



5 Generations & 95 Years Later, Flood Brothers Legacy Continues in Chicagoland



Bob, Bill and Kevin Flood: Story page 19



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the 17th of March. Additionally, you will find her Irish Soda Bread at The Naperville Parade on March 9th outside of Quigley's Irish Pub, Gaelic Park on March 10th, and The DISTRICT in Richmond, IL. On March 15th,

The Irish American Heritage Center on March 16th, and The Northwest Side Irish Parade on March 17th outside Zia's Social in Norwood Park. Feel free to contact Colleen Gallagher for special orders for your business or St. Patrick's Day Celebrations at colleen@lifetimetreasures.net

or (847)340-0894. Find and friend Colleen on FACEBOOK at Colleens Irish Soda Bread. Once there you can volunteer to help bake, wrap, and decorate the bread. The bakery is in Buffalo Grove, IL. Please keep in mind this is an Irish Dance Fund Raiser so fill your freezer!



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The Surprising Origin of Irish Soda Bread

This simple Irish classic is a staple in many households, used to mop up hearty stews and wash down pots of tea. It's also a symbol of celebration, baked in droves in the lead up to Saint Patrick's Day. However, the humble soda bread began as an affordable necessity and was the solution to many food problems facing Ireland at the time. While soda bread is most famously attributed to Ireland, it was actually

first created by Native Americans. They were the first to be documented using pearl ash, a natural form of soda formed from the ashes of wood, to leaven their bread without yeast. The Irish later discovered and replicated the process. While it seems like an ancient recipe, Irish soda bread history began in the 1830s, when baking soda, or bicarbonate soda, was first introduced to the country.



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NWSI 21ST ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 3/17

Direct From Ireland, the Award-Winning Danú Brings an Evening of Irish Music to the Mac 3-8

In anticipation of St. Patrick's Day, the McAninch Arts Center (MAC) presents the award-winning Irish music ensemble Danú at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 8. With performers hailing from Counties Waterford, Cork, Dublin and Donegal in Ireland, Danú is one of the leading

traditional Irish ensembles of today. Their standing-room only concerts throughout Ireland feature high-energy performances and a glorious mix of ancient Irish music and new repertoire. The Washington Post calls them, "a vibrant mix of virtuosity, energy, and

empathy." The performers of Danú include Nell Ní Chróinín (Lead Vocals, Flute & Whistles), Benny McCarthy (Button Accordion, Melodeon), Oisín McAuley (Fiddle, Backing Vocals), Eamon Doorley (Irish bouzouki, backing vocals), Ivan Goff (Uilleann

Pipes, Flute and Whistles), Tony Byrne (Guitar, Backing Vocals) and Billy Sutton (Bodhran [Irish Drum] and Mandolin). Based in the city of Waterford, Ireland and named for the ancient Celtic goddess of fertility and wisdom, Danú has released nine albums and a DVD since forming in 1994. Danú's honors and awards include being voted Best Overall Traditional



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Act by Dublin's magazine Irish Music and twice voted Best Traditional Group in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. Danú has toured throughout Europe and North America with stops at The Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles and Symphony Space in New York City. Their live performances have been broadcast on NPR, the CBC, and the BBC.

Danú performs at McAninch Arts Center (MAC), located at 425 Fawell Blvd. on the campus of College of DuPage at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 8. Tickets start at \$50-\$60. For tickets or more information, visit AtTheMAC.org or call the MAC Box Office at 630.942.4000. WDCB 90.9FM Chicago's Home for Jazz, is the Media Sponsor for this performance.

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Currently, Judge Carolyn Gallagher is a Cook County Circuit Court Judge assigned to the Probate Division, and the Supervising Judge of the Surety Division.

Previously, Carolyn was:

- an Appellate and Trial Lawyer in the Federal and State courts,
- a Legal Writing and Research Instructor at DePaul University College of Law,
- a Judicial Law Clerk in the Illinois Appellate Court, and
- a volunteer lawyer with the Expungement Summit, the Chicago Legal Clinic, and New Health Foundation Worldwide.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



The Hitchhiker's Guide to an Irish Identity

Buried away under the experiences of near on half a century, it suddenly, startlingly, came to the surface. And it was an image so sharp and vivid that I felt unexpected tears.

How strange this was, this sudden and complete immersion in a past long thought dead. Once again it was the 'seventies; once again I was all of seventeen, full of the confidence and indestructibility that such a

fine age bestows; and once again I was watching my mother - dead these more than twenty years - sew a small Irish flag onto my new rucksack. Elsewhere there was likewise a piece of tartan; but at this moment it was the tricolour I was seeing, with a clarity so brilliantly etched that I was almost back in that year, on that day.

It was being sewn there because of a thought that had come from

a book called 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to Europe' -- and it was a thought which my dad was much taken with. It suggested that it wasn't a bad idea, if you were travelling rough through Europe, to stitch onto your bag a little bit of cloth that would give people a rough idea of where you were affiliated with. It seems a bit unfair to me now, but there was a definite implication somewhere that having a Union Jack on show wasn't too clever; but that Ireland, Scotland and Wales tended to be countries that most 'foreigners' didn't have a complaint with. Yes, it does seem unfair; but that is my memory of it. And since the Old Man couldn't talk me out of what he saw as a hare-brained travel-decision, he was determined that at least I would move through France, Holland, Portugal and Spain with an image of the flag that he was so proud of, accompanying me.

Before I was twenty that small stitched-on flag would see service in Morocco and parts of North Africa. And in one of those instances where Time seems to fold in on itself, I would have it with me during my short working stint in Gibraltar, never imagining that the next time I thought seriously about The Rock, I would be living permanently in Ireland and hearing - on the eve of my thirtieth birthday, March 6 1988 - of the execution in Gibraltar of three Irish Republican Army volunteers: Seán Savage, Mairéad Farrell and Daniel McCann.

Those of you old enough to remember (and isn't it hard to believe how long ago it was?) will also recall the appalling fortnight of violence that followed, with images that would go world-wide. One of the things that I recall most from that time was the vicious attack stance that certain British tabloids took against one Gibraltarian lady of 42, Carmen Proetta, who witnessed the shootings but was giving an account that didn't exactly tally with the official British version, to put it mildly.

Yet what a happy marriage they had! They just suited each other. My mum was very solitary, very secure in herself and distrustful of people until she got to know them (which usually took years), while my dad was always gregarious and outgoing. As Nan would say, "He'd talk tae Ould Nick himself!" For what it's worth, I took after my mother.

Tom came from mining country; and although he told myself and my brothers that it was a sin to hate anybody, I do believe that he made an exception for Margaret Thatcher, mainly because of

her dreadful treatment of the striking miners in the Eighties. He himself had been sent to work down the mines at the age of thirteen, but got out as soon as he turned eighteen.

He was a deceptively tough man, slow to anger, quick to lose it; and every Friday we children would see him hand over his unopened wage packet to my mother. He was the breadwinner; she was the one who organized the buying of that bread. That was the arrangement, and it worked well for them.

He had been in the navy and, whether because of that or not, he thought it only right that we should know at least the basics of cooking, sewing and ironing. Even then, in the part of the world that I grew up, he would have looked at you as if you had two heads if you had suggested that was in any way effeminate.

So... I grew up between two worlds, not then taking any real heed of that fact. And I've never had any particularly strong patriotic feelings in any way. I mean, I lived in Scotland for all of my childhood and adolescence; spent some time in other countries; and have lived in Ireland for forty-five years or so. The only thing that I can say I thought of myself as consistently, was a Celt. In my soul, in whatever is the inner me, I've always been a Celt.

It's only recently that I've begun to think of myself as mainly Irish. And that's because of a mix of things. I started wondering about my grandparents, my grandfather on my mum's side - Donald McDonald McComb -- being very hardcore in his way. He told me many years later that before he got to know my dad, he was dead against his daughter marrying a 'bloody Catholic.'

And my grandpa on dad's side - Charlie Brady - being, I discover, of very Irish Republican leanings. Now I keep wondering about things that I should have known: I mean, apart from the wedding, did the two families ever meet? Certainly, I have no memory of such a thing.

All of this was whirling around in my head when I came across a 2013 film called 'Our Irish Cousins', written and directed by Mike Houlihan. It's a documentary that starts off in Chicago before moving across to Ireland. And there's a moment in it that really struck me, that hit me at a very deep level, and which set off that memory of the piece-of-cloth tricolour: it is of the Houliehan outside the G.P.O. in Dublin, reading the words of the Proclamation of the Irish Republic.

Now, I lived in Dublin for twenty years, passed the G.P.O. probably a thousand times...but somehow this struck me so profoundly, so movingly. Why, I wonder.

If I continue to avoid that grim door marked EXIT, I want to return next month to other aspects of this film... and how they contributed to my own very belated quest for my Irish identity.

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South Bend's East Race Waterway First Artificial White Water Rapids

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Located in downtown South Bend, the East Race Waterway is a one-of-a-kind recreational facility. As the first artificial white water course in North America, its rapids rival those of the Colorado River and can generate waves up to six feet or higher. It is approximately 2,000 feet long with a total fall of about 12 feet depending on the flow of the river.

It started as a channel off the St. Joseph River in the late 1800s that allowed industry to thrive. Eventually, it was abandoned and filled in.

Local leaders chose to dig it out to make the East Race Waterway in the 1980s. When it opened in 1984, it was the first manmade whitewater rafting course in North America. It has since become a top visitor attraction and local

The water level can be controlled via three headgates and the placement of obstacles that create whitewater turbulence from novice to professional levels. The banks of the East Race offer more than five miles of paved and lighted walking/running paths along the scenic St. Joseph River. One of the best things about the East Race is it's approachable: People of varying abilities and skill levels can get in on the rush down the rapids. Kayakers are welcome but must supply their own equipment. The East Race is open Saturdays (Noon - 5:00PM) and Sundays (Noon - 4:00PM) from June 3 - September 17.



Jamie O'Reilly Sings Around Town in March



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Roots February Salon Woman's Heart: Exploring Love, at Tre Kronor - February 25, 2024, Chicago, IL swedishbistro.com. 773-267-9888

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Cliff Dwellers Presents "In Old Chicago" for Irish History Month

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312-922-8080 web: cliff-chicago.org

Jamie O'Reilly & Co bring In Old Chicago, Stories & Songs of a Beloved City, a play with music, to Cliff Dwellers Arts Club Thurs. March 14, 2024.

Jamie hosts St. Patrick's Day Salon at Tre Kronor March 17, 2024 Chicago 6:30pm Jamie O'Reilly hosts a St. Patty's Day Salon at Tre Kronor, performing Irish music with John Erickson on piano. Special guest Cecile O'Reilly reads poetry. Judi Heikes joins them. Special menu. Reservations required. 3258 W Foster Ave, Chicago, IL \$25 (food & drink separate)

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The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

Mission Engagement Offers Opportunities to Give and Receive

By Brittany McGhee, Senior Director, Mission Engagement

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace..." (1 Peter 4:10).

As St. Peter beautifully reminds us, everyone has something to give and to receive. We witness this each day at Catholic Charities when we receive the transformational gifts of love, gratitude, and divine encounter that those we serve bestow upon us.

As Senior Director of Mission Engagement, I would like to personally invite you to this magnificent exchange of giving and receiving by joining Catholic Charities' mission of mercy. Mission Engagement invites partners to intentionally experience our work through transformative witness and encounter in opportunities of service. We partner with parishes, schools, corporations, Catholic Charities' regional and junior boards, and individual volunteers to provide meaningful opportunities in service and prayer that affirm the dignity of all and address the needs of our neighbors on the margins.

When I first came to Catholic Charities last year, I was amazed and inspired by its scale. Through a comprehensive array of programs, Catholic Charities has the privilege to serve thousands of people each day—adding up to millions of helping connections annually. That is how we've grown to be among the 50 largest human services providers in the country and the largest in our region. As such, Catholic Charities is the cornerstone of the social safety net in Cook and Lake Counties. Our mission, rooted in our Catholic faith tradition and Jesus' Gospel message to love and serve one another, calls us to care for anyone in need regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, or citizenship.

With this great mission and scale comes great obligation. Not only must we prepare to serve those we know will come to our doors each day, but when crises arise, we must be ready to step up and do even more. Throughout our 100+ year history, we have cared for the most vulnerable through day-to-day struggles and through every major economic, health, and social crisis of the last century.

Catholic Charities could not do



the powerful, life-giving work that it does without our partners. During the pandemic—when our resources were stretched to the max—donors, parishioners, mission board members, and volunteers masked up and stepped up to help meet the overwhelming needs. Today, as greater Chicago has welcomed over 36,000 new migrant arrivals, the love and solidarity of our parish partners and faith community have helped us serve more than 19,000 asylum seekers. Each week, when we serve hot meals to those experiencing hunger in locations across the Archdiocese, it is long-time and new volunteers, young professionals, and parish partners who are preparing and compassionately serving the meals—sitting, speaking, and connecting with our neighbors in mutuality and care. It is volunteers who ensure the smooth operation and personal touch of our food pantries, clothing rooms, diaper program, home-delivered meals, and so much more.

