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**View
From Ireland**

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



‘Tá mé sa bhaile’: Joe Biden Comes Home

There has never been a US president who has more firmly, passionately and almost exclusively identified with Ireland as Joe Biden. JFK’s ancestry was thoroughly Irish, but international affairs during his short presidency was dominated by the threat of nuclear war with the Soviet Union. While JFK described his visit to Ireland as the best four days of his life, it was merely an interlude. Kennedy was a good deal less inclined to wax lyrical about the old sod than Biden who, by contrast, loves the place, the blarney, the myths. He even declared, when addressing a joint session of the two houses of the Irish government on April 13th ‘Tá mé sa bhaile’ (I am home). But what exactly does he mean by home and Ireland?

In the sixty years between JFK’s visit to Ireland in June 1963 and Joe Biden’s visit in April 2023, a great deal has changed in US-Irish relations. It has become routine for US presidents, including incumbent presidents, to visit Ireland and to engage in Irish domestic politics, particularly politics of the Northern variety. The change has been such that few have remarked how notable it is that the week after Biden visited Ireland, a former US president, Bill Clinton, also delivered a round of talks in Ireland that reflected on the US role in Good Friday Agreement and the US’ ongoing role in protecting it. Bill Clinton is being invited by his wife who is chancellor of Queens University Belfast.

Ireland’s itself has changed unrecognisably politically over those 60 years. A decade after JFK’s visit, Ireland joined the European Economic Community, which later morphed into the European Union. The country gained significance on the world stage (in the context of being a small country without any military power to speak of). For example, in September 2021, Ireland

held the presidency of the United Nations Security Council. Although it is perverse to identify a boon from Brexit, the meltdown our nearest neighbour has experienced resulted in a great deal of European and US concern to protect the peace agreed on Good Friday 25 years ago.

Economic growth has occurred hand in hand with political change. The stark poverty that drove generations to emigrate from Ireland is in the past. The old sod is now backed in a cloud whose majority stakeholder is a US multinational. The donkey moseying around the white cottage these days is a cameo in a Martin McDonagh film whose rights have been acquired by Disney+.

A tandem change that no US president ever wants to talk about is the social one that has resulted in the almost total decline in the status of the Catholic Church in Ireland. Two of Biden’s engagements were at distinctly Catholic sites: the cathedral in Ballina and the shrine at Knock. Can you remember the last time any Irish politician addressed a huge gathering in two Catholic sites on the same day? Or even in the same year? Neither can I. The team behind the favourite to win next year’s US presidential election had Catholics in the US firmly in mind—Trump has, in the past, polled higher for the Catholic vote than Biden.

Joe Kennedy III accompanied the Biden entourage and will stay on in Northern Ireland as an economic envoy. One of his predecessors in that role was Senator George Mitchell, whose activities in Belfast rapidly shifted to the political sphere with his chairing the Good Friday Agreement negotiations. While Kennedy has downplayed the prospect of his intervening in Northern Irish politics, everyone knows that politics is inescapable in such a role. This partly explains the sourness with which some unionist politicians greeted the Biden visit. Speaking in Belfast, Biden was

anxious to credit the ‘Ulster Scots’ with helping to build America, but few unionist politicians were swayed. In a statement that surely spoke for a lot of her party, former DUP leader Arlene Foster said on GB News, her new employer (Brexit Britain’s answer to Fox): ‘He [Biden] hates the United Kingdom’.

Nor is DUP frustration at all localised to the return of a proud Irish-American whose ancestors departed in the famine era and who occasionally expresses something less than love for Britain. It stems from the discomfiting intimation that Biden’s support will continue. Biden may indeed be re-elected, and Irish-America will continue to lobby in the US Congress. That lobby has always been at pains to convince unionists of its pluralism and benignity, but it never quite succeeds. Arguably, it cannot succeed since DUP politicians would prefer to be outside the tent pursing their lips and making bitter comments; it is no accident that Foster has abandoned politics for partisan punditry.

DUP leader Jeffrey Donaldson’s

insistence that Biden’s visit ‘doesn’t change the political dynamic in Northern Ireland’ is unconvincing. Denialism can only go so far. There is no denying that at Biden’s right flank during his four-day trip to Ireland was Secretary of State Antony Blinken: the trip was as much about politics as emotional attachment. Don’t deny either that Prime Minister of the UK, Rishi Sunak, looked forlorn as he waited for Joe Biden in Belfast in the rain and only secured a brief cup of coffee with him; the media dubbed it a ‘bilat’. The image conjured the memory of the Irish delegation waiting outside during the post-WWI negotiations in Paris in 1919 while Britain spoke to US President Woodrow Wilson. A century later the positions have changed considerably.

Finally, there is no point denying that though Biden will not attend the coronation of King Charles in the UK, he nevertheless found a way to schedule a trip to a pub in County Louth. When he was there, he looked very much at home.

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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

We Were All Dunces

Many columnists writing in *Irish American News* share much of the same views about their rearing; the trials and tribulations of family life, the oppression dished out in schools where nuns, priests and women, hammered grammar into the heads of their pupils. These nuns and priests thought many or most of us would develop a vocation, a seminary for boys - and girls with a lot of coaxing would flock to a nunnery. Some did, I escaped! I also recall teacher's favorite word for each and every pupil was "dunce." We were all

dunces. I strived hard not to be but once you're named it sticks magically for life! The good news is I shed the name when I delivered my first daughter in a Catholic Hospital in Boston!

The Irish novelist Roddy Doyle, if memory serves, maintained that Irish teachers considered all school children dunces. And yet we thrived! I recall a time when Ireland boasted that the Emerald Isle produced the best scholars. Come to think of it my very first Irish passport issued in Dublin at the age of seventeen listed me as a Scolaire, scholar and a schoolgirl who measured five foot three inches high! No idea

why the latter was recorded although the green leather Eire passport also pronounced my eyes blue and hair brown. I still take pride in that green leather passport embellished with a gold Irish harp on the cover.

When I gaze at the photo of me as a teenage post pubescent scholar I feel an enormous sense of comfort in my ancestry and proud to be Irish despite that I'm harboring a raging resentment against President Biden and his recent visit to Ireland.

He actually visited under false pretenses and even though I cast a vote for his presidency, he dealt me a serious blow by claiming his current presence in Ireland is personal as he bounces around the land visiting his relatives.

To the best of my knowledge his visit was about honoring and rejoicing in the 25th anniversary of the April 10, 1998 signing of the Good Friday Agreement.

That was a landmark in Irish history, a peace accord ending 30 years of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland, usually referred to as "The Troubles."

Yes, Biden paid some respect and made a speech praising the Agreement but later when visiting the Cooley Peninsula in County Louth he emphasized his visit was personal, an opportunity for him to visit with his ancestors.

As I write this morning in early April, 2023 a headline in the New York Times reads: "In Ireland, Biden is Statesman and Family Historian, Calling for "Hope and Courage." I am prompted to ask the question, where was he when the streets of Belfast and Derry and everywhere in between were slaughter communities during the Troubles? Biden wasn't there but I was working as a journalist for a Boston daily newspaper literally dodging plastic bullets being fired randomly on the streets by young British soldiers.

My accommodations in Belfast at the now posh, five star Europa Hotel was literally barricaded in bails of barbed wire.

One night the siren sounded, and a note rattled being pushed under my hotel door announcing news of a bomb scare with directions to immediately vacate the premises. I walked terrified in the dark and the pelting rain up the Falls Road to a church rectory for safety and remained there until the coast was clear to return to the hotel.

Fast forward, the news revealed on April 10 1998 announcing the signing of the Good Friday agreement in Northern Ireland was broadcast on American television.

I was stunned initially disbelieving this could or would happen in my lifetime. I stood still as I listened to the news. It was true the killing and maiming would stop, order would be restored in Northern Ireland, I never believed this would occur in my lifetime.

I sat on a chair and I wept for all the mothers I met and got to know in Belfast and beyond during my journalist assignment in the North. I wept for their dead sons, husbands, brothers and I wept for the young hunger strikers, who gave their lives because Margaret Thatcher would not allow Irish prisoners to wear prison instead of criminal garb.

The shame of it, the waste of lives, the wholesale destruction of a society.

As I write it is April 15, 2023 and Joe Biden is in Ballina, County Mayo standing in front of the cathedral with rock star lighting and a welcome roar from the crowd assembled. This is where his ancestral Irish relatives came from and as Biden brought to a close his four day visit to Ireland he revealed to reporters he's already made his decision to run for president again. "The trip here just reinforces my sense of optimism about what can be done," he droned.

When Biden spoke he stood in front of the cathedral in Ballina where his great-great-great-grandfather Edward Blewitt, Made bricks used to construct the pillars supporting the building's nave. "I doubt" said the president, " he ever imagined a great-great-great grandson would return 200



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years later as president of the United States of America." The crowd roared.

In the meantime Police in Northern Ireland received intelligence information announcing that in the North, Derry to be specific, attempts may be made to draw police into serious public disorder on Easter Monday. According to reports the New IRA may cease public disorder following the Easter Rising commemoration parades to lure officers into a trap.

Ironically, the week previously the British security Service raised Northern Ireland's terrorism threat level to severe, meaning an attack was highly likely. And so the "Troubles" continue as President Joe Biden departs Ireland and returns to the United States. President Bill Clinton who worked diligently to influence passage of the Good Friday Peace Agreement in the North of Ireland will arrive in Ireland and fill the void the current US President left behind. He will receive a warm welcome.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



A Time of Going:

Watering the Flowers and kissing those we Love.

"I do believe in Justice and a man's word; we must have some form of Law and if it's broken, I have a tendency to stand up and fight." - Sam Peckinpah

He came, he saw; and many of the Usual Suspects, the same crawlers you get everywhere, wet themselves with excitement, because, let's face it, there are sycophants everywhere; and now he's gone away again, leaving a heartbroken populace in floods of tears and acres of grief. And 100's more desperately claiming to be a 10th cousin one hundred times removed... or something.

That's what creepy crawlers do: they toady to those that they see as more important than themselves. How sad.

Nah, I'm not going to be cynical about President Biden's visit, I'm really not. It's just that I have my own obsessions to follow and find it increasingly difficult to get worked up about whatever ANY politician is up to. Also, it struck me recently that

my father, his father and my mother's father all died at 73, which means that I've possibly got less than ten years left in me. An interesting thought. So, in future I'll be pursuing my own interests. And they are:

(a) movies, especially horror movies;

(b) books, especially anything by HP Lovecraft or JG Ballard;

(c) Stefania Sandrelli, simply because I fancy her no end.

As to President Biden, how can I possibly dislike a man who has upset the Unionist clowns as much as he has?

Ach, come on now, it was just a mistake. Even I can see that. In fact, I'm still laughing as I write this. Out comes Sleepy Joe, wearing a shamrock tie that had been given to him by the rugby player Rob Kearney (a distant relative, of course).

Oh, still my beating heart. And he said that his distant relative 'beat the hell out of the Black and Tans'.

Of course, he meant the All Blacks - but we all knew that.

Distant relative - Black and Tans. Please, I can't take any more.

What a bunch of crybaby

clowns the Unionists really are. Is there NOTHING that doesn't upset these tosspots?

Baroness Kate Hoely: "This underscores why so many pro-union people feel that he only understands Irish Republican History."

Ah... yeah? Biden has never pretended to be anything BUT Irish. So what?

Tom Elliot of the UUP Stormont assembly had a whinge-a-thon on Talk TV:

"Comments like that about the Black and Tans... I think that just demonstrates that he has a deep rooted Irishness and that he is obviously on the side of the nationalist community."

Am I missing something here? Of course he has a deep rooted Irishness, you muppets! Of course he's on the side of the nationalist community. The man has been saying that FOREVER!

Listen, I am not a fan of the guy - give me Trump or give me death - but at least he has been consistent in his Irishness.

Mind you, it did get me thinking about politicians and how naturally fraudulent they all are. Back in the day - August of 1972 - there was an article in 'Playboy' magazine. Yeah, there really was a time that we read it for the articles. And in my case, sometimes for women's breasts. Shoot me, I was a teenager and I liked women's breasts; but even

back then I adored the film director Sam Peckinpah and wanted to learn as much about him as I could. My personal favourite? 'Junior Bonner' with Steve McQueen's best performance. Why wouldn't I like it? A man born out of his time, reacting to a world that's changing for the worse. Of course I'm going to like that.

And here's an odd aside. In later years Mexico was to play a huge part in my life, as it coincidentally did with Peckinpah. In fact, I was spending so much time there that I decided to move permanently in 2006-7. Then the recession happened and things went slightly pear shaped for me. Different story. Back to Sam and how this interview, give or take a few name changes, could relate to today:

"Mexico has always meant something to me. My Mexican experience is never over. I first went there after the war, because I'd been to China with the Marines and wanted to go back there and couldn't after the Communists took over. Mexico was the nearest place to go and it was a time of going...the country has a special effect on me. [God, how I can relate to that!]

"If a Mexican likes you, he'll touch you. It's direct. It's real. Whatever it is, they don't confuse it with anything else. Here in this country,

everybody is worried about stopping the war and saving the forests, but these same crusaders go out the door in the morning and forget to kiss their wives and water the flowers. In Mexico they don't worry so goddamned much about saving the human race or the wheeling and dealing that's poisoning the rest of us. In Mexico they don't forget to kiss each other and water the flowers.

"You know what this country's all about? It's advertising. Its brainwashing. It's bullshit. It's hustling products and people, making no distinction between the two. We're in the Dark Ages again. Look at who the people are voting for - Nixon, Wallace - killer apes right out of the caves, all dressed up in suits and talking and walking around with death in their eyes. And what's the alternative to these cats? Humphrey and Muskie? Two guys with absolutely no souls of their own, no concept of where they stand, who they are, no fundamental morality."

No fundamental morality. If I wrote about politicians forever, I could put it no better than with those three words.

And like Sam, I have no answers; who does? Except to say to you out there...let's not forget to kiss those we love.

And let's not forget to water the flowers.
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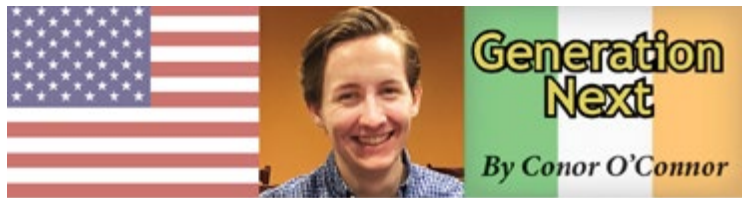
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Eire was abuzz with activity this month as politicians in both the Republic and the North scrambled to finalize preparations for the arrival of President Biden.

After all, it's not every day that the leader of the Free World takes time out of their busy

schedule to visit Ireland.

This state visit was different from those of past presidents in that Biden can trace his roots back to the mass migration that beset Ireland during the Great Famine. His middle-class background as a product of the

Rust Belt also enhances his image in the eyes of the many Irish who live in similar circumstances.

While other Irishmen have been President of the United States (specifically Barack Obama, Ronald Reagan, and Andrew Jackson), only one can claim an ancestral background as Irish as Joe Biden: John F. Kennedy.

Kennedy also visited the island during his tenure as President, but the Ireland of the 1960s was much different than the Ireland

Ireland was a country with an inflation-adjusted GDP per capita of less than \$10,000 USD. For comparison, the UK's per capita GDP was close to \$20,000 in the same time frame.

Since then, Ireland's economy has exploded. The 1990s saw the island nation's per capita GDP grow exponentially. Now, Ireland's adjusted per capita GDP has broken the \$60,000 USD mark. Meanwhile, the UK hasn't even reached \$40,000 per capita.

Since Kennedy's visit, Ireland has taken its place as an economic powerhouse within the European Union. It has also opened its doors and provided opportunities to refugees, including over 70k Ukrainians.

It was altogether fitting, then, that Biden used his Irish excursion as an opportunity to deepen the ancestral ties that keep the Irish-American diplomatic relationship bound together. Ringing the Peace Bell, imploring the DUP to return to Stormont, and planting a tree

with President Michael D. Higgins all signified the United States' commitment to Ireland's growth and prosperity.

While I think there is more work for Ireland to do (unifying the island and joining NATO, to be specific), the future looks bright for the Irish people. As Westminster shoots itself in the foot over and over and over again, Ireland has proven to be a bastion of democracy, European identity, and stability. I am proud to be an Irish-American and it's great to know that my President is too.

Genealogy Meetings at Heritage Center!

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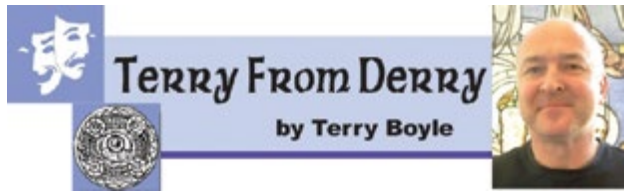
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The Lonely Passion of D.T.

It had been a while since D.T. (Dickey Tricky) had held a popular place in people's minds. His sunny disposition had not fared well since his popularity had begun to wane. He had tried to enlighten them but they wouldn't listen. Their hearts were hardened towards him.

Correctly, he had predicted that life without him would be less entertaining, less controversial, and above all mediocre. For the short time he had shone, he had made this nation radiantly beautiful. And, the wonder of his light would've continued had the nation taken the rare opportunity to continue to live in his sunshine but they did not. Consoling himself, he remembered the prophet's words 'he came to his own but they knew him not'. Never had a truer word been spoken. His efforts to save them from themselves were maligned, and misconstrued as selfish egotism. Talk of his exploitation, seditious behaviour, and petty selfishness confirmed the prophet's words. And now, as his light failed to make a strong impression, he gathered together his closest disciples.

Lady G., a political harlot in her day, was beside herself to be counted among his tribe. She had prided herself in being among the very few who had witnessed the sunshine out of D.T.'s every orifice. Her absolute devotion to the messiah was unquestionable. Some had criticized her for being fickle. Yes, she had been a naysayer who had dismissed D.T.'s aspirations as bullshit but that was gone now. With true repentance, she washed his feet with her tears and reaffirmed her loyalty by begging the masses on his behalf. The mule had been a cagey one. His ability to stand on the most advantageous side was well-known. He'd prospered and remained favourable to his supporters despite his blatant double dealings. His mastery of the cloak and dagger had earned him the title of Kentucky's Macbeth. There were of course rumours that he and Lady G. had been lovers, or, at the very least, he'd paid for her services but this was pure speculation. The other disciples were expendable radicals, zealots, willing to burn themselves at the altar of D.T. should he require it. M.T.G (Martha the Gobshite) loved the limelight and spun her web of deceit with little or no subtlety. Her love of the spotlight had, in recent times, reduced her to becoming a media whore who was willing to say the most ridiculous things in order to make love to the camera. Coach J.J (Jibber-Jabbin') was mawkishly sycophantic, shamelessly craving his master's approval. His obsequiousness, though cloying and childish, was repugnant to D.T. but nevertheless, the master deigned to pet J.J. on the head and call him a good boy. L.B. (Lazy Bullshiter), one of the worst radicals, is so intellectually challenged they feared she might forget whose side she was on and mistakenly shoot D.T. himself.

It was Thursday, and D.T. had ridden into the New Jerusalem along with his motorcade. The media outlets, bar one, had already crucified him with trumped-up charges so that even some of the most loyal of his supporters had begun to doubt him. Despite all the miracles he had wrought for them, he'd always suspected that their subordination had been tentative. And, though he had washed them clean, and pardoned their offenses, still, they held back from fully endorsing the good intentions of his heart, choosing instead to walk in darkness. M.T. G turned up, bullhorn in hand, ready to make a scene. But when the crowd closed in on her, she scarpered to her happy place full of other Twitter gobshites.

