mass will be held at a new time, 11a.m., and followed by a traditional Irish breakfast.

Advance tickets and passes for the Michigan Irish Music Festival are available online through Wednesday, September 14, 2022. Stay tuned to the MIMF social media pages and website - www.michiganirish.org - for updates.

Along with presenting sponsor Family Financial Credit Union, other major sponsors of the festival include G&L, Langlois Home Furnishings, The Mart Dock, and Budweiser. The Delta Hotels by Marriott and Shoreline Inn are host hotels for the festival. For complete festival information, visit www.michiganirish.org

JULY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
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66					67						68		

Across

1. Ottawa-based police gp., abbr.
5. Sound comeback
9. Blood-related
13. Snooped
15. Pursuer of the ‘accursed white whale’
16. Granny
17. Asian gambling mecca

18. “Hop ___!”
19. FDA part
20. Warships
23. It may be driven
24. Blarney _____
25. He starred in the Irish Revolution TV series, Cillian _____
29. “Just _____ bit”
31. Imitator
32. Jay of TV talk
34. Signs
39. No matter what
42. Take potshots (at)
43. Levitate
44. “S” shaped molding
45. Tool for a duel
47. Hot water fountain
49. Brosnan’s costar in “The Thomas Crown Affair”
52. Very cross
53. Gangs of New York actor
59. One more
60. Pork _____
61. Kind of spray
63. Cries of disgust
64. Mrs. Peel of “The Avengers”
65. Boat propeller
66. U.K. conservative
67. Notorious loch
68. Gp. with Indonesia and Algeria as members

Down

1. Engine power measure, abbr.
2. Hermit living in a shell
3. Insulation material
4. Fertilizer
5. Gourmet

6. Delicious bar
7. “I am not my ___” India Arie
8. Blunt
9. “___ to bed”
10. Singing Carpenter
11. Accustom
12. Bettors bet on them
14. Kind of treat
21. 1972 Derek and the Dominos hit
22. Pieces
25. PC alternatives
26. Over
27. Do followers
28. Get ready for a presentation
29. Little Orphan _____
30. Coaxes
33. Cork’s home
35. Hailing word
36. Fixes
37. Leg joint
38. Fortune teller, supposedly
40. Candy wrapper surname
41. Magnificent
46. Common allergen
48. Chicago’s ___ Expressway
49. RTE medium
50. Submerged
51. Spacek of “Coal Miner’s Daughter”
52. Birds that imitate
53. Foolish
54. Volcano feature
55. Strives
56. Brazo river city
57. “The jig ___!”
58. Discount event
62. Corporation type

Movie News - July by James Bartlett

The 34th Galway Film Fleadh takes place this month in the west of Ireland, and two World Premieres will hit their screens between July 5th and 10th.

The festival returns for a live, in-person, and in-cinema edition, in the Town Hall Theatre and Pálás cinema after online and outdoor events during the past two years.

The leading Irish film event has teased a record number of new Irish Film Premieres, a stellar line-up of European Cinema, nail-biting Documentaries, and short films, starting with the announcement of two World Premieres from its Irish line-up.

The Fleadh will open with the World Premiere of Joyride. Directed by Emer Reynolds, Joyride tells the story of Joy (Olivia Colman), a complicated woman struggling with motherhood, who finds herself on the run with teenager Mully (Charlie Reid) across Ireland.

Also playing is the midlands-set football drama, Lakelands, which follows Cian, a young Gaelic footballer who struggles to come to terms with a career-ending injury after an attack on a night out. It's the directorial debut of Robert Higgins and Patrick McGivney, and has a cast of emerging young Irish stars including Éanna Hardwicke and Danielle Galligan.

Full program details are still to come, but will include hundreds of events including screenings, Q+A's and filmmaker interviews, panel discussions, and more.

Moving back behind the camera, and Sally Rooney's native Ireland will again form the backdrop to the eagerly awaited television adaptation of her acclaimed debut novel Conversations with Friends.

A follow-up to 2020's Normal People, it again sees director Lenny Abrahamson and co-director Leanne Welham taking the helm for this drama that centers on two Dublin college students, Frances and Bobbi, and the strange and unexpected connection they forge with a married couple, Melissa and Nick.

Cork actress Alison Oliver, an

emerging talent from Irish drama school Lir Academy plays Frances, a 21-year-old college student who deals with the ups and downs of relationships in her life, while Sasha Lane stars as Bobbi, Joe Alwyn as Nick, and Jemima Kirke as Melissa.

As was the case with Normal People, the main setting is Dublin, with Trinity College reappearing in a lead role (Mayo-born Rooney wrote the book while studying for her master's degree in American Literature there).

The lead characters will be seen in front of Trinity's classical eighteenth-century front gate, in the grounds and at the university's cricket pitch, while Frances spends time studying in the modernist 1960s Berkeley Library.

Frances's flat is in the center of Dublin, filmed on Hardwicke Street, and she is seen on the streets nearby, including Blessington Street, as well as in the cultural hub of the Temple Bar area, on Lower Abbey Street and in cafés and bars in the city.

The gorgeous coastline of Dublin Bay also features in the series, when the characters enjoy a swim at picturesque Seapoint. The beach is a popular bathing spot and is also well-known for its Napoleonic-era Martello Tower.

Standing in for Dublin, filming also took place in Belfast in Northern Ireland.

Stranmillis College and Campbell College were used to fill in scenes set at Trinity College, while filming also took place at the Sweet Afton bar in Belfast's Linen Quarter, at the Ormeau Road's Canteen Café and at the well-known No Alibis bookshop on Botanic Avenue. In one scene where Frances watches Nick perform in a play, the production used Belfast's historic Lyric Theatre on Ridgeway Street.

The new series - 12 episodes each 30 minutes long - are available now on Hulu.

Currently filming in Donegal is In the Land of Saints and Sinners, which stars Ballymena's Liam Neeson and Belfast native and recent Oscar nominee Ciarán

Hinds. Shooting in and around the town of Bundoran, the movie sees Neeson and Hinds joined by Dubliner Colm Meaney in a story set in a remote Irish village, where a newly retired assassin

been given the green-light by RTE together with AMC Networks' IFC to begin filming in Ireland.

The six-episode, half-hour series is called SisterS, and is a dark comedy-drama about two women born in Canada and Ireland who discover they are half-sisters and embark on a road trip to find their alcoholic father. Filming is about to begin in Dublin, and will take place across Ireland.

Staying in Ireland, and West Cork County Council has recently granted planning permission for a new movie studio in Skibbereen. To be known as West Cork Film Studios, it will be located at the O'Donnell Design factory on the Baltimore Road, which has been given permission to be converted to a movie set.

The former furniture factory is expected to use a planned capital investment of €1.5 million to soundproof the building and repurpose 20,000 square feet of the premises into sound stages, offices and workshops that will then act as a base of operations

finds himself drawn into a lethal game of cat and mouse with a trio of vengeful terrorists.

The screenplay is written by Mark Michael McNally and Terry Loane, with revisions by Matthew Feitshans, and is the latest major project to shoot in the Donegal region over the past year - Cannes-bound God's Creatures completed location filming in Tir Chonaill last year.

Also, a new series created, written, and starring Emmy Award-nominee Sarah Goldberg ("Barry") and Susan Stanley has

8th Annual Irish American Movie Hooley Celebrates 7-24 at the Lake in Oak Park

The Houlihan family, founders, and creative spark behind Chicagoland's Annual Irish American Movie Hooley film festival, are taking their show directly to Irish American audiences in Oak Park and Wilmette for 2022.

