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# View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



One of the few things the Conservative Party in Britain does with aplomb is defenestrating a leader once it has resolved to

## Awakening From the Brexit Dream

On July 5th, the UK Health Secretary, Sajid Javid, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak, resigned from the UK cabinet within minutes of each other. Their departure was calculated to push Boris Johnson out of 10 Downing Street. The event brought to mind July 9th 2018, four years almost to the day prior to this coordinated assault on Johnson’s Prime Ministership. Back then, Boris Johnson, then Foreign Secretary, mounted a manoeuvre against Prime Minister Theresa May. Both Johnson and David Davis, the Brexit Secretary, resigned from the cabinet, pushing May closer to the brink. She staggered on for almost another year and was replaced by Johnson. But what goes around comes around?

do so. Johnson’s just deserts were meted out by his colleagues in an excruciating session for him on July 6th in the House of Commons and in a barrage of resignation letters. That evening he faced a coterie of ministers waiting for him at Downing Street to give him an ultimatum. The following morning, Johnson spoke to the chair of the all-powerful 1922 Committee of the Conservative Party, Graham Brady. It was within Brady and his committee’s gift to re-draft the rules to call a fresh vote of no confidence in Johnson, which would have been mathematically impossible for him to win. So, Johnson made a petulant resignation speech as Prime Minister of the UK.

In his resignation letter from his previous role in July 2018, Johnson stated that he was convulsed into leaving because he perceived the Brexit dream was ‘dying,

suffocated by needless self-doubt’. His supporters gave him a strong mandate to make that dream a reality in the general election in December 2019. Now, after his three years as prime minister, will Johnson’s supporters have cause to doubt the Brexit that he sold to them?

As every credible economist forewarned, the UK’s economic performance has been worse after Brexit, but few anticipated quite how much worse it would be. OECD figures place the UK’s projected economic performance next year as the second lowest in the G20 (just above Russia, which is crippled by global economic sanctions). Tellingly, Northern Ireland, the part of the UK that is still within the orbit of the EU economically, is the only part of the UK (aside from London) that is growing.

Much of the reputational damage the UK suffered in recent years is attributable to Johnson’s mendacity. Even so, it was the illusion of Brexit that fuelled his ascension to high office and enabled him to do that damage. The EU and US now profoundly distrust the UK and have expressed that both in statements of condemnation and through capital flight.

The degree to which the EU has backed Dublin in its attempts to find a compromise on the issue of the Irish border has translated into a still firmer alliance since Boris Johnson’s government candidly undertook to break the international treaty into which it entered on the matter, the Northern Ireland Protocol. Thus, Johnson managed to erode the UK’s standing in the international community on an issue that is in as much the UK’s interest as the EU’s to resolve.

The original deception that Brexit would lead to prosperity, freedom (undefined) and opportunity spawned innumerable lies to sustain the illusion. Peter Osbourne, a veteran British journalist, has catalogued Johnson’s lies on a website (<https://boris-johnson-lies.com>). As Osbourne argued: ‘Governments which get away with lies get away with the misgovernment the lies protect. They never take responsibility for error and failure’.

The explanation for Boris Johnson goes deep into English class history and political culture. While at Oxford, he was a member of the Bullingdon Club, one of the most elite and self-entitled clubs in the country. One of the rites of passage for the

Bullingdon Club is to approach a beggar and set fire to a £50 (\$60) banknote. It is hardly surprising when members of such a club become senior politicians that heartless cruelty emerges in the political culture, and that it is turned upon the working class. Johnson’s most lasting legacy, apart from Brexit, is how thoroughly his behaviour exposed the self-serving priorities of the Conservative Party.

Johnson’s immediate predecessor, Theresa May, has had the chance to taste revenge served cold, but it is her predecessor, David Cameron, who will be most relieved by the way Johnson has been spat out. After all, Cameron authorised the Brexit referendum in the first place which gave Johnson his chance to ruin the UK’s reputation and economy to advance his own aims. History will excoriate them all, but the disintegration of the Conservative Party at Johnson’s hands will deflect, for a while at least, the spotlight from Cameron’s original misjudgement.

Yet vilifying Johnson risks exonerating his allies. He wrought the wreckage with the full assistance of his party and its base. For instance, Brandon Lewis, who served as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in his resignation letter on July 7th wrote: ‘I cannot sacrifice my personal integrity to defend things as they stand now’. That is the same Brandon Lewis who acknowledged that the Internal Market Bill he proposed in the House of Commons on September 8th, 2020, broke international law.

Johnson will be remembered as the most disgraceful and embarrassing occupant of the Prime Minister’s office in the history of the UK so far. The British public will live with the consequences of Johnson’s treachery for generations to come. If there were any justice, the Conservative Party’s appointing Johnson and his acolytes will lead to the destruction of the party. As Sam Cooke sang, ‘it’s been a long, a long time coming’. I would just love to believe that ‘a change is gonna come’. Nobody in Dublin or any other European capital will be overly encouraged by the prospects of his successor—Rishi Sunak appears the most likely. The Spectator’s front cover on July 7th nailed it when it showed what it called ‘the beauty parade of candidates to replace him’. Britain is in a long-term mess.

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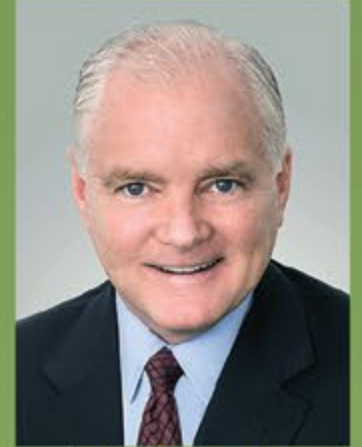


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## Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

I've begun to notice the enormity of information that looms before us each and every day. During an early morning conversation with a dear friend he reminded me that today's young kids do not have to accomplish what we conquered in our early years. Remember dealing with shoe laces, how to tie them, an exasperated mother or father standing beside you as you labored so often in vain? Tying shoes was an ordeal. So too was learning how to read time, now totally unnecessary due to digital clocks. The digital camera has spoiled the delight of photo's taken by a camera, the film set out for development and the sheer delight of seeing the finished pictures. Sounds like I'm a luddite! For me personally the daily routine after school was the spelling tests administered by an impatient mother. Unless I knew how to spell the words on her daily list I was not allowed to go out and play. I recall thinking why should I be learning spelling when a war was raging in Europe and we could all be killed at a moment's notice. Another thing kids today are exempt from is spelling. It's all available on their high-tech screens from a very early age.

Bigger and more serious though is what I learned while on a recent visit to Ireland, and I won't be shy to reveal, as I've done in this space so many times, bragging that I stayed at the beautiful Ashford Castle in Galway. It was here that I discovered the history of Grey Wolves in Ireland. Relax, Saint Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland and guess what,

the Irish Wolfhound is credited with eliminating Grey Wolves who roamed Ireland much to the disdain of farmers. According to the usual reliable sources, the last sightings of Grey Wolves in Ireland was recorded in 1786. It's a bit of a ritual while a guest at the posh Ashford Castle to visit the Irish Wolfhounds on display for guests to pet and animal lovers to slobber over. By the way, that's me



in the photo and no matter how long I petted the wolfhounds they spread out on the floor in deep slumber. Reading this, if I dare

show it, my three daughters will howl and continue to howl even into their pre-menopausal days about the day so long ago while they cried and begged that Bongi our very old dog and Una our even older cat not be taken by their mother to Angel Memorial Hospital in Boston where their lives ended. They still accuse me of not being an animal lover.

The Ashford Castle's Wolfhounds, Cronan and Garvan are cared for by Deborah Knight and her husband James. They revealed the cliched phrases about wolfhounds is "gentle when stroked, fierce when provoked." They also report they have never

fought back. Cromwell organized massive wolf drives engaging professional hunters, placing a sizable bounty on wolf pelts. As a result of the Brits stripping the land, forests clearings, urbanization and population growth in Europe created an ecological upheaval and catastrophe. The wolves were left with little to eat and attacks on humans spiraled. In fact, between 1362 and 1918 thousands of humans were killed by wolves. Herds of wolves remained in Cork to 34,000 B.C. Even today, when a fairy tale introduces a wolf, its usually preceded by the word "big, bad, a symbol of evil." However, it was different in Ireland. Gaels lived a rural lifestyle and remained more in harmony with the land and associated wolves with the God of Light. Meanwhile while Charlemagne was organizing the first big wolf hunts in France in 800 A.D. Irish Brehen Law listed wolves as the "King of Pets" whose owner was due compensation if the animal was harmed. While the Irish respected the wolf it could not control the presence of wild wolves prompting farmers to build forts to protect livestock after dark. The introduction of the Irish Wolfhound, a historic dog breed that inspired poetry, literature and mythology, developed a speciality in protection against wolves and wild boar. Standing on its own two hind legs these animals are said to reach seven feet in height and weight as much as 180 pounds, often referred to as the size of a small pony. Deborah Knight explained that while the Irish Wolfhound is considered the tallest of dogs, they are not the heaviest because they had to be fast and agile to catch and kill wolves."They are often referred to as Gentle Giants' and have a fantastic temperament with people, children and even babies," she explained. Deborah and James Knight live close to Ashford Castle and admit two hounds live in the house without problems with two cats and two dogs. However, they point out that Irish Wolfhounds, their own in particular, could not be trusted around any animal with four legs such as sheep or deer and meeting other dogs can be problematic.

heard of a hound biting a person and have met and talked with hundreds of Wolfhound owners across the world. The wolves in Ireland were largely a threat to livestock and apparently were eliminated for agricultural reasons rather than any threat they posed to humans. This brings up the question whether it was more powerful and advantageous for Saint Patrick to drive the snakes out of Ireland or for the Irish Wolfhound to drive the wolves to extinction? I suppose Patrick gets the silver cup since he also is alleged to have introduced christianity to the Emerald Isle. However, in the light of day were the snakes a problem, or was it the saint's strong dislike to the slithering creatures that prompted him to chase them away? On a personal note, I believe the presence in Ireland of vicious herds of Grey Wolves were far more important to eradicate. That is exactly what the Irish Wolfhounds accomplished much to the delight of farmers. As in all things Irish there is history available to uphold this opinion.

In 1649 Oliver Cromwell invaded Ireland. His troops engaged in the destruction of crops that actually lead to the deaths of 600,000 native Irish. Cromwell then destroyed thousands of acres of forest for crops to maximize profits for the English. That's when the Irish wolves

On a personal note, invited to a dinner party in California, a British dinner guest arrived with his dog, a Great Dane of massive size who immediately saddled up to my chair and snuffed the appetizer food off my plate. It happened in a nano second and I spent the remainder of the evening wondering why anyone would bring such a massive animal to a private dinner? I learned that Great Dane's in the animal world are alleged to like companionship and affection. They may be large, but in their minds they fit into the lapdog category. That was not my experience although petting the Wolfhounds lying on the floor at Ashford I wished they'd show some affection, even just to stand up. I will leave it to the educated elders to dwell on the question who was

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more important in the Ireland of yesteryear, The Irish Wolfhound or Saint Patrick.

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### We Get Letters

*I shall continue to Roe my boat, while I Wade through the waters . .*

**Joan McDonough**  
Estelle,

I read your most recent article with great enjoyment. Thank you for contributing to the IAN.

I was married (first time) here in Darien, Illinois by a Carmelite named **Kevin Shanley**. He was a great friend of the family. When traveling to Ireland in the 70's & 80's, my father used the Shanley connection just outside Dublin to keep in touch with us back home.

Seeing your name always reminds me of Kevin. He was a great writer too.

Best regards,

**Tim**

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## Celtic Rockers, The Elders, Embark on ‘We Are Back Tour’

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Irish music. Norm Dahlor and Brent Hoard, played in numerous bands but their American and Celtic-folk rock roots were calling and The Elders were born.



“Well Alright Then”, their 9th studio album released on April 29, 2022, was conceived after the band retired and the country experienced a lockdown. During that time the band continued to meet, write, and sing, but never intended to record. That is, until guitarist Steve Phillips asked them to release an album in his honor. (Before Phillips passed in 2020, he recorded all of his vocals and musical parts.)

“Well Alright Then”, delivers the unique story-telling the band is known for---stories of love, loyalty and Irish feistiness.

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**On the Law**

Martin Healy Jr. John P. Scanlon




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

*Healy Scanlon Law Firm is comprised of eight trial attorneys and four "Of Counsel" attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 W. Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100) (overlooking Daley Center). www.HealyScanlon.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.*

**Avoid Summertime Sadness - Tire Aging and Tread Separation Safety**

Summertime naturally calls for long road trips with friends and family to vacation destinations around the country. It is important to make sure your vehicle is in proper shape and safe before heading off on a drive, long or short. No one likes the inconvenience of a tire blowing out, but there can also be more serious safety implications that can arise from not maintaining adequate, safe tires on your vehicle. Tires age depending on their corresponding use and time. If you are tired of wondering how often you should change your tires, read onward.

Around 11,000 accidents happen every year because of failed tires, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The NHTSA recommends checking tire tread at least once per month when checking tire pressure. You should also have a professional tire supplier or mechanic inspect your tires regularly. Tire safety is important, and there are tips and warnings to look out for, so you do not fall flat.

**Tire Aging & Tread Separation**

Tire rubber and the material that holds tires together age even when not in use. Experts and tire manufacturers generally advise replacing tires six years after their date of manufacture regardless of remaining tread or after 50,000 miles of use. If you are questioning their age, do not take any chances; retire those tires!

Not replacing tires in a timely manner can lead to tread separation and potential accidents. "Tread" is the outer part of the tire with grooves that are used to grip the road and keep the vehicle attached to the surface. Tread separation occurs when the tread detaches from the body of the tire. This separation can then lead to a loss in control of the vehicle and an accident with injuries or death.

Tread separation is especially dangerous at highway speeds, as it can cause drivers to lose complete control of the vehicle and the vehicle to detach from the road. Signs of tread separation can include the steering wheel or entire vehicle shaking or vibrating aggressively prior to detachment. If your vehicle feels unusual or as though it is shaking while in use, pull over immediately, inspect the tires, and call for assistance.

**Checking Tire Treads**  
 Checking the status of tire treads can be a lot of pressure, so consult professional tire companies or mechanics when analyzing the safety of your vehicle. However, "the penny test" can be executed in a pinch to check tire tread. A nationwide professional tire company advises "the penny test" is used to check whether tires have reached the 2/32 threshold. The company further instructs to place a penny between the ribs of the tire, turn the penny so Lincoln's head points down into the tread, and see if the top of his head disappears between the ribs. If Lincoln's head disappears, the tread is still deeper than 2/32. If you can see the top of Lincoln's head, it is time to replace the tire.

**Tread Separation Litigation**

Although you may not read about it in your spare time, there has been much tread separation litigation in recent years. In the early 2000s, increasing tread separation failures led to the U.S. Tread Act and an NHTSA investigation into tire aging. This litigation prompted tire and vehicle manufacturers to increase or change their warnings regarding tire aging. In 2005 and 2006, many tire and vehicle manufacturers recommended replacing tires at either six or ten years after manufacture. Experts now generally recommend replacing tires six years after manufacture.

Healy Scanlon Law Firm is currently representing a family in a fatal single car accident caused by tire tread separation. If you have any questions about tire safety risks, do not hesitate to call Healy Scanlon Law Firm.

**Tire Safety Tips**

After a *wheelly* long day selecting and purchasing a new vehicle, often one's first thought is not to meticulously read the owner's manual. In fact, Illinois courts have held that even when an injured vehicle owner has testified to not reading written warnings that may be found in owner's manuals, claims based on defective warnings may still be brought under certain circumstances. Car manufacturers often issue a system of product warnings, technical service bulletins, and media statements. Keeping a lookout for these safety warnings can reduce the risk of exceeding your tires' recommended retirement age.

Having your tires and vehicle examined regularly at dealerships or mechanics can also limit the chances of tread separation.

Checking and maintaining proper tire pressure, balancing the tires upon installation, rotating the tires, and ensuring the tires are a perfect fit for the corresponding vehicle are all good practices for safe driving and tire maintenance. The proper inflation pressure is displayed on the tire itself and often in the gas cap door and on a decal in the driver's door jam.

**Conclusion**

Summertime is a great opportunity to make lasting memories on the road with friends and family. Do not blow it! Make sure your tires are safe and ready to go before departing in your vehicle to keep yourself and everyone within your vehicle safe on these trips. If you are injured as a result of a tire malfunction or tread separation accident, feel free to contact Healy Scanlon Law Firm, and we will work tirelessly for the compensation you deserve!

By: **Martin J. Healy, Jr.**  
**Rachel K. Strieber**  
*Rachel K. Strieber, a law clerk at Healy Scanlon Law Firm, is a second-year law student at DePaul University College of Law. She is a writer for the DePaul Law Review and is on the Dean's List.*



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**Fight Like a Golden**

*by Mike Houlihan July 15, 2022  
Special to Irish American News*

Southside Irish are showing the world what they’re made of lately with their fierce campaign to FIGHT LIKE A GOLDEN. It’s the new motto of all friends and family of Chicago Police Officer Danny Golden, who was shot in the back early last Saturday morning by a villain with an automatic weapon.

Danny had just broken up a fight on the street outside a pub and talked the combatants into going home to fight another day. As they dispersed, the dirty blagguards went to their car, seized a gun, and began shooting and a bullet struck Danny in the back, severing his spinal cord. Friends loaded him into a car and rushed him to hospital saving his life.

