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Story page 7



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The Shadow of Gay Byrne

On November 5th, 2019, the day after veteran broadcaster, Gay Byrne, died, Ryan Tubridy, who then presented the Late Late Show, visited the Mansion House in Dublin to sign the book of condolences. He wrote there: 'You wrote the rule book—we all followed'. Doubtless Tubridy intended to salute Byrne's flair as a presenter, his connection with the Irish public, his role in modernising public broadcasting through bringing serious themes to the airwaves and to the television. Yet in another respect too—in his attitude towards, and negotiation of, his salary—Byrne indubitably wrote the rule book for an elite at RTÉ. Now, decades later, the damage that that has done to the national broadcaster

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



has been revealed.

In 1962, Byrne became the first presenter of the Late Late Show, a show he continued to present until 1999. He was also its producer. It became, and remains, RTÉ's flagship programme and it is the second-longest running talk show in television history. By the 1990s, as child sex abuse scandals rocked the Catholic Church's supremacy in Ireland, the Late Late Show became more and more liberated to explore the horrific secrets of Irish life. This was a tack the show had taken over the decades, but it was hobbled

by interventions by the church and state. As a consequence of the fallen idols in Irish society, Byrne attained in the 1990s an editorial strength unparalleled in his career.

Byrne had always negotiated his own fee. By the 1990s, with the burgeoning economy bringing more money than ever into RTÉ and his own retirement looming, Byrne saw the leverage he could exercise over RTÉ executives. He also knew that opportunities would open for him if he defected from RTÉ. As he put it, speaking about himself in the third person as he was sometimes apt to: 'It wasn't until the prospect of commercial radio and TV came over the mountain that RTÉ decided they couldn't afford to lose Gay Byrne that they made me a better offer'.

an older male hitting the road.

Several aspects of Gay Byrne's legacy inform the scandal that has engulfed the national broadcaster. Firstly, as Tubridy unwittingly put it, Byrne wrote the rule book for the price that self-entitled RTÉ presenters put on themselves. Secondly, Byrne lent validation to the self-evident falsehood that the Irish public have no right to know RTÉ presenters' salaries (or indeed the salary of anyone at the national broadcaster). Thirdly, the show he built blended, more than any other, commercial interests with public broadcasting, a mixture that has had devastating consequences for the integrity of the latter. The channel has even commercialised its own heritage. For example, today independent filmmakers or researchers wishing to access the archive at our national broadcaster are informed that they must deal with (and pay high rates to) the 'separate commercial entity' that administers the archive.

On June 29th of this year, RTÉ's chief financial officer Richard Collins appeared before a governmental hearing to answer for RTÉ's payment scandals, misreporting and concealments. In the course of questioning, Collins was asked how much he earns. Collins dismissed the enquiry on the basis that it was a 'private matter'. The chair, Brian Stanley TD, intervened and encouraged a substantive answer. Collins then said

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He negotiated hard and got his deal. Even now, decades later, mystery still surrounds his salary. What is clear is that no other presenter at RTÉ was ever to quite reach the leverage that Byrne had, even in the bloated years of the Celtic Tiger. Byrne was unassailable in his position that his salary was his own affair only, despite working for a public broadcaster.

One of the most salient aspects of the Late Late Show under Byrne was its hyper commercialisation. Product placement was, it seemed, monitored in the public broadcaster's shows but openly flouted in the Late Late Show. Neither was the show complete without a giveaway for 'everyone in the audience'. Both the live audience and the bulging 650,000 television audience lapped it up. In other countries, public broadcasting was and remains a great deal more cautious about association with commercial interests and endorsements. The Late Late Show, by contrast, cornered the market of plugs, promotions, showcases and baubles. Byrne's retirement gift from U2, a Harley-Davidson, was duly wheeled out on set on his last show, and that symbolised the show's materialism just as much as

the following: 'I don't know what my exact salary is off the top of my head. I believe my salary is around 200,000 euro plus a car allowance of 25,000 euro'. The televised enquiry showed quite how long it took Collins to decide to disclose his salary. Over a minute or so he appeared to pivot from a position in which his salary is his own affair to answering the governmental enquiry and the Irish people what he is paid.

How likely is it that it occurred to Collins, or any other executive or 'talent' at RTÉ, that the culture of telling the Irish public to keep their noses out of how their money is spent at RTÉ stems from Gay Byrne? Nobody in the history of RTÉ has been so lionised as Byrne. Much of the praise heaped upon his achievements is justified. Yet he also considerably led RTÉ in the direction of a culture of secrecy and entitlement that has contributed to its present woes. Over the past two months, many platitudes have been voiced about the need to learn from the mistakes at RTÉ since the depth of its corruption was exposed in June. If RTÉ is serious about learning about its mistakes, it could begin by re-evaluating the legacy of Gay Byrne.

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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

I am taking the liberty of assuming readers of Irish American News are familiar with grief. Whether young or old we have experienced it in one form or another. A loved one passes, our old crotchety Granny is buried out in the country graveyard on a furiously wet day in County Louth as adults and children ponder the role Granny Hamill played in our lives.

Even as children, when we begrudged and ignored her taunting and bellowing we stand

at her grave knowing in our gut we will miss the old banshee! Grief is cunning. It has its own way with us and lingers a long time until suddenly one day it lifts. We praise God and say a prayer for the departed whether man, woman or favorite four legged house pet.

Grief still lingers with me over the recent death of Sinead O'Connor and I mourn her passing. A bright light of truth, focus and fearlessness in her music and song, her voice radiating like a

torch of light separating free of charge the wrongful dealings of church and state.

The Irish, unable to hear, closed their ears and eyes, looked the other way as she lamented the wholesale sexual abuse of children by priests not just in Ireland but elsewhere. She slammed the Vatican and was criticized, chastised, slandered and largely written off.

However, on the morning of her funeral, the theatrical drive by her home in Bray, the flowers, the crowds, clergy spouting a few words of praise about the deceased rang hollow to my ears. I actually felt an enormous deluge of rage that this young woman lying in a coffin en route to an Irish graveyard was so distained, persecuted, ridiculed and beat up by the Irish. Where were these crowds, did they take a gander back when the young talented singer and speaker of truth spoke out about the evils going on around them? They never listened, and perhaps facing her death swathed in grief realizing too late the gift of knowledge and awareness Sinead O'Connor delivered. Unfortunately, the prophet is without honor in her own time. May she rest in peace

and sing where she's surrounded with angels in Heaven resting in the arms of God and his Mother.

On another subject, Being reared in Ireland in the late thirties it seemed to me everyone had grandparents. For a long time I only had a granny on my mother's side on account of my grandfather being a blacksmith away in London working with other blacksmiths building the high railings surrounding Buckingham Palace. I'm told that Michael Hamill who married my Granny, the pair producing maybe six or seven children, maybe more, though several die. At some point I was informed the railings were erected to keep out the crowds sniffing around the palace grounds. Nothing has changed, the railings keep the inquisitive snoops out and when the job was complete Grandpa's name was etched on a railing. Try as my family did over the years we never found the etching. When Grandpa returned to my Granny's house, he never spoke, sat by the fire wore a brown felt hat, smoked a pipe and just sat like a dope. One Christmas he sat in our parlor in a wing backed chair. When he got up I noted the cushion was filled with tea leaves and I quietly decided he was peeing tea leaves, definitely a sign he was dying. I whispered the revelation to my Mother who laughed, calmed me down and said he just spilled his tea. I inquired why he never spoke and she said, "He's just odd." Odd or not he was not as odd as my Granny. On Saturday mornings, at the age of 13, I was dispatched to her wee house on Bachelor's Walk in Dundalk an uphill walk to the main street. Granny wore her long black coat, her fox fur, black gloves, good shoes, and a handbag. She'd pause at the top of the street and take her position over the large square grating, spread her legs and urinate much like a horse, the steam rising so people passing could see her goal. Finishing she patted her black coat several times with the handbag to dry herself. On those Saturday mornings I died fearing a school chum would see the antics I hid in a nearby shop doorway. When I was older and with friends I did impressions of her to uproarious



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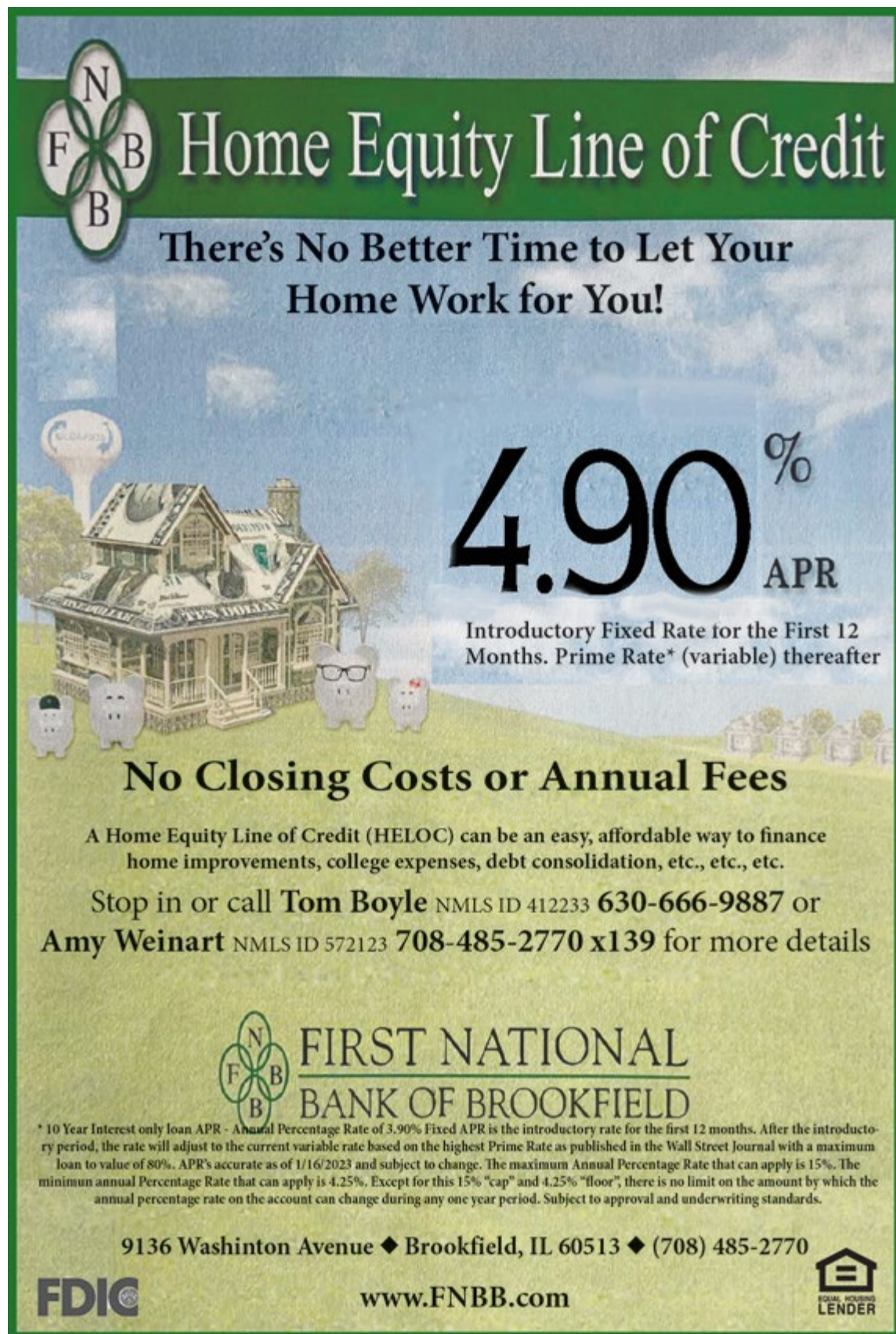
laughter. Seeking penance as a young one with the deaf priest at the Marist College I confessed my sin ridiculing my granny when I was young. The priest was deaf so I'm not sure of absolution. If there is a clergyman reading this long held confession would he reach out so we can pray together. My phone number is listed at the bottom of this tale.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Lamas and Witches & Conmen... Oh My!

'Bang-Bang'. He was one they mentioned. This was when I left Limerick in 1983, where I'd been working for the previous few years, and moved to Dublin for a while. The old-timers there would talk about the characters who were no more, of Dublin 'in the rare aul' times'. Like Bang-Bang, who would sneak up behind women at bus stops and SCREAM his catch-phrase in their ears, nearly giving them heart attacks.

Years pass and now I'm an old-timer myself, remembering some of the characters I knew then: like the little old nun who would march up and down Grafton Street, carrying a huge crucifix that was near as big as herself, still angry that the Church had accepted Vatican II; or the ever-so-refined lady who would preach endlessly in O'Connell Street, whilst dancing away to a tune that only she could hear...

These past days I've been writing a few things to coincide with the first anniversary of Silent Cinema Galway, and thoughts of the past were very much with me. There might be a few Irish ex-pats reading, so here's a truncated version of one of them. . . .

Once upon a time there were few things that I enjoyed more than a lazy afternoon of browsing around the curious little shops and unusual, hidden-away nooks and crannies of the enchanting Temple Bar area of Dublin. And when you see me refer to Temple Bar as 'enchanting', then you'll guess that it's not today or yesterday that I'm talking about.

No, this was so long ago that the Boomtown Rats had a couple of great albums out that I played constantly, that sepia-toned yesteryear before Geldof turned into today's colossal windbag.

It was a time when we thought that the height of sophistication was to have a slice of Black Forest Gateaux, washed down with some Le Piat D'Or, a red wine so versatile that it doubled as turpentine.

I refer to the mid 'eighties, before the Powers That Be set off to gentrify Temple Bar and instead turned it into a Screaming Hell that only the deranged could enjoy visiting --- the deranged or Stag and Hen Parties. Same difference, really.

I fell in love with the area; with its small coffee shops and street people who were often a living theatre all of their own.

Just before you came to the Ha'penny Bridge (where you crossed the Liffey and left the

district) there was a fabulous blink-and-you-miss-it place that sold film stills both old and new, as well as film posters and lobby cards. Lobby cards! Now there's a thing of the past.

For anyone under the age of...oh, sixty or so these were sets of postcard-sized images that were displayed at the opening or in the lobby of those wonderful old cinemas that we called Picture Palaces. Talking of which, the last of them was then still at the end of O'Connell Street, standing in faded, slightly-past-it glory. This was The Ambassador and it was marvelous.

It had a balcony and a separate staircase for the females which carried the legend 'Ladies' Powder Room'. It was a nice little touch of soon-to-be vanished glamour in a world that was becoming increasingly vulgar. Stick up a sign like 'Ladies' Powder Room' today and dozens would be killed in the rush to get free cocaine.

Anyway, I haunted this memorabilia shop for a while, the more so because the young assistant was gorgeous, personable, enthusiastic and knowledgeable about what she was selling.

Look at that list. She wouldn't have a hope of being employed today. Her CV would have to say: rude; don't give a toss about the job; disinterested; don't like to be bothered when I'm on the phone and can you wait a bloody minute, I'm touching up my lipstick, are you blind?!

There was another shop that I recall with affection called The Alchemist's Head, which was diagonally across from the Marxist-Leninist Bookshop. And that of course is kind of charming in its own weird way as it gives you an idea of how honestly diverse the place was back then, when just using a word like 'diverse' didn't mean the beginning of a lecture.

Tiny though it was, I could have spent hours in The Alchemist's Head. It was run by two ladies who were at their table counter most days. One was an American who for some reason I recall as living out in the country and owning a couple of wolves. Bloody Hell, could that be right? And yet I think she did.

Now I had better add here that I intend this walk down Memory Lane to be done without the help of Mr. Google - I'm trying to hold onto the few brain cells I still have in working order -- although I will happily take an email from anyone out there who recalls what I'm talking about.

There was another guy who was very good-natured and who worked there part-time, filling

in for the American whenever she was in the Company of Wolves, I suppose. (Geddit? Boom-boom!) Des was his name and he played with a stone cold brilliant post-punk band called The Golden Horde. Another member of that group was Simon Carmody who I think may still live in Dublin, I'm not sure.

God, I haven't thought of the Horde in years. Like The Blades, they should have become huge but didn't. Although I do recall many a happy Monday evening, drinking in The Baggot Inn and listening to the band that Paul Cleary formed later, The Partisans. Go online and dig up The Blades' Dublin City Town. You'll thank me.

Anyway, The Alchemist's Head sold this crazy mish-mash of things and kind of epitomized Temple Bar for me. There was an emphasis on witchy stuff, naturally, with Tarot Cards and crystal balls for sale. Then there were some pretty expensive BIG important looking books by that old Black Magic charlatan Aleister Crowley, who somehow seems more harmless and loveable as time goes by; and paperbacks from more modern chancers like the exiled Tibetan lama, Dr. Tuesday Lobsang Rampa, who lived in County Wicklow for a while.

This guy told the most astonishing stories - beginning with The Third Eye -- of his early life in the Himalayas during the 30s and 40s, learning the noble art of astral projection and visiting the UFOs which are hidden in underground caverns there. Presumably the Chinese have them now.

In reality he was a plumber from Devon called Cyril Hodgkin who figured he was never going to get rich by fixing burst pipes and instead started a nice little earner in writing books about Tibet (which he'd never been next nor near to) and providing a sideline where he sold monk's robes, touchstones and you name it, Lobsang/ Cyril had it.

It took a suspicious expert on Tibet to raise his eyebrows and hire a private detective who turned up the truth. Lobsang explained that his spirit had entered the body of Cyril after that worthy fell out of a tree and banged his head while owl-spotting. As you do.

People said: 'That seems like a reasonable explanation as to why this Tibetan lama is the spitting image of an English bloke'; Lobsang went on to write over a dozen more books; and the loot continued to roll in. You have to love guys like that.

So how do I come to be rambling on with this wander around the Temple Bar area of forty years ago? Well.... And if you want the answer to that you'll have to go to Silent Cinema Galway. The answer is banal and uninteresting, but the site is pretty good, if I say so myself.

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Mark McNabola's Story

"If Ancestry.com is correct, I'm about as Irish as one could get," said McNabola, who has an encyclopedic knowledge of his ancestors' history from Ireland to Chicago. His family on his mother's side came to Chicago prior to the Chicago Fire, and his great uncle - Fr. John Smith - was a Vincentian priest from County Cavan who founded the St. Vincent DePaul church in Lincoln Park in 1890. Fr. Smith also helped to start St. Vincent University, which ultimately became DePaul University at the turn of the century; in fact, the land where the Lincoln Park campus sits was once called "Father Smith Farm." This legacy formed a lasting

connection with the school that McNabola carries to this day, as a dual degree holder from DePaul and current parishioner at St. Vincent DePaul in Lincoln Park.

Other ancestors on his mother's side include McNabola's Great Grandfather, Tom Tully, also from County Cavan, who became a Chicago Police Lieutenant, his Grandfather, Edward Trainor, an auto dealer on Motors Row in Chicago, and his brother, Monsignor Harold Trainor, who served at St. Philip Neri Church and as President of Catholic Charities during the depression, as well as his sister, Sister Petronilla, who taught at Mercy High School in Chicago, among many other doctors, lawyers, and firefighters in the extended family.

"I believe that the religious members including Monsignor Trainor and the other priests and nuns in our family created a foundation of great faith and built a core understanding of what's important in life," McNabola shared. "How you should behave, and how you should take care of others and the poor. This came directly from our Irish ancestors. It was a beautiful life they led."

Mr. McNabola's paternal Grandmother came from County

Mayo and his Grandfather, a Dublin police officer, came from County Leitrim. They emigrated to the United States in 1917, coming through Ellis Island, before first meeting through the Irish network on the West Side of Chicago.

Mark McNabola was born the third of five children in what



he describes as a loving family. McNabola's father attended De La Salle High School and DePaul University, where he was a member of the 1945 National Championship basketball team, then went on to Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine, where he trained to be a surgeon. His father worked hard as a doctor, spending time getting to know his patients and their families. Mark's mother "ran the home" and showed her five children the importance of the church and taking care of others.

"My mother took care of people on the outskirts. She was a daily communicant. We always had people in our home that our mom met mostly at Church and brought home because they were alone," McNabola recalled, noting that he and his siblings have carried on this spirit of welcoming generosity today. His brother, John McNabola, runs Center of Concern, a local charitable organization that provides housing solutions, support services, and counseling for older adults, people with disabilities, and others in need.

Mark McNabola's professional



career and successes as a lawyer McNabola received 20 years of Catholic education at LaLumiere and Loyola Academy before carrying on the DePaul family tradition, earning his bachelor's degree in 1981 and law degree in 1985, with a brief stop at Trinity College Dublin, where he studied abroad during law school.

Upon his law school graduation, McNabola took a job as a prosecutor before joining a personal injury firm, where he began racking up an impressive streak of jury victories inside the courtroom. He then started his own firm - the McNabola Law Group - where he continues to serve

as partner today. The firm's mission is to help individuals and families who have suffered serious or catastrophic injuries or the loss of a loved one due to the negligence of another, and browsing its website will tell readers all they need to know about the incredible successes that he and his small team have achieved over the years. According to that site, they boast a 98% victory rate and collectively have covered \$550 million in verdicts and settlements.

And yet, beyond the monetary figures, McNabola sees his career as an extension of his family's commitment to others.

"Once I entered into law school, and then joined the field of personal injury law, I realized how good people can quickly be devastated through no fault of their own. It's random, and it's tragic, and they need someone to fight for them, from legal to financial to psychological to emotional. When I started working, I was humbled by how fortunate and blessed we are, and how our work can directly help other people in a very impactful way."

Given the intensely emotional nature of the cases that McNabola tries, he acknowledges the weight and importance of his role in helping families through the most difficult challenges that they will face. He points to one example of a case in which he represented a young family who lost their 17-year-old daughter in a horrific incident when they had experienced car trouble while driving across the country and were forced to stop on the side of the road. A Greyhound bus crashed into a car, causing it to spin out of control and ultimately fatally hitting the young woman.

"We become so close to our clients because we interact with them so often prior to and during the trial," he noted. "I am proud of what we accomplish, but it's bittersweet. You have your own children and you empathize with the mental anguish and torture that the parents who have lost their children have to endure."

Outside of his professional life, McNabola continues to carry on his family's legacy of providing leadership through a number of charitable causes, including the aforementioned St. Vincent DePaul, Archdiocese of Chicago, Center of Concern, DePaul University, Boys Hope Girls Hope, and the Irish Fellowship Club, where he has served as Executive Board Member. He looks forward to passing on that legacy to his four children, whom he has raised with his wife Eileen.

"My mother would say, God has blessed you with these advantages, and you have to use them to change the world to make it a better place. I've had a great education, a stable family, good brothers and sisters. If I don't do it, who else is going to? I feel fortunate and empowered to be in a place to help people. That's what the Irish do."

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Cocktails begin at 6pm and dinner is served at 7:30pm

The event will be held at Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119 W 147th St, Oak Forest, IL 60452. No payments will be accepted

Ads and tickets can be obtained by calling Tim Burns, Secretary, using a debit or credit card at 773-551-5671. Leave a message and Tim will return your call.

