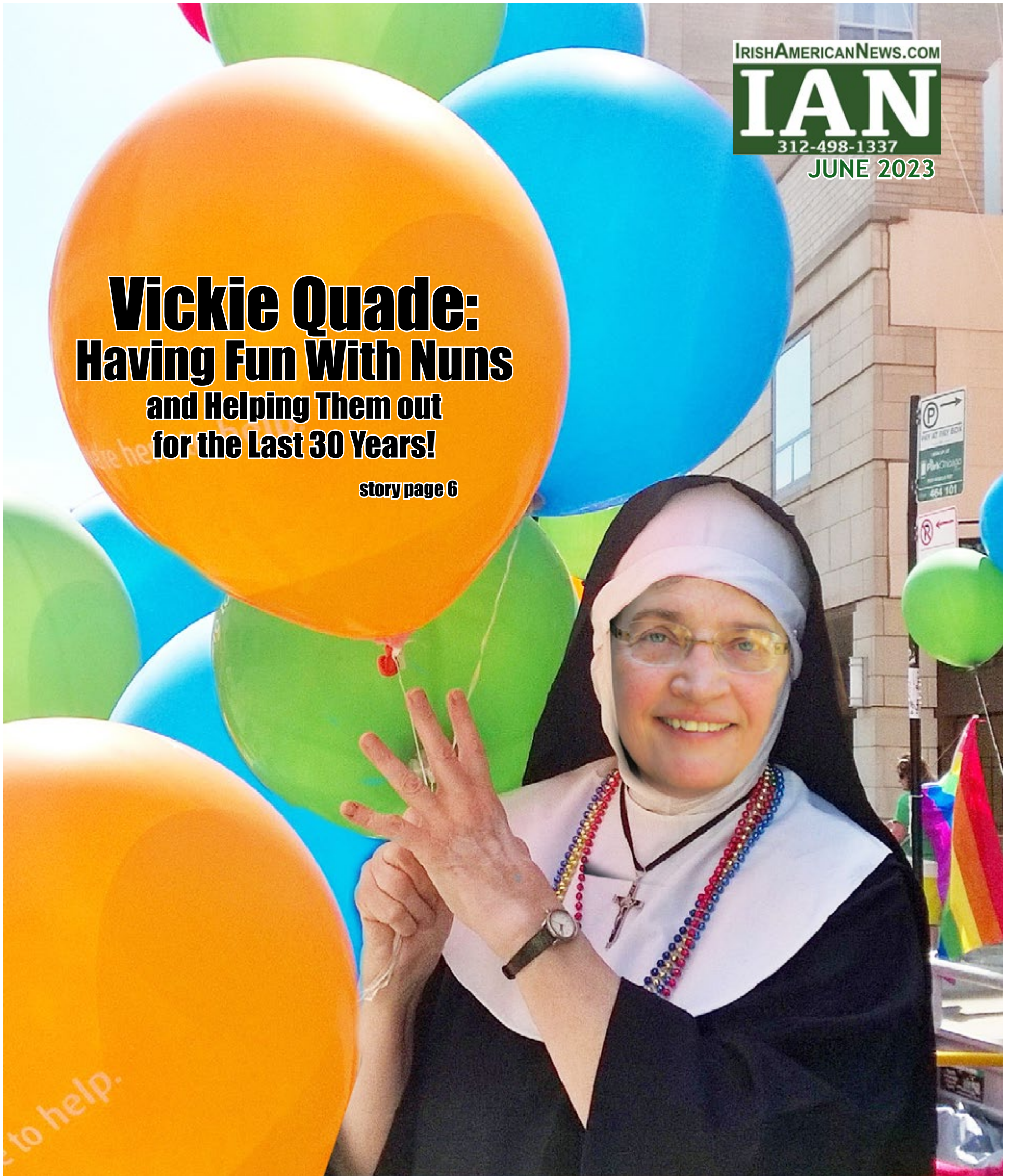



## Vickie Quade: Having Fun With Nuns and Helping Them out for the Last 30 Years!

story page 6



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## View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



### The Northern Irish Election

In the local elections held on May 18th in Northern Ireland, the DUP struck the keynote when they campaigned on the pledge to ‘re-establish the Northern Ireland Assembly’. It was always clear that this election was going to be a referendum on the DUP’s decision to refuse to go into the Assembly after it lost pole position to Sinn Féin in last May’s Assembly election. Now their return to Stormont is inevitable—it is just that the DUP sought an explicit mandate to return. It is a pity, though hardly a shock, that it took them over a year to act democratically.

The DUP manifesto added that it would only do so ‘on a fair and sustainable basis by finishing the job of protecting NI’s place in the UK and its internal market’. Since finishing the job implies having started it, the DUP’s record of protecting Northern Ireland’s place in the UK is worth recalling.

Uniquely among the major parties on the island of Ireland, the DUP supported Brexit in the June 2016 UK referendum. Despite that drastic miscalculation, the DUP has the nerve to praise its credentials as a protector of NI’s place in the UK. While many in Northern Ireland continue to support the union with the UK, they reject the canard that that position was compatible with support from Brexit.

The DUP could, at a minimum, be expected to own the consequences of its support for Brexit. Instead, it threw in its lot with Boris Johnson and the happy fantasy that the UK could leave the EU internal market and customs union without a process of examining goods crossing between the UK and the EU. It is unclear if Johnson ever fully believed that that was possible, but it was certainly unworkable from the start. The only solution to the conundrum was to move the customs border to the Irish Sea, aligning the customs regime in Northern Ireland with the rest of Ireland and the EU—a vista that appalled hardline unionists. Johnson duly betrayed the DUP at a meeting with his counterpart, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, in Liverpool in October 2019. At that meeting, Johnson effectively conceded a customs border between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK. That formed the basis of the Northern Ireland Protocol, agreed upon between London and the EU a few months later. The DUP has fumed about the Protocol ever since, which has achieved nothing more than leaving them isolated and humiliated in London. Hence the DUP’s petulance and denial—the most tangible manifestation of which is the ongoing suspension of Stormont since the DUP refuses to participate in it.

The humiliation continued when Rishi Sunak took over as British Prime Minister and signed the Windsor Framework with the EU. The Framework was the Northern Ireland Protocol redux, with a few concessions thrown in. In March 2023, the Framework passed through the House of Commons by 515 votes to 29. Naturally, the DUP voted to reject it, thereby digging themselves deeper into the hole.

The DUP campaigned in the recent election to rectify ‘the harm done by the imposition of the Protocol’. If they are not supported in this aim unionism, they claim, ‘can divide and splinter, costing seats and influence in our councils and helping to hand seats and influence to those who would further weaken the Union’. Such a force for the good of the union: how could voters not support them?

While the local elections are fought on bread-and-butter issues, the spectre of the constitutional position is never far away. To that end, the DUP, the culprits for the collapsed Northern Ireland Assembly and the obstacle to its functioning ever since, has a useful suggestion. ‘The DUP supports greater unionist cooperation and is the only unionist party large enough to challenge Sinn Féin’. Translation: do not give your first preference votes to other unionist parties because to do so is to dilute the unionist bloc and to further facilitate the dominance of Sinn Féin in Northern Ireland. Having told the electorate to give them their first preference vote, the DUP tells it where to give their second and third preferences: ‘then transfer to other pro-Union candidates’.

Sinn Féin’s having the First Minister position in Stormont, which it won in May 2022, is priced into the restoration of the Assembly. However, the restoration will likely not happen until this autumn. If it does happen then, it may be politically unwise to taunt the DUP for having wasted a year and a half and achieved nothing in the interim. That was a period in which Northern Ireland’s already troubled economy and social structures stagnated still further and hospital queues got longer. Rather than taking that focus, Irish, EU and US leaders will continue to cajole the DUP to reap the gains that Northern Ireland can make through its government becoming active again and its economy operating with full access to two major markets, the UK and the EU.

The DUP’s political leadership over the past year and a half has been shameful, but that is entirely in line with precedent. When Sinn Féin’s Martin McGuinness resigned as Deputy First Minister in January 2017, thereby collapsing Stormont for what transpired to be three years, the then leader of the DUP criticised the decision since Northern Ireland was ‘dealing with Brexit, needing to create more jobs and investing in our health and education system, Northern Ireland needs stability’.

Whatever the outcome of the local elections, the duopoly of the DUP and Sinn Féin will continue. And that way does not lie stability. A fresh vision is badly needed. Some of the opposition in Stormont, principally the SDLP’s Colm Eastwood, has canvassed the position that for Northern Ireland to continue to have a voice it must ‘rejoin the community of nations and get back home to the EU then it can only be done in a New Ireland’. However, there is all but no support for such a vision. Eastwood and the SDLP would secretly acknowledge that if they retain as many council seats this time as in the last election they would be doing well.



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## Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

Several weeks ago I joined with a friend for the privilege of attending a concert in Southern California, a concert I would not have missed touting the long celebration of the Irish step dancing show Riverdance. This production in Palm Springs was the 45th anniversary of Riverdance, and an immense success. The audience roared, applauded, rose to their feet, whistled and clapped and begged for more. For me, taking Irish step dance lessons as soon as I could walk brought me back to my homestead in Dundalk.

I dwelt most especially on what seemed the rigid requirement popular at the time that all young boys and girls attend dancing classes. It was compulsory. Those who showed talent or a hint of promise high stepping a jig or battering out a hornpipe, delighted parents who had no problem emptying the bank account to keep the shining black patten leather silver guilded shoes on the high stepping feet of sons and daughters. A second expense, the making of dance uniforms, the tailoring decorated with

large and beautiful swaths of embroidery, phased no family especially when medals were won during summer dancing competitions. These festivals were staged with enormous fanfare on weekends in villages and towns throughout the country. In my memory, the dancing competitions were held on the back of large trucks around which people swarmed to hear music and enjoy the dancing. I recall also that true to the usual Irish weather forecast of "intermittent" sunshine, we often danced in the rain! The late novelist Frank McCourt who rose to fame when he published the book Angela's Ashes highlighting the shocking shame of his family's dire lifestyle plus the rancid poverty of Limerick made a significant comment when Riverdance appeared on the Irish scene. He perceived the changes in Irish dancing as a refreshing move since it heralded the movement of the body eliminating the culture of the rigidity of the traditional body stiffness. He actually also noted that Irish dancers moving their bodies was a jab to the Irish Church who viewed the movements as unchaste and a blow to modesty. The dancers kept on, their arms swinging in

unison, kicking their legs as high as limbs would go and Irish dancing was changed forever. I enjoyed watching the recent Riverdance Concert in Palm Desert, California. Fantastic music in tune to the dancers or is it the other way around, the dancers tapping away were in tune with the music? All of it a marvel and while the Irish steps have not changed in seventy or eighty years, dance, steps also blended beautifully into ballet and tap. Irish men and women often scurry back to their childhoods wondering how they managed to survive the oppressed lifestyle imposed by the Church and the stern nuns and bothers who ran and ruled the schools. Young people by and large did what they were told, rarely questioned, and as I think back to my dancing in competition days I cringe. I was prepubescent, sprouting breasts and when they grew and I danced they had a tendency to wobble. Couple that with the requirement that medals won at dance festivals were pinned to your uniform. Hence you danced with body erect, flesh and medals pounding out often as loud as the footwork. Sheer hell! However arriving home with yet another golden medal you were queen of the heap and already looking forward to the next week's competition. Riverdance changed Irish dancing and also introduced a new component to entertainment. For example in mid-July 2013 it set a record by presenting the longest line dance line ever achieved. A crowd of dancers numbering 1,693 danced along the banks of the River Liffey an exhibition recorded in the Guinness Book of Records. The dance line actually stretched for one mile! In other breaking Irish news, which matches with our own news and the trial of a former US President who allegedly raped a female journalist in a dressing room in a trendy New York's shop. The culprit allegedly pulled down the woman's tights while in a similar allegation in Ireland an office worker who is reported to have suffered extreme stress and trauma when a male colleague came up from behind and tried to pull down her trousers. The woman in question had an amazing iron tight alibi since members of the staff witnessed the seedy action. The female's employer, ironically had failed in its duty to put harassment prevention measures in place before the sexual assault. The assaulted woman has been accused by the firm that when the incident occurred she failed to engage with its appointed investigator before he could give evidence

to back up that claim. No matter, the assaulted female was awarded the maximum compensation, two years pay totaling 50 Euro. US companies take note! Lastly a note about the fresh new king of Britain. The splendid attire, fit for a king benefited Prince Charles and he suddenly bloomed into a good looking chap. Ditto for his spouse Camilla who usually appears like a bit of a dolt. I did not watch the festivities on television but noted that any jewels the king and queen wore were decades old, since monarchs could not afford to keep real stones in their crowns. Word on the street is that the royals rented them, popping them into setting for big occasions then returned them to jewel dealers. Pretty savvy I'd say although I'd take a guess British residents who criticize the monarchy believe the jewels were or are the real thing. Who knows?

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# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



## Memories of Times Past

Right off the bat, a huge thank you for the very unexpected reaction to last month's column, which was in part on my decades old love affair with Mexico. I'm always pleasantly surprised when someone takes the time to write - even if it's negative! This time, though, it was all positive.

So, I would have to first say that most of those very beautiful words came from film director David Samuel Peckinpah (1925 - 1983), not from me. Don't give me the credit. Much of it was from a 1972 interview with him; and in many of his films Mexico is the one place that his anti-heroes always head for. Or take place entirely in, as with Warren Oates going steadily crazy the deeper into the country he travels in 'Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia'.

Yet it's also where I let myself down very badly, nearly thirty years ago. To this day it still haunts me. It was on my very first visit there - and as it happens it was also my very first experience of a press junket, and a very luxurious one at that. Journalists were invited from all over the world, and several were from Ireland. At this remove the details are fuzzy (I may have subconsciously made them so) and to that end I won't go into them.

But it involved a large area of land that was being renovated and set up as an expensive holiday resort. And the Powers That Be were quick to explain that any impact on the environment was being offset by the creation of a substantial 'green corridor'. Yes, even back then they were talking like that.

OK, fair enough; but as I wandered around on my own, getting the feel of things, I noticed that there were a lot of people living there. So, my first question should have been as to whether or not these people

were being relocated voluntarily. And I didn't ask it. And I didn't ask it because I was enjoying the whole pampered experience. That young man was a different person to the one writing today;



but I still can't believe I did that. So, I wrote a very safe, very pretty puff piece. I allowed myself to be - let's call it what it was - bought and paid for. And rather pathetically cheaply, at that.

I never let it happen again - if anything I was a far tougher person afterwards, certainly if it was anything to do with politicians, who I just came to see as people who lied for a living.

Of course, maybe EVERYONE who lived there came out a winner.

But... sometimes I still think of it.

Just to finish with Peckinpah. One of his last films was the brilliant 'Cross of Iron' (1977), the bitterly harrowing story of the retreat of the ordinary German soldier towards the close of World War Two. No less a filmmaker than Orson Welles called it one of the finest anti-war films ever made. Yet knowing not a single thing about Dwight Eisenhower, I had no idea that title came from a speech of his:

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius

of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron."

I have no idea what the man was like or what kind of President he was, could have been just another chancer for all I know; but those are pretty great words. Especially at the moment.

\*\*\*\*\*

Since I'm over here in Oranmore, Galway, and I'm writing for you over there in Chicago, I don't often get to meet a reader, but it does happen on occasion. And it happened again a couple of weeks back when I had the pleasure of spending some time with long-time correspondent Joyce Egan (and often biggest critic - yes, it's true, hard as it is to believe that anyone would take umbrage with me). Joyce was visiting Ireland with her friend Brenda Egan and the two Chicagoans had been terrorizing County Mayo for a week before turning their sights on Galway. Ladies, it was great to meet you - and I'm sorry again about you not getting to see the 'Roaring Twenties' Burlesque show. Bad timing.

Just to explain that last cryptic remark. (Also, to give myself a

free plug) I've mentioned before an unusual project I'm involved in: Silent Cinema Galway.

For the first months it simply showed those great old classics, with live piano accompaniment. But it kind of grew and now the place is set up with tables and has a wine license and is intentionally looking like a 1920s club in Berlin between the wars. If you've seen Liza Minelli in 'Cabaret' you'll have the image. There's also 20s jazz and now a burlesque show with the supremely body confident Ms. Caoimhe May, channeling her inner Dita Von Teese.

And if you want to see how obsessed with the Silent Period I've always been, check out my ravings in the Silent Times section of the website.

We had a wonderful St. Patrick's Day at the cinema, with 'The Look of the Irish'. It was free all day and people just

wandered in and out - and I got to meet some great Irish Americans who wanted something different.

It was a lot of fun and a good feeling to go into the impact on the Silents that the Irish and Irish Americans had. One of these days I really have to do something on the New York O'Kalem Group, who decided to film in County Kerry as early as 1910. Wonderful stuff.

And just before I sat down to write this, I received in the post a memory stick from author Steve Mayhew ('Connemara Days'; 'John Wayne: The Stardom Years'), who has given us the go-ahead to print his massive scholarly work on 'The Silent Films of John Ford'. So, it's exciting times for me.

But it may not be for you! So, I'm signing off before I put you to sleep.

And Joyce? See you next time. [charleybrady@gmail.com](mailto:charleybrady@gmail.com)

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### Vicki Quade - Having Fun with Nuns & Helping Them Out for the Last 30 Years

On May 28, 1993, Vicki Quade and Maripat Donovan were watching the preview performance of a play that they had co-written when Maripat turned to Vicki and asked, "Is this funny?"