But the prognosis was not good, Danny was paralyzed. Or was he?

Word of the crime spread like wildfire across Western Avenue and Chicago police quickly apprehended three African American individuals responsible for this cowardly act.

They were jailed, charged with at-

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expenses for Danny and his family.

Thousand packed St. Rita high school for a prayer service on Thursday night as the community came out to lend support and pray for a quick recovery for Chicago Police Officer Danny Golden.

Officer Golden was released from Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn this afternoon, and is headed to the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab where, with the help and prayers of the Southside Irish community, he will begin his miraculous recovery.

Last Wednesday night two friends of



tempted murder, and held without bail.

An outpouring of love and outrage at the crime hit Western Avenue like a tidal wave. Danny’s family started a “Go Fund Me” page to cover medical expenses and it continues to climb toward the two-million-dollar mark One anonymous friend donated \$50,000 and celebrities like Vince Vaughan, and quarterback Tom Brady sent videos of support to Danny.

The Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association has also started a fund to help defray

Officer Golden, Liam Hopkins, and Jack Gorman, appeared on Hibernian radio at The Cork & Kerry Irish Pub to exhort the community to stand with Danny in this fight. The show will be streamed online Saturday night at 7PM on Global Irish Radio, GIR.ie, and podcast on hibernianradio.org starting Sunday night.

Please do what you can, donate and pray for the speedy recovery of Danny Golden. “Fight like a Golden!” Go to [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com) & type in Danny Golden.



# The Singing Bartender, John Colgan, Remembered

By *Abdon Pallasch*

If you stayed late enough at the pub, the crowds thinned, and it was just a few regulars, John Colgan would pause pouring the pints and start to sing, and what a special night that was, his family and friends recalled.

*“On Raglan Road on an autumn day  
I saw her first and knew  
That her dark hair would weave a snare  
that I might one day rue...”*

Colgan, 63, a native of Mullingar, Ireland, died of a heart attack May 12. He had lived for the last 30 or so years in Chicago, tending bar at Celtic Crossings, Kitty O’Shea’s, Fado’, Johnny O’Hagan’s, The Four Seasons, and most recently at The Ambassador Pub in Greektown and The Embassy Pub in Little Italy.

As a young man, he was fortunate to obtain a secure government job with a pension at the Customs Service of the Irish Revenue Dept. in Dublin. He worked there seven years.

“But, much to the consternation of his parents, he left that job,” said Colgan’s brother-in-law Peadar Coughlan. Colgan wanted to see the world and he headed off 35 years ago to Washington, D.C., to work at The Four Provinces and The Dubliner.

“He decided to take his rascally sense of humor, his booming laugh and leave Ireland with

just his voice and his guitar. He never regretted it,” Coughlan said. “He said, in the end, you only regret the chances you didn’t take.”

“John had time for everyone,” said Paul O’Reilly, his good friend and the owner of his last two pubs, The Ambassador and The Embassy. Customers became friends pretty quickly. Those special nights that would go late with singing - they were spontaneous. “Not the



kind of nights you could plan,” O’Reilly said.

Regulars at Celtic Crossings were impressed enough with Colgan’s voice that Colgan recorded a professional album called “Songs from the Crossing” <https://www.amazon.com/Songs-From-the-Crossing/dp/B000BLNWE4>. His family and friends played tracks from the album - Safe in the Harbor and Nancy Spain - at his memorial service at the Benson Funeral Home May 24.

“John touched everyone he met with his kindness and good humor,” said Devon Bruce, an attorney and regular at Celtic

Crossings. Colgan liked listening to music from Luke Kelly or B.B. King, spinning a yarn or having a lively argument.

On one of his visits home, Colgan took turf from the fields by the family home in The Downs near Mullingar and kept it at his home in Chicago to remind himself of Ireland. Colgan could recite William Butler Yeats’ poem “I am of Ireland.” He would entertain patrons at Moriarty’s Public House in The Downs with songs while he was home. He closely followed Irish football and rugby and looked forward to the care packages of Irish treats his family would send him from home, Coughlan said.

Colgan matured in the United States and had more than just his tips to live on. He’d have an extra glint in his eye coming into work if the market was doing well, and be a bit bothered if his stocks were down, O’Reilly said. Colgan gave up drinking, and “On the ladies front, he retired from that too. And he advised all of us single men to follow suit,” Reilly said with a laugh.

Colgan left no children but he was looking forward to his nephew, Donal Coughlan, spending the summer with him. Instead, Donal and another nephew, Stephen Colgan, flew out for his wake. Colgan’s brothers David, Paul, Pauric and Kevin - and his sisters, Rosemary Coughlan and Ann Colgan - came to his wake and

retired afterward to the Embassy for a night of songs in Colgan’s honor. Paul and Pauric showed some of their brother John’s singing talent as they offered their own versions of John’s favorites.

“He had a wonderful voice,” Reilly said of Colgan. “I’m sure he’s up there singing a version of Raglan Road with Luke Kelly.”

Coughlan closed the service saying to his brother-in-law: “Your guitar is now silent. Your booming voice with its infectious laughter is hushed. Your shift is now complete. So rest easy and sleep peacefully.”

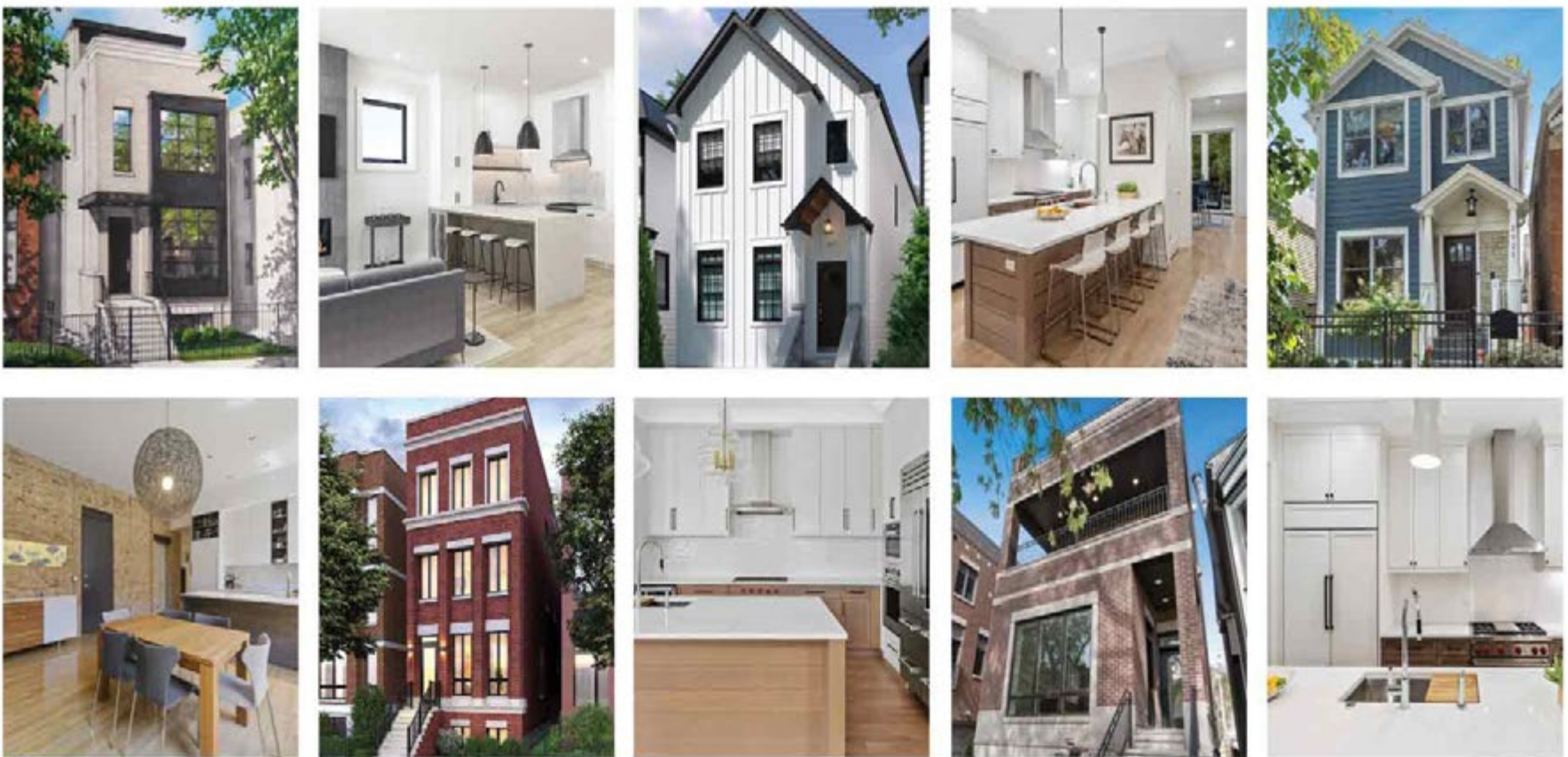
“And that auld triangle went jingle-jangle All along the banks of the Royal Canal.” Services have been held.

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Do You Believe in A Gold Lining?

I have written about this subject in the past and called the article, "Be Not Afraid". It strikes me that a repeat of this subject is warranted at this time.

Is the world a difficult place right now? One would have to be a fool not to recognize our current situation as such, especially in the finance department. Let me quickly offer you some positive news. As a country we have our problems, but history

clearly demonstrates how we Americans always find ways to succeed. If we are so bad off, why are people from around the world clamoring to come here? It is because of our historical ability to beat the odds. I have no brilliance in understanding the complexity of the financial world. But I am a firm believer in the greatness of our country. "The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life." says Barry Z. Posner.

I am really addressing our apparent need to FEEL safe. I have heard some (if not all) of the current presidential aspirants say that the number one objec-

tive of their administration will be the safety of the homeland and its citizens. It seems we are consumed by the need for safety. But those who came to this country from distant lands took (and continue to take) all kinds of chances. They realize that life is very fragile, but they are willing to accept the associated risks.

You will hear people say that they will not be traveling much in the future because they are afraid of terrorists harming them. But many of my readers live in Chicago where a lot of people get shot week-end after weekend, many of them totally innocent citizens who simply were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Trying to avoid something you cannot predict is a waste of your precious energy.

We need to celebrate people who enhance our society. Some of the much discussed "top 1%" have made enormous contributions to our country. Certainly Bill Gates (and numerous others) have promoted tremendous prosperity and technology. It is easy to fall prey to the basic human frailty of envy and jealousy when hearing about people who make more money in a week than most Americans will make in a year. But if someone is truly doing what they believe will improve the world, then should we not

support them regardless of economic status, educational levels or religious beliefs? Shouldn't improvement of the quality of life for all citizens of our country be what we hold as the gold standard and shouldn't we celebrate those truly working toward it?

There is no doubt that the compensation practices of the US business community need to be re-evaluated. But we should also refocus the narrative in our society; we should genuinely celebrate and support those who contribute to the betterment of the general population. We as a nation need to look carefully at ourselves. We should do that for the best of reasons. Follow those who are trying to create a better environment for all of us.

You will hear people say that the American Dream is a thing of the past. If you are willing to accept that as the new normal than that might be the root of the problem. My recommendation is that you encourage your children and grandchildren to think BIG and be supportive of them as they try to achieve their goals/dreams. Introduce them to the writings of people like Marianne Williamson, who wrote "A Return to Love." Ms. Williamson said, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest

fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you NOT to be?"

One of the most common complaints among people who have faced near death experiences is their belief that they did not take enough chances in life. They were not willing to take more risks; they played it safe. How about you? Why not you? Will YOU take a risk?

Support people who see the glass as being half full, not half empty. Encourage those who stretch themselves. You can be a positive impact on others, help them see that their contributions enhance their own success. Counsel others to stay away from the haters and their negativity. A positive mental attitude can be a real plus in virtually any organization. Why

not give your own career a boost and develop one?

Hopefully this article will prompt you to stretch yourself. If you feel unwilling to risk failure, pray for the courage and strength to change course.

CARPE DIEM

**For Your Consideration:** "Tis better to buy a small bouquet, and give to your friend this very day, than a bushel of roses white and red to lay on his coffin after he's dead."

"Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it; boldness has genius, power and magic in it!" Unknown

**James F. Fitzgerald was the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., a Naperville, IL based senior executive coaching & career transition firm. He retired in Dec. 2020.**

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GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!  
BY TINA BUTLER

Who was Oliver Joseph St. John Gogarty. (pronounced like Sinjin)

He was a man of many hats many, a poet, author, ENT (ear, nose and throat Dr.), politician, held a pilot license, and well-known speaker. He was multi-talented, a high achiever and must have had a lot of energy to achieve those goals.

He was born in Dublin in 1878. Around the time of Eamon De Valera's birth and When Rutherford Hayes was president of America (not very well-known). Gogarty's father was also a physician. Gogarty was sent to boarding school. He wasn't a very good student having failed eight of his ten examinations in medical school. He gained attention for playing pranks on people. He met influential people that channeled his energy and supported his ideas such as Arthur Griffith (founder of Sinn Fein), William Butler Yeats (poet), James Joyce (writer) and things turned around for Gogarty. It reminds us how the people we meet can influence in profound ways.

Gogarty finally passed his medical exams. He married a girl from Connemara (off coast of Galway) and they had three children.

Gogarty had a very interesting and full life. It wasn't all poetry, medical, or fun either. He was kidnapped by anti-treaty activists. He escaped his kidnappers by jumping into

the river Liffey. (Dublin) his most notable work is, As I was going down Sackville Street. Gogarty moved to the States and would send home care packages to his family. A pub is named after him in Dublin. And there is a literary festival in honor of him every year in Connemara.

In light of the Highland Park tragedy, I want to highlight a few dear friends we know doing good works. Sisters Lobna & Naderh Elrabadi pass out food to the homeless several times a month and put messages of hope with the food packages. Our lovely friend Sherrie Ivy pays for the person's coffee behind her in line at Dunkin as often as she can. Karen Reshkin & Mike O'Regan play Irish music at farmers markets and any money they receive they donate it to the food pantry.

"There is no denying that there is evil in this world, but the light will always conquer the darkness." Koyenikan

I believe these people and their good works are shining that light every day!

**Gaelic for the month**  
Poet-file, Dr.-dochtuir, Friends-cairde

Seanfhocal (Irish proverb)

"Ni bhionn an rath ach mar a mbionn an smacht" (there is no prosperity without discipline).

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Anthony R. Byrne

1/1/32 - 7/21/22

Anthony (Tony) Byrne published the *Irish Edition* in Philadelphia for well over 30 years. He did it his way, and he did a fine job. I will miss his acerbic wit! Long may his paper continue.  
*Cliff Carlson, Publisher, Irish American News*

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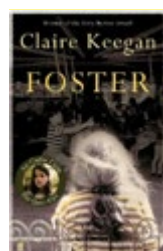
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Books Under Review

By Sabina Clarke



The Searcher

The Searcher by Tana French, author of the Dublin Murder Squad Series and The Witch Elm, is very different from her police procedurals, even though it features a retired Chicago cop named Cal Hooper living in a bucolic Irish environment. Even for Tana French, The Searcher is slow moving—at first. The prose doesn't have quite the chill her fans may expect, and there isn't even a murder to investigate. Eventually, however, the suspense begins to build. It is difficult to review French's novel without revealing some surprises and twists.

Cal is not unlike John Wayne only without the racism in the John Ford classic film, The Searchers. Cal has bought himself a small cottage near a quiet town to retire, but he is not alone for long. A teenaged visitor named Trey Reddy spies on him and finally gains Cal's trust. Cal teaches Trey about carpentry and how to shoot. Well into the book, Cal discovers Trey, whose family is at odds with the townspeople, has a 19-year-old brother, Brendan, who has disappeared. It becomes evident that, like John Wayne searching for his niece, Trey expects Cal to investigate, even though he has no legal authority.

This is Ireland, where informers are despised, spies are everywhere, and the neighbors play things close to the vest. Danger lurks hidden behind the lovely Irish scenery, and nothing is what it seems. The local police (guards) are indifferent to the fate of Brendan, and a too friendly neighbor named Mart jokes in a sinister manner. A wild night of drinking at the pub reveals implied threats from the revelers. It seems Mart despises the Reddy clan, and a Dublin drug thug hovers in the background.

Eventually, Cal will uncover secrets in this Irish country of green hills and bogs. As usual with



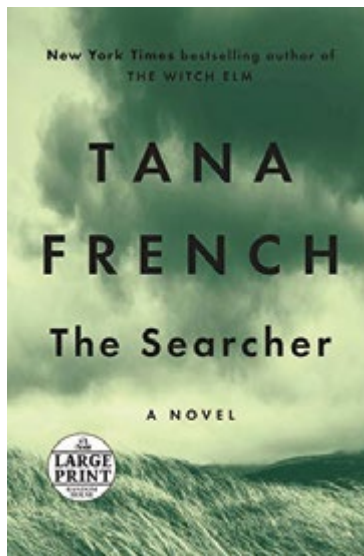
Books in Review

By Michael Corrigan



Tana French, her descriptions are beautiful and compelling:

"The morning has turned lavishly beautiful. The autumn sun gives the greens of the fields an impossible, mythic radiance and transforms the back roads into light-muddled paths where a goblin with a riddle, or a pretty maiden with a basket, could be waiting around every gorse-and-bramble bend. Cal is in no mood to appreciate any of it. He feels like this specific beauty is central to the illusion that lulled him into



stupidity, turned him into the peasant gazing slack-jawed at this handful of gold coins till they melt into dead leaves in front of his eyes."