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Testimonials

"Destiny Senior Care has proven to be an excellent caregiver company, servicing a wide variety of clients. As an RN working in a primarily geriatric field, I have made many referrals to Destiny as I am very confident in the skills, knowledge, and compassion their caregivers have to offer my patients. I have personally seen the employees of this company go above and beyond any other private duty/companion companies I have had experience with. Their clients have nothing but the best to say about their care and services."

Jillian P.

DestinySeniorCare.com

DESTINY Senior Care
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"Where Seniors Come First"

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.

Mission Statement: Destiny Senior care provides a new beginning for our clients and families throughout the Chicagoland area so they can enjoy the benefits of staying home but also thrive in an environment filled with quality loving care!

Our **Caregivers** are screened and must go through an interview process. Each person is fingerprinted and must abide by all policies. The personality of a caregiver is extremely important for your loved one, as we want the best possible person for you. We are a team working together in the best interest of all concerned.

We offer the nationally acclaimed program **Ageless Grace**, which is offered throughout the U.S. and around the world. **Ageless Grace** is a fitness and wellness program featuring 21 simple exercise tools designed for all ages and abilities. The exercises are natural and organic & focus on the healthy longevity of the body & mind.

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Former St. Patrick's Day Queen Chosen Chicago Rose 2023 for the Rose of Tralee Competition

Our former 2022 St. Patrick's Day Queen, Kelley Leyden, was recently chosen as the Chicago Rose as part of the Rose of Tralee International Festival. Plumbers Local 130 was proud to be Kelley's sponsor for this global event that recognizes fantastic young women of Irish descent and it's a great way to bring family, friends and the Irish community together.



Kelley shared, "When I was up on stage, I was in complete shock when they called my name as the winner. "It is such an opportunity of a lifetime and such an honor for me to represent Plumbers Local 130, the Irish American community in Chicago, the Chicago Police Department and my family at this special international event.

11 local women of Irish descent competed at the local level at the Heritage Center May 7.

Kelley will visit Ireland in late August for the international competition which also includes being on national Irish television as well as visiting a variety of cities in Ireland as well as attending the Rose Bowl and so much more.

Kelley is enjoying her new role as a Youth Liaison for the Chicago Police Department. We wish Kelley great success with her new career and we can't wait to hear about her experience in the Rose of Tralee International Festival. Best wishes to Kelley Leyden from Plumbers Local 130!

In Her Own Words

I consider myself to be a proud Irish American woman, one who is always ready to take on new challenges. I currently work as a full-time Chicago Police Officer and a part-time X-Ray Technologist at Advocate Christ Medical Center. Even though the work can be challenging, I find it very fulfilling and rewarding.

Growing up I was blessed to be surrounded and influenced by those that embrace the Irish history, traditions and heritage. My mother, Catherine, is from Cobh, County Cork, as were my late maternal grandparents, Thomas and Joan Cody. My father, Mike, was born in Chicago, and my paternal grandparents, Joe and Maureen Leyden, are from Clare and Kerry. I was privileged to have role models from the Banner County, Kingdom County and last, but certainly not least, the Rebel County.

Throughout my years, I spent time at Gaelic Park listening to music (Wolfetones being my favorite), watching the hurling and football games on Sundays, as well as sitting on all the different tractors on Heritage and Harvest Day, better known around my house as "Threshing Day". And what would a Sunday morning be without a breakfast consisting of bangers, bacon, black and/or white pudding, eggs and the much loved soda bread. Then, there were the trips to Ireland in order to visit the families across the Atlantic. My grandmother, Joan, and great grandmother, Ellen (who lived to age 105), played a significant role in helping me understand and appreciate what it is to be Irish and to be proud of

my heritage.

Like most young girls, who watch the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade, I often wondered what it was like to be "queen" of the parade. After all, what girl wouldn't mind wearing a crown in a horse drawn carriage going down the center of Columbus Drive? Well, I quit wondering in 2022 when the Chicago Plumbers Local 130 Parade Committee selected me to be queen of the parade. Let me just say, it was more exciting than I could ever imagine and despite the bitter cold weather many amazing memories were made. My year-long-reign exposed me to so many wonderful experiences and opportunities, from TV commercials, TV interviews, radio interviews, newspaper features, charity functions, political functions and so much more. This exposure gave me the confidence to explore another adventure.

My "reign" as queen ended in December 2022 and my attention turned to what my mother used to wonder about when she was a young girl - The International Rose of Tralee. She said there were two events in Ireland

in which everyone was "glued" to their televisions. It was the Late-Late Toy Show and the Rose of Tralee competition. As the outgoing parade queen, Business Manager James Coyne and Chicago Plumbers Local 130 were kind enough to sponsor me for the "Chicago Rose" competition. The competition was held on May 7th at the Irish American Heritage Center and I was selected to be the "Chicago Rose". I now move forward to compete at the International level in Tralee, Ireland from August 11th through August 22nd. I will be one of thirty-two roses from various parts of Ireland and cities around the world all wishing to be chosen as the 2023 International Rose of Tralee. It is an opportunity of a lifetime and a great honor to represent the Chicago Rose Center, Plumbers Local 130, Chicago's Irish community and my brothers and sisters in blue. I am looking forward to getting to know my fellow roses and making some more amazing memories. I hope to represent Chicago well and make them proud of their choice.

Mary Pat Flanagan

Sr. VP North American Sales

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Catch Kathleen Madigan's Comedy Act on 9-23

Comedian Kathleen Madigan is bringing her Boxed Wine & Tiny Banjos Tour, to The Chicago Theatre on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023. Show time is 7:30 pm. Reserved seats range from \$29.50 to \$49.50 and are on sale now at Ticketmaster.com.

<https://www.ticketmaster.com/kathleen-madigan-boxed-wine-tiny-banjos-chicago-illinois-09-23-2023/event/07005E77992312A4>

The comedian's 33-year comedy career is showing no signs of slowing down as she tours 250 nights a year selling out marquee theaters across the country. Madigan has won the American Comedy Award for "Best Female Comedian" and the Phyllis Diller award for "Best Female Comedian."

the pandemic by launching a podcast, "Madigan's Pubcast," on all streaming outlets.

Jerry Seinfeld calls her, "Small, practical and fun. She makes a lot of sense but not too much sense. Just enough to be hilarious."

From one of her early comedy festival appearances, "Kathleen Madigan's show was just pure, no-nonsense, incredible jokes. The kind of jokes that are so perfectly written and delivered that you still chuckle to yourself when you remember them the next day."

The Detroit Free Press says, "Along with Lewis Black, Brian Regan and Jim Gaffigan, she's one of the funniest stand-



up comedians of her generation." She has written and produced for Lewis Black's Root of All Evil on Comedy Central and done multiple USO tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. She's squeezed in over 40 appearances on late night talk shows and multiple comedy specials airing on Netflix, Comedy Central and HBO. She also recently joined Jerry Seinfeld on his Netflix show "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee" and made the most of

And this from The Chicago Tribune: "She has all but perfected the art of crafting and delivering a perfect joke. That singular dedication to the craft shows in both the evolution of her material over the years and the way she can make a complicated joke with a hidden nub of wisdom seem both effortless and offhand."

THE JAMES JOYCE IRISH PUB

HALFWAY TO SAINT PATRICK'S DAY BLOCK PARTY 9TH SEPT. 7100 BLOCK 3 PM TO MIDNIGHT

Enjoy a day of Irish Culture with Bagpipes, Irish Dancers, Irish Music, and Irish food!
You will also have the chance to support and donate to the Band of Brothers Pipes and Drums Honor Band.

BAND OF BROTHERS PIPES AND DRUMS

THE BAND OF BROTHERS PIPES AND DRUMS IS A BAGPIPE AND DRUM BAND COMPRISED SOLELY OF ACTIVE AND RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS FROM FIRE DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE STATES OF ILLINOIS AND INDIANA, WITH THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF PROVIDING MUSICAL SUPPORT AT THE FUNERAL SERVICES FOR FALLEN CIVIL SERVICE PERSONNEL, INCLUDING FIREFIGHTERS, POLICE OFFICERS, AND UNITED STATES MILITARY PERSONNEL, KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

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CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

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

A Cháirde - Greetings from Gaelic Park

By the time this letter is printed and read, our Irish Fest will have been completed with hopefully great success. Thanks to all who had come out to enjoy our great lineup of entertainment. We hope that new traditions were created or old ones were rekindled. Our goal is to provide opportunities for our supporters to create memories with family and friends while fostering the continuation and growth of our heritage. Thanks again to John Devitt (Fest Chairman), Gaelic Park staff, volunteers and our broader community for making Chicago Gaelic Park a premier destination on the South Side.

Next on our busy calendar of events is our Heritage & Harvest Festival on Sunday, September 10th - Noon. Started by Eamon Malone and his family, this day is about gathering with family and friends to remember our culture through antique tractors, livestock, music, dance, and sport.

This free, family fun-filled day promises to be lots of fun for all ages. Games for kids include a straw pillow fight, candy in the straw scramble, three-legged race, sack race, dizzy stick race, barrel race, water balloon toss, tug of war, and others. A display of the national games of Ireland, hurling and football, will take place as our youth athletes showcase their talent.

Year after year, Eamon brings his threshing machine and antique tractors. These are museum-quality machines, but Eamon encourages everyone to get up close, sit on them and ask questions. We sometimes forget the effort it takes to set up, put on multiple demonstrations and take down 20+ tractors, a threshing machine and oats ... it is weeks. It is a labor of love, and we are the beneficiaries of all of Eamon's hard work and passion. Come out on Sunday the 10th of September at Noon, and you will get to see the threshing machine in action.

We should be thankful for all that we have and the opportunities that we get to come together as a community and celebrate our Irish culture. The Heritage & Harvest Festival has been providing us these opportunities for years through the vision and effort of Eamon and family.

Congratulations to all the teams that represented Chicago at the USGAA Finals in Denver: Wolfe Tones, St. Brigid's, John McBride's, Aisling Gaels, Michael Cusack's, and James Joyce's. Special congratulations to the Wolfe Tones, St. Brigid's and Aisling Gaels that won the Championship. We had a great summer with GAA at Gaelic Park and look forward to 2024.

Finally, as we start to experience the end of summer and the start of fall, there is no better place to relax and unwind than the Beer Garden at Gaelic Park. Please come out and enjoy drinks, food, and entertainment—one of the best beer garden experiences in Chicagoland!

Sean Crean
Gaelic Park Board Member

Heritage & Harvest Fest

Sunday, September 10th at 11am



Upcoming Events

Visit chicagogaelpark.com for more information on upcoming events

- September 4th - MONTHLY MUSICAL LUNCHEON
- September 10th - HERITAGE & HARVEST FEST
- September 10th - GAELIC PARK BOOK CLUB
- September 14th - THE CARRAIG PUB GOLF OUTING
- September 16th - HALFWAY TO ST. PATRICK'S DAY WHITE SOX GAME
- September 21st - HOWL AT THE MOON CONCERT ON THE PATIO
- September 29th - TRIVA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

The Carraig Beer Garden Live Music

No cover charge! visit carraigirishpub.com for more up to date information

- September 1st - BILLY O'DONOGHUE
- September 2nd - DAMIEN PATRICK
- September 8th - NICKY G
- September 14th - MURPHY'S LAWYER
- September 15th - LIAM DURKIN
- September 16th - KIERAN BYRNE
- September 22nd - BERNIE GLIM
- September 23rd - EBJ BAND
- September 28th - WHISKEY & HARMONY
- September 29th - O'LEARY'S LANTERN
- September 30th - MULLIGAN STEW

6119 W. 147th St. Oak Forest, IL (708)687-9323

HOWL AT THE MOON

Thursday, September 21st at 7:00pm 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.

TICKETS

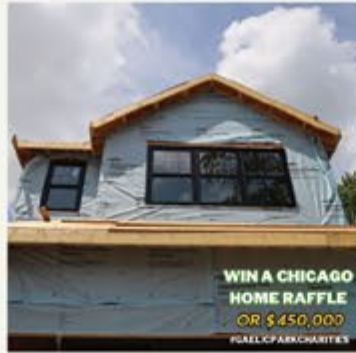


CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

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

Win a Chicago Home

Support Gaelic Park Charities



Chicago Gaelic Park is committed to promoting and preserving Irish Culture through sports, music, art, and community.

Gaelic Park Charities undertakes projects near and dear to the Irish hearts of the community. It is committed to the strength and sustenance of Chicago Gaelic Park while also assisting local organizations in the spirit of community.

A great way to support Gaelic Park Charities is through the Win a Chicago Home Raffle. One lucky winner will be the owner of a brand new Chicago home located at 10430 South Sawyer Avenue or have the opportunity to opt for a \$450,000 cash prize.



I LOVE THE 80'S TO DEATH

Murder Mystery Dinner - November 17th

Ticket includes buffet dinner, dessert bar, and all the 80's fun! Visit our website for more information and for tickets.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Libido Funk Circus
Saturday, November 4th

One of These Nights
Friday, November 10th

Visit ChicagoGaelicPark.com for tickets

HALFWAY TO ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Join the Young Gaelic Association for their inaugural event, Halfway to St. Patrick's Day White Sox Outing! The White Sox are celebrating halfway to St. Patrick's Day on Saturday, September 16th at the ballpark.

The pre-game begins at the Carraig Pub at 4pm! Chicago Gaelic Park will provide 2 drinks and appetizers prior to the game and bus transportation to and from the pub. Game begins at 6:10pm.

The first 10,000 fans at the game will receive a Southside Irish jersey.

The Carraig Pub Golf Outing

Shotgun start at 1pm at George Dunne National Golf Course

Prizes, dinner, and open bar at Chicago Gaelic Park - \$120/person

Call (708)687-9323 to book your spot!

Thursday, September 14th



Trivia Night



September 29th at 6:30pm
Chicago Gaelic Park

To fund the work of the Blackfeet Volunteer Medical Corps, which is a not-for-profit organization providing medical care and construction services to Blackfeet Nation of Northwestern Montana. Visit ChicagoGaelicPark.com for more information.



SIGN UP HERE

Celtic Angels Christmas



The Celtic Angels return to Chicago Gaelic Park on Thursday, December 10th for a joyous celebration from start to finish, encompassing vocal and instrumental Holiday and Irish favourites. Paired with show stopping world class champion Irish dancing and a fully live band, Celtic Angels Christmas is sure to awe and entertain.

Starring the quintessential vocals of Louise Barry, Searlaid Ní Caiside, Olivia Bradley, Michaela Groth and Katie Sweeney. These dynamic divas enthrall and delight with their jaw dropping performances and spine tingling harmonies. Musical arranger, Peter Sheridan (Cavan, Celtic Thunder) ingeniously marries the old and new worlds with traditional and contemporary Irish and Holiday tunes. Brought to life by the immensely talented Trinity Ensemble. Hands will be clapping and toes will be tapping.

Visit ChicagoGaelicPark.com for tickets

Pittsburgh Irish Fest Announces Highlights & Several New Activities

Virtual Reality Tours Of Ireland, Irish Comedy, Carrie Furnace Mini Tours, Ancient Celtic Axe Throwing, Taste Of Ireland, Instrument Demonstrations, Cooking/ Baking Demonstrations, & More!

The 32nd Annual Pittsburgh Irish Festival will be held September 8-10 at The Carrie Blast Furnaces

National Historic Landmark, and will highlight traditional and new items including music, dance, axe throwing, Carrie Furnace tours, cooking demos, shopping, Irish cuisine and beverages, children's activities, genealogy, and so much more!

Discounted advance tickets are available now at www.pghirishfest.org. *Events and Activities subject to change. visit www.pghirishfest.org



Fall Craft Show in Mount Prospect

The Moose Family Fraternity Fall Craft & Vendor Fair will be held on Saturday, September 23rd from 10am to 4pm at the Mound Prospect Chapter #1481, 601 N Main St., Mount Prospect, IL 60056.

It's free admission and refreshments will be available.



Jewelry, pet accessories, purses and tote bags, gourmet necessities, hand knit and crochet items, jams, jellies, household decor, clothing and other types of gifts will be on hand and everyone is welcome! More info at hbrandiss@yahoo.com

Printers Row Lit Fest Sept 9-10

The Printers Row Lit Fest, the largest free outdoor literary showcase in the Midwest, is a community-based celebration presented by Near South

More than 100,000 visitors are expected over the two-day festival, featuring carefully selected offerings from over 100 booksellers; everything from the tattered to the rare to 'hot off the press,' newly published works. Attendees can also participate in a variety of programs for kids, young adults, and grownups. <http://printersrowlitfest.org>



Golfers of all levels are invited to join us at Harborside International Golf Course for 18 holes on the Starboard course!

The golf format will feature a scramble where golfers shoot from the best of four balls. Ticket price includes cart, range balls and reception with dinner, 2 premium drinks and music.

- Individual Golfer (INC Member): \$175
- Individual Golfer (Non-Member): \$200
- Foursome (INC Member): \$700
- Foursome (Non-Member): \$800

Not a golfer? Join us for the reception and craic afterwards!

- Reception only (INC Member): \$65
- Reception only (Non-Member): \$75

<https://chicagoirelandnetwork.square.site/>

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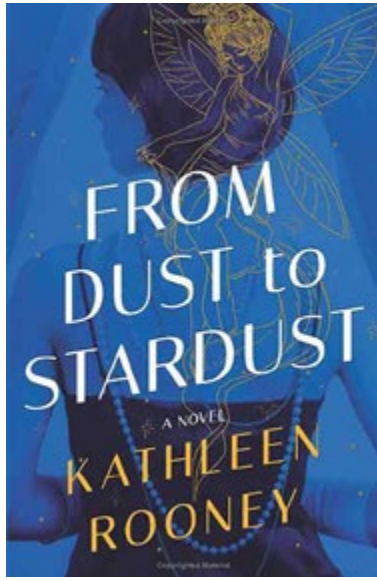


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BOOKS by Irish Authors or About Irish Subjects!

Irish Authors Live at Printers Row Lit Fest September 9-10

Every year, Printers Row Lit Fest, one of the three largest and oldest literary festivals in the United States, promises to be a vibrant gathering of authors, readers, booksellers, publishers, and literary enthusiasts as well as young adults and children. The celebration unfolds its 2023 edition from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, and Sunday, Sept. 10 in Chicago's famous Printers Row neighborhood.



to visitors, connects audiences through programming by giving them front-seat access to critically-acclaimed authors who inspire, spark and provoke thoughtful and meaningful discussions. These authors take on myriad topics that focus on global and social events affecting our personal and professional lives.

Visitors can also explore over 100 bookseller and exhibitor tents over the weekend that present a variety of genres that include children's works romance to politics, and more. Children's events are festive features that stimulate the joy of lifelong reading as well. One that opens the fest will be a children's parade led

Some of the Irish Authors at Lit Fest

Erin Keane—author of Runaway: Notes on the Myths That Made Me

Kyle Decker—author of The Rancid Mill

John Duffy—author of "A Ballroom for Ghost Dancing"

Zetta Elliott—author of "Dragons in a Bag" Series

Jesse Ann Foley—author of The Carnival at Bray, Neighborhood Girls, Sorry for Your Loss, You Know I'm No Good, and Breda's Island

Kathleen Rooney, author of "From Dust to Stardust"

Riognach Robinson (also goes by Riley Redgate), Look No Further

Christina Ward—author of Holy Food: How Cults, Communes, and Religious Movements Influenced What We Eat – An American History

Eileen Favorite—contributed an essay to this book DePaul's

Big Shoulders Publishing project's Chicago Mosaic: Immigrant Stories of Objects Lost, Found, and Left Behind. My essay is about my Irish

Great Uncle who fought in Ireland's War of Independence in the 1920s and his immigration to Chicago under suspicious circumstances.

Bill O'Neill—New Mexico state senator and author of

"The Definition of Empty: Poems"

Chris O'Brien—author of "Here or There"

by the Yin He Dancers, in partnership with the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce, and the Chicago Public Library's Great Horned Owl.

Children are encouraged to come wearing their favorite costumes for the parade. There will be special

activities that include face painting and a treasure hunt. Additionally, Miss Friendship Ambassador Amy Xie will tell the folkloric story of "Chang'E and Houyi Goddess of the Moon." For more information you can visit

<http://printersrowlitfest.org>

The Fest stretches across 5 blocks and attracts more than 100,000 people and is completely free for visitors along South Dearborn Street from Ida B. Wells Drive to Polk Street and then to State and Clark Streets.

Presented by not-for-profit Near South Planning Board, the Fest, in its 38th year, always accessible and free

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A portion of all royalties for the books will be donated to an Irish Charity

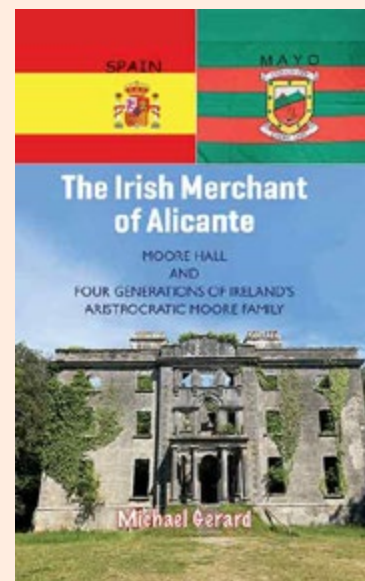
The Irish Merchant of Alicante by Michael Gerard

'The Irish Merchant of Alicante' might seem at first to be an odd name for my new historical novel but dig a little deeper and it makes sense. The story is about four generations of the Moore family who built the magnificent Moore Hall in Co. Mayo.

Chapter One sees young George Moore leave Ireland on a ship in 1754, bound for a new life in Spain as a merchant under the wing of his mother's relatives - Wild Geese exiles from the Jacobite Wars. Being the second son, he could not inherit the Ashbrook estate in Straide, Co. Mayo and as a member of an aristocratic Catholic family he had no career prospects in Ireland under the terms of the Catholic-punishing Penal Laws - so he went to Alicante to learn the merchant trade. George found great success in Spain and by the time the Penal Laws were relaxed he was a wealthy owner of a merchant business with his own fleet of ships. He purchased some 12,000 acres of land in his native Mayo, sold his shipping company and returned to Ireland with his wife Catherine and four Spanish-born sons, where he built his dream home on the shores of Lough Carra in the early 1790's - becoming the first Master of Moore Hall. He had to take the Oath of Allegiance and follow the British imposed landlord system of leasing most of his land as small holdings to poor Irish tenant farmers.

Almost immediately his eldest son John was smitten by Wolfe Tone's revolutionary ideals, and he joined the Society of United Irishmen. John was one of the first members of the Irish gentry to march

in support of General Humbert's French expeditionary force in the 1798 Rebellion and was appointed the first President of an



Irish Republic - Connaught, before losing his life in the failed rebellion. His father George also became a casualty - dying from a stroke brought on by the stress of his son's imprisonment and multiple trials. The reins at Moore Hall then fell to his second son, George, a reclusive historian who was wooed and wed by Louisa Browne, a strong-willed beauty who was the niece of the notorious Denis Browne, High Sheriff of Mayo, who had prosecuted John for treason and hanged so many Mayo rebels that he was known as Denis of the Rope. This marriage caused a split in the Moore family, including the self-imposed exile to London of George's mother, Catherine, the family matriarch.