Vicki replied, "I don't know." Thirty years later, that play - "Late Nite Catechism" - has attracted over 3.5 million audience members in more than 410 cities, playing in six countries on four continents. Worldwide, the show has grossed more than \$100 million in box office receipts and raised over \$4 million to support the retirement funds for several orders of nuns. This May, on the thirtieth anniversary of the inaugural performance, Quade hosted a celebration over two days at the Greenhouse Theater in Lincoln Park, where the show is currently running.

#### BEGINNINGS

The story of the worldwide phenomenon that is "Late Nite Catechism" begins in the southwest suburbs of Chicago, in what is now Burbank, where Quade grew up. She was first introduced to Adrian Dominican Sisters who taught at the Catholic grade school she attended, and Quade recalls that they "amazed and perplexed" her. As a little girl, she wondered whether they were angels or human. While each nun was different - some were stricter than others - Quade was captivated by their gentle demeanor and dedication to helping people, especially girls, to do better, encouraging them to read and develop their talents in a world where their ambitions were often viewed as secondary to those of their male counterparts.

Growing up, Quade recognized that she had a talent for writing; she would read newspapers, books, and poetry, and pen short stories for her brother to read. She earned her first byline as a teenager, when she

covered a fire that was blazing in her neighborhood for the *Daily Southtown*. As she entered adulthood, she turned her talent into a successful career as a writer, contributing to a selection of daily newspapers and other acclaimed publications like *Newsweek*. She interviewed national figures such as President Jimmy Carter and worked as a writer for the American Bar Association for 18 years.

Quade credits her experience in interviewing so many different people and crafting their stories in helping her to understand the human voice. She started writing scripts of her own and acknowledges that she "went very easily from editing the human voice to creating the human voice." She also understood Catholicism, and her scripts ultimately led to her writing a one-hour show, over the span of three weeks beginning in March 1993, that became the first iteration of "Late Nite Catechism," so called because the run of initial performances began at 11 pm.

#### THE EARLY YEARS

On that fateful night of the show's debut, Quade and Donovan, who came up with much of the material that went into the show, quickly realized that they need not have worried if the play was funny. They saw the reaction of the engaged audience and knew it resonated.

The concept of the play was simple: one nun, originally played by Donovan to critical acclaim, would stand on stage, engaging audience members as if they were in an adult catechism class. A 1996 *Newsday* summary of the play called it "an entertaining mix of monologue, stand-up, improv and Oprah." Shortly after its initial run at the Live Bait Theatre, Quade and Donovan added a second act and a question-and-answer session with

the audience that has come to define part of what makes "Late Nite Catechism" so memorable. The show earned strong reviews from local papers, including the *Sun-Times* and *Chicago Tribune*, and local Chicagoans and tourists from outside the city flocked to see it.

After a successful opening at Live Bait, the show moved to larger venues across the city: Organic Theatre, Griffin Theatre, Zebra Crossing, Ivanhoe Theatre, and Royal George Theatre, where it stayed for the better part of twenty years, and Greenhouse Theater Center, its present home.

continues to delight audiences to this day.

While the play might appeal to a cosmopolitan audience with its universal appeal, there is also a distinct Irishness to "Late Nite Catechism." For one, the lead (and only) character is an Irish nun who has moved to Chicago, so the Irish brogue is an unmistakable feature of the performance. Quade grew up with many neighbors and classmates from large Irish families, and many of the nuns she knew were Irish, so it was easy for her to make the character an Irish Catholic nun. When she took the show to Dublin in 1999, she changed the

organizations to invite their actresses to perform in character at fundraisers, community events, or corporate outings, where they do everything such as calling a bingo game, riding in a float at a parade, speaking at dinners, or mingling with guests at celebrations or holiday events.

#### "A Love Letter to the Nuns"

The impact of "Late Nite Catechism" has transcended its box office receipts, rave reviews, and audience entertainment. Apart from writing the show, which she calls "a love letter to the nuns," Quade also wanted to support nuns financially, so in 1994, she organized a bake sale in celebration of the one-year anniversary of the show, raising around \$100. The next year, during Easter and Christmas, she began asking audience members to donate after the performances, and after that decided to collect donations at every show, largely to support the retirement needs of nuns serving in several orders. She also collected for local orders when the show was on the road.

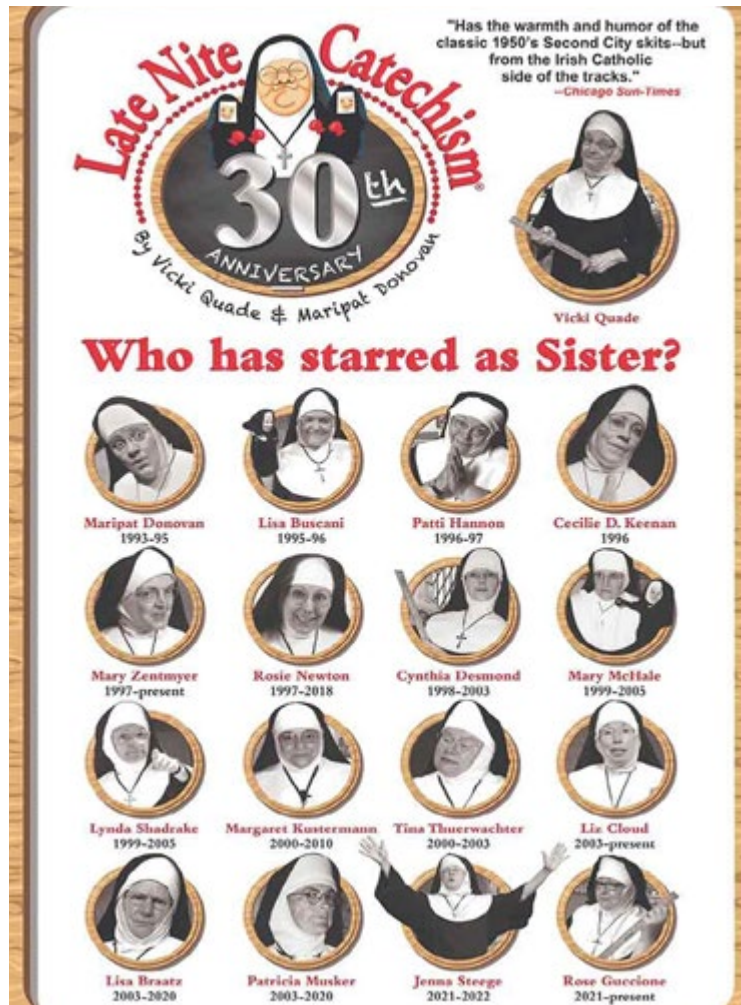
The results of this fundraising initiative are nothing short of remarkable. All told, "Late Nite Catechism" has directly raised over \$4 million for the woefully underfunded retirement accounts of various orders of nuns. This does not count the untold number of dollars that individuals have contributed on their own after seeing the show. Over the past year, Quade began collecting money for the Sisters of Holy Family of Nazareth, an order that has nuns in Poland and Ukraine, providing money for food and clothing for refugees in Ukraine.

Beyond the financial support, "Late Nite Catechism" has also garnered a passionate following from nuns who enjoy watching the show; one Benedictine nun - Sister Benita Coffey - has seen the show at least 30 times. "Nuns are our biggest fans," Quade is proud to acknowledge, and points to their engagement as a primary reason for its success.

"When people ask, 'To what do you attribute the long life of the play?'" Quade remarked, "I say, it's because we collect for the nuns. We've not only entertained so many people, but we helped these orders of nuns. Through our audiences, we brought attention to their needs. That's pretty cool."

"Late Nite Catechism" runs at the Greenhouse Theater 2257 N. Lincoln Avenue in Chicago. Performances take place on Saturdays at 5pm and Sundays at 2pm.

Tickets, 773-404-7336 [www.greenhousetheater.org](http://www.greenhousetheater.org) For more information or to contact Vicki Quade, please visit [www.nuns4fun.com](http://www.nuns4fun.com)



#### "WE'RE ALL TELLING THE SAME STORIES"

During those years, Quade also took the show on the road. She traversed the globe bringing "Late Nite Catechism" to four continents, running sold-out, weeks-long engagements in cities around the world. Interacting with audience members from diverse backgrounds, Quade noticed how much people related to the material - the strong teachers, the discipline, the "international Catholic Catholicism," as she puts it. She recalls being in Australia when one woman came up to her after a performance to tell her, "I'm from the (Australian) bush, and you've written about my life." In short, Quade says, she learned that "we're all telling the same stories."

The widespread appeal of the show did not happen by accident; Quade has ensured that the dialogue is family friendly, without any objectionable content, and that plays a large part of why it

character's background so that the nun was from the south side of Chicago visiting Ireland. Dublin audiences loved it.

#### LOOKING FORWARD

In many ways, the story of the play has mirrored the story of live theater in Chicago during the past three decades. This time period has seen the booming economy of the 1990s, when one-act plays grew in popularity, the post 9/11-era, and more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic and concerns over crime that have kept potential audience members, particularly those from the suburbs, from coming into the city to take in a performance. The show has been at the Greenhouse Theater for the past three years, and Quade continues to take the show on the road, pointing to a recent performance in Madison, Wisconsin and upcoming performances in Crown Point, Indiana, Prospect Heights, and Mokena, to name a few.

Quade also encourages

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DOWNTOWN WATERLOO



Bakers Local 1 came through again with a delicious cake from Vasecky's Bakery, an old bakery that was around in Mother Jones' day. It served 300 people and not a piece was left over. Photos by Elliott Gorn

### Raising Funds for the Mother Jones Statue Nears the Finish Line!

We loved seeing the packed house at the Irish American Heritage Center for our Mother Jones May Day Birthday Party--the biggest one yet.

Brendan McKinney set the tone for the annual event with a rousing bagpipe solo. From there, we were treated to performances by virtuoso musicians such as world renowned fiddler Liz Carroll and an Irish Traditional Band consisting of Brendan McKinney, Siobhan McKinney and Jim Dewan. They performed tunes that Mother Jones would have heard in her early years in Cork, as well as in Chicago of the nineteenth century. Kathy Cowan sang two songs, "James Connolly, the Union Man," and "School Day's Over." Bridget Gerace did her usual fine job of portraying the great Mother Jones, and the celebration was a huge success. When all the funds are raised, and they are over 75% of the way there, the statue will be built next to the Water Tower in downtown Chicago. We can't think of better place for the world to see what she accomplished for working Americans. To help them cross the finish line, visit <https://www.motherjonesmuseum.org/statue>

## Mary Pat Flanagan Sr. VP North American Sales

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Hi, I'm **Annie Nestor**. I was born in Ireland and have family from Galway, Mayo and Kerry. I'm a locally owned Home Care Agency founded in 2015.

After 50 yrs in early childhood education and owning several child care centers, I decided to pass the baton. Our children are the third generation in our family to start schools and after seeing their success & passion I decided to venture into another area of caregiving, **seniors!** I thought, I'm not going to retire I'm going to RE-FIRE!

Working with seniors reminds me of my wonderful years teaching children loving, laughing, and appreciating the joys of life.

HAPPY SENIORS singing old favorite tunes is music to my ears. Now I get to continue doing what I love with a new generation.



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**GETTING  
TO KNOW  
THE IRISH!**  
By Tina Butler



This month I'd like to highlight an Irish actor named Michael Fassbender. He is a brilliant actor and I think incomparable. He also has another serious past time & skill set; he competes in auto races. I don't know a lot about auto racing other than they use a lot of gas to drive dangerously fast and their pit stops are quick! And they Gentlemen start your engines! He races in the European Le Mans Series.

Fassbender was listed at number nine on The Irish Times list of Ireland's greatest film actors. I discovered him after I watched the movie Hunger. It was about Bobby Sands (Irish Volunteer). He had to lose some weight for the part, he weighed 115 pounds for the role. He's been in almost fifty films. I think he is a very talented actor; he has acted in very different films; he has played so many different characters. He's been in a myriad of movies and also every genre which include romance, drama, musicals, crime, action, mystery, westerns, sci-fi, and thriller.

Fassbender was born in Germany to an Irish mother and German father and at two years old moved to Ireland. His mother is the great grand niece of Michael Collins. (Irish revolutionary (the big fellow) in 1916, Co. Cork)

Fassbender was in a Guinness commercial in 2004, called Guinness, The Quarrel. It won a Gold Medal at the FAB awards (Food and Beverage). Fassbender played,

**Iowa Irish Fest August 4-6**

Sláinte! Dust off your kilt because Iowa's premier Irish cultural event is returning to downtown Waterloo!

Iowa Irish Fest is a highly anticipated event in the Cedar Valley because it is a jam-packed, three-day event bursting with culture, music and family fun. Fest goers will enjoy some of the world's best Celtic bands, including headliners Gaelic Storm and Scythian, with a special event held on Saturday night! Not only will there be live music all weekend long, but visitors will be able to enjoy authentic food and drink from street vendors, cheer on friends during the Highland Games, participate in workshops celebrating Irish dance, instruments, language and culture and so much more!

Since the events beginning in 2006, Iowa Irish Fest has grown into a festival that takes over Lincoln Park and the surrounding blocks the first weekend of August each year. Tickets can be purchased at lowalrishfest.com. Be sure to download the Iowa Irish Fest App. The app is available on both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

All military and first responders will be admitted to the fest at no charge with proof of service.

Updates on the fest will be distributed via the Iowa Irish Fest website, social media and app.

Facebook: @lowalrishfest; Instagram: @lowalrishfest; Twitter: @lowalrishfest; YouTube: Iowa Irish Fest; App (available on Apple and Android devices): @lowalrishfest.

The Iowa Irish Fest was founded by the Cedar Valley Irish Cultural Association as a way to foster and develop Irish fellowship and outreach into the community.

Michael Collins (his great-great granduncle) In a play called, Allegiance a play by Mary Kenny based on the meeting between Collins and Churchill.

He has a production company with screenwriter Ronan Bennett called Finn McCool films. (Finn McCool -Irish mythology he was a giant, who fought a Scottish giant) They are currently working on a film about Cu Chulainn. (Mythological hero who defended Ulster).

This article is dedicated to my dear friend Michelle who has watched several of Fassbender's movies. She is the one who gave me the idea to write about him! Miss Ramirez is very generous, kind & lives with great integrity. I'm proud to be her friend & always feel better after her company!

"Big things have small beginnings" Fassbender  
"Clearly everyone's crazy anyway and those who think they aren't, are the ones who are even crazier" Fassbender

**Smidin of Irish**  
Actor-aisteoir Germany-Ghearmain Characters-carachtair  
Niece-neacht Uncle-uncaill

There's entertainment news in Ireland, Ireland's Late Late show is getting a new host. So, the Jimmy Fallon or Stephen Colbert of Ireland is Ryan Tubridy. In case you're not familiar with the Late Late show host, Ryan Tubridy, he has been the host for the past 14 years and he will be stepping down at the end of May. I watch the Irish late late show every Thursday on youtube to stay in touch. Sometimes, he has Americans on his show for example Tom Cruise, Jonah Hill and John C. Reilly have been guests. His replacement is still unknown but the favorite they say is Ray D'Arcy, he is TV reporter on RTE, he's from Kildare.



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# CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

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A Cháirde:

Are you ready for the GAA Season? We are, and we're looking forward to it. As June begins, the athletes have already been in training and are ready for matches. J-1 students have made their travel and lodging arrangements. Those that want to play have joined teams, and those who want to watch are making plans for long summer Sundays of fun. We've made sure everything is ready so we can welcome fans and players to the stands, the Tara Room, the patio, the playground and the beer garden. Hope to see you often this summer.

As I write this there are still tickets available for the Afternoon Tea, and for the shows on our covered patio. Maggie Speaks will perform on Thursday, June 29th and Howl at the Moon will perform on Thursday, July 27th. Music will also be available at the Carraig Pub and Beer Garden two to three nights a week, at no cover charge. And there will be lots of music available at Irish Fest in August. Watch this space, our email blasts, and social media for more information.

Is mise le meas,  
Bill O'Sullivan



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## FEIS ÈIREANNACH IRISH FEST 2023

Stay tuned for additional headliners and fest information by following us @CGPIrishFest on Instagram and @ChicagoGaelicParkIrishFest on Facebook!

## August 25th, 26th & 27th

BOXING BANJO ◦ CLAYTON SHAY  
LISA CANNY ◦ JIGJAM  
GAELIC BREW ◦ LIAM DURKIN  
EMERALD PIPE BAND  
WILD COLONIAL BHOYS  
DIRTY WELLIES ◦ THE FITZGERALDS

## MAGGIESPEAKS

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



Maggie Speaks has a reputation that is hot, hot, hot! The band is joining Chicago Gaelic Park for a night of summer fun on the patio to celebrate 25 years of Maggie Speaks! Maggie Speaks is an internationally renowned cover band who have shared the stage with a who's-who list of celebrity talent.

BUY TICKETS AT [MAGGIESPEAKSATCGP.BROWNPAPERTICKETS.COM](http://MAGGIESPEAKSATCGP.BROWNPAPERTICKETS.COM)  
\$20/TICKET

## HOWL AT THE MOON

THURSDAY, JULY 27 AT 6:30 ON THE PATIO!



The world famous dueling pianos of Howl at the Moon are taking the show to Chicago Gaelic Park! Join us for a night of high-energy fun as Howl at the Moon plays all of your favorites.

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Sarah and Ryan's stunning wedding photos provided by their photography team, The Willows.