After all the kerfuffle was over, the high priest and his men came for D.T. and he was taken into the temple alone. Whipped by their allegations 34 times, D.T. held his ground. Outside, he knew the faithful were preaching from their pulpits on his behalf. At this very

minute, women and men eulogized his bravery, equating it to the sacrificial lamb slaughtered for their sins. As the high priest and his lackeys doled out their preposterous accusations, D.T. felt a powerful heavenly light drowning out their indictments as the eternal sunshine of his charmed life oozed out of every bloody pore. He was their chosen one. The saviour who took it upon himself to embrace the corruption of the world, basking in wanton greed, lust, and lies. He became the worst of them in order to save them. Incarnating every evil, he did, so they did not have to indulge themselves. Soon the world would truly see the brilliance of his enlightened path. He need only have to say the word and his angels would destroy his enemies. It wasn't that long ago when at his command, they'd done it before and would do it again if he wished it.

Leaving the court, D.T. emerged to the camera's flashing lights. Soon his lonely image would emanate through the universe and fill the empty spaces of the world's media. What was perceived to be his downfall would be his triumph. As he entered the lonely sphere of his car, his light began to dwindle. Darkness began to consume him as he reflected on the numerous charges against him. The forces of unrighteousness were banding together to extinguish his brightness. Even now, the light of heaven seemed to dim and disappear. A surge of loneliness took possession of him. Doubt clouded his

mind as he reflected on his credo to save by taking on the worst traits of human nature. He reminded himself of the prophet Bob's words 'Steal a little and they'll throw you in jail, steal a lot and they'll make you king.' He had stolen enough to become the number one person in the nation. There was no way he would ever darken the halls of a prison.



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GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!
By Tina Butler



Who are the billionaire (000,000,000) brothers Patrick and John Collision? They were born in Tipperary, (although some research shows Limerick). They made it big in the tech world. They co-founded, Stripe, which is an online payment platform. The tech world is very hazy to me and in case it is for some of you. I will explain what type of business the Collisions have created. Online payment companies are responsible for handling online/internet methods of payment. It allows the seller to accept payment and the buyer to send payment over the internet. (cashless) Examples of online payment include Apple Pay, PayPal and Stripe. It's in real time so your payment is immediate. Naturally there is a delay in paying offline and reconciling it. However, paying online comes with security risks.

They say one in ten adults will fall victim to a scam or fraud every year. However you're more likely to become a victim of identity theft by having your purse/wallet stolen than you are via online fraud. The most common form of identity theft is government or benefits fraud. However, people do get scammed while shopping online. Scammers pretend to be legitimate online sellers either with a fake website or a fake ad on a genuine retailer site.

Patrick started computer courses at the University of Limerick at a very young age. He entered a "Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition with an artificial intelligence project. Patrick was nicknamed "Isaac" (after Isaac Newton an English physicist and mathematician) he won the competition his prize of Waterford crystal and check was presented by then President Mary McAleese.

He went to Massachusetts Institute of Technology but dropped out after starting some businesses with his brother John. In 2016 The Collision brothers became the world's youngest self-made billionaires. Patrick is married to a Swiss molecular biologist who teaches at

Stanford. (California)
On to brother John, the other half of Stripe. He went to Harvard, the Ivy league school located in Massachusetts. (As did Conan O'Brian and Ted Kennedy) John is a pilot and a pianist. He bought the Abbeyeix estate in Co. Laois he plans to renovate and make it a family home.

Wow so, this family has two billionaires in it! Ireland has eight billionaires, and these are two of them. America has over 700 billionaires, but the population is over 330 million people. To say these brothers are well to do or affluent is an understatement they're filthy rich.

So I wondered do I have the desire to be rich? They say it's not a bad thing to want or be. If a person is rich and they earned it through honest methods, it's justified. The Bible says: "Command those who are rich not to put their hope in wealth, which is uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous." Timothy 6:17-19

Most people don't have the pleasure of being rich. There are different levels of wealth. For example solvent means you have enough money to pay your bills. Next is stable means you have a few months for emergency funds, then secure, and then abundant. Some people might not have a lot in the monetary sense of wealth, but they could be rich in friends that are loyal and like family. Some people are wealthy in wisdom, or spirituality. You get the idea that there is more to life than chasing gold. I hope all my readers are rich in love and happiness.

"Build your own dreams or someone else will hire you to build theirs" Farrah Gray

Smidin Gaeilge
Brother-dearthair, rich-saibhir, money-airgead, business-gno

I would like to mention that my Book Club at Gaelic Park has been such a joy and enlightening experience this past year. This group is really special to me, also inspiring, very smart and uplifting! We have one more meeting for the season, it's on May 7th. We will discuss the Titanic Sisters, written by Patricia Falvey. We will break for Summer and start again in September.

If you have any questions, please contact me: Molanive@yahoo.com

Attend the Women of Concern Awards Luncheon May 12

The Women of Concern Awards Luncheon is a celebration of the accomplishments of women and girls around the world.

Every year, Concern is proud to recognize the achievements of exceptional women who are using their platform to amplify the voices of mothers, women, and children throughout the world.

This year's celebrations emphasize the urgency of this moment in time, a tipping point. Will we accept that gender equality won't be achieved for 300 years? Or



Women of Concern Annual Awards Luncheon
Celebrating the Lives of Women Worldwide

CHICAGO: The University Club of Chicago | May 12th
NEW YORK: Rainbow Room | June 6th

CONCERN worldwide

GET TICKETS

will we stand up and fight like our lives and the planet depends on it? At Concern, we critically examine and challenge gender dynamics to build equity and make progress against Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality and ending extreme poverty once and for ALL.

Get ready for an inspiring luncheon, lively discussion, and the opportunity to hear from our Haiti Country Director, Kwanli Kladstrup, while making a big impact on programs that serve millions of women and girls every year. All proceeds support Concern Worldwide's life-saving work that is bringing hope to millions of women and girls in the world's most vulnerable communities across 25 countries.

Women of Concern Annual Awards Luncheon Celebrating the Lives of Women Worldwide CHICAGO Friday, May 12, 2023 11am Reception 12pm Program, at The University Club of Chicago 76 E Monroe St Chicago, IL 60603.

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Dear members of the Irish American Heritage Center,

All current members of the Irish American Heritage Center are invited to attend the 2023 Town Hall meeting, called by the Board of Directors on May 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm, for purposes of nominating persons for election to the Board. Any member in good standing present at this meeting may nominate one or more members in good standing with three (3) successive years of paid dues for the Board of Directors. Any members in good standing for three (3) out of the last five (5) calendar years, or any current member in good standing who within the last three (3) calendar years has proved experience with Chair or Committee-level responsibility in any corporation programs or events may also be eligible. Nominations will be opened by the President or his/her designate at this meeting and will be closed by a majority vote of those members present at the end of the meeting.

Based on the criteria above, nominations for the Board of Directors are accepted by mail, email, or in person at the annual Town Hall Meeting on Friday, May 12, 2023. Advanced written nominations to serve on the Board, submitted in the envelope provided, will be accepted through May 12, 2023. Any current member present at the May 12 meeting may nominate one or more members for the Board of Directors elections. Nominations submitted via email are accepted through 5:00 pm, May 12 to Anne Marie Herlehy, Secretary of the Board of Directors at annemarieherlehy@gmail.com.

Members are encouraged to attend in person and vote on Friday, June 23, 2023 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. All current members are eligible to vote. Bring your membership card with you to obtain a ballot at the station outside of the election night meeting room. Absentee ballots for those who need them will be available June 9, 2023. To obtain an absentee ballot, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035 ext. 10. Absentee ballots are to be returned in the envelope provided to the IAHC via US Mail/mail courier service or hand delivered by June 23, 2023 at 5:00 pm CST.

2023 Board of Directors Election Dates:

April 30, 2023	Written nominations open
May 12, 2023	Written/mailed/nominations close at 5:00 pm
May 12, 2023	Nomination/Town Hall Meeting Night 7:00 pm
May 26, 2023	Nominees' agreement/biography must be received by 5:00 pm
June 9, 2023	Absentee ballots will be made available
June 23, 2023	Absentee ballots must be received by the IAHC by 5:00 pm

Anne Marie Herlehy
Secretary/Board of Directors

Irish American Heritage Center is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, and all monetary donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by tax laws. Please check with your financial advisor if you have more questions. (FEIN #: 36-2883292) No goods or services were given in exchange for the donation.

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Such fun, music,
dance, and happy
faces at the April
dance in the Irish
American Heritage
Center Founders'
Room! A great time
was had by all.
Many thanks to
Gerry Haughey for
providing the tunes!



Great Irish Book Club - May 13th

 IRISH AMERICAN
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Saturday May 13th, The Great Irish Book Club at the Irish American Heritage Center, will meet to discuss "Lives of the Saints" by Sebastian Barry. Join us in the Library at the Irish American Heritage Center from 1:30pm to 3:00pm.

There is no fee - all book lovers are welcome!



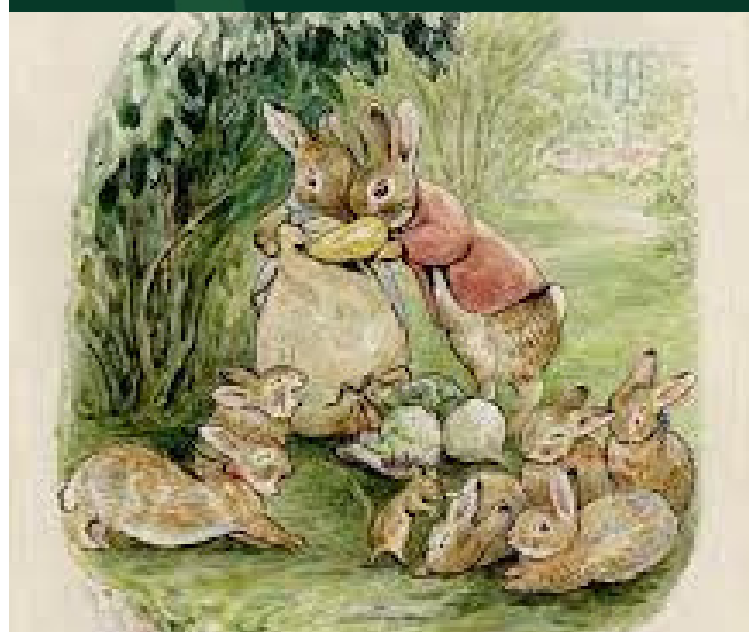
Chancey Brothers in the Fifth Province Pub! May 19th

It's always a homecoming celebration when the Chancey Brothers are in the Fifth Province! Join us for an evening of music and fun Friday, May 19th. The pub and kitchen are open at 6:00pm, the Chanceys are on at 8:00pm. You know it's best to get here early for a seat! While you wait, have a pint of our Fifth Province Ale and order a bite off of our Fifth Province menu.



Tea with Beatrix Potter - June 24th

Join the Irish American Heritage Center Saturday, June 24th from 11:00am to 1:00pm for "Tea with Beatrix Potter." Our 2023 Tea Series continues with a live performance, honoring one of the most beloved artists of all time. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$15 for children under twelve, and includes tea and sandwiches. Go to irish-american.org, or call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, Extension 10 for more information.



Francis O'Neill Irish Arts week July 24th - July 28th

Immerse your kids in the wonderful culture of Ireland for one fun week!

The Irish Music School of Chicago and the Irish American Heritage Center present Francis O'Neill Irish Arts week.

Kids ages 4-11 can have a blast learning all about Irish cultural traditions at our famous kids day camp! This amazing week will introduce them to a wide range of Irish arts learning with some of the best traditional Irish musicians and educators all while having some great summertime fun!

All campers will learn traditional Irish music on their choice of fiddle or tin whistle and all campers will learn to play out rhythms on the bodhrán. In addition, campers will learn Irish songs, Liling, Sean-nós Dancing, Body Percussion, Irish Language (Gaeilge), and Celtic Arts and Crafts. Go to irish-american.org, or call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, Extension 10 for more information.



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We Get Letters

Post-Mortem on GFA Rule of Law and Justice in Northern Ireland

The celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) has drawn to a close. The work for a peace with justice continues. Today most observers hail the pact with guarded optimism despite Brexiteers sabotage. Murdoch mouthpiece at the WALL STREET JOURNAL, Gerard Baker, mocked President Biden's GFA claim that it is a foreign policy success stating "Biden ...will always have Dundalk." And, unfortunately, America will always have British 'toadies.'

However, one of the greatest threats to this fragile peace in NI is another form of British treachery. Parliament will soon vote on a law proposed by Lord Caine which will retroactively suspend the rule of law to bury the facts and truth of killings in NI of more than 1000 innocent civilians. Why such a drastic step? Many of those deaths involved a sinister and lawless collusion between British security services and loyalists' terrorists. Prime Minister Sunak, who claimed upon taking office that "my government will have integrity, professionalism and accountability" has said nothing about the bill that has united Irish opposition.

Many Americans confess disbelief that Britain, the self-proclaimed defender of democracy, the rule of law and protector of human rights could be so reckless and deceitful. If such a law were to be applied to killings of British Subjects in England, Scotland or Wales it would be a non-starter. This legislation is aimed at a lesser species of British Subjects, 1000 mostly NI residents who were Irish citizens and Catholics. Their deaths were the product of a decades long destabilization policy of targeted murders. These killings were given little or no investigation. Prosecutions were never to be completed. The records of their cases were to be sealed by the Ministry of Defense through use of the Official Secrets Act. Indeed, the bill's sponsor publicly acknowledged that "...he is not interested in the facts or the past..." but the absolution of government liability. Without this whitewash bill the government could be labeled a state sponsor of terrorism and launch a re-write of the NI history scenario so generously provided by British historians.

Britain has no written constitution and human or civil rights are those defined by the government of the day. Few are surprised to learn of the magnitude of this lawless cover-up. This list should be shared with Members of Congress urging them to oppose this unilateral action to undermine the peace process. I offer this reading material for those interested in opposing Britain's legacy bill. The official Reports of Sir John Stevens (3), Sir Desmond de Silva's The Killing of Patrick Finucane and the Reports of H M. Constabulary Inspectorate are official but frightening and limited in their depiction of the lawlessness of MI-5, the British Army, and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (RUC). The 'unofficial' books: Spycatcher (Wright), The Dirty War (Dillion), The Inside Story of the UK Killing Machine (Davies), A Very British Jihad (Larkin), History Thieves: The Secret Lies and Shaping of a Modern Nation (Cobain), Lethal Allies (Cadwallader), and A State of Denial (Irwin) all deal in whole or in part with the corruption of law in NI since its inception.

Former Irish diplomat Ray Bassett's reflections on the GFA anniversary included the observation that "the biggest mistake the British government made was ignoring the democratic vote of 1918." It is prime time for the 'Sun to set' on that tired phrase the 'special relationship.'

America's biggest mistake today would be to ignore Bully Britain's legacy bill and its threat to Ireland's prosperity, progress, and peace.

American Brexit Committee
1919 Chestnut St, Suite 1724, Philadelphia, PA 19103
John M. Corcoran Esq, Chairman
Michael J. Cummings, Secretary, Emeritus April 28, 2023
Michael J. Cummings, Guest Commentator
201 W Evergreen Ave, Apt 715 Chestnut Hill, PA 19118
castlecomer@gmail.com 267-766-5028

Michael J. Cummings, a native of Springfield, Mass. is a graduate of St. Anselm's College (B. A., 1968) and New York University (MPA., 1970). He co-founded the American Brexit Committee in 2016 and served as Secretary. from 2016-March, 2023. He is a former member of the National Boards of the Irish American Unity Conference (1996-2013), the Ancient Order of Hibernians (2001-2008), and the Irish Northern Aid Committee (1988-1996). He also served as Chairman of the Capital District Irish National Caucus (1979-1982).

Changes Art Show 2023 by Laura M. Coyle May 3 thru May 31

A solo show with recent paintings and drawings

My work is representational but not surrealism. Vibrant colors and lively brushworks add to the energy portrayed in my pieces. I enjoy a wide variety of media such as oil, acrylic, graphite, oil sticks, watercolors, gouache, Giclée and Water Soluble Crayons!

While working on my show, I realized that my pieces have the variety that my media has.

Opening , Wednesday, May 3 • Closing Wednesday,

May 31 Artist reception, Sunday May 14 • 1-4pm
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BOOKS by Irish Authors or About Irish Subjects!

Carlene O'Connor: Successfully Writing Mysteries About An Irish Village

by James Bartlett
Recently *Murder at an Irish Bakery*, the ninth book in the Irish Village mystery series was published, and it saw heroine Gard Siobhan O'Sullivan with her hands full. A reality television baking show had come to her County Cork town of Kilbane and - you guessed it - there was a murder!

Author Carlene O'Connor began writing the series in 2016, and recalls that initially she was asked by her publisher to write a mystery series set in England:

"I told him I didn't know the first thing about England," she recalls, "then I paused and said 'But I could set it in Ireland,' and it went from there!"

There's a good reason for that: "My maternal grandmother emigrated to the United States from Ballymena, which at the time was part of the Republic. On my father's side there were Irish ancestors from Cork, and I also did a DNA test, which came back 74% Irish," she explains.

Currently in the process of moving from Los Angeles to Albuquerque, New Mexico, O'Connor describes herself as a "a wanderer."

"Before LA I was in Chicago,



Carlene O'Connor

then North Carolina, and then New York City. In fact, my main Irish connection is from that 15 years in New York, where the main bulk of my friends were from Ireland, and most of my research was done hanging out in Irish pubs!"

The town of Kilbane in her Irish Village series is fictional, and though there are a couple of very small locations in Ireland with that name, she specifically based her book one on Kilmallock, a medieval walled town with a population of around 1600 people:

"But in order not to upset them by killing all their lovely residents off, I moved it from County Limerick to County Cork, and renamed it!"

There is in fact a small area

in County Cork really called Kilmore, and that leads onto the other question that comes to mind about a number of books set in one location: how does she keep each one fresh and different?

"It helps that I am attached to my characters and they feel real to me, and then for each book I pick something that holds my attention enough to delve into that world while writing. But whether it's new characters (suspects) or a new location, or both, I have to make sure it excites me first."

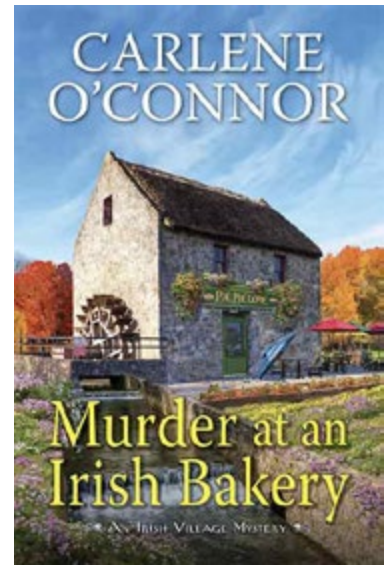
She came across Kilmallock on her first trip to Ireland about 12 years ago.

"After landing in Shannon, friends of my boyfriend picked us up and we drove to his hometown, which was Kilmallock. That first trip I stayed a month, and in addition to Limerick and Cork I went to Kerry, Dublin, Galway, the Aran Islands, and Kinsale. On later trips I added Connemara, Ennis, and Youghal."