The third generation was led by George Henry Moore, a great horseman, celebrated horse trainer and popular Mayo MP at Westminster. He firmly established the nationalist credentials of the Moore's and was widely believed to have taken the Fenian oath. In Parliament he became the champion of the Tenant Rights movement and won many concessions for Ireland from the ruling parties by cementing the Irish members block vote. He led Mayo relief operations during the Great Famine and when his horse Coronna won the Chester Cup he used the winnings to charter a shipload of American grain to feed the starving people of Mayo.

George Augustus was the fourth generation Master of Moore Hall, a cantankerous bachelor, a failed painter, a Protestant convert, a poor steward of the estate during a period of heightened agrarian unrest, a successful novelist and early mentor of the Irish literary revival that led to the establishment of the Abbey Theatre.

My mission was to bring the reader along to witness the up-close lives of four generations of the Moore family as they navigated through the complex allegiances to family, religion, the Empire and growing Irish nationalism - while the power and influence of their landlord class was slipping away.

Available on www.amazon.co.uk and amazon worldwide

More on Michael Gerard and his books on www.MichaelGerardAuthor.com

Follow on Twitter - @MgerardK
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The FUD Factor: Overcoming Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt to Achieve the Impossible

By Brendan P. Keegan
Published by Forbes Books

Just how daring should leaders be?

Downright fearless, according to Brendan P. Keegan (www.brendanpkeegan.com), author of the new book The FUD Factor: Overcoming Fear, Uncertainty & Doubt to Achieve the Impossible.

Too often, though, people let negative emotions creep in and rule the day. What if they aren't good enough? What if they fail? Confidence erodes as doubt rains down.

"By employing thoughts of failure, we are effectively insulating ourselves from being hurt, disappointed, or rejected," Keegan writes. "This is normal and ordinary; the key is to not allow it to rule our lives."

Keegan insists it's time to "conquer fear, thrive in uncertainty, and shut the door to doubt." He's a proponent of encouraging people to become not just leaders but fearless leaders who have a positive impact on everyone they come in contact with.

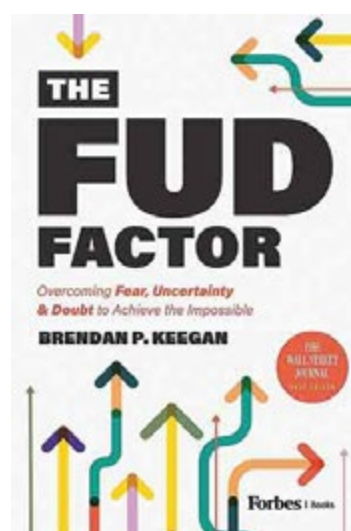
In this book, readers will learn:

The four types of strength that every leader should have. How to set goals and achieve them. That a title, such as CEO, doesn't make you a leader. That a person is never too

young to lead. That in leadership there is no arrival; there are always more people to understand, more lessons to learn, and more problems to solve.

Advance praise for The FUD Factor

"Leading a team in turbulent and changing times is difficult. The FUD Factor is a refreshingly easy guide on how to do it well. This is a must-read for any manager."—Zak Brown, CEO, McLaren Racing Limited
Forbes Books
Pages: 226



BOOKS by Irish Authors or About Irish Subjects!

Packed House Remembers Rita O'Hare at Celebration of Her Life & Book Release



It was a standing room only crowd at Áras Uí Chonghaile James Connolly Visitor Centre as family, friends, colleagues, and supporters gathered to remember and celebrate the life of Rita O'Hare.

Gerry Adams spoke of Rita's commitment and her extraordinary work in the United States to grow support for Sinn Féin and a new and United Ireland.

He discussed the ways in which she connected with the labor movement in America and how she worked closely with Terry O'Sullivan of LiUNA and John Samuelson of the Transit Workers Union in order to make the dream of a James Connolly center a reality.

Rita's husband Brendan described her admiration and reverence for the work and message of James Connolly and said that she would have been very proud of the events of the day as well as of the plaque which was unveiled at the center. He told everyone that she would also be eager to remind everyone that it is time to put our shoulders to the wheel and get back to work.

Dawn Doyle spoke beautifully, sharing stories about how she first met Rita and how Rita was not only fiercely devoted to the work, but also made time to get to know the families, children, grandchildren, and stories of everyone with whom she worked.

Harry Connolly, Executive Director at Fáilte Feirste Thiar, said, "There would be no Áras Uí Chonghaile without Rita O'Hare."



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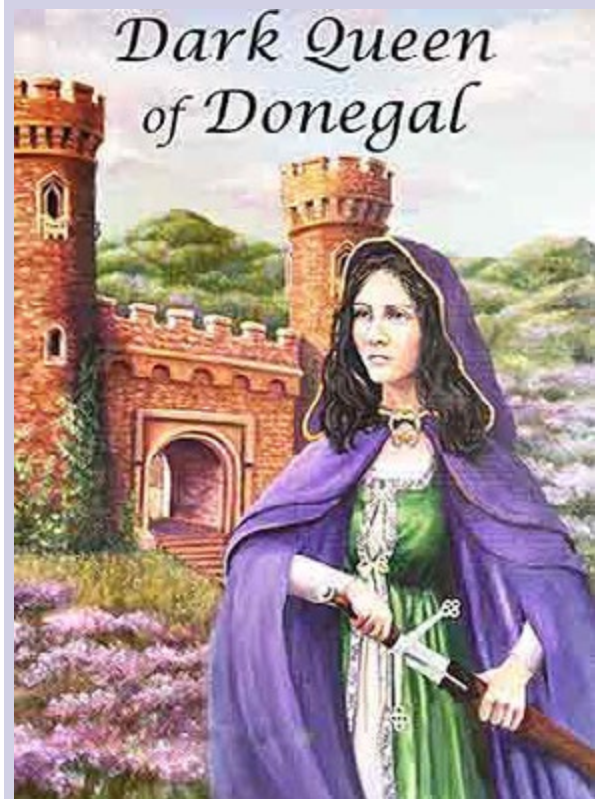
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- Mary Pat Kelly, bestselling author of Galway Bay

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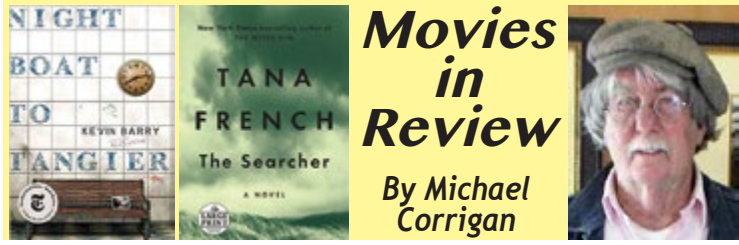
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Movies in Review
By Michael Corrigan

“Where do I start?” Christopher Nolan has directed some ambitious complex films from Inception

Oppenheimer

I am not absolutely sure how I feel about the epic, Oppenheimer, written and directed by Christopher Nolan about J. Robert Oppenheimer, the man who is considered the “father of the atomic bomb.” Since I sat there mesmerized for three hours by the perfect casting, the time jumping plot sequences, and discussions of Quantum Physics that somehow became dramatic, I can say the film is formidable, challenging—even great. Perhaps it was the sense of impending doom that anyone might feel knowing what happened when the first atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (which are not shown). There is so much to cover in Oppenheimer, any critic as to ask,

to three Batman blockbusters. Dunkirk is his visceral film about the evacuation of the English soldiers from Dunkirk beach before the onslaught of Nazi forces. It was a retreat that became a kind of victory.

The film certainly works because Oppenheimer, a brilliant if egotistical flawed man and womanizer, is played with a haunting ghostly quality by Irish actor, Cillian (“Killian”) Murphy (pictured). Murphy’s expressive eyes highlight every scene he is in. He wears a cross between a pork pie and fedora hat, and evidently modeled his performance on footage of Oppenheimer and Mr. Rogers. The rest of the cast is superb from Robert Downey, Jr. playing Levi Strauss, Oppenheimer’s jealous rival (think Salieri and Mozart),

giving the suddenly guilty Oppenheimer a Kleenex while dismissing him as a “crybaby.” The irony here is that Germany had surrendered so why was this terrible bomb that changed the world dropped on a broken Japan? President Truman then developed the more powerful hydrogen bomb against Oppenheimer’s objection.



but rather enhances the drama of individual scenes.

There are many effective set pieces in this mosaic. Oppenheimer was Jewish and left wing and though he never joined the Communist party, he did party with Communists, including Jean Tatlock (Florence Pugh.) They became lovers, and in a post sex nude scene, Tatlock looks at Oppenheimer’s bookcase. She finds the Bhagavad Gita in Sanskrit and asks Oppenheimer to translate a line which he does: “Now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds.” That’s the line Oppenheim quoted when asked how he felt after watching the first detonation of the atomic bomb. Tatlock later committed suicide, though some suspected murder. Another set piece concerns President Harry Truman played by an unrecognizable Gary Oldman,

giving the suddenly guilty Oppenheimer a Kleenex while dismissing him as a “crybaby.” The irony here is that Germany had surrendered so why was this terrible bomb that changed the world dropped on a broken Japan? President Truman then developed the more powerful hydrogen bomb against Oppenheimer’s objection.

Oppenheimer delivers the kind of powerful experience only a great film can deliver, and not just because it was shot using the huge Imax format. Matt Zoller Seitz, the Editor at Large of RogerEbert.com said it well:

“But as a physical experience, ‘Oppenheimer’ is something else entirely—it’s hard to say exactly what, and that’s what’s so fascinating about it.”

I would agree. The film could’ve ended with the first test of the atomic bomb, a harrowing scene considering the fact both Albert Einstein and Oppenheimer wondered if a nuclear explosion might set off a chain reaction in the earth’s atmosphere and destroy the world. Ponder that, a moment. They didn’t really know until the red button was pushed. There are also scenes showing the enmity of Strauss at a hearing that ultimately stripped Oppenheimer of his security clearance. I originally felt the tribunal scenes were anti-climactic and added too much to the film’s length. I now think the film is as long as it needed to be.

The critics have generally raved about Christopher Nolan’s cinematic achievement. It provides a memorable if disturbing experience, and Christopher Nolan doesn’t try to justify or explain that momentous historical event that ushered in a more dangerous world. Like the confrontational hearing at the end, the viewing audience has to judge.

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Marist Students Awarded Gaelic Park Irish Heritage Scholarship

Marist High School, Chicago's premier coed Catholic college preparatory high school, announces two students have been awarded the Gaelic Park Irish Heritage Scholarship for the 2023-2024 school year.

Marist seniors Daniel Gallagher and Addison McBride were selected as recipients for the scholarship.

Daniel is a student ambassador and volunteers. Daniel and his family have raised over \$130,000 for Misericordia over the past 10 years. He has been recognized for his academic excellence and named to the Dean's List.

Addison is a part of National Honor Society, Theater, and Speech Team. She also has been recognized for her academic success and was named to the Honor Roll.

"We are grateful for the

support of Gaelic Park in the awarding of scholarships to our current students," said Larry Tucker, President of Marist High School. "Marist is a stand out school because of



ALLISON MCBRIDE AND DANIEL GALLAGHER

the people who are part of our community - that means faculty, staff, alumni, and our amazing students. Daniel and Addison are both fine examples of individuals who contribute to making Marist the great place it is," continued Tucker. "As two

organizations that recognize the importance of culture and tradition, we appreciate Gaelic Park's commitment to supporting not only our students, but also Catholic education in the

Chicago area." The purpose of the Gaelic Park scholarship program is to support the advancement of education in Gaelic Park's greater community. Award winners have exemplary academic and disciplinary records, demonstrate

financial need, Page 2 of 2 aspire to continue their academic pursuits after graduation and are involved in school or community related activities. Additionally, preference is given to students

of Irish American heritage. The mission of Chicago Gaelic Park is to preserve and promote the culture and heritage of Ireland, including the Irish national games, music, dance, language and theater. Located in Oak Forest, Illinois,

Gaelic Park is a banquet facility that caters to weddings, meetings and parties. About Marist High School: Marist High School is a private Catholic, coed, college preparatory high school for young men and women of diverse backgrounds. As the school enters its 60th year of educating students, Marist is driven by its mission to make Jesus Christ known and loved in the Marist Brothers tradition. Focused on the complete education of our students in their development as people, Marist brings together faith, culture, and life. This year marks the 20th-year of excellence in coeducation through academics, athletics, activities, spiritual formation, and service to others, while preparing students for higher education and a meaningful future beyond the classroom. www.chicagogaelpark.org

The Southwest Symphony Orchestra Presents Grammy-winning Mark and Maggie O'Connor Duo!

On Sunday, October 8, 2023, the Southwest Symphony Orchestra opens its 2023-2024 season, AMERICAN LEGACY, under the direction of David L.

creative journey at the feet of American fiddling legend Benny Thomasson, and the iconic French jazz violinist Stéphane Grappelli. Today, he has melded

and western classical technical training.

For more information, visit www.markoconnor.com. American violinist/fiddler and vocalist, Maggie O'Connor performs a variety of musical styles throughout the U.S. and beyond, most recently as a member of the Grammy award-winning bluegrass group, the O'Connor Band.

She spends most of her time now performing with her husband, violinist and composer Mark O'Connor. Together they have appeared as guest soloists with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra, the Santa Rosa Symphony, the Nashville Symphony, and many other symphony orchestras performing his compositions ranging from his "Strings and Threads Suite" to his "Double Violin Concerto" and "Johnny Appleseed Suite."

She has appeared in violin duo performances in such prestigious settings as the Yehudi Menuhin Centennial celebration at the Berlin Konzerthaus, the Lockenhaus, Austria Musikfest, and the Leopold Auer Festival in Hungary.

In an Americana duo setting, the couple tours music from their new album, Life After Life, a collection of original songs and classics. Along with performing, Maggie continues to work as co-director with Mr. O'Connor at O'Connor Method String Camp currently taking place in Charlotte, NC featuring the lesson book series that is rising in popularity each year.

- The concert is located at Trinity Christian College's Ozinga Auditorium, 6601 West College Drive, Palos Heights.
- Concert begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday October 8, 2023.
- Ticket prices are \$7.00 for students, \$25 to \$30 for seniors, adults \$30.00 to \$35.00, children 10 and under are free.
- Tickets are available in advance and at the door. southwestsymphony.com



Crane, presenting "Grammy-winning Mark O'Connor Duo! with Maggie O'Connor".

Three pieces will be featured at this concert, Aaron Copland's Appalachian Spring, Florence Price's Symphony No. 3 and Strings & Threads Suite featuring the Mark O'Connor Duo with Maggie O'Connor.

Appalachian Spring was composed by Aaron Copland and premiered in 1944 upon a commission from the choreographer and dancer Martha Graham. She wanted a ballet with an American theme. Copland was awarded the 1945 Pulitzer Prize for Music for his achievement.

Florence Price was the first African-American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer and the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra. She was active in Chicago from 1927 until her death in 1953. She composed over 300 works. Her music is in an American idiom and reveals her Southern roots. Symphony No. 3 in C minor was commissioned by the WPA during the height of the Great Depression.

Mark O'Connor began his

these influences into a new American classical music, and is perpetuating his vision of an American School of String Playing. Mr. O'Connor has won three Grammys, seven CMA awards and several national fiddle, guitar and mandolin champion titles. Mr. O'Connor has composed nine concertos and two symphonies recorded by the Baltimore Symphony, London Philharmonic, Colorado Symphony among others. O'Connor is well-known for his chamber music including his million-selling composition "Appalachia Waltz" featuring Yo-Yo Ma for the Sony Classical label. His current album is Life After Life, an Americana music collection of his original songs and some classics he sings with his wife Maggie O'Connor who is featured on lead vocals. In 2023, O'Connor released his memoir, Crossing Bridges: My Journey from Child Prodigy to Fiddler Who Dared the World.

Mr. O'Connor has authored a series of educational books called the O'Connor Method and is now the fastest growing violin method in the country. The O'Connor Method features American music styles, creativity, cultural diversity

Mother Jones Wants Your Help!



Mother Jones wants you to help her hit that finish line as they raise the funds to place a statue on Michigan Avenue in her honor.

This great County Cork, Ireland leader will be honored with a statue at the Water Tower which will represent all workers and advocates for those in need.

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Pictured, Brigid Duffy (who bears a strong resemblance to Mother Jones) is working hard to raise the needed funds."We have received seed money from the Irish government, been given Mellon grant money from the City of Chicago, and pledged to raise the last monies needed. We have raised \$173,000 and with your help will raise the last \$27,000!, she exclaimed.

Help us hit that finish line together. go to <https://www.motherjonesmuseum.org/statue>

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Ireland Target World Cup Win



By David McDonnell

With Ireland currently the highest ranked team on the planet, they head into this month's Rugby World Cup with a realistic chance of winning the Webb Ellis Cup for the first time.

It has been 20 years since any northern hemisphere team won the tournament and a strong indicator of Ireland's competitiveness is based on their first ever test series victory in New Zealand last summer, which they followed up with a Six Nations Grand Slam victory earlier this year.

Ireland has a team littered with terrific talent and notably players with a lot of experience playing alongside each other. Twelve of the first choice 15 play their club rugby with Leinster, which helps Andy Farrell's charges know their individual and collective roles during the game. When you compare it to Tonga and Samoa, who only have their best international selection available once every four years during the World Cup cycle, it is a significant advantage.

Another aspect of this team that, in my opinion, makes it better than any previous Irish side is that they play great rugby to watch. Farrell has

built an expansive game plan that suits the skill-set of his players. It is as if he has given them permission to back their rugby intuition when attacking the opposition in direct contrast to previous incumbents who overemphasised not making mistakes that led to paint-by-numbers decision making during matches.

The hallmark of Irish teams is having a highly competitive backrow at the breakdown and in this regard, this team is no different; with Carlan Doris and Josh Van Der Flier standout players at their respective positions of Number 8 and openside flanker.

What has allowed this Irish team to regularly beat the best in the world over the last 14 months has been their front row of Andrew Porter, Dan Sheehan and Tadgh Furlong. Their scrum has given Ireland a platform to attack the opposition and earn penalties. All three also carry the ball effectively and this has also allowed the Irish pack to share the attacking burden more evenly across the team and makes them more difficult to defend against.

Ireland have a settled backline where the biggest call will be picking two centres out of three excellent candidates in Bundee Aki, Robbie Henshaw and Garry Ringrose.

Where Ireland are limited is their lack of squad depth and this continues to be an issue for a country with a lower rugby playing population and fewer professional teams than the other World Cup contenders. There is still an over-reliance on a 38-year old Johnny Sexton in the pivotal position of outhalf.

Given the physical nature of the sport, no side is likely to come through seven international matches over the course of eight weekends with a clean bill of health and this lack of depth could be Ireland's Achilles heel as the tournament progresses.

Ireland have Romania and Tonga in their opening two games before a potential Pool B decider against South Africa on September 23. The current world champions have an enormous pack and a squad littered with World Cup winners. The Springboks are going into the tournament under the radar after losing to the All-Blacks in July, but anyone who saw that game will remember that despite going down 17-0 early on, it was still in the balance with 10 minutes to go. They have won every game since.

Ireland will play Scotland, currently ranked fifth in the world, in their final pool game. The Scots have improved year-on-year under Gregor Townsend's stewardship and although it would be a surprise if the Irish or South Africans don't make it to quarters, on their day the Scots have the potential to beat either.

The prize for getting out of Pool B is a knockout game against tournament favourites New Zealand or hosts France with the prospect of the four highest ranked nations meeting each other during what should be an epic quarter-final weekend.

The All-Blacks and France compete against each other in the opening match of the tournament on September 8.

New Zealand have won all their matches in the Rugby Championship this year. With

Beauden Barrett at 15 and Will Jordan and Mark Telea on the wings, this is a devastating collection of outside backs with the ability to strike from deep.

This season Scott Barrett has put in a number of eye-catching displays in the second row beside Brodie Retallick, and their back-row is looking better balanced than it did a year ago. Still they have yet to prove it against a higher ranked nation.

One area where the All-Blacks needed to learn from their series loss to Ireland was their discipline as they were picking up too many red and yellow cards and so far this season this looks to have been remedied.

France has an outstanding team and possibly the most talented squad in the competition. Their tournament ambitions took a body punch with the loss of Toulouse outhalf Romain Ntamack to injury. Luckily for the hosts they have another fantastic talent in Matthieu Jalibert to step in and play alongside, for my money, the best player on the planet in Antoine Dupont.

It will be interesting to note how New Zealand's backrow and the experienced Aaron Smith will try to curtail the scrum-half's influence in that opening contest.

France have Jonathon Danty and Gael Flickou forming a powerhouse duo in midfield and a fast and skillful back three. It says a lot about the scrummaging talents of Cyril Baille that he is included in the squad despite being ruled out with injury until deep into the tournament.

The other side of the draw doesn't have any prominent

contenders at this point in time but two of these teams will make the semi-finals.

This year England are playing worse than the sum of their parts. Their best attacking 10 is Markus Smith but their head coach Steve Borthwick doesn't want to implement a game plan suited to his talents. I expect Argentina to beat them in the group and could Japan be waiting in the long grass ready to deliver another World Cup surprise?

Wales have underperformed to an alarming degree in the run up to the tournament and I expect Australia to top Pool C. I have been keeping my eye on the Aussies this year and they are playing better than results have shown. Winger Mark Nawaqanitawase and number eight Rob Valetini are a pair of emerging talents with high ceilings.

Australia head coach Eddie Jones has struggled in finding a settled half-back pairing and he will make a call at outhalf between the young Carter Gordon and the experienced Quade Cooper to lead their attack.

After getting the sack from the England job less than a year ago, it seems written in the stars that Australia will wind up with England in the quarters to give Eddie a chance at revenge. I'd say he is licking his lips at the prospect.

It is the most difficult World Cup to call in recent memory. I do believe Ireland has as good a chance as anyone else to win it and if I was a betting man which I am, I expect the All-Blacks to be victorious when all is said and done.

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Hunger Strike Remembrance 9-24 at Chicago Gaelic Park

In 1981 ten Irish Republican prisoners died on Hunger Strike in Long Kesh.

The British claimed that they were criminals and sought to criminalize the struggle for Irish Unity. The prisoners demanded to be treated as political prisoners in a political conflict.

Their leader, Bobby Sands, while on Hunger Strike was elected as an MP to Westminster. Kieran Doherty was elected as TD to the Dáil in Dublin. Both would die in jail with eight other hunger strikers.

Recognition of political status for the prisoners would be eventually won. It was a painful and long year. It defined a new era for Irish Republicanism. Building support for Irish Unity, contesting, and winning elections.

Ireland has changed. A new and united Ireland is now possible. Support for Irish Unity is now growing.

I hope that you will join, Pádraig Mac Lochlainn TD Chief Whip of Sinn Féin in the Dáil to remember the sacrifice of the Hunger Strikers and hear of the determination of this generation of Republicans to deliver a new and united Ireland.