The 8th Annual Irish American Movie Hooley will open Friday night, September 16th at 8PM, continue Saturday night September 17th at 8pm and wind-up Sunday afternoon September 18th at 5:00pm at The Lake Theater in Oak Park, Illinois.

The film festival then picks up and takes their three film premieres to The Wilmette Theatre in Wilmette, Illinois on Friday, Sept. 23rd, Sat. Sept. 24th, and Sunday Sept. 25, 2022.

Hooley producer Mike Houlihan says, "Once again we're thrilled to present three distinctive stories that capture and evoke our Irish culture. We're also very excited about joining forces with these two legendary movie houses, The Lake, and The Wilmette, as we continue to bring the finest of Irish cinema and the personalities behind each film directly to our audience."

In celebration of the Movie Hooley coming "home" to Oak Park, friends and sponsors of Hibernian Media are throwing a fundraiser at the Lake Theatre on Sunday July 24, 2022, at 7PM with a screening of the quintessential Irish American film The Great McGinty, with cocktail reception afterwards at Victory/Italian.

Houlihan said, "I raised my family in River Forest- Oak Park neighborhood and this will be a homecoming with all our friends



for visiting production crews.

As I have mentioned in many other columns, there's a huge investment in movie production in Ireland going on at the moment. Also recently given the go-ahead was a €150 million Studio Space and Media Campus in Greystones, Co. Wicklow, which will effectively double Ireland's studio space with a 40-acre site complete with 14 sound stages, offices, and production buildings.

Outside of Wicklow, there is Troy Studios in Limerick, who are currently playing host to Apple TV+'s Foundation Series, which is believed to be the most expensive production shot on the island of Ireland, and in the North there is the iconic Titanic Studios, which was famously host to HBO's Game of Thrones.

Another movie and TV studio project is underway in Dublin in the Grange Castle business park. It will offer 12 sound stages, 100,000 ft² of workshop space, and 100,000 ft² of offices, while veteran Deliverance director John Boorman is behind a project at Ashbourne Studios in County Meath.

July 24th for a hooley you won't forget!"

Suggested tax-deductible donation for tix is \$100 and can be made online at hibernianmedia.org/donate for pick up at the Lake Theatre that night.

See you at the movies!

June 2022 Crossword Answers grid with solutions like APED, DIVA, DEEM, SPACE, MOLLY, EDUCATIONALISTS, etc.

Annual Sidewalk Sale advertisement for 'the irish shop' with 20-70% OFF on jewelry, sweaters, Belleek China & Waterford Crystal. Includes address and website.



Chicago Gaelic Park

Serving the social & cultural needs of the Irish community throughout Chicagoland



2022 GAA Youth Season Begins

A Cháirde:

June was a busy GAA month at Gaelic Park with the official start of the youth season and with twenty-five adult Central Division matches. July promises to be even busier with over thirty adult matches scheduled, all leading up to the Chicago Finals on August 7th. . We encourage you to come out on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings to enjoy the exciting competition. If you don't have a favorite team to cheer for yet, you'll find it easy to adopt one while you're here.

The last weekend in July will be one of our busiest. Over 2,000 people are expected from across North America for the Continental Youth Championship (CYC). We will have over ten pitches going from **JULY 28TH THROUGH 31ST** and families will spend their time cheering on their children and clubs and enjoying their time together. All are welcome to attend the CYC in July, as well as the USGAA finals which will be held August 19th to 21st.

The next time you visit Gaelic Park, please be sure to stop by our new beer garden, where you'll receive a very warm welcome.

Is mise le meas, Bill O'Sullivan



SIGN UP NOW!

Irish Cultural Camp

August 9-11, 2022
9:30am-3:30pm
Ages 5-12 years

At Chicago Gaelic Park

Classes include : Art, Ceili Dance, Craft, Drama, Language, Stitch, Song & Sport

Cost: \$90 per child,
\$80 for each additional sibling

Meals: Light breakfast, lunch and snack will be provided each day.

Applications accepted by mail or in Gaelic Park's Front Office beginning June 1, 2022 - go to www.chicagogaelpark.com to print out Application



the Carraig
Irish Pub

JULY

Friday July 1 - **Nicky G.** 8:00pm

Friday July 8 - **Joe Cullen** 7:30pm

Saturday July 9 - **Liam Durkin** 8:00pm

Friday July 15 - **Ray Gavin** 7:30pm

Saturday July 16 - **Bernie Glim** 8:00pm

Friday July 22 - **The Rockets** 7:30pm

Saturday July 23 - **Mulligan Stew** 8:00pm

Pub food served Wed-Sat starting at 4pm
Sunday from 2-7pm

Gift Cards \$10 to \$1000!
Gift Donations (any amount)
Memberships \$30 to \$205
 (Available online , fill out form on these pages or call us!)
<https://chicagogaelpark.com>
 info or questions call 708-687-9323



**"Oh yes it's ladies night,
And the feelings right
Oh yes it's ladies night
Oh what a night"**

The ladies of the Board of Directors at Gaelic Park will soon begin sharing ideas for some fun "ladies nights".

It's a WINE group (Women in Need of Escape)

We hope to plan a day or evening event or outing every other month, no formal meetings, just women gathering together for fun and good times!

- Halloween Witches Night**
- Christmas Mingle Jingle Gathering**
- Theatre and Concerts**
- Card & Game nights**
- Casino & Wine Tasting Trips**
- Cruises on the Lake**
- Golf & Sports Events**

We welcome suggestions to our event list!
gpwinegrp@outlook.com

STAY TUNED for date of our kick off gathering at Gaelic Park



♡♡ Make Gaelic Park ♡♡
part of your love story

Great Dates still available for 2022 Wedding Receptions!

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*Featuring picturesque outdoor spaces
for your Wedding Ceremony*

Contact the Banquet Office at 708-687-9323 or email
Banquet@chicagogaelpark.org



Chicago Gaelic Park - 6119 W. 147th Street - Oak Forest, IL
www.ChicagoGaelicPark.com

**NATHAN CARTER
BACK IN NOVEMBER!**



Nathan Carter made his USA performance debut at Chicago Gaelic Park in May, 2014.

This Irish entertainer's popularity has only increased since then, and he will be back at Gaelic Park with his new show November 12.

**Tickets are available now
for \$35. Call 708-687-9323**

Save the Date

All Ireland Hurling Final	July 17, 2022
All Ireland Football Final	July 24, 2022
Continental Youth Championship (GAA)	July 28-31, 2022
Irish Cultural Camp	August 9-11, 2022
Central Division GAA Championship	August 14, 2022
USGAA Championship	August 19-21, 2022
Lady of Knock	August 23, 2022
NXL Paintball Tournament	September 9-11, 2022
Irish Heritage and Harvest Day	September 18, 2022
Carraig Pub Golf Outing	September, 2022
Mayo Dinner Dance	October 15, 2022
Galway Dinner Dance	October 28, 2022
Nathan Carter Concert	November 12, 2022
GAA Awards Dance	November 26, 2022
Carraig Pub 5K	November, 2022
Family New Year's Eve Party	December 31, 2022
Bridal Expo	February 19, 2023
Ireland on Parade / South Side Sunday	March, 2023
Gaelic Park Easter Carvery	April 9, 2023
Gaelic Park Mother's Day Carvery	May 14, 2023
Irish Festival	August 25 - 27, 2023

Membership

NEW RENEWAL Family \$50 Individual \$30

Name _____
last first initial

Spouse _____
(if joining) last first initial

Address _____
street apt/unit #
city state zip

Donation enclosed \$ _____ (Checks payable to Chicago Gaelic Park)

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FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!
TAKE A MOMENT AND "LIKE" US!