There is indeed menace behind the beauty, but Cal discovers himself through pursuing the mystery of the lost Brendan and by connecting with the equally lost Trey Reddy. Critic, Maureen Corrigan (no relation) writes, "this hushed suspense tale about thwarted dreams of escape may be her best yet. Like the John

Ford film it pays homage to, 'The Searcher' is its own kind of masterpiece."

Though not as dramatically suspenseful as her other novels, and at times even a tad sentimental, Tana French may find a new type of fan through The Searcher.

Night Boat to Tangiers

The plot of Night Boat to Tangier by Kevin Barry is straightforward. In the dark waiting room of the dreary ferry terminal in the Spanish port of Algeciras, two aging Irish drug dealers—Maurice Hearne and Charlie Redmond—are waiting for Maurice's estranged daughter, Dilly, to either arrive on a boat coming from Tangier or depart on one heading to Tangier. As critics have pointed out, Maurice and Charlie are not unlike the tramps in Beckett's Waiting for Godot. (I find them also close to Pinter's gangsters in The Birthday Party.) This nocturnal vigil with many flashbacks will explore their shared history of violence, romance, mutual betrayals and their many exiles from Ireland.

We discover that Maurice once stabbed Charlie in the knee giving him a permanent limp. Maurice has also blinded himself in one eye. As they wait, they tell stories and descend on arriving passengers demanding to know if they have seen Dilly. To the young passengers, the Irishmen are intimidating. To the Spanish police, they are eccentric amusing foreigners.

Night Boat to Tangier was long listed for the Booker Prize, which is a prestigious honor.

Through the entire novel, the reader stays with these two former drug dealers now seeing their trade being replaced by human trafficking. How one reacts to them depends on how one enjoys the dark humor and the wasted lives they have led with incredible highs and lows. Here is what Dwight Garner of the New York Times said:

"The reason Night Boat to Tangier works is that Maurice and Charlie are vivid company on the page, a couple of battered and slightly sinister vaudevillians on a late-career mental walkabout."

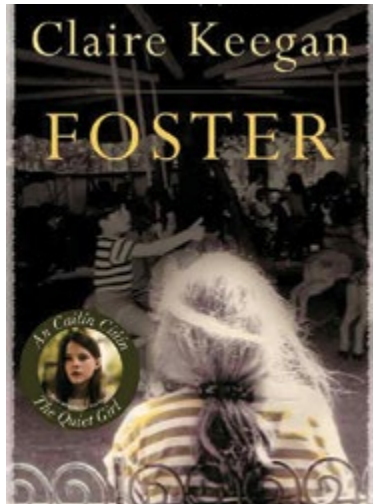
I would agree with this assessment and also Garner's comment, "There's an overemotional side to Night Boat to Tangier, and Barry sometimes lays it on fairly thick... But Barry is such a deft and generous writer that he gets the honey-to-acid blend almost exactly right. He also spackles his novel with poetic utterances that tend to land neatly."

The novel is an engrossing read but we have met characters like this before. There is the Martin McDonagh film, In Bruges, also

Foster... A Quiet Tour de Force

Review by Sabina Clarke

This powerful novella set in rural Ireland by Irish writer Claire Keegan is narrated through the eyes of a young girl whose name we're never told. She is being driven from her home in Clone-



gal, County Carlow to 'deep into Wexford towards the coast where my mother's people came from.'

Along the way, lying flat in the car's backseat staring into the treetops through the rear window she wonders what this new place belonging to the Kinsella's—a childless couple—will be like.

Her father does not talk on the ride; his manner is perfunctory. He delivers her in the clothes she is wearing—tattered and worn—and with her in need of a good scrubbing. He is anxious to leave as soon as he arrives but decides to stay for the 'bowl of tomatoes and onions, a fresh loaf and a block of red cheddar.'

There is idle chit chat in the Kinsella's kitchen about his expectant wife—the girl's mother—who is having yet another baby coming into his impoverished household that struggles to make ends meet. The woman Kinsella inquires

"And what way is Mary? She's coming near her time. I suppose the last baby is getting hardy?" "Ah, it's their feedin them that's the trouble"—the girl's father replies.

This sets the stage for the new world the girl will enter. She has already begun questioning her father's feelings for her—"Why did he leave without so much as a good-bye?"... So on

she discovers that in the strangers' house she finds warmth and affection she has never known. There is also for the first time—abundance. She is now in a house "where there is room and time to think. There may even be money to spare."

Eventually a secret is told. Keegan is a master at capturing the jealousies and pettiness of the Irish locals who don't refrain from criticizing even the corpse in the casket at a wake. With compliments, there is always the double-edged sword—a local she encounters in town says to the Kinsella woman. "Ah, isn't she company for you all the same, God help you."

When summer ends, the girl is returned home—but it is not the same—"My sisters look at me as though I'm an English cousin, coming over to touch my dress, the buckles on my shoes. They seem different, thinner and have nothing to say."

The story ends with a crescendo—that though tempted to tell I will refrain. It is as powerful an ending to a novella as I've ever read.

About the author: Claire Keegan, an Irish writer, lives in rural Ireland. She won the Davy Byrnes Award, the world's richest prize for a story for her book Foster. Other awards include the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature and the William Trevor Prize. She has been published in The New Yorker, Granta and The Paris Review.

Sabina Clarke has written for the Chestnut Hill Local, the Irish Edition, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Philadelphia Daily News and others. She was the press contact for the first Philadelphia visits of Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams in 1994 and 1995 and for the President of Ireland Mary McAleese in 1998. From 2012 to 2014, she was the press contact for Ed Moloney the Director of the Boston College Belfast Project that made appeals to the U.S. Supreme Court and the High Court of Belfast.

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about two Irish gangsters. Barry’s voice is lyrical, however, and he makes the material fresh with sparse but imagistic phrases:

“The roads after the rain were black, sliding tongues and gleamed.” “The cold white moon speaks highly of the coming winter.”

There is also the Irish penchant for spiritual presences that presage doom. It is never clear why it is so important for Maurice to see his daughter, Dilly, whom he abandoned along with a fatally ill wife. Dilly could also be Charlie’s offspring. These dangerous but out-dated men are waiting for Dilly, and will Dilly arrive? There is, of course, plenty of time spent at the ferry terminal bar.

I won’t reveal the ending, but I can say that Barry does show us Dilly and snippets of her earlier life with her father, but whether or not she shows up and meets the two men may actually not matter, in the end.

Johanna Thomas-Corr, a critic for the UK Guardian, is the one dissenting voice with mixed feelings about the novel:

“Barry writes with real exuberance ... But all the working-class Irish slang...and pickled wit can’t hide the flimsiness of the story ... at times it reads like a pastiche of the Irish playwrights Samuel Beckett and Martin McDonagh, whose male double acts manage to be hilarious and threatening just by mooching about...Barry does the bare minimum.”

I can see her point, though I feel Barry gives the reader more than a “bare minimum.” The “pickled wit” can be enough. Here’s an early exchange:

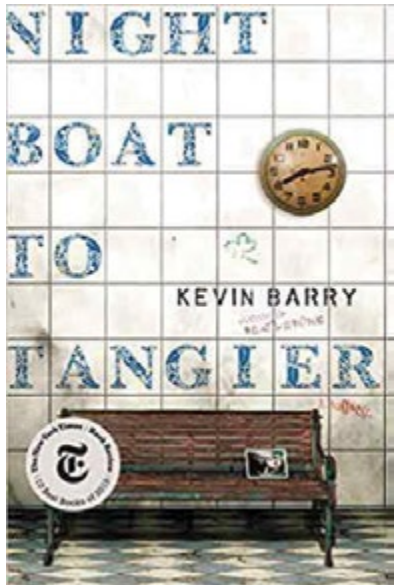
Personally speaking, Maurice? My arse isn’t right since the octopus we ate in Malaga.

Is it saying hello to you, Charlie?

Critics have called the novel “haunting.” I agree that a great production of *Waiting for Godot* will haunt an audience member. I was not “haunted” by Barry’s hapless Irish gangsters, but I did feel the tragedy in their lives, marked by the very Irish thread of bitter humor. This dark theme of gloom and loss can be suffocating, but Barry’s vivid prose elevates the material. It is a compelling book, but possibly not for everyone.

*Michael Corrigan is a San Francisco native and taught English and Speech Communications at Idaho State University. He holds an MA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State, and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize for a short story, “Free Fall.” NPR broadcast Corrigan’s play for two voices, Letters From Rebecca. He has worked in theatre, including a playwright’s workshop with the late Sam Shepard. He has several books available through Amazon, and Kindle, including These Precious Hours, a collection of connected stories; it is also an audiobook read by Alex Hyde-White. Mulligan, his novel about a 19th century freedom fighter and cavalry officer in the Civil War, is now an audiobook, also narrated by Alex Hyde White. His hybrid*

*Irish American memoir, Confessions of a Shanty Irishman, received strong favorable review in the San Francisco Chronicle. It is an Audiobook narrated by Marlin May. Corrigan recently published two articles for Atticus Magazine online, and finished a novel, Brewer’s Odyssey, available on Kindle and as a softcover. In the River Bottoms is his last work.*



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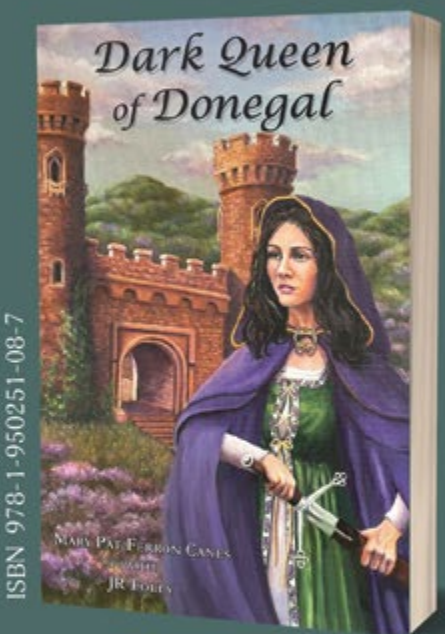
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### How to Protect Yourself & People You Live With

One of the worst possible scenarios is being involved in a car accident with a driver that is uninsured or has a low policy limit that leaves you undercompensated. Despite most states having legal requirements for drivers to obtain car insurance, there are many drivers that remain uninsured. If you're involved in a serious accident with someone who is uninsured or has a low policy, you could be at risk for substantial financial losses if you have serious injuries. There are coverages available through your own insurance that are meant to protect you in those situations.

**Uninsured motorist coverage ("UM")** is designed to protect you in the event that you are involved in an accident with a driver that is uninsured. You can recover against your own policy for your damages.

**Underinsured motorist coverage ("UIM")** allows you to recov-

er against your own policy if the person that hits you has a policy that is relatively small or otherwise not enough to

compensate you for your injury. What many people fail to remember is that the money obtained in a lawsuit has to come from somewhere. To best protect yourself and your family, you should increase your UM and UIM coverages to the highest possible limit.

In Illinois, the minimum requirement that a person must have for bodily injury is \$25,000.00. There may be times where the injury is so severe that \$25,000.00 is not even enough to cover a person's emergency room expense. By increasing your UM and UIM policy limits, you are better protecting yourself and your family from being under-compensated or not compensated at all.

Some insurance companies allow you to increase your policy limit up to \$500,000.00, and some even more. Increasing your policy limit can be done by



**Gallagher's Advice**  
By Caroleann Gallagher



calling your insurance agent and simply asking. You may be asked to pay more in your annual or monthly premium but the added fee is worth it given the risk of what can happen without it.

UM and UIM coverages go beyond protecting you in the event that you are in a car accident while you're driving a vehicle. Those coverages may also apply in the following situations:

- If you're walking as a pedestrian and get hit by a vehicle;
- If you're riding a bicycle and get hit by a vehicle; and
- If you're a passenger in another person's vehicle.

Another important factor to know is that, in most cases, your coverage can be applied to the family members that live with you.

The following is an example of a situation where UIM coverage can be applied:

Sarah was driving home one day when she was T-boned by a negligent driver, Tom. Sarah suffered a broken wrist that required surgery and 3 months of physical therapy. Her medical expenses in total were \$36,000.00.

There is no dispute that Tom was 100% at fault. Tom's insurance had a policy limit of only \$25,000.00, the minimum requirement in Illinois. Because Tom was completely at fault, Sarah's lawyers were able to obtain the full policy amount of \$25,000.00.

However, not only is \$25,000.00 not enough to compensate Sarah for what she went through, it's not even enough to cover her medical expenses.

The vehicle Sarah was driving at the time was insured by her parents whom she lived with. Luckily for Sarah, her parents had UIM coverage of up to \$100,000.00. As a result, her lawyers were able to tap into that coverage and Sarah ultimately

received four times as much as she would have received had she not had a higher policy limit through her UIM coverage.

If you suffered injuries as a result of a car accident, it is important that you speak with an experienced attorney like my colleagues and I who will evaluate your claim, determine whether you have a right to recovery, and represent you in that path to recovery. My colleagues and I devote time to developing personal relationships with all of our clients. Our team has decades of collective experience in representing people who have been injured 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 Coogan Gallagher via email at cgallagher@cgtrial.com or at (312) 782-7482*

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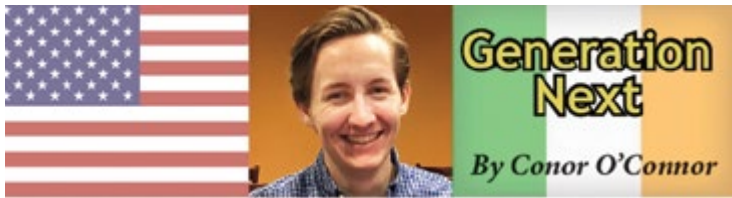
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### A Crash Course on the November Midterm Elections

The June 28th primary elections have come and gone, but the real political contests are only just getting started. On Tuesday, November 8th, millions of Americans will cast their vote in the 2022 midterm election. The midterms lack the pomp and circumstance of a presidential election, but they can have the same kind of far-reaching consequences.

Right now, the Democrats control both chambers of Congress, but barely. They hold a 7-seat majority in the House of Representatives, and a 51-vote majority in the Senate (technically, they only have 50 seats, but Vice President Harris breaks ties).

According to FiveThirtyEight, a polling and data compiler, the Democrats only have about a 13% chance of retaining control of the House. All House seats are up for election every two years, so control of the chamber can change drastically in a relatively quick period of time.

On the other hand, control

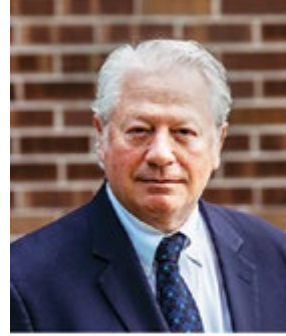
of the Senate is a total tossup. Only one-third of the 100 Senate seats are up for election in any even-numbered year, and Senators serve a 6-year term. Competitive seats up for grabs this year include Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Nevada, and Arizona. The ideal situation for Democrats would be to pick up a couple Senate seats while retaining the incumbents they have. That way, they would be in a better place to keep their Senate majority after 2024, when they face uphill battles retaining their incumbents in West Virginia (Joe Manchin), Montana (Jon Tester), and Ohio (Bob Casey, Jr.). The only true pickup opportunity Senate Democrats have in 2024 is Rick Scott’s seat in Florida, a state which has trended increasingly Republican in recent years.

In Illinois, the midterm election is shaping up to favor Democrats in statewide races, but nothing is guaranteed. JB Pritzker is up for reelection as Governor, Tammy Duckworth is up for reelection as US Senator, and there are several competitive House seats across the state that could swing either way politically. On the local level,

check your county’s website to find out what seats are open and who is running to represent you.

I am unabashedly liberal in my political views, so I am clinging onto the desperate hope that Democrats can pull off a miracle in November despite President Biden’s awful approval ratings and rising inflation. I worry about the future of our republic if Republicans gain power again-after the January 6th insurrection, I had hoped that the American people would resoundly reject the lies and hate conservative leaders spouted. Unfortunately, it seems that that will not be the case.

It is easy to lose faith in our government during these polarizing times. But hopelessness becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Please do not throw away your voice in our political system. Cherish and take advantage of every opportunity you have to vote. As the world’s oldest surviving democracy, the United States has weathered some really tough times. But, with an apathetic populace, there really is no way that our country will endure forever. So, I implore all of my readers to check on their voter registration status, research the candidates, and make a plan to vote. Fed up with the status quo? Be the change you want to see.