As a relative newcomer to Catholic Charities, I have been in awe of the dedication of our teams. Their diligence in living out our values emboldens our mission to treat all who come to us with respect, dignity, and "courageous compassion." Through the services provided at Charities, we are truly accompanying people on their journey, walking at their side with intentionality, vulnerability, humility, and authenticity. In this journey shared, we are accountable to one another. We invite partners to our mission—to this accountability to neighbor. In our invitation to serve, we are not merely asking volunteers to stock food pantry shelves (as critical as that is), but to more deeply understand the economic landscape of our region and to broaden their own understanding of our responsibility to the Gospel and each of our respective small roles in welcoming God's kingdom on earth. Those we partner with in service are as much transformed as the individuals and families they encounter and accompany.

Please consider joining Catholic Charities as a volunteer, a member of one of our regional mission boards or junior board, a partner in prayer, or with your school group or corporate team. We are greatly in need of your gifts—and eager to share the gifts of service with you.

For more information, please contact bmcghee@catholiccharities.net. Many volunteer opportunities can be found at ccofchicagovolunteer.com.



February 10, 2024: Phil Coulter meets some of his fans after his live show in the Mayfair Theater at the Irish American Heritage Center. They traveled all the way from Utah and Montana! (l to r): Bryan Wayman, Phil Coulter, Veda Wayman, Louis Barlous, Geraldine Branigan Coulter and Georgina Coulter.

Look for me on the County Wide Ballot Democrat March 19 2024

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Paid for by Committee To Elect Russ Hartigan Judge. A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections is (or will be) available on the board's official website or for purchase from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, Illinois.

Hibernian Media Creates "Black Irish" With Greg Holliman

Hibernian Radio announces a new segment BLACK IRISH to their radio shows. This original series of skits featuring Second City veteran actor Greg Holliman as Seamus O'Hooligan Jr., who was born after his African mother met his Irish father at Woodstock, and the ensuing tryst created many a twist for the young Seamus as he made his way through the world. The lad's journey was not without difficulties, both comic and heart breaking, as we explore the world of Seamus O'Hooligan in search of his Irishness.

The show is conceived and written by Mike Houlihan and Greg Holliman. Mike will also play Seamus Sr.

Mike says, "It will start as a radio series but I can envision it very quickly going to video and introducing the world once again to the magic of Greg Holliman, who we have worked with in the past for a variety of TV and film projects including our films "Tapioca" and most recently "In Search of Weeping Jim" when Greg played the voice of God."

Greg Holliman is an actor best known for his work on Comedy Central's Strangers with Candy.

Holliman grew up in the Chicago housing projects of Cabrini-Green. In 1986, he began taking improvisation classes at The Players Workshop, where he met Paul Dinello and Amy Sedaris. Holliman then began doing stand-up at a few local comedy clubs and dabbled in comedy writing, while honing his craft of improvisation at Players Workshop.

Holliman graduated from The Players Workshop in 1988 and enrolled in classes at Chicago's famed The Second City. While still taking classes, he was hired into Second City's National Touring Company, where he met Stephen Colbert. A year later, Sedaris, Dinello, Colbert & Holliman were all touring together, performing nightly improvisational theatre at colleges & universities all over America.

After leaving Second City in 1993, he then wrote and performed in a two-man play called The RIC Show-Revelations, Indictments and Confessions with his late friend and fellow actor Michael McCarthy. They performed the play to rave reviews

at the Dublin Theater Festival and eventually staged the show in Los Angeles where it garnered similar accolades. Sedaris, Dinello, and Colbert created the role of Principal Blackman with Holliman in mind.

Mike Houlihan is the founder and Chairman of the Board of Hibernian Media, a not-for-profit public charity dedicated to Irish and Irish American culture. "We tell stories to enlighten future generations while honoring our ancestors." Hibernian produces the Annual Irish American Movie Hooley film festival each fall at the Wilmette theatre, a pair of weekly Irish radio shows, hibernianradio.org and a variety of independent TV shows, films, and concerts. Houlihan started his career over 50 years ago with the American Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford and has appeared in regional theatres across the nation,



onstage in Ireland, on Broadway and Off, in major motion pictures, indie films, and TV. He's a former Sun-Times features columnist, did 20 years with the Irish American News and now writes the "Chicago Calling" column for the Irish Echo.

Stay tuned for further shenanigans with the debut of Hibernian Media's BLACK IRISH only on Global Irish Radio, GIR.ie every Sat. night at 7PM and podcast at hibernianradio.org

Each five-minute episode of Seamus O'Hooligan Black Irishman tells the story of an Irishman trapped in the body of an African American... or something like that. Cultures bounce off each other left and right as Holliman brings his comedic timing, undeniable charm, and Basso profundo voice to SEAMUS O'HOOOLIGAN JR BLACK IRISHMAN. Tune in to hear this ground-breaking new comic adventure and share with your friends, both Black and Irish.

This new comedy is coming along just in time for St. Patrick's Day!

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WE GET LETTERS....

A Giant Opportunity Missed

By Randall Stephen Hall. Back in 2011 when the Giant's Causeway Visitors Centre was rebuilt and remodelled you would have thought that the time for being entrenched in the past was over, but not so on the dynamic North Coast of Northern Ireland.

Together, we can build a bridge.



NO IRISH SPOKEN AT THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY. No room for Ulster Scots or Scots Gaelic languages either. Why?

access these. Each coach and car brings visitors with a curiosity for the Finn MacCool legend. They seek a sense of all the local languages including Hiberno English (our local version of standard English), Ulster Irish, Scots Gaidhlig (Scots Gaelic) and Ulster Scots. All important pieces in our local jigsaw.

However, there is little evidence of our own vocal signatures to be found within the Giant's Causeway interpretation geared to push through the high numbers who travel great distances to experience and embrace our local shared culture.

This is 2024 not 1974. Local people and tourists alike have a taste for and a curiosity for new things both here in Northern Ireland and in the outside world. We are missing an opportunity to see ourselves through the rich prism of our four indigenous island languages, as a whole, at the Causeway.

Rather than the deep swell and echoes of our collective past our visitors only experience the shallow waters of a highly edited narrative, avoiding all language, which air-brushes out our local voices and cultural connections so valued by Irish Americans and all global tourists who visit our cherished shores in Northern Ireland.

I love the Giant's Causeway. It's a special place, not just a tourist destination. I have walked its pathways many times. I still believe it to be the very cultural touchstone between Scotland and Ireland but I do feel we are being given the thinnest slice of what we could be getting to inform, entertain and heal some of our differences.

Stephen Hall is an Irish artist Poet, Storyteller and Songwriter.

He lives in East Antrim from where he can see Scotland, but that's another story . . .

https://youtu.be/RnN5HQe1Fvk?si=qmnmYnJP-6Co4Zwi

Irish Bluegrass Band JigJam Releases

Across the Pond Album in March

Irish Bluegrass band JigJam has announced their new album Across The Pond, set to release Friday, March 1. The 12-track collection will showcase the band's "lovely" (Bluegrass Today) blend of traditional Irish music meets bluegrass meets Americana, delivering a cohesive narrative of the Irish journey to America. In conjunction with the album launch, JigJam will also kick off their "Across The Pond US Tour" March 1, as they make 18 stops throughout the US. For tickets and additional information, visit jigjam.ie

"Across The Pond means so much to us personally, and we can't wait to share it with all of you," said



Jamie McKeogh, lead vocalist and guitarist. "The theme throughout is about Irish people and their journey settling in America, bringing their music and traditions with them. Our Irish roots are deeply reflected in the album, and so is our American influence. You'll be able to hear both styles throughout the lyrics and the melodies." Fans can get a preview of what to expect from Across The Pond with new single "John D. McGurks (The Heartbeat of St. Louis)," available now. The song is an homage to the famous St. Louis bar known for live music and Irish musicians. Watch the video for the track HERE. Fans can also listen to single "Time To Go Home," which premiered earlier this month on Bluegrass Today.

Parade and PaddyFest, Rockford



The St. Patrick's Parade & PaddyFest is on March 16th, 2024!! Parade LINE UP is at 2:00PM Parade KICKOFF at 3:00PM March in the Parade!

Parade Route The Parade route differs slightly this year. Line up

is still the RPS 205 (BMO) parking lot for staging. The Parade runs up 7th Street to Charles to State, crossing the river and proceeding to Main then turning left onto Main Street and disbanding near the park District Administration Building (the old post office). State St. bridge and Davis Park will be great places to view Operation Emerald Water, the Rock River turning bright green!

PaddyFest Entertainment The Tooles will play from 4:30 - 7:30 with other entertainment during their breaks Rockford Pipe Band- Emerald Wind-Food Embassy Suites is catering the event.

Options include:\$22 Traditional Irish meal: Corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, steamed carrots, and a cookie.

\$16 Kid's meal: Hot dog, mac & cheese, fruit, and a cookie.

THE WOLFHOUND BAR AND KITCHEN. ONE OF CHICAGO'S BEST NEW IRISH KITCHENS. Happy Hour from 4-6! Tuesday Irish Music Session 7:30PM. Wednesday \$5 Sliders \$2 Off Domestic Drafts. Thursday 1/2 Price All Appetizers \$1 Off Cans and Bottles.

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20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR. APRIL 7TH AT ROSEMONT THEATER, ROSEMONT IL. APRIL 14TH AT RIVERSIDE THEATER, MILWAUKEE WI. APRIL 20TH AT UIS PAC, SPRINGFIELD, IL. TICKETS AVAILABLE AT CELTICWOMAN.COM

Martin Healy Benefit

On August 16th, 2023 our beloved friend Martin Healy died suddenly at 38 years old. Martin is survived by his wife, Colleen, and their three young children ages 9, 7 and 3. Martin was a proud and adoring father and family man, who loved watching his kids grow and succeed in school and in their many activities including Irish dance, ice-hockey, and Gaelic football.

Martin was born and raised in Oughterard, Co. Galway, Ireland. He was an accomplished athlete and won the All Ireland Boxing Title at the age of 14. Martin learned the plastering trade and moved to Chicago in 2011. Martin was soon an integral part of the Irish-Chicago community. He was a member of John McBride's Gaelic Football Club, a great follower of boxing who frequented the Brooks Park Boxing Program and was a horse racing enthusiast. Martin founded a successful plastering business and was a steadfast supporter of countless community fundraising causes. His infectious laugh, unwavering kindness and support for his family and friends will be missed by all who knew him.

In the wake of Martin's passing, we have established The Healy Family Fundraiser to support Colleen and their children during this difficult time. All proceeds will be used to cover future education expenses for the Healy

children. The main event will take place on June 23, 2024, from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox, Chicago, IL 60630. Your support, in any form, will be deeply appreciated.

Here are some ways that you can help: Attend The Healy Family Fundraiser: Enjoy an evening of community, food, music, and fun.

Sponsor the Event Donate Silent Auction or Raffle Prizes: sporting event tickets, concert tickets, memorabilia, gift certificates, gift baskets, food or beverage items - all contributions are welcome.

Make a monetary donation: Donate directly to the "Healy Family Fundraiser" account.

On behalf of the Healy Family, we thank you for your support and generosity. With sincere gratitude,

The Healy Family Fundraiser Committee

healyfamilybenefit@gmail.com Chairman: Alan Coyle - 312-404-4170 Vice Chairman: Kevin Brady - 708-466-1316 Secretary: Rosaleen Gallagher - 708-769-5295 Vice Secretary: Mary McMahon - 312-504-0443 Treasurer: Sally Coady - 847-321-1710 Vice Treasurer: Denis Foley 847-840-4328 PRO: Sinead Gallagher - 773-387-1149 Family Liaison: Micheal McGauley - 773-306-9775

Dervish to Perform at Shank Hall in Milwaukee 3-9 & City Winery Chicago 3-10

Dervish, one of the world's most creative interpreters of Irish folk music and recently recognized with a BBC Lifetime Achievement Award, have confirmed they are planning to return to an album of music from the renowned Sligo tradition. Despite feverish response from all around the world, Dervish turned down record-deal offers and launched their own label, releasing their



the USA in early 2023. Having devoted the last three decades to gently reinventing the traditional songs of their homeland, Dervish were widely celebrated in 2019 for their album The Great Irish Songbook which featured such luminaries as Vince Gill, David Gray, Rhiannon Giddens, Steve Earle, and others.

Dervish's founding members were childhood friends in County Sligo—the same creatively fertile region that spawned a group of legendary fiddle players who emigrated to the U.S. in the 1920s, then recorded the first known Irish-music albums of any genre. As young musicians in 1989, the band members were commissioned to record

sophomore effort Harmony Hill in 1993 and immediately seeing the album climb the Irish mainstream charts.

Through the years, Dervish has appeared at some of the world's biggest festivals, from Glastonbury to Rock in Rio, with the "great and good" of the entertainment industry including while steadily making their name as of the foremost purveyors of Irish folk music of their generation.

DERVISH ARE ROUNDER RECORDS RECORDING ARTISTS Tour Dates: March 8 - Minneapolis, MN - Parkway Theatre March 9 - Milwaukee, WI - Shank Hall March 10 - Chicago, IL - City Winery

New App Launches at Shannon Airport to Assist US Bound Passengers

The travel experience will now become even easier for passengers travelling to the United States from Shannon Airport with the introduction of a new innovative Mobile Passport Control app (MPC).

MPC is a free mobile app, designed to streamline the traveller's entry process

world outside of the Americas to have full United States Preclearance services, meaning passengers arrive in the US from Ireland as domestic passengers, allowing them to avoid immigration queues upon arrival and pick up their bags and go. It remains one of only two airports in Europe to have US pre-



Comedian Pat McGann at Rialto Square Theatre Friday, May 17

Pat McGann will be at Rialto Square Theatre on Friday, May 17. Tickets on sale now.