**BBQ on the Patio
Continues on Wednesdays**



Worldwide Interest In ‘Win A Home In Dingle’ Fundraiser Raffle

1 lucky winner of a \$275,000 home on Ireland’s world-famous Dingle Peninsula

In a few short weeks an Irish not-for-profit athletic organization will give away a two-bedroom home in one of Ireland’s most popular and famous towns as part of an ambitious fundraising venture.

The Dingle Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) Football Club, are in the final weeks of their successful ‘Win a Home in Dingle’ fundraiser which is giving people a chance to own a beautiful \$275,000 town-center home on Ireland’s world-famous Dingle Peninsula. All funds raised

will be used to build local community facilities and to support Kerry Hospice Foundation.

“We are thrilled to have such a fantastic prize to offer—a beautiful home in one of the most desirable places to live and visit, not only in Ireland but in the world,” said GAA Club Chairman Seán O Súilleabháin. “This marks an important stepping stone in our journey towards providing much improved facilities for both our members and our community.”



Stay in a Manor at a price that's gentle on your wallet!

Gurtenard House in Beautiful Listowel, Co. Kerry
Irish-American Owned and Maintained. Home to John B. Keane's Pub, Irish Writers Week, Jimmy Deenihan! Close to Dingle, Tralee and on the Ring of Kerry! Call 011-353-87-348-1580 or email kathy@gurtenardhouse.com - www.gurtenardhouse.com

Dingle

Dingle was famously described by National Geographic as “one of the most beautiful places in the world,” and has blossomed to become one of Ireland’s most socially and economically vibrant areas. Dingle has an unrivalled lifestyle offering with something on offer for everyone. If you have Irish roots, or an affinity with Ireland, this truly is a once in a lifetime opportunity to own a home away from home in Dingle, Ireland. The lucky winner will have the Dingle Peninsula, the Conor Pass, the Blasket Islands, the Wild Atlantic Way and the Ring of Kerry all on their doorstep.

Other Prizes

Other top raffle prizes include a specially commissioned oil canvas painting, “Dingle Harbour Reflections,” by artist Liam O’Neill valued at \$28,000, an all-inclusive Dingle Skellig Hotel holiday package (including activities) valued at \$3,300, a beautiful hand-crafted luxury piece from Brian de Staic Jewelers, “Dingle Trinity with Diamonds,” valued at \$3,100, as well as a handmade His and Hers Luxury Travel Set from Holden Leather Goods valued at \$2,900.

Worldwide Interest

The fundraiser has generated exceptional international interest, with ticket sales sourced in thirty six countries across no fewer than five continents so far. In the

US, all 50 states are represented among the ticket buyers. 37 percent of sales to-date are to international purchasers.

Raffle takes place on August 5th

The raffle is open to entrants worldwide and only 12,000 tickets will be sold. The raffle will be held on August 5, 2022. Tickets cost \$110 and the last remaining tickets can be purchased on www.winahomeindingle.com.

About Dingle GAA

Dingle GAA was founded in 1891 and



Kerry and Dingle players Paul Geaney & Tom O’Sullivan, with Kerry Selector Diarmuid Murphy and three of Dingle GAA’s junior members.

is the home club of current Kerry inter-county Gaelic Footballers Paul Geaney and Tom O’Sullivan along with current Kerry selector Diarmuid Murphy. This historic GAA club has undertaken a five-year development plan to create a multi-faceted community development, with a clubhouse incorporating a much sought-after ‘community hub’ that will support community and social gatherings as the epicenter of the development.

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Chicago to Host GAA Continental Youth Championship

The Continental Youth Championships (CYC) is the Gaelic Athletic Association’s (GAA) annual tournament for youth Gaelic football, hurling and camogie in North America. The CYC will be held at Chicago Gaelic Park July 28 - 31.

2022 marks the triumphant return of the CYC after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic with Chicago as the proud host. Chicago Gaelic Park is the premier Irish sporting facility in North America. Since the CYC inception year in 2004, the CYC has rotated annually between San Francisco, New York, Philadelphia, Buffalo and Boston. In addition to the host cities team will travel from Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Detroit, Milwaukee, Austin, San Diego, Cleveland, Toronto, Ottawa and many more.

These national sports of Ireland are closely associated with the fabric of Irish culture and nationalism. They are enjoyed by both children and adults throughout the world. Each year the CYC attracts over 100 teams with more than 1,500 youth players aged 6 to 18 expected to participate. The event is the largest youth Gaelic games competition outside of Ireland with thousands of spectators drawn to the

event over the four-day tournament weekend.

The Chicago 2022 CYC tournament is open to the public and runs daily from 8 am to 5 pm. Gaelic Park is located at 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest. Find further details regarding the CYC and Irish sports at www.cycgaa.com. Chicago is the proud home of three Irish youth teams including the Chicago St. Jarlath’s GAA - Youth in Gaelic Park and the Chicago Celtics Youth Gaelic Football Club and Limerick Chicago Youth Camogie & Hurling Club in Peterson Park on Chicago’s north side. For more information on joining a club or just trying the game, contact secretaryng.stjarlaths.central.usa@gaa.ie chicagocelticyouthGFC@yahoo.com or limerickchicagoyouthCHC@gmail.com

Letter from CYC Chair Mike Ryan

The Chicago 2022 Host Committee is so proud to welcomes all players, families and dignitaries to Chicago for the return of the CYC! Our committee has been working for months to ensure that you experience all that Chicago has to

offer! The hotels, transportation and amenities have all been carefully selected to ensure your best possible experience! We are proud to offer North America’s premier Irish sporting facility in Gaelic Park!

Look for helpful hints on the CYC website (www.cyctournament.org) and Facebook page ([Facebook/ChicagoCYC2022](https://www.facebook.com/ChicagoCYC2022)) for places to see in Chicago as well as transportation options. Chicago is filled with great sites and a strong immigrant history that is celebrated at every turn. Architecture and engineering marvels, world class sports teams, mind blowing museums and parks, top rated restaurants, a wide variety of nightly music offerings and of course our Lake Michigan shores.

Most of all we are excited to provide this unique sporting opportunity to our young athletes. Celebrating the Irish sporting tradition, particularly following the pandemic hiatus, is an honor. Please feel free to let a committee member know if you have any special needs that require accommodation during your stay. Remember to support and thank our sponsors who have made the CYC possible. The planning is done! Let the games begin!



2022 GAA Youth
Season features the
Continental Youth Championships
July 28th through July 31st, with the
USGAA FINALS
taking place on August 19 and 21.

Adults
Over 30 matches are scheduled for July, with the Chicago Finals on August 7th. All at Gaelic Park! 6119 W 147th St., Oak Forest IL 708-687-9323





More action over the next two months at Chicago Gaelic Park featuring Camogie, football, and hurling. Get out and enjoy family, friends and the warmth of Summer and all the amenities like their new Beer Garden!



150 Attend Cul Camp 2022

The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) Cúl Camp 2022, sponsored by Kellogg’s, was held June 15 - 17 at Chicago Peterson Park. “Pronounced “cool”, the Cúl Camp provided more than 150 children aged 5 to 13 a chance to learn and perfect their skills in Gaelic football, hurling and camogie during the three-day camp.”

The Chicago camp was sponsored by Chicago Irish Culture and Sport (CICS) and was conducted primarily by current GAA adult players trained in GAA sports, most being skilled players from Ireland who are certified in GAA sports. These dedicated coaches experience great enjoyment by teaching a new sport to the children who had not previously participated in Gaelic sports in Chicago.