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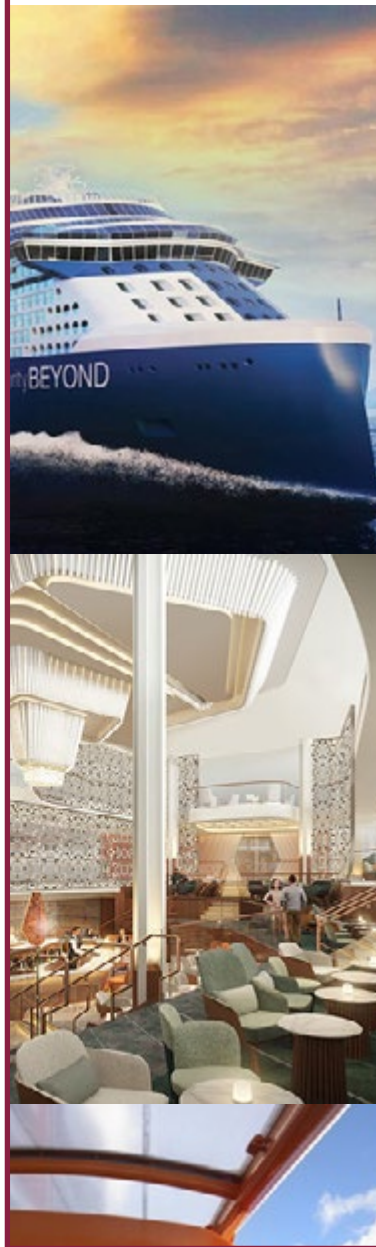
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# Chicago Irish Mourn the Sudden Loss of Tom Looney

By Mike Danahey

Tom Looney was a quiet man whose actions shaped Chicago as the stronghold for all things Irish it is today.

Best known for his days owning the Abbey Pub and his involvement with the Irish American Heritage Center, Looney, 81, passed away July 11. Looney had been ill with COVID-19, which damaged his lungs. He was set to come home from a rehabilitation facility when he came down with pneumonia and perished, family said.

"He gave so much to the Irish community in Chicago and to me personally," said musician Martin Hayes. "Tom will be fondly remembered by the many, many people whose lives he touched. If there were more people like Tom Looney in the world, it would be a much better place."

Looney's son Pat, a veteran Chicago firefighter, said his father did what he could to promote every aspect of Irish culture.

"It was in his DNA," Pat said.

Pat said his father came to Chicago from Co. Clare in 1960, as his sister, Margaret (Murphy), one of his seven siblings, had settled here first.

His father's life in Ireland had been a tough one, Pat said, with Tom losing his mother before his first birthday and living in seven different homes before he was a teenager.

His father also lived for a time in England before heading to the United States and serving in the military. Deirdre Looney Reardon said her father wound up getting drafted into the Army and just missed having to serve in Viet Nam, where he lost a good number of friends.

Irish American Heritage Center Executive Director Meg Buchanan recalled Tom Looney telling her one of his first jobs in Chicago was selling magazines door-to-door. Looney became an electrician and invested in real estate.

Looney fell in love, and in 1966 he married Bridget Ellen McGuire, whom he called Breege. They raised a family on the city's northwest side.

In the mid-1980s, the Looney's acquired the Abbey Pub business from family friend Pete Furlong who had taken ill. At the time, the Looney's owned the 3420 W. Grace St. building in which the pub stood.

"My dad took over to promote Irish music," Pat Looney said.

Looney revamped the pub, bringing in a bar that had been used at another pub along Naragansett, Pat said. The bar became the focal point for 30 years of Sunday sessions.

The Abbey's main stage wound up featuring legendary traditional Irish acts, including The Wolfe Tones, The Clancy Brothers, The Fureys, Stockton's Wing and Christy Moore.

Many Irish musicians with Chicago roots or ties played The Abbey, too, including fiddler, Martin Hayes and his collaborator, guitarist Dennis Cahill, who

died June 20.

"I had known Tom since I first came to Chicago with my father while visiting there with the Tulla Ceili Band in the early 80's," Hayes said. "Tom and Breege hosted us in their home, and we have been friends ever since. When I later moved to Chicago, they were like parents to me. In fact, they were parents to a lot of other young Irish immigrants at the time."

Among other Irish musicians with Chicago ties who performed at the Abbey were Liz Carroll, John Williams, Joe Cullen and Jimmy Keane.

Keane said, "We lost a community powerhouse of Irishness with the passing of Tom Looney just days after we bid farewell to Dennis Cahill."

"Tom was exceptionally kind and helpful to all the Irish immigrants arriving in Chicago," Cullen said.

The Abbey wound up booking a diverse lineup of acts through the years, such as Northern Irish-Scottish rock band Snow Patrol, country star Brad Paisley, folkies Arlo Guthrie and Bonnie Koloc, alt rockers Florence + the Machine and Chicago-based indie rockers Wilco.

"My father's favorite was Kris Krisofferson," Pat said.

The Abbey hosted many benefits, too. Eric Maloney, who now lives in Seattle, recalled producing a fundraiser after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 that featured 17 bands, including Chicago Irish rocker Michael McDermott.

"We raised thousands for the International Association of Firefighters, which was giving 100% of the money to the families of fallen firefighters," Maloney said.

Deirdre Looney Reardon said her father also opened The Abbey at odd hours to show a variety of European sports, and Irish ones in particular. When the Republic of Ireland soccer team competed for the World Cup in 1994, Looney closed off part of the street near his establishment to accommodate the crowds, Deirdre said.

"My father and I both loved sports and attended a lot of games together," Deirdre said.

That meant not only backing Chicago teams, but frequently

traveling to Ireland many a year to watch Clare compete for the All Ireland in hurling and Mayo for the title in Gaelic football.

"He rooted for Mayo because that's where my mother was from," Deirdre said.

A team much like the Cubs used to be (and seem to be again), Mayo has not won the championship since 1951.

The Abbey suffered a fire in 2015. The Looney's were leasing the spot by then and the aftermath of the blaze led to a dispute

with the building's owner and the Looney's closing their pub for good.

"Still, my father always remained calm, cool and collected. Nothing fazed him, and he could put a positive spin on things," Pat said.

In the case of the aftermath of the fire, Pat said his father told him that now Pat, who had been managing the pub, would be able to spend more time with his children.

In the mid-80s, as The Abbey was making a name for itself, Looney also played a key role in the opening of the Irish American Heritage Center.

Pat said his father had been a member of the Shamrock American Club in the 1970s, which led to joining a committee looking for a building that could be used as an Irish cultural center. In the mid-80s, they learned that the city of Chicago was selling Mayfair Elementary School, 4626 N. Knox Ave.

Looney played an instrumental role in putting in what would be a winning bid of \$502,000 for that building, which became the Irish American Heritage Center, Pat said.

"Tom was right there when the papers were signed to purchase the building on Knox Avenue and has been a pillar of the IAHC ever since, serving on the board of directors multiple times and as president," said fellow former IAHC president and Irish radio show host Mike Shevlin.

Looney also headed the construction committee, which rehabbed the old school.

"99% of the work was done with volunteers," Pat Looney said.

Buchanan said it's hard to imagine the Center without Looney.

"He and the others did a lot of work. Where the bar is now was the school library. The building was in great disrepair. They even had to remove dirt from the basement, bucket by bucket," Buchanan said.

Irish American News publisher, Cliff Carlson said, "Tom talked quietly. You had to get close to listen, and I realized later that he conversed like the men in Ireland.

He gave me lessons in Irish history, and about the 'Troubles' starting on the day I met him! Over 20 years later and several years into doing iBAM!, he helped me mediate an agreement to make iBAM! a nonprofit. I admired the fact that almost everything Tom and Breege did on their own time involved the betterment of the Irish American Heritage

Center.

"On his very last day, he was looking to resolve an issue at the Center. His example sets the bar high for all of us," Carlson said.

Buchanan noted Looney played key roles in getting events such as the "iBAM! Chicago Celebration" held at the center and was a big supporter of the Irish American Hall of Fame, which the center holds.

Carlson said, "While others wondered what the iBAM! event and the Hall of Fame events were doing for the Center, Tom and Breege attended many, if not all of the galas for both events. They were and are great supporters."

In fact, Looney and others would hold Hall of Fame dinner after-parties, which would continue until sunrise the following day, Buchanan said.

"Yet Tom spoke softly. Everybody would lean in to listen to him," Buchanan said. "He didn't have to be loud. There was a gravitas about him."

To that point, Pat Looney said that his father seemed to know just about everyone. Pat recalled a time in the 2000s and waiting by a float for the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's parade to get started. People as varied as then-governor Rod Blagojevich and Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams made a point to stop by to talk to his father.

"But my father kept humble, and he was always helping people," Pat said.

Pat found out a bit about how many lives his father affected after wake and funeral services.

"The outpouring was unbelievable. People who none of the family knew came up to us and told us what my father had done for them," Pat said.

Keane said, "Tom was the best leader and supporter one could ever have for any Irish cause whether it be a benefit, music, dance, sports, immigration, culture - you name it, Tom was there."

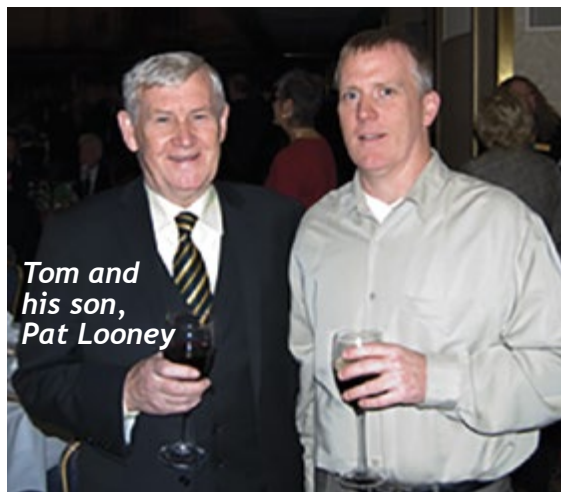
Looney is survived by his wife, grown children Thomas, Patrick (Deirdre), Siobhan (Timothy) Carroll and Deirdre (Richard) Reardon and grandchildren Liam, Ciaran, Norah, Ryan, Shane, Ronan, Saoirse and Mairead.



Tom and Breege Looney at iBAM!



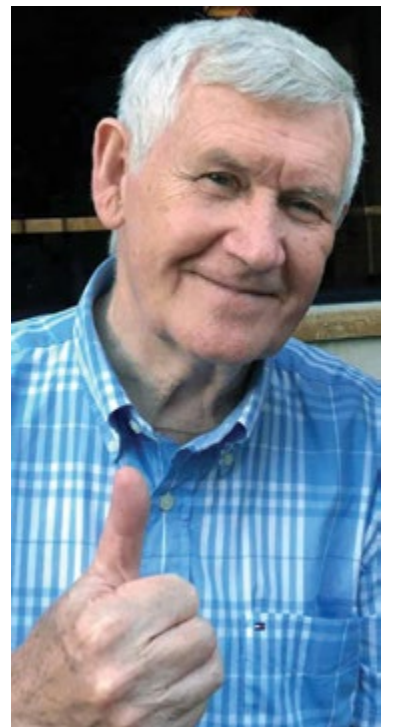
Tom and Breege Looney at WPNA 1490 AM! where Bridget Looney worked the O'Connor Show Saturdays



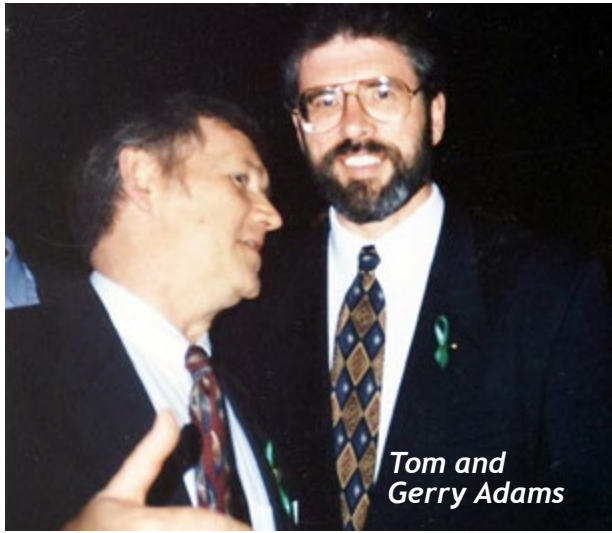
Tom and his son, Pat Looney



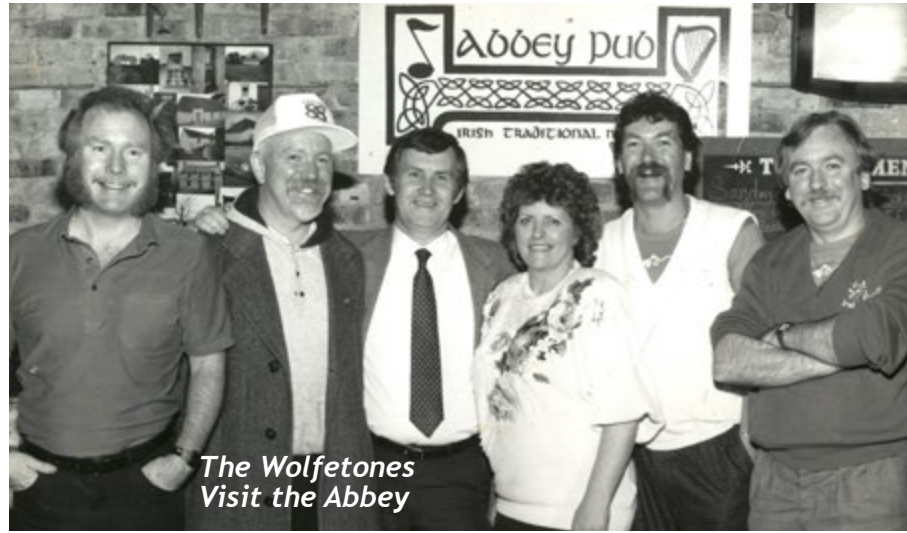
Tom with Mayor Richard J. Daley







Tom and Gerry Adams



The Wolfetones Visit the Abbey

**Deirdre Looney - Reardon wrote the below when her father, Tom, was honored by Clan Na Gael in 2014**

Tom Looney is very humbled and honored to be recognized in such a special way by the Clan Na Gael Organization. He has always respected and supported their efforts through the years. Tom has trail-blazed so many Irish events and causes in Chicago and has been a pioneering presence in the Windy City for promoting, celebrating and educating Chicagoans about Ireland and Irish Culture.

Since moving to Chicago in 1960, Tom has always been passionate in promoting the Irish in America. Tom was a member and President of the Shamrock American Club, which was the original group who organized the Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC) in Chicago. This group started meeting in the 1970's and often met in Tom's home during the planning stages. In 1985, Tom Looney was the Chairman of the Building Committee and was the person who submitted the winning bid on the IAHC building (which at that time was vacant but had most recently been Mayfair Community College). Tom's interest in the IAHC has always been to contribute in some way in helping with the continued growth & success and have an Irish Center we can all be proud of. Tom has been the President, Vice President and an active member of the Board of Directors for many years. In addition to his many involvements at the IAHC, Tom has continuously promoted Irish culture through his involvement in Irish Family Days at the Old Navy Pier and as one of the original board members of Chicago Gaelic Park. He was the founder, producer & host of Irish Television America (from 1988-1996) and currently as the proud owner of the Abbey Pub & Restaurant in Chicago.

Tom Looney is a US Army Veteran who served in the 5th Infantry Division from 1963-65. In 1966, Tom had the privilege of being one of 3 Honor Guards over the Clan Na Gael monument in Hillside, IL, honoring the 50th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising.

In the 1980's, Tom Looney recognized that because of Ireland's Section 31 of the Broadcasting Authority Act (1968-1994, which was censorship principally to prevent Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ) interviews with spokespersons for Sinn Féin and for the IRA) the Irish people in America were not getting accurate news from

Ireland, instead the US media reported only information that was censored by Section 31. It did not tell an accurate story of what was really happening during those troubled times in the North of Ireland. In 1988, Tom Looney started his own cable television program called Irish America, with the goal of reporting uncensored news in the US. Every week, Tom made sure to get the news for his show directly from Sinn Fein and other uncensored sources, especially getting current news about the Troubles from the north of Ireland. Irish freedom and the injustices in the North of Ireland that lead to the

Ireland, including Christy Moore, the Wolfetones, The Furey Brothers, Dolores Keane, the Clancy Brothers, Hothouse Flowers and Snow Patrol. The Abbey shows GAA games of football and hurling live every week throughout the GAA season as well as any rugby or soccer matches Ireland are playing at home or abroad.

Tom Looney has had many wonderful accomplishments over the years but his biggest and most important to date has been his family. First and foremost, Tom Looney is a family man. He has been married to his wife, Bridget "Breege" Looney for over 47 years and they have 4 children (Thomas, Patrick, Siobhan and Deirdre) and 6 grandchildren

their Irish friends. Every summer, Tom would bring his family to Old Navy Pier for Irish Family Days and to Milwaukee for their Irish Fest.

Even though he has made many efforts, influences and has been a strong advocate for promoting Irish issues and culture, Tom Looney is a simple man, from humble beginnings, who has always believed in a United Ireland and has been passionate about having a place that welcomes everyone with Irish roots and/or an interest in Ireland and learning about Irish culture.

Tom Looney was born on August 31, 1940 in Ballycashin, Kilnaboy, County Clare Ireland. He was the youngest of 7 children born to Mary and Thomas Looney. Tom's



L to R): Tom, Patrick, Siobhan, Deirdre, Tim Carroll, Thomas, and Bridget

turmoil, was always important to Tom because his father was a strong Sinn Fein man and one of the leaders in the United Ireland Movement in the 1940's and 1950's. Tom was the producer and host of Irish America, which in addition to news, the program highlighted Irish music, history, culture and politics. Tom was very fortunate to interview and highlight people like Gerry Adams, Joe Cahill and Bernadette Devlin, which was very significant because Nationalists at that time were not allowed to be televised in Ireland because of Section 31.