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September 24th at 5.00pm at the Famine Monument, Gaelic Park, Oak Forest. A function with ballad Music will be held afterwards in Gaelic Park.

Let us build a new and united Ireland as a fitting tribute to all those Irish Patriots who gave their lives in the cause of Irish Freedom.



Game On!

By Chris Wheaton



Most of you are reading this with Labor Day in the rear-view mirror and are wondering what happened to summer? Sadly, summer has passed. The All-Ireland finals are complete, the White Sox have vanished into the black hole of mediocrity and the Cubs are making a last-ditch effort to make the playoffs. Football season begins its "real" games this coming weekend and the new look, Conor Bedard led Blackhawks will be getting underway in about a month. Irish Festivals have come and gone, and I hope a bunch of you made it up to Milwaukee or stayed home for the great times that I'm sure were had at Gaelic Park at the end of August.

One Irish Fest that has yet to happen is on September 22 and 23 at Central Park in downtown Naperville. The new location this year will undoubtedly make for an exciting couple of days and attendance should be way up since moving from the far south side of town. You can expect a great line-up of Irish music covering everything from rock to rebel songs to Irish Trad and storytelling. 3 dance troupes will be participating, and they always seem to energize the crowd. One of my favorites, The Fire Fighters Highland Guard of Naperville will be blowing their pipes throughout the festival bringing smiles or scowls to anyone in earshot depending on your love or disdain for the pipes. I expect great food and some tasty pints as well as some terrific vendors in the Irish Village where you can stock up on Tayto's, Club Orange, and Crunchies. Check out the hurling and Gaelic football demonstrations or take a picture with an Irish wolfhound that is as tall as you. There will be something for everyone and I predict this will be the best Naperville Irish Fest ever.

As summer comes to an end and the short, dreary days of winter are right around the corner, we should all take some time to live in the moment and enjoy the time we have outdoors. Walk around your neighborhood before it is too cold and icy to do it. Chat with your

neighbors before they hibernate inside for a few months. Sit in your backyard and read a book under the September sun, hanging on to the last few days of warmth before the snow flies; I know my daughters have been obsessed with author Colleen Hoover and can't seem to put her many books down. Get in those last 18 holes of golf or swim your final lap of the year in the pool.

Don't wait until next year to enjoy what you have now. None of us know what tomorrow brings and as much as we look forward to the next spring, don't wish away the winter. Every day brings new opportunities to better ourselves, to try something new, to make a new friend or to just live in the moment. Turn off the television or put your phone down for a few hours and talk to your spouse, tell your children a story about the "old days, listen to music, play a board game, do one of those 1000-piece puzzles, exercise your brain and your body, or maybe just look out the window and watch the leaves fall, losing yourself in the beauty of nature.

The point I am trying to make is that life is short, and each passing season seems to fly by. Don't be one of those people who is always saying "if only I had done ___", or "I will try that next year". Next year is NOW, today is YOUR day. Be Irish; live, laugh, enjoy and if you want to lament a little bit that's okay too but move on and get back to living.

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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



A Eulogy

Let me be among the many who have paid tribute to the late Sinead O'Connor. She was a firebrand the likes of which we'll not see again for a very long time. Among the praises heaped upon her will be those that Morrissey calls 'moronic', those people from the music industry who reviled her in life for her lack of conformity. Those who despised her for exposing what Joni Mitchell referred to as the 'star maker's machinery behind the popular song.' O'Connor's music is the stuff of protest. It's unapologetic in its confrontation of political, social and clerical injustice. Having suffered abuse in own her life, O'Connor was particularly sensitive to the victimization and exploitation of others. Her crusade, if we can call it that, was an endeavour to put right some of the wrongs that society has turned a blind eye to.



Like the prophet Jeremiah, O'Connor aimed to dramatize her resistance in a unique steam-punk manner. Tearing up the picture of the Pope in 1992 brought down an avalanche of criticism. Actor, Joe Pesci, responded by saying he would've 'slapped' her. Frank Sinatra's response was no better 'This must be one stupid broad. I'd kick her in the ass if she were a guy. She must beat her kids to stay in shape.' O'Connor's radicalism was a reminder to us that she was more than simply an entertainer. She was, as G.B Shaw said of Joan of Arc, a visionary 'who, seeing farther and probing deeper than other people, has a different set of ethical valuations from theirs, and has energy enough to give effect to this extra vision and its valuations in whatever manner best suits his or her specific talents.'

Joan defied the mores of the day. She dressed as a man. She claimed to hear God for herself. She refused to be intimidated by the male patriarchy. In all that she said and did, Joan was an inspirational non-conformist. In the exposure of matters regarding clerical abuse, O'Connor was before her time. The power of the Church was keenly felt in the way that she was pilloried for her honesty. Attacking the religious institution, from the music industry's standpoint, was tantamount to cutting your nose off to spite your face. At a time when she was at the height of her fame, she raged against the religious institution and proved herself to be more than just another pop singer. And, as a consequence of being authentically herself, she was shunned. She became a pariah, an outsider when in fact she was remaining true to her own values. In the words of her song The Emperor's New Clothes she writes; 'And there's millions of people/ To offer advice and say how I should be/But they're twisted and they will never be/Any influence on me.'

In taking on the institutions of power; political, religious, and commercial, O'Connor suffered for her truth at the hands of the media. Every decision she made, whether it was ordination or conversion to the Muslim faith, was ridiculed. In the eyes of the media,

her personal struggle with mental illness was treated as a topic of farce. Her very public cry for help was greeted as salacious gossip by the vultures of journalism. Each personal tragedy she experienced was yet another reason to mock and demean her. In choosing to battle with these institutions of power, she would find herself mortally wounded. The delight and relish with which these journalists derived in seeing her flounder was sickening.

Her musical talent soon became sidelined as the media continued to define her life as a freak show. In typical fashion, they deflected us away from her message and choose to concentrate on what they perceived as aberrations. Her sexuality, religious pursuits, and family life were reduced to being simply symptomatic of a mad woman. The vile and malicious gossip-mongering surrounding O'Connor's life should make us angry at these tabloids. What was it they feared about this vulnerable yet strong-minded woman? What truth was she speaking that they wanted to distract us from? O'Connor wasn't afraid to say what she felt needed to be said. Her bravery was not blindsided by a false sense of morality or pious self-righteousness. O'Connor's fearlessness was grounded in honesty. Asking questions that needed to be asked. Nothing was taken at face value. If there was

a hidden agenda, she believed it needed to be uncovered.

While we might not always agree on her methods, we cannot fault her insights. In staying true to herself, she resisted the temptation to sell her soul to the corporate devil. In her own words, 'I will live by my own policies/I will sleep with a clear conscience/I will sleep in peace/Maybe it sounds mean/But I really don't think so/You asked for the truth and I told you/Through their own words/They will be exposed.' As a final tribute of my own, I wrote the following in appreciation of her gift and to commemorate the sad loss of a truly talented Irish singer.

Luna

For Sinead O'Connor

Oh, daughter of rage whose tears find no joy, whose blistering pain, lies hidden, where we cannot see it, troubling our souls with your disquieting protest. We, the Troy you could not burn, We, who scorned your simplicity with our appetite for its sound without your demented fury. Mother of sorrows, draped in unbridled anger, whose fiery gentleness sears us with indignation, you, the changeling, more human than those who made you an outcast, more fragile than those whose core changed none, sing again to us, wound us with tragic vulnerability. Gone now to sleep among the saints and angels, the glimmering girl who touched our hearts, whose mystery we could not shackle with reasoning. The fire starter who creates life anew from ashes, the fire starter whose sincerity consumes the righteous, whose lonely torch-bearing we greet still with caution.

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Who is Cillian Murphy? I've heard people say his name in different ways. It's a hard C. I thought I should write about this talented blue-eyed actor from Cork. Since he just played the lead actor in the summer blockbuster, Oppenheimer. The movie was about Robert Oppenheimer the physicist, called the father of the atomic bomb.

Murphy was born in Douglas, Cork. His mom was a French teacher and his father also worked in Education. Murphy's eyes are usually a topic, his eyes are a striking blue. I think his talent, quality and body of work have far surpassed his physical features. Murphy is prolific actor, he has been in almost 40 films, several theater productions, tv



GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

By Tina Butler



shows, & video games. (Batman begins)

Murphy briefly studied Law and played in a band before settling on acting as a career. Murphy was a vegetarian (like myself but I'll remain one for life) for a long time but started eating meat for his part in the TV series Peaky Blinders. The hit show that came out in 2014 set in England in 1920's about an Irish (gypsy) group and their struggles with England. It is based on true events but with much embellishment.

Murphy made his professional acting debut on stage in 1996 in Enda Walsh's Disco Pigs. Murphy started his career in the theater some of his performances include: The Playboy of the Western World, Love Song, From Galway to Broadway and back again, Misterman, The Country Boy and Ballyturk.

I haven't seen Oppenheimer, but I really enjoyed Murphy in, "The Wind that Shakes the Barley. It's set in Ireland in 1920's, the ruthlessness of the black and tans and the Irish civil war. I also liked the movies Anna, and Inception.

Murphy was named one of GQ's (Gentlemen's quarterly) 50

best dressed men. He has helped various homeless organizations. He became a patron of the UNESCO child and family Research Center at the National University of Ireland, Galway. UNESCO is the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization formed to promote world peace and security. I think Murphy is an amazing actor, he says he is an introvert as bill gates

and mark Zuckerberg also assert.

"It's basically lazy journalism if they say I'm the new Colin Farrell." Cillian Murphy

Smidin Gaeige

Cork-Corcaigh Movies-scannain Eyes-suile Blue-gorm

I am preparing for Gaelic Park's Summer Camp that starts Aug. 8th. I teach the Irish language section; it is so much fun to see kids get excited about the Irish language. I am not fluent like my husband and Cillian Murphy, but I hope I spark an interest in children and get the ball rolling. {is mithid cos a chur as an ngno} If you have any questions, contact me: Molanive@yahoo.com

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Celtic Thunder Returns to the Riverside Theater Milwaukee with a New Show

Odyssey, the latest show from the internationally acclaimed group Celtic Thunder, is a fascinating exploration of Irish music and culture, firmly grounded in the ensemble's impressive history, while ambitiously forging new paths.

The show takes place October 6th at the Riverside Theater, 116 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53203. Doors open at 7pm, show 8pm. Tickets: at

<https://www.pabsttheatergroup.com/events/detail/celtic-thunder-2023>

Celtic Thunder invites audiences on a sweeping voyage through the heartlands of traditional Irish music, the rhythmic pulse of contemporary Irish music, and the innovative original arrangements that are emblematic of the ensemble's unique sound.

musical journey, creating a harmonious blend that appeals to a broad spectrum of tastes. The ODYSSEY songbook is steeped in their Irish heritage and weaves a rich tapestry of emotional and musical tones.

ODYSSEY is not simply a concert; it's a powerful theatrical experience that honors Celtic Thunder's rich musical legacy and simultaneously blazes new trails. An evocative journey through time, sound, and culture, as educational as it is entertaining. The captivating blend of music, storytelling, and atmospheric stagecraft makes "Odyssey" a must-see spectacle for fans of Celtic Thunder and Irish music in general.

Formed in Dublin in 2007, Celtic Thunder is a multi-dimensional musical and theatrical ensemble celebrated around the world for emotionally powerful performances and a



The shared musical chemistry of Celtic Thunder's lead vocalists Ryan Kelly, Damian McGinty, Neil Byrne, and Emmet Cahill, gives the show its compelling power, while each singer adds their distinctive voice and charm to this

state-of-the-art production. Billboard magazine has named Celtic Thunder the Top World Album Artist 5 times (in 2008, 2009 2011 and 2015 and 2016) while the group has had LPs placed in the World Album Top 10 every release year since 2008.

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Chicago Fireman, Lieutenant Kevin Ward has died after battling for his life since he was seriously injured in a fire on West Balmoral St. on the Northwestside of Chicago on August 11, 2023. Lieutenant Ward was surrounded by his family when he died. He joined the department in 1996. Our condolences to all those affected. Rest In Peace.

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We Get Letters

Dear Cliff and Cathy,
Just a note to say thank you for your publication, but especially for sharing your story of Cliff's heart attack and healing.

A little over a year ago my husband, Will, had a cardiac arrest. He was lying on the ground and reviving him didn't seem likely. In an instant I tried to review the CPR class I had taken many, many years ago as well as decide if even trying was a good idea. In the next instant I remembered your story and it helped me get down on my knees and start compressions as my neighbor called 911. Emergency help came along with a defibrillator. Will was taken to the ER, then St. Anthony's Hospital in Rockford, IL where he received five stents and then to Dubuque, Iowa for rehab.

Our whole family is so thankful that we still have him over a year later and I am so thankful I read your articles.

So thank you, Cliff and Cathy, for sharing your story.

It can indeed take "a village" along with our neighbors, friends, some wonderful police and EMS folks and

superb doctors. Even the manager and staff at the Courtyard by Marriott shared so much kindness to our family.

Forever thankful, Jill Millhouse
P.S. I would encourage your readers to learn CPR and not be afraid to use it! (story on page 60 at https://irishamericannews.com/irishamericannews/pdf/2020/ian_0220.pdf) Feb. 2020 online edition
Thank Goodness!

If I hadn't read your disclaimer stating that the opinions expressed in the newspaper are entirely those of the authors and do not reflect in any way the opinions of the IAN, I might have cancelled my subscription. I love this publication but was appalled by Sabina Clarke's misguided puff piece on Robert Kennedy Jr! His politics are as far from his father and uncle as possible. His has no facts to support any of his positions, and is not endorsed by any of the same people who allied themselves with John and Robert, Sr. In fact, his own family has disavowed his beliefs, however, the GOP enjoys bolstering his campaign so President Biden loses.

I do not wish to be contacted by this gullible woman. Thank you.



Land in Ireland on the West Coast at Shannon Airport
Members of the tourism delegation from County Clare that travelled to the Milwaukee Irish Fest in Wisconsin - the world's largest Irish cultural festival - to encourage the US market to travel directly into the West of Ireland via Shannon Airport. Photograph by Eamon Ward

Slowing Down, Being Present, and Planting Seeds for Lifelong Growth

By Sarah Loffman
Program Director,
Youth Engagement

It's back to school season and no matter the zip code, all parents want their children to have everything they need to succeed. For students who may struggle with social or behavioral issues, mentors can be a critical support for achieving positive lifelong outcomes.

The story below about Noah and Ned shows that mentors' lives can be profoundly enriched by these relationships as well. Catholic Charities matches volunteer mentors with youth in Lake County and runs school-based mentoring groups at five middle schools in the Back of the Yards community in the south side of Chicago. We work closely with social workers at partner schools to identify students who show potential to benefit from a mentor. Before matching with a student, mentors are trained to understand how poverty, community violence, and trauma can affect children. They learn strategies to develop supportive and trusting relationships with young people, understand their role, set appropriate boundaries, and prioritize consistency. To learn more about our youth empowerment programs, visit catholiccharities.net.

In fifth grade, Noah's grandfather passed away. His mother knew he needed a positive male role model, someone who could guide him and teach him things she could not.

Retired after a career as an international photographer and videographer, Ned had newfound time on his hands. After an initial foray into short-term volunteering, he realized he wanted more tangible connections with these experiences and an avenue to make deep impact. Intrigued by Catholic Charities Youth Mentorship program in Lake County, he appreciated the program's thorough training, certification, insurance, and the care Catholic Charities takes matching students with mentors.

"I raised a son and know how hard it can be to parent," Ned recalls. "I wanted to be a resource. I was raised with a restricted worldview, but my career took me all over the world. I wanted to share my knowledge with a young person who would enjoy and benefit from this."

After getting to know one another, Ned and Noah began to meet on Saturdays. Ned taught Noah fishing, speedboating, chess, and archery. They played golf,

took art lessons, and visited museums. Noah even gained behind-the-scenes entry to see the filming of a Chicago TV show. Using currencies from across the globe as a teaching tool, Ned imparted the importance of saving and investing as a means of building wealth. Reflecting on his relationship with Noah, Ned says, "My life had been fast paced. Sitting next to a 12-year-old helped me shift gears, slow down and recognize I was witnessing a young person learning and growing."

Now a high school freshman already focused on college, with Ned's guidance, Noah has enrolled in a robotics class and is bolstering his volunteer work. Noah's mother LaToya is grateful for these experiences, which she couldn't readily provide for her son. But even more important, she appreciates Ned's consistent and reassuring presence, plus



his wisdom and advice for both Noah and her, even through tough times.

"I've always been a firm believer in the capacity to love," LaToya explains. "Ned is a reaffirmation of that. He shows up for Noah with no expectations except to share and impart wisdom and to be part of his life. I can't imagine my son in better hands."

Arranda Gardner, Catholic Charities Youth Mentor Program Manager explains that early adolescence is a critical period in child development. "Early adolescence is pivotal for children—it's when they are making decisions about both positive and risky behaviors and engaging or disconnecting from school. Our goal is to find mentor partners who help youth build confidence, guide them in recognizing their own unique potential, exploring all that's possible."

When mentors engage one-to-one with youth for at least a year, the results are impressive. Students and mentors learn from one another, grow, and cherish their relationships with one another.

In LaToya's words, "I think every parent should be open to this mentorship opportunity. Ned has planted so many seeds for growth within my son—some have shown themselves already, other things I know will matter will emerge later. He's giving him tools to navigate his life."

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Queen's University Belfast Announce New Landmark Venue for the Seamus Heaney Centre

Queen's University Belfast announced a \$6.2m new landmark venue for the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's, which will open in early 2024.

A visiting Professor at Harvard in 1979, the 1995 Nobel Laureate went to be elected the Bolyston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory before moving on to be the Ralph Emerson Poet-in-Residence, a post he held at Harvard until 2006.

Director of the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's, Professor Glenn Patterson said: "It is an enormous pleasure to be able to announce this next stage in the development of the Heaney Centre, further honouring the legacy of Seamus Heaney - Nobel Laureate, Queen's graduate, honorary graduate, lecturer and one of Ireland's greatest poets - twenty years after the Centre was founded under first director, the late Ciaran Carson.



"The new Centre allows us to build on the academic and artistic achievements of those first twenty years and to look with confidence to the next twenty - and more - with greater scope for engagement with the wider literary community.

"In this new shared space we will create a Centre that looks out, speaks out, and writes out confidently into the world. A Centre with Heaney at its heart, a Centre where writing lives."

With postgraduate student numbers in particular growing steadily in recent years, the new Centre's vastly increased size - more than double that of the current building - will not just serve today's needs but allow too for future growth.

The Centre will feature an expanded poetry library, a large venue space, teaching rooms, academic offices a

'scriptorium', with individual work stations for up to thirty students, and an exhibition area to display the Seamus Heaney archive held by Queen's, providing for the first time a focal point to promote the literary heritage of the University and Belfast.

The Centre will also create a Visiting International Seamus Heaney Chair in Creative Writing bringing expertise and new perspectives to the expanding list of degree courses and activities, and engagement programmes with educational and community groups in Belfast and across Northern Ireland.

Welcoming the building, Catherine Heaney, daughter of Seamus and member of the Advisory Board said: "The Seamus Heaney centre is really important to me and my family because it's about education. Queen's is where my father started writing poetry, where he studied himself and started his career as a lecturer and an educator. It's very much part of his writing past and the amazing thing about the centre is that it's carrying that into the future. As far as we're concerned it plays a really important part in his legacy and we're excited to see what it does next."

The project will be funded by the University's Capital Development programme and through philanthropic donations from donors across the globe.

"Thanks to several generous donors, including the Irish American Partnership and the Scott Griffin Foundation, an impressive \$1.3m has been raised for this project. We aim to at least double this figure to support the vision of the Seamus Heaney Centre including establishing an academic Chair and expanding on the Centre's outreach activity with schools

and local communities. To help write the next chapter of this Centre, please get in touch."

For information on the Seamus Heaney Centre's landmark venue and how to

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www.qub.ac.uk/alumni/QueensUniversityofBelfastFoundation/SeamusHeaneyCentre



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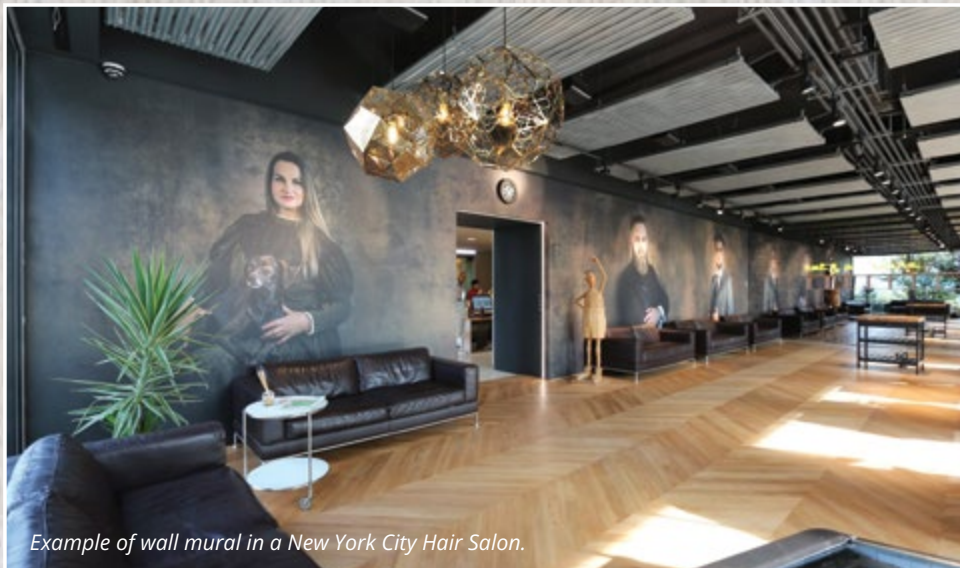


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Word of Life mural, commonly called 'Touchdown Jesus' on the campus of Notre Dame University



An Irish Complex

By Thomas O'Gorman



Though I fear the Cunard Shipping Lines staff could not quite reconcile the rough housing that the three O'Gorman lads displayed at sea.

I mention these details because I believe they are reflected in my writings. Whether that's a lyrical poem. An air-mail letter. A political observation. A historical synthesis. A social criticism. A theatrical review. Or the recipe for some savory Irish wild game dinner.

I first saw the coastline of Ireland rising off our bow from the afternoon mist on the deck of the R.M.S. Sylvania, an elegant, overly decorated ocean liner that served bouillon every day at 11:00 am with sandwiches and sweets. And rustled up high tea for seafaring passengers at 4:00 pm. Cucumber sandwiches and Earl Grey were my favorites.

Our travel wasn't super sonic during these early days of JFK'S new presidency. My 12-year-old traveling companion was my cousin, David O'Gorman. He and I spent our six days at sea gorging ourselves on the classical English cuisine. Watching films in the shipboard cinema. Writing postcards. Drinking tea. Playing Canasta. And going to church.