Over the coming years she plans to visit every county and some other towns, with Doolin, Skibbereen, Wickford, and Donegal in her sights next, as well as another lengthy stay again in Dingle. She has friends in Monaghan and Roscommon too, and is happy to say that on trips she never has an exact schedule to follow - which can be just as well.

"One of my favorite memories of Kilmallock is getting drawn into a poker game at a local pub. They took it very seriously, and

I'm not a seasoned player! We started at around 10pm, and it was still going at 5am. My boyfriend kept poking me, as I was falling asleep - but also winning! I ended up coming in



second, and they all cheered because it was truly beginner's luck. That's just one of endless brilliant memories I have."

O'Connor has two other series: A Home to Ireland, which is an occasional novella enterprise, and other than the Irish Village mysteries there's the new - and much darker - County Kerry Mysteries.

"I alternate between writing the series, although sometimes while I'm writing one, ideas sneak in for the other, so I make sure to jot them down. But I do not stop progress on the current one (whichever one has the closest deadline!). I don't switch like that to keep my interest alive though, as that comes from a love of characters and setting."

When she's not working or traveling, a perfect day includes walking her dog, reading, and

socializing with friends, but at the moment she preparing for her new home, a 102-year-old craftsman bungalow.

"So, bringing that back to life is going to keep me busy in the future as well," she laughs.

She hasn't visited Ireland since before the pandemic, though she did use Oculus Quest (a virtual reality headset) to "travel" there during the lockdown.

"It was actually amazing to see up close the setting where I wanted to 'drop the body,'" she remembers, then adds a serious note when she recalls that last in-person trip to Ireland.

"On that trip I took my father to Kilmallock, Galway, and Connemara. He had read all my books and wanted to see the places that inspired them. He passed away a little over a year ago, and I'm so grateful we went -he had the time of his life-thanks in a large part to my Irish friends who truly rolled out the red carpet. It reminds me that if you have opportunities-take them."

She's planning that overdue trip to Ireland, but for now she's about to start promoting the upcoming release *Some of Us Are Looking*, the second book in the County Kerry series.

Before going back to her writing, Carlene confesses that during the pandemic she took Tarot card reading classes online, and that there's a chance we may see her world come to life on the small screen too, as the whole Irish Village series was recently optioned for television.

"So, It's fingers and toes crossed for now!"

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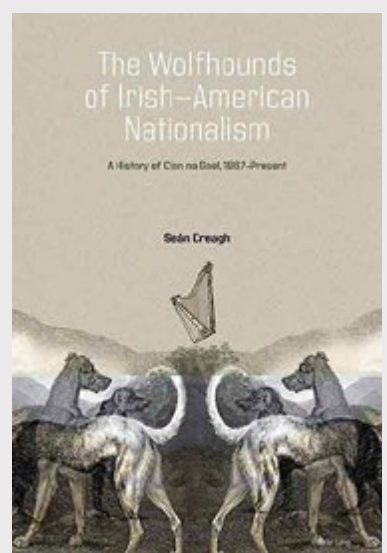
The Wolfhounds of Irish-American Nationalism: A History of Clan na Gael, 1867 to the Present Day

By Sean Creagh
Paperback English
294 pages
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Academic Publishers
ISBN10 1800799969
ISBN13 9781800799967

As Ireland's oldest revolutionary movement and America's oldest transatlantic nationalist organization this is the first book covering the entire history of Clan na Gael.

Formed in 1867 and existing up to the present Clan na Gael has been involved directly and indirectly in every violent revolutionary attempt for Irish independence and unification ago.

since its formation 155 years



Despite this long history it

is the least studied and most underappreciated of Ireland's revolutionary movements. A large part of this is due to academic bias and major under appreciation as to the role of Irish America within the broader struggle for Irish independence.

Clan na Gael's influence also went well beyond the borders of Ireland. Within the U.S Clan na Gael proved a major model of influence and inspiration for movements such as Zionism, Indian nationalists, African American nationalists and even the Suffragette movement among others.

This book attempts to give this long-neglected movement its proper place within the annals of Irish history as well as that of Anglo-American relations and transatlantic nationalism.

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Books in Review

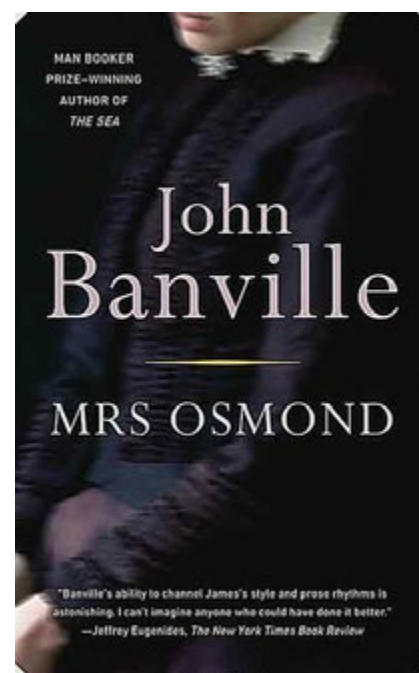
By Michael Corrigan



daughter, Pansy, is actually the daughter of his former lover, Merle, a deceitful friend who encouraged Isabel into the marriage, the big question is whether or not Isabel will leave Osmond and rescue Pansy. James never answers the

question, despite the novel's length building up to a confrontation that never happens. The novel doesn't end but simply stops.

Some modern readers may find the glacial movement and elegantly polished prose of Henry James too ornate and formal, and James has his famous detractors. Virginia Woolf thought his prose like "rosewater," and Mark Twain had little use for James. Henry James also has many fans, including the great Irish writer and stylist, John Banville, who attempts to complete Isabel's story with



Mrs. Osmond, including imagined scenes Henry James chose not to write.

Writing in the lengthy mannered style of James who never met a metaphor he didn't like, John Banville has done a remarkable job with his admired master, adding dramatic confrontations James avoided. Banville's ending may also raise questions. Some may argue that it takes away some of the original novel's mystery.

The reviews have been mixed. In the 142 years since the novel was first serialized in The Atlantic Monthly, The Portrait of a Lady has remained popular, and Henry James purists have condemned Banville for even attempting such literary sacrilege. Here is one critic, Charles Finch:

"And yet his (Banville's) book is a terrible disappointment – largely because of the terrible, overawing fact of Henry James. For all the autocratic plottedness of 'The Portrait of a Lady,' the main impression it leaves is still of its author's almost surreal brilliance."

Despite Finch's warning not to attempt competing with James's "surreal brilliance," I found Mrs. Osmond a thrilling read and actually enjoyed Banville's elongated Jamesian sentences. One can question whether Henry James's deliberate vagueness regarding Isabel's future may have been correct, if frustrating, but Banville's Isabel is at least ready to achieve a cold revenge on the equally cold egotistical Osmond. It is positive in a sense that we see an aware Isabel free from the delusions that have haunted her and ready to act.

Some modern readers may find something sterile about James's characters and that Henry James's novels avoid even a hint of sexual passion; he was a bachelor and celibate, possibly even gay, which would have been dangerous in his time, but nothing was ever confirmed. Despite that, his cerebral well-plotted fiction endures over a century after his death.

It is advisable to read The Portrait of a Lady before reading Banville's Mrs. Osmond – you will need a dictionary for both – but Mrs. Osmond alone creates an engaging different vision of another era, and Banville honors one of his most beloved writers in the process.

Ireland's Final Rebellion and An American Dream

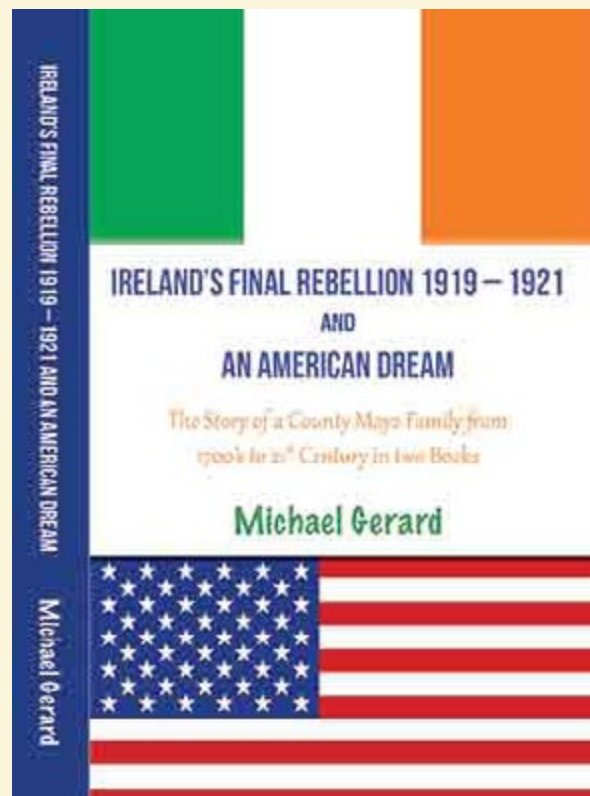
by Michael Gerard

Thomas Kane, a young Co. Mayo tailor in 1919 decided to join the fledgling IRA in their brewing fight for Irish Freedom against the mighty British Empire. The Irish population had recently witnessed the brutal execution of dozens of their countrymen who had dared to stage The Easter Rising of 1916. The Rising took place during the protracted 1914-1918 Great War/ World War One in which hundreds of thousands of Irish were fighting on behalf of Britain. The lack of mercy shown to the 1916 Rebels while so many Irish were dying in the trenches defending Britain, ignited a new spark of rebellion in Irish hearts that pushed them to continue their 700-year quest to free themselves from the yoke of oppression.

Thomas, the narrator of the story represents all the young Irish rebels of this Final Rebellion. These fighters knew the sad history of countless failed risings, the centuries of suffering from persecution, famine and poverty. They adopted a new style of guerilla warfare that would tip the odds in their favor and lead them to the coveted goal of Freedom in 1921. This young man tells his story from the front lines, constantly living with fear while on the run, constantly on the attack, and consistently sheltered and cared for by the Plain People of Ireland. These fighters were very young, very brave and they emerged victorious. The final Treaty was flawed and led to a split throughout the ranks of the IRA, the politicians and the population at large, resulting in a savage and bitter Civil War. Thomas was Anti-Treaty but he also knew in his heart that a Civil War pitting former comrades against each other, was a disaster for Ireland. He resigned from the IRA, turned in his weapons to his commanders, declared his neutrality and returned to his tailor's bench.

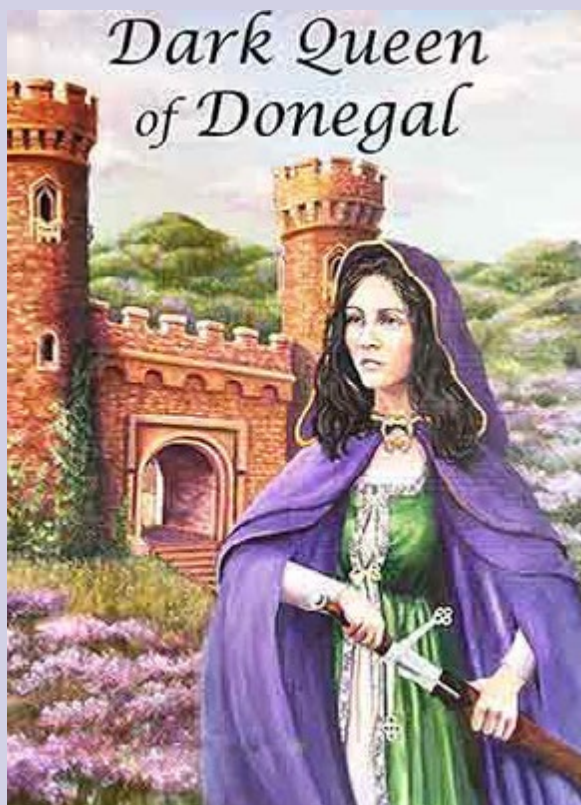
After hostilities broke out he was arrested by the Pro-Treaty Free State Army and sent to an internment camp in the Curagh of Kildare called Tintown, where prison conditions were very bad. The Pro-Treaty side won the war quickly, but they continued to hold their prisoners in the camps and added thousands more under the pretext of vague emergency declarations. Thomas was finally released in late December 1923 after enduring a near-death hunger strike. He stayed in Ireland as a simple tailor and many years later admitted to his young son Sean that he regretted not having emigrated to America to start a new life. Sean lost his father at fourteen and made an impromptu promise on his father's grave that he would fulfill his Dad's dream - he would someday settle in America. In book two Sean takes over as narrator and carries the reader along on his life's journey, which indeed brought him to America many years later.

Ireland's Final Rebellion and An American Dream is a must-read for Irish men and Irish women, and for everyone who is part of the Irish diaspora - especially in 2021 as Ireland celebrates the 100th anniversary of the birth of The Irish Free State. It is also compelling reading for anyone interested in Irish history, in the power of determination to achieve national and personal liberty, justice and the pursuit of one's dreams.



Pen Women Press Presents DARK QUEEN OF DONEGAL

by Mary Pat Ferron Canes with JR Foley



"Mary Pat Ferron Canes with JR Foley brings Ineen Dubh to thrilling life, showing how a mother's love for her son shapes and transcends history.

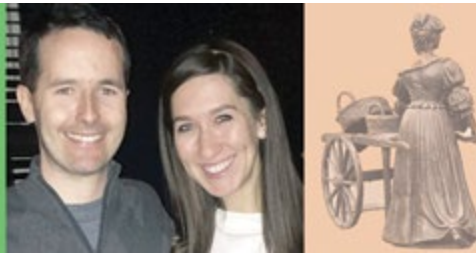
By delving into the inner life of this Scottish Princess and Irish Queen, Canes and Foley make a legendary woman real and do their ancestors proud."

- Mary Pat Kelly, bestselling author of Galway Bay

Available on Amazon.com Barnes & Noble
and Pen Women Press

DarkQueenOfDonegal.com

IN Your Business!
By Katie & Emmett Fitzpatrick



One Year of IN Your Business: A Look Back

What a privilege it has been to write this monthly column, where we feature local leaders in the Irish and Irish American community and highlight their successful business endeavors.

A year has passed since our first column was published, so we thought it would be a good time to include a snapshot about each of the individuals we have profiled. Fear not, we will be back to our regular column next month! In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this retrospective.

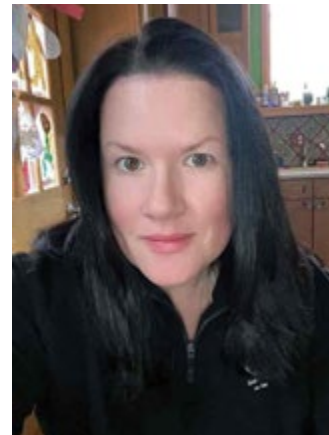
Tim and Pat Coonan, Big Shoulders Coffee:

The column got off to a caffeinated start with a cover story on Tim and Pat Coonan, founders of Big Shoulders Coffee, the popular brand with its headquarters and roastery in Pilsen and cafes around the Chicago area. Tim Coonan, whose paternal grandfather hailed from Cork before emigrating to the United States, set the stage for subsequent columns with this quote: "I've always loved Chicago's roll-up-your-sleeves attitude. Let's get something accomplished, let's get it done."



Betsy Parsons Night, Ballinvilla Products:

Ballinvilla Products is a South Side institution that sells Irish dance shoes and accessories, and Betsy Parsons Night, who lives in the same Beverly house in which she grew up, took over the business from her father a decade ago. As she remarked, "We were always a team. We are a true family business."



Pam Carroll, Gadabout Travel:

Since 1987, Pam Carroll has worked at Gadabout Travel, originally founded by Irish native Rose Lynn, and in 2000 she purchased the company, which is based in Palos Hills. She has continued to run a thriving small business in an industry that has gone through its share of changes, from the advent of the internet to 9/11 and COVID. "I tell my daughters



that few people really love their jobs," Pam said, "but I am one of them."

Bronagh Tumulty, WGN News:

WGN's Irish Reporter in Chicago, Bronagh Tumulty has made quite an impression on viewers since starting at WGN-TV in 2020. This impressive journalist can be seen all over the Chicago area reporting on the day's top news, and she appreciates the community that she has found here. "When I started at WGN, the welcome from Chicago was like nothing I've ever experienced. The Irish community here is so welcoming."



MaryLiz Lehman, GoodPix:

Tech entrepreneur MaryLiz Lehman's latest startup, GoodPix provides software for personal stylists to recommend retail products across fashion, style, beauty and home to their clients. Prior to launching GoodPix, she owned Perchance, a high-end brick-and-mortar clothing boutique in Chicago, and she was not shy about sharing the challenges (and excitement) of starting a business. "You get 103 'no's' before you get one 'yes.'"



Will Harris, Darwin Furniture:

The December cover story featured Will Harris, who recently took the reins of Darwin Furniture, the hundred-year-old company with its flagship store in Orland Park. Harris, whose grandparents on both sides of his family immigrated from Ireland to the United States, cannot hide his pride in leading the company. "I get an indescribable feeling going to work every day. It's a buzz I get from seeing the company be successful. We have a connection with the local community, and I take that very seriously."



Ethan Sellers, Logical Fleadh Band:

Musician Ethan Sellers, who moved to the Chicago area as a college student and never left, debuted a new album with his band Logical Fleadh on March 3. "I want to feel like I'm adding something to the tapestry of the Irish and Scottish American music story," said Sellers, whose music merges rock and rhythm with traditional Celtic jigs and reels. He and his band continue to promote the new album with performances around the area.



Mary Sugrue, Irish American Partnership:

In anticipation of the Irish American Partnership's annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration and Breakfast, we spotlighted Chief Executive Officer Mary Sugrue, who has served the organization since 1989. As she



noted, "Chicago is a strong market for the Partnership. We have so many generous supporters that make meaningful contributions to support our programming."

Brendan Byrne, the Wolfhound Bar and Kitchen,

and **Paul Dowling, of Irish Community Services (ICS):**

A rare column that celebrated two local leaders, we recognized Byrne and Dowling for their recent honor as Irish Echo "40 Under 40" award winners. Byrne serves the local community in a number of ways, from his role as a Chicago firefighter and EMT to playing the fiddle in the Chancey Brothers Irish band and running the esteemed Wolfhound Bar and Kitchen. Dowling has worked at ICS for over a decade, most recently taking on the role of Executive Director in 2022.



Katie Spelman, Director and Choreographer, "Once":

Chicago native and Northwestern graduate Katie said that being asked to direct the critically acclaimed musical "Once" at Glencoe's Writers Theatre felt like "Christmas morning" to her.



And for very good reason, given her Irish background and familiarity with the source material. The musical, set on the streets of Dublin, is based upon the play, written by Irish writer Enda Walsh, which was based off the smash hit movie.

David McDermott, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago:

Our most recent feature highlighted David McDermott, who completed his undergraduate studies at Trinity College Dublin and serves as the Executive Director of the world-renowned dance company.



As McDermott noted, "A big part of being Irish to me is deep tradition of art as a social good. The thing that resonates with me about Irish arts and culture - whether it's James Joyce or U2 - is that it seeks to move the world forward."

When I look back at my Irish heritage, I think there is a clear throughline with what I do now, and what we are trying to do at Hubbard Street Dance Chicago."

Would You Like To Be Featured In An Upcoming In Your Business Column?

We are always in search of local business owners and professionals in the Irish and Irish American community to spotlight. If you would like to be considered for an upcoming column, please share with us your name, organization/profession, and ties to Ireland or the local Irish community, and we will follow up to potentially schedule an interview.