Tom Looney is the owner of the Abbey Pub, which is celebrating 40 years in business in 2014. Since taking over the Abbey, Tom has worked hard to promote Irish music, culture, news and sports at the Abbey. The Abbey hosts the longest running traditional Irish music session in Chicago. It also has been the venue for some of the biggest music acts out of

(Liam, Ciaran, Ryan, Shane, Norah and Ronan). Tom has always worked hard in everything he has done to provide for his family and teach his children the value of an education and hard work. Tom has never forgotten where he came from. He made sure his children learned about their Irish Heritage from an early age by bringing them back to Ireland as often as they could afford to go, telling them his childhood stories, teaching them the history of Ireland, putting his sons in Gaelic football and his daughters in Irish Dancing and Traditional Irish music lessons and bringing them to Irish concerts and shows regularly. In 1981, Tom Looney packed up his entire family in their station wagon and drove to Washington, DC to picket outside the White House during the 1981 Hunger Strike. Every St. Patrick's Day, Tom and Breege pulled their children out of school to go downtown to March in the parade with

mother died suddenly of Polio in 1942, leaving Thomas with 7 young children, Tom being the youngest at 2 years old. Both of Tom's grandmothers moved into their home to care for the children but both passed away not long after Tom's mother. Tom's sisters, Kathleen, age 7 and Mary, age 9, tried to care for their younger siblings but it became too much for them. Thomas had to find families to take in his younger children to

make sure they were cared for. Tom ended up living in 11 different homes and having little or no contact with his family growing up. At 13, Tom went on his own and started working on a farm for room and board. He cut turf for money, eventually saving enough turf with a friend, for them both to earn 18 pounds each and at age 15, Tom and his friend Sean Kearse, left Ireland to take a boat to England. They landed in Manchester and wore out a few pairs of shoes trying to get work, which was very difficult being so young. During his stay in Manchester, Tom became a Manchester United Fan and will never forget the shock and devastating loss of almost their entire team when their plane crashed in Munich.

Tom Looney eventually ended up in London. It was in London that Tom first reunited with his siblings who had been living in the UK for many years. He stayed with his brother John for a while in Essex and with his sister Kathleen in Cricklewood, London. His first job in London was bartending at the Camden Stores in Camden Town. Tom worked in several jobs during the years he was in the UK, including driving semi-trucks and working construction. He was also a salesman selling everything from ice cream to washing machines. He also attended college in the UK and took engineering classes and television repair. He worked fixing televisions until he left London.

In 1960, at age 20, Tom headed to the USA and boarded a plane bound for Chicago. His sister Margaret had moved to Chicago two years earlier and Tom had seen her off at the pier in Southampton and had an opportunity to tour the Queen Elizabeth before she sailed. He started working in construction right away but when the weather got cold and the work dried up, Tom got a job selling magazines door to door and traveled through many states and finished up in New York.

Tom Looney had many jobs in America. Once he returned from the east coast, he started his own business repairing television sets. He went to electrician's school, becoming an IBEW Local 134 Electrician in 1965. He was an Electrical Contractor for 40 years. He started his own company, Cablecom Corporation in 1973 and built the first franchised cable television system for the Chicago market in 1974. Cablecom specialized in building cable television in large buildings in Chicago, including some well-known ones like the John Hancock, Lake Point Towers, and Marina City.

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The festival of Lughnasadh (pronounced loon Na-sah) and spelt Lunasa in modern Irish is usually celebrated on August 1 or the Sunday nearest to this date. It marks the beginning of harvest season in ancient Irish culture and along with Samhain (winter) Imbolg (spring) and Bealtaine (summer) is one of the four Gaelic seasonal festivals. Named after the Irish God Lugh he was highly adept in many arts simultaneously. There are numerous inscriptions and statues dedicated to him, and even Julius Caesar commented on his importance to the Celtic people.

A number of fairs are also believed to be survivals of Lughnasadh including Puck fair in Kilorgan Co Kerry, where a wild male goat is hoisted above the festivities for the duration before being released back to his mountain home. It is theorized that the male goat Puck was a symbol of fertility like the Pagan god Pan celebrating a fruitful harvest.

Celtic gods were a rather temperamental bunch with Lugh being no exception. He was known to show his anger with violent late summer storms that could wreck entire crops just before they were harvested. Ancient Celtic people would engage in a variety of activities in worship of the god Lugh hoping that his needs would be completely satisfied letting them have a bountiful harvest.

The focus was to relax and celebrate a day before the strenuous harvest season began. They would perform Celtic rituals, compete in games, dedicate sacrifices to Lugh, and enjoy feasts on mountain tops and hills. The practice of holding festivities on hilltops continued for hundreds of years after Christianity came to Ireland. One major tradition that stemmed from Lunas is Reek Sunday. On the last day of July, Christians make a pilgrimage to the top of Croagh Patrick, a mountain in County Mayo as a sign of their faith. Today the Catholic Church in Ireland has set aside this date for ritual blessings of farmers and their fields. Brian Friel captured this old and new with his iconic play *Dancing at Lunasa*.

Fraughan is the old Irish name for wild bilberries also known as blueberries. The name Bilberry Sunday comes from the gathering of bilberries (blueberries) on this day. If the bilberries were bountiful the crops would be also. Along with blueberries. Beets are also They are harvested at this time of year.

Beets come in many colors and sizes. Whether you prefer to use red, yellow or the stripped variety the preparation is the same. Roasted, or boiled are the preferred methods of cooking keeping the skins on in both methods.

I have included a few recipes that include a blueberry pie or tart, and a roasted beet salad. I hope you enjoy them.

- BLUEBERRY PIE**  
**INGREDIENTS**  
**FILLING**  
 5 cups fresh blueberries  
 1 cup sugar  
 2tbs lemon juice



- 1/2 cup flour  
 Pinch is salt  
 1/2 tsp cinnamon  
 2 tbs butter  
 In a large bowl combine sugar, flour, salt and cinnamon. Add blueberries and mix  
**PASTRY**  
 2 cups flour  
 6oz unsalted butter cut into small pieces  
 1/4 tsp Salt  
 3 oz cold water  
 Combine flour and salt. Cut in butter with a pastry knife, or a food processor until mixture resembles small peas. Add

water and form into a disc. Wrap in film and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Divide dough into 2 pieces leaving one a little larger for the pie base and the other for the top. On a floured surface roll out both discs until they are 1/4 inch thick turning a quarter of a turn after each roll.

Place larger disc in a 9 inch pie pan and gently press in to place allowing an overlap of 1/2 inch. Fill with blueberry filling and dot with butter. Moisten the edge of the pastry with water and top with remaining pastry. Trim off excess pastry and crimp pastry with a fork or by pinching the dough. Completely seal the pie, brush the top with an egg wash and cut a few slits to release steam. Bake for minutes in a 400 degree oven and bake for 35 minutes. Top should be golden brown, and the filling should be bubbly. Remove from oven and cool to room temperature.

Serve the pie with vanilla ice cream or fresh whipped cream or sprinkle with a little sugar

**ROASTED BEET SALAD**

- 4 large beets red, golden, or both  
 1 tbs oil  
 Salt & pepper  
 Arugula or baby spinach  
 Thinly sliced red onion  
 Candied walnuts or pecans  
 2 cups pecans or walnuts, 1/2 cup powdered sugar, 1/5 tsp salt, 4 tsp water Combine sugar and salt. Add water and blend until smooth. Toss in nuts and mix. Spread out on a parchment, or Silpat lined sheet pan and roast for about 20 minutes. Remove parchment from pan to stop cooking. Cool and break apart  
 Crumbled goat cheese or feta  
 Sherry vinaigrette (  
 2 oz Sherry vinegar  
 6 oz extra virgin olive oil  
 Lemon juice 1 lemon

1 tbs Honey  
 1 tsp Dijon mustard  
 Combine all the ingredients except for the olive oil. This can be done in a blender or by hand. Continue beating while slowly drizzling the olive oil until dressing is slightly thickened.

Salt and pepper  
 Balsamic glaze  
 Chopped fresh herbs. Mint, tarragon, parsley, rosemary, thyme, basil are a few of the options you can add

Season beets with oil, salt and pepper and wrap in aluminum foil and place on a tray in a 350 degree oven. Bake for 45 minutes or until fork tender. Let beets cool and rub with a paper towel to remove skins.

Toss greens in a bowl with red onion, nuts, cheese, beets, and vinaigrette Season with salt and pepper. Drizzle with balsamic glaze. The addition of any chopped fresh herbs would brighten the taste. Enjoy

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## Ardal O'Hanlon Stand Up Show Friday, September 16 at the Ubique, Evanston

*"One of the most likeable and personable characters in stand-up."* (Irish Independent)

Ardal O'Hanlon is widely regarded as one of the godfathers of contemporary Irish comedy and was the first Irish comedian to be asked to do a half-hour special on Comedy Central. His award-winning career began in 1994 when he immediately won the Hackney Empire New Act of the Year and the Spitting Image New Act of the Year. Since then he has been nominated for numerous

Bafta awards and British Comedy Awards and continued touring his unique life-enhancing brand of surrealism and punchy observational comedy around the world. He has performed multiple times at the most important comedy festivals including the Just for Laughs Festival at Montreal, the Melbourne Festival in Australia, and the Edinburgh Festival. Most recently O'Hanlon was seen in the hit Netflix TV Series Derry Girls. Friday, September 16 at 7:30pm



General Admission: \$40  
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Please Note: You may be required to wear a mask at this performance.

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**FAREWELL DENNIS CAHILL. YOU LEFT THIS WORLD A**



*A rare turnout of musicians for one of their own. After the funeral, we celebrated his life at a special party held in his honor, hosted by his family at O'Neill's in Chicago.*

*The happy tears, the sad tears, the beers, and the memories flowed. Above are (l to r): Jim Dooley, Martin Hayes, and Mike Dooley. Many were happy to be a part of it all. Thank you to the Dooley Brothers for suggesting the party. Paddy Homan, who sang at the funeral Mass, had another appointment.*





**BETTER PLACE, AND YOU CERTAINLY LEFT YOUR MARK!**



...eral mass for Dennis Cahill, many of the musicians in attendance  
...s wife, Mary Joyce, and Brendan and Siobhan McKinney at Chief

...as his friends and acquaintances paid their respects. Pictured just  
...rtin, who formed The Gloaming with Dennis, flew in from Ireland  
...g that we get this picture.  
...ment and couldn't make the event.





# It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



**Hello everyone,**  
We are just getting ready to head for the Fleadh Cheoil, my son Declan and my wife Margaret. Declan is going to be playing along with a neighbor of ours here in Armagh called Jude Quigg. Jude is a mighty button accordion player and he and Declan are around the same age. The Fleadh is in Mullingar this year, as they were supposed to host it the year the pandemic. So, this is the first one since then. Mullingar was actually the very first town to ever host the Fleadh Cheoil back in 1951.

A big congratulations to Myles McVeigh, who along with his band 'The Hoyle Brothers' are playing at the Clonmany Festival, Donegal. Clonmany is a beautiful part of the country but then no matter where you go in Donegal, it's full of beauty and wonderful peo-

ple into the bargain. I've really enjoyed watching Myles develop into a very talented songwriter and musical entertainer.

I was very saddened to hear of the passing of Dennis Cahill, a phenomenal musician, and a dear friend. When I first started to record in my basement I would call Dennis up for advice and I always used to apologize for keep phoning him. Dennis said, "Joe, call me anytime and I am more than willing to share what I know with you." A rare kind, I will hold on to his memory for the rest of my life. R.I.P. Dennis.

Another dear friend in Chicago passed away recently and that is Tom Looney. Another very dear friend who was so good to me when I first landed in the USA. It seems the musical family I have come to know and love is leaving year after year. R.I.P. Tom.

## 'Daddy's Toes'

© Copyright 2016 Joe McShane, Jordan Mogey, Nathan Carter  
Verse 1

I remember daddy dancing in the kitchen  
I recall the way he shuffled with his shoes  
He'd take my mama by the hand and lead her  
As that big old yellow moon was shining through

Pre Chorus  
Daddy was a gentleman no doubt  
It was very rare I ever heard him shout  
He was a man of pride and don't you know  
I'm the only one who ever stepped on daddy's toes

Chorus  
He took my hand and helped me down life's road  
Step by step he taught me every dance step that I know  
I'd stand on Daddy's loving shoes he'd waltz me to and fro  
I'm the only one who ever stepped on daddy's toes

Verse 2  
No one can ever take the place of Daddy  
But I've found someone who gave his heart and more  
And my little girl reminds me of my childhood  
As her Daddy takes her dancing, round the floor

Pre Chorus  
Her Daddy is a gentleman no doubt  
It's very rare we ever hear him shout  
He's a man of pride and don't you know  
She's the only one who ever steps on daddy's toes

Chorus  
He'll take her hand and help her down life's road  
Step by step he'll teach her every single step he knows  
She'll stand on Daddy's loving shoes he'll waltz her to and fro  
And she's the only one who'll ever step on daddy's toes

Bridge  
I guess someday she'll meet a man, have a daughter of her own  
And another little girl is gonna dance on Daddy's toes  
Repeat chorus x1 **Joe McShane**

### ANSWERS TO JULY CROSSWORD

1	R	C	M	P				5	E	C	H	O		9	A	K	I	12	N
13	P	R	I	E	14	D		15	A	H	A	B		16	N	A	N	A	
17	M	A	C	A	U		18	T	O	I	T		19	D	R	U	G		
		20	B	A	T	T	21	L	E	C	R	U	22	I	S	E	R	S	
				23	C	A	R					24	S	T	O	N	E		
25	M	U	R	P	H	Y		29	A	W	E	E							
31	A	P	E	R		32	L	E	N	O		34	M	A	R	K	S		
39	C	O	M	E	R	A	I	N	O	41	R	S	H	I	N	E			
42	S	N	I	P	E		43	R	I	S	E		44	O	G	E	E		
				45	E	P	E	E		47	G	E	Y	S	E	R			
		49	R	U	S	S	O			52	M	A	D						
53	D	A	N	I	E	L	D	A	Y	L	E	W	I	S					
59	A	D	D	S		60	L	O	I	N		61	N	A	S	A	62	L	
63	F	I	E	S		64	E	M	M	A		65	S	C	U	L	L		
66	T	O	R	Y		67	N	E	S	S		68	O	P	E	C			

I picked a song as usual for my song this month but then changed my mind when I got a message from Jordan Mogey. A song we had written with Nathan Carter called 'Daddy's Toes' has been recorded by Louise Morrissey. I believe it

was officially released on July 11th and within a week it had become the number one song of the week on Tipp FM. I love Louise's voice and I'm so happy she recorded it and wish her lots of good luck with it. So, I

guess we'll make it this month's song.

As always, be good to one another, Joe

[Joe's FaceBook Songwriter Page Website](#)  
[Joe's Monthly Columns](#)

### Crossword by Myles Mellor

### AUGUST CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6	7			8	9	10	11	12
13				14						15				
16				17						18				
19			20				21	22						
23							24							
25				26	27	28		29			30	31	32	33
			34				35				36			
37	38	39						40	41	42				
43							44							
45				46	47	48		49				50	51	52
				53			54				55			
	56	57	58						59	60				
61							62	63				64		
65							66					67		
68							69					70		

### ANSWERS IN NEXT MONTH'S EDITION AND ONLINE AUGUST 1

- Across**  
1. Sesame Street ailer  
4. "Everything else" abbr.  
8. Dublin's river  
13. Before, for Byron  
14. Sound bounceback  
15. Throughout, in a music score  
16. Lee, e.g., abbr.  
17. Grandpa Walton portrayer  
18. Queasiness  
19. Blow up  
21. Put together  
23. Old Testament prophet  
24. "That's \_\_\_\_"  
25. Scarcities  
29. Netherlands Antilles island  
34. Line (up) in Dublin  
36. Cap'n's mate  
37. Replacement for Nelson's pillar  
43. "Thank Heaven for Little Girls" musical  
44. Offshoot  
45. Spills around  
49. Comforts  
53. Graph line  
55. Scottish island  
56. Testimonial

59. Irish city with a famous bay  
61. Mild drink after a stiff one  
62. Visit  
64. Actress Adams of Enchanted  
65. Cambridge grad.  
66. Metal piece looking like a letter  
67. Lobster spawn  
68. Cheese choice  
69. PlayStation maker  
70. Hosp. workers  
**Down**  
1. Identified  
2. Pleasant wind  
3. Nissan model  
4. Hertz or ton preceder  
5. Like some drinks  
6. Lady described  
7. Reef material  
8. Apartment renter  
9. Down Under birds  
10. Church alcove  
11. Barney's buddy, in cartoondom  
12. Biblical assent  
15. Mess up  
20. Nobleman  
22. Sound magnifier

26. Just one antacid  
27. Bray starter  
28. One rising at dawn  
30. Mother of John Quincy  
31. Toothed wheel  
32. Volcano output  
33. Minn. neighbor, abbr.  
35. Martians and such, abbr.  
37. Some sports cars  
38. Painter's medium  
39. Doctors Without Borders, e.g.  
40. Photo \_\_\_\_ (media events)  
41. Moving to and \_\_\_\_  
42. Rapper prefix  
46. \_\_\_\_ corpus  
47. Community outside the city  
48. Watch the baby  
50. Chicken  
51. Bewitch  
52. Agree  
54. Religious groups  
56. Warming trend  
57. Asian princess  
58. Followers, suffix  
59. Fed  
60. Stronghold  
61. IV amounts, abbr.  
63. Sale abbreviation in classifieds



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# Chicago Gaelic Park

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



## A Chairde:

The volunteer spirit is alive and well at Gaelic Park, so if you see a volunteer, thank a volunteer. Our new outdoor bar and beer garden would not be as beautiful, comfortable and welcoming as it is were it not for volunteer efforts. Actually, without our wonderful volunteers, we wouldn't have been able to open the new space in June. Our staff also deserves recognition for all that they did to get the beer garden up and running and for providing a warm welcome to all.