Mairin Ni Bhailis, a board member at CICS, emphasized “The sport furthers a child’s abilities - sharing skills from volleyball, basketball and soccer - while being uniquely Irish. Children, regardless of their prior athletic abilities, adapt and learn at these structure camps. And it is fun! They make new friends and pick up great skills!” A strong emphasis is placed

on skill acquisition - and are organized in an age appropriate manner with a view to enhancing learning, friendships, improving physical and psychological well being and promoting relationships with the local Chicago youth clubs.

Another Cúl Camp 2022 will be held at Chicago Gaelic Park July 12-14, at 6119 West 147th Street in Oak Forest. The cost of the camp is \$50 per player with a max of \$100 per family. Registered players will receive an official Cul Camp shirt and backpack. Additional inquiries on the camp may be sent to secretaryng.stjarlaths.central.usa@gaa.ie or on the St. Jarlath’s Chicago Facebook page.

Families interested in finding out more about Irish sports in Chicago may contact the following:

Chicago Celtic Youth Gaelic Football Club (north side - Peterson Park)

ChicagocelticyouthGFC@yahoo.com

Limerick Chicago Youth Camogie & Hurling Club (north side - Peterson Park)

limerickchicagoyouthCHC@gmail.com

St. Jarlath’s GAA - Youth (south side - Gaelic Park Oak Forest) secretaryng.stjarlaths.central.usa@gaa.ie





As you sit down to read this latest edition of your coveted IAN it is probably the 4th of July, or it has just passed. I remember as a kid that the 4th always signaled the halfway point of the summer and soon the joys of summer sports turned to the agony of going back to school.

As I have aged and believe me, I have been doing too much of that lately, I no longer fear the unofficial midpoint of summer. Soon I, and hopefully you, will be enjoying *Naperville Irish Fest* which is back for its second year on August 5th and 6th at the Frontier Sports Complex. Last year's inaugural festival was great fun with lots of family activities, fantastic music, some great hurling matches and a lot of cold beer!

With so many people identifying as Irish and claiming Irish heritage it is surprising that every town doesn't have an Irish Festival. Naperville alone was ranked in the top 5 "Most Irish Cities in America" recently. Of course, Chicago with the great Gaelic Park and Irish Heritage Center, not to mention the number of Irish Pubs, was listed at # 2 right behind Boston. Surprisingly, Naperville has almost 16% of its population being of Irish descent, almost double of that in Chicago which has seen a steady stream of residents moving out to the suburbs.

The more I looked at the numbers the more intrigued I became, and I studied the roster on our very own hurling team. Naperville Hurling has about 50 active players and 13 of them are from Irish Counties, not their great-great grandmothers but they themselves. That's a whopping 26% from one small GAA club in a Chicago suburb. Our club has play-

ers from Antrim, Clare, Cork, Dublin, Laois, Limerick, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford. We are covered from the North to the South and from the East to the West and many spots in between. I find that amazing and it is a testament to both our club and the welcoming nature of Naperville as a town. If any of you venture out for the festival in August, I promise you will not be disappointed with the authenticity of the 2-day Irish party.

Getting back to sports; as you read this the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship will be quickly approaching, being played at Croke Park on July 17. As I write this the quarterfinals will soon be contested with Galway facing Cork and Clare squaring off against Wexford. Kilkenny and defending champion Limerick have already secured spots in the semi-finals.

Limerick is the huge betting favorite to win another title, but it won't come easy as Kilkenny, Clare and Galway have all looked impressive in the tournament. Limerick always seems to "show up" when it matters most, and this year doesn't appear to be any different. Stay tuned to the August IAN for results and insights from some seasoned veterans of the game.

For those of you who can't wait you can always catch the games on gaago. ie. It is a great network for GAA sports with the focus on both hurling and football. All of the big games are broadcast live with many of them having the play by play delivered in Irish. There is a fee to watch individual games but if you are a fan the yearly membership is well worth the cost. I encourage you to check it out especially if you have never seen the games played. It is very difficult to describe on these pages what the sports are all about.

Benefits of Contributing to a Roth IRA

By **Brendan Houlihan**

Roth IRAs (Individual Retirement Accounts) first began as a retirement tool in 1998. They help eliminate future tax-rate risk.

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IRA contribution limits are the same for both traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs. For tax year 2022, the maximum contribution limit is \$6,000 for wage earners under 50 and \$7,000 for those

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over 50 years of age. Traditional IRA contributions reduce taxable income for the current tax year. Roth IRAs contributions do not receive that deduction. Traditional IRA distributions are taxed as ordinary income. Roth IRAs distributions at retirement are tax-free. Roth IRAs provides working Americans with excellent tax advantages for their retirement savings.

Let us review the benefits of Roth IRAs and why they should be part of your retirement plan:

- Tax-free growth and tax-free distributions.
- Inherited Roth IRAs transfer to your heirs tax-free.
- No penalties on withdrawing contributions.
- Roth IRAs do not have age limits.
- No RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions) for Roth IRAs.

At a minimum, Roth IRA contributions should be maxed out every year. It is the best retirement account for future tax planning obligations.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me, I would be happy to help.

Save More for Tomorrow, TODAY!

-*Brendan Houlihan, a fiduciary, is Financial Advisor at BFH Wealth Management and creator of the Learn to Earn Investment program for children. Member of Ed Slott's Elite IRA Advisor Group.*

Site bfhwealthmanagement.com, (708)280-8753, brendan@BFHWealthManagement.com

The Classic Irish Postcard Collection: A Deltiologist's (or postcard collector's) Delight

The Emerald Isle Sparkles With Images of Yesteryear

Tom Cronin brings together a delicious selection of interesting and rare postcards depicting all the counties of Ireland in times long past

With the author's passion for his home country shining through on every page of this labour of love, *The Classic Irish Postcard Collection* beautifully captures the social history of Ireland since the beginning of the 20th Century.

Featuring rare and nostalgic postcards depicting many of Ireland's 32

counties, the author's work as a photographer provided the catalyst for the project. With the pictorial reminders of yesteryear showcased in their original form, this captivating book also acts as a reminder of a cheerful means of communication which, due to technological evolution, has found itself on the highly endangered list.

A perfect addition to the bookshelves of all of those with a connection to the Emerald Isle, a copy of *The Classic Irish Postcard Collection* will also undoubtedly find a (*see next page*)

Fore! Your Guide to Irish Golf Outings This Summer

By **Emmett Fitzpatrick**

Golf season is now upon us, which means that Irish organizations across the area are planning to host outings throughout the spring, summer, and fall. As you can see, golfers interested in supporting Irish causes will have many opportunities to spend time on the links this season. See below for sampling of the many outings and how to get involved.

IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB CHICAGO
MONDAY **SOLD OUT!** C.C.

www.irishfellowshipclub.org

FITZPATRICK SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE

Friday, July 22 Deerpath Golf Club

"We are so excited to host this event in support of the newest dance school on the North Shore," said Tim Lynch, who chairs the golf outing. "We're following a 'nine and dine' format, so the event is open to golfers to play nine holes and anyone else who wants to join for dinner and a special performance of the Fitzpatrick School dancers." Sign up: 847-284-0808 www.fitzpatrickschoolofirishdance.com

CONCERN WORLDWIDE

Monday, July 25

Chicago Highlands Club

"Help change the lives of the world's most vulnerable people by joining Concern Worldwide for our annual outing at the stunning Chicago Highlands Club in Westchester, a par 72 championship links-style golf course with 75 foot elevation changes and sweeping views of the Chicago skyline," Bridget Conway, Development Manager, Midwest, told us. "Tickets include golf, lunch and refreshments on the course, and attendance at the evening reception."