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Gramma Tell the Story, by Maida McQuinn Sugrue

Maida's memoir is a response to her grandchild's request - "Gramma, tell the story of how you came to America."

By turns funny, moving and uplifting, it will be cherished by her whole family.

Maida will be doing a special book signing at Chief O'Neill's on May 21st from, 4pm to 6pm. www.chiefoneillspub.com

She will have books on hand, and you can also pick them up at amazon.com.

Make your reservations early if you would like to have dinner at Chief's that evening!

"I dedicate this book to my grandchildren and their children. From my own experience I know it is important for families to know their ancestry. And since I'm the first of my family to come to the United States to live, I hope that all who read my story will find it both pleasant and beneficial. You will find out where I came from and why I've been answering that question over and over down through the years!

And since it seemed important enough to be asked, I think it is equally important to write it down."

Maida, who lives in the Chicago area is a fine musician in her own right. Maida Sugrue (born Mary McQuinn in ~1933) was raised in the townland of Fiddane, Ballyegan, Nohaval Parish, near Gortatlea, Ballymacelligott, Kerry, on the "Low Road" between Castleisland and Tralee.

The McQuinns were a musical family:

her father played the concertina and accordion, and her uncle John McQuinn was a well-considered flute, piccolo, and concertina player.

Two neighbors, brothers Jim and Matty Sullivan of Maglass, would visit their home in the evenings to play tunes. Jim saw Maida's interest in the music and let her try a tune on his fiddle, and upon seeing that her desire to play was in earnest, gave her the loan of his fiddle on which to learn.

She soon showed great promise, and when she was about 12 the renowned Pádraig O'Keeffe was enlisted to take her on as his pupil.

She emigrated to Chicago in late 1952. She was "sponsored" by a cousin who happened to be a sister-in-law of Cuz Teahan. Neither were playing much music at that time, but upon meeting, they bonded over their shared tradition and both having been students of Pádraig.

Cuz was delighted to hear stories of and new tunes from his old teacher. Inspired by this new connection, they struck up a musical partnership.

Her story looks back at her early life: growing up on a farm in Kerry, going to school, and learning the fiddle from the famous Irish fiddle player, Pádraig O'Keeffe.

Then she describes her journey to the United States at the tender age of nineteen and tells the story of her life there.



County Down Mum Plays A Different Game

County Down native Moya Sands, founder of Barcelona based company Happy Clan, is launching a new card game called "Happy Families - Exploring Ireland" that aims to teach families about Ireland's rich culture, beautiful natural landscapes and magical mythological heritage in a fun and engaging way.

The game is based on the idea that children learn and retain information better when they are having fun. "Happy Families - Exploring Ireland" card game is a traditional game with a cultural twist that sharpens observation, memory skills and winning ways. The goal is to collect all the cards in a "family" and as many families as possible. Each card represents one of the seven "families" of Irish heritage: Cities, Landmarks, Food, Music, Traditions, Mythology and Symbols.

The cards are deceptively simple, but they open the door to the profound world of Irish mythology, folklore, and adventure. Each card provides secret truths and ancient cures for the future. Included in the game is an information booklet that provides more details and knowledge about each card, making it a great way to impress family and friends with newfound knowledge of the island of Ireland.

"As a mother of two small kids, I wanted to combine my cultural and educational background with a yearning to teach my family about Ireland in an amusing and entertaining way," said Moya.



"I believe that this game will not only be fun for families, but also an educational tool that allows them to learn about the heritage of the island of Ireland in a unique and interactive way."

In addition to her passion for Irish culture and education, Moya also has a deep connection to the music of County Down. As the daughter of legendary folk and peace activist Tommy Sands, she spent many years touring the world with her father, sharing the music of Ireland with audiences around the globe.

During the COVID-19 lockdowns, Moya found herself missing her homeland and wanted a way to connect her children to her roots. When she couldn't find any suitable games on the area, she decided to create her own. "Happy Families - Exploring Ireland" card game is a result of that desire to connect her family to her homeland and to share the beauty of Ireland's culture and heritage with others.

Happy Clan's "Happy Families - Exploring Ireland" is being launched on the 15th of May, but is available for pre-order on the company's website www.happy-clan.com and can be enjoyed by families of all ages.



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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Chicago is in for a treat this month with the appearance of Claudia Buckley. Claudia tours regularly with Nathan Carter and his band. She will perform at

London. Her band was playing at the Galtymore this particular night. As Margo was walking towards the venue the homeless man called out and asked Margo

you". The doorman at the venue didn't want to allow this man into the dance. Margo said to the doorman "I'll be responsible for him, just please let him in. When Margo's performance was over she took him for a sausage and chip supper. Later that year, she took him home to Ireland, where he spent his last 6 months before he died with cancer. His wish was to die back home, sober. So,



Chicago Gaelic Park 6119 147th St, Oak Forest, IL 60452 on May 20th and on May 21st she will perform at Martyrs 3855 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago. The Nathan Carter band will be with her for all her Chicago dates. I'm sure most people know that Claudia is the daughter of one of Ireland's most talented son's Jimmy Buckley. I am looking forward to hearing about her Chicago performances when we meet up on the Gertrude Byrne Cruise which sails from Seattle on May 28th for Alaska. I am delighted to have been asked by Stephen Smyth to join his band for this wonderful tour.

if she would sing 'Gra Mo Chroi'. Margo said "I will take you in with me and I will sing the song for

thanks to Margo, he got his wish. God bless you Margo O'Donnell. Be good to one another, Joe

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'The Lovely Gra Mo Chroi'
 Written by Joe McShane and Margo O'Donnell

Verse 1
 I traveled with my country band from the dear old Emerald Isle
 Through Scotland, Wales and England we sure put up the miles
 This song I sing for you tonight is of a certain show
 My band and I were playing at the famous Galtymore

Verse 2
 That night as I was walking in London's city fair
 I heard a voice call out my name and saw him lying there
 Just another homeless man and shabby clothes he wore
 Then he told me a story that shook me to the core

Verse 3
 He said the curse of drink took me and stole my youth away
 My bed a cardboard box at the closing of the day
 I once stood proud and tall you know and earned an honest pay
 But now I long for Ireland much more than words can say

Chorus
 Please sing a song of Ireland so I can picture home
 Before my childhood faded and a boy began to roam
 Leaving Mom and Dad who loved me tenderly
 So sing that song for me tonight, the lovely Gra Mo Chroi

Verse 4
 To see my countryman like this so sad and so alone
 I couldn't walk away that night, this man had touched my soul
 I asked him if he'd like to come and listen to the show
 Then I felt the hand of God take us both across the road

Verse 5
 This man was someone's brother this man was someone's son
 Hard work and being lonesome was the only wrong he'd done
 The curse of drink and loneliness sadly took its toll
 I knew what he was feeling, I'd been down that sad old road

Verse 6
 I clasped his hand in friendship and sang that song so true
 His time on earth was short and I knew what I must do
 So I took you home to Ireland just to be there for a while
 And I laid you down to rest my friend beneath the Irish soil

Chorus
 I sang a song of Ireland so you could picture home
 Before your childhood faded and a boy began to roam
 Leaving Mom and Dad behind who loved you tenderly
 So here's a song for you tonight, the lovely Gra Mo Chroi

Tag
 As I said goodbye to you, my friend, my tears fell by your grave
 I sang another song you loved at the close of an Irish day



Game On!

By Chris Wheaton



The World Needs a Little More Ronnie in it!

I am writing this month's article from the Tig Coili in Galway. In between thought processes I take time to talk to and listen to my new friend, Ronnie Lally. Ronnie is a lifelong resident of Galway and a legend in the pub where we now sit. He has been dealt a rough hand lately with his wife riding out her time in an Alzheimer's facility and the stress is evident. Ronnie visits his wife for a few hours every day and then heads over to the pub to enjoy some music and a few pints before boarding the bus home to his now empty home that he and his wife occupied for so many years.

The pub we sit in is famous for traditional sessions music and tonight does not disappoint. The set started with a guitarist and a lute player but soon a bodhran and a young fiddler joined the group. The music is upbeat and happy, but Ronnie is sad. He will not admit it, but he hints that the woman in the nursing facility is not the wife he once knew. That woman has disappeared into the depths of the disease, and she will never be heard from again outside of Ronnie's fond memories. He tells me how Alzheimer's is such a terrible plight and how it has taken the love of his life from him.

Hearing Ronnie's stories is both tragic and uplifting at the same time. At one point we were talking about hurling, and I made a comment that I still play even though I am old. 75-year-old Ronnie screamed at me over the music "never say you are old". Old is a frame of mind, not a condition he told me, stressing that an admission of old age is tantamount to throwing in the towel.

I had never really thought about it, but Ronnie is right. Age is a number; we can choose to live our life in lockstep with that number or we can "live younger."

We can dread the shortened future we all have, or we can be like Ronnie and thumb our noses with every passing year. It is really not a bad way to approach life.

Admittedly I am closer to the back door than the front but who is to say that I cannot have the mindset of someone half my age? That is what Ronnie would do, and I applaud him.

As the night wore on and the pints continued to flow our conversation became more lighthearted and Ronnie told me of days gone by when he was a pretty good footballer. He loves the game and is somewhat of a historian when it comes to some of the great teams of the past. We spoke at length about the Mayo "curse," and he couldn't have been happier although he did admit that it won't be too long before Mayo once again triumphs in an All-Ireland final, finally undoing the tragic past.

At times we just sat back and listened to the music, tapping our feet, and getting lost in the moment.

I enjoy traditional Irish music and as I looked over at Ronnie listening with his eyes closed, I knew that the music was a well-deserved respite from the sadness that held his heart hostage. His wife, as he knew her, would never return but Ronnie chooses to live a positive life rather than wallow in misery and despair.

We can learn from that, and I will strive to abide by some of the "Ronnieisms" that he shared with me that one night in Galway.

I will never again describe myself as old and I will live my life in true Ronnie fashion; with a big smile for everyone, kind words and a positive outlook. The world needs a little more Ronnie in it!

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Home is Where the Heart Is
 By Aishling Kelly



Common Challenges of a Caregiver

It takes a lot of energy, compassion, and patience to be a caregiver. Caregiving is a demanding job that can quickly lead to exhaustion and burnout. Being aware of the difficulties caregivers experience can help you deal with such obstacles if they arise as you provide for a loved one. Self-care is an essential part of caring for others.

Barely Any Professional Resources Available
 Family members are frequently the ones providing care, and many of them have little or no medical training. Caring for an Aging Family Member may be frightening when faced with difficult situations and judgments that could significantly impact their health and well-being. Several caregivers have difficulty making critical healthcare choices because they lack the resources and skills necessary to make them.

Isolation
 Caring for a loved one can take up a lot of time, especially if the caregiver maintains another career. It's easy to feel alone and isolated when one spends so much of their time tending to another individual. Even thinking about the activities that were valuable to them before they became a caregiver is a challenge.

Caregivers who isolate themselves are more likely to experience burnout, so it's critical that they take the time to see a friend, watch a film, or even simply go for a stroll. This will have a significant impact on the caregiver's health and well-being, and on the patient they are caring for.

Stress
 Caring for a loved one's health and well-being may be pretty taxing. Managing prescriptions, assisting with changing clothes, and showering are just a few of the

many duties that a caregiver must accomplish. Make time for short breaks during the day if you're feeling overwhelmed. Even a few minutes of mindfulness or breathing techniques every few hours will help alleviate some of your pressure. Moreover, remember to take advantage of your employer's Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

Caregiver Burnout
 Caregivers who disregard their own needs to devote all of their time and energy to the patient they provide for are said to experience burnout easily. Even though "selflessness" is commonly regarded as a positive trait, it can still be highly damaging. In the same way that burnout occurs in other professions, it can also happen in the caregiving field.

A caregiver eventually disregards their own needs to the point that they become emotionally and physically fatigued and, as a result, incapable of providing care for the elderly individual. Burnout among caregivers is all too frequent. Additionally, caregivers should be aware of the warning symptoms of burnout, such as tiredness, weariness, social disengagement, and irritability.

Lack of Support
 A typical complaint from caregivers is a scarcity of support. The finest care for a loved one with an illness or disability can only be provided if adequate support measures are in place. Caregivers must know when they need help from other providers, family members, professional care advisors, friends, or therapists.

Conclusion
 It's critical to balance your responsibilities as a caregiver and your personal needs. This is why family caregivers rely on respite programs so heavily. Caregivers can use respite care so they can take care of themselves and give themselves a break, whether it's for their own well-being or other pursuits.

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tip the odds in their favor. However, the environment of mandatory arbitration creates a parasitic relationship between businesses and consumers. The benefits to the business usually come at the expense of the consumer.

Bad For The Consumer

Mandatory arbitration creates countless obstacles for consumers and employees that do not impact businesses in the same magnitude. Some of these obstacles include significant up-front costs, a shortened discovery process, potentially biased arbitrators, inconvenient venue locations, and less knowledge about the history of bad business practices from previous claims due to confidentiality.

Consumers are responsible for hundreds of dollars in filing fees to initiate a dispute and can face hundreds of dollars in other fees throughout the process. For some, the substantial fees deter them from seeking any remedy. The arbitration process also limits discovery, the process in which the parties exchange information, making it more difficult for the individual to obtain information from a business or employer. Moreover, although they are intended to be a neutral third party, arbitrators ultimately rely on businesses for work, making it difficult to eliminate bias as arbitrators have an economic incentive to decide in favor of businesses. The locations of venues are more often convenient to businesses, thus offloading the burden and cost of travel to the consumer.

The confidential nature of this process minimizes exposure of such disputes and potentially bad business practices of businesses to the public eye. It alleviates public pressure and consequences businesses might otherwise face when information surrounding a dispute is public knowledge. It is difficult to gauge the fairness and integrity of the arbitration system. There is no oversight from the federal government or any other entity to evaluate impartiality or keep this process in check. Mandatory arbitration cannot be seen as a favorable process to the judicial system when the playing field is not level for consumers.

Looking Ahead

In recent years we've seen more laws passed to protect consumers' rights. Many of those laws limit the use of mandatory arbitration on certain claims. In March 2022, President Biden signed into law the Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act which voids arbitration clauses involving sexual-misconduct allegations. A bill is currently being considered in Congress, the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal (FAIR) Act of 2022, which would prohibit forced arbitration from being valid or enforceable if it requires forced arbitration of an employee, a consumer, or a civil rights claim against a business.

While small gains have been made, substantial setbacks regarding arbitration remain. Federal regulatory changes in 2019 continue to allow nursing homes and long-term care facilities that participate in Medicare and Medicaid programs to use arbitration in their contracts. The regulations do provide some provisions including not requiring a signed arbitration agreement as a condition for admission or continued care. However, the voluntary

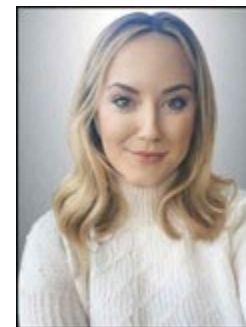
aspect of signing an arbitration agreement is often concealed within the emotional and daunting process of admitting a loved one to a long-term care facility. Potential residents, already vulnerable in both age and cognition, sign these agreements as part of lengthy admission paperwork without realizing the rights they have waived or what arbitration truly entails.

In past articles we've discussed the concerning frequency of nursing home abuse and neglect in this country. It is important to protect your rights and the rights of your loved ones who may reside in these facilities by recognizing where you may find arbitration agreements and clauses, as well as understanding what you are subject to if you agree to them.

Feel free to contact HEALY SCANLON LAW FIRM to seek legal remedies if you or a loved one has been subject to harm due to negligence, abuse, or defective products.

By: Autumn R. Mazzulla

Autumn R. Mazzulla is a paralegal at Healy Scanlon Law Firm. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin - Madison with a bachelor's degree in psychology and an honors graduate from Loyola University of Chicago with a dual certificate in Litigation and Corporate Practice in Paralegal Studies.



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, one of whom is a solicitor 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 Courthouse). www.HealyScanlon.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

Mandatory Arbitration:

A Clause for Concern to Consumers

Arbitration has deep roots in our history that predates many of the items and services they now apply to. Arbitration is an alternative method to the traditional jury trial to resolve legal disputes between two parties. A third party hears the evidence and makes a decision regarding the dispute. Nearly every American has encountered an arbitration agreement or clause, most unbeknownst to them. Advocates of arbitration argue that this private system outside of the courts affords benefits to both parties in a dispute because it is a more efficient process, less costly than litigation, and good for the economy. Others disagree due to the upfront costs, the lack of accountability for businesses, and the way it is forced on consumers. In some cases, parties can voluntarily agree to arbitration, but in the last 100 years, the use of mandatory arbitration has increased.

Mandatory, or forced arbitration, means that in the event of a dispute, you waive your right to sue, participate in a class action suit, or appeal a decision made regarding that dispute. The results are kept private and not available to the public. Mandatory arbitration clauses are being written into more contracts than ever before. Below is an example of a typical clause:

"ANY AND ALL DISPUTES OR CONTROVERSIES BETWEEN PARTICIPANT AND THE CORPORATION ARISING OUT OF, RELATING TO OR OTHERWISE CONNECTED WITH THIS AGREEMENT...SHALL BE SETTLED EXCLUSIVELY BY BINDING ARBITRATION."

Arbitration clauses like the above can be found in purchase agreements for cars, insurance policies, gym memberships, credit cards contracts, and contracts for nursing home or long-time care facilities. Almost all major phone carriers now contain forced arbitration clauses in their consumer contracts. According to the Economic Policy Institute, Illinois businesses adopt mandatory employment arbitration in over 40% of establishments, only trailing behind New York, Florida, Texas, and California.

Arbitration clauses are most likely to be included in the fine print, often difficult for the average consumer to locate or understand its impact. Most Americans have unknowingly agreed to mandatory arbitration as a condition of purchasing a product or accepting employment.

Good For Business

Businesses utilize mandatory arbitration clauses in their contracts to reduce legal risk, minimize financial liability, and to prevent the public from learning about consumer complaints. The arbitration process is advantageous to them due to its "efficacy" and shortened timeline compared to civil litigation. This can effectively save businesses thousands of dollars in attorneys' fees for each dispute. Civil litigation can take years to complete, while the process of arbitration is condensed into several months. Arbitration is kept confidential and protects businesses' proprietary information, such as trade secrets, from being exposed to public knowledge. Because they have sole control of drafting the language in their arbitration clauses, businesses are able to



Look who got married! Katie Grennan and John Williams in Doolin, Ireland. . . . Congratulations!

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CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

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Greetings from Chicago Gaelic Park!

Irish Fest is returning this year. Mark your calendars for August 25, 26, and 27.

In the meantime . . . we are sprucing up our Beer Garden, looking forward to reopening in late May. We are planting Gaelic Gardens, anticipating freshly harvested produce incorporated into our summer menus. We are finishing up construction of a Pub kitchen, allowing expanded menu options and elevated table service. As always, indispensable volunteers are doing mighty work; thank you for your dedication.

Check out the profiles in this issue of *Irish American News* of Chef Santiago and Chef Maureen—the talented hands steering the kitchens at Gaelic Park. We look forward to seeing you during your next food and beverage experience at GP!