Interested in having your perfect day at Chicago Gaelic Park? Email [banquet@chicagogaelpark.org](mailto:banquet@chicagogaelpark.org) to inquire.



## KIDS' CAMP

Art! Crafts! Drama! Language! Cross Stitch! Sports!



The Details:

August 8-10 from 9:30am - 3:30pm  
\$100/child. \$90/each additional sibling  
Light breakfast and lunch provided each day.

Applications accepted after June 1st in Chicago Gaelic Park's front office.



## Upcoming Events

visit [chicagogaelpark.com](http://chicagogaelpark.com) for more information on upcoming events

- June 1st - KIDS' CULTURAL CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS
- June 4th - CLARE DAY
- June 7th - MONTHLY MUSICAL LUNCHEON
- June 17th - AFTERNOON TEA
- June 29th - MAGGIE SPEAKS CONCERT ON THE PATIO

## The Carraig Live Music

no cover charge! visit [carraigirishpub.com](http://carraigirishpub.com) for more up to date information

- June 2nd - BILL O'DONAHUE
- June 3rd - ST. JAMES GATE
- June 9th - NICKY G
- June 10th - KIERAN BYRNE
- June 15th - WHISKEY + HARMONY
- June 16th - BERNIE GLIM
- June 17th - DAMIEN PATRICK
- June 23rd - GERRY HAUGHEY
- June 24th - GOTHAM RAMBLERS
- June 30th - RAY GAVIN
- July 1st - ST. JAMES GATE

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Call (708)687-9323 to reserve your seat.

**Fore! Your Guide to This Season's IRISH GOLF OUTINGS!**

*By Emmett Fitzpatrick*

Golf season is now upon us, which means that Irish organizations across the area are planning to host outings throughout the warm weather months. Golfers interested in supporting Irish causes will have many opportunities to spend time on the links this season.

See below for sampling of the many outings and how to get involved.

**Irish Community Services - Saturday, June 10  
Indian Boundary Golf Course**

What we're hearing: "Irish Community Services is extremely excited for our upcoming golf event on June 10th. We're looking forward to coming together with friends and community partners to celebrate good times, good people, and, most importantly, a good cause," said Scott Brennan, who serves on the ICS Board of Directors and as Chair of the golf committee.

How to sign up: [www.irishchicago.com](http://www.irishchicago.com) or 773-282-8445.

**Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago - Monday, July 17  
Ridgemoor Country Club**

What we're hearing: Celebrating 50 years of golf and chaired by John Wrenn, this year's outing will include a shotgun start followed by a heavy buffet, a raffle and prizes for winners. President Bob Flood said, "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."

How to sign up: Visit [www.irishfellowshipclub.org](http://www.irishfellowshipclub.org) or email Kathy Taylor at [ktaylor@irishfellowship.com](mailto:ktaylor@irishfellowship.com)

**Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance Friday, July 28  
Deerpath Golf Club**

What we're hearing: "We are very excited for the second annual golf outing in support of this up-and-coming dance school on the North Shore," said Tim Lynch, who chairs the golf outing. "Last year, we had over 150 people come out, and this year we're hoping for even more. The event is open to golfers to play nine or eighteen holes and anyone else who wants to join for dinner and a special performance from the Fitzpatrick School dancers."

How to sign up: [www.fitzpatrickschoolofirishdance.com](http://www.fitzpatrickschoolofirishdance.com) or call 847-284-0808

**Concern Worldwide - Monday, July 31  
Chicago Highlands Club**

What we're hearing: "You can help change the lives of the world's most vulnerable people by joining Concern Worldwide for our annual golf outing at the stunning Chicago Highlands Club in Westchester, IL, a par 72 championship links-style golf course with 75-foot elevation changes and sweeping views of the Chicago skyline," said Bridget Conway, Development Manager, Midwest, noting that tickets include a round of golf, lunch and refreshments on the course, and attendance at the evening reception.

How to sign up: <https://www.concernusa.org/event/concern-worldwide-chicago-golf-tournament>

**Young Irish Fellowship Club - Saturday, August 19  
Old Orchard Country Club**

What we're hearing: Maura Keller of the Young Irish Fellowship Club Board of Directors shared that the YIFC annual golf outing unite golfers of all ages to enjoy a day on the links to fundraise for their charities, Cara Chicago and Almost Home Kids.

How to sign up: [www.youngirish.com](http://www.youngirish.com).

**Ireland Network Chicago - Friday, September 8  
Harborside International Golf Center**

What we're hearing: Originally started in 2020, the Ireland Network Chicago golf outing has grown to become a signature event for the organization, and President Ruairi Barnwell and the executive committee are excited to host this year's outing at the acclaimed Harborside International Golf Center on the south side. Once again, proceeds from the event's raffle will support Irish Community Services.

How to sign up: [www.chicagoireland.org](http://www.chicagoireland.org)

**St. Patrick Fathers - Saturday, September 9  
Indian Boundary Golf Course**

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

How to sign up: Call 773-887-4741

**Irish American Partnership - Monday, September 11  
Beverly Country Club**

What we're hearing: "The Partnership is delighted to be hosting our Chicago Golf Tournament at the wonderful Beverly Country Club in September," said Clodagh Boyle,



VP of Communications & Engagement at the Partnership. "For more than 30 years, our supporters enjoy the opportunity to play one of the finest courses, and to compete for a spectacular first prize of roundtrip tickets to Ireland. A great day's golf, while positively impacting the lives of thousands of young people across the island, north and south."

How to sign up: [www.irishap.org/chicago-2023](http://www.irishap.org/chicago-2023)  
**Gaelic Park / Carraig Pub**

What we're hearing: The Gaelic Park team is still finalizing the details of this year's event, but please keep an eye out for sign-up information here in the *Irish American News* or online at

[www.chicagogaelicpark.com](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.com).

**Irish American Heritage Ctr Saturday, Sept 16  
Billy Caldwell Golf Course**

What we're hearing: Event organizers for the Irish American Heritage Center "Golfing Fore Green" outing told us that golfers can expect nine holes of golf, golf carts, a voucher for a sandwich and drink at the Irish American Heritage Center, prizes, awards, raffles and more. Since it will be Halfway to St. Patrick's Day, there will be prizes for "best kilt" and "most green worn on the course."

How to sign up: [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org) or e-mail [iahc.golfing@gmail.com](mailto:iahc.golfing@gmail.com) with questions.

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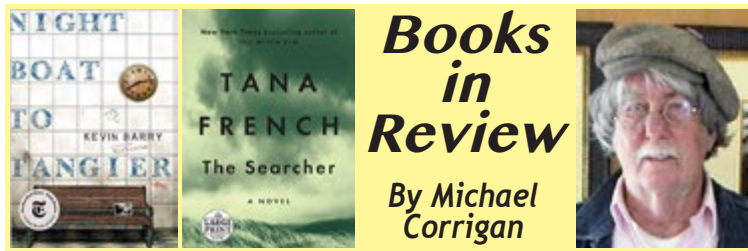
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**Books in Review**

By Michael Corrigan

**How The Irish Saved Civilization**  
by Thomas Cahill

*“Charming and poetic... an entirely engaging, delectable voyage into the distant past, a small treasure.”*

—The New York Times

Recently, I rediscovered Thomas Cahill’s book, *How the Irish Saved Civilization*. Cahill’s work is a combination of scholarship and popular creative nonfiction. Cahill illustrates how Western civilization was “saved” by Irish monks copying out the great books, Christian and pagan, from The New Testament to Beowulf. The Irish monks with great precision and labor, created remarkable illustrated books like “The Book of Kells” now in Dublin’s Trinity College library. This rare surviving work from 800 AD displays the four gospels copied in Latin with a calligraphy that is—in itself—an example of extraordinary artwork, when a “T” can look like a colored serpent. Of course, elsewhere in Europe, the Jewish and Christian religious works were also preserved in Greek.

Cahill also examines the familiar story of Saint Patrick who converted the pagan Irish to Christianity even as ancient Rome was dying.

There are many myths about Saint Patrick. He did not drive the snakes from Ireland, a tale I heard growing up, nor did the Shamrock have any Catholic symbolism. Saint Patrick was not named Patrick and was not even Irish, but a Roman Britain who in the 5th century was taken by roving Irish pirates at the age of 16. His real name was Maewyn Succat. He finally escaped his bondage, and after a prophetic dream, returned to Ireland determined to convert the pagan warring Irish to Christianity and abolish slavery in the process. When he was ordained a priest, Maewyn changed his name to Patricius, or Patrick which derives from the Latin term for “father figure.”

“Patrick was really a first—the first missionary to barbarians beyond the reach of Roman law,” Thomas Cahill writes in *How the Irish Saved Civilization*.

Saint Patrick did have

a lot of opposition from the local Druids, and Cahill’s book has lyrical, yet playful prose that captures a moment in a conversational way. (He blames the fall of Rome on the Patricians not paying their taxes to support a standing army.)

It is notable that Saint Patrick condemned and called out the bondage of Irish women while taking note of their bravery and resilient spirit. Here is another quote from *How the Irish Saved Civilization*:

“The papacy did not condemn slavery as immoral until the end of the 19th century, but

here is Patrick in the 5th century seeing it for what it is . . . Elsewhere he lauds the strength and courage of Irish women: ‘But it is the women kept in slavery who suffer the most—and who keep their spirits up despite the menacing and terrorizing they must endure. The Lord gives grace to his many handmaids; and though they are forbidden to do so, they follow him with backbone.’”

It is fun to drink green beer on Saint Patrick’s Day, a riotous holiday in San Francisco with streets blocked off for revelers. Everyone is Irish for a day. Despite that, I’m not quite sure how I feel about Saint Patrick. I prefer the name, Maewyn Succat. We certainly have enough “Paddys” in Ireland and America. I also feel a stronger imaginary connection to pagan Druids than catholic priests and nuns. (James Joyce called the Irish a “priest-ridden race.”)

It is true, however, that the Irish tribes were savage fighters who took slaves and cut off heads. This is reflected in their own Irish works like “The Cattle Raid of Cooley” or “The Táin”—often referred to as an Irish Iliad. The monks replaced severed heads with books.

Cahill’s book is indeed a “small treasure” as the NY times critic suggested. Read his Irish history and travel to Dublin to see the Book of Kells. Since the Viking and German “barbarians” were illiterate and destroyed libraries on their raids, we owe a debt to those Irish monks who copied and preserved much of Western literature.



**Books Under Review**

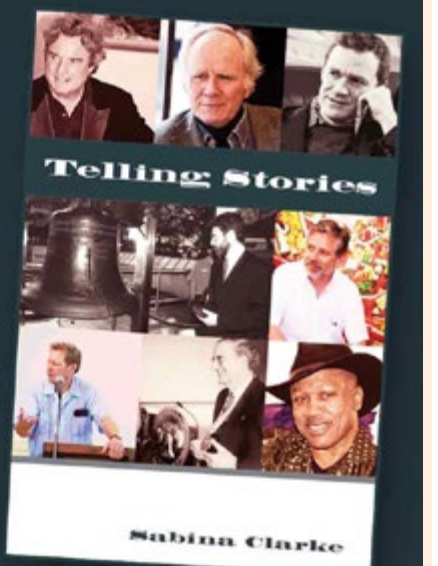
By Sabina Clarke

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history such as the tragedy of September 11th, 2001 are reflected in the personal tales of Bob McIlvaine, a father who lost his son and has made it his life’s mission to uncover the truth of who was behind the deadly attack and Bonnie McEaney, a woman who lost her husband on 9/11 whom she says “foresaw his own death”.

Telling Stories on Amazon and Biblio (links below).

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How Dare I Abridge Ulysses !?

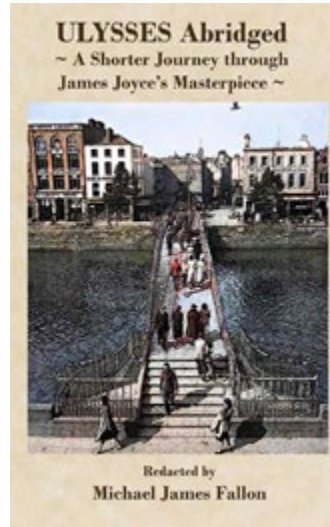
by Michael James Fallon

One frayed, faded newspaper clipping and two aged letters were tucked inside the cover of the tainted cloth-bound copy of James Joyce's ULYSSES, which I inherited upon the death of "Grandpa with the pipe." The sepia-toned clipping with a photo of James Joyce, round glasses, eye-patch, pencil-thin mustache, pinstripe shirt and bowtie, announced the historic decision whereby the Federal ban on his book was removed. The first letter dated April 1934, read in part: "I am sending you, Tom, this book by James Joyce, called Ulysses... you will find the book a bit hard to read... but I found entertainment in it." The second letter to my grandpa stated: "I'm returning Ulysses with only 200 pages read... Have gone back to it no less than two dozen times, this in spite of breathtaking passages... Surely Joyce is a master of artistic license."

And so my saga with Ulysses began. I took up reading Ulysses in 2004, out loud, oceanside in Maui. Joyce's 1922 Ulysses, a controversial classic judged obscene

and banned in the U.S. 100 years ago, is one of the Great Books. Radical in its day for its modernist construction, stream of consciousness narrative, and its unvarnished exploration of sexuality, Ulysses - like the Sirens of Homer's Odyssey upon which it is based - calls to readers, albeit daunting due to its length and composition. Yet it remains a must-read-someday.

Ulysses is primarily the story of a sensitive man, his adulterous wife, both a deceased and a surrogate son, and a perplexed young man, three persons who individually and together, endeavor to make sense of life on their interrelated journeys through Dublin on June 16, 1904, now dubbed "Bloomsday." Having conceived at some point to condense the novel for general readership, I had the good fortune in 2013 to participate in Bloomsday in Dublin. For the next ten years, I



commenced formulating an annotated, abridged version (to the horror of Joyce scholars!) in which readers may persevere. This rendition retains the original text - of storyline, characters, themes, and Joycean prose; redacting only extensive monologue - so as to be enjoyed by new readers and those liking to be transported back to Ireland.

Colm Toibin, wrote of Ulysses: "For the ordinary reader it is a challenge and then, for those who have read the book, a matter of pride." An abridgment, a half-marathon, is nonetheless a fait accompli - its reader can honestly say 'Yes' - I know Ulysses."

Ulysses Abridged is available at: [www.schulerbooks.com/chapbook-press](http://www.schulerbooks.com/chapbook-press) and Amazon.

Postscript: Hosting a UA discussion at the Irish Cultural Center, Joyce aficionado Aidan Stone expressed: "Professor Fallon's effort to abridge Ulysses raises questions about editing methods, textual integrity, exactly who should read Ulysses, and how it may be done. To put it in Joycean terms, the abridgement is a way of saying 'Yes, but No' to Ulysses' rambling. Although I still recommend readers take on the unabridged Ulysses, I respect how Fallon salvaged plenty of love, humor, and enthusiasm for the great novel during his process."

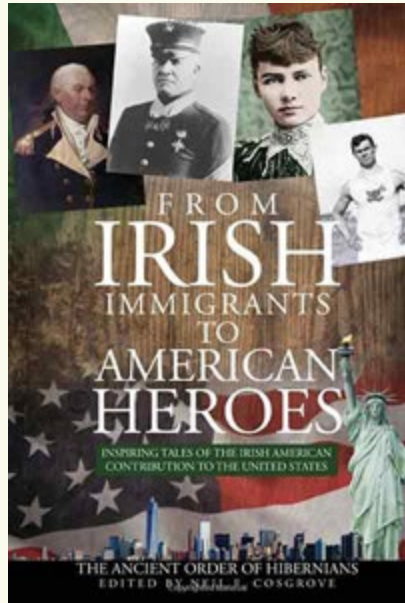
From Irish Immigrants to American Heroes:

Inspiring Tales of the Irish American Contribution to the United States Paperback

by Ancient Order of Hibernians, Neil Cosgrove, et al

Despite often coming to America with nothing more than determination and drive, and despite prejudice that is today too often trivialized, the Irish and their sons and daughters have achieved distinction in every field of endeavor. Despite the charges of bigots that the Irish could never be "true Americans," no group has given more compelling testimony of the American dream; the path they blazed has been followed by subsequent immigrants of all nations, races, and creeds

Since 1991, American Presidents of both parties and numerous acts of Congress and the Senate have declared March as 'Irish American Heritage Month.' The yearly Presidential proclamations have always concluded with the President. "call[ing]



upon all Americans to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Irish Americans to our Nation with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs." Sadly, too often, that call falls upon deaf ears when it comes to the Media and our Educational institutions who

do such commendable jobs rightly honoring other heritages during their heritage months but seemingly ignore celebrating the contributions of Irish Americans.