Sign up: www.concernusa.org/get-involved/attend-an-event.

YOUNG IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB OF CHICAGO

Saturday, August 13

Old Orchard Country Club

"The ever-popular Young Irish Fellowship Club annual golf outing will unite golfers of all ages to enjoy a day on the links to fundraise for their charities, Misericordia and Almost Home Kids," said Maura Carr, (YIFC Board of Directors).

Sign up: www.youngirish.com

ST. PATRICK FATHERS

Saturday, September 10

Indian Boundary Golf Course

"This is our ninth year hosting the St. Patrick Fathers golf outing," said Fr. Mick Madigan. "It's a fun event with many of the same golfers returning year after year and bringing their friends along. We end the day with raffle prizes, a dinner and a perpetual trophy to the winning foursome. All proceeds go towards funding the missionary work of the St. Patrick Fathers."

SIGN UP: 773-887-4741

IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

Monday, September 12

Beverly Country Club

"Part of our Golf Championship Series, the Irish American Partnership's 31st Annual Chicago Golf Tournament is a wonderful opportunity to play a renowned championship course, to compete for a spectacular first prize of roundtrip tickets to Ireland, while impacting the lives of thousands of young people across the island, north and south," said Clodagh Boyle, VP of Communications & Engagement at the Partnership. "Originally developed by Golf Digest, Partnership tournaments have all the hallmarks of a top-notch golf program, flawless from the first registrant to the final award." Sign up: www.irishap.org/chicago-2022 or call Clodagh 617-723-2707.

GAELIC PARK/CARRAIG PUB

Thursday, September 15

George W. Dunne

National Golf Course

Gaelic Park's Bill O'Sullivan told us that golfers will be able to "tee off in the early afternoon and expect challenging terrain. Eight lakes that come into play on eleven holes, and an abundance of wildlife on a course that is recognized by Golf Digest as one of the top public courses. Enjoy the competition, camaraderie and craic on the course. After the round, the craic continues two miles away back at Gaelic Park, with drinks, live entertainment, a full meal, and prizes."

Keep an eye out for sign-up info in *Irish American News* or call 708-687-9323.

IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO

Friday, September 16

Ruffled Feathers Golf Club

"The IN-C golf outing has quickly become a regular staple on the calendar for a late summer gathering outdoors for some fun, fresh air, live music, and a little golf thrown in too," said Ruairi Barnwell, who has been organizing the outing since its inaugural event in 2020. "My favorite part of the day is the social connection with both IN members and new faces before and after the round. Golfers of all skill levels will have a shot at some fantastic prizes from the Irish business community, and all are welcome to join in a fun best-ball format with a shotgun start." Sign up:

www.chicago.irishnetwork-usa.org.

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Saturday, September 17

Billy Caldwell Golf Course

"We are still finalizing the details of this year's event," said Dominick Mulcrone, chair of the IAHC golf outing, "but look forward to another fun day of golf and camaraderie in support of our mission." How to sign up:

Visit www.irish-american.org.

valued home in the National Archives of Ireland.

Synopsis:

This book has been a few years in its construction. Looking far and wide to find the most interesting and rare postcards, Tom Cronin tried to cover as much of the country as possible. None of these wonderful postcards have been altered or enhanced, they are all in their original state. This a book that you and your loved ones will treasure for always.

A pinch of Dublin, a dollop of Galway, a scoop of the Lakes, a large slice of Belfast, and a dash of Cork, mix all of these together slowly adding a piece of Clare, (large) with a portion of Limerick, Donegal and Roscommon, now add to this a double helping of Wicklow and Kildare, with a generous sprinkling of all of the rest.

Independently published, The Classic Irish Postcard Collection is available priced €50 on the author’s website at <https://bit.ly/3OdsSBo> (worldwide shipping is also available) thomascronin8@yahoo.com



The Irish American Society of County Will
 Since 1981 www.CountyWillIrish.net

Will County Celtic Fest
 Saturday, August 20, 2022
 at St. Joes Park, Joliet
 Noon to 9pm

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 as well as cutting-edge live music
 Popular and interesting vendors
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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 MEMBER STORIES

Helene Hembreiker
 God blessed me with a darling Irish mother, so being Irish means the world to me! As Abraham Lincoln once said about his mom, “All that I am I

owe to my angel mother”.
 My dear mother, Clara Frances Rogers, treasured me from the day I was born and taught me all the important things in life,

guiding me with love and patience. She had a beautiful voice and I remember her always singing and happy! My mother’s four grandparents came from Ireland during the Potato Famine, three from County Mayo and one from Co. Wexford. They brought with them their Catholic faith, a strong work ethic and lots of courage and optimism. I have visited the Isle of Saints



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and Scholars five times to learn about this wonderful land inhabited by fairies and leprechauns. I found some of my mother’s cousins, the O’Boyle’s, in the little townland of Lettermoghera, Newport, Co. Mayo, on one of my visits. They welcomed me into their home and served me freshly baked apple cobbler and hot tea. I am presently seeking Irish (dual) citizenship. I cherish my Irish heritage!



Molana Abbey: Timeless Wonder

A short distance outside Youghal in County Cork, on the scenic Glendine road, lie the now ruinous remains of Molana Abbey, spanning over 1500 years of history.

This Abbey, now a silent monument defying the hand of time, was once a thriving and religious institution, having associations with many of the major historical forces which were to shape our country.

In order to fully appreciate this story of Molana, I will set the scene before the arrival of Christianity, analyze why the Monks may have decided to build at this particular location, and then go on to discuss the historical and archaeological features with a brief look at the Abbey as it is today.

Pre - Christianity

Dairinis (oak island), in which Molana Abbey is located, was once a stronghold of the Druids - the Abbey lies in the heart of their sacred grove.

The Druids were the priesthood of the Celtic people, almost as powerful as the aristocracy and with the authority to excommunicate and sentence people to death. They taught belief in an after - life and held groves and bogs to be sacred, of particular importance were oak woods and

the mistletoe from oak trees.

The building of the Abbey in this location is something of a strange phenomenon as there was a strong reluctance to construct early Church structures on sites of former pagan activity. How-



ever, Dairinis can be viewed as a good example of the cultural and spiritual continuation from Celtic paganism to Celtic Christianity.

An Island Location

Dairinis was an island until 1806 when the Smyths of Ballinatrav reclaimed the surrounding marshland, joining the site of Molana Abbey to the mainland. The location is ideal with wooded hills

all around and the only opening being the valley of the Blackwater to the north.

Why construct on an isolated island location when a site nearer Youghal may have offered greater political and economic benefits? Christian monasticism seems to have begun when the persecutions ended and Christianity became the accepted religion of the Roman Empire. It can also be seen as a reaction against

the established Church that they felt was moving away from the institution that God had intended it to be.

These early enthusiasts sought out places of solitude away from the centres of population where they devoted their lives to hardship and prayer in order to achieve a closer communion with God.

The Abbey of Dairinis was founded by Molana and his followers in 501 AD, quite early on in the history of the Irish Church. The located on the navigable Blackwater River in a position which afforded excellent views in the Youghal and Glendine directions.

Due to its construction on an island, a large amount of building stones had to be ferried from the mainland. This was a slow and often difficult undertaking when

ple Michael and Rhinecrew, and churches at Tallow, Kilwatermoy and Kilcockan. These were confiscated by the English Crown when Henry V111 initiated his policy of closing down the monasteries.