Early this month our Irish Cultural Camp is also the beneficiary of volunteer efforts. Our rooms, patio and pitch will be busy as the children have fun and learn from generous teachers.

GAA volunteers have been plentiful this month and last month, and we see the fruits of their efforts at the matches on Sunday, the training pitches during the week and the Continental Youth Championship at the end of July. They will also be evident at the USGAA Finals August 19th to 21st.

We hope you visit this month to enjoy GAA matches, and our new outdoor space. Wednesday rib nights on the patio, and the Lady of Knock commemoration, and/or the USGAA Finals. And don't forget to mark your calendars for Heritage and Harvest Day on September 18th.

Is mise le meas,

Bill O'Sullivan

ps. Congratulations to the Limerick Hurlers!  
3 All-Ireland titles in a row!








**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](http://www.chicagogaelpark.com) to print out Application**



Chicago Gaelic Park - 6119 W 147th Street - Oak Forest, Il. 60452 - 708-687-9323

**THE PUB HAS IT'S OWN WEBSITE!**

[WWW.CARRAIGIRISHPUB.COM](http://WWW.CARRAIGIRISHPUB.COM)

**CHECK IT OUT!**

**BBQ on the Patio  
Continues on Wednesdays**

## SAVE THE DATE

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

*Me & You  
in 2022*



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



Great Dates still available for 2022 Wedding Receptions!

Choose the Emerald Room, Tara Room, Celtic Room.

*Featuring picturesque outdoor spaces  
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Contact the Banquet Office at 708-687-9323 or email  
[Banquet@chicagogaelpark.org](mailto:Banquet@chicagogaelpark.org)



Chicago Gaelic Park - 6119 W. 147th Street - Oak Forest, Il.  
[www.ChicagoGaelicPark.com](http://www.ChicagoGaelicPark.com)



# the Carraig

Irish Pub

THE CARRAIG PUB  
GAELIC PARK  
CHICAGO

## August Pub Entertainment

- 5th - Ray Gavin
- 6th - St James Gate
- 10th - Tuluva from Ireland (Beer Garden)
- 11th - Socks in the Frying Pan (Beer Garden)
- 12th - Bernie Glim
- 13th - Damien Patrick
- 18th - Whiskey & Harmony (Beer Garden)
- 19th - Gerry Haughey
- 20th - Kieran Byrne
- 26th - Liam Durkin
- 27th - Mulligan Stew

## Mark your Calendars!!!

Lots of events coming up at Gaelic Park



Chicago GAA Finals  
August 7th starting at 12 Noon  
Chicago Gaelic Park  
Facebook "Chicago GAA" for Games/Times



Chicago Gaelic Park Presents

**Our Lady Of Knock Feastday Celebration**

Tuesday evening,  
August 23, 2022 at 7:30pm

North American GAA Finals  
August 19th - 21st  
At Chicago Gaelic Park  
www.USGAA.org for schedules

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Gaelic Park's  
**Heritage & Harvest Festival**  
Sunday September 18, 2022

**Thursday, September 15, 2022**

**The Carraig Pub Golf Outing**

Contact Philip to book your place!  
708-687-9323

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

Gaelic Park can be found on  
FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!  
TAKE A MOMENT AND 'LIKE' US!

"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](mailto:gpwinegrp@outlook.com)

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

Gaelic Park Presents  
Live In Concert -

*Nathan*  
**CARTER**

Saturday, November 12, 2022

### Membership

NEW  RENEWAL  Family \$50  Individual \$30

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last first initial

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
(if joining) last first initial

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
street apt/unit #

city state zip

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

Mail to: Chicago Gaelic Park Membership, 6119 W. 147th St, Oak Forest IL 60452

phone: 708.687.9323 fax: 708.687.0120

[www.chicagogaelpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelpark.org) [www.facebook.com/ChicagoGaelicPark](http://www.facebook.com/ChicagoGaelicPark)



# LABOR DAY WEEKEND



# SEPTEMBER 3, 4 & 5

## Irish Days Saturday September 3

- 10:45-11:45 - Academy of Irish Music
- 12:00-12:30 - McNulty School of Dance
- 12:45-1:15 - Mens Legs in Kilt Contest
- 1:30-3:00. - Dooley Bros & Jimmy Moore
- 3:15-3:45. - Shannon Rovers Pipers
- 4:00-4:30. - Dillon School of Dance
- 4:30 - 5:00 Best Dog Contest
- 5:30 - 7:00 - Larkin & Moran Brothers



## Irish Days Sunday September 4

- 10:00 am - Mass celebrated with Fr's Jamesson and Tim Fairman, with musical accompaniment by Gavin Coyle
- 11-11:30. - Trinity Dance School
- 11:45-12:45 - Gavin Coyle
- 1:00-1:30. - Best Legs in Kilts
- 1:45-3:15. - Gerry Haughey & Declan McShane
- 3:30-4:00 - Shannon Rovers Pipers
- 4:00-4:30. - McNulty Dancers
- 4:30-5:00. - Dog Contest & Winner
- 5:30-7:00. - Chancey Brothers



## Irish Days Monday September 5

- 11:00-11:30 - Hogan Irish Dancers
- 11:45-1:15. - The Joyce Boys
- 1:30-2:00 - Best Dog Contest/Winner
- 2:00-2:30. - Shannon Rovers Pipers
- 2:30-4:00. - Joe Cullen & Kathleen Keane



*Stop, Shop & Dine*

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[longgrove.org](http://longgrove.org)

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### Overcoming Guilt About Putting Elderly Parents Into Home Care

Seeing signals that your elderly parents need more support than you can offer is a typical and exhausting experience. There's no doubt in your mind or proof that they're not capable of taking care of themselves. Alternatively, you may be suffering from caregiver burnout, and your well-being and connections are worsening over a long period.



to watch your family members begin to suffer in their everyday life.

However difficult to cope with, these sentiments are natural, just like the desire to enhance your loved one's quality of life.

If you're worried about feeling guilty about being relocating family members, consider the following suggestions.

#### It's Normal to Feel Guilt

Confusing sentiments on how to best care for your elderly loved one might cause guilt. Your conflicted emotions show how much you care about your family member's health. You may feel like you're breaking a commitment to your elderly loved ones and taking away their decision-making abilities by moving them into a senior care facility, but this can actually strengthen them. Older adults may have more control over their own lives in a secure and supportive setting.

#### Consider the Alternate Possibility

When you're feeling guilty, take a moment to reflect on why you made the decision you did. Inquire about things like:

Will they get more continuous medical and personal attention?

Is the person I care about alone?

How long will it take for me to be able to give the amount of care my elderly relative needs?

#### Allow for Some Ambiguity

Taking on the responsibility of making important decisions for others may be pretty stressful. If you decide to move your parents into an assisted living or care facility, the stress and second-guessing can be even more intense, especially since it's a choice that may result in a significant lifestyle change. Take note of why you made the decisions, but also

realize that there will always be a degree of uncertainty.

#### Seek Help from Others

You may lessen feelings of guilt about relocating a senior relative to an assisted living facility such as [Aishling Companion Home Care](#) by seeking the support of family and friends. Emotions can be sorted out and validated by talking to relatives, colleagues, or therapists. When you seek the counsel of others, you can gain new insights and information that you would not have otherwise considered.

#### Visit Regularly

You can help your elderly relative feel more like they're welcome rather than a visitor at an extended-stay center by often visiting. You and your older family member will feel more at ease in their new home if you follow your typical habits. Your parent will feel a lot more comfortable and connected to you if you visit them frequently, so it's a win-win situation for everyone.

#### Conclusion

Seeing your parents age may be a grueling and emotionally draining experience. Moving to a senior living community may be a wonderful experience for your parents and everyone in the family, despite their trepidation about leaving their familiar surroundings. Fortunately, caregivers are given the opportunity to have continuing education to better care for our loved ones

Enrolling in [Aishling Care Academy's](#) caregiver training is the best thing a CNA can do. Aishling has a hands-on approach to teaching the joys of being a caregiver. Students learn how to treat patients correctly through simulations and informative presentations.

To learn more, please contact us 13255 SW Hwy #200Orland Park, IL 60462 Call Us (708) 234 - 1985.

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## Registration Is Now Open For Fall Irish Dance Classes



**\*Recreational\***

**\*Performance\***

**\*Competitive\***

**All Level Classes**

**Celebrating 50+ years of keeping the Irish Dance Tradition alive in the Tri State Area with Classes in Illinois-Iowa-Wisconsin**

**Preschool-Youth and Adult Classes**

**Locations:**

**Arlington Height-Chicago(South Loop)-Crystal Lake  
Dubuque, Ia-Glen Ellyn-Lake Geneva, Wi  
Naperville-Westchester**

**For Information Contact:  
McNultyDancers@gmail.com  
224.639.8644**





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AUGUST 2022

Friends, Members of the Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC), supporters and partners,

It is my pleasure to introduce myself to you as the new President of the IAHC Board of Directors. I will be serving on the Board along with fifteen other committed, experienced, and dedicated people this term, working toward fulfilling our goals and strategic plan, and doing our best to support those carrying out the mission of our beloved IAHC. Please welcome Tom Chambers as the Vice President, Marty McDonagh as the treasurer and Anne Marie Herlehy as the secretary for our Board. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve such a wonderful organization.

I have served on the IAHC Board of Directors as the treasurer for the last two years. Currently, I own a sign store in Chicago, Fast-signs Chicago South Loop. My background is in the corporate world, where I have managed businesses and been in sales positions for various companies. I plan to bring my experience and connections in Chicago to my continued service to the IAHC.

**Cead Mile Failte** – One Thousand Welcomes. It gives me great pleasure to extend an invitation and welcome to you and your

family and friends to the Irish Center. We have so many live events on the schedule in Irish music, dancing and culture. Please take a look at the calendar on our website, <https://irish-american.org/events/list/> to see our coming attractions. Here are some examples:

- Join Kathleen Kelly for an in-person day exploring the beautiful art of watercolor. An 8x10 painting will be done together as a study that continues to develop compositional and color theory skills.  
The class is for beginners and advanced painters. At the Irish American Heritage Center August 6th from 10am-4pm..
- On August 6, 2022, the Bow Tides will be playing at the IAHC.
- Michael Carroll returns to the IAHC to host a series of classes, lectures, and workshops in Celtic Art, between August 27, 2022, and November 19, 2022.
- The Golfing for Green annual golf outing to benefit the IAHC

is scheduled for September 17, 2022, at the Billy Caldwell golf course.

- Clannad is coming September 20, 2022, for their "Lifetime Farewell Tour".
- Craig Finn & the Uptown Controllers is coming to our very own Mayfair Theatre on October 21, 2022.

Come in to the Fifth Province, open Friday and Saturday nights — we are anxious to show you the new set-up and our new menu. The food is delicious, the drinks are awesome, and the company can't be beat. During my term as President, I would like to be available to you if you have questions or would like to discuss our IAHC. I will be in the Fifth Province regularly and would love to speak with you. I will schedule a date and time every month that I will be in the Pub and put it on the calendar on the website. Please check the calendar for "McHale in the Pub" if you would like to meet for a Guinness and talk anything IAHC, or just meet and get to know me.

The IAHC is open, and the hallways are full of life — the sounds of laughter, Irish music, and dancing. That is how it should be and what I love most about the Center. Next time you visit, consider making sure your membership is current, and please consider sharing your time and talents with the IAHC for any of our events, projects, or improvements. We can't wait to see you at the Center!

-Tony McHale  
President of the IAHC. Board of Directors

## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

### IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER NIMBLE THIMBLES QUILT RAFFLE



We can't let 2022 go by without the annual Nimble Thimbles Quilt Raffle! Purchase tickets in person at upcoming IAHC events, online at [irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org), or mail in your purchase info using this form. Drawing will be Monday, December 5th.

Here is your chance to own this beautiful Floral Kaleidoscope quilt! It features kaleidoscopic blocks, each one a different variation on the large scale print border. It measures 91 x 99 inches, a "generous" queen size, and is washable. A quilt like this, hand made by our very own Nimble Thimbles, would be at least \$500 if purchased outright.



**TICKETS:**  
2 for \$10 • 3 for \$15 • 5 for \$20

**DRAWING:**  
Monday, December 5th

*What a great Christmas gift,  
for someone special,  
or for you!*

Cut this order form out and \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Tickets: \$10  
check the box that shows how \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Tickets: \$15  
many tickets you would like. \_\_\_\_\_ 5 Tickets: \$20

**Total number of tickets purchased:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECK PAYABLE TO THE IAHC**  
or visit [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org),  
to purchase tickets or donate online

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER**  
4626 N. Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER  UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

4626 North Knox Avenue • Chicago, IL 60630 • (773) 282-7035, ext. 10 • [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org)



*Tickets are on sale now for*

## **CLANNAD'S IN A LIFETIME FAREWELL TOUR**

**At the Mayfair Theatre**

**Irish American  
Heritage Center  
September 20th, 7:00pm**

*Now's your chance to  
catch the legends live  
performing their  
career- spanning hits!*

**Go to [irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org)  
for your tickets today!**



*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 Per Golfer**

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!

Challenge Sponsorships Available:

Hole Sponsor	\$100
Closest to the Pin	\$200
Longest Drive	\$200

Prizes for "Best Kilt" and "Most Green Worn on the Green" will be awarded!



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rick would go to the fair in New Ross, Co. Wexford to buy/sell cattle. (and pigs). There were so many different Butler families at the fair from Kilkenny. They had nicknames for each family to cut down on confusion. My dad’s nickname was Ross Butler. Spancil hill fair is one of the oldest horse fairs in Ireland. Spancil refers to the practice of spancilling which means to tie a short rope to an animal’s left hind leg to its right leg, therefore stumbling the animal, so he doesn’t roam too far. There is a song the Ballad of Spancil hill. Puck fair-is a family festival in Kilorgan, Co. Kerry. It prob sounds odd to people who have never heard of it. It’s over 400 years old. It’s when they take a wild mountain goat, and he gets crowned

kind of the town by the queen of Puck. A schoolgirl will be chosen to crown the goat. Its origin is a pre-Christian festival for a fruitful harvest. The male goat was a Celtic symbol of fertility.

Athy fair in Kildare today I think is about music, crafts and a farmers’ market. In the past it was about buying and selling animals.

If you ever want to break a farmer’s heart, ask him price of a beast on a fair morning and prop it in his hands. (He knew he should have asked for more) I’ll leave you with a Summer story. “It was a sticky end-of-summer dog day in Missouri. Heat came down like a hot skullcap, and the only sound under the brassy sky was the lonesome locust hum. I was preparing to go after the mail, through fields and thickets, across creeks and a river, from our farmhouse, in which three generations of my family lived “Take the bucket with you,” my grandmother said, handing me the syrup bucket.

“What for?” I asked, petulantly. The berries had been picked, and it was too early for wild grapes.

“You’ll find something to fill it with,” she said, her blue eyes sparkling with anticipation.

I didn’t want to take the bucket. I might want to skip rocks on the river, or wade in the spring branch. I was nine years old, and I’d had to carry a bucket a good portion of my life. Twice a day I’d lugged a pail for milking. With it I’d carried feed to the chickens, salt to the cows, molasses to the neighbors.

Nevertheless, I took the bucket. I set it down beneath a pokeberry bush. I needn’t carry it the whole way, I reasoned.

When I got back to the bucket, I saw that a few ripe pokeberries had fallen into it. With childish ill humor, I picked off enough clusters to fill the pail, even though I thought they were good for nothing.

“Aren’t they just lovely!” Grandma exclaimed admiringly when I set them on the kitchen table. “We’ll make some pokeberry ink.” She brought a container, filled one of Grandpa’s little tobacco sacks with berries and squeezed out the juice. We used the lovely magenta ink to pen letters to distant cousins.

When I went to mail the letters the next day, Grandma again told me to take the bucket along. The sultry heat hadn’t changed. Its haze simmered up ahead of me around the limp ragweed and drying foxtail. I carried the bucket a little farther than the previous day before setting it down.

There was only a sale catalogue in the mail. When I got back to the bucket, I dropped it in. But I felt vaguely uncomfortable, remembering the pokeberries. I caught sight of a clump of peppermint growing close to the path. Funny, I had passed it every day and never noticed it before. Peppermint just doesn’t spring up overnight. I picked a bucketful, its pungent aroma seeming to cool the day.

Grandma was pleased with the peppermint. She liked to chew it, make tea with it, crush it in her hands.

The daily admonition to take the bucket along was repeated for several weeks, and I began to see other things. How long had that jewel weed been in bloom along the river bank? How long had the abandoned oriole’s nest dangled from the high elm limb?

One day, through the blue mist that gathered on our hillsides in late summer, I saw something brilliantly red. I found it to be a clump of sumac, shaped like a big, open umbrella waiting for autumn rain. When I described it to Grandma, she looked at me a long time and chuckled. “A red umbrella, eh?” Somehow, I knew I’d pleased her.