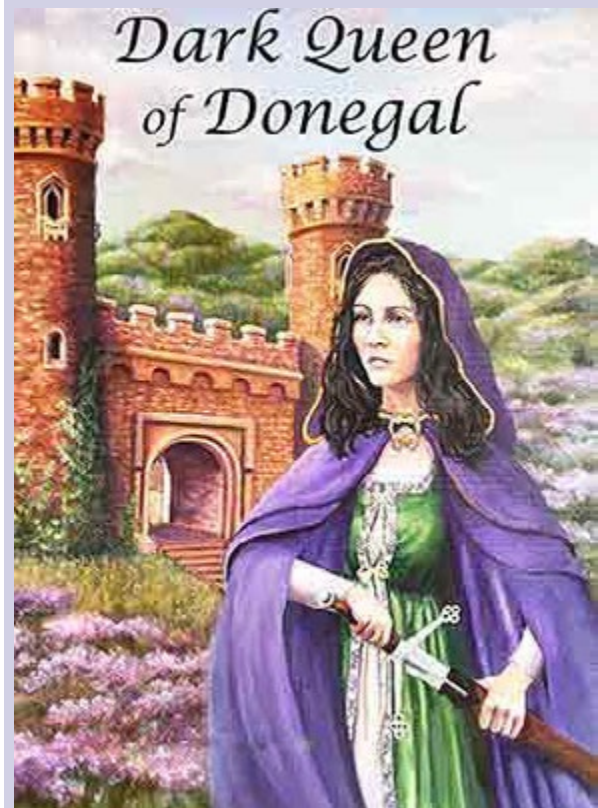
As part of their duty to "perpetuate the history and traditions of the Irish people," the Ancient Order of Hibernians published a series of profiles of prominent Irish American men and women celebrating their contributions to America in recognition of Irish American Heritage Month. A collection of these profiles forms the basis of this book.

By sharing the stories of these incredible men and women, we hope to honor the Irish tradition of remembrance and the essential obligation of gratitude with the hope that the contributions of Irish American men and women shall be better acknowledged. On Amazon In Kindle and paperback.

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**GOOD GRIEF**  
By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN  
**Tales & Craic!**



would starve. Bidly's third husband, Tom died when she was 70 years old. She married again for the fourth

A friend of mine recently did her genealogy. She called me and asked me if I knew anything about a lady called Bidly Early. Apparently, she popped up as a distant relative so we both began to explore. I have her permission to share this story with Bridget Ellen Early( née O'Conner.) She was born in 1778 in county Clare Ireland.

time. Unfortunately, he died a year later. Bidly was left alone and died in 1874. sadly she died in poverty.

Her mother was no one for her horrible cures. She taught her daughter all she knew, but unfortunately, by the time bidly was 16 years old, she lost her mother to malnutrition. Months later, her father died of typhus. Poor Bidly ended up in the poo house, but she did meet an older gent in Limerick. He was twice her age and they wed and had a son.

She is buried in Freakle, county Clare Ireland. By all accounts, Bidly was a kind no nonsense independent soul. Maybe I'll take my friend to Ireland to visit her grave.

She started using her mothers, herbal remedies to help surrounding neighbors. She never asked for money, but folks would leave food items and poitin (sounds like potcheen) her husband died when she was 25. She then married his son from a previous relationship. By the time she was 42. He also passed away. She ended up marrying Tom from county Clare. They had a little cottage in Kilbarin overlooking a lake, which later would become known as Bidly Early's Lake.

Growing up in Ireland people would travel for miles to find someone to cure their ailments. My father had the cure for sprains which he later passed on to me when I went home to look after him while my mum was in hospital getting hip replacement surgery.

When people couldn't afford to pay doctors, they went to Bidly. Farmers also went to her to help with their animals. The death of an animal meant poverty and eviction if they couldn't plough their fields or have fresh milk to sell they

The sequence is Father to daughter then I passed it on to my son. I'm not sure who made up these rules but I'm sure there's an explanation out there somewhere.

My husband's father was the seventh son of a seventh son. He had the cure for ringworm people who would come with their children from miles around. There was never any money exchanged; they would leave a cake or loaf of bread and cheese, maybe fresh eggs. I remember my father taking me to see Mrs. Brady so she could help me with back pain after a car crash I had as a teenager. She had a piece of string and she would measure my hips and back. I was never sure what she was doing but she would mumble prayers and ask me to come back three times.

Did it help me? I'm not sure, but the platform shoes I wore didn't help either. Then there were the fortune tellers

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we loved going to see. One was Miss Slevin. She lived away in the country all by herself. She was about 3 feet tall. She would make you a cup of tea while shoeing the chickens off the kitchen table. Yes, the house was overrun with chickens, cats, and dogs. She was a very kind soul. She would read the cards - just regular playing cards. You could actually see her thumbprints on the cards but I think she was psychic and the cards were a prop.

Everyone loved going to see her. I think she was one of the more authentic fortune tellers. My mum would sit and have conversations with her. She would smoke a cigarette but it never left her lips. She would keep it in there until the whole cigarette was just one big long ash. We were all waiting in anticipation to see if it would fall down but never did during our visit. The front of her blouse had cigarette holes all over it. She was such a character but a real genuine kind hearted person. Another pastime growing up in Ireland after Sunday mass and roast

dinner we would all plow into fathers big Hillman Minx and go away out in the country stopping by old graveyards. I know it sounds weird but it was a normal occurrence for us. If you grew up in Ireland you would know exactly what I mean. Some of those Celtic headstones were magnificent. We used to see who could find the oldest headstone. Our parents loved history and would try and find out about them. Pity we didn't have Google back then. Hope you enjoyed the tales and the Craic so bye for now.

Marie Louise who is presently living in Ireland sends her dad, Martin Woulfe, lots of love on Father's Day, and is looking forward to seeing him in the fall. Happy Father's Day to Andrew Coleman from his son Andrew James (AJ) and daughter Maryjo. many thanks, dad for all you do for us.....

Also my apologies to Mrs. Catherine O'Connor for the misprint in my last column she is very much alive and enjoying her beautiful family.

### The 2023 O'Donovan Clan Gathering

The clan gathering happens from 14-18 June, 2023, in Bantry, West Cork, Ireland. The event offers attendees a chance to connect with their O'Donovan roots and meet other members of the clan from around the world.

Headquartered at the Maritime Hotel, Bantry, scheduled events include talks on O'Donovan history and culture, pub meetups, musical performances, guided tours, boat trips, and a gala banquet. Activities will take place in several locations in West Cork, including Drimoleague, Skibbereen, Bantry, Baltimore and Glengarriff. Tickets can be purchased on the O'Donovan Eventbrite page:



<https://bit.ly/odonovan2023>  
"After postponements due to Covid, we're thrilled to finally be celebrating the O'Donovan Clan Gathering in West Cork in June." said event organizer, Sherry Donovan Moser. "This event is a wonderful opportunity for O'Donovan family members to come together and celebrate our shared heritage. We're looking forward to enjoying a memorable blend of fun, camaraderie, and learning."

The Clan O'Donovan Gathering is open to all with O'Donovan/Donovan connections.

More information about the O'Donovan Clan Gathering, including registration details and a schedule of events, is on the official event website: [odonovangathering.com](http://odonovangathering.com)

Contact: Sherry Donovan Moser: [clanodonovangathering@gmail.com](mailto:clanodonovangathering@gmail.com)

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### Learning the Ropes 'On Air'

On May 13th, I hosted my mom's entire radio show for the first time. As some of you may know, my mother is Siobhainn O'Connor, daughter of Michael F. O'Connor and current host of The O'Connor Show on 1490 AM. The show has occurred every Saturday from 11AM to 1PM since 1971.

My mother asked me to host the show on the 13th because she had a girl's trip to Florida planned for that entire week. Considering that that weekend also happened to be Mother's Day weekend, I enthusiastically agreed to do a guest takeover of the show.

I had previously hosted the show for brief periods, and my mom had taught me how to work the board and play music. But this would be the first time that I hosted from start to finish, and frankly the prospect of messing up in some

way was slightly intimidating.

For starters, there are a multitude of ways that things can go wrong when managing a live radio show. When playing music off of the internet, especially music that was recorded live, sometimes the performer likes to incorporate a swear into his or her lyrics-and the FCC is not a big fan of swears.

Additionally, sometimes advertisements play ahead of a song that must be skipped over before the song can be properly played-but one doesn't know if there will be ads until the song is queued up. This leads to awkward transitions, long pauses, and sometimes, dead air.

My mom likes to say that hosting the radio show involves "spinning a lot of plates," and after acting in her stead for a single session, I can definitely concur with that analysis. I had to keep track of how many times

I ran commercials, how many more times I needed to run those commercials, what song was going to be played next, which community announcements had been read already and which had not, and while doing all of that I managed the technical aspects of the control board and song requests from our listeners.

But I was happy to do it. The O'Connor Show is a family affair. Whenever I mention to my friends that my mom hosts a radio show, their curiosity is almost always piqued. I also love tagging along with my mom to Irish events and seeing her get recognized by people I've never met. Of course, I'd be the first person to tell you that my mom rocks-after all, she gave birth to me!

Hosting the O'Connor show was an amazing experience. And stepping into my mom's shoes on the eve of Mother's Day felt altogether fitting. My dad, sister, and brother all helped me host the show, and we made sure to shower my mother (who was listening in from Florida) with all of the affection and appreciation she deserves. Thanks again, mom. You are my superhero.

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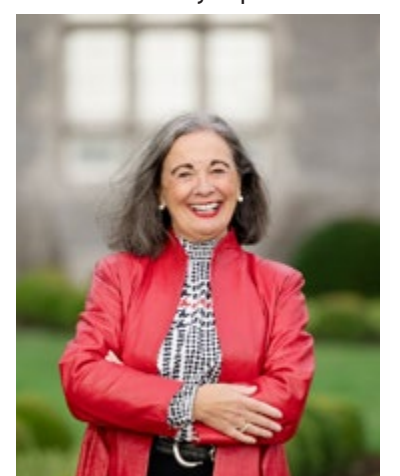
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### Paula Carroll Retires From Ashford Castle

After 35 years as Director of Marketing and Sales at the legendary Ashford Castle and sister hotel, The Lodge at Ashford, one of the best known and respected hospitality industry professionals, Paula Carroll, will retire at the end of May.

General Manager of the Ashford Estate, Niall Rochford has invited Paula to take on a strategic ambassadorial role until November 2024.

"To say it has been a privilege is an understatement as I have loved each and every year, no matter what challenges were presented," said Paula. "I am eternally grateful to Mr. Niall Rochford and previous GMs, Rory Murphy and Mark Nolan for their unwavering support over all that time. I also wish to thank my extraordinary team across both properties on the Ashford estate for always making me look good. Sincere thanks to the incredible people with whom I have worked and have had the privilege of representing, together with the wonderful Tollman family and the wider Red Carnation community. "Additionally, I wish to acknowledge and thank my industry colleagues throughout the world, particularly those I now consider friends - they know who they are!"





# Game On!

By Chris Wheaton



As we race through spring and head into what promises to be an eventful summer it is all too easy to miss the "now." New beginnings happen with each change of seasons and hope is in the air. I wish upon all of you that you have something to be hopeful for.

Early summer is also a time when some sports are just heating up and others are ending after a long campaign through the winter doldrums. In America, the basketball and hockey seasons are well into the playoffs heading to championships sans any team from Chicago. That is something we have grown accustomed to and that word "hope" pops up again as we look to the future. The Blackhawks improved their chances for a bright future by securing the number one pick in the draft and the right to draft 17-year-old Connor Bedard, a generational player the likes of which the NHL has seen in only a few instances. The Hawks were rewarded despite themselves after failing to totally "tank" the season and winding up with the third best odds at the first pick. The hockey Gods shown down brightly on the franchise as they beat those odds.

As for baseball it is the same old story here in Chicago. The Cubs are hovering around the .500 mark, but filling Wrigley Field and the Sox continue being the greatest under-achievers in baseball as they sit 12 games under .500 as of today. The White Sox need to change their ways and do it fast if they hope to bring some smiles to the faces of the south-siders out there.

As for our beloved GAA sports, the seasons are slowly but surely approaching the pinnacle of the season leading up to All-Ireland Finals. Hurling has been especially exciting during the past few weeks with every match undecided until the last moments of the match. If you have access to replays of games, check out the Clare vs. Limerick game from

April 29. This Munster Senior Hurling Championship was one for the ages contested at the TUS Gaelic Grounds Limerick which saw the match go back and forth until the final seconds of injury time with Clare prevailing 1-24 to Limerick's 2-20 (that is 27-26 if unfamiliar with the scoring system). That game as well as many others in recent weeks bode well for what should be a classic championship run.

I do not know if sport imitates life like some philosophers opine but even if it doesn't, sport does make for excitement and a break from the nonsense of everyday life and the stressors we all experience. Moments away from the "rat race" are liberating and should make us feel good. Take those moments for yourself and enjoy life, whatever those moments are. Life goes by way too fast, and you do not want to be that person lying on their death bed saying, "if only I had done...." Do it and do it now.

I have experienced firsthand how quickly time flies as I head to the University of Illinois this coming weekend to celebrate our youngest daughter's graduation from the Gies Business School (with Highest Honors by the way - a not too subtle brag!). It seems like just yesterday that Ellie was watching Strawberry Shortcake without a care in the world and now she is heading out to face a world that is much different than the one I grew up in. Power to the young and the bright as they are the ones who will change the world for the better. Hats off to all the graduates out there who I am sure have grand plans to "do good" for humanity. Here's to you:

*"May you always have walls for the winds, a roof for the rain, tea beside the fire,*

*laughter to cheer you, those you love near you, and all your heart might desire."*

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**Home is Where the Heart Is**  
 By Aishling Kelly



**Why is Continuing Education Important to Caregivers?**

It's a global problem that many countries and businesses are grappling with, yet 75% of CEOs agree it should be a top goal for governments and companies to have a well-educated, experienced, and flexible workforce. To counteract this tendency, people need to be reminded that their education doesn't finish when they start working full-time.

Healthcare is constantly changing, and the most acceptable practices of today may be completely obsolete in a decade or less. Keeping up with new procedures and technology and expanding one's knowledge and abilities is a must for health care workers.

**Continuing Education's Importance**  
 Almost all health care professionals are expected to participate in continuing education regularly. A certain amount of hours of continuing education is needed of nurses, dentists, psychologists, doctors, caregivers, and practically everyone else who specializes in these professions.

A top home care provider should develop continuing education requirements for in-home care employees. A company that offers this service guarantees that its employees are prepared to cope with the vast range of health issues and illnesses that they may experience while operating in your house or the household of a loved one.

**Safety and Fall Preventative Measures**  
 People in the United States are getting older at an increasing rate with a rising average citizen age. This has led to a burgeoning field of study devoted to improving the lives and wellbeing of that demographic. As a result, new training programs for in-home care providers to learn new strategies to improve their patients' safety and health in their residences are continually being made accessible.

The latest technique, such as fall prevention, is a good illustration of this. An in-home care expert may give essential advice and assist in improving a house to reduce the risk of falls among the senior population. Tripping concerns should be removed, movement patterns optimized, and mobility aids installed by a well-trained professional to increase overall safety in the house are among a few.

**Social Interactions**  
 Loneliness can have a negative impact on the health of the elderly. In-home caregivers might also benefit from continued training and instruction in this area. The solitude of the elderly at home is among the most severe hazards to their general health and happiness. This happens when a person's health or mobility restricts their ability to engage in social activities.

**Elderly People's Concerns**  
 Aging populations have different daily care requirements than the general population. Elderly adults are particularly vulnerable to a wide range of health issues that need specialized treatment.

Dementia and Alzheimer's, for example, become more frequent beyond the age of 65. While in-home care isn't always necessary for people with Alzheimer's, it can be beneficial when the disease initially shows or when only one family member struggles with it.

When people don't regularly participate in learning,

their skills and knowledge might become rusty and forgettable. People make mistakes across a wide range of occupations when they do duties without paying attention to the finer points. When it comes to health care, the consequences of a mistake like this are even direr.

To avoid this, investing in ongoing education and training such as in Aishling Care Academy is a smart move. We offer continuing education to caregivers looking to enhance skills and capability. Evening classes starting at 6 PM are open to caregivers with daytime work.

Contact us to know more about learning with purpose, passion, and pride.

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August 3, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

One of our favorite touring festival bands joins us for the first time Thursday, August 3rd.

Many of us have enjoyed their performances at Milwaukee Irish Fest, and it's great to have them play closer to home! Tickets are \$25, \$20 for members at [irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org), plus Eventbrite fees.