Cheers,
Noreen Lennon Hegarty

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CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

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

Meet the Two Chefs Driving Chicago Gaelic Park's Culinary Creations

By: Michael Bennett, General Manager



Chef Santiago Palmerin has spent a lifetime around food. He started as a young man, working at his family's grocery store in Guanajuato, Mexico. At 17, he came to Chicago and began a 20-year career with Charlie's Ale House restaurants. From dishwasher to executive chef, Santiago excelled at every role eventually opening many new restaurants, including a property at Navy Pier. This June, Chef Santiago celebrates his 10th year at Chicago Gaelic Park. He is a hands-on leader,

mentoring many young cooks; his culinary philosophy is grounded in utilizing the best ingredients and preparing every menu item from scratch. Santiago's leadership was crucial to successfully navigating the complexities of a Covid-19 kitchen. Santiago is the proud father of two boys and two girls and has been happily married for 25 years this month. He lives in Hammond, Indiana with his family.

Chef Maureen Carr is eagerly awaiting the grand opening of a new kitchen in support of Chicago Gaelic Park's Beer Garden. Maureen, a native of Ireland, is a graduate of a prestigious Galway cooking school. As part of her training, she cooked at the Hotel Limerick for two years. Chef Maureen first came to the U.S. in 1984, settled in Oak Lawn, Illinois and cooked for United Airlines for 10 years. Maureen then went to cook at the Innisfree Restaurant where she worked John Kivelhan.



Later Maureen opened the kitchen at the Ashford house in Tinley Park, Illinois before returning to Ireland where she opened her own restaurant in Westport, Co. Mayo. Also, while back in Ireland, Chef Maureen was honored with the "best breakfast in Ireland" title for her work at the Hotel Clew Bay. Chef's vast knowledge of Irish cuisine allows her to refresh the Carraig Pub menu frequently and run creative, tasty specials nightly. Maureen has a recently engaged son Sean in Scotland and a daughter Ciara, who is Chicago Gaelic Park's pastry chef.

Both of Chicago Gaelic Park's chefs are excited about the expansion of Gaelic Gardens. For the second year, two acres have been set apart for the growing of herbs and vegetables as well as for an apiary. These hyper-local ingredients will be a big part of our summer dishes.

Chef Santiago, Chef Maureen and the entire hospitality team look forward to your next visit to Chicago Gaelic Park whether for a special occasion, a pint at the pub or some ribs on the Patio (every Wednesday this summer)!



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Upcoming Events

visit chicagogaelpark.com for more information on upcoming events

- May 3rd - MONTHLY MUSICAL LUNCHEON
- May 7th - GAELIC PARK BOOK CLUB
- May 14th - MOTHER'S DAY MASS & BREAKFAST
- May 14th - MOTHER'S DAY CARVERY
- May 20th - CLAUDIA BUCKLEY CONCERT
PRESENTED BY ST. JARLATH'S YOUTH GAA
- June 1st - KIDS' CULTURAL CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS
- June 29th - MAGGIE SPEAKS CONCERT ON THE PATIO

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- May 6th - NICKY G
- May 12th - BERNIE GLIM
- May 13th - EBJ BAND
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- May 20th - DAMIEN PATRICK
- May 26th - LIAM DURKIN
- May 27th - THE ROCKETS
- June 2nd - BILL O'DONOGHUE
- June 3rd - ST. JAMES GATE

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MAGGIE SPEAKS

THURSDAY, JUNE 29 AT 7:30 ON THE PATIO!



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50TH ANNIVERSARY OF IFC GOLF OUTING JULY 17 at RIDGEMORE CC

Celebrating 50 years of golf, the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago will host the Annual Golf Outing on Monday, July 17 at beautiful *Ridgemoor Country Club*. Chaired by John Wrenn, the event will include a shotgun start followed by a heavy buffet, a raffle and prizes for winners.

Says President Bob Flood, "Thank you to John Wrenn for leading the IFC Golf Committee this year. I look forward to seeing our members and guests enjoying Ridgemoor Country Club's course and the fellowship of an Irish event."

The cost of the event is \$550/foursome and includes all greens fees, access to the driving range, golf cart, one fore-caddy per foursome, all liquid refreshments, lunch and a heavy buffet dinner. John Wrenn commented, "This year will be extra-special on the golf course as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of this great Irish Fellowship Club event. I am grateful to Ridgemoor Country Club for hosting us again and know that our golfers will have a great afternoon."

Each hole on the course is available for sponsorship which is a great way to promote your business or organization to the members and guests of the Irish Fellowship Club.

If you are interested in a hole sponsorship or providing a prize, please contact Kathy Taylor at ktaylor@irishfellowship.com.

The event is usually a sell out, so watch the Irish Fellowship Club site: www.irishfellowshipclub.com



IFC HEADS TO IRELAND

Organized by President Bob Flood, the Irish Fellowship Club will be traveling to Ireland this summer from **August 20-28**.

"This trip will be an opportunity for fun and fellowship for the Irish community of Chicago. The itinerary is outstanding - visiting Westport, Killarney and Cork, ending in Dublin in time for the **Notre Dame Navy Game**. There are a limited number of seats, so contact Derry Cronin soon," said Bob Flood.

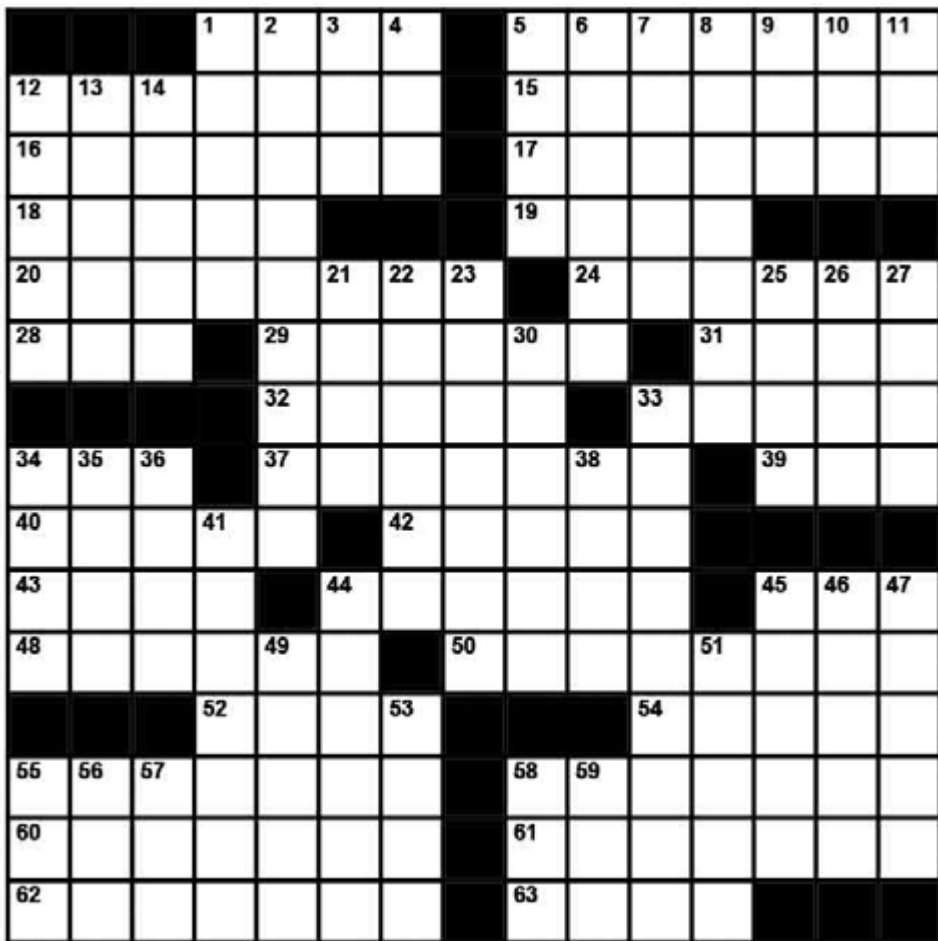
On a customized tour with a private guide and luxury touring vehicle, IFC members and guests will experience highlights including the Wild Atlantic Way, the Cliffs of Moher and the great sites of the capital city of Dublin.

The land portion of the trip including a ticket to the big game is \$3620/person.

The trip will sell out quickly so please contact Derry Cronin from Specialized Travel at 1-800-664-7474 or derry.cronin@special-ireland.com to make a reservation.



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- Across**
- Waterfall in Killarney National Park
 - Replaced, on a hard drive
 - Antique auto
 - News channel
 - Dublin street where you can visit a building dedicated to highlighting the country's "natural history"
 - Budding entrepreneurs, for short
 - Off-course
 - Connect up again
 - Las Vegas football team
 - Inhale and exhale
 - As a consequence
 - Best of show
 - One who encourages
 - Stated
 - HBO Western series
 - Tease
 - One of a 100, abbr.
 - Least cooked
 - Cambodian monetary unit
 - Busy U.S. airport
 - Parts of ski runs
 - Hydro-massage facility
 - Makeshift cat dish
 - Calypso offshoot
 - "I wanna!"
 - They may have pink rooms
 - Conviction
 - Strike
 - Wore away, with at
 - Famous Irish peninsula which is designated as a Gaeltacht
 - Tolerates
 - Genesis skipper
 - B.B. King plays them
 - Fast tempo
 - Citizens army
 - Afternoon break
 - Landscape
 - Carpenter, at times
 - Wall Street inits.
- Down**
- Worn-out
 - Resident's suffix
 - Circus cries
 - Cirque de Soleil equipment
 - Breeding horses
 - Musketeer number
 - Sister of Goneril and Cordelia
 - Pearl Harbor locale
 - Grove product
 - Runs off the tracks
 - Provoke
 - Onion's kin
 - The Adamsons' cat
 - Blackmail material
 - Orchestras
 - Tried to get home, maybe
 - Partner of a mani, salon-wise
 - "I'll second that"
 - Female voice
 - Small generator
 - My-my!
 - Keen
 - Those people's
 - College application piece, perhaps
 - Register
 - "Drop me ___", 2 words
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Enjoying breakfast at the Chicago Hilton before a big day of work, these Shannon Rovers are ready to roll! (l to r): Tony Giampreto, Griffin Belson, Conor Kelly, Dan McNeill, Meagan Conery, Katie Lenihan, and Nathan Moss

Land of the Free, Home of the Brave

By Elizabeth Belcaster

We started a Chicago St. Patrick's parade in 2003 in memory of Judith Arlene, my Irish mother and my father's beautiful strong Irish wife. While the sentiment was more about a celebration of her character as matriarch of our family, resistance stood in front of us from our own Irish community. "Not Irish enough" some said, "not born in Ireland" some said. We never bought into it and twenty years later we have been embraced by communities of faith, family, and friends across the country inclusive to those who have no Irish descent. My mother and beautiful wife to my dad, Judith Arlene represents the spirit of celebration for all matriarchs from all cultures.

In my day-to-day work, I spend much of my time as an advocate for transitioning service members who are leaving their military service careers and heading into the civilian workforce communities. Most of which served in Operation Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and I am reminded daily about the challenges of transition.

Many of those I advocate for are service members that have had numerous deployments to third world countries and cultures not even slightly familiar to them. Countless who have deployed as young soldiers, marines, sailors, airmen and women; all who would be impacted by the change in culture. Change of culture would be the minimum of the challenges they would face, as war is vile and culture shock on top of war is a critical hardship for any human being, even for those who come from the most powerful force in the world.

While I know the work I am doing is impacting and assisting them in

a meaningful way, I am aware that their return journey home will probably be more difficult. Years of service, deployments away from their families, and war will never truly be in a rear-view mirror. They will be faced with the difficulties in adjusting to the time away from family and friends, many who have moved on and have had their own life and career aspirations; all that feeds into change and culture on their return journey home.

I have been introduced to some of the heroic Afghan refugees who have served alongside the U.S. Military during the war in Afghanistan. The Afghans who served alongside the U.S. Military

like to the Afghan Interpreters: contractors that worked for over a decade on the side of the U.S. Armed Forces.

There are so many similar if not mirrored challenges they will face.

"Land of the Free, Home of the Brave" is what they have been awarded for their loyalty and hard work. They too will face the same challenges as they immigrate their families into this new culture. They are appreciative and yet frightened and have shown great capability as citizens of war. We will continue to work with them and their families to welcome them and assist them in finding their way.

I am reminded how parallel the work I do is to my family and yours who immigrated from Ireland to America whether it was 100 years ago or even a short time ago. Transition, no matter what the journey, is filled with challenges.

Let us never forget those advocates who lifted our ancestors on their journey from Ireland to America. We have many in Irish communities across the country that have provided critical if not lifesaving resources and helped them fulfil the American dream. The United States has pockets of Irish communities coast to coast. Parades and Pipers and Community Organizations that are reminders of our heritage, many who are inherited organizations that stem from the early transition of our ancestors.

Be kind to those in front of you as their journey is probably more relevant to yours than you know.



Daniel Murray, President of NWSI & his daughter, Elizabeth Murray-Belcaster

for many years during the war are granted Special Immigrant Visa's by the U.S. Government. They are vetted by Department of Defense (DOD) specialists as they enter the SIV application process and for the most part must flee their own country to secure the safety of their own families. Many of the U.S. servicemen and women deployed to Afghanistan during OEF war have served side by side with them and many more than I know recognize their impact.

Transition pivoted, as I first saw transition from the eyes of U.S. service members and now have an up close and personal look at what this looks



Paddys Day Luncheon Society Members Mark Rudolph, and Larry Dolan, March, 2023

In the early 1950's a group of electrical salesmen gathered on March 16th to celebrate Frank Cummins' birthday. Each year they would gather and the party would end later and later until 1954 when it ran well into March 17th.

The name St. Paddy's Day Luncheon Society was born and the original group of seven celebrators named Paul O'Reilly "The Big Shillelagh". The 1954 party had about 20 people at the Sherman Hotel where Bill Crossey's brother was the catering manager, so they could drink (and occasionally eat) for almost free.

The original seven members of the society were: Paul O'Reilly, Frank Cummins, Bob Harman, Wallie O'Brien, Bill Crossey, Connie Butler, and Jim Glenn.

Each year since a growing percentage of the electrical industry has gotten together to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. As the party grew it moved to the Bismark Hotel in the 1960's, onto The Como Inn during the 1980's and in 1998 to the Hilton Hotel Grand Ballroom. For information on the group go to <http://www.paddysdaylunch.org/>

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Long Meadow Cider is very much a family run business with family at the heart of everything they do. Long Meadow farm has been owned by the McKeever family, (pictured; Pat, Catherine and son, Peter). It began over 50 years ago with Pat's father, Peter planted the first trees on their home farm. Through their stewardship, they have focused on Bramley apple production, but each generation of the family has also had a policy of growing a mix of varieties and using different planting processes to further refine the apples used.



Long Meadow Cider is an award winning business producing a range of artisan Craft Ciders, Apple Juice and Apple Cider Vinegar. They grow, harvest and hand pick over 80 acres of the PGI Bramley Apple as well as a variety of sweet apples.

They have diversified their family business further and offer bespoke, immersive orchard/cider experiences on their family farm that can be adapted to suit the needs and requirements of their visitors as all experiences are family led.

Granny's traditional griddle bread is their most recent immersive experience added to their portfolio, where visitors are welcomed onto their farm, learn about the production process of their

craft products, visit their cold storage facilities where apples are stored, enjoy an orchard walk through their various orchard plantations before relaxing in their new glass fronted Bramley Barn set in the heart of the orchard, where they can experience a cookery demonstration on making traditional soda bread followed by a hot cuppa with fresh soda bread straight off the griddle. And of course no tour experience would be complete without tastings of their award winning products.

"We are delighted to be able to welcome local and international visitors onto our family farm and offer them a fully immersive, engaging, interactive experience" says Catherine "The feedback we are receiving is great."

For further information on this family run business and bookings for their griddle bread experience, visit

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'Long Day's Journey Into Light': The Bomb and Bullet Legacy

Stephen Travers, a survivor of the Miami Showband Massacre was a member of the Miami Showband when they were ambushed on their way home to Dublin after a gig in Banbridge in 1993. Three of the band were shot dead but Stephen, though shot, miraculously survived. Travers with Eugene Reavey (whose 3 brothers were killed in the family home in South Armagh in 1976) founded the Truth and Reconciliation Platform. Stephen, who was given the iBAM! Award as Person of the Year in 2019, gave the speech below at the Cavan County Museum April 12th, 2023.

Thank you, it's a great honour to give this year's Arthur Griffith Lecture. Thanks to Cavan County Council, Cavan County Museum and special thanks to Dermot McMonagle for his kind invitation and to Savina Donohue a co-founder of this event.

It is great to be in Cavan; we filled lots of ballrooms, dancehalls and marquees all over this beautiful county. Bailieborough, Ballinagh, Carrigallen, Kingscourt, Belturbet, Virginia, The Sports Centre in Cavan, Glangevlin, Tullyvin, Killeshandra, Cootehill, Shercock, Ballyconnell, Wonderland in Bawnboy and a few others too. Great memories, great people!

I've called today's talk 'Long Day's Journey Into Light' a play on words on the title of the American playwright, Eugene O'Neill's, magnum opus, 'Long Day's Journey Into Night'. But this is about my own, personal journey and I believe, or perhaps I want to believe, that it is a journey of continuing enlightenment. So far, it has taken almost forty-eight years and who wants to believe that they've been walking in the wrong direction for that long? I know it's not finished yet; today is just a stocktake and to paraphrase a certain economist, "If my information changes, I will alter my conclusions".

It's particularly good to be here at Cavan County Museum, a permanent reminder of who we were and why we are who we are today. A salutary and timely reminder of the terrible inequalities of the past that, inevitably, led to evictions, homelessness, starvation and mass emigration. Reminding us that apathy, disinterest in the plight of others, greed and lack of concern for the weak and the vulnerable, decimates the soul of a nation and takes generations to heal...if ever!

And yet, this marvellous rear-view mirror is also a reflection of our resilience, the endurance of our people, our culture, the scope of our imagination and our creativity. The Percy French exhibition here bears witness to the love we have for our homeland and, of course, our unique sense of humour. That one-time County Cavan Board of Works 'Inspector of Drains' inspired and encouraged poets and lyricists and songwriters for generations. I recently visited his grave at St. Luke's Church in Formby on my way from John Lennon Airport into Liverpool and for days afterwards, Don McClean's beautiful interpretation of 'The Mountains of Mourne' kept swirling around in my head along with fond memories of my parents lovingly listening to Brendan O'Dowda's recordings of Percy French songs on the highly polished radiogram which took pride of place in our sitting room when I was a child.

But it's 'The World War I - Trench Experience' on these very grounds, a cenotaph to the mass slaughter of just over a century ago that, for me, brings the current, catastrophic war in Europe into sharp relief. We are shown the edited highlights on our TV screens, morning, noon and night, with the tactics and manoeuvres enthusiastically poured over like 'Match Of The Day' by 'experts' who explain, track and forecast with the aid of computer graphics akin to a super-smart video game that's devoid of any real representation of, or empathy with, human suffering. War is not a video game or a reality TV show! I know how it feels to be bombed and shot and to crawl across a blood-soaked field among the mutilated, lifeless bodies of my friends, through the smouldering body parts of members of the British security forces and Loyalist paramilitaries who, unintentionally, blew themselves to pieces while colluding to callously murder and frame a much-loved Catholic and Protestant pop group as terrorists. I know the smell of burning human flesh and the awful sounds a human makes when it is being slaughtered. No video game or virtual reality innovation can recreate or construct such an experience. No news report or well-scripted commentary can even come close to articulating the abject horror, visited upon more than 43,600 people, just a short distance north of where we are today, with the authority of those who personally experienced it. I am convinced, now more

than ever, that there is not a more efficient deterrent to such violence or a more effective or valuable antidote to radicalisation than the personal, truthful testimony of the victim. Sadly, the truth doesn't always fit the narrative of those with most to gain from conflict and, consequently, all too often, the victim is silenced and sidelined, and history is all the poorer for it.