Molana Abbey, now deprived of its religious functions and merely being looked upon as an item of property was granted to the Earl of Desmond in 1550 and from here it was to pass in turn to John Thickpenney, Walter Raleigh and finally to Richard Boyle, the Earl of Cork. The property was eventually passed to Boyle's nephew, Sir Percy Smyth of Ballynatray, where it is associated to the present day.

The Buildings

There are some very interesting archaeological features in Molana Abbey, especially the Church to the east which is separated into a nave and a choir. This is an almost perfect example of early Irish Church architecture, with the choir section exhibiting some fine examples of large and spacious windows.

To the north of the monastery facing the river are the two-storey Prior's quarter containing two fine rooms which are connected by a winding stone staircase, which may have been constructed during the period of the worst Viking raids as it has a good commanding view of traffic movement on the River Blackwater.

The refectory, or communal dining room, is now in a bad state of repair and a curious feature here is that there is no direct access to the kitchen.

Another feature of the refectory is the presence of the reader's pulpit, a large, round, arched window displaying elaborate decoration, with the main function being to allow light into the dining room while lessons were being recited during meals.

Interesting aspects of the kitchen area to the west of the building include the mechanics for hanging the heavy external door, the opening in the wall close by the doorway for the transportation of water into the kitchen and the circular shaped monastic well on the outside.

The Abbey Today

Molana Abbey is quite a popular and important attraction for overseas visitors and Irish people alike. It is a monument worth preserving for the benefit of future generations as it shows a continuation of over 2,000 years of our history at this secluded and peaceful spot, a few miles from where the majestic Blackwater embraces the sea at Youghal.

From our own perspective, the Church and graveyard at Kilcockan, who were under the control of the Abbey, are very old. People from our parish as well as monks have been buried here for the best part of 1500 years. Many of our relations, including my own, lie in unmarked graves or graves with hand-made crosses, designated by little stones or under the shelter of the trees. If you are ever in the vicinity please remember them with a little silent prayer as they quietly repose in this most ancient of resting places.

one considers the type of boat in use during this period.

From an economic viewpoint the river would have been an important source of fish supplies and which would have formed the main part of their daily diet.

Molana Abbey was connected with a famous series of papers called 'Collectio Hibernenses' which appeared on the mainland of Europe during the 8th century. One of the main contributors to these documents was Rubin Mac Connadh, known as the 'Scribe of Munster', who died in 725. These writings held some important theology and canon law, and were to act as guidelines in European Church doctrine for over 400 years.

The Abbey's History

It is not known whether the Abbey was raided during the Viking period but the nearby monastery at Clashmore was definitely plundered and burned. It is likely that Molana was desecrated as it was in a very visible position and much more wealthy.

We know that the Vikings were in the immediate district as the Battle of Glendine was fought in 946 between rival groups of them. Also, the names 'Temple Michael' and 'Raven's Rock' are suggestive of a Viking association.

The monastery may have been in decay during the 11th century as the conquering Normans transformed the native Irish foundation into a priory of Augustinian Canons Regular.

The Abbey at this period was also associated with Raymond Le Gros Fitzgerald, one of the leading Norman overlords, and there are suggestions that his remains may be interred within the monastery walls.

Molana had various lands at Temple Michael, Kilcockan, Dunmoon and townland of Dysert near Ardmore, rectories at Tem-

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The author of this story Adrian Fox is the brother of my best friend Stephanie who passed away a few weeks after my mother so I had a double devastating trip home that year. It was around that time that Adrian in his thirties suffered multiple debilitating strokes. By all medical accounts he should not be alive today. He has been a paraplegic for over twenty years. Stacey his niece is his caregiver who is an amazing young lady and getting married in July I cannot be there as I've had knee and hip replacement surgeries but want to wish her and Jeff all the happiness in the world and I'll be home next year. Stacey keep the kettle on!! Back to Adrian. Before his health issues he wrote beautiful books of poetry and loved teaching at the Gaeltacht in Falcarragh, Donegal (my parents home) He has written three books so this is an excerpt from one of them which is actually based on his own family life experiences.

Although it was late morning the sun was still warm over the south side of Dublin draining yet another cold winter from the earth and from the hearts of the poor? One didn't have to see the sun or feel the heat to know that summer had arrived in Rathmines. The stench of the Grand Canal lingered with the city's grime as the church bells rang out.

Little Maggie blessed herself and continued polishing Mrs. Mahon's side board. Every Saturday she helped her mother clean the houses of the rich to help boost her measly widows' pension from the Ministry of Defense.

Her father died the previous year, cut down in his prime just twenty-seven from tuberculosis leaving a gaping wound in the hearts of a devoted wife and five children. Maggie worked alone this day. Her mother was away bringing new life into the world as she was the unofficial midwife of the area. The duster glided across the dark wood and she escaped into her Hollywood dreams dancing and singing songs by Judy Garland with her friends on the lochs of the canal, the stench of the filthy river forgotten.

She took a small worn note-book from the pocket in her drab tunic and flicked through the pages of scribbled signatures and stopped at Judy Garland, a sense of pride filled her cheeks recalling the crowds of screaming fans she battled through for that autograph. That little book held her treasures and was as important as her prayer book and her legion of Mary. She turned to the last page autographed by Rita Hayward. She remembered her friends not believing her when she showed them the book.

'You done that yourself,' they said sitting on a bench that ran along the canal, Pam and Mary squeezed in trying to make some sense of the scribbled line. 'I can't make head nor tail of it,' said Pam. 'If you gave our Jimmy a bleeding pen you'd make more sense of it,' said Mary.

'How did you get it?' they asked together. 'Well,' said Maggie, 'I was in Woolworth's getting threads for my mother when this blonde lady with sunglasses came in the queue behind holding a little girl's hand'.

'Caught Na, Na na- na- na-na!' said Pam, 'Rita Hayward hasn't got blond hair.'

'I know,' said Maggie, 'but I remember Rinty the bell boy at the Gresham Hotel had told me she was visiting Dublin. I read that in her next role she would be blonde, so there. I waited at the front and when she came out I said, 'Miss Hayward, could I have your autograph?'

'What makes you think I'm Miss Hayward?' she said removing her sunglasses. I told her that I read about her next role as a blonde and I knew she had a little girl.

She said, 'For knowing so much I will sign,' and handed me an orange from her bag and asked

my name and shook my hand.

The two girls looked again at the scrawl of ink and knew it was Rita Hayward's and skipped off home along the path.

Finishing her chores, she fell into the role of a movie queen strolling the highly polished hall. As she neared the wide steep staircase her hands raised like a ballet dancer pirouetting in a beautiful gown in place of her drab tunic that hung around her like an apron of poverty. No longer a buck toothed thirteen-year-old Dublin she was the queen of Hollywood. She strode the staircase with the strength of Joan Crawford or Bette Davis as she neared the last flight her step lightened and fell with a thud into reality and Mrs. Mahon stood at the foot of the stairs. She looked forward to the one-shilling wage and the home-made cakes and tarts made from apples and pears picked from her garden and the goodness of her heart.

As she reached the bottom step Mrs. Mahon said in her soft upper class polite tone, 'Would you do me a favor, Maggie?'

The little girl nodded in response.

'Go to Dan Dooley's and get an ounce of tea, half a sugar and quarter butter and keep the change', and Mrs. Mahon handed her a shilling and she put it in her pocket with the notebook.