## Socks in the Frying Pan



August 9, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Join the lads from "Socks" and special guests to be announced for a concert in honor of their longtime friend the late Maryann McTeague Kiefer, Wednesday, August 9th. Tickets are \$30, \$25 for IAHC members, plus Eventbrite fees. [irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org)

## An Evening with Sharon Shannon



September 8, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Don't miss this very rare Chicago performance with Irish music superstar Sharon Shannon as she joins us in the Mayfair Theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center on September 8th. General Admission tickets for Sharon Shannon are \$35, \$30 for IAHC members, not including ticketing fees. [irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org)

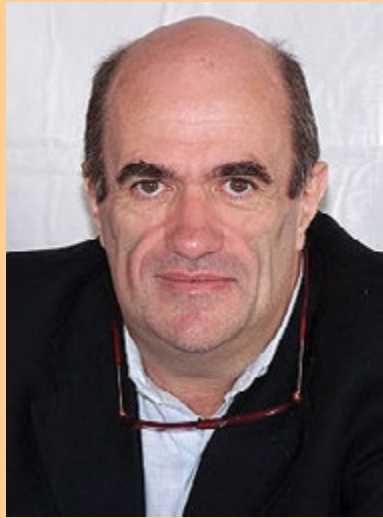
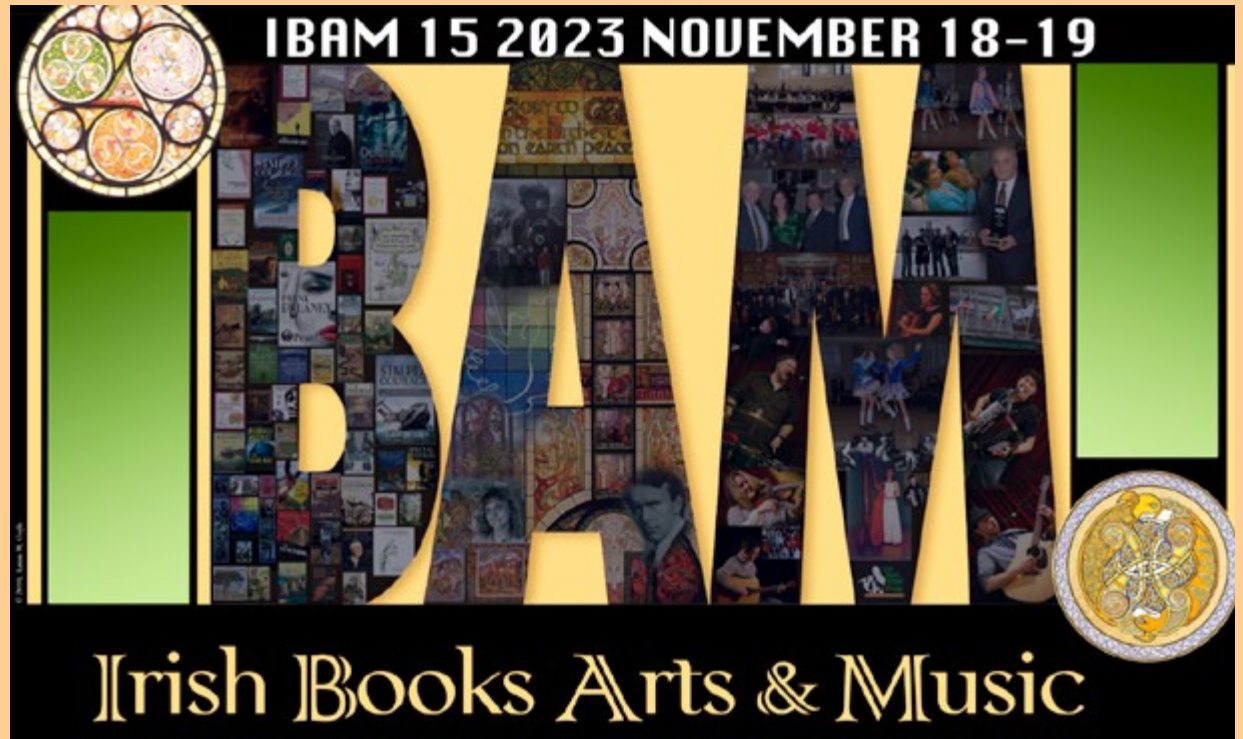
**iBAM! 15 November 18-19**

Celebrate the best in Irish Heritage and Culture at iBAM! 15, November 18, 19 2023 as we honor our *Person of the Year; Mary Pat Kelly, Colm Toibin for Literature, Eileen Dunne for Media/Journalism, and Jimmy Keane for Music.*

Additional Awardees will be announced in Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Culinary Arts, and Volunteer of the Year.

The weekend program is being filled now with authors, artists, musicians, craftspersons, storytellers, and all things Irish. If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful celebration of Irish heritage taking place at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox Ave., Chicago IL 60630, you can email [cliff@irishamericannews.com](mailto:cliff@irishamericannews.com) for more information! iBAM! is a 501 (C) (3) whose mission is to honor and present to the public the best in everything Irish.

Proceeds benefit the Irish American Heritage Center, and other non-profit Irish organizations, and individuals who contribute their skills to the event.



*Colm Toibin, Literature*



*Mary Pat Kelly  
Person of the Year*



*Eileen Dunne, Journalism*



*Jimmy Keane, Music*

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2023



IRISH AMERICAN  
HALL OF FAME

ARTS & HUMANITIES  
MARK HOWARD

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY  
JOHN SEXTON

EDUCATION  
JOHN L. LAHEY, PH.D.

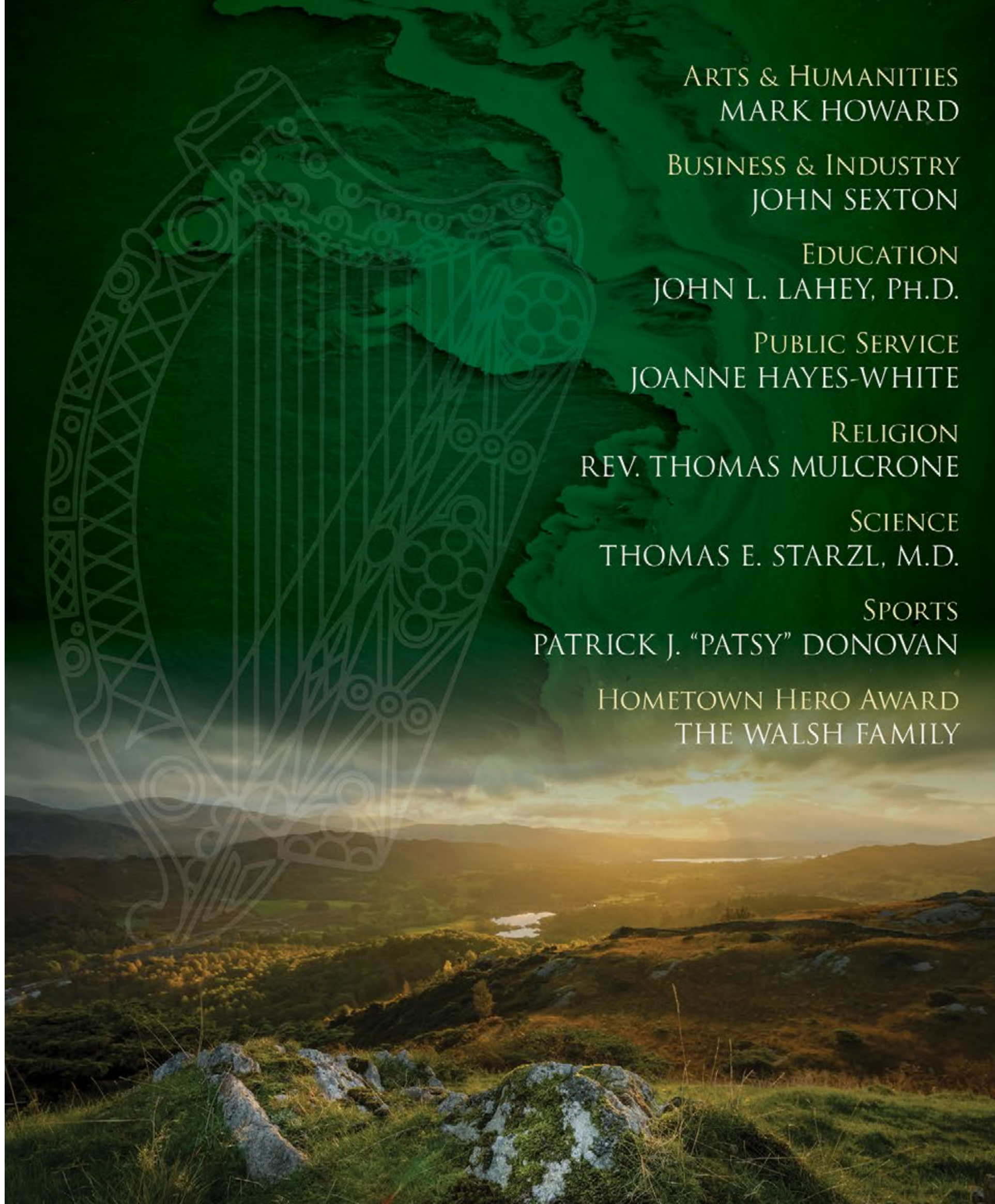
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We are honored to have our grandfather

**JOHN SEXTON**

inducted into the Irish American Hall of Fame, and we salute all the 2023 inductees. He would be thrilled and humbled by this honor! A special thanks to Bill McTighe for his support and to the Shannon Rovers, for whom he had a special place in his heart.

*May the road rise up to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face.  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.*



*And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the hollow  
of His hand.*

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Congratulations  
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on your well-deserved induction  
into the  
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### OUR MISSION

The mission of the *Irish American Hall of Fame* is to recognize and honor the outstanding contributions of Irish Americans to society in the areas of Arts & Humanities, Business & Industry, Public Service, Sports, Religion, Education and Science. The *Irish American Hall of Fame* pays tribute to exemplary Americans of Irish heritage who have truly shaped the Irish American identity in the United States.

### OUR VISION

The *Irish American Hall of Fame* preserves and promotes the “story” of Irish culture by recognizing the contributions of individuals to the Irish American experience. Telling their story preserves our story. The *Irish American Hall of Fame*, a place where the shared story of the Irish in America will then be available to all with an interest in the bond between Ireland and America.

### ABOUT US

The purpose of the *Irish American Hall of Fame* is to preserve the “story” of the Irish in America, thus becoming a resource for all Americans or those interested in the development and history of America including, but not limited to, academic researchers, teachers and students of Irish and American history at all levels, those interested in genealogy, cultural historians and the general public. The *Irish American Hall of Fame* is national in scope operated under the auspices of the Irish American Heritage Center, a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization.

### NOMINATION & SELECTION

Founded in 2010, the *Irish American Hall of Fame* accepts nominations from July through September each year. More than 700 nominations have been received from individuals in more than 30 states, Ireland and across the globe.

The Hall of Fame Governance Committee along with the Screening Committee is comprised of esteemed individuals from the Irish American community from across the country including university professors, representatives from Irish organizations, publishers and business professionals. Nominations are vetted and scored by the Selection Committee and each year the inductees are selected from nominees with the top scores in each category. This evening, we introduce you to the seven esteemed members of the Class of 2023. We applaud their talents, courage, integrity and ingenuity as they become the newest inductees into the *Irish American Hall of Fame!*

## 2023 IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



**ARTS & HUMANITIES**  
Mark Howard



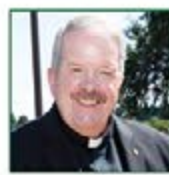
**BUSINESS & INDUSTRY**  
John Sexton



**EDUCATION**  
John L. Lahey, Ph.D.



**PUBLIC SERVICE**  
Joanne Hayes-White



**RELIGION**  
Rev. Thomas Mulcrone



**SCIENCE**  
Thomas E. Starzl, M.D.



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Patrick J. “Patsy” Donovan



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UNIVERSITY

**Congratulations, John Lahey!**

We applaud your countless contributions to Irish culture as a visionary educator, scholar and former transformational president of Quinnipiac University.

Your worthy induction into the Irish American Hall of Fame speaks to this enduring commitment.

With admiration and gratitude,

Your Q&U family

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**Congratulations**

to

**Dr. John Lahey**

Former Parade Chairman  
And  
1997 Parade Grand Marshal  
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We can think of no one more deserving of being recognized by the  
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- Timothy Rooney
- Thomas Tuffy







## THE IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME CONTINUES TO GROW!

In the past ten years, we have recognized 94 remarkable Irish Americans for their contributions to our country. This year, we add another 7 members for a total of 101 Inductees who continue to influence the arts and humanities, business, education, public service, religion, science and sports both here in the United States and throughout the world.

### 2011

- ARTS & HUMANITIES**  
Maureen O'Hara  
Eugene O'Neill  
Chief Francis O'Neill
- BUSINESS & INDUSTRY**  
Henry Ford
- PUBLIC SERVICE**  
President John F. Kennedy  
Senator George Mitchell  
Mayor Richard J. Daley
- SPORTS**  
Jack Dempsey
- RELIGION**  
Sister Rosemary Connelly,  
RSM
- EDUCATION**  
Fr. Patrick Francis Healy, SJ
- SCIENCE**  
Robert Fulton

### 2012

- ARTS & HUMANITIES**  
George M. Cohan  
John Ford  
Tommy Makem
- BUSINESS & INDUSTRY**  
Patrick G. Ryan
- PUBLIC SERVICE**  
Senator Robert F. Kennedy  
Mayor Richard M. Daley  
Speaker "Tip" O'Neill  
The Sullivan Brothers
- SPORTS**  
John L. Sullivan
- RELIGION**  
Fr. Edward Flanagan
- EDUCATION**  
Loretta Brennan Glucksman  
Emmet Larkin, Ph.D.
- SCIENCE**  
Cyrus Hall McCormick

### 2013

- ARTS & HUMANITIES**  
JAMES CAGNEY  
Harry "Bing" Crosby  
F. Scott Fitzgerald
- BUSINESS & INDUSTRY**  
Ambassador Daniel Rooney
- PUBLIC SERVICE**  
Senator Daniel Patrick  
Moynihan
- SPORTS**  
Gene Tunney
- RELIGION**  
Monsignor  
Ignatius McDermott
- EDUCATION**  
Archbishop John Carroll
- SCIENCE**  
Eileen Marie Collins  
Colonel, Space Shuttle  
Commander

### 2014

- ARTS & HUMANITIES**  
Michael Flatley
- BUSINESS & INDUSTRY**  
George Meany
- PUBLIC SERVICE**  
Commodore John Barry  
Mother Jones  
Ronald Reagan
- EDUCATION**  
Mother Mary Frances  
Clarke, BVM
- RELIGION**  
Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen
- SCIENCE**  
Major General Michael  
Collins, NASA
- SPORTS**  
Connie Mack

### 2019

- ARTS & HUMANITIES**  
Pat Roche
- BUSINESS & INDUSTRY**  
James J. O'Connor
- PUBLIC SERVICE**  
Dorothy Day  
Senator John McCain
- SPORTS**  
Jack O'Callahan
- RELIGION**  
Rev L. Scott Donahue
- EDUCATION**  
Mother Mary  
Gerald Barry, OP
- SCIENCE**  
Katherine "Kay"  
McNulty Mauchily

### 2015

- ARTS & HUMANITIES**  
John Huston  
Gene Kelly  
Bob Newhart
- BUSINESS & INDUSTRY**  
Sr. Sheila Lyne, RSM
- PUBLIC SERVICE**  
Justice  
Anne McGlone Burke
- SPORTS**  
Ben Hogan
- RELIGION**  
Fr. Jack Wall
- EDUCATION**  
Mother Frances  
Xavier Warde, RSM
- SCIENCE**  
Francis S. Collins,  
M.D., Ph.D.

### 2016

- ARTS & HUMANITIES**  
Brian Dennehy  
Frank McCourt  
Spencer Tracy
- BUSINESS & INDUSTRY**  
Denis J. Healy
- PUBLIC SERVICE**  
Governor  
Edward F. Dunne  
Thomas Francis Meagher
- SPORTS**  
Nolan Ryan
- RELIGION**  
Fr. Andrew Greeley
- EDUCATION**  
Anne Sullivan
- SCIENCE**  
Emily Hanrahan Warner

### 2020

- ARTS & HUMANITIES**  
Conan O'Brien  
Liz Carroll
- PUBLIC SERVICE**  
Jean Kennedy Smith
- BUSINESS & INDUSTRY**  
Kathleen Kennedy
- SPORTS**  
John F. McDonough
- RELIGION**  
Monsignor John "Jack" Egan
- EDUCATION**  
Fr. James F. Maguire, SJ
- SCIENCE**  
Rachel Louise Carson

### 2017

- ARTS & HUMANITIES**  
William James "Bill"  
Murray  
Martin Sheen
- BUSINESS & INDUSTRY**  
John Fitzpatrick
- PUBLIC SERVICE**  
Audie Leon Murphy
- SPORTS**  
Maureen "Little Mo"  
Connolly
- RELIGION**  
Father Mychal Judge
- EDUCATION**  
Lawrence J. McCaffrey,  
Ph.D.
- SCIENCE**  
Mark Edward Kelly  
Scott Joseph Kelly

### 2018

- ARTS & HUMANITIES**  
James T. Farrell  
Doris Kearns Goodwin
- BUSINESS & INDUSTRY**  
Charles F. Feeney
- PUBLIC SERVICE**  
Vice President  
Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
- SPORTS**  
Charles A. Comisky
- RELIGION**  
Blessed Solamus Casey
- EDUCATION**  
Ann Ida Gannon,  
BVM, Ph.D.
- SCIENCE**  
John Philip Holland



Congratulations to our partner  
**Matthew Walsh II** and his family  
for their induction into the  
**Irish American Hall of Fame!**



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**"Education is not the filling of a pail,  
but the lighting of a fire."**

—WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

Loyola University Chicago joins with the Irish American  
Heritage Center in celebrating this year's inductees  
to the Irish American Hall of Fame. Congratulations  
to all honorees.



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## Ireland's Great Hunger Bord salutes **John L. Lahey, PhD, 2023 Irish American Hall of Fame Inductee for his lifelong service to education and Irish America.**




In 2012, as president of Quinnipiac University, Dr. Lahey established Ireland's Great Hunger Museum, which aimed to educate the public about the devastating impact of the Irish Famine. Dr. Lahey was committed to preserving the history of An Gorta Mór and highlighting how that event continues to define Irish America. However, in 2020, after his retirement, the museum was closed.

In response, Ireland's Great Hunger Bord was formed to express concern for the safety of the museum collection and to offer full cooperation with the University for the sake of the public, artists, and donors. We take this occasion to salute Dr. Lahey's leadership.