What we found when we disembarked at Cobh, in County Cork, was an Ireland still locked in President Eamonn De Valera's narrow confinement of a Republic that looked West. Not East. A nation just an hour from the European Continental shore that looked to their American friends and relations for economic progress and financial advancement. Great promise presented itself in the youthful stride of the young senator from Boston. The Irish had little time for President De Gaulle in Paris or the right winged dictator Generalissimo Franco in Madrid. But Patrick Kennedy's grandson from Boston, Jack, offered no end of economic power to the Irish. Among whom were many layers of cousins. His and mine.

We also discovered our grandparents' siblings, aging but filled with life and stories of decades past. Bringing the past to life by unforgotten remembering. Savoring the historical wonder of political independence from Britain after 800 years. Over the summer these folks would become cherished components of family lore as they recalled childhoods in another century.

I say this so that you might understand our family

passion for the history we witnessed and the history we made. We traveled to all the rural high spots where family had lived and worshipped. We delighted in the enthusiasm that our relations harnessed for two American teenagers at the beginning of their growing up. Meeting these aunts and uncles and cousins helped to provide us with not only a face to go with a name, but a soul to go with a heart. Visiting the graves of other generations of family members was moving and helped to expand the on-going saga of our family and others.

So then these are the filters through which the events of being Irish must pass for me. Like cobbles on a Dublin street. All these many years later we still cling to faces and hearts and stories that continue to forge the links in the connectors that keep us bound up with the living of one another. The Paddyisms of a later time of immigration find little space when measured against the wit and wisdom of the nation's great poets and painters and literary giants who have the capacity to keep Irish culture free and life-giving. Shrinking oceans and continents by their capacity to live in the world with dignity and humor and the inheritance we treasure and hold. We rely on its ability to empower the Irish with intelligence and reason. Important gifts as sweet as a tea cake and as challenging as a stag pursued on horseback.

I hope my writing will amuse and heal you. Widen self-awareness and strengthen your appreciation for good poets, new poets, writers whose words have the power not just of drama and romance, but also the pathos, faith, and the ability to read the promise of the future in the eyes of our children. It is my wish you learn to savor the fragrance of Irish life in the soil around us.

Thomas O'Gorman is a Chicago writer, a columnist at Skyline publishing. A 20 year veteran speech writer at Chicago City Hall.

A former Managing Editor at Hibernia magazine, and an editor at Town&Country magazine. The author of some dozen books on Chicago, as well as a biography of Frank Lloyd Wright, and End Of Watch, Chicago Police Killed in the Line of Duty 1853-2006.

He is also a fine arts painter, a self declared Irish Impressionist with Fauvist tendencies.

An Irish Complex

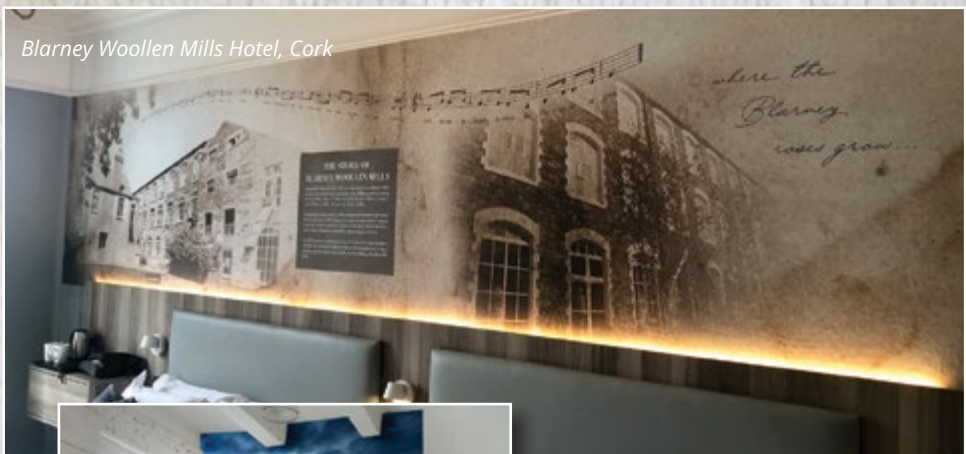
When I'm not writing about the culture and customs of Chicago, chances are I have my eyeballs trained on the foot traffic along Dublin's O'Connell Street or some laneway in West Cork.

I've been lucky. Since I was thirteen, back in 1962, I have been a frequent resident of the Irish Republic. Though my father, Mossy O'Gorman, was raised on Chicago's Southside, his Tipperary-birth after the establishment of the Irish Free State granted me Irish citizenship from day one. But I also like to believe that my Grandfather, Commandant James J. O'Gorman, of the Third Tipperary IRA during the War of Independence, also brightened the diplomatic and political complexion of my citizenship.

The subsequent Irish Civil War that followed independence, only offered my grandparents and their three sons, David, Mossy and Seamus, a long exile of life in America. Learning to be Chicagoans. My savvy grandmother, Rebecca Crowe O'Gorman, relied on frequent visits back to Ireland, without her husband, to heal the wounds of being an exiled patriot's wife. She became quite adept at crossing the Atlantic.



Lake Michigan Lighthouse



Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel, Cork



Hook Head Lighthouse, Wexford

//

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Dominic Heaney
General Manager of Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel
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Wallpapers
of Ireland



By Jim August

Thought for Food

Another summer has come to an end! Vacations are over, kids are back to school, and soon the weather will be changing as well as the leaves on the trees. I really enjoy fall. The cooler weather and less humid days are perfect for any outdoor activities, and football is back. Go Bears!

September starts the beginning of oyster season. Months that have an R in them are best for these bivalves. It also happens to be apple season. I used to take my kids out to Bells Orchard in Lake Zurich and we would spend an afternoon picking apples. We always had a great time. Sadly Bells is no longer there, replaced by residential development. I don't actually know where you can go to pick apples close by.

Legend has it that St Patrick planted the first apple trees in Ireland. What didn't this guy do? A lovely tale, but the Celts brought apples to Ireland when they migrated from England and have been a part of folklore, healing, and traditions for 3000 years. In Ireland, apples have long been associated with Halloween. A painting from 1832 called Snap Apple Night by Cork-born artist Daniel Maclise was inspired after attending a Halloween barn party in Blarney. The people in the painting are trick or treating in a uniquely Irish way. A young couple is sitting in front of the fire. Near her hand is a green apple. A group of young men and women are bobbing for apples from a large wooden vat, and a young man is trying to take a bite of an apple hanging from a string.... he's playing snap apple. A lot of these customs have fallen by the wayside but the apple is still

going strong.

In America, you can find apple pies, tarts and cobblers, fritters, slices, fried apple rings, apple sauce, baked apples, and many more creations featuring this incredible fruit. Let's not forget apple cider and apple cider vinegar.

So it's no wonder that there is one simple recipe that is uniquely Irish and has long been a favorite in Irish households. The Apple Cake. The apple of choice in Ireland is the Bramely large, green, and sour. Granny Smith apples are a good substitute. Here is a recipe that doesn't require any special ingredients and is super easy to make. All you need is an 8 inch springform pan.

Irish Apple Cake

Ingredients:

2 cups flour

2tsp baking powder

½ tsp ground cloves

½ tsp ground cinnamon

¼ tsp salt

½ cup butter

2 Granny smith apples, peeled, cored, thinly sliced

¾ cup sugar reserve 2 tablespoons for top

2eggs lightly beaten

3tbls milk or buttermilk



Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line the bottom of pan with parchment paper. Grease pans sides and parchment paper with butter. Sift flour, baking powder, and spices in a bowl. Cut in butter. Toss apples in sugar then add to flour mixture. Stir in milk and eggs and mix to coat apples. Pour into springform pan and sprinkle with reserved sugar. Bake 45minutes until top is browned and springs back when pressed.

Cool on a rack for 10 minutes. Release from pan and serve warm. Serve with custard sauce, whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.

Custard Sauce

1tsp vanilla extract

2 cups half & half or whole milk

2 large eggs

½ cup sugar

Whisk together eggs, vanilla and sugar until combined. Heat milk in a sauce pan until simmer do not boil. Slowly whisk milk into egg mixture and return to pan to heat and cook over low heat whisking constantly until thickened and custard registers 175 degrees about 5-10 minutes Do not boil Pass through a strainer and cool.



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 working for a vibrant, connected and caring Irish community

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Founded in 1998, Irish Community Services' mission is to **serve, empower, and connect** our community and its members.

For the Irish
 Created over 25 years ago to meet the needs of newly arrived immigrants from Ireland, ICS continues to support and engage members of our diverse Irish community in a variety of ways.

Because we're Irish
 We don't believe in a single definition of what it means to be Irish. For us, to be Irish is to embody a set of core values—these include kindness, integrity, inclusion, and love.

As an Irish community in the U.S. we are among a diverse collection of communities and groups that call this place home. We celebrate the Irish contribution to the U.S. and leverage our community's talents and resources to make our shared home a better place for us all. We serve people from a wide variety of backgrounds as an expression of our understanding of what it means to be Irish.

Community as a Need
 We believe that community is an essential human need. In a world that often feels disconnected and isolating, we create a space where people can come together to build connections, share experiences, and support one another. By fostering a sense of community, we can enhance individual well-being, strengthen social bonds, and create a more loving society.

Through our community programs, we strive to empower individuals to feel a sense of belonging, engage in meaningful interactions, and make a positive impact in our community.



Community Programs

<p>Senior Groups A welcoming place where seniors enjoy friendship, educational programs, and opportunities to connect with our Irish heritage and culture.</p>	<p>Toddler Playgroup A space where toddlers discover Irish culture through play and their parents and caregivers can connect to create community.</p>	<p>Fáilte Accessible Irish cultural programs for community members with intellectual disabilities.</p>
<p>Education & Outreach Wellness information and resource sharing through in-person and online programs.</p>	<p>Pastoral Services Spiritual and life-event services available through our chaplain Fr. Michael Madigan.</p>	<p>Colorful Initiatives to engage and recognize diverse and historically overlooked community members.</p>

Assistance Programs

<p>Direct Assistance Short-term support for Irish citizens experiencing difficulties or in crisis situations.</p>	<p>Benefits Access Information on local, state, and federal assistance programs and support to file benefits applications.</p>	<p>J1 Assistance Information on housing, accommodation, and safety issues for Irish J1 summer students.</p>
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Immigration Programs

<p>Immigration Information Guidance on routine immigration procedures like renewing a green card or removing conditions on a green card.</p>	<p>U.S. Citizenship Assistance navigating the process of attaining U.S. citizenship, including eligibility screening, application filling and civics test preparation.</p>
<p>Immigration Legal Clinics Free consultations with Immigration professionals that provide guidance to individuals on their unique situation.</p>	<p>Irish Diaspora Services Guidance on applying for Irish passports and Irish citizenship, and referrals to Irish-based support organizations for those returning to live in Ireland.</p>

Saturday Socials
 at the Irish American Heritage Center

Let's get together!
 The kettle is on between 11am — 1pm
 Saturday, 9th September
 Saturday, 14th October
 Saturday 11th November
 Saturday 16th December
No plan, just a time to connect!



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Growing Hope

Resources & Advice for Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

September is Suicide Awareness Prevention Month. ICS is taking this opportunity to have an honest and compassionate discussion about suicide and mental wellness. Join us.

Take our mental health survey



Tell us what mental health means to you and how we can better support the Irish community.



Teen Suicide Prevention Training

A FREE workshop for parents & guardians about suicide and your teenagers.

Irish American Heritage Center

4626 N Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630
Wednesday, 27 September
6pm - 7.30pm

Chicago Gaelic Park

6119 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452
Thursday, 28 September
6pm - 7.30pm



Register for a workshop



Later this month, we'll be sharing more resources in a special email newsletter. Sign up for our newsletter!



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

www.afsp.org



LGBT National Help Center

888-843-4564
lgbthotline.org



988
988lifeline.org



Resources



Gatherings for Seniors

Discover a vibrant community and embrace the Irish spirit this fall!

Join our FREE Senior Gatherings at *Chicago Gaelic Park* and the *Irish American Heritage Center* for an engaging blend of Irish cultural events, social activities and educational workshops.

For questions or to have a detailed schedule of senior gatherings mailed to your home, call **Kathleen** on 773-282-8445.

The Shamrock Seniors

Senior gatherings at the *Irish American Heritage Center*

Wednesday, September 6th

Mass with Fr. Mick Madigan and live music by Ray Gavin

Wednesday, September 20th

A morning of Irish movies — join us for at the picture show!

Wednesday, October 4th

Monthly Musical Gathering with live music by Terry Byrne

Wednesday, October 18th

Learn how to tackle your bad habits and develop new positive ones

Wednesday, November 1st

Monthly Musical Gathering with live Irish music

Wednesday, November 15th

Lecture by Irish historian Theresa Choske

Wednesday, December 6th

Monthly Musical Gathering with live Irish music

Wednesday, 13th December

Christmas Luncheon at Gaelic Park- more details to follow!

The Golden Gaels

Senior gatherings at *Chicago Gaelic Park*

Wednesday, September 13th

Mass with Fr. Mick Madigan and live music by Ray Gavin

Wednesday, September 27th

Mind Matters: Irish Song Bingo - musical enrichment for your brain!

Wednesday, October 11th

Learn how to tackle your bad habits and develop new positive ones

Wednesday, October 25th

Mind Matters: Brain games and food celebrating the fall harvest!

Wednesday, November 8th

Mind Matters: Let's share stories of home, wherever that may be!

Wednesday, 13th December

Christmas Luncheon — more details to follow!

Everyone is welcome at our gatherings for seniors. There is no membership requirement and no fees to attend. See you at a gathering soon!



**Gallagher's
Advice**
By Caroleann
Gallagher



Navigating Premises Liability in Illinois: Injured In Someone Else's Home?

We've all been there - visiting a friend or relative's house, enjoying a pleasant time, when suddenly, an accident occurs. Slip and fall incidents, tripping over clutter, or even injuries caused by faulty infrastructure can happen, even in the most familiar environments. This article is tailored to help everyday individuals understand their rights and responsibilities when faced with such situations.

Understanding Premises Liability in Home Settings

Premises liability law in Illinois is designed to ensure that property owners maintain a safe environment for visitors. This duty of care extends to homeowners as well. When you visit someone else's home, you transition from being a visitor to an invitee under premises liability law.

Types of Visitors and Their Legal Status:

The duty that is owed to the victim depends largely on the

type of visitor he or she was at the time of the injury. Illinois has abolished the common law distinction between an invitee (someone who had express or implied permission to be on the property) and a licensee (someone who had the privilege of being on the property with the owner's consent). For these individuals, generally, the landowner is responsible for being reasonably aware of (and fixing) any conditions that can injure a customer, job applicant, delivery person, guest at an entertainment venue, and other types of visitors.

Trespassers are afforded very little protection in the eyes of the law. If you enter property without the owner's permission, or to commit a crime, you are considered a trespasser. The property owner only has to refrain from intentionally causing harm that can compromise the well-being of a trespasser.

There is a further distinction

between adult trespassers and child trespassers. Children who trespass are not subject to the above rule but are protected under the attractive nuisance doctrine. That means if something is allowed to exist on the property that could invite children - like a swimming pool - the owner should place reasonable safeguards around it to prevent a child trespasser from being injured.

What are the Elements of a Premises Liability Case in Illinois?

For a plaintiff to successfully bring forth a premises liability claim against an owner or occupier in Illinois, they must prove four elements:

1. A condition existed on the property that presented an unreasonable risk.

2. The property owner knew or should have known about this condition.

3. The property owner failed to exercise reasonable care.

4. The plaintiff suffered injury as a result of this failure.

If all of these elements are present, a plaintiff may be able to recover compensation for their injuries.

Proving Negligence and Liability

For a successful premises liability claim, you'll need to

establish certain key points:

1. **Duty of Care:** To demonstrate negligence, you must show that the homeowner had a duty of care towards you as an invitee. This involves proving that you were lawfully on the property and that the homeowner should have foreseen potential hazards.

2. **Breach of Duty:** You must then establish that the homeowner breached their duty by failing to maintain a reasonably safe environment or by not warning you about known hazards.

3. **Causation:** The breach of duty must have directly caused your injury. This connection can sometimes be complex, requiring a careful examination of the circumstances.

4. **Damages:** Evidence of your injuries and the resulting damages, such as medical bills, lost wages, and pain and suffering, will be crucial to building your case.

Comparative Negligence: Your Role in the Accident

In Illinois, the principle of comparative negligence is important to understand. If it's determined that your actions contributed to the accident in someone else's home, your compensation may be reduced based on your percentage of fault. For instance, if you were

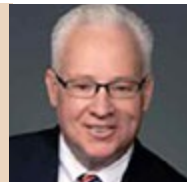
distracted while walking and didn't notice a wet floor sign, you could be assigned a certain degree of fault. However, as long as you're found to be less than 50% responsible for the accident, you may still be able to recover compensation for your injuries.

Understanding premises liability law in Illinois when it comes to injuries sustained in someone else's home is crucial for protecting your rights as a visitor. If you're injured in someone else's home due to their negligence, seeking legal guidance is advisable. A personal injury attorney experienced in premises liability cases, like my colleagues and I, can help navigate the legal intricacies, gather evidence, negotiate with insurance companies, and, if necessary, represent you in court. This legal support can significantly increase your chances of securing fair compensation for your injuries and related expenses.

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



**Master
Your Money**
By Mike Corrigan



Fixed Index Annuities

In recent years there has been a significant surge in the popularity of Index-Based Annuities, making a major shift in the retirement planning landscape. These innovative products offer individuals the potential for market participation while providing downside protection.

A Fixed Index Annuity is a type of insurance product that offers a guaranteed minimum interest rate combined with the opportunity to earn interest based on the POSITIVE performance of a specific stock market index, such as the S & P 500. It provides a balance between safety and growth potential. The interest credit to your funds on deposit can NEVER be less than zero %. That means in a down market the worse case is you protect your principle and don't lose what you either have invested or what you earned the prior

year. So, gains are locked in from year to year. That is referred to Lock In and Reset which is a very advantages feature that many consumers don't fully grasp. To clarify, once your account value is credited with a positive rate of interest on your anniversary date that amount is locked in and can't be lost in subsequent years like a traditional investment that has market exposure. So, if the market goes down in the following year after having a positive increase in your account value you don't lose any value. Your account value is 100% protected from any market volatility. In a down market, you would get 0% interest preserving your principle and any prior earnings. When the market comes back and has a positive movement to the upside you will participate in that the increase.

This is a way to receive some level of market-linked returns without directly investing in the

stock market. The measurement of the interest that you could potentially earn is from annual anniversary date to the following year's anniversary date. An example would be if your anniversary date was September 1st and you were LINKED to the S & P 500 that started at 4000 on that date and ended the following Sept 1st at 4400 then you would have earned 10% (400 point increase divided by 4000). This assumes you had the type of index annuity that has 100% participation in the positive increase of the underlying index.

In that same example, if the S & P 500 started at 4000 on this Sept 1st and ended at 3500 the following year Sept 1st then you would have earned 0% protecting your principle because the market went down. The interesting feature with index annuities in this example is that after a down year your new measuring starting point for the following year is 3500. That is referred to as an Annual Reset. So, when the market starts to come back from 3500 and is moving up, you are participating in that positive increase on 100% of your principle and any prior earnings while most other people that have true stock market exposure are trying to

get back to even. You would be miles ahead because you didn't experience the loss that they did.

This is one of the reasons these Index-based annuities have gained so much traction because of these unique blends of features. This protection against market downturns has appealed to people that are at or approaching retirement. It is truly risk mitigation. The closer you are to retiring you usually have less tolerance for risk because you don't have the time or temperament to wait for your account values to come back up. People tend to put off retirement or wait an extra year or more until their account values recover from a major downturn. These index annuities can fill that need to reduce or eliminate risk in your portfolio allowing you to more confidently retire with the comfort knowing you can't lose the funds you have accumulated due to market volatility.

You need to educate yourself and learn about the different types of index annuities and the various indexes that are available to link your interest performance. Some index annuities have annual caps on the maximum interest you can earn. Currently, some of those annual caps range

from 8% to 12% depending on the index you choose to link to. There are terms like Caps, participation percentages, spreads and multipliers. So, there is a learning curve for most people that are not familiar with these types of plans. It is beyond the scope of this article to explain all of the nuances associated with these types of annuities.

Most people are confused by the word "annuity" and don't understand the various types available. To simplify, there are basically annuities that are just for accumulation and there are other annuities that provide income. There is also annuities that provide a combination of both accumulation and income. Typically, people in their 50's and early 60's are accumulating and contributing to their retirement plans trying to save/invest as much as possible. Then they move to the income or distribution phase in their late 60's or 70's when they are no longer working and are retired. Annuities can play a role depending on your circumstances no matter what age you are.

We have developed a white paper called "The Truth about Annuities" which is available for free to anyone that would like to learn more and educate themselves. It reviews the pros and cons of various types and features of annuities including Index Annuities. People that have received this report tell us it's very helpful.

You can request this white paper report by e-mailing me at mike@corriganfs.com or call 708-215-5100. Mike Corrigan, Corrigan Financial Services, Inc 708-215-5100

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

By Emmett Fitzpatrick
 Ireland Network Chicago -
 Friday, September 8
Harborside Intl 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. You can sign up to play at www.chicagoireland.org
St. Patrick Fathers -

Saturday, September 9
Indian Boundary GC
 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." 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."

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.chicagogaelpark.com
Irish American Heritage Center Saturday, 9-16
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 or iahc.golfing@gmail.com with questions.



A Southside legend, Gene Earner, informed us that his great grandchildren opened the festivities at the Gaelic Park Irish Fest August 25. Gerry Haughey and friends are performing in the background.

Rally 4 Reynolds Opens Go Fund Me Page

On July 4, 2023, Paul Reynolds had a seizure and was taken to University of Chicago Hospital where he received the devastating news that he has Astrocytoma, Stage IV. In layman's terms, an incurable brain tumor.

Paul is currently undergoing a six-week regimen of chemotherapy and radiation in an attempt to slow the cancer's progress and then will continue a further six months of chemotherapy.

At this time Paul, a Chief for the Local 399 Stationary Engineer Union, is unable to work and will not be able to



work in the foreseeable future. Their only source of income at this time comes from Lizzie's salary as a CPS primary school teacher. The Reynold's have two children, Eamonn (12) and

Ronan (3). Thank you for your support and prayers for Paul, Lizzie, Eamonn and Ronan! For information contact Maureen at maurentgill@yahoo.com

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GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



Devastating news that Sinead is no longer with us. She was a courageously, fierce activist way before her time. Took a brave stance on social and political issues. Unfortunately she was vilified by many. We are forever in debt to her for those she exposed. Here is what she wrote in 1993 when she was ostracized for ripping up the pope picture on Saturday night live.

My name is Sinead O'Connor. I am learning to love myself. I deserve to be treated with respect. I deserve not

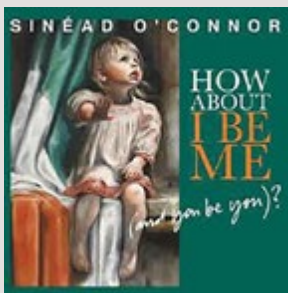
to be treated like dirt. I deserve to be listened to. I am a member of the human race. I deserve not to be hurt. My name is Sinéad O'Connor. I am a woman. I have something to offer...