A small thin man she knew as Mrs. Mahon's brother in law stepped out of the darkened room behind her. 'I'm going your way', he said, 'I'll walk with you'. Maggie wanted to rush there and back and get her wage and get home quickly.

She looked at the little man with greased back dark hair wearing a suit that hung on him like a hospital gown. She considered his eyes and sensed a sadness and thought it would be alright to walk with him and the big door closed behind them.

As they walked out he felt the heat of summer reacting to the searing heat in his chest distorting his view. She smelt the strong scent of summer and said in a rush of embarrassed utterance, 'I take a short cut over two walls and across,' and

before she had time to finish, 'It's quicker this way' he said and grabbed her arm and held her scream. He hauled her fresh young body across the garden past the big window of the lonely house and down the side towards the back while the flashes of red bricked confusion seared through her young mind.

His greased back hair fell about his thin face like a demon revealing his horns, her eyes bleared with tear filled muffled silence to the rusting roof of the shed. She cleared those two walls as if they weren't there, that evil man had torn her soul her life and legion of Mary. She clambered towards the canal feeling a hurt worse than the grief of her dad, the soiled blood ran down her soft white legs. The next thing she never knew she was waist deep in the canal delving between her legs washing away the filth of the devil. The notebook and the money fell from her pocket and washed away in the city's grime, her dreams of innocence washed away with the filthy river. The river bed of broken glass and rotting metal took blood from her feet, but she was numb to feel it through her well-worn plim-soles.

She ran through the great doors of the chapel and settled under one of the worn-down pews and huddled into a ball doing penance on the stone-cold floor of loss, the lonely lingering stench of stained immaculate conceptions engulfed her.

'Come out of there child, I thought you were a flea-bitten dog. What's wrong girl?' said the voice of the servant of god. Shivering she got off her hunkers and looked at him in disbelief. Why doesn't he know

What happened? She said to herself. A gibberish flow about losing Mrs. Mahon's money came flowing like the confusion of pollution in her mind. 'Go home to your mother', said the priest, 'God bless you, girl,' said the servant of god. Mrs. Mahon's brother in law died of cancer some months later and Maggie knelt in the chapel praying as the priest looked on.

Well summer has finally arrived. I can use our pool for physio now that the kids are off to college but that's another story!!! Til next time stay safe and take a little walk in the sunshine.

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I Don't Like Mondays

Released in 1979 the song I don't like Mondays, was a success for Bob Geldof and hit on a very pertinent note, one that still continues to linger today like a bad smell. A 16-year-old, Brenda Ann Spenser, decided to go on a shooting spree. She killed 2 adults, injured 8 children and a police officer. Her explanation for the rampant destruction of life was simply 'I don't like Mondays. This livens up the day.' Horrified by the casualness of the teenager and the accessibility of weapons, Geldof responded with a message has still to be addressed. Why is America, the strongest democracy in the western world, so preoccupied with weaponizing its citizens.

The lax guns laws across this nation have done nothing to improve the lives of its people. In just a short time, we've seen again and again how easy it is for someone to kill en masse. We were horrified by the shooting at Columbine High school in 1999 when 13 people were shot and over 20 wounded. In Flint, Michigan in 2000 a 6-year-old boy fatally shot a classmate, making him the youngest school shooter. At Sandy Hook elementary school in 2012, 26 people were killed, 20 of the deceased were between the ages of 6 and 7 years old. More recently in Uvalde, Texas 19 young kids and 2 adults were shot dead.

I've only chosen a select few, the most familiar, but if you go to Wikipedia and look at the number of school shootings since 2000, you will be shocked and horrified by what you read

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_school_shootings_in_the_United_States

I say shocked and horrified because in my mind that's the proper response to such atrocities. However, the constant avoidance or unwillingness to do anything about gun control makes me wonder if indeed anyone is shocked or horrified enough to do anything about it. Republicans refuse to endanger their relationship to the NRA and continue to point the blame at mental illness, even when they resume to whittle down funds for mental health agencies. Trump and Cruz's idea of having only one exit/entrance to a school is so absurd that one wonders if they should think about investing in their own mental health.

The gun issue is not going away, even if we persist, as we have, in ignoring it. When we think of these shootings it's not enough to think of the numbers who have died and been injured. What about the families, the classmates, and the teachers. If we tallied up the numbers for those affected by such shootings we would hate to face the fact that many, many people are having to deal with the gun problem in a more visceral way than we do. I wonder if Senators or Representatives would cow tow to the gun lobby if it were one of their own children who had been killed or injured. It's easy to distance yourself when it doesn't affect you. Yet, we have elected them to represent us, not a powerful lobby who contribute to their political aspirations.

Guns do not make you feel safer. I remember going to Guatemala a few years ago, and there were guards armed with machine guns at every shop or pharmacy. Did that make me feel safer? Is that how we want to live? The only way to make ourselves feel safer is to strengthen gun laws. If children can easily access weapons and carry out heinous acts, something is fundamentally wrong with our gun laws.

We only have to look at the facts, and I don't mean the alternative facts of planet Trump and those

disconnected to any meaningful reality, we will see that the U.S leads the way when it comes to school shootings. Other countries have had their problems with guns and their response, for the most part, is to make it harder for anyone to access weapons. When shootings happen here, protests occur, everyone seems temporarily stunned, but nothing changes. We want our kids to feel safe so we do nothing to help them feel safer. If that isn't rank stupidity then I don't know what is.

If someone from Ireland ask me if the United States loves its guns more than its children I'd be hard pressed to argue against them. What facts would I have to offer? I can imagine them doing what I've just done, listing down numerous examples of school shootings, and saying it's not what you say, it's what you do. Everybody has something to say about school shootings but nothing gets done. Nothing that puts the lives of children ahead of the gun lobby. Every time I hear of another shooting, I'm reminded of the bumper sticker I saw in Derry 'invest in America, buy a Senator'. How I wish that statement were not true but it's only too easy to show the tight connection between the NRA and politicians who refuse to support changes to the gun laws.

'We the people' are the only ones who can bring about change by forcing our politicians to act on our behalf and not their biggest financial contributor. We the many, can collectively protect the lives of our children by using our vote to communicate a very loud message to those seeking to be elected. How many need to die before we act? It's not simply the shooter who is responsible for these deaths. We, collectively, have created an environment that makes such shootings possible, if not easy. It is we who are partially responsible for each shooting by continuing to vote in people who refuse to support changes in the gun laws, whether Democrat or Republican.

terryaboyle@gmail.com
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The Joys Of A Fall Vacation In Ireland



Clockwise: Powerscourt Waterfall, County Wicklow; the Armagh Food and Cider Festival; Ballycross Apple Farm, County Wexford; the Galway International Oyster and Seafood Festival.

IN MANY WAYS THE ISLAND OF Ireland is defined by the four seasons. Each season has its own character and its own charms and Fall is no exception. Something akin to a ‘mood change’ arrives across the island after the long days of summer. The place is more relaxed and the pace a wee bit slower. In the bustling towns and cities the change of atmosphere is palpable.

The Fall weather is still accommodating; in fact, September and October are often among Ireland’s best months weatherwise. It is the perfect time of year to get out and about, enjoy the crisp air and the vibrant foliage as Ireland’s famous greenery changes gradually to lustrous shades of orange, brown and red. The transition of the landscape between summer and winter can be breath-takingly beautiful, offering a kaleidoscope of colorful forests, glens, and coastlines.