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is proud to CONGRATULATE


*Fr. Thomas Mulcrone*

on his induction to the

IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

SAINT PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL

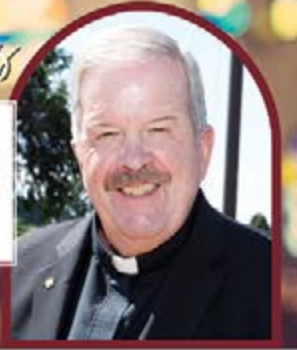


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The Walsh Family of Chicago is proud and honored to be inducted into the Irish American Hall of Fame and congratulates the other 2023 inductees.



**SAINT IGNATIUS COLLEGE PREP**

Our entire school community congratulates the 2023 Hall of Fame Inductees!!!

We are especially proud of our many alumni who are being honored tonight.

Matt '64 and Dan '65 Walsh and the entire Walsh family. Their children and grandchildren are also alumni or currently attend Saint Ignatius.

Mark Howard from the Class of 1980

John Sexton from the Class of 1930



## Midwest's Largest Scottish Event, the 37th Annual Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Returns to Aye-Tasca This June

Scotland returns to Aye-Tasca for the final time! The Chicago Scots are thrilled to bring back the Midwest's Largest Scottish Event, to Hamilton Lakes, 1 Pierce

complimentary food and beverage (12 and under) for both days, premier parking, special whisky tastings, and meet and greet with athletes.

The festival will be held at Hamilton Lakes, Itasca, Illinois, located at I-290 and Thorndale Avenue. Parking will be \$5 per vehicle for parking on both Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17 or guests may purchase a two-day parking pass for \$8. Parking passes are available online or can be purchased with cash onsite. For information, event schedules, competition registration forms, volunteer opportunities or to purchase tickets, visit [www.chicagoscots.org](http://www.chicagoscots.org) or call (708) 442-7268.



Place, Itasca, IL, on Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17. This treasured two-day summer-kickoff celebration will bring back all the crowd favorites along with some exciting new additions.

From the iconic caber toss and haggis throwing to the Grade 1 - largest and most prestigious pipe band (bagpipes and drums) championship in North America. New this year's is a cooking demonstrations with Chef Gary Maclean, the national chef of Scotland, an expansion of their kids area including a family-friendly cricket demonstration led by Tom Melville, American cricket player, teacher and author, and an opportunity to meet a Clydesdale Horse.

Whether Scottish by birth, by heritage or strictly by inclination, this family-friendly festival is not to be missed as there is truly something for everyone! All proceeds benefit the Chicago Scots, one of the world's largest Scottish cultural organizations and the oldest 501(c)3 charity in Illinois, and their principal charity, Caledonia Senior Living & Memory Care in North Riverside. Tickets are available and can be purchased by clicking here. Vendor and marketplace opportunities are still available for those interested and can sign up by clicking here.

The fest launches at 1 pm Friday, June 16 and will kick off with national and international heavy athletics champions, along with dance competitions for all ages, live Celtic rock music, and marketplace shopping for kilts, jewelry and other Scottish treasures.

The festivities continue Saturday, June 17 from 8 am- 10 pm Attendees will enjoy beer, whisky and other refreshments as they observe the Full Pipe Band competitions and men and women Heavy Athletics. Patrons can also make their way to the Celtic Rock Stage for live entertainment and watch Haggis Hurling, Haggis Eating, Knobbly Knees and more! The Games conclude with a closing ceremony and massed band show that will feature over 1,000 bagpipers and drummers performing traditional musical selections including Amazing Grace that is both moving and extraordinary.

Ticket prices are as follows:

Friday-Children 12 and under are FREE; Adults are \$20; Seniors (60+) and Active Military are \$15

Saturday- Children 12 and under are FREE; Adults are \$30; Seniors (60+) and Active Military are \$25

Two Day Pass - Children 12 and under are FREE; Adults are \$45; Seniors (60+) and Active Military are \$35

Patron Weekend Pass (21+)- \$200 includes admission to festival both days, premier parking, complimentary food and beverage service at the Patron's Tent, special whisky tastings, and meet and greet with athletes.

Patron Weekend Pass (Family Four Pack)- \$450 includes admission for two adults for both days and access to the Patron's Tent for two adults and two children with

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- Beer Tent

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**Early-bird tickets: \$10 each**  
**Kids 12 & under are free**



## CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF GOLF WITH THE IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB!

The Irish Fellowship Club will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Irish Open on Monday, July 17 at beautiful Ridgemoor Country Club at 1pm. Generations of Irish golfers will gather for an afternoon of fellowship on the links followed by a buffet reception and prizes for the winning foursomes. Says Golf Chairman John Wrenn, "We are looking forward to a fabulous event and I am sure it will again be a sellout. Please reserve your foursome today by calling our Executive Director, Kathy Taylor at (312) 858-0628 or visiting our website at [www.irishfellowshipclub.com](http://www.irishfellowshipclub.com). We are also seeking hole sponsorships which are a great way to recognize a friend or colleague or promote your business."



The cost of the event is \$550/per person, and includes all greens fees, access to the driving range, golf cart, one forecaddy per foursome, all liquid refreshments, lunch and a heavy buffet dinner. Irish Fellowship Club President Bob Flood commented, "The Irish Fellowship Club is proud to celebrate our 50-year tradition of bringing our members and guests together to support our grant program to local Catholic high schools and Irish cultural organizations through the Education and Cultural Foundation. I want to thank John Wrenn and his committee for their hard work in organizing this 50th Anniversary Golf Outing."

The Irish Fellowship Club Golf Outing, like the other Irish Fellowship Club events, provides important financial support to the Club's Education and Cultural Foundation. The Foundation makes annual scholarship grants to each of the Catholic High Schools in the Chicagoland area as well as support to Irish cultural organizations.



## The Foundation

The Irish Fellowship Club Education and Cultural Foundation is proud to continue to support Catholic high schools throughout the Chicagoland area, despite the challenges of the pandemic.

The Foundation was able to maintain its level of support to each school and provide a \$6000 grant to provide important financial assistance to a student or students in need.

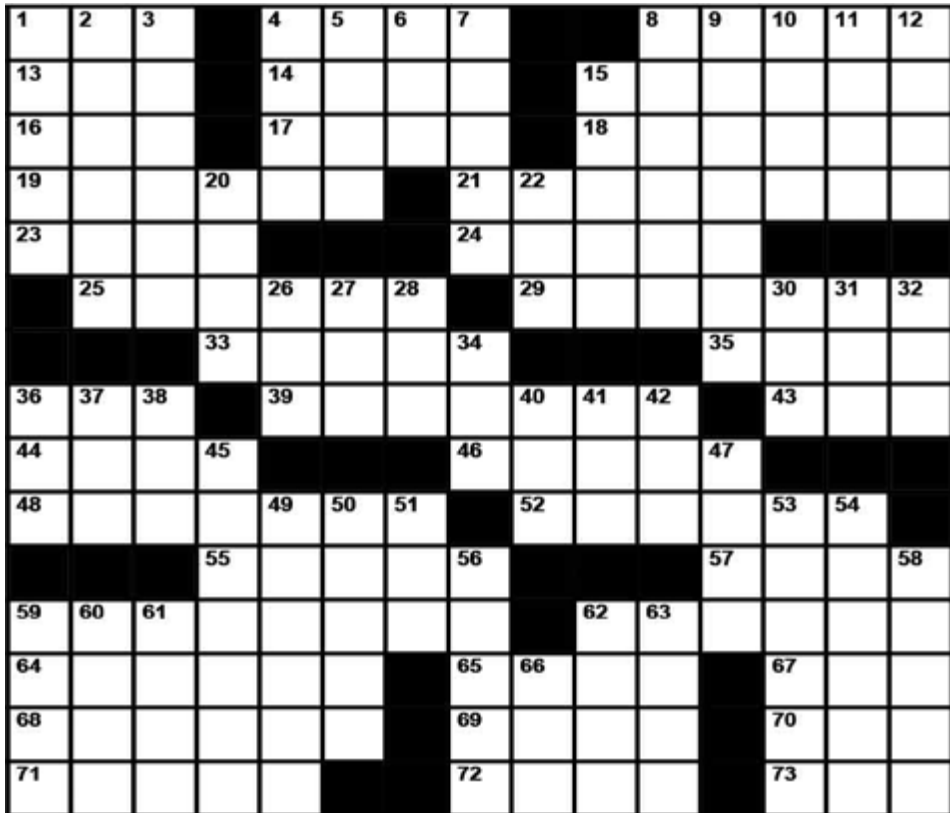
Treasurer Jack Kane works closely with the schools each year and says, "This year it was particularly important that the Irish Fellowship Club Foundation provided our grants. The schools have had a very difficult time and have more students seeking financial aid."

Our grants support families and enable students to attain an outstanding Catholic education."

### Join the Irish Fellowship Club!

### New Member Application

Last Name		First Name		Middle Name	
Street Address					
City, State, Zip					
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Street Address					
City		State	Zip	Occupation or Title	
Credit Card #		Expiration Date		CVC #	
Or you can mail this form with a \$75 check for membership dues to:					
<b>The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago</b> c/o Kathy Taylor P.O. Box 31604 Chicago IL 60631					
Mail to: Business <input type="checkbox"/>				Home <input type="checkbox"/>	
Marital status: Single <input type="checkbox"/>				Married <input type="checkbox"/>	



**ACROSS**

- 1. Go up and down, as in the water
- 4. Meat and cheese store
- 8. Florida city
- 13. Warbler Yoko
- 14. Pic you can click
- 15. Ballroom figure
- 16. Affirmative vote
- 17. Measure of potential difference
- 18. Yellow and red
- 19. English invader of 1066
- 21. Caution
- 23. Prefix to scope
- 24. Assert one's viewpoint
- 25. Narrow \_\_\_\_ (close shave)
- 29. Drink made exclusively in Ireland
- 33. One of the Carpenters band
- 35. Casual affirmation
- 36. Between
- 39. Friendly
- 43. Siegfried's partner in Vegas
- 44. "No \_\_\_\_!"
- 46. Argument, 2 words
- 48. Enter
- 52. NFL team, for short
- 55. Embellished, on a menu
- 57. "To \_\_\_\_ it may concern . . ."
- 59. Drink made in Dublin
- 62. Line to the heart
- 64. Home with a butler, perhaps
- 65. Rights grp., abbr.
- 67. Tailor
- 68. United (with "up")
- 69. Datebook abbr.
- 70. During the Potato Famine, many Irish people arrived here
- 71. Pack animals
- 72. Elliot of the Mamas and the Papas
- 73. Pig pen

**DOWN**

- 1. Irish river
- 2. Early Ping-Pong score, 2 words

- 3. Governing bodies
- 4. Successful singer
- 5. Supply-and-demand subject, abbr.
- 6. Laughter on internet, abbreviation
- 7. Halved, 2 words
- 8. 20th century Italian sculptor
- 9. In a off the wall manner
- 10. Teen's facial affliction
- 11. Ryan and Tilly
- 12. Angers
- 15. Andrea \_\_\_\_ ship
- 20. Deride
- 22. Police alert
- 26. "That's better!"
- 27. Before
- 28. Pickled delicacy
- 30. One engaged in, suffix
- 31. Former Rockets' giant
- 32. Short
- 34. "Weekend Edition" aier
- 36. Hybrid advantage, abbr.
- 37. Land of 'sweet Molly Malone'- for short
- 38. Com preceder
- 40. Sport
- 41. One as a prefix
- 42. Alabama's Civil Rights Memorial architect
- 45. Celebrity, 2 words
- 47. Orphan raised by Gus and Call in "Lonesome Dove"
- 49. French city
- 50. In need of rescuing, as a kitty
- 51. Walk-\_\_\_\_ (small roles)
- 53. Asian monkey
- 54. Most painful
- 56. Sir \_\_\_\_ Newton
- 58. How Frank Sinatra did things, 2 words
- 59. "\_\_\_\_ life!" - 2 words
- 60. Puts into service
- 61. "Take \_\_\_\_ a sign", 2 words
- 62. The Sound of Music backdrop
- 63. Tracks
- 66. Bean counter, for short



**Summer Irish Arts Kids Day Camp at the Irish American Heritage Center**

The 14th annual Francis O'Neill Irish Arts Week Kids Day Camp will run July 24-28 at Irish American Heritage Center. Presented together by the IAHC and the Irish Music School of Chicago, the Irish Arts Kids Day Camp is a unique learning opportunity for children to immerse themselves in Irish music, language,

educators all while having some great summertime fun! The world-class faculty from Ireland and the US will teach a wide range of subjects introducing them to many art forms from Ireland.

Campers will learn traditional Irish music on their choice of fiddle or tin whistle and all campers will have



singing, dancing and crafts.

Taught by master traditional Irish musicians & other educators, kids 4-11 will experience the magic of Ireland hands-on!

Campers can have a blast learning all about Irish culture during this amazing week giving them access to a wide range of Irish arts learning with some of the best traditional Irish musicians and

exposure to the bodhrán. In addition, campers will learn Irish songs, Liltin, Sean-nós Dancing, Body Percussion, Irish Language (Gaeilge), and Celtic Arts and Crafts.

**No Music Experience Necessary**  
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**Sending Cushions from Ireland to the World**

by James Bartlett

"I sent one to America again today, this time Tennessee, and they've also gone to Spain, Belgium, Italy, Canada, South Africa, the UAE, New Zealand, Australia, Japan and China," says Jennie Hughes, still finding it hard to believe that people around the world want her handmade cushions.

"No one is more surprised about it than myself!" says Jennie, admitting to being a very modest person, and not really talking about her soft and cuddly success.

"But my friends and family are exceptionally proud and encouraging," she says, recalling how she "eventually bit the bullet" and took a stall at a local craft market, "and it just snowballed from there." Since then, word of mouth has been her main marketing tool, and the social-media friendly pictures of her work brings in many requests.

Carrickfergus-born Adrian McKinty, author of the Sean Duffy series and recent thriller The Chain, which has been optioned to become a television series, posted a picture of his recently, and a small story about it:

<https://twitter.com/adrianmckinty/status/1620784321534771200>

McKinty's cushion features Samson & Goliath, the two huge, yellow cranes at the Harland & Wolff shipyard, birthplace of the Titanic, and it's one of the 24 unique selling points of Jennie's Sew&So Crafts creations.

They appeal especially to expats and their families, because they showcase Northern Irish landmarks, and are a comfy reminder of home.

"There are more designs in the pipeline," Jennie promises, adding that she only sells her cushions at one local store, but has been finding that when she goes to artisan markets, she quickly sells out.

She keeps her designs up-to-date too, and when a rare blue lobster was recently caught in Belfast Lough, a cushion with the strange crustacean was available within a few days - and all of them were quickly snapped up.

"I am lucky, and I am always busy," she says, explaining that she has been making her cushions for about six years, and that while sewing has always been a hobby, it was really only when her two children "morphed into adults, and I found I'd a bit more time on my hands, that I was able to

of her job was quality control and monitoring.

During her periods of maternity leave, she found she was transferring her skills to help Richard, a calibration/instrument engineer, and they founded their company in 1998. As Quality Manager Jennie maintains their ISO Accreditation, and she is also the Accounts Manager.

She finally gave up her nursing registration when So&Sew Crafts took its place, adding that their children Aaron, 24, who also works for the company, and Katie, 26, a Sustainability Analyst for delivery company DHL Ireland, are both big supporters.

When making a new cushion, Jennie will photograph the landmark or location, then edit the photo to portray the ideal effect that she wishes to create. That image is then digitised to create an embroidery pattern.

"It's a meticulous process which requires a lot of tweaking to arrive at the final product which I am completely happy with," she says. "Katie also appreciates the fact that any finished cushion with even a tiny imperfection ends up as soft furnishing in her own small apartment!"

Once the pattern is digitized, she uses it over and over again, and, depending on the complexity of the design, to make a cushion from start to finish takes between two to four hours.

Cushion sizes vary, usually by request, but these days, now that Sew&So is taking up more and more of her time, Hughes has stopped taking commissions for now. In fact, she admits that she has always preferred to be "the master of my own creativity."

When she does get free time, Jennie enjoys walking by the coast and spending time with friends. She also likes gardening, and looking after her many pets, which include a dog, hens and ducks. She and Richard also enjoy travelling in their Motorhome.

"This time last year we did a month in Portugal, this year we are planning a month in France and Italy around September time. We also love just heading off to the North Coast for a couple of nights, or to Donegal. Anywhere there is a beach really, and not too many people, and a chilled glass of wine. Also, going across America in a RV is definitely on my bucket list!"

And if she could take just one of her cushions on that RV trip, which one would it be?

"The one that features The Dark Hedges (the location made famous by Game of Thrones). I actually learned to drive on that road, many years ago!"



**Jennie Hughes and her pillows showcase Northern Irish landmarks**

turn it into a business." Initially working on her cushions at evenings and weekends in the family home at Islandmagee in County Antrim, Jennie spends her days at a UKAS Calibration Laboratory/Company, the engineering business that she runs with Richard, who she met at in in Belfast in 1991, and married in 1994.

Her engineering career began at age 18 in the unlikely location of the Royal Victoria Hospital in that same city.

"Being a nurse was something I had always aspired to do," she says. "I've always enjoyed helping others and find it extremely fulfilling to help people get through a difficult time."

Working her way through the ranks she reached the position of Senior Sister, where a "huge part"

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**Mercy Home President, Fr. Scott Donahue Honored by Irish American Labor Council**

The Irish American Labor Council (IALC) honored Fr. Scott Donahue for his contributions to the community at this year's annual James Connolly Dinner, held at the Countryside Banquets & Conference Center. As part of the honor, Fr. Scott's name was permanently engraved in the granite base of the James Connolly



Monument in Union Park on Chicago's West Side.