Well we heard you Sinead we knew of your struggles we were all rooting for you especially after your son died. May he rest peacefully in your arms.

My young cousin Leann in Donegal who's an avid talented writer put this together within minutes of hearing the sad news.

For Sinead, Daughter of Ireland

Nothing compares to you no one ever will.
 You lived a life of authentically
 Despite many battles, uphill
 A culture that repressed
 They tried to bring you down
 How to think dress and behave
 Not a fool, you were no clown
 Suffered at the hands of those supposed to care
 Inside you persevered through every kind of hell
 They labeled you difficult
 When they could not dim your light
 Called you crazy and insane
 For standing up for what was right
 lost faith in humanity at a time of need
 An industry consumed with owning money and greed
 You sat there with the best but still felt all alone,
 Fame and fortune don't mean a thing,
 but nowhere feels like home
 No, nothing compared to all that you endured
 Deep, sadness consumed and never truly reassured
 You sang right from the soul
 Touching hearts worldwide
 Setting change in motion. Not rolling with the tide
 Hard to believe it's true
 Your music while shine on
 Nothing compares to you
 Even more now you are gone.



Max Malone and the Lonesome Ace Stringband

Lonesome Ace Stringband's latest single "Praying For Rain" came to its writer in a matter of minutes. Max Malone—bassist and one-third of the Toronto-based, acoustic power trio—and his wife had packed up everything they owned into a trailer and hauled it from Toronto to a tiny town called Horsefly in British Columbia to begin building their dream homestead. Over the eighteen months from the fall of

Oct. 28 - Manitowoc, WI - Sabbatical Brewing Co.
 Oct. 29 - Holland, MI - Park Theatre
 Oct. 30 - Ann Arbor, MI - The Ark
 Malone's Lonesome Ace bandmates—John Showman on fiddle and Chris Coole on banjo—jumped right into arranging the new tune. Clawhammer banjo and moody fiddle set the scene for an Americana take on a modern concern for the planet, its inhabitants, and their surroundings.



"It's been hotter than the old folks remember and it's got us all praying for rain / Praying and complaining while the wildfire's gaining / Oh no, here we go again," the group sings in tight harmony, painting an unmistakable picture of what millions across the world are feeling increasingly every year.

Glide Magazine premiered "Praying For Rain," writing that the song, "...balances the kind of unconventional approach of acts like Split Lip Rayfield with a more old timey country sound that brings to mind acts like Trampled by Turtles." "Praying For Rain"

is the latest single from Lonesome Ace Stringband's brand new album Try To Make It Fly—due out on October 13th. The material on this new release marks not only a reinvigorated, live-on-stage sound but also a venture into more Americana-leaning songwriting on—for the first time in the band's career—an album full of original songs.

The band will play live in our area:

<https://lonesomeace.com>

Fr. Ray Kelly to Perform at Heritage Center 9-21

Fr Ray Kelly, "The Singing Priest," will perform "Live in Concert," at the Irish American Heritage Center in the spacious and air-conditioned Mayfair Theatre, 4626 N Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630, on Thursday, Sep 21 2023 from 7pm to 10 pm Ticket Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fr-ray-kelly-thankful-tour-2023-tickets-654293628857?aff=oddtcreator>

[fr-ray-kelly-thankful-tour-2023-tickets-654293628857?aff=oddtcreator](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fr-ray-kelly-thankful-tour-2023-tickets-654293628857?aff=oddtcreator)

Fr Ray Kelly, the singing Priest from Ireland and YouTube sensation is embarking on his 4th USA Tour.

The THANKFUL TOUR is a two week tour of seven cities including the IAHC in Chicago on September 21st, where he'll be singing to inspire and entertain with songs and stories of hope, love and joy. Fr Ray's famous HALLELUJAH video currently has over 89 million hits!

Fr Ray has been blessed with many opportunities to bring comfort and joy to people all over the world by sharing his songs including his appearances on Britain's Got Talent, Ireland's Dancing with the Stars, The Late Late Show RTE and various worldwide tv interviews.

He landed a record deal with Universal



Music in 2014 and has released 4 subsequent albums and numerous music videos.

All of this and still a Catholic parish Priest in Ireland! Come out and enjoy the show and the Irish hospitality!

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bluesandrootsradio.com



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 Long Grove Fountain Square

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IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER
 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Halfway to St. Patrick's Day

Saturday September 16

RIVER FOREST PUBLIC LIBRARY 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
 735 Lathrop Ave, River Forest

Saturday September 30

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER
 8:00 p.m. Fifth Province Pub

Saturday November 18

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

- 3:30p - The Bentley Academy of Irish Dance
- 4:15p - McNulty School of Irish Dance
- 5:15p - The Joyce Boys
- 6:15p - Firefighters Highland Guard Bagpipers
- 6:30p - The Boils
- 8:00p - Chicago Irish Band

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

- 12:30p - Small Batch
- 1:30p - Hogan Irish Dance Academy
- 2:15p - Firefighters Highland Guard Bagpipers
- 2:30p - The Chancers
- 3:45p - McNulty Irish Dancers
- 4:45p - Dirty Wellies
- 6:15p - Firefighters Highland Guard Bagpipers
- 6:30p - Whiskey Mick
- 8:00p - Larkin & Moran Brothers

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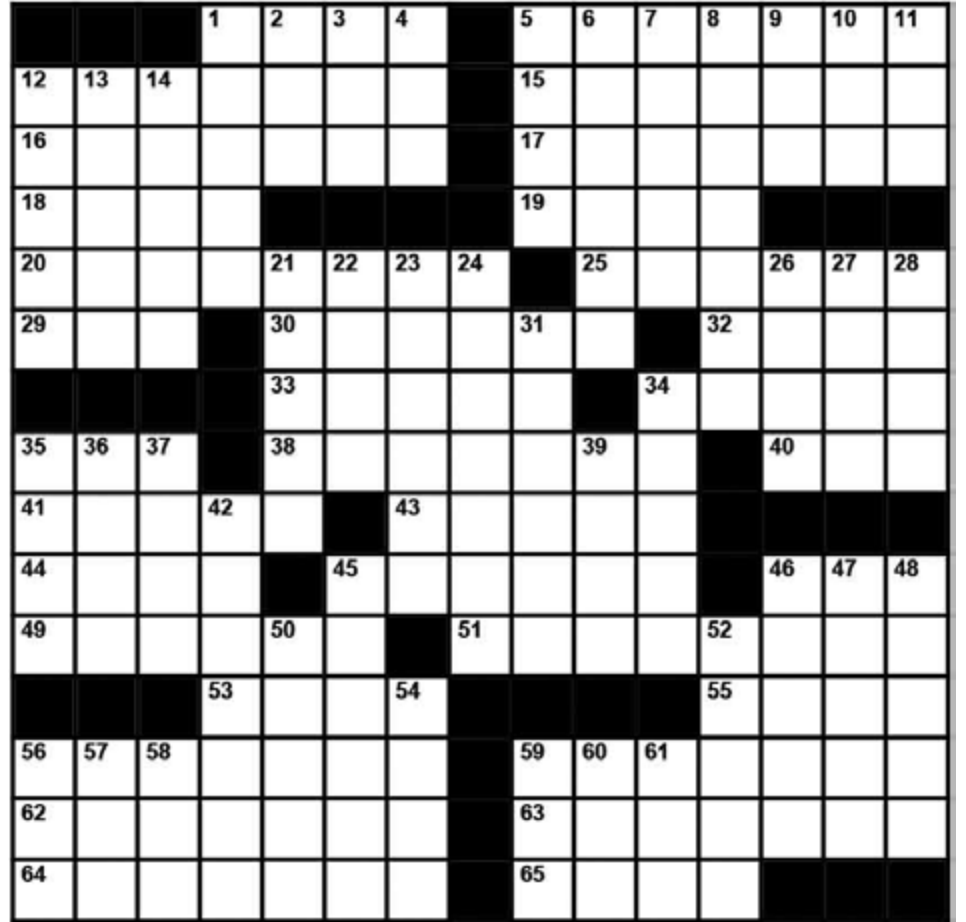
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Across

1. Item in an actor's hand
5. Charms
12. Villain played by James Gandolfini, last name
15. Country singer Cash
16. Widespread, 2 words
17. Move quickly, 2 words
18. Encumbrance
19. Cosmonaut Gagarin
20. Zsa Zsa's sister, 2 words
25. Offer comfort to
29. Ran into
30. Least wild
32. Famous Irish writer
33. Popular exercise system, 2 words
34. Bellini heroine
35. Prefix with friendly or conscious
38. Russian neighbor
40. Swabber's org., abbr.
41. Famous Irish attraction, The Cliffs of _____
43. Blue dyes
44. Portable music device
45. Compromised computers running on automatic
46. By way of
49. Ground sesame paste
51. Keep one's cool, 2 words
53. Palindromic horn sound
55. Bill of Rights defense org., abbr.
56. Santa's leader
59. Shoes the Irish gave the world
62. Lethargy
63. Deep down inside, 2 words
64. Analyze
65. ___ Martin (cognac)

Down

1. Tine
2. Toyota ___4 (SUV model)
3. Lonely number

4. ___ favor
5. Neither black nor white
6. Prairie pest
7. Houston player
8. Crime family member
9. Stop ___ dime, 2 words
10. Hosp. staffers, abbr.
11. In position
12. Beaver State capital
13. Antipasto component
14. Skirt fold
21. Flower with a yellow disk in the middle
22. Farm calls
23. Pugilist's combo, 2 words
24. Starts a computer up again
26. "Heard it ___ the Grapevine", abbr.
27. Radio operators
28. McGregor who played Obi-Wan
31. Voiced speech sound
34. Just plain mean
35. Release
36. Club of song
37. Cry of excitement, 2 words
39. Sneaking suspicion
42. Prose pros
45. "Ali" or "A Beautiful Mind", for example
46. Empty spaces
47. Italian coffee
48. Not to be missed, 2 words
50. "Cape Fear" star, Nick
52. Shrewd
54. Be careful with _____
56. Purge
57. Lateral beginning
58. From, in France
59. Forbid
60. GPS suggestion, abbr.
61. Electrical resistance measurement

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AUGUST 2023 ANSWERS Crosswords by Myles Mellon

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Home is Where the Heart Is

By Aishling Kelly



Irish Unity in Times of Need
The emerald shores of Ireland have long been known for their enchanting landscapes, rich history, and vibrant culture. Yet, one of the most enduring qualities that define the Irish people is their remarkable ability to come together in times of adversity. Time and time again, when a member of the community is in dire need, the collective heart of the Irish nation beats as one, demonstrating an unwavering spirit of solidarity. This innate sense of compassion and unity is a source of immense pride for Irish people, highlighting the extraordinary power of a nation that stands strong in support of its fellow citizens.

The history of Ireland is replete with instances of remarkable unity in the face of adversity. It was during the darkest hours of the Famine that the Irish spirit of solidarity shone brightest, as communities banded together to share resources, provide shelter, and offer a helping hand to those who were suffering the most. This legacy of unity has been carried forward through generations, forming an unbreakable thread that weaves through the tapestry of Irish culture.

One of the most heartwarming aspects of Irish unity is the way communities come together to assist members in need. Whether it's a family grappling with a medical crisis, a neighbor facing financial difficulties, or a friend in emotional distress, the Irish people display an unparalleled willingness to lend a hand. This sense of interconnectedness is not just a product of circumstance; it is deeply rooted in the Irish psyche, a reflection of the values that have been passed down through the ages. Each State in the United States where the Irish reside can undoubtedly boast the same, but I am speaking transparently about Chicago.

In times of crisis, the Irish people establish a network of support that transcends geographical boundaries. Social media platforms, local

organizations, and grassroots initiatives quickly mobilize to raise funds, provide resources, and offer emotional solace. The way in which individuals from diverse backgrounds rally around a common cause is a testament to the strength of the Irish spirit, proving that the bonds of unity are unbreakable.

The beauty of Irish unity lies not only in the large-scale efforts but also in the countless small acts of kindness that make a significant difference in people's lives. Whether it's a group of friends organizing a charity event, a community coming together for a fundraiser, or even a simple gesture of lending an empathetic ear, these acts embody the essence of what it means to be Irish. Such gestures remind us that unity is not just a lofty ideal but a lived reality that permeates every facet of Irish society.

As an Irish person living here in Chicago, the profound sense of pride that wells up when witnessing the unwavering unity of the Irish community is undeniable. It reflects a nation that stands shoulder to shoulder, ready to face any challenge and uplift one another in times of need. The legacy of Irish solidarity is not only a source of pride but a shining example for the world, a reminder that when we put our differences aside and come together, we can achieve remarkable feats of compassion and resilience. In summary the ability of the Irish people to rally around those in need is a testament to the enduring spirit of unity that has defined the nation for centuries. From historical hardships to contemporary challenges, the collective heart of Ireland beats with compassion, empathy, and an unbreakable sense of togetherness. As an Irish person, take pride in knowing that this remarkable trait is woven into the very fabric of your identity, a beacon of hope and solidarity that shines brightly in a world in need of such inspiring examples.

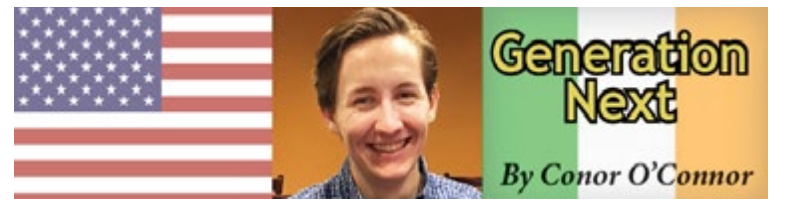
Offices are Obsolete. Let People Live in Them

In New York City, Mayor Eric Adams has pleaded with and at times criticized the Biden administration for its response (or lack thereof) to the ongoing migrant crisis facing his city. This crisis has been precipitated by a massive influx of asylum-seekers arriving at our country's southern border and has been doubly exacerbated by the political stunts of Governors Abbot and DeSantis, who have routinely bussed thousands of migrants to northern cities, including Chicago.

It is worth noting that Chicago and New York City are both sanctuary cities, meaning that both cities limit their cooperation with federal migrant enforcement, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the US Border Patrol. While there are many political perspectives on this policy, one of the main reasons these cities have adopted this status is so that undocumented immigrants utilize the social services available to them to prevent exploitation. It is well known that undocumented immigrants are uniquely susceptible to working in unsafe or inhuman conditions, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and more because they are afraid to report such occurrences for fear of jail time, deportation, or both.

Cynics and nativists often claim the ongoing migrant crisis "is what sanctuary cities get" for limiting their cooperation with federal immigration authorities, despite the fact that many of these migrants are here legally while awaiting a hearing on their asylum application. Regardless of how you feel about the way that this situation has transpired, everyone can agree that wraparound services for this vulnerable sect of the population are stretched extremely thin.

In Chicago, migrants have been forced to sleep on the floors of police departments, churches, and even out on the



streets. The housing crisis in American cities (especially in NYC, but in Chicago as well) has gone from bad to worse because of this turn of events.

Meanwhile, office landlords are grappling with the companies moving from totally in-person, to hybrid, to totally remote working environments. As leases on office space wrap up, many companies are actively downsizing the amount of space they rent or even pulling out of the city altogether. And while this trend is catastrophic for business as usual, it provides a holistic opportunity for these landlords to pivot towards residential development.

With help from the city, many of the high-rises that have traditionally been geared towards office space can be converted into living space, and many of those buildings can provide affordable housing. In fact, in light of >20% vacancy rate in Chicago office spaces, the LaSalle Street Reimagined initiative is working to plan out and develop mixed-use spaces for this purpose.

This kind of housing would benefit more than just migrants; it has the potential to totally reshape how we think of our city. Imagine if the Loop were more than just a tourist destination and a place for people to work 8 hours a day—imagine if it were to become its own neighborhood with its own identity. And despite these efforts, office space will never totally become obsolete or disappear entirely. Shared, mixed-use spaces that incorporate office work, living space, arts, activities, and more promises to bring people together in entirely new and unique ways.

And this comes in the midst of a housing market that is increasingly unfriendly to buyers and renters. Some of it is due to inflation, but a lot of it is due to opportunistic landlords and property owners. The writing is on the wall for offices, and housing is a human right. Let's make sure it is one everyone in our city and country can properly enjoy.

Save the Date: The Ireland Funds 2023 Chicago Dinner

Tuesday, November 7, 2023
Four Seasons Hotel
120 East Delaware Place, Chicago, IL 60611
6:00PM - Reception - 7:00PM - Dinner
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You can also contact Áine Mallaghan
amallaghan@irelandfunds.org
or 312-659-1995 to reserve your tickets.

Save the Date: Ireland Networks Annual Ball 2-10-2024

The much anticipated Annual Ball for the Ireland Network is confirmed for Saturday, February 10, 2024 at The Drake Hotel in downtown Chicago.

Their Annual Boat Cruise is coming up on Thurs Sept 21, 2023.

The Ireland Network will generally have a First Friday event on the first Friday of each month and quarterly IN Conversations and volunteer opportunities. For more information on any of their events, to purchase tickets or to join, go to <https://chicagoireland.org/>



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Larkin Brothers	19+ years
Late Night Catechism	25 years
Law - Thomas Lynch	5 years
Lizzie McNeil's	18+ years
Marquette Bank	21 years
Martin Healy Law	25 years
McEntee Law	5+ years
McGonigal's Pub/Rest	13 years
McNulty Dance	29 years
Mel Dermody Hearing	6 years
Mickey Finn's	10 years
Miller/McGing	3 years
Milwaukee Irish Fest	28 years
Mystic Rogue	3 years
Old Orland Insurance	20+ years
Old St. Patrick's Church	23 years
Old Town School of Music	21 years
Paddy Homan	16+ years
Palos Country Club	28 years
Peggy Kinnane's Rst/Pb	21+ years
Riordan Insurance	6+ years
Shamrock Tuckpointing	15+ years
Shannon Law Group	3+ years
Sheehan Group	3+ years
Sheehy Funeral Home	28+ years
Sheila's Carpet Clean	4+ years
St Patrick's Parade	8+ years
Tourism Ireland	27 years
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Learning Irish Culture Through Song and Vocal Traditions

By Dr. Christine Lawless,
Chicago area Irish Singer

Hello, my name is Dr Christine Lawless, and this is my first article for IAN. A few years ago, I made a New Year's resolution to learn more about my Irish heritage and Ireland's culture. And to me that meant learning about Ireland's literature, poetry, heroes, folk lore, art, music and songs.

As a classical and church singer much of my life, I naturally gravitated toward studying Ireland's traditional songs and music first. This approach did not disappoint, as studying traditional Irish songs led to an absolute treasure trove of Ireland's history, legends, folklore and daily life, expressed in the song's lyrics. Typical traditional Irish songs are about love or love lost, drinking and its consequences, a river or a lake, family life, the sea, the supernatural, prison, banishment, historical figures, rebellion, emigration, humor, and separation. Both Traditional Irish language and English language songs can be also called Sean Nos, meaning "old style."

In short order, I joined a Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann local branch (Murphy Roche Irish Music Club and School of Irish Music in Burr Ridge) where I began to learn basic traditional Irish songs in the English language. Later, I added Irish language songs and lilting, studying with Clare native and St Louis MO resident Eimear Arkins, All-Ireland Champion in both English and Irish Singing. After just over a year of studying, singing, and performing, I competed and qualified in 3 events (English Singing, Irish Singing, and Litling) at the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, abbreviated as the "Fleadh Cheoil" (literally "feast of music") or the All-Ireland, held in August 2023 in Mullingar, Ireland. It is widely known as the World Championships of Irish music.

The All-Ireland is run by the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. Since 1951, Comhaltas has existed as a non-profit cultural organization with hundreds of branches throughout the world. Its mission is the preservation and promotion of Irish traditional music. To qualify for the All-Ireland, one must first compete in county events throughout Ireland, and then advance to 4 provincial events, held about 1-2 months before the All-Ireland. Only the top two singers are chosen to advance. In other parts of the world, like the USA, only 2 provincial events are held, the Midwest, and the Mid-Atlantic. As in Ireland, the top two finishers in each category advance to the All-Ireland final, where one might encounter up to 10-20 competitors in an event. Singers making it to the All-Ireland are considered the best in the world.

Singers who compete in the All-Ireland arrive via many paths. While some are taught by their parents in the home since they were very little, others are called later in life as adults. Chulainn O'Fhaoláin, age 14, and his sister Eire Ni' Fhaoláin, age 17, both 2023 All Ireland

champions in under age 18 singing events, started singing about age 5, and credit their Mom Rachel Uí Fhaoláin for being their inspiration. When asked if one can only learn as a child, they both said (practically in unison), "No, it's never too late to start!" How encouraging for those coming to this beautiful art form later in life!

It was an absolute treat to have breakfast in Mullingar with Maire Ni Cheileachair, recording artist, teacher, and Sean Nos Singer of the Munster style. Now residing in Cork City, Ni Cheileachair was born to parents from the Muskerry Gaeltacht (Irish speaking region) of County Cork. Ni Cheileachair did not start singing publicly till sometime after college, and she did not start competing until her late



Dr. Christine Lawless,

Besides being crowned All-Ireland Champion in the 1990's in both English and Irish Singing, Ni Cheileachair was also named TG4 (Irish public service TV network) singer of the year in 2018. She feels one does not just simply choose to start singing Sean Nos, but that "One gets a call, the songs speak to you." Regarding singing, performing, and competing in traditional Irish songs, Ni Cheileachair stated, "Serve the song, and get yourself out of the way." Very well said indeed Maire.

Japanese competitor in the English Over 18 Ladies Singing, Toa Sypher, age 37, fell in love with Irish songs in kindergarten at the age of 5, when she heard her Catholic school teacher (a native Irishman), singing for the schoolchildren. She became serious about it 10 years ago, taking lessons in Irish Singing from well-known Irish Singer and former All-Ireland Champ Dierdre Scanton via Zoom. Although Toa thought it would be nice to medal, she did not expect to do so. When asked what her goal was by competing, Toa offered, "Competing allows me to come to Ireland and learn technique and songs from all the other singers; my goal is to perform Irish Singing better tomorrow than I did yesterday." Proof you don't have to be Irish to love Irish Traditional Songs or to perform them.

Kevin Elam, age 31, from the Washington DC area, USA, and the 2019 All-Ireland Champion in Men's over 18 English Singing, returned for the newly composed songs. This is a relatively new competition, created to introduce new songs in the style of the old traditional songs to the singing public, eventually to be handed down to future generations. Elam said he did not win his first time out, but that it took several years of listening and learning from other singers to get to the level to be a champion. He shared, "Adjudicators can tell the difference between a singer just throwing together a song to be able to compete, as opposed to a singer participating because of love

for the tradition."

Another competitor in newly composed songs, Tommy Dunn, 61, of Derry (Doire) Northern Ireland, stated his route to this competition was unusual. Although Dunn is a life-long singer, in January of 2023, he suffered a major health event, and had considerable down-time. So, he took up song writing, which led to a newly composed song about the struggle to reunite Ireland's counties for the past 100 years.