On January 30th, 2016, along with three other victims of the 'Troubles', I spoke at a unique event in central London. My fellow speakers were Eugene Reavey whose three brothers were murdered at their family home in Whitecross, County Armagh, on January 4th, 1976, Joe Campbell, a son of the RUC Sergeant, Joseph Campbell, who was murdered at Cushendall, County Antrim in 1977, and Alan McBride, the husband of Sharon McBride who was murdered in the Shankill Road 'Fish Bar Bombing' of 1993.

While that event afforded victims from diverse backgrounds a platform from which to share difficult, personal, intimate testimonies of their experience, it also presented the audience with a rare opportunity to appreciate the appalling consequences of politically motivated violence. And while it was, at once, shocking and inspiring, it was the highly charged emotional reaction of all in attendance that evening which left us in no doubt that such a powerful experience had to be shared with a wider audience.

On that day, Truth and Reconciliation Platform was born to give every victim of the conflict, regardless of social standing, political affiliation or religious persuasion, an opportunity to tell his or her own personal story, to put the truth on record and to try to prevent the rewriting, reworking, distorting or redacting of history. Truth is in the DNA of civilization. Unfortunately, those with most to fear from the truth are currently progressing a bill through the British Houses of Parliament, a law deliberately designed to deny victims of the so-called 'Troubles' access to the courts of justice. Even the murderous Chilean dictator, General Augusto Pinochet, didn't dare to go that far. Ironically, this so-called 'Northern Ireland Troubles Legacy and Reconciliation Bill' is the ultimate accessory to murder. Not only does it pervert the course of justice, but it also puts the final nail into the coffin of truth which, as we know, is always 'the first casualty of war'. Those who believed that they were fighting and dying for freedom in the trenches, so faithfully replicated just outside these doors - on these very grounds, are being betrayed - surely, they must be spinning in their graves at the thought of such treachery.

In the seven years since the founding of Truth and Reconciliation Platform, or TaRP as it's generally called, I have, at times, experienced the most disheartening emotions; shock and disbelief and skepticism and suspicion to such an extent that, time and time again, I bury my head in my hands in frustration and bemoan the fact that I don't know who the good guys are anymore: But then, I take my late father's advice and I consult a problem-solving principle that recommends searching for explanations constructed with the smallest possible set of elements. In essence, Occam's razor argues that the best explanation of any phenomenon is the simplest; that the one which makes the fewest assumptions is the most reliable. In doing so, I invariably reach the same unambiguous conclusion that destroying the lives of the innocent is wrong and that anyone with hand, act or part in such actions or covers them up, must be held accountable in law. Contrary to what the British government claims, it is naive in the extreme, if not criminally insane, to think that the most outrageous and obscene legislation proposed by any British government

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since The Penal Laws, 'the denial of the right to justice', will 'draw a line under The Troubles'. Britain's Legacy Bill will not "draw a line under the past". Contrary to what it claims, it will not "facilitate reconciliation". Britain's Legacy Bill will, in fact, play into the hands of those who advocate violence as the only response to injustice. In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible, make violent revolution inevitable".

In those seven years working with TaRP, the organisation described by our late-lamented friend and mentor, Seamus Mallon, as "the most powerful and effective project he'd witnessed in many a year", I have come to look at victims and perpetrators, and indeed my own experience, in a different light than I had over the previous four decades. Although I was a typical southerner, oblivious and indifferent to the suffering in the north until it impacted me, I eventually came to realise that my experience is, and always will be, inextricably linked to every other troubles-related atrocity. Like every victim, and indeed every foot-soldier, I was, and remain, just an expendable pawn in an age-old game of thrones. I'm embarrassed at the naivety with which I first approached the project. I now question the meaning, context, and multi-purpose, one-size-fits-all use of the word 'Reconciliation', which, for so long, was regarded essential for peace. I know now that 'Reconciliation', in the general sense, is not about convincing two diametrically opposed factions to meet in the middle of some expensive, newly built Peace Bridge and hug each other. It is the establishment of mutual respect and trust founded upon truth. Olive branches are grown; not manufactured.

Words matter and if by 'Reconciliation' we mean 'Reunion', then it's hardly appropriate to apply that term to the 'bringing-together' of nationalists and unionists. While many were indeed good neighbours, they hardly sang from the same hymn sheet, nor could it be said that they were ever united. In that context, I now prefer the word 'Resolution'. Differences and distrust that, for generations, have remained undeclared, need to be aired and the underlying problems identified and resolved. The concerns and fears of both communities must be listened to with respect and every effort made to appreciate and assuage them. For example, in the event of a united Ireland, the legitimate fears of the Unionist people that pogroms such as The Dunmanway Massacre of April 1922 might be repeated, cannot be dismissed or glossed over. By the same token, in the event of irreconcilable differences between The UK and The EU, the Nationalist community's fear of a hard border on the island of Ireland,

and the ensuing consequences, is perfectly rational. In fact, that reasonable and wholly logical concern is shared by authorities around the world.

The word 'Reconciliation' however, is by no means redundant. For those who hope for, and believe in, an agreed, peaceful united Ireland, it is essential that the anguish and suffering of those who were left behind and cast adrift by the partition of Ireland a hundred

be achieved.

During the eighties, I was producing a young rock band in an exclusive West End recording studio in London. It was part of their prize for reaching the finals of a nationwide 'battle of the bands' competition. During a break in the recording, there was some lively banter between the guitarist and the drummer about the influence of their respective heroes on popular music. What began as friendly repartee was

the moment at least, they can justifiably say, "Well, I didn't shoot anyone" but, if they cover up atrocities by denying victims the right to justice with their, already infamous, 'Legacy Bill' they will be complicit. We can make great music together if we are all willing to acknowledge and learn from past mistakes instead of burying them like toxic nuclear waste that will inevitably escape and contaminate our fragile shared space again.

leverage to force me to settle my case, especially in the final year, and which continues to threaten, intimidate, retraumatise and terrorise the very victims they claim it will help.

My 'long day's journey into light' began in the early hours of Thursday, July 31st, 1975. Little did I know then that it would take me across the great seas and oceans of the world, over rainforests, within touching distance of Africa's highest mountain peaks and down among the most deprived, poverty-stricken communities on the planet. Little could I have imagined then that I would witness the scourge of racism and segregation in the world's richest and most powerful nation. My 'long day's journey into light' would take me deep into the murky underworld of political intrigue, to be subjected to an unexpected betrayal by those I least suspected, only to return many years later and stand face-to-face with those who set me upon my journey that bloody summer morning. Dark days when I longed for even the smallest chink of light. Terrifying days when I was running on empty and fear of failure was my only driver. Hopeless days when I gave up living for myself and the only light I saw was in the eyes of my wife and our daughter. Helpless days when I knew that a greater power was carrying me, and my only hope was that it would use me as a battering ram against the gates of the Hell that kept me prisoner for almost half a century. But just when I thought I had nothing left, those infernal gates burst open and light flooded in. The darkest hour was just before dawn.

But, while it is a journey that I am grateful for, I will continue to do everything in my power to ensure that no one else will have to travel that road.

I'll finish with the following lines from the book I wrote with my friend, Neil Fetherstonhaugh, in 2007 which led to the making of the Emmy nominated Netflix documentary 'The Miami Showband Massacre' that, finally, told our story to the world.

In her book "Orlando: City of Dreams", Joy Wallace Dickinson quotes the Reverend Jerry Girley, a founder of The West Orange (County) Reconciliation Task Force: 'The idea is "let sleeping dogs lie". "What's the point in digging up a painful past?" people ask. Girley is ready with a response. "When you visit a doctor for the first time, you don't just start with a physical exam," he says. "You answer a clipboard full of questions; you give your medical history. That's because there's a predictive value in knowing your history. [Then] there's a path to greater understanding." Thank you



years ago is recognised and acknowledged. Debating The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 is best left to the academics now but what is not up for debate is that, for decades, the south turned its back on its own kin and abandoned them to a sectarian state that treated them as second-class citizens. An unspoken but vital reconciliation necessary for a harmonious united Ireland is the reconciliation of northern and southern nationalists.

Speaking at a TaRP event a few years ago, Seamus Mallon said, "The Catholic people are not going anywhere, this is their home, and the Protestant people are not going anywhere, this is their home, so we are left with a stark choice; live with each other or get on with killing each other."

Tragically, there are some who opt for the latter.

None of us; no living community has a monopoly on suffering or loss but, for the sake of this and future generations, we must all contribute to the healing which will inevitably involve sacrifice and compromise but must begin with respect for each other's culture, traditions and political aspirations and will require rigid adherence to the peaceful, democratic will of the people. We must also accept that the ongoing righteous struggle for truth and justice, for all, is not incompatible with healing for there cannot be healing or lasting peace without truth or justice which, with courage, empathy and compassion, can

developing into a disruptive argument but, confident that he could deliver a quick knock-out line, the drummer, whose father was Irish, exclaimed that "Rory Gallagher conquered the world with his guitar, but the Brits could only manage it with guns". But it was the young English guitarist who delivered the undisputable knock-out blow when he replied, "Well, I didn't shoot anyone". They both laughed and got on with recording their music. As their producer and mentor, I was there to guide and help them, but it was they who guided and helped me and left me with an abiding optimism: Those who are hell-bent on passing a law to deny victims access to the courts are not responsible for the outrages of the past and so, for

The majority of victims demand justice through the court system and that is their inalienable right. There are also some who feel unable or do not want to go through years or decades of torturous litigation and who would settle for truth in exchange for a conditional, victim-led amnesty that they can control, but that should be a matter of choice rather than compulsion. The ten long years that I fought The British Ministry of Defense and The Chief Constable of The PSNI in The High Court were among the most difficult years of my life, but I would do it all again if necessary. I will continue to oppose the British Government's unjust and immoral Legacy Bill which was used as a threat and as

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Claudia Buckley is an award winning performer and vocalist, from Athenry in Co. Galway.

Having just been awarded "The Hottest Act in Irish county music" at the "Hot Country" music awards, at just 23 she has had a string of number 1 hits in the country charts, including "Diane", "Country is as country does"

and her breakthrough single "Drinking with Dolly" which has credited Claudia her own stamp on the country music scene in Ireland and beyond.

Most recently you may have seen Claudia on RTE's "Up for the match" where she gave a rendition of "Proud Mary" where she performed alongside a group of dancers from Co. Limerick as they represented their home county for the All Ireland hurling final!

Claudia has toured in Ireland, England, Scotland, Spain and she even was part of Gertrude Byrnes "All Star" cruises in 2021 and 2022, and can't wait to set sail again in 2023 along side some of her friends and colleagues!

Claudia has achieved an incredible amount of success so early on in her career and speaks fondly of having performed some of her hit songs at festivals, dance halls and indeed theatres all over Ireland and beyond earlier this year "there has been something incredibly special about performing your own hits out at these open air festivals, and looking down into the crowd seeing people mouth the words back to you, it is electric."



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The "Gainer Gals" were out in force on the Southside Irish St. Pat's Parade day when they road their yearly float wearing these sweatshirts. The sweatshirts say My Block, My Hood, My City in Gaelic! Nora got the idea from a community activist she admires, Jamie Coleman, who designed neighborhood sweatshirts and raise funds for Christmas lights and other things to help the Black community. (L to R): Bridget Gainer, Maureen Gainer Reilly, Gerry Gainer, Sheila Gainer, Nora Gainer, Mary Gainer.



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Wednesday 17th May
Doors: 10 a.m. Music: 10.30 a.m.
"Blue Zones" are places in the world where entire communities live longer. Grab your suitcase and detective hat to travel with registered nurse Joan Davis to the Blue Zones, to discover their secrets.

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Wednesday 10th May
Doors: 10 a.m. Music: 10.30 a.m.
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GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

BY TINA BUTLER



Who are the billionaire brothers Patrick and John Collision? They were born in Tipperary, (although some research shows Limerick). They made it big in the tech world. They co-founded, Stripe, which is an online payment platform. The tech world is very hazy to me and in case it is for some of you. I will explain what type of business the Collisions have created. Online payment companies are responsible for handling online/internet methods of payment. It allows the seller to accept payment and the buyer to send payment over the internet. (cashless) Examples of online payment include Apple Pay, PayPal and Stripe. It's in real time so your payment is immediate. Naturally there is a delay in paying offline and reconciling it. However, paying online comes with security risks.

They say one in ten adults fall victim to a scam or fraud every year. However your more likely to become a victim of identity theft by having your purse/wallet stolen than you are via online fraud. The most common form of identity theft is government or benefits fraud. However, people do get scammed while shopping online. Scammers pretend to be legitimate online sellers either with a fake website or a fake ad on a genuine retailer site.

Patrick started computer courses at the University of Limerick at a very young age. He entered a "Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition with an artificial intelligence project. Patrick was nicknamed "Isaac" (after Isaac Newton an English physicist and mathematician) he won and his prize of Waterford crystal and check were presented by then President Mary McAleese.

He went to Massachusetts Institute of Technology but dropped out after starting business with his brother John. In 2016 Thebrothers became the world's youngest self-made billionaires. Patrick is married to a Swiss molecular biologist who teaches at Stanford. (California)

On to brother John, the other half of Stripe. He went to Harvard, the Ivy league school located in Massachusetts. (As did

Conan O'Brian and Ted Kennedy) John is a pilot and a pianist. He bought the Abbeyeix estate in Co. Laois he plans to renovate and make it a family home.

Wow so, this family has two billionaires in it! Ireland has eight billionaires, and these are two of them. America has over 700 billionaires, but the population is over 330 million people. To say these brothers are well to do or affluent is an understatement they're filthy rich.

So I wondered do I have the desire to be rich? They say it's not a bad thing to want or be. If a person is rich and they earned it through honest methods, it's justified. The Bible says: "Command those who are rich not to put their hope in wealth, which is uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous." Timothy 6:17-19

Most people don't have the pleasure of being rich. There are different levels of wealth. For example solvent means you have enough money to pay your bills. Next is stable means you have a few months for emergency funds, then secure, and then abundant. Some people might not have a lot in the monetary sense of wealth, but they could be rich in friends that are loyal and like family. Some people are wealthy in wisdom, or spirituality. You get the idea that there is more to life than chasing gold. I hope all my readers are rich in love and happiness.

"Build your own dreams or someone else will hire you to build theirs" Farrah Gray
SMIDIN GAELIGE

Brother-dearthair, rich-saibhir, money-airgead, business-gno

I would like to mention that my Book Club at Gaelic Park has been such a joy and enlightening experience this past year. This group is really special to me, also inspiring, very smart and uplifting! We have one more meeting for the season, it's on May 7th. We will discuss the Titanic Sisters, written by Patricia Falvey. We will break for Summer and start again in September. If you have any questions, please contact me: Molanive@yahoo.com

I was watching one of those dog shows, Purina or Westminster dog show and it made me think of Irish dog breeds. And the Westminster dog show isn't aired from London near Buckingham palace but from New York City. The winner of those dog shows is usually a Terrier.

They say the Border Collie is the smartest dog and the most loyal dog is the German Shepard. I was never a fan of dogs since the day walking to school my sister Margaret and I were approached by a stray dog. The dog viciously bit my sister and that changed my opinion of dogs. I know they say a man's best friend is a dog but he's not mine.

There's about eight native Irish breeds which include Irish Setter, Irish Spaniel, Irish Terrier, Irish Wolfhound, Kerry Blue Terrier, Wheaten Terrier, Glen Terrier, and the Irish Red and White Setter.

The Irish Setter is mahogany/reddish brown in color. They have hyper or loud personalities & they require a lot of exercise. They are tireless and loving family dogs. In times past setters were used as hunting dogs.

Irish Spaniel, also Shannon Spaniel have recognizing characteristics long loose curls and chocolate/brown in color. It's an ancient Irish breed. A natural water dog that has equal strength on the field and in water.

Irish Terrier they are loyal and friendly this terrier adapts to any situation and deeply committed to their owners. They have served as mascots for the Notre Dame football team. In the movie, Firehouse Dog" an Irish Terrier is the dog hero.

Irish Wolfhounds They are the largest and tallest of the hound group. This is a swift breed that hunts by sight and needs a big fenced in yard to accommodate its run. They have a keen sense to distinguish between friends and a family member.

Kerry Blue Terrier comes from Co. Kerry known for excellent working skills. This breed has been used for hunting birds as well as water. They make for excellent watch dogs and farm dogs although used sometimes in



police work.

Wheaten Terrier the name of this dog breed, describes the characteristics of its coat. This dog likes a lot of exercise, and they are extremely alert. They are quick learners.

Glen of Imaal Terrier this breed gets its name from an area in the Wicklow mountains. They have great strength, agility and always ready to give chase.

Irish Red and White Setter this breed is known for being a prized gundog. That means their trained to work with hunters. They are field dogs that are high energy and athletic. They are eager to please and have a soft temperament. I often see or hear about golden retrievers, German Shepards and poodles so I wanted to highlight our lovely Irish breeds that might not be as well known.

Last month I wrote about

Holy Wells in Ireland, and I don't think I mentioned, St. Johnswell in Kilkenny. St. Johnswell is a village and there is the holy well also named St. Johnswell in the village. My grandma Mary McDonald was buried across the road from the well. It's an archeological and historical well of great importance. It was dedicated to St. John the Baptist. It attracts pilgrims every year on the feast of St. John the Baptist. (June 24 & August 29 anniversary of his death) For those of you who don't know St. John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin and he was beheaded for preaching and speaking truth to King Herod.

"A dog owns nothing and yet he is seldom dissatisfied" Irish proverb "Dog spelt backwards is still your best friend".

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Master Your Money

By Mike Corrigan



Key Principles for Successful Retirement

What are the greatest concerns surrounding retirement? According to the Retirement Confidence Index the top 6 concerns are Having Too Much Debt, Not Having the Confidence knowing you can retire, affording living expense (inflation), medical expenses, social security being there & benefits changing, and the number one concern is **RUNNING OUT OF MONEY!**

The question for you is...Do you identify with one or more of these concerns? We have been told and brainwashed that retirement success is knowing and reaching our savings goal. That we have to "know our number". There were multiple commercials of people carrying large numbers

on their shoulders or there were life size posters in a park with people reaching up pointing to their number.

Today's retirement planning experts agree that retirement success can be possible by prioritizing retirement INCOME over a savings goal. A key principle is Protecting the income you NEED in retirement....so you Maximize the income for the things you WANT in retirement. There is a big difference, and you need to know what those are.

There are 2 types of income. Income for what you Need like food, clothing, shelter, medical and transportation. Then there is Income for what you Want like travel, 2nd home, hobbies, &

spending time with grandchildren, etc. In other words, your dreams!

What are the Potential Risk to Retirement Income? Longevity -living too long & needing care. Inflation -protecting future purchase power. This is a real cost you can't control. Stock Market Volatility - a major drop in the market during retirement is a significant threat when you are no longer working bringing in a check. Survivorship - when one spouse dies there is usually a reduction in income (loss of one social security check and maybe loss or reduced pension). Taxes -this is a big one...higher taxes can reduce the longevity of your retirement assets. How can you reduce future tax liabilities? Question: To what degree are these risks relevant to your retirement income?

Everyone's situation is different. Some have done better than others, but it's been my experience that most of the above risks are applicable to everyone we encounter. Just different degrees.