Comprised primarily of men and women working in the building trades, the IALC began as a movement to erect a monument to Irish labor leader James Connolly, who was killed by firing squad for his role in the Easter Rebellion against Great Britain in May 1916. The group worked to raise funds for the statue in Union Park commemorating Connolly's life's work on behalf of working people. Once the Council achieved their goal in 2008, they have since dedicated their efforts to aiding nonprofit organizations and have been longtime supporters of Mercy Home's mission.

Their annual dinner helps advance their work on behalf of area nonprofits. At the event, Council leaders presented Fr.

Donahue with a donation to Mercy Home. For many years, Fr. Scott had given the invocation to the dinner. But this year's dinner turned the spotlight on Fr. Scott for his years of leadership and advocacy at Mercy Home.

"What an honor," Fr. Donahue said. "What a privileged life I've had as a priest, sharing life's moments, hopes and dreams with people like you."

Reflecting on the meaning of work in our lives, Fr. Donahue praised the hundreds of union members in the audience and the IALC for their impact on our country. "You build structures. You build community. You build relationships," he said. "And you make better and enhance lives, in a world that so desperately needs it."

Fr. Scott thanked the IALC for their longtime support of Mercy Home, his friends and family for attending the event, and his Mercy Home coworkers for making possible "a mission that's so essential, especially to the young people entrusted to our care."

About Mercy Home for Boys & Girls Mercy Home for Boys & Girls (www.mercyhome.org) has been a solution for kids in crisis since 1887. It offers a safe home, emotional healing, education, and life-changing opportunities for young people and members of their families. It gives children who have suffered abuse, neglect, poverty and even abandonment the therapeutic, academic and vocational support they need to heal from the traumas of their pasts and build success for their futures. Mercy Home is almost entirely donor funded and operates at two locations in Chicago - a campus for boys in the West Loop and a campus for girls in Beverly-Morgan Park.

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Here are some of our Irish friends staying active at 90 plus! If you have someone in your life doing that, feel free to send an email with a short story and photo. We will try and get it in our next issue!



**Teresa Reilly**

is 91 years young. She was born in County Clare Ireland and was one of eight children. She was faced with a dilemma to become a nun, remain on the farm, or seek her fortune in America. At 19 she boarded a boat to New York. She got her degree as a secretary and worked for General Electric. Because she had a brother in Chicago, she moved to Chicago about 6 years later. That's where she fell in love with an OLDER gentleman (one day older), Michael Reilly. They got married and raised 5 children. She enjoys spending time with her children, her 13 grandchildren and one great grandchild. She is looking forward to meeting her second great grandchild, which is due any day. Happy Birthday, Mom! We love you!

Chicago to live with his Uncle Pat Reid at Montrose and Ashland on his 23rd birthday, January 4, 1954. Tom joined his sister Catherine "Kitty" Reid Kelly, and later they were joined by brother Michael Joe Reid, and the three all raised their families on the Northwest Side. He worked in the trades first as a laborer then as a carpenter, with local 58. He met his wife Margaret Carney Reid at a dance in Bohola, County Mayo, then and now a very trendy place (Everyone knows, or should, the ballad Three Pubs in Bohola). In 1958, after a six week courtship, they became engaged. Margaret joined Tommy in Chicago, and they were married at Our Lady of Lourdes, in the summer of 1959. He and Margaret adopted two children Patrick Donnelly and Noreen Donnelly Metcalfe, in 1969, and raised them in Our Lady of Victory parish. Tommy and Margaret have 5 grand children, and split their time between Chicago and Naples, Florida, where they have wintered for the past 25 years.



**Rose Ward Joseph**

Our mother, Rose Ward Joseph, recently celebrated her 95th birthday. She was born in Chicago on April 6, 1928. Her parents, Tony Ward and Maggie Sweeney, were both born on Arranmore Island in Donegal and immigrated to Chicago in their early 20's. When Rose was three years old, her mother took her and her 4-year-old brother Frank to Arranmore to meet the relatives. A two-month planned trip ended up lasting 2 years. While in Arranmore, Rose lived with her maternal grandmother, Rose Sweeney, who was the healer of the island. Young Rose would often accompany her grandmother on her visits. Rose attended school on the island and learned to speak Gaelic. 40 years later, she returned for a visit and said she felt like she was "coming home."

At age 19, Rose married Dave Joseph and had 8 children. The family lived in the middle apartment of a three flat building owned by Rose's parents who lived in the basement flat. Rose and Dave were married for 65 years until Dave's death in 2013. During their years together, they loved to exercise and often rode their bikes to Navy Pier. They were great dancers and often won dance contests on their cruise vacations. Rose continued taking water aerobics and conditioning classes until she was 90 years old!

After raising her children, Rose returned to work, taking a job at City Colleges of Chicago as an Administrative Assistant. She worked there for 20 years. She loved her job and the people she worked with. She earned her associate degree while working there.

Rose loves to write and often took creative writing classes. She has a large collection of her own original short stories, many of them based on her Irish heritage. Rose enjoys reading, doing crossword puzzles, and visiting with family. She's very proud of her family and her Irish heritage and has a strong Catholic faith. She celebrated her 90th birthday at the Irish American Heritage Center with a large birthday party and hopes to celebrate her 100th birthday there!



**Thomas Vincent Reid**

age 92, was born and lived his first 22 years in Carracastle, Straide, County Mayo. He came to

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With summer just around the corner I thought I would check out one of the best celebrations of food, wine and spirits in Ireland. I'm talking about the Taste of Dublin. This is a four day event from June 15 thru June 18 at Iveagh Gardens in the heart of the City. Iveagh Gardens is close to St. Stephen's Green and was designed by Ninian Niven in 1865. It was host to the Dublin Exhibition Palace in 1865. Many of the architecture and landscaping features have been preserved and it is truly a secret garden just off Harcourt Street. The Taste is a food haven celebrating artisan producers and Ireland's top culinary talent. Over 23 chefs will be hosting cooking demonstrations as well as master classes featuring cooking recipes and techniques, wine and spirits.

At the Spanish Exhibition

you will discover different regions of Spain where chefs and experts will delight you with special master classes and tastings. There is also a restaurant where visitors can treat themselves to top dishes from Spain and a shopping area to purchase all the products at the exhibition to take home. At Food for thought you get the chance



to get up close and personal with some of Irelands best culinary talent in a relaxed atmosphere. There are food tastings, panel discussions, master classes, and producer showcases from restaurateurs, chefs, and Irelands most interesting artisan producers.

Learn about food trends from new to niche, meet artisan food producers, and taste wine from many regions. There is also a skills kitchen workshop from some of Irelands most exciting culinary experts.

NEFF is a German manufacturer of high end kitchen appliances that was founded in 1876 in Munich Germany. Visit their test kitchen and see the latest appliances used to create culinary masterpieces that will appeal to any food aficionado. Learn top tricks and tips from the finest culinary talent that will inspire and ignite your cooking imagination.

To top it off there will be live entertainment on two stages that is nothing short of epic. Head to the Main Stage rock and roll good times, or stop by the

Acoustic Stage in the Archery Ground and enjoy a slower-paced vibe. From Noon until 10:30pm it's going to be nothing but blue skies and good vibes.

If you are Dublin this June you don't want to miss food extravaganza.

Tickets for the event can be purchased on-line at (<https://tasteofdublin.ie>)

Here is the perfect summer salad recipe from the taste that I added my own spin to.

**GRILLED SHRIMP AND PEACH SALAD**

Serves 2-3

Ingredients

For the salad:

12oz mixed green or arugula  
3 peaches

1 pound 16/20 shrimp head on optional  
4 oz crumbled goat's cheese

Slivered red onion

For the dressing:

2oz wheat grass

4oz plain Greek yogurt

2oz Dijon mustard

1oz agave syrup or honey

1 oz fresh lemon juice

4 oz sunflower or grape seed oil

Salt and pepper

Wash and drain greens. Pit and slice peaches ¼ inch thick. Heat griddle or grill and brush with a little oil.

Grill peaches on both sides. Remove from griddle and grill shrimp.

For the dressing place all ingredients except oil, and salt and pepper in a blender and blend until smooth. Slowly add the oil until dressing is emulsified.

Arrange salad on a platter. Top with peaches, shrimp, goat's cheese, and red onion. Drizzle with dressing and season with salt and pepper. Garnish with chives and edible flowers.

Until next month eat well



Galway Dinner: In May, leaders from the University of Galway joined local alumni at the Dearborn as part of their trip to the United States to share updates from the school and explore ways to build additional connections with supporters around the globe

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# Take Things Easy On Your Irish Vacation



*Clockwise from top left: Cycling on Valentia Island, County Kerry; The English Market in Cork City; A train passes by Mussenden Temple in County Derry/Londonderry; Hanna Hats in Donegal Town, County Donegal.*

ONE OF MY FAVORITE childhood memories is the ride to the creamery, sitting proudly beside my uncle Seán on his horse and cart after milking the cows. It was a daily occurrence for him, a small farmer in north County Kerry. For me, it was the highlight of our annual family vacation. Nevertheless I am certain that Seán enjoyed these morning trips every bit as much as I did. He would click at Billy, the enormous shire horse pulling the cargo, on the face of it to give directions, but Billy knew every inch of the three mile route. I once asked Seán why he did not use any of the motorized vehicles he owned to deliver the milk? He just smiled and winked, and asked me if I liked being up on the horse and cart, surveying the beautiful countryside. When I answered that I did, he simply said: "So do I."

That was nearly fifty years ago, and the island of Ireland has changed a lot since. But not as much as you might think. Slowing down and "smelling the roses" is still the optimal way to experience all that is on offer. Reducing the pace a bit will allow you to really appreciate the island of Ireland's scenic splendor, its history, and its culture and traditions. Taking the time to fully explore your surroundings will pay big dividends.

This legacy of history, culture, and beauty is one of Ireland's great gifts. We want to protect it for future generations. As visitors we can play a big part in this effort. One very practical way to do this is by supporting any of the thousands of proud local producers

and gifted craftspeople who have amazing offerings to share. By buying their goods, frequenting their restaurants, and spreading the word, we can do our bit to help sustain them.

Here are some suggestions of ways in which you can embrace slow and sustainable travel around the island of Ireland.

### **Walking, hiking, cycling**

There is no better way to enjoy your vacation than by getting out in the open air. Walking atop a sea cliff, alongside a river or canal bank, or on any of the majestic hills and mountains will bring you face to face with stunning landscapes and unique flora and fauna. The possibilities are almost endless but one thing is for certain, you will never be more than a stone's throw away from somewhere wonderful to stretch your legs.

There are many trails and established routes, which showcase the unspoiled beauty of the island. Some of the most stunning are to be found along the Wild Atlantic Way and Causeway Coast. Both routes hug the coastline, and are nicely varied with mountainous paths for adventurous souls, as well as gentler terrain. On the Wild Atlantic Way, the Beara, Dingle and Inishowen Peninsulas are all wonderful locations, while special mention, too, goes to the hilly routes around Achill Island in County Mayo.

The grandeur of the rugged North Antrim Coast and the deep glens set against the pastoral farmland create other worlds away from busy life.

The Copper Coast Geopark, named after the mining

industry that once prospered in Ireland's Ancient East, is a breathtaking shoreline of cliffs, coves and sea stacks.

Cycling, too, is huge in Ireland. There are many cycling stores which offer rentals at affordable prices. Most allow you to drop off at a different location for a small fee. There are a number of 'Greenways,' specially designed for cyclists, which not uncoincidentally traverse some of the most outstanding areas of natural beauty. Examples include the Great Western Greenway, which stretches from the town of Westport to Achill Island; or the Waterford Greenway, which runs between Dungarvan and Waterford City. The Kingfisher Trail covers 300 miles, and consists of landscape dominated by mountains and lakes. The trail straddles counties Fermanagh, Leitrim, Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan, and cyclists will find plenty of punchy climbs for a tough test or gently winding lanes between villages for those in search of something more modest. As for tranquil scenery, the inky waters of Lough Erne will oblige, while the Cuilcagh Mountain is a dominant presence as you head north.

### **Public transport**

Using public transport allows you to get around the island very efficiently while doing your bit to protect the environment. Every major town and city is well served with bus routes. Dublin has a train system, the DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transit), and a tram network LUAS. Train travel between counties is also very easy and in most cases quicker than driving. Dublin to Belfast, Cork or Galway for example

takes only 2.5 hours by rail. If you get a chance, take a trip on one of the old railway lines that pass through some amazingly scenic areas.

Coaches too, are an affordable and efficient way of traveling around. You can board a coach from outside Dublin Airport, for example, to almost any destination on the island for a fraction of the cost of getting there by car.

### **Supporting local food producers**

The quality of locally produced Irish food and drink is second to none. The Irish pride themselves on it. The many food festivals and epicurean-guided tours available are testament to this.

One superb way to get to meet the local producers and to taste their wares is by spending a few hours at a Farmer's Market. These community-based enterprises are to be found all across the island. Listed here are a few fine examples.

Cork's elegantly vaulted English Market is one of the oldest of its kind in the world (established in 1788) is not to be missed. Nor is the artisan food hotspot of Midleton Farmers' Market, about 16 miles east of Cork City. Darina Allen's own Ballymaloe Cookery School has a stall here, and you'll also find Frank Hederman's award-winning smoked salmon. Belfast's award-winning St George's Market operates Friday through Sunday each week. Built in the late 19th Century, it is a gourmet treasure trove and an eclectic mix of traditional and modern life in the city. The Naas Farmers' Market in County Kildare is open every Saturday,

and includes organic produce from the Wicklow hills, fresh breads, farmhouse cheeses, and sweet treats from ChocOneill Chocolates.

The island of Ireland is replete with opportunities to slow down and relax—which is what any good vacation is all about after all—whether on foot, on a bike, or even on horseback or a riverboat. Being sustainable and environmentally-friendly is also part of the deal. The Irish government has implemented many of the best practices found around the world in this effort, and the tourism industry has fully embraced these.

Shopping locally, eating locally produced food, and enjoying the natural surroundings as they were meant to be enjoyed are some of the most rewarding in which you can help.

Living in the moment is the Irish way. Bloomsday, which is celebrated on June 16 each year, commemorates the famed Irish writer James Joyce. The day is named for Leopold Bloom, the lead character in Joyce's novel *Ulysses*, written in 1922 and widely accepted as one of the finest works of literature ever written in the English language. In *Ulysses* Joyce recounts, in unique and innovative prose, the events of just a single day in the life of Bloom. Each act, each event, no matter how small or insignificant it might at first appear, becomes a story in and of itself. There is a lesson here for us all.

Take it easy if you are visiting Ireland this year, you'll get a lot more out of your trip, I promise.

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Speak to anyone who's been to Ireland and they'll always have something special to say. That's because these lands have a unique way of leaving your heart feeling truly full. It could be the warmth of the locals, often said to be the friendliest in the world. Or it could be the heart-stopping drama of our coastline, with its jagged headlands and soaring sea cliffs. Whatever it might be, isn't it time you found out?

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# Master Your Money

By Mike Corrigan



## Income for Life - In Retirement

By Mike Corrigan

Retiring is Easy - Staying Retired is Difficult. When you get to age 50 and beyond, you start thinking about how you can sustain your lifestyle after you retire & throughout your

enough money? Will it run out? It's a frightening and daunting thought.

The worse thing that could happen is you get into your 70's and find out your funds are running low. Your bills keep coming, costs

whether you retired too soon or if you should get a part time job. Yet, you worked hard all your life providing for your family. Retirement is supposed to be your reward for a lifetime of work. A time to spend being with family, doing the things you enjoy doing. The travel, the freedom. Everything you hoped for and wanted as you were saving and sacrificing for many years.

Well, having a plan where you can have Income For Life, that has the opportunity to keep up with inflation, is available and can go a long way is minimizing and hopefully, eliminating the worry of running out of money. There are income planning tools and programs that will help you have Guaranteed Income throughout your retirement. There are specialized annuity products that help with social security planning that can be customized for your specific situation that can assist you in retiring with confidence.

There are common sense approaches and Income Gap Strategies that can help you create an Income Stream to last through your retirement, so you don't have to worry about working part time or working beyond a normal retirement age. We know that retiring is the easy part. It's making sure you stay retired. That's where getting help can make all the difference in your life.

If you are between the ages of 50 to 65 you have been thinking about retiring. When can you call it quits? You know that the

number one fear in retirement today is outliving your nest egg. Outliving your income has been said to be more frightening than death itself.

In retirement, you need to manage your lifestyle off your hard-earned savings and your social security benefits. Your "Capacity" for risk is different than your risk tolerance. You react differently to market volatility in retirement when you are no longer bringing in a check from employment. You don't have the time nor the stomach to wait for the markets to claw back, particularly when you are taking money out of your savings and or retirement plan to live on.

We offer our clients a process to determine some commonsense approaches that can allow their retirement to be on auto-pilot by structuring a Guaranteed Income for Life utilizing hybrid annuities in conjunction with maximizing their social security and other diversified plans. Retirement

planning should be identifying a plan to get the income you need so you can do the things you want(dreams).

From the simple to the sophisticated there is a solution that can assist you in identifying a strategy suited for your situation. Starting early is recommended but most people procrastinate because life is busy. It's too easy to put off to "tomorrow". Tomorrow for some will be here sooner than you think. So, we need a sense of urgency to start exploring the process.