Pat McGann is quickly rising as one of the sharpest stand-ups in the comedy world. A relative latecomer to the scene, Pat began stand up at the age of 31 after realizing he was not very good at selling packaging. He hustled his way to become the house emcee at Zanies Chicago, where he distinguished himself as especially adept at working the crowd. Buy Tickets Here!

A father of 3 young children, Pat's appeal stems from his quick wit &

relatable take on the family. In 2017, McGann began touring as the opening act for Sebastian Maniscalco, moving with him from clubs to theaters, and to arenas, including 4 sold-out shows at Madison Square Garden. McGann's relatively short, but impressive resume, includes performances on The Late Show with David Letterman, The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, Montreal's famed Just For Laughs Festival, Gilda's LaughFest, The Great American Comedy Festival, and the Nashville Comedy Fest. McGann still calls Chicago home.

Doors open one hour prior to showtime

CHECK IT OUT! the Irish Book Club .com www.theirishbookclub.com

into the United States by reducing inspection time at the US pre-clearance facility in Shannon Airport.

US-bound passengers can now simply complete part of the pre-clearance process on the new app before coming to the airport. Through the secure app, available on the Apple App Store and Google Play, passengers can create a profile using their passport information, which will then allow them to submit their travel documentation, photo and customs declaration electronically, removing the need to complete a paper declaration form.

MPC is the latest in a series of measures introduced by Shannon Airport to make transatlantic travel as seamless as possible for customers. In 2009, Shannon became the first airport in the

clearance facilities.

Building on this, in 2016, Shannon Airport became the first airport in the world to operate a combined European compliant and US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) compliant checkpoint system which means the passenger is screened only once to both regulatory standards and therefore eliminates the additional screening requirements which apply at other pre-clearance airports. These provisions, combined with the airport's hi-tech security screening, shorter queues, sensory room and age friendly initiatives, mean it has never been easier to fly from Shannon. Further details about Mobile Passport Control available here: https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/mobile-passport-control

What is Conor McPherson Up To?

By Mike Danahey

You might say that Dublin writer and director Conor McPherson keeps a bit busy. His stage adaptation of Pawel Pawlikowski's 2018 movie, Cold War, debuted in London late last year, replete with incidental Polish folk music and a tune or two from the Elvis Costello songbook.

McPherson has written a theatrical version of the first book Suzanne Collins' The Hunger Games series, which launched the hugely successful movie franchise. The play is set to open in London in early 2025.

McPherson's first musical, Girl From the North Country, which he wrote and directed, is currently touring the United States. The production made a stop during February at the CIBC Theatre in Chicago.

That's not to mention that somewhere down the road, a movie is in the works based on the musical, with McPherson at the very least writing the screenplay.

Either way, McPherson said Irish American and Nobel Prize-winning playwright Eugene O'Neill influenced his book for Girl From the North Country.

"As an Irish person, my dramatic references went immediately to Eugene O'Neill," McPherson said from Dublin via a Zoom call.

As with O'Neill's The Iceman Cometh, McPherson's musical has a big cast of characters.

In O'Neill's drama, the setting is a downtrodden saloon and flophouse in Greenwich Village, circa 1912. McPherson sets his musical in a guesthouse in Duluth around Thanksgiving time, 1934.

Like O'Neill's Long Day's Journey Into Night, McPherson's musical has a family at the center of it.



Conor McPherson

"In a sense (Girl From The North Country) is an intersection of those two kinds of plays - a family play and a play where people are all looking for a place to live, as they have nowhere else to go," McPherson said.

Girl also has strangers arrive, changing the lives of those staying at the guesthouse. There's a world on stage where a stranger arrives or someone comes back from the past and shakes everything up, much like in Iceman and myriad other works, McPherson said.

"Unspoken resentments, hopes and dreams and thwarted ambitions start to reemerge and come to the surface. That creates a lot of drama. You'll find that structure in a lot of successful plays," McPherson said.

As the title tells, what you'll also find in the musical is Bob Dylan songs, handpicked by McPherson for it. The numbers were revamped to be of the Great Depression, using only instruments available at that time.

The show's backstory goes that last decade, Dylan had his people shop around the idea to have someone build a show around his music. Dylan was

familiar with McPherson's work.

After being contacted, McPherson sent Dylan a short description of what he had in mind - the aforementioned Duluth setting, with a touch of O'Neill. Like O'Neill, Dylan is also a Nobel laureate

for literature.

Dylan bit. Setting the musical where he did puts it in Dylan's home state. It also frees the story from having to resonate with Dylan's lifetime, McPherson said.

A Shamrockin' Good Time Fundraiser at the Rialto Square Theatre 3-14



For Booking: www.celticratpack.com

It was just announced that A Shamrockin' Good Time will return to Rialto Square Theatre on Thursday, March 14. Tickets go on sale Friday, February 9 at 10 AM.

This year's Shamrockin' event will celebrate Irish culture from across the pond, our neighbor Chicago, and right here in Joliet! It will include live artists performing both traditional and contemporary Irish music, along with Irish dancers, bagpipers, and many others.

New to the lineup, and headlining, will be the Larkin & Moran Brothers, out of Chicago. Their charismatic stage presence and wonderful pub tunes will surely

entertain all. Featured performers include former "All-Ireland Singing Champion" Gavin Coyle, former "Lord of The Dance" fiddler Anne Hatfield-Martin, the amazing Max Dunne, and favorites John Condon & Friends who will be welcoming all with a traditional Irish Session in the Rotunda. There will be Pipe & Drums marching us in and Irish dancers to get our toes tapping.

In addition to music, there will be an Irish Costume Contest with a winner selected each for adults and children, raffles & 50/50, Irish Snacks, a selfie station, and much more!

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available online or at the Rialto Box Office. Doors open at 6:00 PM, and the performance will start promptly at 7:00 PM.

Come join us! All proceeds benefit the Rialto Square Theatre Foundation.

ON SALE: NOW! Tickets are available online at Ticketmaster.com More info at: <https://rialtosquare.com/event/a-shamrockin-good-time>

A New Place to Pick Up Irish American News

Beginning this month, you can pick up Irish American News for FREE at All City Cafe, 4018 N Cicero in Chicago the cafe features Irish music with James Conway on the third Sunday monthly from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Stop in and say hello to Donna!

About All City Cafe

On May 16, 1978, Joe Angelastri opened up the corner newsstand that would become the largest magazine store in Chicago, and one of the largest news



stands in the country, City Newsstand. Twenty-five years later it has grown into the two largest newsstands in Chicagoland and it's still growing! Just how big is the selection at City Newsstand? While the average supermarket or drug store has up to 20 linear feet of magazine racks, City Newsstand has 200 linear feet of magazine racks - ten times as many! Of course it's not about the fixtures, it's about the magazines, and City Newsstand has so many magazines on so many different subjects it can be mind-boggling. From motor sports to music, politics to poetry, or collectibles to comics, City Newsstand has something for everyone. City Newsstand's selection is so diverse that some customers come from as far away as Iowa and Wisconsin to shop there.

It all started when Joe Angelastri, at the age of 18, bought the corner newsstand at 4002 N. Milwaukee. Joe had run a paper route as a boy and worked at newsstands as a teenager, so he already knew something about the business, but standing on the same corner every day for years selling newspapers and magazines, he learned more about running a newsstand than a college course could ever teach. He also had time to think about the future of newsstands and what the ultimate

newsstand might be like. His daydreams started to become reality when he was approached by the owner of a book store around the corner. They were looking for someone to buy the store. Joe jumped on it, not because he wanted to own a bookstore, but because he had an idea.

One of the things Joe liked to do when he wasn't working at his newsstand, was visit other newsstands, in Chicago and across the country, to see what they were doing. One of those stands was the old Chicago-Main Newsstand in Evanston, which at the time was perhaps the largest newsstand in the Midwest. So when he reopened the bookstore on January 2, 1988, it was with the idea of realizing his dreams of the ultimate newsstand. City Newsstand was born!

Five years later, with the store completely converted to magazines, Joe got the shocking news that the Chicago-Main Newsstand had closed due to a rent dispute. Now that City Newsstand was the only really large newsstand around, business took off. Eight months later, on May 29th, 1994, Joe reached another milestone when he sold his one millionth magazine.

In 1999 Joe began hearing rumors that the City of

Evanston was interested in purchasing the old Chicago-Main Newsstand with the idea of knocking it down and extending the park that lay to the south of it. But many in the community wanted it to be a newsstand again. In 2000, Eric Singer, owner of the Lucky Platter restaurant down the street from Chicago-Main and 3rd ward Alderman Melissa Wynne contacted Joe. Once Joe was chosen officially, he brought in Evanston architect Dave Forte to bring the old brick newsstand into the 21st century. After taking the original structure down to just 2 walls and the foundation, a new steel support structure was erected, a glass and aluminum storefront was installed, a higher roof was implemented to allow more natural light in through high windows on the north wall. Another accomplishment was acquiring the original neon sign, having it refurbished and re-hung on a newly erected standard.

The new newsstand, in which Joe personally invested over a quarter of a million dollars, won architect Dave Forte a design award from Design Evanston and Joe received the Good Neighbor Award for Outstanding Contributions to Chicago Area Communities from the Chicago Association of Realtors. Customers seem to love it, too!

In August of 2011, City Newsstand moved out of its permanent quarters at 4018 N. Cicero and into temporary quarters two doors to the north. For the next 10 months 4018 was transformed. The wall between 4018 and 4020 was taken down. The drop



James Conway plays on the 3rd Sunday

ceiling was removed. The flooring was removed and replaced and a mix of new tile and carpeting went down. The walls were stripped down to the bare brick. New lighting and fixtures were installed. Most significantly, a state-of-the-art café with seating for 12 was added. On July 25th, the doors reopened back at 4018 and the new City Newsstand and City News Café were born.

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PERSONAL JUSTICE | SINCE 1980



Hazel Martyn had easy access to Chicago social success. Mrs. Potter Palmer, the city's undisputed social arbiter, adored her and found a dinner space for her whenever the hotel queen needed to balance out the number guests at a glamorous dinner. Or social evening.

Graceful manners and gilded conversations were hardly a challenge for the young Miss Manners School student. She had entrée to all the great houses, the Marshall Fields, the McCormicks, the Blairs, the Pullmans and the Harrisons. In fact, the Chicago Tribune's Colonel McCormick said Hazel was "the first girl I ever loved." She wouldn't be the last.

In August, 1922. Sir John and Hazel, Lady Lavery, waited along the Dublin pier for the arrival of General Michael Collins' corpse by sea. He had been the 32 year old leader of the Irish Free State. Until recently killed in a road side ambush in County Cork. In Beal na Blath, the country thicket near Clonakilty in the Western region of the county. Not far from Collins' boyhood home. The reaches of the Irish Civil War had few boundaries. Collins' older brother, in fact, Patrick, was a Chicago Police detective.

The Laverys were an aristocratic and erudite couple, confidants and impassioned allies of "the Big Fellow," as Collins was known. Sir John, Ireland's most famous naturalist painter, with aristocratic London credentials, was originally from Belfast. Lady Lavery, an American, was ten years Collins' senior. She had been the love of Sir John's life for the past twenty years. Though prevented from marriage to him by her domineering mother, Alice Louise Martyn, a monied socialite from Chicago's Astor Street, determined to keep her daughter from a man 25 years her senior and a Roman Catholic Irishman to boot. She brokered a marriage for Hazel with young New Yorker Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau at the turn of the century. His subsequent early death would, later, alter everyone's plans.

Hazel had been raised in the Post-1871 Fire era of Chicago's great industrialist survival. Chicago was the fastest growing city in the world in 1900. Skyscrapers made it America's most architecturally stunning metropolis in 1890 as it grew to be the nation's railroad center, as well its fabled meat packing capitol. Due in no small way to Hazel's father, Edward Jenner Martin. He'd spent his life working with meat packer Philip Danforth Armour who changed the way America ate. His railroad cars could ship fresh meat across the nation thanks to refrigeration. It lifted the Martyn Family to unmeasured economic success. Railroads and

meatpacking created many fresh American millionaires in Chicago. Hazel was an artist, a student trained at the Art Institute of Chicago. She would pursue a life of sophisticated painting in Europe as an adult, proving a force of wide wit and energy. And renewed acquaintance with the era's best painters. Upon the death of her young husband, she and her young daughter, Alice Trudeau, would travel "en



Hazel Martyn

family" across the boundaries of fine art deepening her sense of solace at the easel. She renewed her old friendship with the famed Sir John Lavery and finally married him after her mother's death in London in 1910. After that, she would spend her own time on Cromwell Road near the Victoria and Albert Museum where her painting and patriotic Irish sympathies deepened and grew amid the chandeliers and carpets, turpentine and paints.

Her political skills refined there, due in no small part to young Winston Churchill who, after his Gallipoli disgrace, became her nearby neighbor. To calm him, she taught him to paint. To compose. Organize. And engage the world of aesthetic expression. He would broaden her world of constituent politics and refine her abilities to maneuver through the privileged world of British politics in the aftermath of the Great War. In those days no issue was more significant to either of them than Ireland's struggle for independent nationhood and its own political freedom. Though on opposite sides of the issues.