You have to have "Stress Test" each one of these risks to see the impact it will have on your retirement. You want to know NOW. Not when you get there, and you find out it's too late. You want to know the impact if you live longer than expected and one or both of you need long-term care. Can your assets survive? What loved ones will be most affected if you need care? Whose

life will be disrupted if you are cognitively impaired? Will you be a burden to your kids?

We haven't had significant inflation in many years up until this last year when it surged to 8%. What if it continues? What happens to your retirement? Is that something we should look at?

How about market volatility? Investment losses in retirement when you are no longer earning an income can have a greater impact than gains. How much market exposure do you have, and do you have the time and patience to weather a major downturn? If you are withdrawing money from your IRA and the market is going down, what will you do? Should we simulate that and see what would happen (before it happens)?

Survivorship Risk...if your spouse dies tomorrow do you know for certain that you can continue to afford your current lifestyle throughout the remainder of your retirement? Again, is that something we should look at? NOW.

Lastly, Tax Risk. You may not realize it, but we have had the lowest taxes rates in the last 40 years. I have the data to support that fact. If you don't like the tax rates today, you certainly won't like them when they most likely will increase in the future. Don't believe what you might have been told that you will be in a lower bracket in retirement. Our country has over \$31 Trillion in debt, and the government

is not bringing enough revenue from our gross domestic product (GNP) to pay for that debt. Our country's debt is projected to increase to \$50 trillion in the next 10-15 years. So, what happens when our government needs more money? They raise taxes. It's going to happen at some point. I tell people, Taxes and Medical Care will be your biggest expenses in retirement. If you don't address these risks, you will be in trouble. Think contingency.

We have a proven process that "Stress Test" each one of these risks to evaluate the impact it may have on your retirement. As I mentioned earlier, to what degree are these risks relevant to your retirement income? Call it "What If" planning.

There are Action Steps that you have to take. 1. Identify the Income You NEED and WANT. 2. Understand your income sources and characteristics (where is coming from and is it protected & predictable). 3. Stress Test your Retirement Income - conduct what if scenarios. 4. Call our office for a complimentary, one-hour strategy session. This is free for Irish American readers and subscribers. This could be a game changer for some people. Don't continue to wait. There could be consequences by not acting.

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The Winds of Change

During Bertie Ahern's period as Taoiseach, it was mentioned that he might, as history unfolded, become our greatest Taoiseach.

His tenure would not, in my opinion, equal that of my choice, Sean Lemass.

Sean Lemass was an Irish politician who served as the

Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland from 1959 to 1966. He was born on July 15th 1899 in Dublin. Lemass joined the Irish Republican Army (IRA) at the age of 17 and fought in the War of Independence against British rule.

After the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922, Lemass joined the ruling Fianna Fáil party and was first elected to Dáil Eireann (Irish Parliament) in 1924. He served in a variety of

government positions over the next few decades, including Minister for Industry and Commerce, Minister for Supplies, and Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister)

The tragedy for Lemass was that his period as Taoiseach was all too short. De Valera did not hand over the reins of power until 1959 and he was replaced, upon retirement, by Jack Lynch in 1965. De Valera stayed on far too long and he should have handed the Country over to Lemass as early as 1950

After thirty years of freedom, the Country was almost going out of business by the mid 1950's. De Valera's vision of a self-sufficient Ireland, frugal and with comely maidens dancing at the crossroads was extremely flawed and very out of touch with reality. We were obsessed with putting people back on the land and this was never going to solve our bigger economic problem. The people were being suffocated by Irish Nationalism and the winds of change were beginning to blow strongly.

As a Senior Government Minister from the 1940's onwards, Lemass was becoming increasingly worried about the way things were going. As a pragmatist, he knew that we would have to look externally in order to bring us in line with the social and economic conditions of the other European countries.

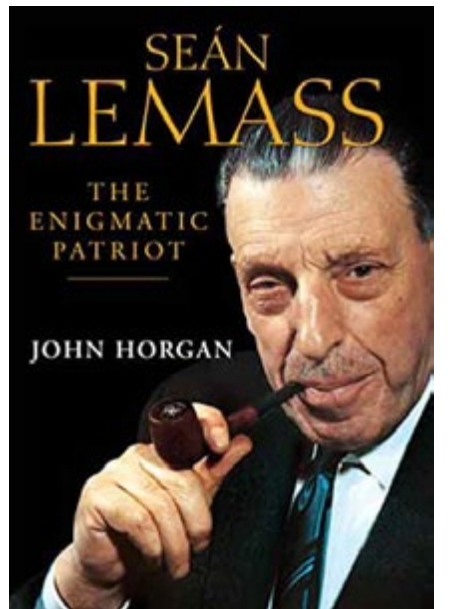
He started to strengthen Bord Failte and he figured that the more people that saw the Country the greater the publicity we would get. We may not have had the best facilities at the time, but the people were generally very warm and friendly. Our tourist industry was built on the quality of our people.

Lemass also encouraged a young Economist at the Department of Finance, Ken Whittaker, to see what was needed to give the country a kick start. Out of this strategy came the now famous 'Programme for Economic Development', published in 1958.

Even though De Valera's policies and beliefs lay in more insular solutions, he was practical enough not to stand in the way of progress. The new policies

were also supported by the Opposition Parties. Any plan was certainly better than no plan at all. After this, there was no looking back. The Multinationals were encouraged to invest in the Country, and this, along with the emergence of free Secondary education in the mid 1960's, kick-started the beginnings of an economy that we are bearing the fruits of Today.

None of this would have happened without a visionary like Sean Lemass. He was certainly ahead of his time, any by his astute social and economic policies, brought Ireland out of a terminal decline and gave us hope and confidence as we headed towards the 21st century. Good ideas are not adopted automatically. They must be driven into practice



with courageous impatience. Sean Lemass asked if we had the confidence and belief in ourselves, and that we would have to take the future on board.

Lemass also played a key role in improving relations between Ireland, and our Neighbour, the United Kingdom. He was instrumental in negotiating the Anglo-Irish Free Trade Agreement in 1965, which reduced trade barriers between the two countries.

Sean Lemass retired from politics in 1966, and passed away on May 11th 1971 at the age of 71. He is widely regarded as one of the most important and influential political figures in modern Irish history.

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Hit Comedy, Bible Bingo, Returns to the Greenhouse Theater Chicago

Bingo. Laughter. Goofy Prizes, and a bit of the Bible!

Vicki Quade and Nuns4Fun Entertainment are proud to announce the return of the hit comedy, Bible Bingo, at the Greenhouse Theater Center, Chicago, starting Friday, April 14.

Bible Bingo is a long-running comedy about the Catholic culture of fundraising and bingo, featuring the character, Mrs. Mary Margaret O'Brien, a former nun who now heads a fictitious archdiocese fundraising department. It's written by Vicki Quade, one of the creators of the international hit comedy, Late Nite Catechism.

The Chicago Tribune promises "interactive fun." The Chicago Stage Standard calls the show, "A fresh new twist on bingo." New City Chicago raves, "the show is filled with Catholic humor."

Sharing the role of Mrs. O'Brien will be the show's creator, Vicki Quade, along with comic actresses Liz Cloud and Nancy Greco, who have both appeared in many of Quade's religious comedies.

In this interactive comedy, the parish needs money and Mrs.

O'Brien is ready to help! Bring the two together and you have a night of bible trivia, audience interaction, improvised moments, and the funniest quiz about the Holy Family you've ever seen.

Add to that a box of wacky prizes, fun bingo cards, and a lot of Catholic humor. In this interactive bingo show, you'll actually play bingo, and still learn a little something about what it means to be Catholic! The show gets the audience talking about everything from Adam & Eve to modern sins.

You'll be laughing so hard, you'll have to be careful watching your bingo cards!

"Bible Bingo is a really good show," says Theatre by Numbers. "A number of people get together to have some munchies and drinks. They play a few rounds of bingo while they laugh, sing, chat, and goof around. It is a beautiful thing."

Ticket prices are \$35, group rates available.

Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago.

box office: 773-404-7336 www.greenhousetheater.org

Helping New Mother's Build Foundation for Life-Long Learning

By *Velma Walker*, Department Director Arts of Living Program

When Osiris Alvarez's baby girl Yasmin was born in December 2020, she was overjoyed—but nervous about caring for a newborn during a global pandemic.

Osiris already had two children but their early years had been surrounded by people, while Yasmin was born into a time of social distancing. Osiris's doula provided support for the first three months of Yasmin's life, and when Osiris explained her worries, her doula recommended the Arts of Living Institute at Catholic Charities.

"I was looking for something to help with the first couple of months for Yasmin, since this was a new experience," says Osiris. "I wanted to make sure I was on the right path [for] her development."

Osiris's concern for Yasmin's early development is well-founded. According to Zero to Three, a national early childhood research and policy



Guadalupe Fuentes of Catholic Charities plays with young Yasmin during a recent development session at the Arts of Living Institute

institute, babies are born curious about the world and their brains grow exponentially between birth and age three as they develop language, motor skills and early literacy. The



foundation for lifelong learning is built during these critical years. Unfortunately, not enough babies get high-quality early learning because families

and educators lack access to the services and tools they need to make it happen. In Yasmin's case, being born during the global pandemic meant that many of the critical services that Osiris might have used were unavailable.

But the Arts of Living Institute continued to provide support services to families throughout the pandemic and into the "new normal."

The Arts of Living Institute provides free home visiting, groups, and supportive services. Families are visited in their homes by a parent coach to support parents as their child's first teacher. At first, Osiris and Yasmin did virtual learning sessions and received packages with special activities to help with Yasmin's development. In 2022, their Home Visitor Guadalupe Fuentes began in-person visits every two weeks. Having that support during Yasmin's early years has improved her development during a difficult time.

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The Chicago Firehouse Restaurant Prospers As a Fine Dining Institution on South Michigan Ave

By *Bridget Spillane*

One of the most iconic restaurants in Chicago, The Chicago Firehouse Restaurant, formerly a fire station called Engine Company 104, is going strong after 23 years, anchoring the South Loop. The restaurant is founded by Laura and Matt O'Malley, Southsiders (Matt is a Marist graduate, and Laura, a graduate of Mother McAuley High School) who also reside in the South Loop. The Chicago Firehouse Restaurant serves over 100,000 people per year in their legendary main dining rooms, their lush backyard patio space, and their elegant private dining rooms. The ambitious duo launched this year the Blue Room, a "drinking den" in the spirit of a speakeasy, in the lower level of the restaurant, featuring live music, bespoke cocktails, and creative and inspired food to much acclaim.

Back in 2000, the O'Malleys wanted to purchase a unique venue in an area of transition, which at that time described the South loop; an area near the city in a growing community that had a unique look. They were originally looking for more of an event space. The perfect fit happened when the city presented the space through a request for proposal process, indicating that the firehouse would become a restaurant and event space. With the O'Malleys growing up on the South side, and with Matt's father having his office in Printers Row, they were strongly familiar with the near south area and decided to bid. From that day on, they never looked back.

Boasting a proud and resilient history, the landmark Chicago Firehouse Restaurant at 1401 S. Michigan Avenue is an acclaimed 1905 Romanesque Revival structure.

The fire station was built for horse-drawn fire equipment in 1905 to serve the fashionable Prairie Avenue neighborhood. Prominent families such as the Marshall Fields and Pullmans built homes in the area after the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. With an eye for detail, the O'Malleys decided to retain its original charm, keeping the historic doors, its fire pole and more.

They were thrilled when an early customer came in to donate his grandfather's fire

helmet, which had significance as he was a former member of Engine Company 104. The helmet is prominently displayed in the venue.

The structure and menu are designed to reflect the space's uniqueness, thoughtfulness, and relevance.

The past is preserved in the present with a variety of dining room options. In the main dining room, the carefully appointed mural envelops guests in the ambiance of the 20th century. The floor to ceiling windowed solarium, accented by plantation shutters, is energized by radiant, natural light. Adjacent to the solarium is a quaint patio originally housing the horse stables. The patio's cobblestone pavement and tree-lined border provides a secluded urban escape. In addition to the first-floor dining options, The Chicago Firehouse Restaurant offers 3 private dining room options accommodating parties of 12 - 150 guests. The Veranda Lounge adjoins one of the private dining rooms and affords a spectacular view of the South Loop skyline. The timeless house favorites, steaks, chops, and seafood are complemented by distinctive, contemporary seasonal dishes. Its culinary excellence and impeccable service has been recognized with numerous awards.

The 1991 Ron Howard movie "Backdraft," about firefighter brothers on the trail of an arsonist, was partially filmed there. The Chicago Firehouse Restaurant was a favorite of Mayor Richard Daley's who lived nearby. He hosted former President George W. Bush's 60th birthday dinner there in 2006. The building was designated as a landmark in 2003. The building, designed by Charles F. Hermann, features elaborate brick and limestone detailing and arched windows. Three living Presidents and every Chicago Mayor since it opened has dined at the restaurant.

Their children, Sandra Grace O'Malley, 20, (University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign) and Carmella Catherine O'Malley, 16, (Saint Ignatius College Prep) worked alongside them as they grew and built the restaurants reputation. Matthew's grandmother, Catherine Shield, hailed from Swinford in



The Palmer Room

County Mayo, and his grandfather, Michael Joseph O'Malley, from a tiny village called Creggs in Roscommon. Matthew's grandfather's home was in the family for many years and traded hands just in the last few years.

Misfortune hit The Chicago Firehouse on Dec. 10, 2014. Chicago firefighters were tasked with an emotional assignment - trying to save the historic former fire station from being destroyed in an extra-alarm fire. The restaurant fire was started accidentally by roofers who were performing maintenance on the building. "It's a little heartbreaking," said Deputy District Chief John Shehan, who was on the scene when the fire caved in the building's roof. "It's a shame."

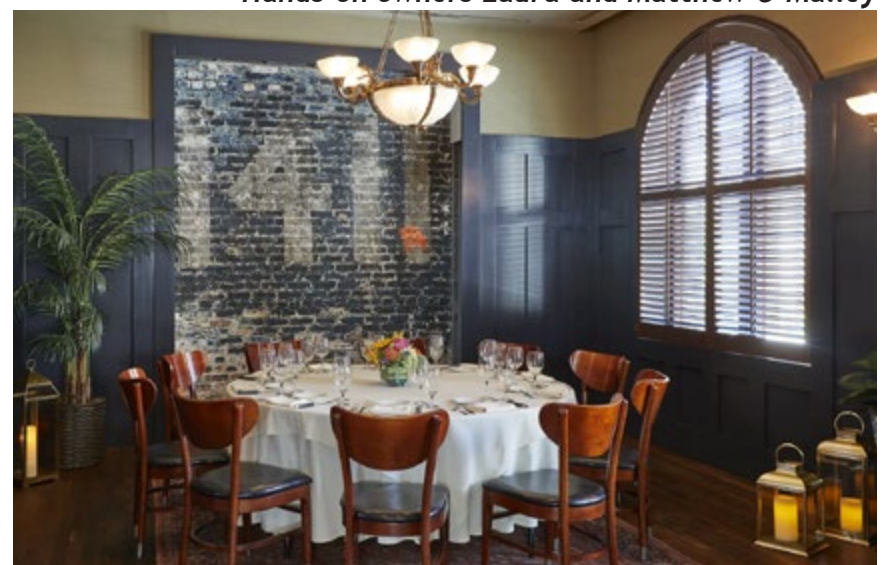
But the O'Malley's were not defeated and planned immediately to rebuild. Said Matt at the time, "We owe it to our history, our team and our community to preserve this treasured Chicago landmark which will remain a cornerstone of the South Loop community. Without hesitation or reservation, we will rebuild!"

Their objective was to keep the similar "DNA" of the space, as they did not want to change the look and feel that the community had come to know. Certain challenges presented themselves with new building codes and expense, but the restaurant reopened in glorious fashion in 2017.

The Chicago Firehouse Restaurant is known for its premiere steak and seafood, its lively mix nightly of political power brokers, neighborhood folks, and guests enjoying



Hands-on owners Laura and Matthew O'Malley



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celebrations in addition to their regulars. The O'Malley's personal favorites on the menu are the Oysters Rockefeller, the Lobster Bisque, the Creamed Spinach, the Lamb Lollipops, and the New York Strip. The restaurant's mission is to deliver a guest-first, memorable dining experience that

infuses thoughtfulness into every detail. through their teams' attention to detail.

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December 10, 2014 fireman save the firehouse Restaurant, and the owners vow to rebuild



Hello Everyone. Hope this finds you all well.

During Easter dinner we had a few friends over. We were discussing our favorite comfort foods that our mothers made for us. So I had the conversation with a few more friends. They wanted to pay tribute to their mothers for Mother's Day.

Here are a few of their loving favorite memories

Janet: my mother Eleonora made us grilled cheese with tomato and chicken noodle soup. Tapioca was another treat, made from scratch with a handful of chocolate chips in the bottom which was always served in a pink fluted dish with legs. When my mom passed away my sister

and I took one dish each.

Christine: my mother Terry was from Michigan and a teacher. She used to make me chicken and dumplings when I was sick. She would lay next to me, put a washcloth on my head and read The Velveteen Rabbit book which I still have today. Presently I am her primary caregiver so I now read it to her. Happy Mother's Day!

Violet: my mom is Heather, she makes mean macaroni and cheese. Happy Mother's Day.

Trevor: My mum is Patricia Keough. Growing up in Ireland my favorite was beans on toast and sugar butter sandwiches. Happy Mother's Day in Heaven

Ellen: my mother is Ann Frame.

I remember my mom making this huge boiled fruit cake. She steamed it in a large saucepan for hours. You could slice it, put a bit of Irish butter on it, and also fry it up for breakfast. Happy Mother's Day in Heaven

Mary: my mother is Bridget. I remember my mother's wonderful gingerbread and biscuit cake. That was my all-time favorite. I still make it today. Happy Mother's Day in Heaven

Phyllis: my mother is Doris. I remember looking forward to roast beef dinner with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes and vegetables on Sundays. If there was any Yorkshire pudding left over we would eat them with a bit of jam on top. Happy Mother's Day in Heaven

Lisa: my mother is Angela. I loved it when she made white cabbage fried in bacon drippings turned upside down and was nice and crispy with bisto gravy on the side. Happy Mother's Day in Heaven.

Jenny: my mother is Violet. I



remember the smell of freshly baked bread, eating small chocolate cakes, and custard in a cup. Happy Mother's Day in Heaven

Maureen: my mother is Catherine OConner. I wasn't into spuds when I was a little girl so my mom would simmer them on the stove top and serve them with bread. My favorite was Irish sausages. Happy Mother's Day in Heaven

Amal: My favorite childhood memories are of my mother making fresh baked raisin bread. I still love it today. Happy Mother's Day.

Grace: my mother is Grace. My favorite comfort food from my mum was sausages, beans, and mashed potatoes. I also love cream of chicken soup with

bread in it. It's my go to when I don't feel good. Happy Mother's Day in Heaven

Maria: My mother is Maria. I loved my mom's soup. It was very filling and made me feel warm and loved. I intend to make it for my new granddaughter when she is old enough to eat it. Happy Mother's Day

Betty: my mother is Ruth. My Favorite snack was sitting on my mothers lap and listening to our favorite radio show as there was no TV back then. She would make homemade popcorn and grape juice. Happy Mother's Day in Heaven.