The Fall months ahead are often referred to as the ‘off-season’ in Ireland. But ‘off-season’ is still a slightly misleading term because, unlike a lot of destinations, almost nothing on the island of Ireland shuts down after the summer. With the exception of all but a few activities, everything you can do in June or July you can do just as easily in October or November. In fact, there is more choice and accessibility for the visitor simply because the throngs of visitors to be seen in the summer months have thinned out. Booking a tee time at a prestigious golf course, or a table at a sought-after restaurant, or a theatre ticket, or a hotel room with a view, all these and much more besides are more attainable.

The demand for accommo-

dation, attractions, restaurants, activities, and even such things as golf courses has tailed off a wee bit, making it easier to plan the perfect vacation.

Things to do

And there is an abundance of Fall-related activities to be enjoyed. Here are a few suggestions, but the list is by no means exhaustive!

Make the most of Harvest Time. It’s the busiest time of year for farmers and their fantastic produce can be sampled at any of the hundreds of Farmers Markets, big and small, which take place all over Ireland in virtually every town and city. Two of the most renowned are St George’s Market in Belfast and the English Market in Cork, which have both been serving organic goods for centuries. Alternatively, head to the orchard county of Armagh, the home of the Bramley Apple, which has PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) status from the European Commission, and learn how to make your own cider, jam and juice.

Recharge your batteries in one of the island of Ireland’s many cozy cafés. There is nothing more traditional in Ireland than sitting down for a pot of tea or a cup of coffee with friends; add in a delicious slice of cake or a lovely pastry and the treat is complete. Cafés are an indispensable asset to the ‘street scene’ in Ireland; wherever you are you’ll find the perfect one. Malahide’s Garden Café in Dublin, Avoca’s Fern House in Wicklow, or Established Coffee in Belfast are all ideal spots to rest those weary bones, and there are hundreds more.

Fall is a great time for ‘Game of Thrones’ fans to visit

Northern Ireland—home to many of the iconic filming locations of the HBO blockbuster series. The bruised fall skies only add to the atmosphere whether you’re learning archery at Winterfell, meeting the direwolves or travelling the Kingsroad on horseback.

If you’re into wildlife, or even if you’re not, you might consider doing a spot of birdwatching during your Fall vacation. Ireland holds the distinction of lying beneath some of the busiest bird migration routes in the world, and Fall sees the arrival and departure of countless species including Canadian geese, Icelandic whooper swans and Eurasian golden orioles. Some of the sights, and the photographs you’ll get, are truly phenomenal.

Again on the wildlife front, whale watching is very popular in Ireland. The island of Ireland has some of the best spots in the world from which to view these fantastic creatures, and Fall is the best time to see this part of nature at its most dramatic. Humpbacks, minke and even the occasional orca can all be spotted doing their aquatic acrobatics along the Wild Atlantic Way.

Whiling away a few hours in a traditional Irish pub, in front of a blazing hearth and with a creamy pint in hand, enjoying the sounds and songs of a seisiún (music session) is the quintessential Fall experience on the island. Irish pubs are gathering places for young and old, for people from all walks of life, and they offer a unique opportunity for meeting others. As the Nobel Prize-winning Irish poet William Butler Yeats once remarked: “There are no strangers here; only friends you haven’t yet met.”

Festivals

Some of the island of Ireland’s best-known festivals also take place during the Fall, celebrating everything from theater and music to comedy and food. A full run-down of all these wonderful events is available at www.ireland.com but here are some of the highlights.

The Guinness Cork Jazz Festival returns this year for its 43rd edition over the bank holiday weekend of October 22-25. This festival is world-renowned and for good reason. Cork comes alive with top drawer acts performing in over 60 venues throughout the city. Jazz is heavily featured, as the name suggests, but many other genres are also represented including the blues, ska, swing and brass ensembles.

The Belfast International Arts Festival is a month-long affair, showcasing all aspects of music, theater and dance, and the visual arts. This year is the festival’s 60th anniversary and it will run from October 5 through November 6 all across the city.

The Dublin Theatre Festival runs from September 29 through October 16 bringing world-class theatre to Ireland’s biggest metropolis, and showcasing the best of Irish theatre to the world. The stories and people of Dublin are at the very heart of this festival.

The seventeenth edition of Culture Night will take place on September 23 this year. Culture Night (Oíche Chultúir) celebrates Irish culture, creativity and the arts and it seeks to actively promote the belief that this rich and varied culture is alive, treasured and nurtured in people’s lives, today and every day. It is delivered nationwide in cities, towns, villages and rural locations as well as

online. Over 1.1 million people engaged with Culture Night in 2021.

Food and the culinary arts are showcased in festivals year-round in Ireland, and why not? Is there really anything better than savoring Ireland’s best eats against a backdrop of pure fun? Some of the biggest and best of these take place in the Fall. The Galway International Oyster and Seafood Festival (September 23-25) takes place in the city of Galway, right on the Wild Atlantic Way. It has been described as one of the “12 greatest shows on earth” by *The Sunday Times*. The Kinsale Gourmet Festival (October 15) brings a party atmosphere to the pretty seaside town of Kinsale in County Cork, sometimes known as the ‘Culinary Capital of Ireland.’ Other highlights include the Armagh Food and Cider Festival (September 8-11), the Savour Kilkenny Festival of Food (October 28-31), and the Dingle Food Festival (October 4-6).

Taking part in a Fall Walking Festival is a great way to enjoy Ireland’s beautiful land- and seascapes up close and personal as they say. There are several of these festivals throughout the island of Ireland and they can transform a simple walk into something truly special. Try the Wicklow Walking Festival, County Wicklow or the Wee Binnian Walking Festival in the Mournes, County Down.

Going to Ireland in the Fall offers a chance to experience all the island has to offer at incredible value, and at a more relaxing tempo. It’s time to press the Green Button and start planning your trip on:



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The island of Ireland is famous for its friendly people and rich culture, where stories are woven into the landscape and music comes alive in traditional pubs. Enjoy the thrill of a cliff-top walk, the awe of wandering through medieval monastic settlements, and the buzz of local food markets.

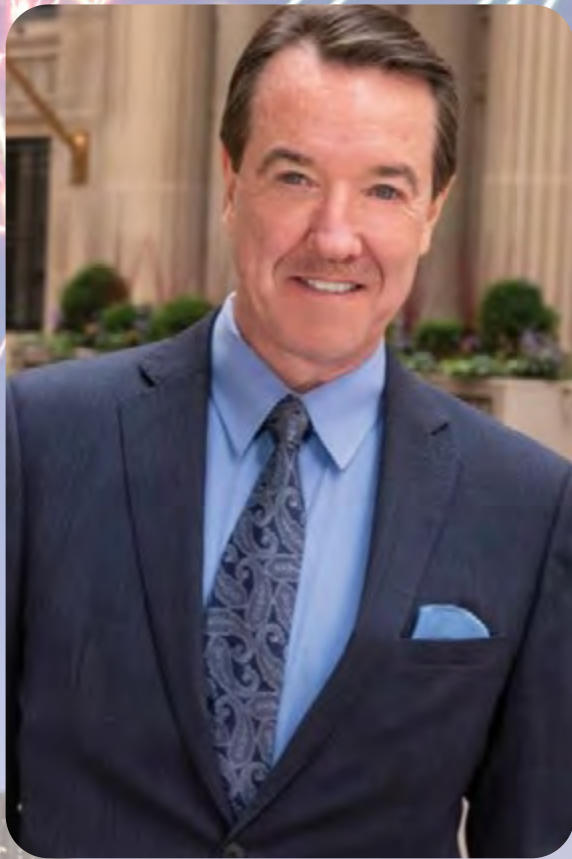
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