Churchill was able to identify and capitalize on Hazel's American drawing room skills of social engagement that her privileged up-bringing and subsequent marriage to a famed society painter permitted. The Lavery home and studio at their Cromwell Road mansion was strictly 18th century.

And offered an environment where kings and future kings would gather. Congealing with celebrated people of learning, science, diplomacy, literature and music. Hazel became known as one of London's most notable and fashionable hostesses. But there was more to her, as her determined artistic aesthetics would prove. No country weekend would be complete without the Laverys on the guest list. Sir John to paint the hosts. And Hazel to mesmerize the conversational content of the occasions with dukes, duchesses, prime ministers, admirals, ambassadors and diamond encrusted socialites. All chatter-boxes. From 1916 until 1922 Ireland engaged in an alarming military journey into the heart of British life in Ireland for the purpose of gaining political independence after 800 years. War waged from Easter Monday 1916 when a peoples' army seized the moment. It was bloody. Broken. Often disorganized. Always filled with death and destruction. Britain was fighting on two fronts. The trenches in France. And the streets and alleys of Dublin. And important strategic locations across the Irish landscape.

But there was another front for the Irish. The one conducted by its friends at the dinner tables of the powerful. In the drawing rooms of the influential elite. In both Dublin and London. In the social world of Lady Lavery among her friends who were willing to listen to another political twist. This wasn't a soft or safe political position.

General Michael Collins came to know the Laverys through their frequent travels in Ireland during the "Troubles." Lady Lavery, it is fair to say, became deeply emotionally attached to this young military genius who ran the covert war against the British. Mao Zedong said he was able to take China with the military blueprint left behind by Michael Collins. And the crippling



Lady Lavery was the face of the mythic Kathleen Ni Houlihan on all Ireland's paper currency for five decades. Portrait by Sir John Lavery

campaign waged by the Viet Cong half a century in the future demonstrates the "guerrilla war" by which Collins achieved success.

The personal correspondence archived today between Lady Lavery and "The General" shows a definite poignant romance between individuals of unusual bonding. A great sense of neediness that is mutual riddles the poetry and prose of their living. They use the vocabulary of lovers to stay close to their political and personal dreams. Their love is encrypted, of



General Michael Collins by Sir John Lavery

course, in the para-phrase of too much living in too little time. The time span of both their affection and correspondence is short. Less than two years if we calculate the days and dates. But the intensity of their affection, the drama of the historic moments accorded them and the dynamic energy that brought warfare with Britain to a conclusion sets in motion a powerful, but wounded human relationship.

Many acts of betrayal define

the morality and truthfulness of the negotiations that finally ends the killing and establishment of the Free State. The Laverys spend their time during the negotiations pulling out all the stops. Calling in every kind deed. Leaning on every friendship. It is said some members of Britain's delegation openly refused to meet with the Irish rebels turned diplomats, until Lady Lavery had her chance to personally speak with her former painting student Winston Churchill. He and others remained rigid until Hazel found the words and the

occasion to bring all together at Cromwell Road. In a series of "free for alls," seeking to break any emotional log-jam among the negotiators. Lady Lavery's home was safe and familiar for them. Calm and enterprising. I suspect that Lady Lavery and General Collins, like many political heroes of their day, were psychologically and physically shattered by the sheer emotion unfolding in front of them. I don't believe Hazel had her bags packed to run off with Collins. But I do believe the romance and emotion they shared was intense; and for all practical purposes fatal. Collins is dead on the side of the road in a blunderous moment of bad judgment. The ambush that altered Ireland's future forever. When the Lavery-Collins love dies, if it can be said to be so dead, all that's left is the strange convolutions of Eamonn DeValera and his twisted strategy for power at any cost.

Meantime we can dream of the bright future Ireland almost had, awash in the cultural revival of great art and great love. And the empty dark quay side awaiting the arrival of Collins' corpse by ship from Cork. Displaying how dangerous the roads remained that night. And impossible the journey was on the road from Cork. Later Sir John portrait of his Chicago would then spend seven decades as the mythical face of Kathleen ni Houlihan on all Irish paper currency.

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James V. Murphy is the only candidate found "Qualified", "Recommended", or "Highly Recommended" by ALL of the Evaluating Legal Bar Associations

SELECTED ENDORSEMENTS

- George D. Alpogianis, Mayor of Niles
- John C. D'Amico, State Representative (ret.)
- Mike Kelly, State Representative, 15th District
- Samantha Nugent, 39th Ward Alderwoman
- Chicago Federation of Labor
- Chicago Plumbers Union, Local 130
- Operating Engineers Union, Local 399
- Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge #7
- Chicago Fire Fighters Union, Local 2

MEET JAMES

- 26+ years of legal experience
- Juris Doctor Degree, John Marshall Law School
- Resides in Sauganash with his wife and two kids

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

4626 N. Knox Ave.
Chicago, IL 60630
773-282-7035 x10
irish-american.org

Enjoy a show - or more than one - at the Irish American Heritage Center!
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.



AOIFE SCOTT MARCH 2 | 7:00PM

Join us for an evening of the best Irish traditional and folk music as Aoife Scott plays at the Irish American Heritage Center. Award winning folk singer Aoife Scott is a songwriter based in Dublin, Ireland. Born into the legendary Black Family (Aoife's mother is Frances).
Tickets: \$20 IAHC Members | \$25 non-members



ST. PATRICK'S DAY 2024 WITH THE SCREAMING ORPHANS!

MARCH 17 | 7:00PM
Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with this unbelievable show! Chicago favorites The Screaming Orphans will be in the Mayfair Theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center on Sunday, March 17th! Don't miss the opportunity to see these superstars! The pub will be open and the craic will be on!
Tickets: \$35



BOW TIDES MAY 17 | 7:00PM

The Bow Tides are back in the Mayfair Theatre on May 17, 2024. Don't miss the fiddle frenzy! Their second appearance at the IAHC, this will be a can't miss performance!
Tickets: \$20 IAHC Members | \$25 non-members



LOS SAN PATRICIOS: THE IRISH SOLDIERS OF MEXICO

MAY 18 | 7:00PM
Los San Patricios: The Irish Soldiers of Mexico is back for another triumphant performance in the Mayfair Theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center! Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate two of Chicago's most vibrant cultures in music and dance! Join Sonos de Mexico and the Irish Music School of Chicago as they share the stage to present a tribute to the the St. Patrick's Battalion (Batallón de San Patricio).
Tickets are \$30 for IAHC members | General Admission \$35.

JOIN US IN THE fifth province DURING MARCH FOR THESE OUTSTANDING FREE SHOWS

MARCH 1
JOHN BUSHNER

MARCH 2
THE QUARANTINIS

MARCH 8
DIAMONDBACK

MARCH 9
AIDEN O'TOOLE

MARCH 15
THE CHANCERS

MARCH 16
ST. PATRICK'S DAY FEST

MARCH 22
ACADEMY OF IRISH MUSIC

MARCH 23
GREASY GRAVY

MARCH 29
JOE MCSHANE

MARCH 30
THE BOILS



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members and Friends of the Irish American Heritage Center,

The month of March is here and that means the celebration at the Irish American Heritage Center is on! I hope to see you at the center for our annual St. Patrick's Fest after the parade downtown on March 16th. Doors open at 1:00pm. We have a full lineup of bands, children's activities with our friends at Irish Community Services, and the usual good time that makes the Center one of the most popular stops on that day.

St. Patrick's Day Sunday is another great day for music and craic, with the special added bonus of a concert by the Screaming Orphans in the Mayfair Theatre at 7:00pm.

For a full listing of bands and special guests like local Irish Dance Schools, go to irish-american.org. You can also save money by purchasing tickets for St. Patrick's Fest online for the early-bird discount of \$5!

March also means Friday night Fish Fries! Bring the family for this traditional all you can eat fish buffet, with free music and Irish dance school guest stars, and a room with movies and coloring for the little ones.

Irish traditional music super-star Aoife Scott performs on Saturday, March 2nd in the Mayfair Theatre. Anyone who caught Aoife in 2023 can tell you that this is a show you cannot miss! Tickets and information at irish-american.org.

Of course it's not the St. Patrick's Holiday Season without the annual "Wearing of the Green" dance in the Erin Room. Join us again this year for a delicious buffet by Harrington's, and dance music from our friend Gerry Haughey.

Be sure to stop by the center to visit our Biennial Art show. This juried art exhibit runs through April 28th.

Our 2024 membership and annual appeal drives are in full swing. Your engagement and generosity are pivotal to sustaining your Center and our traditions. It enables us to host Irish and Irish American artists in our Mayfair Theatre year-round.

This year, a portion of the appeal will contribute to the much-needed resurfacing of our parking lot, ensuring a safe and welcoming space for all who visit.

Alongside this letter, you'll find a rendering of the plan, a visual representation of our collective effort to enhance our Center. Every contribution brings us closer to realizing this vision and strengthening our legacy for future generations.

Best Regards and Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Tom Chambers
President, Irish American Heritage Center

FRIDAY FISH FRY

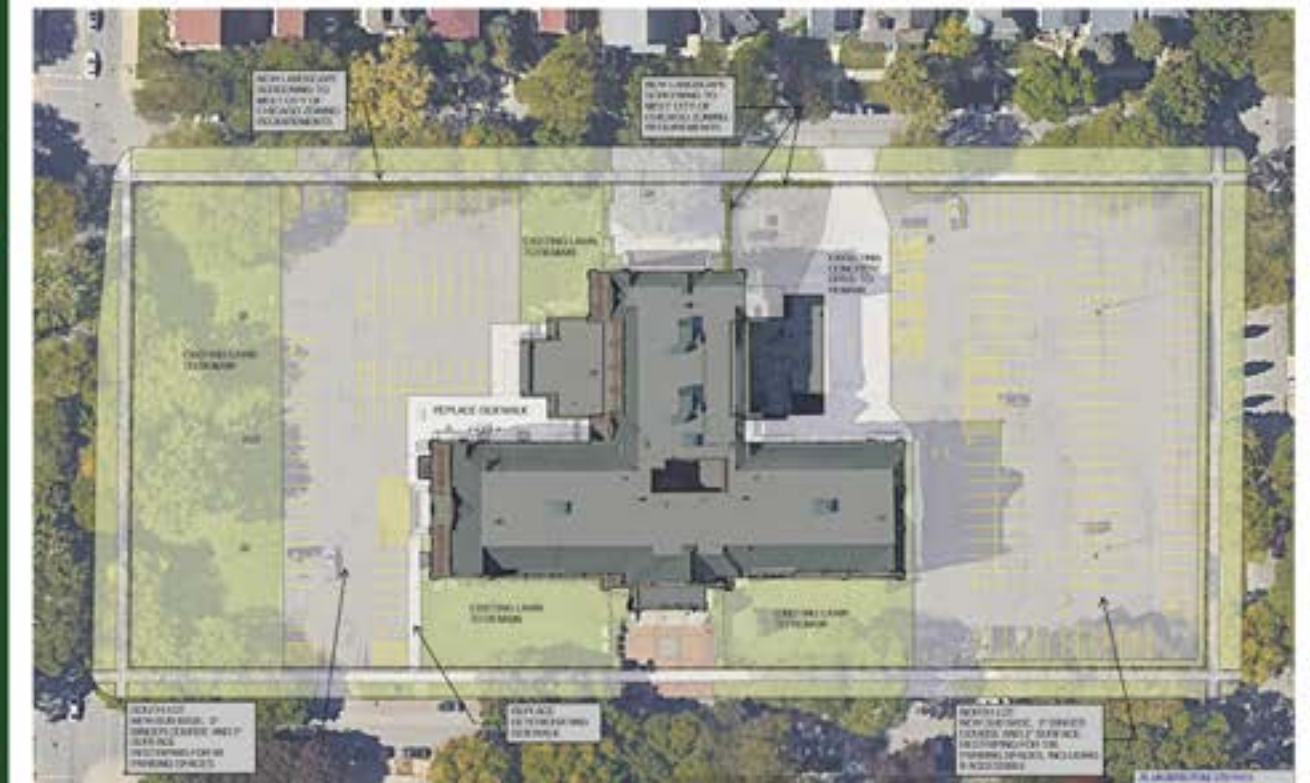
2024 Lenten Fish Fries begin February 16th!
All-you-can-eat fried cod and sides, music and Irish dancers.
Bring the whole family!

March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29



COMING in 2024!

After decades of regular maintenance, the time has come for a full replacement of the North and South Parking lot surfaces. This project will include full depth removal of the old surfaces, stabilization of the base, new asphalt surface with optimized parking configurations, sidewalk repairs, and added landscape shrubs. The IAHC is excited about this major improvement that is sure to add to our visitor's experience for years to come!



IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

4626 N. Knox Ave. | Chicago, IL 60630
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Five Generations and 95 Years later Flood Brothers Roots Run Deep in Chicago

By *Ryanne Gallagher- Johnson*

Flood Brothers Disposal and Recycling, run by its fifth generation of Flood family members, has been in the garbage hauling business in the Chicagoland area for nearly a century. Their recognizable orange and green trucks can be seen doing the sometimes-forgotten job of hauling away our junk and rubbish, helping us maintain our personal and public environments; the unsung heroes in an industry that most of us give little thought to. They move through our neighborhoods and alleyways every week, emptying bins and dumpsters, removing that burden from the general population.