Wexford singer, Gavin Byrne, 47, has been singing since age 7, but he only started Irish singing 4-5 years ago. Although he got close and came in 3rd place in his province, he plans to try again next year, and to continue to sing with the County Wexford Traditional Singers because he loves Irish Traditional Singing.

Singing in the Irish Language is a very special category of song. These songs are often hundreds of years old, and when one enters the competition room, it feels like entering a holy place. Everyone is speaking only in Irish, and competitors sing one slow song, and one lively song. While the majority of competitors hail from Irish speaking counties of Ireland, one was a unique exception. Cecelia Beyer, 49, a Jewish rabbi from New Jersey USA, has been studying the Irish language for 7 years. Though qualifying in 3 events, she considers the Irish singing her favorite for no other reason than she "just loves it."

Lilting is one of the oldest oral traditions. It is referred to by several names, portaíreacht bhéil (port a'bhéil, "mouth-singing") in Irish, or "mouth music." There are no words, only non-sensical sounds made by the singer's vocables; think Swiss yodeling or jazz scatting. Competitors are required to lilt 4 tunes which must contain a jig and a reel. For instance, vocables for Silver Spear Reel might sound like this: "rowdle dithery doodle didle deedle didle dodle dum." According to Eimear Arkins, absolutely essential to lilting is no pauses or interruptions to the rhythm or flow. She says, "Rhythm is king," and the singer should inspire others to want to dance. Felt to originate from the Cromwellian ban on musical instruments from 1649-1653, the old songs could be passed down only by lilting at that time.

Not all the singing in Mullingar was competition singing. There were several Singers Cafes, and evening singing sessions. Niall Wall, long time Irish Traditional Singer with multiple All-Ireland medals under his belt offered this bit of advice on how to learn Irish Traditional Singing, "... immerse yourself in the tradition (like Singing Clubs and Sessions), and you are likely to absorb more naturally than through a classroom setting."

Traditional Irish singers create music in several disciplines, and come from all different backgrounds, ages and experience. While it is better to start young, it is not essential, and one can appreciate and participate in this art form at any age. And do not think you have to be a competitor to love all forms of Traditional Irish Singing. To do as Niall Wall suggested, connect with Chicago area singers through the Chicago Irish Singing Club, launching in October 2023. This Club plans to gather once a month to exchange songs and learn new ones. We will not only sing traditional songs, but also pub songs and other popular Irish songs. We are open to all ages. For further information, place your name on our mailing list, and receive our newsletters, contact me at

Christine.lawless@yahoo.com





Scholarships Granted by Irish Fellowship Club Foundation

Each fall, the Irish Fellowship Club Education and Cultural Foundation provides much needed scholarship support to Catholic High Schools across the Chicago-Land area. Says Foundation and Club Treasurer Jack Kane, “These scholarships are critical to the Catholic High Schools. With our funds, students with financial need are able to begin or continue their education in outstanding academic institutions, building their faith each and every day. The Foundation’s financial assistance allows these deserving recipients an opportunity to excel at their parochial high school and be afforded a wonderful chance of pursuing a college education.” Since it’s founding the IFC Foundation has provided over \$3 million in scholarship grants to Catholic High Schools.



IFC Foundation President, Jack Hartman with Mary Dempsey, President of DePaul Prep, IFC 2017 President Chris Kozicki and St. Ignatius College Prep President Fr. Michael Caruso SJ celebrate the scholarship recipients.



IFC Leaders Jack Hartman, Treasurer Jack Kane and Kevin Conlon with DePaul Prep President, and Mary Dempsey.



IFC 2023 President Bob Flood, past President Kevin Flood and the former Treasurer Don Ryan celebrate the High School Scholarships



In 2017, the Irish Fellowship Club recognized all of our Catholic High School Scholars at a special reception.

Originally only serving the City of Chicago, over the years, the Foundation has extended its grants to all of Cook, Lake and DuPage county. Schools may choose to provide the grant to one student or divide the funds for multiple students. Says Treasurer Kane, “Each year we receive heartfelt letters from parents, students and school administrators sharing the important value our grants provide.”

The Foundation is fully funded through the events of the Irish Fellowship Club. IFC President Bob Flood commented, “It is because of the generosity of our members, guests and particularly our sponsors and donors that we are able to make these important grants. It is gratifying to know that the fellowship of our events has a positive purpose in supporting Catholic High School students.”

Echoes Foundation President Jack Hartman, “The Irish Fellowship Club and Foundation have a long history of support to Catholic High Schools. Even during the pandemic, the Foundation was able to keep its commitment to the schools thanks to our generous members. We are delighted to continue this tradition.”

The Foundation is a 501c3 organization and accepts donations from the public. If you would like to make a donation to support the Irish Fellowship Foundation grant program, visit www.irishfellowshipclub.com

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Michigan Irish Music Festival September 14-17

The Michigan Irish Music Festival, presented by Family Financial Credit Union, is excited to announce the Entertainment Lineup* for September 14-17th 2023, at Heritage Landing in downtown Muskegon.

Over 25 bands will perform on multiple covered stages. Tickets available for sale at www.michiganirish.org.

Save \$5 or more on single day tickets or 4-day passes when you buy MIMF is thrilled for the return of Seamus Kennedy

Trademarked by his ongoing interaction with his audiences, fast-paced humor is very much a part of what Seamus does. In fact, Seamus seems to be having such a grand time

combines instrumentals, vocals and original compositions in a resolutely modern style. The arrangements, at times taking their inspiration from pop-rock, folk, jazz, funk or even rap (and always in the best taste), emit great energy.

Eileen Ivers, a founding member of Cherish the Ladies, has established herself as the pre-eminent exponent of the Irish fiddle in the world today. Touting an impressive list of accomplishments, including a Grammy award and an Emmy nomination, Ivers' recording credits include over 80 contemporary and traditional albums and numerous movie scores, including "Gangs of New York".

Sharon Shannon is a prolific composer



Sharon Shannon



and he makes it all look so effortless that it is easy not to notice what a superb musician he truly is. He segues seamlessly from an Irish ballad to a rollicking reel and is equally at home with folk, pop, country or traditional.

We welcome Slide, with its diverse songs, ranging from soulful and sorrowful to contagiously energetic, *The Irish Times* calls Slide "traditional musicians with attitude." *Irish Music Magazine* says "[Slide] can sing, they can write, they can dance across fingerboards and piano keys, buttons, and bows, and by crikey they can play."

Socks in the Frying Pan are a multi-award winning trio hailing from County Clare on the West coast of Ireland. Their dynamic vocal harmonies, virtuosic musical ability and their onstage wit has captured and captivated audiences the world around.

Doolin' is French in origin - though easily mistaken for Irish musicians! This sextet (guitar, bodhrán, violin, tin whistle, accordion/vocals, bass) brings a fresh approach to Irish music. Inspired by the purest tradition, Doolin'

crossing over into many genres of music. Her style is uniquely traditional Irish and she has been hugely influential in promoting Irish music not only in Ireland, but in the USA where she has collaborated with John Prine and Steve Earle, in Canada with Natalie McMaster, in Japan with the Kodo Drummers, in Malawi with Umoza Children of Mzuzu and recording and touring with Seckou Keita, Kora and percussion master from Senegal.

One for the Foxes is an exciting and dynamic transatlantic trio that features a mix of Irish and American folk music and song, both traditional and newly-composed, presented in an energetic and engaging manner. Through a shared deep-rooted passion for Irish traditional music, this trio highlights the vital role of Irish traditional music as an origin of many American folk musics, and explores how those styles can interact with one another in a manner both eclectic and grounded.

*Live music lineup is subject to change so visit www.michiganirish.org - for the latest information.

Padraig Manning New Vice Consul in Chicago

Pádraig first joined the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in 2019, working in the Embassy of Ireland in London. He then worked in the Irish Department of Education,

before taking up the role of Third Secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs in 2021.

In Dublin, Pádraig was assigned to the Ireland, UK, and Americas Division, where he worked on the Irish Government's response to Brexit, North South cooperation, and the Shared Island Initiative.

Before joining the civil service, Pádraig worked in the European headquarters of an American e-commerce company in his hometown of Cork.

He holds a BA from University College Cork and an MSc from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Pádraig has a strong interest in history and is an all-round sports enthusiast, particularly golf.



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Siblings Anne Marie Herlehy (left) and Bridget (nee Herlehy) Milionis (right) first started coming to the Center in 2000 for Irish Fest, and then taking an Art class here and there, as well as many a show in the pub and theater. Now, you'll find them cheering on Eleanor Milionis (center) at Irish Dance lessons from world renown Trinity Irish Dance along with many other generations of families at the Irish American Heritage Center!

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members and Friends of the Irish American Heritage Center,

As the summer draws to a close, we have a full calendar of events in September at the Irish American Heritage lined up for your enjoyment!

Our Halfway to St. Patrick's Festival is in the middle of the month, starting at 4pm on Friday, September 15th, the party will continue on Saturday at 2pm. We have a full schedule of great bands. Also on Saturday, we have our annual Golf Outing Fundraiser at the Billy Caldwell Golf course. We will close out the weekend at 7pm at the Mayfair with SCYTHIAN with Basil & the Wrath Bones.

The prior weekend, we are thrilled to have Irish Music superstar Sharon Shannon at the Mayfair Theatre at 7pm. Tickets are still available, we would love to see a full house for a great evening of music.

Later in the month, we will host Fr Ray Kelly, the inspiring singing priest from Ireland, on Thursday September 21st at 7pm. Comedian Ardal O'Hanlon,

who has appeared on PBS detective series Death in Paradise and on the hit Netflix series Derry Girls, performs on Sunday September 24th at 7pm.

In addition to our existing lineup in the Mayfair Theatre and in the 5th Providence, we have a wide variety of other cultural offerings at the center. Some examples include a Celtic Art program with Michael Carroll, the Great Irish Book Club, the Fall Memoirs and Creative Writing Workshop, the Na Gaeil Chicago Irish Language classes, as well as Music and Dance schools. This is just a partial list of programs starting next month. We are fortunate to host such a rich and varied set of cultural events and classes and I hope to see you in September and over this coming fall at your center!

Please check out our website for more information, tickets, and registration.

Best Regards,

Tom Chambers

IRELAND 2024 RAFFLE

Aer Lingus

Thinking of booking that trip to Ireland? Planning to head home in 2024? The Irish American Heritage Center and Aer Lingus want to help you get there! Enter the "Ireland 2024 Raffle" to benefit the IAHC and your chance to win 2 Aer Lingus Round Trip Tickets to Dublin, Ireland.

Winner picked on Oíche Nollaig na mBan on January 6, 2024. For tickets, fill out this form and mail it, along your check or visit www.irish-american.org to purchase tickets online.

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GO TO IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION.

IAHC members always save money on tickets! Call 773-282-7035, extension 10 for the member discount code.
Prices do not include Eventbrite fees.



AN EVENING WITH SHARON SHANNON SEPTEMBER 8 | 7:00PM

It's a very rare Chicago performance with Irish music superstar Sharon Shannon as she joins us in the Mayfair Theatre.
Tickets are \$35, \$30 for IAHC members.



SCYTHIAN FOR HALFWAY TO ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

SEPTEMBER 17 | 7:00PM

Heritage Center Favorites SCYTHIAN, with opening act Basil & the Rathbones, help ring in the halfway point with their own party!
Tickets are \$35, \$30 for IAHC members.



FR. RAY KELLY SEPTEMBER 21 | 7:00PM

Youtube sensation, Fr. Ray Kelly, the singing priest from Ireland, stops at the Irish American Heritage Center on his seven week tour. See him in person!
Tickets are \$30, \$25 for IAHC members.



ARDAL O'HANLON SEPTEMBER 24 | 7:00PM

Comedian Ardal O'Hanlon of "Fr. Ted" fame brings his comedy to the Mayfair Theatre at the IAHC this fall. Enjoy the opportunity to see international talent in an intimate setting!
Tickets are \$35, or \$75 for a special VIP meet-and-greet.
IAHC members receive a \$5 discount per ticket.

QUILT RAFFLE *It's the perfect Christmas gift for someone special!*



2023's exquisite work of art "Diamonds in the Rough" is ready for the annual raffle. Don't miss your chance to win this beautiful 82" square, all-cotton, washable quilt. No need to look for them in person at the IAHC. You can purchase your tickets right here!

This beautiful quilt was custom-quilted, block by block. A quilt like this, hand-made by our very own Nimble Thimbles, would cost at least \$500 if purchased outright!

The drawing is on December 4th.

Cut this order form out and check the box that shows how many tickets you would like:

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Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Festival

SEPTEMBER 15 & 16



TICKETS: \$10 AT THE DOOR



Join us for our second annual Halfway to St. Patrick's Festival! All weekend enjoy the best local pub bands, special guests, great food and drinks. The fun starts on Friday, September 15th, and continues in the Fifth Province Pub on Saturday the 16th. Close out the weekend on Sunday the 17th with a special Halfway St. Patrick's Day concert with Scythian with Basil and the Wrath Bones in the Mayfair Theatre!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 | 4:00-11:00PM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 | 2:00-11:00PM

- 4:00PM THE DOOLEY BAND
- 5:30PM CRUSTY MOORE AND THE POACHERS
- 7:30PM IN SPIKE OF OURSELVES
- 8:00PM SHANNON ROVERS
- 9:30PM THE HOYLE BROTHERS

**TICKETS
\$10
AT THE DOOR**

- 2:00PM LANGRAM'S WAY
- 4:00PM THE BOILS
- 6:30PM SHANNON ROVERS
- 7:30PM WHISKEY MICK
- 9:30PM THE CHANCEY BROTHERS

Halfway to ST. PATRICK'S DAY



SCYTHIAN IS BACK!

Heritage Center favorites Scythian, with opening act Basil & the Wrath Bones ring in Halfway to St. Patrick's Day on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 7:00PM** with a show in the Mayfair Theatre with their own party! The Fifth Province Pub will open at 4:00pm with music by Kieran Byrne before the show.

**TICKETS
\$35
\$30 MEMBERS**

Tickets: \$35 | \$30 for IAHC members

Membership code is available by calling 773-282-7035, extension 10.



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A Time of Change

'Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience' -

Ralph Waldo Emerson

We will shortly see the physical manifestations of the autumn season once again, a time when nature changes in a myriad of colours. It can also be a time for personal reflection and stepping beyond our normal boundaries of operation and familiarity.

The Renaissance proper is a French word meaning 'rebirth'. After the fall of the Roman

Empire, Europe was overrun by Barbarian tribes which led to the historical timeframe that we now refer to as 'The Dark Ages'. After many centuries of this, there was a major push to renew science, literature, travel and culture and this gave rise to the Renaissance period in the Middle Ages. This fostering of culture and learning would eventually spawn scientists such as Galileo and Newton, sea travellers like Columbus and Da Gama and artists of the calibre of Michael Angelo and Da Vinci. It was a time of great change,

spiritual renewal, and it was a massive kick start for civilization in general.

In this present age we should also look beyond our normal boundaries and at our own potential 'renaissance'. The human being is a very adaptive animal but we have bound ourselves so much to particular careers that we do not have the confidence to break out of them

have previous experience of the new function they are now entering into. This attitude has changed over the past few years to now bring our experience, wisdom and work ethic to the new position and learn the elements of the new job afterwards as a secondary consideration. We are capable of making abrupt career changes and adapting to them successfully if needed. The main

take a 'leap of faith' and follow our intuitions. It is a time to start challenging the traditional assumptions and to find new lenses in order to look at the world. It is also vitally important that we respect the inputs from another people's point of view.

From a business perspective, we are living in two worlds at the same time. The transition from the factory oriented, mass production way of doing things to the digitally based knowledge economy is a road full of bad corners and detours. However, many successful companies today are balancing both of these worlds and using the best of the old practices to bring into the new. It is time to stop paving the cow paths and build a new route instead. As we progress onwards we must be able to step back, adjust the vision, and emerge stronger and more confident to a world that demands greater expectations. The main thing in this world is not so much where we stand but in what direction we are moving.

'You must live in the present, launch yourself on every wave, find your eternity in each moment' -

Henry David Thoreau



or try other avenues of work. There was a statistic published a few years ago that said only 10% of people were in the careers they should be in. The vast majority of us stumble into boxes and get trapped inside them.

Many people are reluctant to try new ventures if they do not

thing is not to get boxed in, take the time to look around and put your plans in place to make that transitional change if you feel that you need to achieve more.

As we navigate the early decades of the 21st century, new tools are demanding new rules. It is important that we

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Mike Corrigan

Courtesy of Faces of Chicago Hospitality, www.FacesOfChi.com

Born in Ireland, Kevin Vaughan moved to Chicago at the age of 15 with his parents and siblings. His parents opened Vaughan's Pub on the Northwest Side in 1987 and it was very much a typical family business where everybody was expected to help.

Since then, Vaughan Hospitality Group, which has expanded to consist of three other Irish pubs—Vaughan's Pub Lakeview, Corcoran's Grill & Pub in Old Town and Emerald Loop—as well as the Riverwalk's Chicago Brewhouse.

Each location has its own charm and character, from the cozy and intimate Vaughan's Pub Lakeview to the spacious

and lively Emerald Loop in the landmarked Jeweler's Building in the Loop. But they all promise friendly Irish hospitality and a



Kristan & Kevin Vaughan

perfect pour of Guinness every time.

Kevin, who is the current chairman of the Illinois

Restaurant Association, attributes his company's success to hard work, treating employees fairly, putting customers first, being willing to adapt and change and, most importantly, the support and hard work of his wife Kristan who is a co-owner of the business. He believes that it is essential to be ethical and charitable by giving back as much as possible to the communities where they operate.

He says the biggest reward in the industry comes from serving people in the fun environment of bars and restaurants and creating great jobs for people and watching them succeed.

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Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler



This month I will highlight Co. Antrim. Antrim is one of the six counties in Northern Ireland in the province of Ulster. The Glens of Antrim identify the rugged landscape of this beautiful county.

In America a few States have cities also named Antrim, they include Maryland, Ohio, Michigan, New York and New Hampshire.

The Giant's causeway is near the glens of Antrim, the Causeway is a Geological wonder and a World Heritage Site. It is about 40,000 basalt columns from a volcanic eruption many years ago.

The columns disappear into the water & they cross the channel to Scotland. The visitor center at the causeway burnt down in 2000 but a new one has been built since. The causeway usually gets over a million visitors every year.

They say some of the finest coastal scenery is found in Antrim. We often hear about the sights of The Amalfi coast in Italy, Machu Picchu in Peru, The Greek Islands and Thailand. They need to include the coast of Ireland in more of these lists.

Northern Ireland's main airport, Belfast International Airport is in Co. Antrim, and two of N. Ireland's main seaports are in Antrim, Larne & Belfast.

In 1588 the Antrim Coast was the scene of the shipwreck, The Spanish Armada. Over 24 ships of the Armada crashed into the rocky coastline off Antrim. The fleet was meant for England, and it was sent by King Philip of Spain.

Carrickfergus castle is one of the best preserved structures in Ireland, and it dates from the Norman invasion of Ireland. That would be around the 12th century. The Titanic was built in Belfast, it was launched and sank in 1912. It sank in the N. Atlantic Ocean.

Some notable people that come from Antrim include Liam Neeson, George Best and Mary McAleese. Neeson is an award-winning actor in over 100 movies. Next, we have Mary McAleese, she was the president of Ireland from 1997-2011. And George Best, he was a famous footballer, he played for Manchester United. He died at a fairly young age from transplant complications.

I hope you like the following inspiring story for this month. "There once was a king who decided to do a little experiment. He had a giant boulder put right in the middle of the street. He then hides near the boulder to see who, if anyone, would try to move it out of the way. First, some wealthy merchants walked by. They walked around the boulder, complaining that the king hasn't been maintaining the roads very well. Next, a peasant walked by, heading home

with his arms full of food for his family. When he noticed the boulder, he put his groceries down and attempted to move it out of everyone's way. It took him a while to move it, but he eventually succeeded. After the peasant gathered up his groceries to carry on home, he noticed a bag lying in the middle of the road, just where the boulder once was. He opened the bag

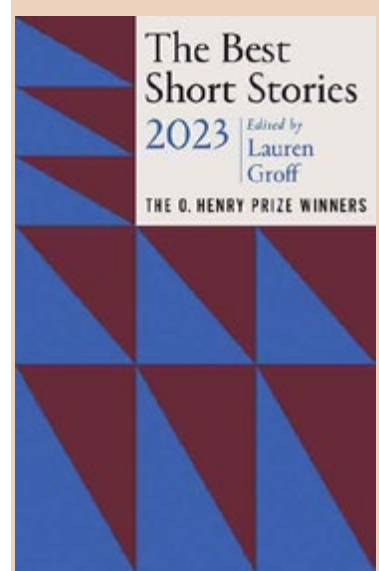
to find that it was stuffed full of gold coins, along with a letter from the king saying that the bag's gold was a reward for the peasant to keep because he had taken the time and energy to move the boulder out of the road for the convenience of others who would be travelling the road in the future.

Moral of the story: Every obstacle that we come across gives us an opportunity to improve our circumstances, and while some complain, others are creating opportunities through their kind hearts, & generosity.

Any questions or comments call, (708) 425-7021

The Best Short Stories 2023:

The Best Short Stories 2023 is out on September 12 in trade paperback. The anthology is now in its third year and has a track record as a national bestseller.



This year's list of contributors includes established literary voices like Ling Ma (Bliss Montage) and Lisa Taddeo (Three Women) as well as rising stars from around the world

including Eamon McGuinness, from Ireland.

And we have a fabulous new guest editor in three-time National Book Award finalist Lauren Groff (Florida, Fates and Furies), whose highly anticipated new novel, The Vaster Wilds, publishes on the very same day as *The Best Short Stories!*

Lauren writes in her introduction that "many of us need to fling our phones into a bog and start reading literature again." In my opinion, there's no better place to begin than with *The Best Short Stories 2023*, which Publishers Weekly hailed in its Starred Review as "one of the best fiction anthologies in years."

It's the perfect read for writers, students, fans of short fiction, and your friend who can't stop scrolling through Instagram long enough to pick up a novel. Available at most bookstores and online sources on September 12.

Galway Fellowship Club's Luncheon 9-17

On Sunday afternoon, September 17, 2023 the Galway Fellowship Club will hold its annual luncheon from 1pm to 5pm at Biagio's (4242 North Central Avenue, Chicago, IL 60634)

Music will be provided by - Gerry Haughey and Teresa Shine

and some great Irish dancing by the McNulty Irish Dancers will be part of the entertainment.