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**Money**

I was standing in an ATM machine queue some time back when I noticed a five cents coin lying in the middle of the footpath. It was very noticeable as it was a new coin and a recent shower of rain had made it look very shiny. Person after person, mostly young, looked at the coin in front of them as they approached it, but none made an effort to pick it up. After a while, an elderly couple came along, the gentleman made the effort to reach down for the coin and he then showed it to his wife.

It is only a small thing but it brought home to me once again the changes that have taken place in the past few generations. This gentleman did not need the coin, but he was from a generation where resources were much tighter and finding a coin on the ground was much rarer but regarded as a great treat if found. As the saying goes, if an opportunity like this was spurned: 'you'll chase a crow across a field for a piece of bread yet'.

In our modern world there are many who have more than they need while others are facing certain death because they have nothing. Many are good at giving, while others are not. It would be nice if people who have far more money than they will ever need would consider giving a small percentage of it away to help others less fortunate and lead us into a fairer and more equitable society. It is little use throwing food at people who are starving and we must teach them how to harvest it productively for themselves. To quote the old Chinese proverb: 'Give me a fish and you feed me for a day, teach me to fish and you feed me for life'.

We may not be able to orchestrate world logistics like Bob Geldof or have the deep pockets of Chuck Feeney but we should always be on the lookout to give something back if we have a little bit extra to spare. It need not be money either, even the friendly saying of 'hello' to elderly people who do not hear the human voice often enough these days is a priceless gesture.

Philanthropy is largely described as a love of mankind, often shown by giving money for the benefit of others. This was manifested very much some years ago when Warren Buffett pledged \$31 billion to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He chose this particular foundation as it was already well established over the years and he had come to know Bill and Melinda on a personal level. It was also announced around this time that Bill Gates would take a back seat with Microsoft to concentrate on charitable works.

The USA has a strong history of philanthropy with Ted Turner donating \$2 billion to the United Nations in recent years and also the work of Andrew Carnegie in the previous century. It was Carnegie who said: 'huge fortunes that flow in large part from society, should in large part be returned to society'

Overall, generous practitioners of philanthropy will help enormously and it should also be an example to others who are sitting on static wealth to release it for the benefit of others less fortunate. We have the resources and capability to eradicate world hunger, but we choose not to do so. Sometimes we can have a distorted view in relation to money, in that we imagine

the man with lots of it is happy because of his wealth, and that people without money are unhappy. Life is best enjoyed if we can keep our needs simple.

'Never forget that it takes very little to live a fulfilled and happy life' - Marcus Aurelius.

In February 2011, Feeney became a signatory to The Giving Pledge. In his letter to Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, the founders of The Giving Pledge, Feeney writes, "I cannot think of a more personally rewarding and appropriate use of wealth than to give while one is living—to personally devote oneself to meaningful efforts to improve the human condition."



Chuck Feeney

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# Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler



I've gone to the dogs!  
This month I will explain what Irish Coursing is for people who never heard of it. As I get older, I look at animals differently and

see them spiritually. For example, a hare represents something new on the horizon. In Irish hare is giorria. The Irish money we used to have with pounds and pence,

had animals on the coins. On the three pence piece was a hare.

Coursing is when a greyhound pursues a hare by sight not by scent. It was a hunting technique that turned into sport. They have two dogs chase the hare and compete and are judged by their twists. Hares are fast, they can run about 40 mph.

You need a license to hunt. The hunting is all regulated, there are rules and regulations to the association, they are very strict that people adhere to them. There is an association of Irish Coursing and they hold coursing meetings yearly in Tipperary. Coursing is illegal in the US and England. To better understand what it looks like, coursing has been in movies. Movies such as, *Mighty Celt*, *Man about dog* and *Snatch*. However, I would like to say that I am on the side for banning this sport. I feel it is cruelty to animals and I would definitely not be in favor of this kind of thing. I don't think it's nice to see an animal running for

its life! I think people should be happy that they can go greyhound racing. You can have plenty of enjoyment watching the dogs chase the mechanical hare!

I will leave you with this story: In the middle of the vast forest, a battle was going on between two armies. One army was outnumbered in terms of soldiers by the other.

The General of the small army decided to launch an attack as he was confident that they could win the battle. So, he called his Lieutenant and told him to get soldiers ready for the fight. The Lieutenant called all the soldiers and informed them about the plan of attack on the enemy army. Soldiers were ready to battle. But they had fears and doubts as they were low in numbers compared to the enemy army. The day for the battle came. General knows about the doubts of his soldiers. When they were on the way to the battle, General told all his soldiers to halt at a religious shrine for

prayer. After the prayer, General stood in front of his soldiers with a coin in his hand and said, "With faith in destiny, I will now toss the coin, if its heads, we will win, and if its tails we will lose." General tossed the coin, and it was head. Soldiers were happy and filled with confidence going into the battle. They went to the battle and executed their plan perfectly with the fearsome attack against the enemy soldiers. The enemy army was taken back by the kind of attack from the small army. Finally, the small army won the battle. After the battle, the Lieutenant told the General, "As the destiny showed us through the toss of the coin, we won the battle. So, no one can change the destiny". General smiled and showed Lieutenant the coin, which had heads on both sides.

Moral of the story: Hope is like a light at the end of a dark tunnel. If we believe in ourselves it will lead to positive results in our life.

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



There is a nice video on our Irish American News Facebook page as Galways' Jackie Prattl, a soon to be American citizen, sings a heartfelt 'Danny Boy,' to Sean O'Neil as they celebrated the life of his recently departed wife, Judi. Thanks to Elizabeth Rinkenberger who took the video at the Irish Patriot, 9875 W 143rd street in Orland Park, and was so moved by it that she sent it to us to share with you!

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### Dedicated Partner in Parenting for New Moms

By Kathy Hererra,  
Program Director

When Lana Carnazzola started looking into placements for the internship she must complete as part of her masters in social work, she thought of the Catholic Charities Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services program.

She had been a participant in the program nearly six years before, and she wanted to make the same difference for others that the program made for her at a difficult time in her life.

"In general, that period of my life was a period of crisis for a few years," said Carnazzola, who became a mother at 20 while pursuing her bachelor's degree. A friend of her mother's suggested the program to help with her struggles. "It's not that [the

program] solved all my problems, but I think I felt more aware of the resources that were available and ... I was a better advocate for myself."

This program, based in Lake County, aims to offer hope, respect and understanding to anyone experiencing an unexpected or otherwise difficult pregnancy. Pregnancy and parenting support specialists work with parents - while most clients are mothers, fathers are welcome - to develop an individualized plan based on their specific situation and needs. Services can include preparation for birth, referrals for prenatal care; information about child development, breastfeeding or self-care; and referrals to other programs or services.

Generally, participants receive services through pregnancy and for up to the first 18 months of the child's life. The services also include home visits that include developmental assessments of the child, support and information, including checks to ensure the



child is receiving the necessary medical care.

The program focuses on the importance of the first few years of a child's life. Parents need support, and it is a key time for exponential growth for them, too. Case workers can connect clients with other programs for

items such as clothes, diapers, car seats or subsidized daycare, among others.

Case managers also help clients develop a plan to work toward their goals and then check in with them as they execute on those plans. They meet with clients in offices in Waukegan or Round Lake, but if clients do not have reliable transportation, case workers will meet with them closer to home.

Carnazzola said one of her clients is now looking for a job. They discuss leads and which opportunities will work best based on her transportation needs, work together on resumes, role-play interviews and generally check in. She also has helped a client think through a plan to buy a car, including finding the appropriate price range, determining where the

money would come from and how to save it, anticipating other costs like registration, plates and insurance and other support she may need.

"I feel good when ... I can see that I'm making a difference and providing the same assistance that I had received as a client," Lana said.

Carnazzola, whose son is now 6 and in kindergarten, is the first former client of this program to return as an intern or staff member, but she sees it as a powerful statement.

We believe our services are positive, but to get that reinforcement that Lana wanted to give back because it had been impactful in her life - that's what we want.

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**IRISH FILM SHOWCASE**

**Wednesday 21st June**  
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Step into the world of Irish cinema with a collection of award-winning short films featuring a diverse range of themes and genres. Don't miss out on this captivating cinematic journey!

Chicago Gaelic Park

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**Wednesday 14th June**  
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Michael Londra

## Aer Lingus Makes Popular PBS Travel/Music Series Available to Transatlantic Passengers This Summer

*"Ireland with Michael" Season 3 will be part of the airline's in-flight programming on North American routes*

Popular PBS travel and music show, "Ireland with Michael" has announced that Aer Lingus, Ireland's Airline, will feature the show as part of its inflight entertainment offerings this summer. The eight 30-minute episodes of Ireland with Michael Season #3, will be available to passengers on all Aer Lingus 15 transatlantic routes, beginning July 1st, 2023.

This summer Aer Lingus will operate its largest ever North American summer schedule to date, with over 2.25 million transatlantic seats on sale across 15 routes including the restart of

Hartford, CT in March, and the introduction of Cleveland Ohio on May 19, 2023. Aer Lingus has the fifth largest transatlantic hub in the world at Dublin, and key top routes (Boston, New York JFK, Chicago, and Washington D.C.) will operate double-daily from the U.S. during peak summer times. The airline also operates three direct transatlantic routes from Manchester to Orlando, New York JFK, and Barbados.

The Ireland with Michael T.V. series, hosted by renowned Irish tenor Michael Londra, shines a spotlight on Irish culture, music, and history through the

eyes of its greatest assets, its artists. The show's popularity and audience reach continued to grow since its U.S. debut on PBS in May 2021. To date, episodes from Seasons 1-3 have aired over 21,000 times in 48 States, and broadcast into 97% of all U.S. Households. \* Season #4 will begin shooting in Ireland mid-May and will launch on PBS in Spring 2024.

*"I took my first Aer Lingus flight to JFK 34 years ago and still have the ticket. Since then, they've always brought me home. In many ways I feel like I am home already when I*

*board an Aer Lingus flight. I am delighted they have chosen to add Ireland with Michael to their top-class inflight entertainment program, as I am excited to share the greatest things about Ireland with Aer Lingus passengers."*

**Michael Londra**

In each episode of the TV show Michael takes viewers on an intriguing journey to popular and lesser-known Irish destinations to learn about Irish history, meets local artisans, experience small-town pubs and food, and enjoy unique musical and cultural experiences. He combines glorious video footage of Ireland's storied

landscapes and destinations with exciting cultural experiences and performances from Irish stars.

Ireland with Michael Season #3 also features interviews and performances with Ireland's best-known creatives such as Darina Allen, Louis Mulcahy, Clannad, Riverdance, Tenor Gavin Ring and Aoife Scott, as well as showcasing up-and-coming talent; flautist Tiernan Courell, Sasha Terfous (Wexford Poet Laureate), traditional music band Ceól, Damian and Shauna McGeehan, harpist Una Walsh and trad duo Shelly O'Grady and Cormac O'Hanlon.



**Queen's University:** This spring, Loyola University Professor Molly Melin (pictured in the green coat and purple gloves) led a group of students to Belfast on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, where they studied the implications of the Northern Ireland Troubles in the context of conflict in their own lives.

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I'm sure you've heard about the Writers Guild Strike - in a sentence, it's over revenue and royalty shares from the now-dominant world of streaming, and about worries over the use of AI (i.e., potentially replacing writers entirely) - so you can see why they have taken to the picket lines).

As a result, almost all TV shows and movies have come to a juddering halt, especially any with American connections, and since other crew members usually stop work in solidarity too, Hollywood is now waiting to see what happens.

Even so, I'm still going to give you the news about movies that are filming (or were planning to) in Ireland, or are coming down the pipeline in the future, but for now we'll start with one that is due to get its premiere this month.

The Miracle Club is taking a bow as the Official Selection in this year's Tribeca Film Festival in New York, as part of the Spotlight Narrative strand.

Directed by Emmy nominee Thaddeus O'Sullivan (Vera, Call the Midwife), the story follows three close friends (Laura Linney, Maggie Smith and Kathy Bates) who have never left the outskirts of Dublin (much less Ireland) on the journey of a lifetime - a visit to Lourdes, the picturesque French town, and place of miracles.

The Miracle Club is based on the screenplay by Irish screenwriter Jimmy Smallhorne, co-written by Joshua D. Maurer and Timothy Prager, and also features Oscar nominee Stephen Rea and Agnes O'Casey in its main cast.

A co-production between Ireland and the UK, it shot on location in Dublin and Wicklow last year, and after the Tribeca Film Festival, which runs from 7th to the 18th this month, we should see it on our screens sometime soon.

Back in Wicklow again, and principal photography has begun on Small Things Like These, with the cast and crew arriving in New Ross for four weeks of

filming.

Cillian Murphy (Peaky Blinders, the upcoming Oppenheimer) will star in the adaptation of the book by Irish author Claire Keegan. Actors Emily Watson (God's Creatures) and Ciarán Hinds (Belfast) will feature alongside, and the screenplay was adapted by Enda Walsh, long-time collaborator of Cillian Murphy on theatrical productions such as Grief Is The Things With Feathers.

Set in an Irish town in 1985, the film follows coal and timber merchant Bill Furlong (Murphy) as he struggles with his conscience and the fear of standing up to church powers after he discovers the convent's treatment of unmarried mothers and their babies.

Quay Street, O'Hanrahan Bridge, Conduit Lane, and Michael Street will feature as shooting locations, with other locations under consideration, and the cast and crew of 80 people will be based in St Joseph's School on Michael Street, and the Old Fire Station on Davitt Road.

Fresh off her Oscar-nomination for the Banshees of Inisherin, Kerry Condon has been announced as joining Brad Pitt in Apple Studios' currently untitled F1 racing film from director Joseph Kosinski (Top Gun: Maverick).

Produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, Chad Oman and seven-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton, the story follows Pitt as a racer who comes out of retirement to mentor a younger driver and join the younger driver as his teammate. Condon is set to play the team's Technical Director, overseeing the design and development of the race car.

Condon is super-busy right now: she will be seen next with Jude Law in Star Wars: Skeleton Crew, directed by Jon Watts and written by Chris Ford (Spider-Man: Homecoming), and will also star in supernatural thriller Night Swim alongside Wyatt Russell.



She is also slated to join the cast of In The Land Of Saints And Sinners alongside many of her fellow Irish natives including Liam Neeson, Ciarán Hinds, Sarah Greene, Colm Meaney, Jack Gleeson, and Seamus O'Hara (An Irish Goodbye).

Another actor nominated for his touching performance in Banshees, Barry Keoghan, is reported to be playing Emperor Geta in Ridley Scott's highly anticipated Gladiator Sequel, joining another Irish nominee, Paul Mescal (Aftersun) who is playing protagonist Lucius (the grown-up nephew of Joaquin Phoenix's Commodus from the original 2000 movie).

Plot details are currently under wraps, and it has not been confirmed whether any cast members from the original will be returning. The sequel was officially greenlit by Paramount Pictures in 2018, with a screenplay by Peter Craig (The Town, The Batman), and legendary director Scott is set to begin production on the film once he has wrapped his upcoming biopic Napoleon starring Phoenix as the French political leader.

Reports of a sequel have been swirling since the original movie, and Gladiator 2 is currently set to arrive around Thanksgiving 2024 - but I'm sure a lengthy WGA strike might affect that, so we'll have to wait and see...



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## Claudia Buckley Fundraiser for St. Jarlath's Youth GFC A Huge Success

Ireland's country superstar Claudia Buckley and her stellar 4-piece band played to a sell out crowd in Chicago's Gaelic Park on Saturday, May 20th.

The fundraising concert was organized to help defray travel costs for the St. Jarlath's Youth GFC families as they travel to the 2023 Continental Youth Championships in San Francisco this summer. Buckley, who is from Athenry in Co. Galway, and the daughter of fellow Irish country star Jimmy Buckley, had the crowd on the dance floor the entire night in her very first show in the USA!

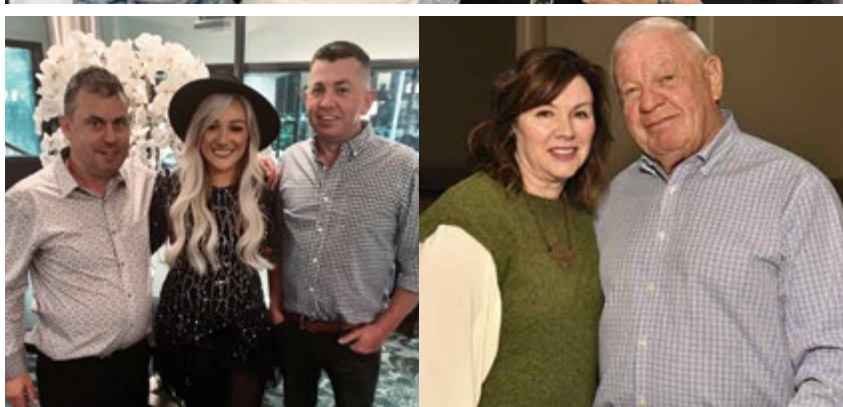
The crowd of nearly 450 people who attended gave a warm welcome to the young artist, who would love to add America to her growing fan base.

The following day, Claudia brought her incredible show to Martyrs' on

the Northside of Chicago and had the crowd of all ages from 13 to 80+ dancing and singing along to her mix of traditional Irish songs, pop and country music covers, and original music.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the events, as well as the sponsors, Irish hours and IAN for the publicity which helped make it such a success.

Please try to catch Claudia next time she returns to the US.



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