Although this specific endeavor was started by Joe and Mike Flood in 1963, the roots of the company can be traced back to the 1930's. To fully understand the breadth and depth of the Flood family's work in our city, to grasp how integral they've been within Chicago history, you have to look back in time, to where it all really started.

"My great-grandfather, Thomas Flood, and his wife, Anne Mullen Flood came through Halifax, Nova Scotia, in Canada," explains Robert "Bob" Flood, one of the three current partners in the Flood Brothers business, along with his second cousins, brothers Kevin and Bill.

Thomas was born in County Meath, Ireland, and Anne hailed from County Longford. Thomas, after years of selling Irish wool and linens, eventually became Chicago's first Health Commissioner, as well as opening Flood Brothers Undertaking and Livery Service in the late 1800's.

Bob's grandfather, Emmet T Flood, partook in the family business for a while, but eventually split off to work

for Marshall Fields, as a teamster. During his tenure there, Emmet organized the workers into a union. The taste of fair labor laws and helping his fellow employed people gain their rights turned out to be something that Emmet loved so much, he went on to become an organizer for the American Federation of Labor.

"My grandfather traveled through the US, Canada, and Puerto Rico, organizing manufacturers, steel mills, and mining

Fame Hometown Heroes celebration in 2017, at which the Flood family was honored. "From there, he went on to establish an ash-hauling business."

Before laws made it illegal in the mid-1950's, households in Chicago would burn their trash to get rid of it. Those fires lead to literal tons of ash, which needed to be taken away and safely disposed of. Emmet saw an opportunity, and in 1930, he started the new family business, with

now know, the rapid growth meant that moving into bigger facilities every so often was a necessity, and they did so many times over the years. While in residence on Kedzie Avenue in late 1977, the entire garage was sadly consumed by a fire.

But they persisted. "They had to scramble," says Bill Flood, one of Bob's cousins and business partners. "They ran the office out of my Aunt Mary's house."

Kevin Flood, Bill's brother and the third partner in Flood Brothers, elaborates, "My Dad went to Minnesota with three drivers, bought three trucks, and brought them back to my aunt's house at Monticello and North Avenue, and [re]started the business [there]."

It took a couple of years, but they eventually landed on West Harrison Street in 1979, where their offices and garage are still located today, in addition to a main office in Oakbrook Terrace.

The current three Floods running the business, Bob, Kevin, and Bill, have their own unique stories for how they joined the family garbage disposal company.

Bob entered the family business in 1972, after venturing out on his own a bit. He graduated from Notre Dame High School, followed by St. Benedict's College (now Benedictine College) in Atchison, Kansas. Originally having visions of becoming a stock broker, he worked on the floor of the Midwest Stock Exchange (now the Chicago Stock Exchange), for the Milwaukee Company, an investment business that operates out of Wisconsin.

When the draft came up, Bob joined the United States Naval Air Intelligence unit, and by the time he'd gotten out, his goals had changed, as is the case with so many who serve. He no longer wanted to work the stock exchange floor.

"I interviewed with the US Treasury Department in downtown Chicago, and afterwards, I walked down the street.

Continued on page 22



Emmett T. Flood, second from left

companies from the Atlantic to the Pacific," says Bob.

But the Great Depression caused a hiccup in his work, as it did for many families at the time. Emmet found himself out of a job, with a wife and eleven children to provide for.

"[He] walked the alleys of Chicago, scrapping and looking for anything of value to support his family," Bob told attendees at the Irish American Hall of

one truck and one employee.

Emmet T's first iteration of what would eventually become Flood Brothers Disposal was successful for a few decades, until, upon his death in the early 1940's, his wife sold the business. But his children and grandchildren would later go on to restart the company and spend several decades evolving it to fit the needs of the growing Chicagoland area.

From the start of the business that we



(l to r): Joe, Kevin and Mike Flood

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

SAINT PATRICK'S FEST

Saturday, March 16
Sunday, March 17

The festivities follow the downtown parade and are packed with traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and drink for purchase, children's activities – including Wiggleworms performances, a day of Irish Dance Schools in the Mayfair Theatre, the Shannon Rovers, and an Arts and Craft Fair, with vendors selling Irish gifts. Visit the Library, Art Gallery and Museum for programming and exhibits and a used book sale. It's everything you remember and more!

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

MUSIC

FIFTH PROVINCE PUB

1:30 The Quarantinis

3:00 Aiden O'Toole

4:30 Tim O'Shea

5:45 The Shannon Rovers

6:00 Grainne Duffy

6:00 One of the Girls (ERIN ROOM)

7:30 Into The Heart

9:00 Whiskey Mick

IRISH DANCE SCHOOLS

MAYFAIR THEATER

1:15 O'Hare School of Irish Dance

2:00 Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance

3:00 O'Hara Dance Group

4:00 Hogan Irish Dancers

5:00 Mullane Godley

Irish Dance Academy

6:00 Trinity Academy of Irish Dance

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

MUSIC

FIFTH PROVINCE PUB

4:30 Dooley Band

6:00 Reilly

7:30 Tim Gleason Trio

9:00 Chancey Brothers

MAYFAIR THEATER

7:00 The Screaming Orphans

TICKETS

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

FIFTH PROVINCE PUB

ADULTS: \$15 IN ADVANCE AT

IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

\$20 DAY OF FEST

KIDS 12 & UNDER: FREE

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

FIFTH PROVINCE PUB

ADULTS: \$10 AT THE DOOR ONLY

KIDS 12 & UNDER: FREE





Bob and Sue Flood by American Flag, surrounded by four daughters, three sons, and family.

... to my cousins' garage," he recalls. "There were Mike and Joe, and Emmet [the second, Emmet T's son], and [we] got into a lengthy discussion. It was kind of exciting, hearing their history being in the garbage business."

Bob started working part time for his cousins, doing cleanup and other odd jobs. Mike eventually asked if he'd come in and do accounting and work customer service for the business, so Bob went and ran the office and took care of the books.

"All of our accounts were in a little metal index card box. . . That was the extent of [the business]," Bob says. "It was Mike, Emmet, Joe, myself, and four drivers."

But the time came when Bob wanted more than to be just a worker for his family's business. His own family was growing, as he'd gotten married to his wife, Sue, and would eventually father seven children.

"There was an opportunity. I bought two days' worth of a garbage route, and I bought a truck, and went into business for myself, back in about 1973. That was called Sun Disposal. I had a partner, my cousin Mark Garrity, and we built that into a two-truck, 6 day-a-week route. My brother Brian, who works for us still today, was a driver. He now works in the office on Harrison. He was my helper on the truck. [When] Mark wanted to get out of the business. . . I bought him out. And in 1974, Joe, Mike, and Emmet were buying a company called NorthWest Disposal, and asked me if I'd like to merge in and become partners with them. So I came

back with them and became a partner, and now I'm a partner with Bill and Kevin. I'm still there after 50-some years."

Kevin Flood, who is Mike's son, came into the business a bit earlier in his life than his cousin Bob, but he similarly went off to find his passion before becoming a partner much later.

"When I was eight years old, I'd sleep outside my parents' bedroom to make sure my Dad took me to work with him in the summertime," he says. "Growing up, I worked every aspect. I delivered containers, I worked on a garbage truck, I did sales, I did bill collecting."

Kevin attended St. Mary's, followed by St. Viator's, and graduated from Mount Carmel High School. But before heading to a full time university, he went to junior college his freshman year, and then took a year off to work in construction in New York. In 1983 and 1984, he worked on the Statue of Liberty renovation, and saved up enough money to return and attend Marquette, moving on to graduate school at the University of Notre Dame.

"I fully financed my entire education, except grade school. . . Post-college, my father said, 'Go see the world, go figure out what you want to do,' and I did that. . . One of my companies, the Astor Company, I founded over thirty years ago. That company is still around today. Kind of an Uber for garbage around the country."

Among other things, Kevin became interested in real estate, and went to work for various companies in the field. He also ran for 42nd Ward Alderman, and although he lost, he met Mayor Daley and

made a strong personal connection.

"We had lunch, and his election is the next election, and they called me to say 'the Mayor wants you to run the 42nd Ward for him, with voter registration'. So I did. . . And after the Mayor's race, I said, 'Listen, if you ever need help with anything, let me know,'" he explains.

Kevin was eventually asked to oversee library constructions, and he took a leave of absence from The Astor Company, during which time his wife took over. His new work included library construction, planning for land and fire, overseeing construction for the Chicago Housing Authority, and overseeing construction at O'Hare and Midway airports.

"My work on behalf of the Mayor let me be a part of the fabric of the city," he says of his time doing that work.

But he eventually went back to his own company, in 2007, and just over a decade later, in 2018, his parents called and asked him to come back and run Flood Brothers, along with his brother, Bill, and cousin Bob.

"[My parents] were both getting up there, weren't doing well, and another family member had left the company. . . The timing was right [and] I could do it. I came back, and since then, we've put together a nice management team. We've doubled the size of the company, we built a transfer station we never had. . . It's one of the biggest blessings in my life to have spent time back at the company with my father and brother before my Dad passed away."

During Kevin's absence, Flood Brothers

underwent other exciting changes. In 1988, they expanded with their first automated recycling center, on West Taylor. Flood Brothers became the first fully licensed special waste hauler in Chicago in 1990, and in 1992, their recycling was the first ever to service the initial Chicago Recycling Program for the 12th, 31st, and 41st wards.

In 1993, they got their first residential contract in Oakbrook Terrace. They'd never been in a residential market before, as the contracts were very restricted and the insurance was too high. Contracts were written so that companies had to pick up trash within one to two days, which would have left their trucks sitting the rest of the week. Once they finally snagged the contract, by essentially offering free residential garbage removal indefinitely, while lowering the price for the commercial buildings, they increased their route by 450 homes, plus the surrounding businesses.

In 1995, they launched a container fabrication and repair facility. And in 1996, they opened an additional facility in Carol Stream (floodbrothersdisposal.com).

Bill says that that time in the mid-nineties was their biggest growth. "The Flood Brothers' expansion out of the city of Chicago."

Bill, unlike Bob and Kevin, went into the company straight out of high school. He came on when they were operating with ten trucks, total. Starting as a helper, he moved on to become a driver.

"I was the last Flood to drive a truck,"

he says. "When I came off the truck in '99, it was because we changed software. . . I was kind of self-taught over a couple of years." Now, he runs the daily operations of the business, and Flood Brothers runs over 200 trucks.

"I'm not really into titles, per se, but I was given the title of president."

In over fifty years, they've expanded into 240 municipalities and employ approximately 300 people, twenty of which are family members.

Along with service to the community at large through garbage disposal, Flood Brothers also has an extensive history in philanthropy, primarily benefiting Catholic charities and institutions, and children's organizations.

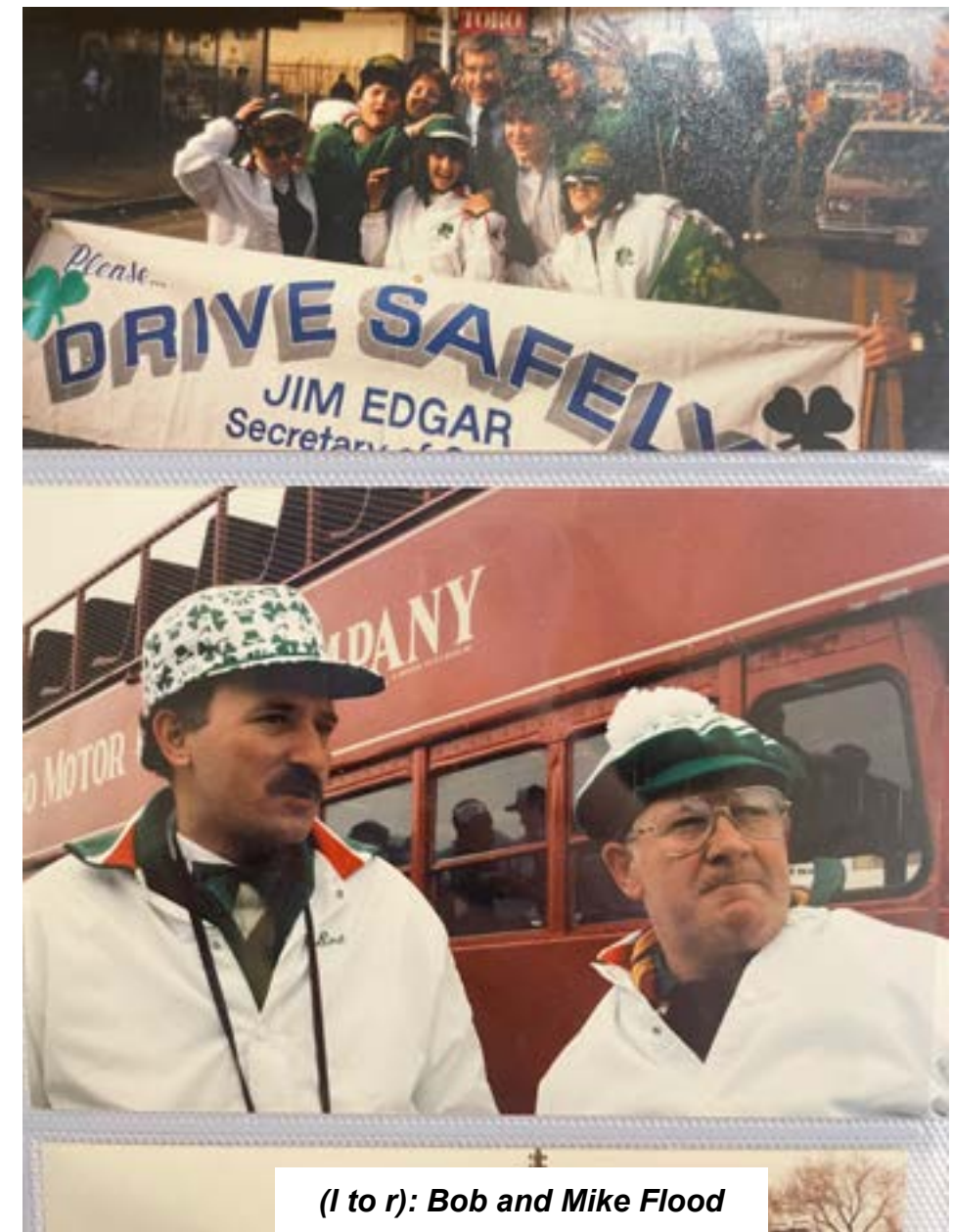
From their business website page, they

of the route, take them to breakfast, and then take them back home."