Tickets for this lovely afternoon are \$50 with a cash bar. More info below:

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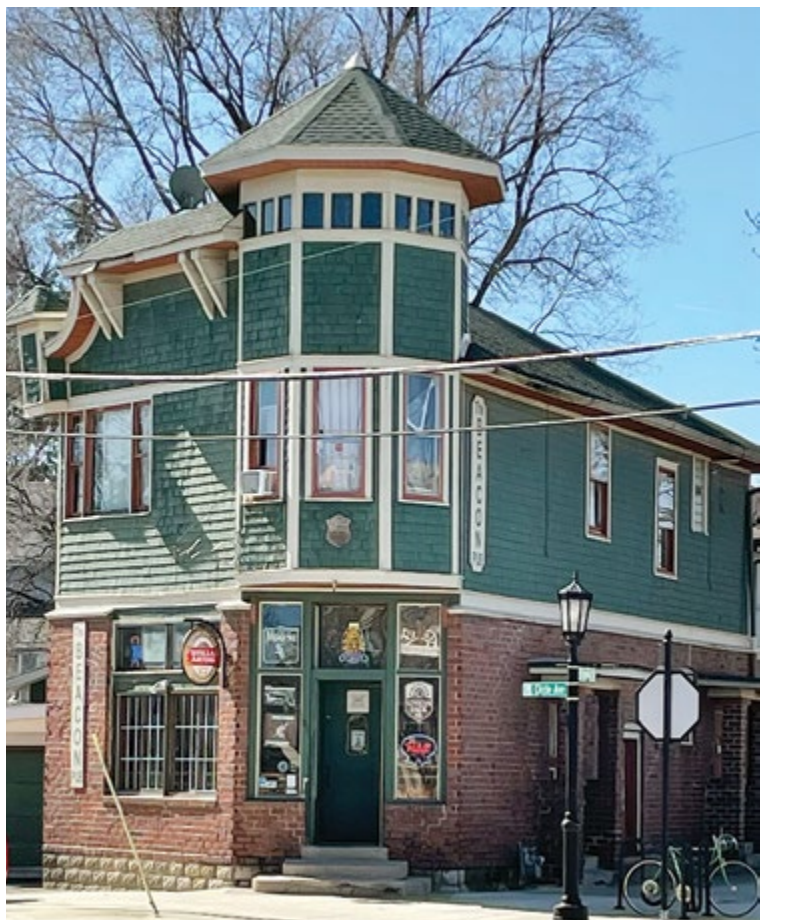
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Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame Names 2023 Members

The Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame has announced its 2023 class of inductees. The Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame recognizes Irish Americans who have made important contributions in various fields throughout Michigan life.

Philanthropy

Patrick O'Hara

Patrick O'Hara for many years has been a respected member of the Detroit Irish Community. He is a CPA by trade, and has donated his time and service as a CPA free of charge to many organizations in the Irish community. Pat has been honored to be named the Grand



Marshal of the Detroit St. Patrick's Parade in 2008 and was named the Palatine Man of the Year in 2021. He served as the National President of the Knights of Equity,

and for 5 years was the Worthy Supreme Knight of Court 6 in Detroit. He serves on the Knights of Equity Scholarship Commission and as a delegate to the United Irish Societies. Pat has been on the Board of Directors of the Irish Cultural Forum since 1981, chairs the judges' committee for the St. Patrick's Parade in Detroit, coordinates the annual Mass for the deceased members of the Irish community, and is a member of the Gaelic League, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Irish Network Detroit and much more.

Arts and Entertainment

Thomas O'Halloran

(Deceased, 1932 - 2022)

Thomas O'Halloran, born in County Offlay, Ireland, was an only child and an orphan who learned to play the accordion by ear, and by the age of fourteen



was playing at weddings and dances all over Ireland. After immigrating to Detroit in 1955, he established the "Irish Thirty-Two County Club" and later opened O'Halloran's Tipperary Pub. The "Tip" soon became the home away from home for Irish immigrants, their children, and their children's children. The Tipperary Pub hosted the Irish Rovers, the Dubliners, the Wolf Tones, the Clancy Brothers, Michael Flatley, and many more. For decades Tommy generously mentored and offered his stage to new musicians.

Tom big-heartedly gave of his talent and leadership through his involvement in the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Irish Bar Owners Association, the Gaelic League of Detroit, the Friendly Sons, and the Knights of Equity. For his efforts he was honored as the Grand Marshal of the 2000 Detroit St. Patrick's Parade. He was a deeply caring and faithful supporter of the St. Patrick's Senior Center, the Irish Palatine Fathers, and numerous Irish immigrants as they settled in America. For more than 50 years, Tommy O'Halloran enriched the lives of all who knew him with music. His parting request to his beloved wife, Joannie, was "Don't let the music die." As a member of this Hall of Fame, his musical legacy lives on.

Arts and Entertainment

William (Liam) Lynch

William (Liam) Lynch traces his family ancestry to County Cork and Kilkenny in Ireland. But it was not until 15 years ago when his daughter Meagan Andres opened an Irish gift shop in Grand Rapids that he seriously became involved in his Irish heritage

and Irish events in Michigan and beyond. He created the popular website Milrish.com, and also started working with Irish bands and established a concert series in Ionia called "The Celtic Battle of the Bands." His website promotes any and all Irish and



Celtic Heritage and other cultural organizations in the State.

Many years ago Liam began wearing a leprechaun suit to pubs and Irish events around Michigan. One year the Kalamazoo Irish Fest asked him to act as the emcee to introduce an act. Since then Liam has been actively involved in more than a dozen other Irish Fests throughout the Midwest! Most recently he was named the Grand Marshal of Kalamazoo St. Patrick's Day Parade for 2023. He has been a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Grand Rapids, and he is an active member of the West Michigan Gaelic League, Irish American Club. Liam is a very active supporter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters, with himself having been a Little Brother for 57 years. He has been married for 47 years to his wife Audie, and has two daughters, Megan Andres and Maureen Lynch.

Religion:

Paul A. Long

For more than 35 years Paul Long has been a lay leader in the Catholic Church in Michigan. He has been President and CEO of the Michigan Catholic Conference (MCC) since 2010, after starting his career there in 1988. MCC is the public policy voice of the Catholic Church and centrally administers benefit and administrative services for the



Church throughout Michigan. Over the years, Paul has addressed such areas as social justice, homelessness, immigration, the criminal justice system, prison ministry, gun violence, poverty, human trafficking, promoting human dignity, and supporting Catholic education.

Paul's Irish ancestors immigrated to Canada from County Cork in the late 1840's. Paul grew up in St. Clair Shores Michigan, attended Lakeview Schools, and graduated in 1988

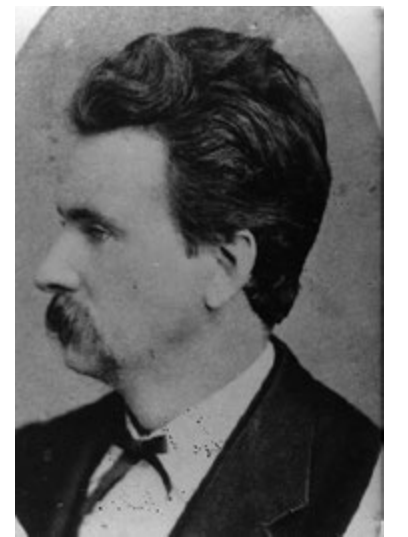
from Michigan State University with his B.A. degree in Urban Planning. He married his wife Melissa in 1997, and they have three children, Patrick Dawson (22), Mary Elizabeth (20), and Catherine Virginia (16). Paul has visited sites in Ireland related to his family history, including Larne, Bangor, Belfast, Dublin, and Cork. The Longs are members of St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Lansing, and donate to Most Holy Trinity Parish in Corktown. Inspired by the late J.P. McCarthy's constant promotion of what it means to be Irish, Paul has MCC sponsor the annual St. Patrick's Day broadcast of Michigan's Big Show starring Michael Patrick Shiels.

Public Service:

James R. Corgan

(Deceased, 1848 - 1923)

James Corgan was an outstanding member of the Ontonagon, MI community in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He served as lighthouse keeper



there for 36 years. In addition to keeping the light, he owned a fishing business and started a general store, James Corgan and Sons. He also built an opera house there in 1891, built a business block in 1893 and a post office in 1894. (While living as a young man in Copper Harbor, he served as Deputy Postmaster, Township Clerk, Commissioner of Highways and was Deputy US Marshal.) He helped organize the fire department in Ontonagon and served as its chief engineer. While serving as chairman of the school board, he organized the new township school district system (having been a teacher in L'anse) and helped students get free school books. He died in Ontonagon in 1923.

These new members for 2023 of the Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame will be inducted at a ceremony at 11:30 AM at the Michigan Irish Music Festival in Muskegon, Michigan on Saturday, September 16, 2023. More information about the festival can be found at <https://michiganirish.org/>.

The Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame was founded in 2012 by the Muskegon Irish American Society. The Hall of Fame currently has 60 members, and is permanently displayed on the Hall of Fame website. A digital exhibit of the Hall of Fame is being planned to be available in locations across Michigan. To see all the members of the hall of Fame or to nominate someone, visit www.michiganirishamericanhalloffame.org

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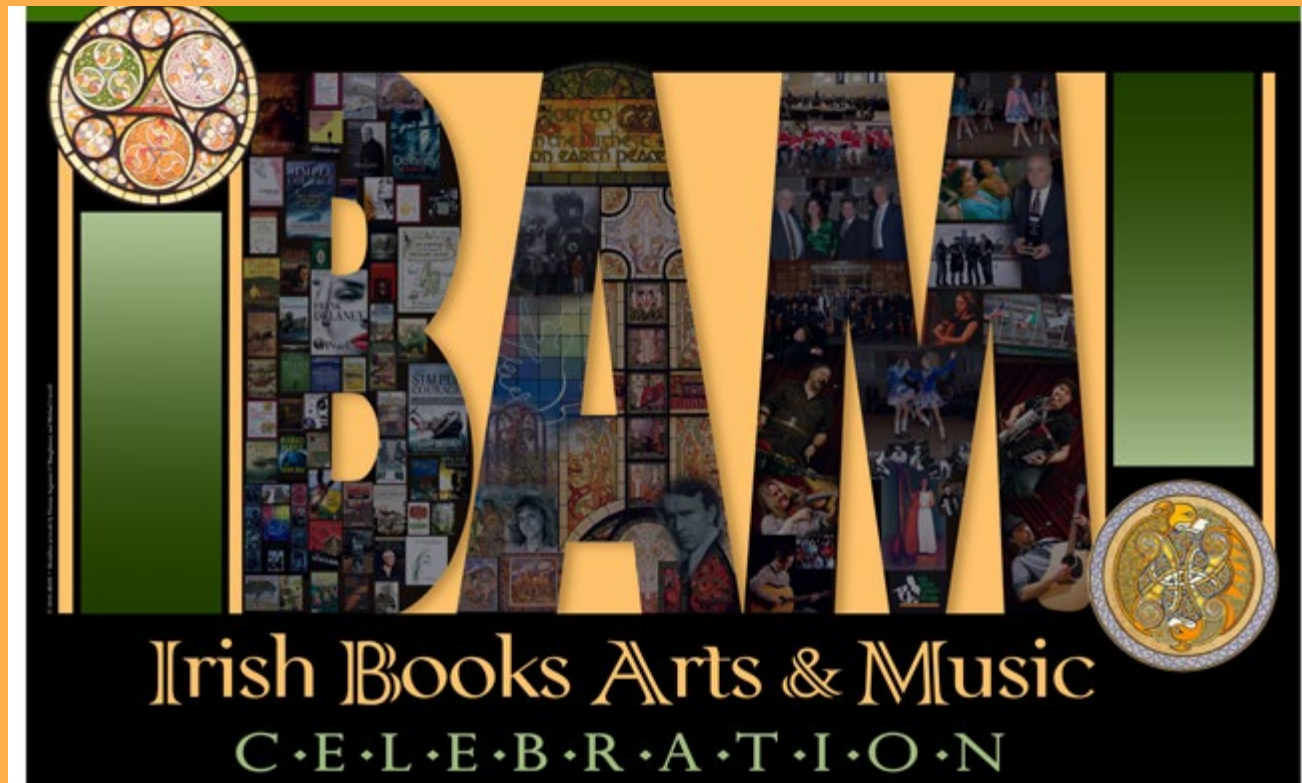
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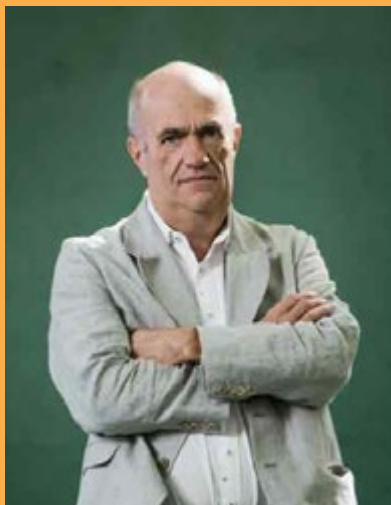


Celebrate the best in Irish Heritage and Culture at iBAM! 15, November 18, 19 2023 as we honor our *Person of the Year; Mary Pat Kelly, Literature Awardee Colm Toibin, Media and Journalism awardee Eileen Dunne, Music awardee Jimmy Keane, and Volunteer of the Year, Dan Hartnett.*

Additional Awardees will be announced in **Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and Culinary Arts.** Come and enjoy the weekend program featuring authors and their books, artists and their art, musicians and their music, craftspersons, storytellers, panel discussions and special exhibits of all things Irish.

If you are interested in volunteering to be a part of this wonderful celebration of Irish heritage taking place at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox Ave., Chicago IL 60630, please email 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 Irish Culture and Heritage. Proceeds from this event benefit the Irish American Heritage Center, and other non-profit Irish organizations, and individuals who have contributed their skills to the event.



Colm Tóibín, Literature

Born 30 May 1955) is an Irish novelist, short story writer, essayist, journalist, critic, playwright and poet. His first novel, *The South*, was published in 1990. The *Blackwater Lightship* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. The *Master* (a fictionalised version of the inner life of Henry James) was also shortlisted for the Booker Prize and won the 2006 International Dublin Literary Award, securing for Tóibín a bounty of thousands of euro as it is one of the richest literary awards in the world. His fellow artists elected him to Aosdána and he won the biennial "UK and Ireland Nobel"[4] David Cohen Prize in 2021. He succeeded Martin Amis as professor of creative writing at the University of Manchester. He was appointed Chancellor of the University of Liverpool in 2017.



Eileen Dunne, Journalism

Eileen Dunne (born 28 April 1958 in Dublin) is a respected and recently retired Irish journalist, newsreader and presenter for Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ), Ireland's national radio and television station, where she presented the main TV news programs Six One News, Nine O'Clock News and One O'Clock News including all other news bulletins on both radio and television from 1980 to 2022. She was the co-anchor alongside Sharon Ní Bheoláin of RTÉ's flagship Nine O'Clock News and presented afternoon bulletins for RTÉ Radio 1.[1] Dunne regularly featured on RTÉ coverage of major state occasions. In 2016, she was co-anchor with Bryan Dobson for the official state commemoration of the centenary of the 1916 Rising. She is married to the actor Macdara Ó Fátharta They have one son, Cormac.



Jimmy Keane, Music

Keane was born to Irish-speaking parents from Connemara and Kerry. His father Jimmy Keane was an old style sean-nós singer. Playing the piano accordion, he won five consecutive All-Ireland titles. In the 1970s, he started his professional career with fellow All-Ireland fiddle champion Liz Carroll and the duo was named All-Ireland Senior Duet Champion in 1975. In the 1980s, Robbie O'Connell and Mick Moloney releasing two albums (including the first recording of the iconic Irish song "There Were Roses" penned by Irish folk singer-songwriter Tommy Sands. In the '80s, Keane collaborated with guitar great Dennis Cahill. Keane founded the group Bohola with Pat Broaders and Seán Cleland. Keane won "Male Musician of the Year" (2010), & "Male Musician of the Decade" by Live Ireland & *Irish American News* (2011).



Mary Pat Kelly Person of the Year

Born 1944, she was a nun for 6 years, has written several novels, and produced a full-length feature film, *Proud (06)* that was nominated as Best Independent Film in the Black Reel Awards. Novels include: *Galway Bay*, *Irish Above All*, *Of Irish Blood*, *Martin Scorsese*; *The First Decade* and *Martin Scorsese*; *A Journey*. Kelly worked in Hollywood as a screenwriter for Paramount and Columbia Pictures and in New York City as an associate producer with *Good Morning America* (1976) and *Saturday Night Live* (80-82), and wrote the book and lyrics for the musical *Abby's Song* which is being adapted into an animated movie under the title *Shira of Bethlehem*. She produced and directed award-winning PBS documentaries: *To Live for Ireland* (1986) a portrait of Nobel Peace Prize winner John Hume & *Home Away from Home: The Yanks in Ireland* (92), a history of U.S. forces in N. Ireland during World War II.



IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2024

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

Help us recognize more outstanding Irish Americans!

Eligibility Criteria:

- **Must have either parent of Irish heritage**
- **Must be a U.S. citizen or have been a full-time resident of the United States for an extended period of time**
- **Most associated as being an Irish American**
- **Must have distinguished him/herself in one or more of the award categories**

Deadline: September 30, 2023

Online nomination form and full details at www.iahof.org



The long WGA/SAG-AFTRA strike continues, though you would not really know it - at least if you went to the movies recently, or glanced at the box office figures. Barbie continues to be an utter phenomenon, with a US take of just over \$500m, and an overall international gross of twice that - and it is still going strong.

Irish actor Cillian Murphy in Oppenheimer is still drawing in the fans. The Corkman is the lead in the biopic about the inventor of the atomic bomb, and it has grossed \$266m at the US box office, and done even better abroad, with an overall take of \$650m.

Even so, much production in movie and TV has come to a halt.

Reality television, soap operas and other projects with special waivers (relating to unsigned distribution, or other elements) can work on though, and two Irish productions have fitted into that last category.

Anniversary is an upcoming thriller described as following a close-knit family that is torn apart as new movement "The Change" envelops America. It stars Daryl McCormack, Oscar-winner Diane Lane, Phoebe Dynevor, Kyle Chandler, Madeline Brewer, Zoey Deutch, and McKenna Grace, and is currently filming in Dublin.

In Galway, Ishana Shymalan's upcoming movie The Watchers is currently filming too. It follows Mina, a 28-year-old artist, who gets stranded in a forest in

western Ireland. After finding shelter, she and three other strangers are stalked by mysterious creatures.

Oddly, film festivals still seem to be happening - at least non-US ones - and one of the biggest, the Toronto International Film Festival in Canada, runs this month.

One of the shows making its public debut will see Irish actors Domhnall Gleeson and Aisling Bea starring in "Alice & Jack", with Gleeson in the main role alongside Oscar-nominated English actress Andrea Riseborough.

Billed as "a love story for the ages" and produced by the lead pair, it sees Riseborough playing Alice, a young, single, career-focused woman living in London, and still dealing with a childhood trauma.

She meets Jack (Gleeson), a lonely yet charming pathologist. They meet in a bar and spend the night together, but Alice wants no more, and Jack soon after meets Lynn (Bea), and they marry and have a family. But when Alice's mother dies, Jack goes to the funeral - and Alice feels he is the only person who can help manage her grief...

Finally, much has been written over the last few weeks about the death of singer and protestor Sinead O'Connor. There's no doubt her voice and her songwriting skills were unique, but few people know that she occasionally acted too.

Sure, it was often a small role as a singer or something suited to those abilities, but many



Aisling Bea



Domhnall Gleeson

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of you might remember her cameo in Sligo-born director Neil Jordan's 1997 movie *The Butcher Boy*, but she also briefly played no less than Emily Bronte in a 1992 adaptation of *Wuthering Heights*, but in 1990 she stretched her acting wings a bit more in a small Irish comedy/romance called *Hush-A-Bye Baby*.

She is perhaps most famous for her cover of Prince's "Nothing Compares 2 U", but my own memory of her is when she played the ghost of Annie, an angelic woman who appeared in the 1991 Christmas music documentary "The Ghosts of Oxford Street". Her echoing, acapella singing of "Silent Night", backed only by keyboard tones played by Peter Gabriel, is utterly haunting and beautiful.

Her last recorded track an ethereal rendition of *The Skye Boat Song*

for time travel television drama "Outlander", which she recorded for the show's final season. Apparently O'Connor chose to perform the song as she felt a close connection to main character Claire, who is played by Dublin actress Caitriona Balfe.

In the wake of O'Connor's death, there was also the rumor that a movie version of her 2021 biography was in the works - and that O'Connor had suggested Demi Moore for the main role, alongside Mullingar-born Niamh Edgar, and Irish-American Saoirse Ronan, who O'Connor apparently loved in the 2015 movie *Brooklyn*.

Early ideas apparently included a triptych-style approach, with the three actresses a reference to the father, son, and holy ghost trinity. Who knows if we will ever see that now? RIP Sinead.

Irish American Movie Hooley Returns for 2023

When a party gets rowdy, the Irish call it a "Hooley"

Hibernian Media announces final film selections for their 9th Annual "Irish American Movie Hooley", scheduled this year at The Wilmette Theatre in Wilmette Sept. 22-23-24, 2023. It's the only Irish American film festival in the world and this year we are proud to present the exclusive Chicago premiere of each film.

Opening the Movie Hooley Friday, September 22 at 8 pm will be *OUT AND ABOUT*. Raw, brutally honest, poignant, and very funny; the film explores the conflict between old dreams and new realities; one man's search through his old neighborhood, as he wrestles with aging, success, failure, and his ultimate place in the world.

Peter Callahan, the Irish American writer-director-star of this exceptional film, will join us to meet the audience and discuss his home in Hastings on Hudson, New York, where the film was shot, and analogies to our own Wilmette suburb. Critics have called this film, "A must-see gem!"

Saturday night, September 23, will feature the 8 pm Chicago premiere of *LAKELANDS*, written and directed by Patrick McGivney. They build them tough in Cavan, and they don't come much tougher than Cian Reilly, the star of his local GAA football team and the life and soul of every party. But when Cian suffers a severe concussion in a beating behind the local nightclub, he is forced to reassess what toughness really means.

With *LAKELANDS*, McGivney has delivered an authentically modern Irish

film, a penetrating exploration of what it means to rebuild your perception of yourself. Writer-director McGivney will join us for this poetic but unsentimental look at midlands masculinity as Cian learns to accept life after football. Don't miss this film, it's bravura filmmaking at its Irish best!

Finally on Sunday at 5 pm, Sept. 24, the Hooley will present the Chicago premiere of the celebrated Irish film *YOUNG PLATO*, an inspiring documentary that charts the dreams of Elvis-loving school headmaster Kevin McArey—a maverick who is determined to change the fortunes of an inner-city community plagued by urban decay, sectarian aggression, poverty, and drugs. The all-boys Catholic primary school in post-conflict Belfast, Northern Ireland becomes a hothouse for questioning violence, as the headmaster sends his young wards home each day armed with the wisdom of the ancient Greek philosophers. Our special guest for this screening is the headmaster himself, Mr. Kevin McArey who will discuss with the audience this ground-breaking Irish documentary.

Now in its' ninth year, the Movie Hooley has introduced audiences to the very best in Irish and Irish American filmmaking, with opportunities to meet each individual writer, director, or producer who have brought their films to Chicago for the weekend, this year re-locating directly with our audiences at The Wilmette Theatre in Wilmette, Illinois



Peter Callahan



Patrick McGivney



Kevin McArey

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