Then, for the first time, I noticed the monarch butterfly migration. Dozens and dozens of monarchs drifted over, bright orange and black. As I watched, it seemed that I myself had emerged from some cramped chrysalis. When I went home, I didn’t have anything in the bucket. “I forgot about it when I saw the butterflies,” I told Grandma.

The next day, when I picked up the bucket, Grandma’s hand closed over mine and gently loosened my hold. “Honey,” she said, “you don’t need the bucket anymore.” Questions call (708) 425-7021

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## Senior Groups Return September 2022



**At the Irish American Heritage Center**

**Monthly Musical Gathering**

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Doors: 10 a.m.  
Program: 10.30 a.m.

**The Front Parlor**

**Wednesday 21st September**  
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Program: 10.30 a.m.

**At Chicago Gaelic Park**

**The Get Together**

**Wednesday 14th September**  
Doors: 10 a.m.  
Program: 10.30 a.m.

**The Get Together**

**Wednesday 28th September**  
Doors: 10 a.m.  
Program: 10.30 a.m.



## WELCOME, MICAELA!

Irish Community Services is delighted to welcome **Micaela Anaya** to our team. Micaela will coordinate our **Benefits Access Program** which helps community members to access city, state and federal support programs.

## The Irish Rover

By Jim McClure



### To Serve and Protect on Dark Days and Everyday

When I heard of the Highland Park, Illinois July 4th parade attack I could hardly believe it.

Mass murder has become so prolific that a column I wrote in mid June about a Waukesha SUV driver parade attack at Christmastime was hitting the streets the same day gunshots rang out in Highland Park, not far from the downtown location where I read IAN at one of our distribution sites.

In such times we all wish we could do something concrete to help, heal and endure. I was fortunate that I



Fontana Wisconsin Police Officer Dillon McGuire

could immediately do something to protect others as an officer in the Civil Air Patrol.

Even as dozens, later hundreds of parades were canceled, The Lake Geneva lakeside community of Fontana decided to go forward with its fireworks that are so popular that they draw ten to twenty thousand visitors.

As work ended I hurried toward Fontana to join my fellow U.S. Air Force Auxiliary members ready to help provide crowd control and road safety blocking off all routes through the center of the festivities.

Milwaukee CBS 58 television news reporter Bryant McCray interviewed Chief Senior Master Sgt. Mark Gajewski, who told viewers how we stand ready in such situations: "We are there to be the eyes and ears and to make our voice heard and to get people out of the way."

For some events that's as simple as protecting children who might wander into parade caravans.

Lord knows that these days the threat could be much worse. No one knows that better than Fontana Police Officer Dillon McGuire. I was honored to draw this fellow Irish-American as my mentor, leader and partner for the night as Police Chief Jeff Cates assigned each CAP volunteer to his patrolmen. Fellows like McGuire never know





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  - Bridget Gainer - **Bill Gainer Family** -
- We hope you have as much fun as he always did!!*



**Irish Fellowship Club Golf Outing Sells Out!**

The Irish Fellowship Club Golf Outing was a huge success for members and guests. A sold out crowd of 144 golfers enjoyed the beautiful course at Ridgemoor Country Club as well as the dinner following. Chairman Bob Flood and his committee organized a great event raising important funds for the Irish Fellowship Club Education and Cultural Foundation. The Outing started with a 1pm Shotgun followed by excellent play concluding with dinner and a raffle. Members and guests enjoyed the hospitality of the Ridgemoor staff and the fellowship of Irish friends from far and near.

Said President John Wrenn, “The IFC had a great day on the course. We owe a big thank you to Bob Flood, his committee and Kathy Taylor for all of their hard work. We appreciate the sport of our sponsors and donors. This is a wonderful example of the fellowship the IFC provides.”

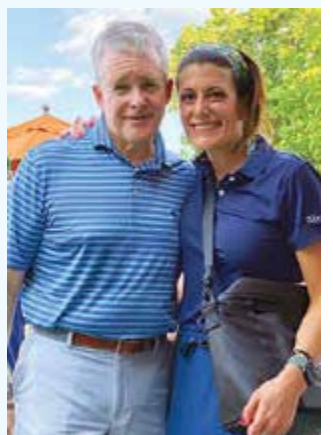
Executive Director Kathy Taylor thanked all of the golfers, raffle prize donors and hole sponsors, “The golf outing is a success because of the leadership of the Golf Committee and the financial support of our sponsors and donors. Thanks to their generosity, the Outing provides important support for the Foundation.”

The Irish Fellowship Club thanks our Golf Outing Sponsors & Raffle Donors:



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- Mike Tierney
- Marcy Twardak
- John Wrenn
- Lizzie McNeill’s
- Millennium Hall
- Napolita Pizza
- Theater on the Lake



**Future Events**

The Irish Fellowship Club invites all guests to our upcoming special events. Please mark your calendars for the Annual Irish Fellowship Club President’s Christmas Luncheon at the Hilton Chicago on Friday, December 2, 2022. And, join us to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day 2023 at the St. Patrick’s Day Dinner on Friday, March, 10, 2023.

[www.irishfellowshipclub.org](http://www.irishfellowshipclub.org)

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what might happen when they approach a car, answer a disturbance call as we did that night, or even simply direct traffic during a lake fireworks show. McGuire had me stand at a crossing between the beach and the Abbey Resort. My job was to keep vehicles from coming up over a bridge lane. As he alternated stopping and starting traffic at the four lane intersection abutting the bridge he directed me as well. “Okay, Jim....hold ‘em up!” was my cue to stop my lane and escort pedestrians safely across the road.

Things were the same as always as the bright fireworks faded into a light drizzle of flame and new falling rain. But it was different. Each of the dozens of people who crossed thanked us both for keeping them safe. A bright hope of refund confidence following a dark day.

As we parted at the station, Dillon McGuire drove off into the night. The ledger showed he made an arrest later that shift. His profession shows that he is one of many law enforcement officers driving off into the dark, and The Darkness... to protect us all every day.

Email Jim at [IrishRoverJim@gmail.com](mailto:IrishRoverJim@gmail.com)



**Scythian Returns to Ballydoyle Pub August 12th**

Scythian, the popular folk rock band got their start in Irish pubs, and one of the first was the Ballydoyle Pub in downtown Downers Grove.

Catch their live show again or for the first time in their old stomping grounds.

If you liked them before you’ll love them now as they come off the road armed with more great songs and stories.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 day of show. You can get your tickets early and online at their website, [scythianmusic.com](http://scythianmusic.com)

*“Scythian has reinvented folk rock in America (iHeart Radio’s - (Arroe Collins)*

*“When Rock Star Charisma Meets Celtic Dervish Fiddling” - (Nashville’s ‘Music City Roots’)*





# On the Upbeat

By Maryann McTeague Keifer

This has been an exceptionally difficult few weeks for Irish musicians and music lovers here in Chicago with the loss of two very special gentlemen, Dennis Cahill and Tom Looney. Both were larger than life and such important members of our music community.

and Dennis Cahill, he was a member of and attended school in the Irish Little Flower parish. He started playing music when he was about 9, and was interested in becoming a singer/songwriter. He attended De Paul and Roosevelt Universities concentrating on



Mary and Dennis



Dennis left us on June 20th just four days after his 68th birthday and his anniversary. Born on the southside of Chicago to Clare emigrants Anne

classical guitar at Roosevelt. He often performed at The Earl of Old Town with the likes of Steve Goodman, Bonnie Kolac, and John Prine. He was

well known in pubs and coffee houses playing and singing folk, blues, and jazz.

In the mid 1980s, Dennis met Martin Hayes who had come from Killanena, County Clare and history began to be made. They hit it off right away and eventually created their first band, Midnight Well, a kind of rock Irish Trad combo. Martin eventually convinced Dennis to concentrate on Irish Traditional music and add his style and influences. Martin says of Dennis' playing, "Nobody before you had ever played those chords and rhythms with Irish music, in the way you did. You matched the beauty of the Traditional Irish melodies with your own equally beautiful sequences of chords and hypnotic rhythms."

It was in the mid 1990s that Dennis and Martin formed the entrancing and seductive acoustic style duo they are so famous for now. The New

Martin recorded three albums together as a duo, now to be so treasured!

The pair also created the super group, The Gloaming, with Iarla Ó Lionáird, Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh, and Tom Bartlett, and The Martin Hayes Quartet with the extraordinary Liz Knowles and Doug Wieselman. Dennis was excited that both groups, while having a base in Irish Trad, took the music and stretched their playing. He enjoyed the challenge and creativity of both bands immensely.

While he travelled all over the world sharing his music, there was nowhere he enjoyed more than coming home to his house and family here in Chicago and his good hometown music buddies. The internationally known and revered musician loved the local session and playing with his good friends including Jimmy Keane, Liz

together. Mary's daughter Clíodhna was as his own and he took real joy in all her accomplishments. Mary told me she feels "cheated" of being able to spend the rest of her life with him, a feeling I'm sure many of us share. We never thought we'd be without his kindness, generosity, wicked humor, political debate, and his music. He was a special man, and I will always treasure in my heart how fortunate I was to be able to call him a friend and spend many good times with him.

The second blow to our hearts came with the unexpected passing of Tom Looney from Covid-19 complications after a bout with it last April. It is impossible to imagine the Chicago Irish community without Tom's smile, encouragement, positivity, participation, and the wealth of its history he held. Born and raised in Ballycashen, County Clare, Tom had a rough childhood being the youngest of seven children who lost their mother when he was just an infant. He was working by age 10 and headed to England when he was only 15. At 19, he emigrated to The States and after being drafted, came back to Chicago and met Bridget Ellen McGuire, who became his "Breege."



Breege and Tom Looney

York Times described their play as "stripping old reels and jigs to their essence, leaving space between the notes for harmonics and whispered blue notes." When talking about his style of playing, Dennis would emphasize the importance of the space between the notes. I have seen his style called minimalist, but it was hardly that, as he set off the melodies to be so much more. Dennis and

Carroll, Jimmy Moore, Pauline Conneely, Paddy Homan, Larry Nugent, Pat Broaders, and the list goes on...

A widower, having lost his first wife, Gwen Sales, to a car accident, Dennis met Mary Joyce in 2007 in Ireland, and they were quickly soul mates who loved each other dearly. It was such a pleasure being around them and seeing the love and humor they enjoyed

Tom, and love of his life Breege, were longtime owners of the famous Abbey Pub on North Grace Street where hundreds of Irish musicians performed over the years. Musicians including James Kelly, The Clancy Brothers, Christy Moore, Martin Hayes, The Chieftans, Altan, Solas, and numerous other well known musicians performed there. They were also host to many other genres of music from folk to country to rock.

Not only did they host the music, but Tom and Breege were the local "American parents" to many an Irish musician when they moved here and had no family. Tom had the special talent of being able to give advice, clear the path, and get many a lad on the right road to a future. His kindness and patience were legendary.

He was well involved in the formation of both Gaelic Park and the Irish American Heritage Center which was right in the Abbey neighborhood. There were few functions there that you wouldn't see him walking down the hall.

Most important to him, though, was his family. His wife Breege, children, and growing number of grandchildren were the center of his life. He was so proud of his family and enjoyed being with them.

Chicago will not be the same without Tom Looney. He was the definition of who the Irish were who have kept our culture, our reputation, and our Irishness alive.

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# Dance for Life: Trinity Irish Dance Company to Perform at Chicago’s Iconic Dance for Life Concert August-13

## TIDC’s Place in Performing Arts:

When trying to understand the critical international importance of the Chicago/Milwaukee based Trinity Irish Dance Company (TIDC), one need not look much further than their inclusion for the second year in a row in Chicago’s annual Dance For Life performance. Hosted by the Chicago Dancers United, which supports the health and wellness of Chicago’s professional dance community, Dance for Life 2022 will be held at the Auditorium Theatre on August 13th at 6pm. TIDC will perform groundbreaking work alongside performing arts institutions such as The Joffrey Ballet and Giordano Dance Chicago.

TIDC Founding Artistic Director Mark Howard says, “I encourage anyone who runs towards life, anyone who seeks intense joy, to afford themselves the beautiful experience of an evening at Dance For Life. There is nothing quite like the palpable energy of so many exquisite artists on stage for this particular cause in one of the world’s most exciting rooms.”

While Irish culture is more than covered in the commercial world through shows like Celtic Women and Lord of the Dance, TIDC holds a unique space for Irish culture in the performing arts world. As the world’s first and only touring non-for-profit, repertory Irish Dance company, they continue to carve an important alternative path. Since its inception in 1990, TIDC has focused on evolving Irish dance in an integrity-filled way, achieving higher ground for the art form to the delight of presenters, audiences and dance critics.

Fresh off of a week-run at New York City’s Joyce Theater and headed into another significant season that will culminate in a three week tour of Japan, the impact TIDC is having in prestigious theaters and the high-brow dance scene once exclusive to ballet and contemporary dance is profound.

### Dance for Life - August 13th

On August 13th, you can see TIDC performing ‘American Traffic,’ a hybrid of Irish step and American tap that plays at the intersection of rhythmic sensibilities and rebellious histories, choreographed by NYC-based tap dancer and MacArthur Genius Grant recipient Michelle Dorrance and tap dancer and choreographer



Trinity Irish Dance Co. performing ‘American Traffic’ - photo by Chelsea Hoy

Melinda Sullivan. Dorrance says, “Trinity Irish Dance Company is the cutting edge of Irish dance. They achieve what Riverdance does not - a powerful combination of cultural depth, innovation, and artistry with exceptional technical range.”

While Dance for Life gives you a small taste of each company, you can save the date for April 22nd, 2023 to see more of TIDC’s repertoire at the Auditorium Theatre, when they will be joined by Dorrance Dance (Dorrance’s company) and Chicago tap company M.A.D.D. Rhythms for a never before seen evening of virtuosic percussion.

The complete lineup of companies performing at Dance for Life includes Trinity Irish Dance Company, Chicago Dance Crash, Deeply Rooted Dance Theater, Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, Giordano Dance Chicago, The Joffrey Ballet, and NAJWA Dance Corps. Randy Duncan will choreograph a world premiere finale.

“We are thrilled to have Trinity back on the Dance for Life stage again this year,” says Michael Anderson, board president of Chicago Dancers United. “Their particular artistic contribution and percussive rhythms are unlike any of our other participants, and we love to feature them as part of the show!”

Dance for Life raises money for The Dancers’ Fund, which provides Chicago dance industry professionals with financial support for preventative health care and critical medical needs. The event showcases the city’s unique variety of dance traditions and styles by bringing together professional dance companies and dancers from throughout Chicago, who unite to support their peers by generously donating their time, energy, and artistry. Throughout its history, Dance for Life has presented more than 40 Chicago-based professional dance companies representing a variety of genres, sizes, and histories and numerous choreographers, artists, and designers. Additional beneficiaries of Dance for Life are AIDS Foundation Chicago and American Cancer Society

**Tickets:** Chicago Dancers United presents Dance for Life 2022, Saturday, August 13 at 6 p.m. at the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Ida B. Wells Dr., followed by an after-party at Venue SIX10, 610 S. Michigan Ave.

Tickets [auditoriumtheatre.org](http://auditoriumtheatre.org) 312.341.2300.

**Donations:** Support Chicago Dancers United at [chicagodancersunited.org](http://chicagodancersunited.org) To Support TIDC go to <https://trinityirishdancecompany.com>



Dance for Life - Photo by Todd Rosenberg

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**Game On!**  
By Chris Wheaton



watched Kilkenny roast Clare in the semi-final. Gerry added that Limerick clearly have the strongest, fittest panel seen since Kilkenny won 4 in a row from 2006 - 2009 but cautioned that it is Kilkenny, and they have a certain mystique that could keep Limerick from winning its 3rd in a row.

Kilkenny vs. Limerick; a classic matchup of two hurling powerhouses. Kilkenny, arguably the best team of the past 20 years squares off against the best team from the past five years on July 17 in front of 85,000 rabid hurling fans. As I am writing this the match has yet to be contested but by the time this newspaper hits your mailbox the result will no longer be in doubt.

I turned to friends and teammates to get some insight on the game and the legend of the All-Ireland Final. Gerry McNamara from County Clare believes that the fact that Kilkenny has not won the title since 2015 will make for an exceptional game considering they have won 10 of the past 20 finals and were runner-up another four times. Gerry knows that the experience of Kilkenny Bainisteoir Brian Cody will go a long way towards a good result as he

The All-Ireland Final is far more than the match that is played on the pitch every year at the end of an exhausting hurling campaign. John Haran from County Sligo which is more of a football county than hurling said that people in America do not realize how big and important the final is in Irish life. John remembers as a very young boy going to a neighbor's house to watch the game because his family did not have a TV. His mother and father's honeymoon was a trip to Dublin to watch the final and John assures me that to this day if you were to ask his father about the wedding he wouldn't remember a single detail but yet could tell you everything about the match. Back in the day, the hurling final was always the 2nd week of

September and the football final the 3rd. Peadar Hurling, another friend and teammate from the Naperville Hurling Club has a different perspective being a Limerick man. Peadar was lucky enough to be in Croke Park last year when his team won their second consecutive final. Peadar can't wait to watch his up and coming Limerick panel against the hurling kingpins from Kilkenny. Peadar told me that the atmosphere around Dublin before, during, and after the match is something unmatched anywhere. He believes that any sport enthusiast would be fascinated at how this amateur contest can create so much interest and excitement.