On top of all of this, members of the Flood family have served on boards of schools, are involved with outreach programs, are big in the Chicago Catholic parishes, are involved with foundations, and offer free services to many different organizations.

"We are all involved in the communities in which we live and raise our families, and that is what sets us apart from others," says Kevin. "We support the Irish American Partnership, Irish Fellowship Club, Irish American Heritage Center, Misericordia, the Ireland Fund, Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, and Gaelic Park to name a few."

Kevin serves on the boards of the Jesse White Tumblers and After School Matters



(l to r): Bob and Mike Flood

explain, "Flood Brothers celebrates and encourages community involvement, investment and volunteerism. Our corporate giving and employee involvement support foundations, organizations, and events that promote green initiatives and make a positive difference in the communities in which we serve." (floodbrothersdisposal.com).

Over the years, they also came up with ways to benefit the schools that they and their kids attended.

"Back throughout our days, Joe had a clever idea, because his kids were going to Loyola Academy," Bob says. "We had what was called Ride on the Night Route. This was another charitable contribution that we made, through Loyola Academy, and also Marillac High School in Northfield. . . You get picked up at your house by a limousine, and you get to ride with the garbage man doing our night route in downtown Chicago. They'd bid on it at their auctions. At Loyola, we had people bidding \$5,000 to ride on our garbage truck at night. What we did was, throughout the route, we'd have containers full of prizes. . . It became very popular, but it was wearing on us, because we'd have to be downtown from midnight to eight in the morning. The limo would then, at the end

as well. They've been honored multiple times over, including when Loyola University celebrated Flood Brothers through their business department with the Family Business of the Year award.

"Service was always instilled in us. . . The greatest joy, I think, of our business, is the fact that we're able to help so many people," says Bob.

Kevin adds, "We are an American Family of Irish descent, committed to our faith, community and dedicated to preserving our strong Irish Heritage."

You can find information on Flood Brothers Disposal and Recycling on their website, floodbrothersdisposal.com




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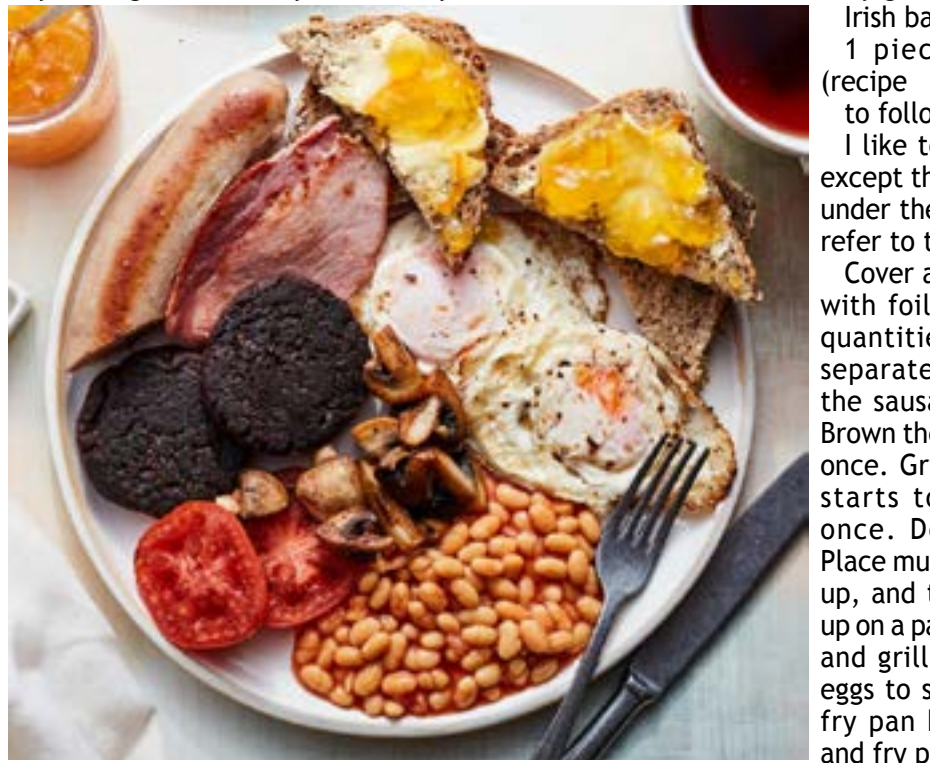
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By Jim August
Thought for Food

Spring is literally around the corner. We have been fortunate enough to enjoy a fairly mild winter; in fact February has been one of the warmest on record. We're not in the clear yet but I am keeping my fingers crossed that we have said goodbye to Old Man Winter. With St Patrick's Day falling on a Sunday, and



the way the parades line up there is going to be plenty of time for celebrating. Not that long ago I can recall it snowing on St Patrick's Day, so I do hope the mild weather trend continues. Traditionally the dish served on St. Patrick's Day is corned beef and cabbage. Just about every Irish bar that serves food will be featuring a menu item featuring corned beef. I couldn't find any data on how much corned beef is served on St. Patrick's Day but with 37.7 million people in the United States claiming Irish descent, of 2 fried eggs, rashers (Irish back bacon), bangers (Irish sausages), black and white pudding, Irish baked beans (Heinz or Bachelors'), button mushrooms, grilled tomatoes, potato bread, and Irish brown bread butter, and marmalade. A little Chef Sauce is the perfect accompaniment. This is actually an easy dish to prepare, and works well when feeding a crowd. We are very fortunate to have the Winston family making a variety of Irish meats including corned beef and smoked butt available at their Southside

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Pat Mac's Pack!

From 8:00 to 1:00
MARCH 8
 FRIDAY 7PM
ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY 2024
 at St. Barnabas
 celebrates the season with many foods for a GREAT cause!

Join us on Friday, March 8 from 7 p.m. to midnight at St. Barnabas to kick off the season by raising funds for a great cause. Grab your tickets now as prices will increase to \$85 at the door. Event tickets include event admission, live entertainment, drinks including beer and wine, pizza, and immediate entry for the Head and Tails game. Add-on raffle tickets when you purchase today for a chance to win epic prizes like tickets to the Rolling Stones or Zac Brown Band, Chicago Bears Tickets, Chicago White Sox Tickets, a Weekend in Michigan City, and more! All proceeds support Pat Mac's Pack's dual mission to fund pediatric brain tumor research and to help alleviate the financial burden weighing on young cancer patients and their families. We hope to see you there!
<https://fundraise.givesmart.com/e/t0MwBQ?vid=140o3i>

locations. The Tinley Park location on 159th Street is a virtual Irish grocery store where you can find every Irish food product imaginable. So let's get started with our breakfast. For each person you will need:
 2 Irish sausages
 1 or 2 1 1/2 inch slices of black and white pudding
 1 or 2 slices of Irish bacon
 1/2 small tomato. Campari style work well
 2-3 small button mushrooms
 Kerry gold butter
 Irish baked beans
 1 piece potato bread (recipe to follow)
 I like to cook everything except the eggs, and beans under the broiler. The Irish refer to this as grilled. Cover a cookie sheet pan with foil paper. For large quantities cook meats in separate batches. Brown the sausages on all sides. Brown the puddings turning once. Grill bacon until fat starts to brown turning once. Do not overcook. Place mushrooms stem side up, and tomatoes cut side up on a pan. Dot with butter and grill 5 minutes. Cook eggs to style desired. In a fry pan heat melt butter and fry potato bread about 2 minute per side. To serve place 2 eggs, 2 sausages, 1-2 slices of black and white pudding, 1 slice bacon, 1 tomato, 2-3 mushrooms, baked beans, and 1 piece potato bread on a warm plate. A little Chef Sauce, Irish brown bread with butter and marmalade round off this Irish favorite.
Potato Bread:
 2 cups instant mashed potatoes, or leftover potatoes
 2 cups flour
 1tsp salt
 1 tsp baking powder
 Make mashed potatoes. If using cold leftover mashed potatoes bring to room temperature. Add flour, salt, and baking powder. Mix until well combined. On a floured surface roll out mixture to 3/16 inch thick. Traditionally potato bread is cut into wedges, but commercial products are cut into 3X6 in rectangles. Cut potato bread into 8 inch circles then into 6 pieces. Heat a griddle or fry pan. Cook potato bread until it just starts to brown in spots 2-3 minutes. Flip and cook the other side. Potato bread should be firm with light brown spots similar to a flour tortilla when making quesadilla. Remember the bread will be cooked again. This dish can be eaten at any time during the day with a cup of tea or coffee in the morning and a pint in the afternoon or evening.
 La le PADRAIG

IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME
 Recognizing the Contributions of Outstanding Irish Americans

Join us at the 12th Annual Irish American Hall of Fame Gala!

Help us recognize our 2024 Inductees and Hometown Hero!

Arts & Humanities: Ed Ward
Business & Industry: Andrew McKenna
Public Service: William Donovan
Sports: John McEnroe
Religion: Sr. Patricia Crowley, OSB
Science: Joseph P. Kerwin, M.D.
Hometown Hero: The Hagerty Family

Date: April 27, 2024
Location: Irish American Heritage Center

Early Bird Rates through April 1:
 Tickets: \$175 general public; \$150 for IAHC members
 Table of 10: \$1700 general public; \$1,450 for IAHC members

For more information, visit:
www.iahof.org

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 or scan the QR Code




Dave Johnston playing an outdoor wedding.
<https://www.chicago-bagpiper.com/about-chicalba/>



Nimble Thimbles, the quilting, sewing and crafting group at the Irish American Heritage Center, are teaching our newest member, Emelia Adams, to sew! Emelia has now produced the first Christmas stocking of the year. Each year, Nimble Thimbles makes hundreds of Christmas stockings to be sent to military personnel overseas, through the auspices of Operation Support Our Troops! Pat Dziejdzic (pictured here) and Judy Griffith are two of our mentors. Nimble Thimbles get together every Tuesday and Saturday morning in room 209 at the IAHC. If you'd like to join us, call the center at 773-282-7035, x10, and leave a message.

Master Fiddler Burke Joined by Irish Vocal Duo in Rare Trio Setting March 7



this month to accompany the tour. Kevin Burke is considered a master of the fiddle and one of Ireland's most revered artists. (The band is experiencing a current revival with sold-out reunion concerts and a new documentary in the works.) Flutist and vocalist Nuala Kennedy and guitarist/vocalist Eamon O'Leary are longtime friends and musical collaborators, including in renowned trio The Alt with John Doyle. The two present a repertoire ranging from the ancient Irish tradition to reflections on the present day. With an understated virtuosity, they perform music that's "lyrically fresh, harmonically rich and presented with magnificent ease." (The Irish Times)

The three friends performed together last March at Boston's St Patrick's Day "Celtic Sojourn" concert, presented by the beloved late WGBH radio host Brian O'Donovan. kevinburke.com.

Kevin Burke, Nuala Kennedy and Eamon O'Leary, three of Irish music's leading artists, make a rare American tour together this March. The three old friends share a love of traditional music and a great joy in playing. They'll bring their songs, tunes, and stories to Midwest: Mar 6, Milwaukee WI, Irish Cultural & Heritage Center, Mar 7, Chicago IL, The Athenaeum Center, Mar 8, Muncie IN, Ball State University. Kennedy and O'Leary will also be releasing their song "Liffeside," from their forthcoming album, to radio

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Weaving History & Love: Explore the Beauty of Handfasting in Your Irish Ceremony

Are you dreaming of an enchanting Irish wedding?! Today, we dive deep into the romantic tradition of Celtic Handfasting, a personal favorite wedding enhancement that adds a touch of magic to your special day. The popularity of handfasting in contemporary weddings suggests a growing openness to recognized equal rights among genders. The term 'Tying the knot' comes directly from this formality. The beauty of Handfasting lies in its flexibility. Choose one cord or ribbon that your Officiant binds around your hands or embrace vibrant twisted cords: select different colored ribbons, each representing a blessing

the eternal connection as two souls become one.

Intrigued by the possibility of incorporating this charming Irish tradition into your Irish-themed wedding? Share your thoughts and questions in the comments!

Author: Aine McKenna (Celebrate Love)
 Aine McKenna is an award-winning Irish Officiant, based in the beautiful seaside village of Blackrock, Co. Louth with her 3 small children, 2 mad cats and her wonderful (Dub!) husband. Aine specialises in elopements all over Ireland, particularly for couples looking to incorporate Celtic traditions into their ceremony. Her style is fun, engaging, and full of that famous Irish wit!