Hayley, my mother is Wendy. My favorite foods from my mom growing up was her chocolate chip cookies. I still love them today. Happy Mother's Day

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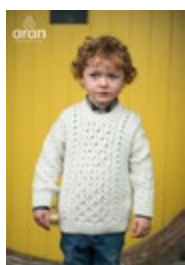
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We've had unusually warm weather this spring and are all itching to fire up the grill. With so many things to cook, chicken, fish, chops, burgers, and sausages we all yearn for a good steak.

With that said what is a good steak? When you go to the supermarket or butcher shop there are numerous cuts of beef that fall under the category of steak, and prices to fit most budgets.

you won't find a more flavorful tender cut of meat. Grill or pan sear this baby and serve medium rare. More recently they have been cut this steak about two inches thick with the large rib bone attached. A little Fred Flintstone looking. A very impressive plate presentation is to serve whole on a platter with vegetable accompaniments and slice at the table. The next most popular is the Beef

Now to the meat! The Rib Eye, also called the Delmonico is one of the most popular cuts of steak. It is also one of the fattiest but

bone on the side The T-Bone has a bone on the side and across the top creating a T.

The Porterhouse that includes the strip loin as well as part of the beef tenderloin and the top sirloin cut from the short loin.

Season with salt and pepper and grill or pan sear medium rare/rare

Flank Steak is relatively tough and needs to be marinated and cooked on the grill rare/medium rare

Make sure to slice across the grain.

Skirt steak this cut comes from the plate/belly and needs to be marinated and quickly seared to medium rare. This is the cut used in fajitas.

The Flat Iron is a newer cut to the market. It comes from the lower neck and shoulder. It benefits from a marinade. Grill until medium rare.

The Sirloin Steak comes from the rear of the steer. It has a low fat content and less flavor, and tends to be a bit chewy. Grill or sear medium rare/rare

Rule of thumb the leaner the cut the less cooking time and slice against the grain. Steak should be at room temperature before cooking

Always let your meat rest for about 15 minutes before slicing. This will result in a juicy steak.

For a traditional steak house steak, stick with the Rib Eye, Filet Mignon, or any of the Strip Loin variations. Although I recommend they be cooked no more than medium rare they can be prepared to the temperature of your choice.

Sides for steak tend to be pretty hardy. Baked, Double Baked, Mashed, and French Fries. All are good choices. I like adding roasted garlic, parmesan cheese, or a little truffle oil to my mashed potatoes to kick it up a notch. A dash of truffle oil on French fries is to die for. Vegetables like Brussels sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower, and creamed spinach pair up with steak very well. Try topping your steak with sautéed mushrooms, caramelized onions, or Bleu cheese.

For an Irish twist add chopped shallot and garlic to the pan the steak was cooked in and sweat for 5min being careful not to burn the garlic. Deglaze the pan with Irish whiskey, add a little beef stock and reduce. Finish with a little heavy cream and knob of butter. Pour over sliced steak.

Try this simple Chimichurri sauce. It's great for any grilled meat.

CHIMICHURRI SAUCE

- ¼ cup fresh parsley
 - 4 large garlic cloves
 - 2tbls fresh oregano
 - 2tbls cilantro (optional)
 - 2 tbls Fresh dill (optional)
 - 2tbls Fresh Mint
 - Pinch of sugar
 - 3 Tbls red wine vinegar
 - Zest of medium lemon
 - Juice of medium lemon
 - 2 tsp crushed red pepper
 - Salt and pepper to taste
 - ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- Place all ingredients except olive oil in a food processor. Process until paste like. Remove and place in a bowl. Slowly drizzle in olive oil. *Happy Grilling!*



USDA inspected is not enough information to tell you the quality or grade of meat you are purchasing.

The USDA has five grades of meat depending on the meat yield of the carcass with USDA grade 1 being the best grade.

There are 8 quality grades of meat. We will concern our discussion with the first three, Prime, Choice, and Select. These are what you will commonly find in the marketplace.

Prime Prime comes from young well-fed cattle. It has abundant marbling which lends this steak to be tender, juicy, and have a meaty flavor.

Choice Choice is a leaner cut with less marbling impacting both flavor and tenderness

Select Select cuts are uniform in quality. Select steaks are leaner with less marbling resulting in lack of juiciness, flavor, and tenderness.

Chicago is a meat town. Just about every week some Supermarket has meat on sale.

Prime meat is very expensive for everyday use but the end result is fabulous.

I buy Choice meat. Remember leaner is not better. Every steak should be well marbled. Avoid steaks with heavy fat and veins. I prefer thick cut bone in steaks when I can get them. I believe they cook more uniformly and have better flavor. I only season my steaks with salt and pepper. This allows the meaty flavor of the steak to shine through and is not masked by anything. I also season my steaks right before cooking. Salt tends to draw moisture from the meat and if applied too soon can result in a dry steak.

Tenderloin or Filet Mignon. Not a lot of flavor due to the lack of any fat, but super tender and buttery. Again cook on the grill or cast iron pan and serve medium rare or rare.

The Strip Loin is your basic go to cut. It has decent marbling and good flavor but can be a bit chewy.

This steak cut goes by a few different names.

New York Strip which is boneless.
The Kansas City Strip which has a

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Donegal Lawyer Gives Back to Her Former High School on Arranmore Island

Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney who has been living in Chicago for the past 15 years. Caroleann is a monthly contributor to our newspaper with her "Gallagher's Advice" column where she gives all sorts of legal advice and information regarding personal injury, medical malpractice, and workers compensation law. Caroleann is a Partner at the Law Firm of Coogan Gallagher, and she and her firm have announced a new annual scholarship they will be offering annually to a final year student of Caroleann's former High School on Arranmore Island, Donegal where she grew up.

The Coogan Gallagher Scholarship will award €3,000 annually to a deserving final year student who can show that they intend to further their education, training and/or skills in some post high school arena. Announcing the Scholarship to her alma mater, Caroleann outlines some of her reasoning behind the initiative and how it is a way for her, to show appreciation for her former school and for the major impact it had on shaping her adult life.

Arranmore Island is 3.5 miles off the Coast of Northwest Donegal. It is only accessible by ferry and has a population of about 500 people. It was here Caroleann, and her three older brothers were raised by her island born parents. Given the size of the island and its small population, islanders fought long and hard with the Irish Government to have a high school based on the island. While the island had two national schools in situ since the early 1900's, it was never provided a school of further education beyond those elementary years. Caroleann's parents and many before them campaigned relentlessly to the Irish Government to no avail and according to the Government their island was simply not big enough to warrant a permanent secondary school on its shores.

Because of the lack of a high school, Caroleann's older brothers had to leave the island and their family at 12 years of age and be educated in a boarding school on the mainland, about 1.5 hours from their home. They left on Sunday evenings returning on Friday nights. Caroleann remembers this time as a



particularly difficult time for Arranmore and its people. The children were young and not ready to be away from home. The boarding schools mostly run by priests and nuns were unpleasant and unfriendly. She recalls "I remember our home on Sunday's being a very sad one. It was the day the boys would return to St. Eunan's. I remember my brothers being sad and scared. I remember my Mum being upset saying goodbye to them. The house was so eerily quiet without them,

and I missed them a lot". When it came time for Caroleann to also go to high school her parents also started planning for her to go and live on the mainland so she could complete her education. Caroleann recalls - "that was a particularly worrying time for me because my dad worked away from home and if I, as the youngest also left home, my Mum was going to now be all alone and I didn't want that for her". But without another choice it was inevitable that she would also have to go

By the end of the Summer of 1990, word started to trickle down from Government Buildings in Dublin that Arranmore Islanders may have their twenty-year plus dream of a school fulfilled. Caroleann remembers the day the news was confirmed and describes the whole island as being jubilant and overjoyed that the kids could stay home. A school was granted to the Island and Caroleann together with 23 other pupils was one of its very first students. The school was entirely staffed by mainlanders who made the trip every day by sea to teach the kids.

The school started off as a small temporary prefab building housing its entire 24 kids. Caroleann has fond memories of her time there and her teachers. She describes that because the school was so small each child got really

past 30 odd years.

Caroleann completed her high school education in 1990 and moved on to third level college at the National University of Ireland - Galway where she pursued her lifelong dream of becoming a lawyer. She was admitted to The Roll of Solicitors in 2004 and practiced in Ireland as a Solicitor for about 6 years. In the Fall of 2017, a quick trip to Chicago to see a friend, found her in "a hole in the wall bar" on the Northwest side of the city where she met a young man from Limerick who would later become her Husband. Caroleann in pursuit of her "American Dream" moved to Chicago in 2008 and once here pursued a path to become an Illinois Licensed Attorney. Patrick and Caroleann live on the northwest side with their two daughters Ava (10) and Ana (8), (pictured) and while she misses Arranmore and its people every day, Chicago has become her home.

Coogan Gallagher has opened the scholarship for students in the Leaving Cert class or final year of their school to apply via an application and essay component. Because the island is so small and everyone knows almost everyone, Caroleann has insisted that the application process be anonymous. The focus of the application will not be looking solely at the students grades as for Caroleann, being a productive member of your school and community is so much more than the



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individualized attention and as a result thrived and did well in their progress. Caroleann describes the school teachers who dedicated their time to the kids as shaping her life forever. Over the years the school went from strength to strength and is now so well renowned that not only do the Island children still go to the school, but mainland children now commute into Arranmore to attend the school, such is its outstanding reputation and results!

Over the years Caroleann has kept a close eye on the school and all the great things that it has done. She knows many of the students that have passed through the school and describes them as wonderful well-rounded kids who are often mature beyond their years. Caroleann credits that in no small part to the influence the school and its teachers had on them as it had such an profound and important influence on her. She continues to see amazing students passing through the school, which she credits to the dedicated teachers who commute by ferry to the island each day.

She launched "The Coogan Gallagher Scholarship" as a way to show her appreciation to the school and its staff and to pay it forward to a school that she describes as a beacon of light to Arranmore Island and its people for the

grade you get on a test. The scholarship will be used to support them on their post-Leaving Cert journey, whether they choose to go to college, university, take up an apprenticeship, traineeship, or other further education. The initiative is being organized with the support of Principal Mary Doherty who was delighted when Caroleann reached out to propose the initiative. Principal Doherty said - "We're very grateful and delighted to have established the link with Caroleann, who is a former student, and someone who has done so well for herself. The openness means it's a great opportunity for all of our students and can be a great motivational factor as they begin their next chapter."

Caroleann and her firm are delighted to launch and support The Coogan Gallagher Scholarship and cannot wait to start receiving applications in the next few weeks. The winner of the scholarship will be announced at the end of the school year and Caroleann hopes to be present in person on the island to present the check to the lucky student later this summer. Summing up the inspiration behind her idea, Caroleann says "if you can't pay it back - pay it forward and I just hope that this initiative will give one lucky student a great boost as they begin their first steps into their new adult life."



In the light of Irish movie *An Irish Goodbye* recently winning the Oscar for Best Live Action Short Film, there was more good news about another short called Just Johnny.

It was selected as one of five movies in the "Five Films for Freedom" campaign by the British Council, an initiative aimed to highlight the LGBTQIA+ community, and tells the tale of Belfast lad Johnny, and the reaction of his parents Dermot and Maria, played by Martin McCann (pictured) (Bobby Sands: 66 Days) and Roisin Gallagher (The Dry) to the decision he wants to wear a dress to Holy Communion.

It's directed by Terry Loane (Mickybo and Me) and written by Gerard McCarthy, and also stars Tara Lynne O'Neill (Ma Mary from "Derry Girls"), with Johnny played by newcomer Daniel Willis. The film was shot in North and West Belfast, and has already won a Gryphon Award at the Giffoni International Film Festival in Italy, and Audience Choice Awards at the Children's Film Festival Seattle.

Screenwriter McCarthy describes it a "love letter to parents everywhere", and you can see it now at www.britishcouncil.org/arts/fivefilmsforfreedom

Moving south, where Ballymena's Liam Neeson spoke to reporters recently at the Dublin premiere of director Neil Jordan's *Marlowe*, which you can see right now on Apple TV and Amazon Prime.

In it Neeson plays 1930s detective Philip Marlowe, the legendary character created by Raymond Chandler, alongside Diane Kruger, Jessica Lange, Alan Cumming and Irish-American Danny Huston, a member of the family Huston movie family.

Marlowe is Neeson's 100th movie, and there's already talk he will team up again with Neil Jordan once again for his 101st, *Riker's Ghost*, a story about a fictitious escape plot from notorious Riker's Island.

"This is a unique take on the prison escape," said Jordan. "A bare-knuckle ride from incarceration to freedom, by someone who just wants to finish his term. The reluctant escapee will be played by Liam, and I can't wait to explore



this character with him."

Neeson also revealed he has yet another new project on the

horizon: he is set to be in a reboot of outrageous comedy *Naked Gun*, playing the role of the late Leslie Nielsen's character - quite a different role than his usual tough-guy persona, that's for sure.

Back here in America, six-time Academy Award nominee Jim Sheridan (*The Boxer*, *My Left Foot*) will co-write, co-direct and produce historical drama *I Am a Man: The True Story of Chief Standing Bear* with filmmaker Andrew Troy.

Set in Nebraska in 1879, the film will tell the story of Ponca Chief Standing Bear, who, after experiencing decades of maltreatment and disenfranchisement, successfully argued in the U.S. District Court in Omaha that Native Americans are "persons within the meaning of the law", thus becoming the first Native American judicially granted civil rights under American law.

Troy, who is part Chiricahua Apache, has been developing the project for the past decade, and in 2019 was present for the unveiling ceremony of a new Chief Standing Bear statue in the U.S. Capitol.

The Nebraska Legislature has acknowledged the importance of the project by passing a bill providing a \$5m grant to the production, and the movie has also received tax and development incentives from the Cherokee Nation Film Office and Screen Ireland.

Finally, a story that some of you might have seen on the news - and immediately made me think of the potential for an Irish Jaws.

Recently the carcass of a (huge!) 14ft (4.2m) Smalltooth sand tiger shark washed up on the shore in County Wexford, something that scientists believe is the first official record of this rare species appearing in Irish waters.

Forget the famous shark made famous by Steven Spielberg, though: despite a good selection of teeth and a distinctive snout, the Smalltooth sand tiger sharks are actually harmless, and pose no risk to humans. There's never been any case of a recorded attack, either.

Harmless it may be, but you still wouldn't want to bump into it. A monster of its species, this female weighed around 800lb (the same size roughly as a bison, a moose, or grizzly bear - or a ATV), and the largest ever recorded was around 15ft - so you would definitely need a bigger boat!

The Criminals of the Titanic

By James Bartlett

Titanic was just one of over 1,600 vessels built at the Harland & Wolff shipyard, yet despite the fact it sunk over a century ago, its story still fascinates us.

Countless films, programs, websites and documentaries have explored the disaster, while the many hundreds of Titanic-themed books include both fiction and non-fiction. They come in every genre too, and for every age group.

There a number of Titanic-themed exhibitions around the world as well, including in Las Vegas, New York and, most recently, in Hollywood. In fact, one of the survivors, Virginia Clark, is buried at the celebrity-filled Hollywood Forever Cemetery, just a short drive from that exhibit. A tributary plaque to her husband Walter, whose body was never found, is in the same mausoleum.

The Hollywood exhibit also had a picture of "professional gambler" George

Brereton, whose father was Irish. Brereton, who was travelling under the name George Brayton, was a truly dedicated scam artist. The story goes that just hours after being pulled from a lifeboat onto the *Carpathia*, he was already working on another First-Class passenger/survivor, trying to involve him in a horse-racing scam.

Today, television schedules are full of true crime programmes showcasing murder-mysteries that take place on modern-day cruise ships. Few of these floating palaces can easily turn around if someone seems to have fallen - or been pushed - over the side, and most of them simply dwarf the size of Titanic.

But how many convicts and criminals were there on Titanic?

The luxury liner certainly had plenty of gold, silver, jewelry and money on board, and there were whispered stories of even more illicit and valuable cargos. Maritime law and territorial waters were (and still

are) areas where things can get very hazy, so this was surely a potentially profitable area for all sorts of villains.

So it may well have been, at least if a quick glance at the fascinating www.encyclopedia-titanica.org is anything to go by. Their statistics though, perhaps unsurprisingly, were rather misleading. It certainly seemed like Titanic was a viper's nest of crooks and ne-er do-wells, but the research included crimes committed by passengers and crew before and after the four-day voyage (which is potentially a lot of jail time).

Out of the 2,240 passengers on the Titanic, the convictions of several dozen men (and a good number of women) included the more obvious thievery, drunkenness, assault and deception, but also smuggling, bigamy, spying, kidnapping, and even protesting as suffragettes.

Figures vary, but around 110 Irishmen and women lost their lives in the disaster, while over 50 survived - but were any of them part of the retrospective rogue's gallery? Yes, a few - and one of them was a murderer, fireman (boiler room worker) George Francis McGough, who was born in Duncannon, Co Wexford in 1875.

During a fight while at sea in Brazil in 1900, he pushed shipmate John Dwyer into an open hold. Dwyer fell 20 feet and bled to death from his injuries, and McGough was subsequently sentenced to 15 months for manslaughter back in England.

Earlier in 1910 he had served three months hard labour for a sexual assault on a 12-year-old girl, and a few years after Titanic, he was involved in another fight with a Greek sailor in Southampton, and was sentenced to four days hard labour.

There was also Thomas Joseph McCormack, born in Glenmore, Ballinamuck, Co Longford, in 1892. A survivor from third class, he was arrested in 1920 after throwing a milk bottle at his 14-year-old stepson Robert and cutting the teen's head; his wife Hannah called police.

As for Brereton, it's possible his post-Titanic idea may have made it to the racetrack, but in Ohio in early 1915 his luck ran out when he was fined and sentenced to two years in prison for his part in a horse racing scam.

Unbelievably, one of his four accomplices, who was also fined and jailed, was Harry H. Homer, a career scammer - and fellow survivor of Titanic. Did they meet in

the aftermath and cook up the scheme together?

In 1933 Brereton was again arrested in Yosemite National Park, in relation to another false horse-racing deal worth some \$27,000 (over \$610,000 today). He committed suicide in 1942, some 20 years after his first wife - distraught over the death of their son - had done the same.

Of the Titanic victims, 11 men and women were from the town of Addergoole, County Mayo, and six members of the Rice family from Athlone, County Westmeath, all perished.

Good or bad, every victim and survivor is listed in a new exhibit at the Titanic Belfast museum, and as we approach the 111th anniversary, the facts are that over 1,500 people died in the disaster - something to remember next time you watch a documentary or read a Titanic book.

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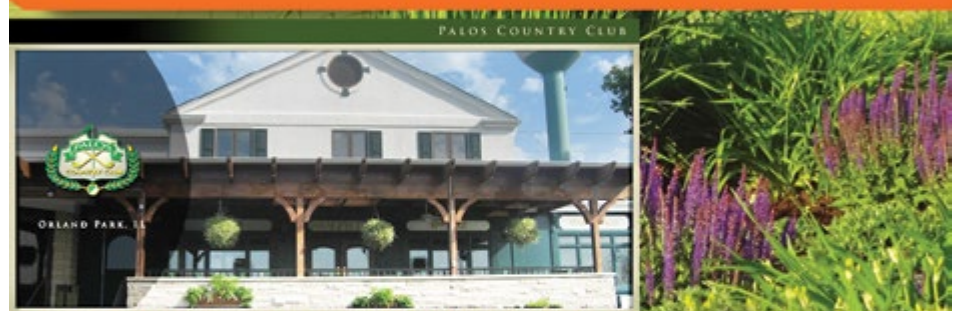
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