On a more philosophical note Peadar waxed on about how the final brings incredible pride and nationalism to the Irish people. He said that over the past 138 years, the game has been a constant regardless of what the country has been going through. There have been wars, poverty and oppression of the Irish people during this period of time but hurling has stood unwavering as a symbol of Irish uniqueness, perseverance and pride.

Peadar went on to say the game is a National celebration and little else gets done on the Sunday of the All-Ireland. More important than the fact that the game is played by 30 players with a ball and funny looking sticks is the symbol of defiance and triumph for the sake of freedom that the sport stands for.

The game is now in the books and being late for my deadline I can't add much except to say, "what a match it was"! Limerick prevailed in the end but had to hold off a late charge by Kilkenny. Limerick was clearly the better panel today, but it did not come easy. With Limerick's third title in a row, they join some elite company and will undoubtedly be the early season favorite to win again in 2023.

Hopefully this edition is in your hand prior to 8-5, so you can travel to Naperville and enjoy the fine Irish Fest that weekend at Frontier Park. Fun filled events, great music and food. The Naperville Hurling Club will take on the Hurling Club of Madison and the Michael Cusack's from Chicago. I hope to see some of you there.

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The WHA programme is open to any US citizen over the age of 18 who:  
- Is currently in full-time post high school education which will ultimately lead to an Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's or Doctorate degree or;  
- Has graduated from such a program within the past 12 months.

**How can I apply?**  
You can apply through the Irish Embassy/Consulate General office that serves the area in which you reside in the United States. The application form and a list of required supporting documentation can be found at Irish Embassy/Consulate office websites in the United States. Applications must be submitted via post.

[www.dfa.ie/chicago](http://www.dfa.ie/chicago)

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Good Grief..Hello everybody how is your summer going so far?Right now we are getting ready to drop our daughter off to ISU.She has packed everything but the kitchen sink. I just hope the lifts are working as she's on the educators floor fifteenth floor to be exact!!Anyway I'll let you know how we get on .

Here is a beautiful tribute in his own words from Gabriel Donohue to his beautiful Galway mum. Many thanks Gabreil for letting me share this with our readers.

Born in 1923, she counts backwards from 100 to remember her age. She stopped tending to the flowers a few years ago when her hips got poorly. Her hips and the flowers will now be what they will be without intervention. She always had the greenest thumb. When the house was full of children and the dairy was full of cows, the flowers lined the avenue and the front lawn was a garden. I never saw her depressed but I often saw her cry. She adapted to the coming and going of 3 out of 8 of us, her partially expatriated flock. And even to the loss of those expatriated to another plane. Her first daughter died in infancy during the war, and 2 fine sons within five weeks of each other. They were not to see late middle age.

Now in her late 90's she has few peers. The children she knew in childhood and in the pews of Esker Monastery under green sods lie. The tall man she married 2 miles from her birthplace is gone much longer than she was a

wife to him.

She never knew how he voted. They were a mixed marriage, but she suspects he may have come around to her political persuasion in his last years, at least a time or two.

Politics never found purchase within the thick walls of our old stone house built by landlord Bowes Daly in 1903. They worked every corner of the 80 acres gained from the land commission. Hay, barley, sugar beet, potatoes, turnips, cabbage, cows, children, hens for a short stint, and two orphan lambs for me and my brother Michael, that metamorphosed into a green Raleigh bicycle.

We were not encouraged to name them and when they had grown big enough to knock us down when we bottle fed them in the paddock, they were delivered to Maurice Aherne, victualler. That's a word for a man who can turn two lambs into a two wheeled cycological wonder.

Soon as well, an old 15 pounds, old money, piano arrived on the milk trailer, it was shoe horned through the doors into the parlor, where it joined fiddles, electric guitars, mandolins, lap steels and banjos. Nope it was never tuned, but settled to a comfortable saloon tuning of around A: 415 hertz. Two of us would be encouraged to learn to read music on it, like our ceili cousins. Three teachers later and a hundred songs learned by ear, musical erudition was abandoned for the music of what happens.

Luckily my mother's lack of an ear for music had her in awe that the sounds from the parlor sounded even close to purposeful improvisation. She abided by all the crazy sounds as if they were symphonies. My father would mutter a few words of critique, as his genes predisposed him to being able to discern the dissonant from the harmonious. He often retreated to the safety of the byre,

rather than hearing Yakety Yak for the hundredth time.

There's no doubt but we were very lucky to have grown up in a stable, no pun intended, environment. We knew who our parents were, we knew commitment, we knew sobriety, we knew selflessness for the greater good of family. We were never made aware of financial insecurity, so we were rich. We could have gone on to third level education as the two of us did. Or took up music as a profession as the two of us did. Or worked as guardians of the peace as the two of us did. Gone to work in another country in the EU, as the two of us did. The oldest took over the farm and expanded to ten times the productivity that our parents raised eight kids upon. Today Ireland enjoys one of the highest standards of living in the world. It's story parallels our family's and that of many of the hard working neighbors we knew.

I heard the word meitheal today for the first time in a long time, from my friend John as he described those formative years. What it really means is organic socialism. You work on a neighbor's farm for a day, and when you need a hand he will be over without any expectation of money ever changing hands. It's a last vestige of the pre famine Irish order, before the fabric of Irish life was torn to shreds by a cruel and fascist political system run from London. Overlords uncaring and unwilling to manage a human disaster of epic proportions.

The land bereft of the people was more valuable. These famine Irish were our parents' grandparents. They never talked about it, but it made them the people they were and are. Strong and as resilient as the stone walls of County Galway.

Well that's all for now .Enjoy the rest of the summer as I for one am looking forward to Thanksgiving to have my kids around the table.Till next time stay safe and well.



Tech Entrepreneur MaryLiz Lehman is in a class without peers. An Irish American tech entrepreneur in Chicago, she has an eye for identifying problems, a talent for sorting them out, and a track record of success. Her latest venture, GoodPix, is a SaaS (software as a service) company that provides software for relationship- and service-based solopreneurs to recommend retail products across fashion, style, beauty and home to their clients. Her customers are personal stylists, and "they earn a service income for their recommendations," said MaryLiz. In its simplest form, said explained that GoodPix "gives them their own storefronts."

MaryLiz understands consumers and, more importantly, the people who sell to them. While her first startup, Pixavo, catered to the brand, GoodPix empowers the personal stylist. She launched the company in March

2020, a prescient move given the growing pool of independent personal stylists and skyrocketing consumer demand for personal online service, both due in large part to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"People want expert curation," said MaryLiz. "Someone who knows you and understands you." She tackled the right problem at the right time. Today, she has a team of developers and customer support staff dedicated to expanding GoodPix's membership and adding revenue streams. She continues to build out amenities, including business tools and one-on-one coaching, as she strives to fulfill her "business in a box" vision for customers.

MaryLiz's sustained success is a testament to her deep knowledge across both technology and retail. Prior to her start-ups, she owned Perchance, a high-end brick-and-mortar clothing boutique in Chicago. For seven years, she managed the store and its inventory of more than 70



brands. "We focused on the long game - what is lifetime value of this customer?" said MaryLiz. "They came in for service and not for product."

Indeed, MaryLiz has built a whole ecosystem around this ethos. She advises other entrepreneurs to remain focused on two key questions when building their business: "Who are you serving and what problem are you solving for them?"

She makes it seem simple. But her cool demeanor, keen insight and sustained success should not be interpreted as easy or effortless. Like any startup, fundraising remains an omnipresent challenge. MaryLiz said her investors are primarily

friends and family. "I've had a hard time explaining what I was doing and why it mattered," she said. "You get 103 'nos' before you get one 'yes'," she said, citing that just 2% of venture capital goes to women entrepreneurs.

MaryLiz Lehman (nee Tully) and her husband, Peter, live in Lake Forest with their three children, Maddy, 13, Molly, 10, and Finn, 5. More about her company can be found here: [www.GoodPix.co](http://www.GoodPix.co)

The Weather  
As I write this column in the middle of July, we are expecting a bit of a heat wave at the weekend which should last for three or four days. For the most part Ireland experiences an oceanic climate which is never too hot or too cold and very little in the way of extremes. This summer has been very patchy so far with more rain than normal and very little sunshine. The tradition here in Connemara is to plant the potatoes on St. Patrick's Day and to dig them at the Galway Races at the end of July.

This year there were very high winds for the last two weeks of April and the first two weeks of May which damaged my potato stalks and will serve to give me a lower yield at the time of digging. Apparently, these strong winds are part of a tradition in these lands called 'garbh gaoth an chuach' and translated as 'the rough winds of the cuckoo'. Legend has it that these are the



strong winds that help the cuckoo from Africa to arrive here in April. Good for the cuckoo, but unfortunately not for my poor potato stalks!

The year 2350 BC in Ireland was significant, as it rained constantly for 20 years onwards. This was towards what we call the end of the Neolithic period and the poor people must have been at their wits end! This drastic climatic downturn is referenced in the Bible as Noah's flood (2349 BC), by archaeological dendrochronology (tree ring dating) records and also within the text of the Annals of the Four Masters. This phenomenon has been traced to an enormous volcanic explosion somewhere in the world that

catapulted dust into the atmosphere and blocked the natural sunlight for years.

I watched 'Angela's Ashes' on TV again recently, which is the late Frank Mc Court's novel relating to a childhood in Limerick. I found it incredibly bleak, and was it really possible for that amount of rain to fall in this particular area? I also notice



in the bookshops these days that there are quite an amount of books which carry the theme of the Irish Childhood. It is as if we have a need to benchmark the

modern Ireland in which we live against previous decades not as prosperous.

But we have to be careful here as there are many forms of the Irish Childhood and they should not be taken literally as a factual social history of their particular time. There is a device at work here called 'selective inclusion' which acts as a filter for the memory of the particular writer. Notwithstanding all the rain,

poverty and squalor I find it hard to believe that Frank did not have some happy times also. While all of this was going on in Limerick, Alice Taylor was happily walking to school barefoot, saving the hay and having a delightful time in general. Of course, there is little reference in her books to that little episode called the Second World War (or 'The Emergency' as it was called in Ireland) which was gripping the majority of the world, except for a little geographical portion in mid West Cork. Over-

all, we all have a tendency to remember the good summers and not the bad ones.

It is good to look back from time to time but also to tease out some parallels with the present day and use it as a learning process. But, we cannot wallow in the activities of the past and we also need to focus an amount of our energies on the journey ahead. The following is a famous quotation from George Bernard Shaw when in 1898 he was asked to take part in the centenary celebrations of the rising in 1798: 'It was proposed to me that I should help to uplift my downtrodden country by assembling with other Irishmen to romance about 1798. I do not take the slightest interest in 1798. Unless Irishmen apply themselves seriously to what the condition of Ireland is to be in 1998 they will get very little patriotism out of me. Yours Sincerely, GBS'

'Don't knock the weather, if it didn't change, nine out of ten Irish people wouldn't be able to start a conversation'



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# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, I ran with the bulls in Pamplona.

Around this time of year, I generally get to remembering that day and that young man (now pretty much a stranger

to me), taking place as it does during the second week of July as part of Spain's San Fermin Festival. On the occasions when the subject comes up I'm sometimes asked if I was influenced to go to Pamplona by way of Hemingway's 1926 first novel 'The Sun Also Rises'; but that wasn't it at all, the work of that writer never particularly impinging on my life.

I was, however, utterly bewitched and enchanted by James Michener's 1971 novel 'The Drifters', which I read and reread and pored over while still at school. It

was a doorway into a world far beyond my own. I recall many a happy hour sitting on the comfortable, beat-up old sofa that my parents had put into brother Donald's and my bedroom; and whether the sun was shining through the window or the rain was beating off it, I was transported into the company of Gretchen and Monica and Cato and the rest of the young hippies who were wandering around Europe and points adjacent. I made up my mind that as soon as I left school, I was going to take the money I had saved from packing supermarket shelves and follow in their footsteps for a year, seeing and working in as many of the places that they had visited as I could.

Pamplona was where Joe - my favourite character - made his spur-of-the-moment decision

to run with the bulls of San Fermin, so it was a given that this would be one of the highlights of my hitchhiking trip. And it was, although I have no doubt that over the next few years it gained a mythic importance in my mind that it never really had, tied up as it was with a young man's need to test himself and with unrealistic ideas of machismo, courage and the romantic notion of 'no guts, no glory'. After all, you had to run from half a dozen or so maddened and frightened bulls through cordoned off streets. Somewhere on this page you can see a photo of that young fella, bull's head belt and all. I doubt that you would even be allowed on a plane with that thing now, lethal-looking weapon as it is!

Over the years though, I began to understand that what had seemed like a watershed moment for me was something quite pointless and, well...daft, really: a task undertaken by someone who was young and stupid. Still, I am today very glad that this was as far as I went. Considering how much time I was to spend in Spain and then with many later trips to Mexico I never did go to a bullfight. I saw them then and see them now as the products of a ridiculously macho 'blood-and-sand' culture.

Later in life I would try my best to understand the philosophy behind them, wondering if I was simply missing something. I read Michener's novel 'Mexico' and of course the granddaddy of them all, Hemingway's non-fiction 'Death in the Afternoon', but they never changed my mind in the slightest - the feeling that all the philosophizing in the world couldn't alter my impression that it was an excuse to indulge in cruelty to animals, pure and simple.

What my period of reflection on the past, though, that comes with each July does most of all is to remind me just how massively and drastically the world has changed within my lifetime. When I set off for Europe I had £40 pounds on me, so it was obvious that I would have to be looking for work. (The figure is there to this day, written in the back of my old passport from that long-ago decade.) And that was pretty much it. There were no mobile phones of course. When you went 'abroad' - and everywhere was abroad - you were on your own. I did have a copy of 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to Europe' which was back then updated yearly and was an absolutely indispensable collection of tips for getting around on thumb-power only.

And it's possibly/ probably just my rose-tinted glasses colouring this, but people seem to have been kinder back then. Certainly, I met with nothing but good fortune whilst on the road. I had one fella who tried it on, me being a pretty young thing and all back in the day, but he took no for an answer with a shrug. Perhaps I was just

lucky; but no...wherever I went, people really did seem kinder. And really, what was there to be timid about? I was seventeen, had the whole world in front of me and would be inheriting a planet where War would have been eradicated and not one single person would be going hungry.

Halfway through the first Covid lockdown in 2020 I was naïve enough to think that when we opened the world up again, we human beings would be entering a new phase in our moral evolution. I thought that through Lockdown we were learning something special about being friendly to our neighbours, genuinely enquiring after their health, appreciating cleaner skies and gaining a deeper appreciation of Nature.

No. If anything, we've gotten worse. Around the time that I was heading off on my adventures, film director and former US Marine Sam Peckinpah was being interviewed by British film critic Barry Norman and saying that we will always be FOR War, that for many people it is part of what defines them. [The entire thought-provoking '70s interview is available on YouTube and is well worth watching in its entirety.] And elsewhere he would talk about how we were being subtly programmed and how much he resented it.

Then, I thought he was just being cynical; now it seems as if he wasn't being cynical enough. We close society down as soon as we are ordered to. Line up for injections because we're told that they are good for us. Put up with ridiculous queues at airports. And of course, docilely listen to celebrities lecture us on our carbon footprint instead of telling them to sod off and practice what they preach. The latest mouthpiece was Britain's Prince William who thought that it was a good idea to deliver a tone-deaf speech to the peasantry about the environment at his granny's Jubilee, whilst you could barely hear what he was saying for the number of private jets landing to help the world's most dysfunctional family-on-benefits celebrate surviving into another century.

I wonder sometimes if air travel for holidays will even be available in twenty years' time, or will it only be the very rich who travel, as in our grandparents' day.

And the Usual Suspects actually got richer by billions during Lockdown. And the Weapons Manufacturers are rubbing their sweaty hands in loathsome glee at the now more than two dozen wars taking place globally. Although if you only read mainstream media, you'll be forgiven for thinking that there's only one.

All in all, it's fair to say that the world that silly young man inherited wasn't quite the one he envisaged a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, when he ran with the bulls in Pamplona.

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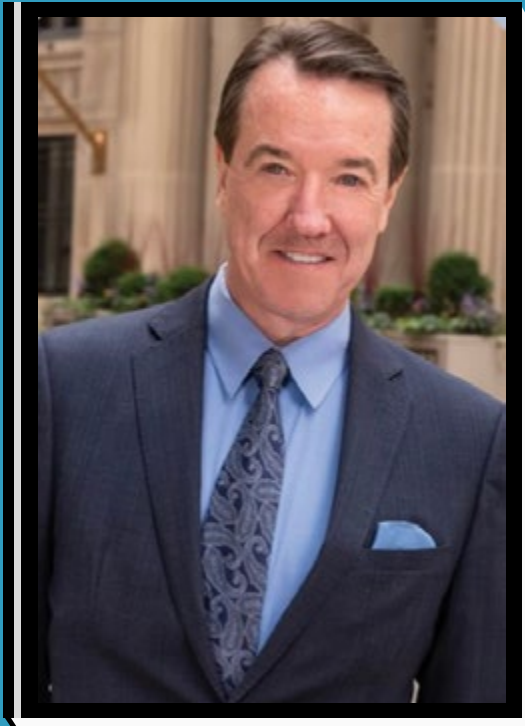


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