Aine has had the pleasure of officiating elopement ceremonies for many wonderful American couples; some who have visited and married in our fair isle on their own and others who have opted to make it a larger celebration, inviting friends and family to join the festivities. Many, she now considers life-long friends. No two love stories are the same, so why have a wedding ceremony that is? Aine works



Aine McKenna

incorporating ancient traditions into modern celebrations. This ancient ritual, steeped in Celtic history and symbolism, is resonating with couples seeking a meaningful and unique way to express their love. It's not just about having a memorable ceremony; it's about connecting to a rich heritage and weaving timeless tradition into your unique love story.

Imagine yourself being transported back to ancient Ireland, where the binding of hands symbolized a legal marriage under Brehon Law, a progressive system that bestowed upon your union. Invite family and friends to participate, laying the ribbons with heartfelt wishes, making the ceremony truly inclusive and unforgettable. The moment also serves as a perfect photo opportunity - hands interlocked with colourful ribbons, sparkling wedding bands adorning your fingers. The image evokes the strength and beauty of your union, bound by your vows and blessings. The ties represent the unbreakable bonds of your vows, while the knot signifies

Post Parade Party with IBEW Locals March 16

The IBEW Memorial Hall will play host on March 16th, 2024 for the annual St. Patrick's Day Post-Parade Party, a wonderful afternoon of St. Patrick's Day cheer! As always, all ticket sale proceeds go directly to creating a beautiful life for Misericordia's 600+ children and adults. Online ticket sales is now open. Get yours early! <https://www.misericordia.com/events-registration/?e=3892>

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Wishing Everyone a **Happy St. Patrick's Day!!**

Please Remember to Vote on March 19th

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Chicago's Gaelic Park to Celebrate 10th Anniversary of Mayo Day May

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of Mayo Day and Home to Mayo 2024, Mayo County Council are bringing the magic of Mayo Day all the way to the Windy City of Chicago this year.

On Saturday, May 4th Gaelic Park in Chicago will become a little piece of Mayo, when the international flagship Mayo Day event takes place.

Mayo Day has become one of the highlights of the year over the past decade, having gone from strength to strength since its inception in 2005 - even the Covid-19 pandemic was not able to stop the spreading of the Mayo message in 2020 and 2021, when virtual events were held to celebrate Mayo Day.

After its return to physical events in Castlebar and Ballina in 2022 and 2023 respectively, this year the local flagship event will be taking place in Belmullet. But to coincide with the ten-year anniversary celebrations of Mayo Day, at the same time an international flagship event will be taking place in Gaelic Park in Chicago.

On the day you will find everything that you have loved as part of Mayo Day back home, with a stunning line up of music, arts, crafts, food, and family fun all part of a day to be remembered.

Planning is well underway to ensure that Mayo Day in Chicago will be a day that will live long in the memory and Mayo County Council are calling on everyone with Mayo heritage in their blood in the USA to mark the date in their diary and plan a trip to Gaelic Park to celebrate Mayo Day.

It will be a fantastic chance to catch up with old friends, forge new relationships with fellow Mayo people and have a day



Pictured at the Chicago Mayo Association Christmas Lunch where Home to Mayo 2024 and Mayo Day 2024 was launched was Eibhlís Maher (Fáilte Ireland), Seamus Kavanagh (Hollister, Chicago), Ciara Sugrue (Fáilte Ireland), Bill Byrne (Director of Global Sales and VP North America, Aer Lingus, Kevin Byrne (Consul General of Ireland in Chicago), Mags Connell (Administrative Officer, Mayo County Council), Cllr Martin McLoughlin (Leas Cathaoirleach, Mayo County Council), Ruth Cawley (President, Mayo Association Chicago), Cllr Donna Sheridan, Martina Hughes (Senior Executive Officer, Mayo County Council), Paula Svadlena (Chicago Sales Manager, Aer Lingus) and Cllr Adrian Forkan.

that you will not forget and to show your Mayo pride.

Mags Connell from Mayo County Council said: "Mayo Day has always been a brilliant day to celebrate all that is great and good about Mayo and this year we are looking forward to making the day even bigger and better.

"With Mayo Day turning ten and our Home to Mayo 2024 celebrations we

decided that we were going to add an international leg to our Mayo Day celebrations, and what better place to do that than Chicago.

"We have an excellent relationship with the Mayo Diaspora in Chicago and they are always more than supportive when we have events and visits to the city, so it made perfect sense to have our international Mayo Day Flagship

event in Chicago and we're looking forward to a brilliant day out, where the Mayo pride will be front and centre on day to remember.

If you are musician, artist, crafter, food producer with a Mayo connection or want to get involved and help out on the day email: communications@mayococo.ie for more or log on to

www.mayo.ie/mayo-day-2024.

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- * To promote education, friendship, understanding and cooperation among members, and the community in general.
- * To promote and cooperate in the general welfare work of the community.

IASCW Announces Scholarships

Three Will County high school students will represent the IASCW as they travel to Ireland this summer through the Irish Life Experience <http://www.irishlifeexperience.com> program. IASCW awarded scholarships of \$4,000 to each. The 2024 ILE scholars are: Lauren Potts of Joliet, a senior at Joliet West High School; Nolan Hall of New Lenox, a senior at Lincoln-Way West High School; and Kathryn Leeders of Joliet, a junior at Joliet Catholic Academy.



Lauren Potts



Nolan Hall



Kathryn Leeders

IASCW Scholarship Banquet to be held on Sunday, April 7, 2024.

The banquet will begin with a full buffet luncheon, followed by step dancing entertainment and a performance by the Providence Catholic Pipe Band. The program will feature the 2023 IASCW ILE scholars, Cassidy Gray, Edward Keegan, and Paul Coffey as they present their audio-visual report of their experiences from last year. All are invited to attend. SKnights of Columbus, 100 S. 129th Infantry Dr., Joliet, IL 60436

Will County CELTIC FEST Returns!

Saturday, August 17, 2024

the clans will gather again at St. Joe's Park in Joliet, Illinois. Music will fill the air from several performers and bands. Our famous kids' area will include fun and games for all ages. Food and beverages will be available all day. Save the date and join us for a celtic celebration.



<http://www.willcountycelticfest.com>

Old St. Patrick's Church Hosting St. Patrick's Day Events March 11 & 16

Get ready for St. Patrick's Day in Chicago by celebrating with Old St. Patrick's Church with special events happening throughout the month of March.

The 25th Annual Siamsa na nGael

on Monday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m., will feature an exploration of St. Brigid who was known for being a unifier, healer, and inspirer. Through song, dance, and story, the Celtic celebration will honor 1,500 years of her feast. Returning after a three-year hiatus at the Chicago Symphony, a distinguished guest narrator and soloists from the Old St. Patrick's Concert Choir, Metropolitan Orchestra, Irish Trad band, Trinity Dance and bagpipers will be featured.

Tickets go on sale Feb. 1 (St Brigid's Day) through the Symphony Center Box Office at 312-294-3000 or cso.org.



Presented by Wintrust. Shamrock'n,

Old St. Pats annual event on March 16 from 11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Amazing Space Venue in the West Loop, will be filled with Irish pub grub, music, a pint or two and even activities for

the littlest of leprechauns like crafts, balloon artists and face painting!

Sponsored by Guinness, Bailey's, Roe & Co Irish Whiskey, Wintrust and Coca-Cola, the event will have Irish fiddles, flutes, bagpipers and maybe a dancer or two! Make sure to stay for the special appearances by Chicago Garda and the iconic Shannon Rovers Pipe & Drum Band.

Guests have a chance to enter the Pot O' Gold raffle offering a \$20,000 GRAND PRIZE! Old St. Pat's will sell no more than 750 tickets for \$100 each. Purchase your tickets now for chances to win an early bird prize!

Tickets will go on sale Thursday, Jan. 25. Pub Pass Ticket for \$50, which includes entry, three drinks and a meal.

General Entry for \$25; \$30 at the door if tickets are still available. Kids 6-10 are \$10 and 5 and under are free. Kids receive a free meal with entry and a Shamrock'n activity pack.

Funds raised at the events will go towards supporting the numerous ministries at Old St Patrick's Church, including social justice initiatives, outreach programs, and strengthening the mission of the church. To learn more, visit oldstpats.org/special-events.html.

About Old St. Patrick's Church Since its founding by Irish immigrants on Easter morning in 1846, Old St. Patrick's has been interwoven in the life and history of the City of Chicago. Founded in 1846 as the first English-speaking parish in the city, the current church building was designed in

a Romanesque style by two of Chicago's earliest practicing architects Augustus Bauer and Asher Carter. The cornerstone was laid on May 23, 1853, and the building was dedicated on Christmas Day, 1856.

Old St. Patrick's is one of the few buildings to survive the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Its survival makes it the oldest public building in the City of Chicago. Today, Old St. Patrick's is home to a membership of more than 3,000 households and innumerable friends. As we grow, we continually redefine what it means to be an urban church. We are committed to remaining open to new visions and possibilities, seeking broader horizons as we journey into our future.

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British and Irish Medical Professionals attend Rosemary O'Neill's Retirement Celebration dinner in Dallas, Texas, (Left to right) Rosemary O'Neill RN (County Waterford), her longtime nurse colleague Diane Funk RN from (County Caernarvon, Wales), Diane's American husband Steve Funk, Mary Monaghan (visiting from County Donegal) and Dr Leo M. Crowley (County Cork).

Patrick Redmond: Emeritus Art Educator of the Year



EMERITUS ART EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Born in Milwaukee, raised in West Allis, Wisconsin, and a longtime resident of Minnesota, graphic designer, artist, former art director and retired art-and-design educator,

Irish American Patrick Michael Redmond, M.A., of Saint Paul, Minnesota, received the Minnesota 2023-2024 "Emeritus Art Educator of the Year Award", also known as the "Retired Art Educator of the Year Award", (shown here) from Art Educators of Minnesota (AEM), the Minnesota affiliate of the 25,000-member National Art Education Association (NAEA). He is a 1968 graduate of Pius XI Catholic High School, Milwaukee, where he was vice president of the school's Future Teachers of America chapter. PatrickRedmondDesign.com.

South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade Announces Ronald McDonald House Charities as 2024 Grand Marshal and Smith Village as Parade Honoree

The South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee announces Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana (RMHC-CNI) will lead this year's parade as the Grand Marshal. Smith Village, celebrating its 100th year of senior living in the Beverly community was named

the Parade route. "Both our Grand Marshal and Honoree are incredible organizations reflective of the core values of the Parade Committee," adds Leslie. Holly Buckendahl, Chief Executive Officer of Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Chicagoland & Northwest

provides support to families while their children are being treated at nearby hospitals through comfortable, private rooms so families can get a good night's rest, fresh meals to return to after long days at the hospital, and so much more. In addition, the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile® program provides medical services to children in underserved neighborhoods, offering health care treatment, vaccinations, and distributing backpacks with food and supplies.

In 2023, RMHC-CNI served over 11,500 children and 8,700 families, enabling families to save over \$9 million in food, lodging and travel expenses during their child's critical medical treatment.

For a limited time, RMHC-CNI is offering exclusive "Get Shamrock'd" themed yard sign kits for \$125. When you purchase a kit, you're not only showing your support for RMHC-CNI and the South Side Irish Parade, you're helping children and families get better together during their greatest time of need. For more information,

visit ronaldhousechicago.org. Smith Village, celebrating 100 years on the Southwest side of Chicago has been selected as the Parade Honoree. From 1930 to 1960, the community has expanded four times to accommodate the growing need for senior care and housing. A fifth time in 1991, occurred with the addition of a three-story skilled nursing care wing along Oakley Avenue. In 2004, the Smith Senior Living board of directors launched a \$65 million redevelopment plan to create the first continuing care retirement community in the area offering independent living, assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing care and rehab. The community was renamed Smith Village to mark the transformation. Smith Village builds on a century of care for older adults, evolving to enhance daily life and offer residents the care they need. For more information, visit SmithVillage.org.

Pre-Parade Fundraising Party The South Side Irish Parade will kick off the festivities with a pre-parade fundraiser on Saturday, March 2, 2024. The party will be held from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 115 Bourbon Street, 3359 West 115th Street, Merrionette Park, IL, 60803.



the 2024 Parade Honoree. The Grand Marshal will lead the parade set to step off at noon on Sunday, March 17 from 103rd and Western in Chicago's Beverly/Morgan Park neighborhood.

"We are honored to announce this year's Grand Marshal, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland & Northwest Indiana, who provide families with amazing respite and the resources they need as their children undergo complex medical care at area pediatric hospitals. We are inspired to have them lead our annual march down Western Avenue sharing the needs of so many families they serve" shares Marianne Rowan Leslie, chair of the South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. Juxtapose this Grand Marshal choice with the Honoree and the joy that seniors have found for a century living at Smith Village, a unique senior living community right here in the heart of Beverly and along



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Subject to Hype: Inclined to Fake

It's hard to believe that I've lived in the United States for twenty years, and still, I've managed to not go absolutely bonkers. While there is much that I love about being here, some things continue to whittle

away my appreciation of the new home place. When I first arrived in Chicago in 2004, I had to keep nipping at myself to believe that I was really living here. I had made a dream come true, taken that leap of faith into a new place, and made it become a reality.

It's hard to describe those early years of living in two places. Physically, I existed in a very different place than the one that occupied my mind. I'd left Donegal, the least populated and poorest county in Ireland, and now I was in the third-largest U.S. city. The contrast between these two places was more than apparent. My new American life was filled with a host of new cultures co-mingling, co-existing in a way that excited me. I loved the ethnic diversity with its rich array of diverging histories and common desire for a shared identity. The melting pot of humanity was alive on my doorstep in a way that I could never have imagined it to be.

Each day was another learning experience. Ordinary things such as grocery shopping became adventures. People's approach to the most basic things here left me with a sense of bemusement. As an Irish person, I've always shied away from those things that might cause embarrassment or offense, and now I was among people who didn't shy away from potential embarrassment or confrontation but who had a certain confidence that allowed them to stand their ground. From the questioning of the bill to the admission of not having enough to pay for something, it was all so different from the mindset that I'd grown up with.

Americans, it seemed to me then, had no problem about sharing personal things about themselves. My inherent sense of privacy was continually challenged by their unabashed approach to life. The shame reflex that had dogged me all my life was absent in this new culture and I liked it. People would share their most intimate secrets with strangers they met in the gym or on a bus and this casual sharing of personal details proved to be refreshingly liberating. Instead of being ashamed of who I was, I began to see that we were all

the same. We're all struggling to make sense of our lives. The things that plagued my thoughts were no different to those around me. The freedom to talk freely about such issues enables you to feel a part of your community and not apart

he'd left office, and inspired an insurrection, I was done with salivating over every news story. When it came to what was newsworthy, I realized that I'd lost my sense of discernment and it was time to get things back into perspective.


Now, I take each news channel with more than a grain of salt. Their obsession with the bumbling oaf is unforgivable. If they cared about the news they would ignore his ramblings and concentrate on what is rather than what might be. Their endless speculations

or alienated from it. Things began to change for me in 2016 with the election of a person who was not worthy to be called a president. This man exposed the cracks in American society to his advantage. Instead of unifying the country, he widened the divide. He created distrust of the media, made a circus of the political arena, and treated the judiciary as a rule of law that didn't apply to him. In the four years that he took control, I hated watching the news. Every new outrageous antic of his was now prime-time entertainment. His oafish crassness had us fearing the worst outcomes. Of course, the media loves him. His most blatant disregard for anything that we hold sacred to our democracy is a money spinner for news outlets.


Hours of my time were spent on a roller coaster of possibilities. Now, I distrusted the media. The spin of what might happened, of course never happened, coupled with a man obsessed with taking center stage on every news channel was quickly wearing me down. The amount of anxiety I experienced during those four years was tantamount to a complete meltdown of my sanity. Once




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Small Things Like These

A new film, *Small Things Like These*, produced by and starring Cillian Murphy, made history in February by becoming the first Irish film chosen as the opening film at the Berlin Film Festival. The film is based on the eponymous novella by Claire Keegan, who also wrote *Foster*, the novella upon which Oscar-nominated Colm Bairéad's *An Cailín Ciúin* (*The Quiet Girl*) is based.

Keegan's *Small Things Like These* has been rightly received as political fiction (it won the Orwell Prize in 2022). It explores the theme of the incarceration of tens of thousands of women and girls by the Catholic church that occurred in Ireland from the 1820s right until the 1990s – for instance, singer-songwriter Sinéad O'Connor was 'sent away'. The fig leaf behind which the Catholic church and its enablers hid was that the institutions to which the women were sent were corrective refuges. The truth was that the women were slave-labourers in laundries. They washed the laundry of local businesses while the nuns reforming them kept the profits.

The classic pretext for sending a woman away was brilliantly visualised in a previous film about Magdalene Laundries and expressed in folk music. Peter Mullan's *The Magdalene Sisters* uses the song 'The Well Below the Valley' to a devastating effect in its opening sequences. As a priest at a wedding pounds his bodhrán and sings the song, a young woman is deceived by her cousin into entering a backroom where her cousin rapes her. When she confides what has happened to her a chain of whispers reaches the priest who makes the determination: she will be sent away.

Mullan's film became almost a cinematic fulfilment

of the story told in 'The Well Below the Valley', in which a 'fallen' woman has been systematically abused and impregnated by the men in her family. As the song goes:

There's two of them by your Uncle Dan
At the well below the valley o
Green grows the lily o
Right among the bushes o...
Another two by your brother John...
Another two by your Father dear

Mullan tells the story of *The Magdalene Sisters* from the point of view of the incarcerated women, whereas Claire Keegan's short masterpiece unfolds through the eyes of Bill Furlong. Owner of a coal shop in New Ross, Furlong delivers coal to the local convent where he witnesses that the women are not housed but held in captivity – the nun turns the key when she leaves the laundry, there is cut glass set in concrete on top of its high walls. He is disturbed by what he has seen and by an encounter with one of the inmates who urges him to help her to escape so that she can throw herself in the river. A tense conversation with his wife ensues later at home. Furlong's wife, conversant in local gossip, knows about the fate of the women in the laundry. Yet she recoils from breaking the code of omertà about it. Even as late as 1985, the year in which the story is set, she is terrified of the consequences of speaking about the crimes of the church and the complicity of the society it dominates. The Furlongs are in business during an economic depression, and their young family depends on their staying in business for its living.

Back at the convent to deliver coal before Christmas, Furlong witnesses a still more traumatic scene: he discovers a woman, the mother of a 14-week-old baby,

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



locked in the coal shed among her own excrement. When the convent's Mother Superior enters the scene, she pretends that the young woman got lost – perhaps playing hide and seek – and that she should now come in and have a warm bath. The head nun senses danger, a man had glimpsed the reality of the laundry regime. She insists with all her force that he come in for tea and cake during which she references Furlong's daughters and their schooling: 'Won't they all soon find themselves next door, in time to come, God willing'. The Mother Superior does not even need to threaten Furlong that his daughters will not get a place at the convent school, next door to the laundry, if he speaks out. She passes him her annual Christmas card with a 50 pound note that, this time, has a dimension of buying his silence.

As a woman of the town later says to Furlong, only a wall separates 'that place' [the laundry] and the convent school. The townspeople know what side of the wall they want to stay on, one side represents advancement and the other ruination, but Furlong is tormented by the moral compromise that silence entails. In a precise rumination that cannot be conveyed fully in a screen adaptation, Furlong later broods that he had not asked about the young woman's baby; and that was 'the one thing she had asked him to do – and how he had taken the money and left her there at the table with nothing before her and the breast milk leaking under the little cardigan and staining her blouse, and how he'd gone on, like a hypocrite, to Mass'.

Keegan brings the reader further into the psyche of her protagonist and, by proxy, the denials and servitude of Ireland. Furlong asks: 'Why were the things that were closest so often hardest to see?' – a mediation that encapsulates the entire novella and the condition of a society that helped to perpetuate the cruelty.

The film adaptation of *Small Things Like These* apparently took seed in between takes of *Oppenheimer* when Murphy spoke to Matt Damon and persuaded him to collaborate to produce the film. It is a smaller scale film than the biopic of the 'father of the nuclear bomb'. Yet the harrowing story of ordinary lives destroyed by institutional abuse and societal cowardice makes it an essential contribution for a full reckoning with Ireland's past as well as a clarion call to speak out against injustices in our own time.

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Pretty Woman Musical at Broadway in Chicago March 12-17

By Mike Danahey
When the Broadway musical version of the 1990 rom-com blockbuster movie Pretty Woman hits Chicago, it will bring a touch of Ireland along with it.

Music director Shane Ffrench hails from Wexford, while company manager Rachael Ffrench is from Limerick.

Unlike the fanciful, mostly problematic way the couple in Pretty Woman met and fell in love, Shane and Rachael did that in a decidedly more typical way.

Either way, when not touring the United States with Crossroads Live productions of Broadway hits, the two now are based in Florida.

Shane said moving stateside came about after he took a job a half decade or so ago with a company that had a contract with Disney in Orlando.

Back in Ireland, Shane's work included a stint as music director at the Cork Opera House, jobs with the country's renowned theaters, including the Gaiety in



Rachael and Shane Ffrench

Dublin, and on TV's The Voice and the long-running The Late, Late Show, during Ryan Turbidity's tenure.

For The Voice, Shane put together arrangements and played keyboards. With the chat show, he was part of the music production team, putting together backing tracks and playing on the annual Christmastime toy show episode.

After Disney and prior to Pretty Woman, Shane toured the U.S. with Cats, The Color Purple and Kinky Boots.

Rachael worked as a photographer in Ireland and still takes photos when she can while on the road. She posts shots on her Instagram account, @rdesign_photography_.

Rachael started with Crossroads Live as merchandise manager for The Color Purple, worked a higher level job for a Cats tour and now is company manager for Pretty Woman.

Her current job involves overseeing a team of 46 people who are on the road with the show. Her duties include the day-to-day details of the operation such as getting the production from one place to the next, keeping track of everyone, making sure everyone is paid and making sure theaters pay what's due the tour.

As music director, Shane oversees all aspects of the show's music, from rehearsing and bringing in musicians and singers to conducting each performance. For Pretty Woman, he also plays keyboards.

Of working in the United States, Shane said what the couple enjoys is the consistency of work they've found here, with tours keeping them busy for up to 10 months at a time, then another tour coming along.

"It can be a very difficult life being a musician back in Ireland, going from one job to the next," he said.

For the Pretty Woman tour, the two are trying something a bit different in terms of how they are getting from one town to the next.

"Shane and I have changed our lifestyle a bit. We're

traveling by RV. That way we can have our cats with us," Rachael said.

That's presented challenges, some of which Shane said he's not ready to talk about just yet.

Most arduous was in February when the couple drove 400 miles or so through a blinding snowstorm to get to a theater in South Dakota, Shane said.

Parking the RV can be an issue, too. Rachael said she uses an app to find sites. For stops in bigger cities, though, that can mean staying a good distance from a theater.

The road also means Rachael has less time to spend taking photos, particularly when there are some one-night-only stops on the tour. However, the visit to Chicago will have Pretty Woman in town from March 12 through St. Patrick's Day, March 17, when there's a 1 p.m. matinee scheduled.

That might give Rachael time to at least get a quick look at the Chicago River dyed green, the oddly dressed revelers and the downtown parade not too far from CIBC Theatre.

Past the current tour, once off the road, the two will be joining family from Ireland for a trip this summer to Yellowstone National Park. The couple said that family members now visit stateside every other year, alternating with them heading back to visit Ireland.

As for what they miss about Ireland, Shane said it's been tough to find people in America who understand his Irish sense of sarcasm. There's that, and a good pint of Guinness.

"There's a place not far from where Rachael's family lives. It's the best (pint)," he said.

For tickets and more information about Pretty Woman, go to:

https://www.broadwayinchicago.com/shows/pretty-woman/

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I had hoped to be giving a full report on the "Knees that Craic" hurling tournament that was held in Las Vegas on February 3 but sadly, I was unable to attend as "life" got in the way. Many of the over 40 crowd from Naperville Hurling did participate and reported that as expected, it was a fabulous time.



in the final. The one-day tournament is a fundraiser for the NCGAA, an organization that was established in 2009 to assist in the development of new hurling and Gaelic football programs on college campuses. The NCGAA is really doing a grand job and you should check out their website at ncgaa.org and see if your alma mater has a team.

As part of the GAA or the USGAA we are lucky to have a community that supports one another. Every club that I know of does an excellent job of taking care of its own, being supportive, caring, and willing to promote a cheerful outlook towards its membership. My own club has gone through many changes in the

past few years but has still strived to be the club we were back when it was founded. Sometimes that is difficult because new board members step up and lose sight of what the club stands for and want to make change for the sake of change or to show previous boards that the new way is the better way. I encourage all of you, whether in a GAA club or your church or any volunteer organization to "step up" and get involved. As our current board has learned, they are simply the caretakers for a year until the next group of worthy volunteers takes over the reins.

Getting involved is never easy, but it can be rewarding and incredibly fun. If you choose to venture down that path, do not lose sight of the fact that you are a small cog in a much larger wheel. You are not being asked to cure cancer or to build rocket ships, so do not make more of your volunteer board position than it deserves. Be respectful of those who are fighting the good fight with you and don't lose sight of where you or your organization came from. If you are fortunate enough to be elected to a leadership role, NEVER turn away from people that want to help, those are the people who are the life blood of any organization. I have seen it happen too many times where a once great organization crumbles under the weight of the board's egos. Remember, community is not just a place where you live, it is fellowship and friendship and a safe haven for people who may have all kinds of things going on that you do not know about. "Everyone has problems, they are just different" is a phrase used by many a wise man. In other words, don't judge, be nice and keep your ego in check. We can all do our part to make the world a better place.

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First Ever Irish vs America Major League Soccer and League of Ireland Game 3/20 in USA

St Patrick's Athletic FC are pleased to announce an International Friendly against Minnesota United FC during the March International break. The Irish FAI Cup winners will face the MLS side at Allianz Field, Saint Paul, Minnesota on Wednesday, March 20th at 7 pm.

This groundbreaking match will be the first time that a League of Ireland club will travel to play an MLS team in season since the inception of the MLS in 1996.

The Irish American Partnership, Irish Network Chicago, Ireland Funds Chicago and various organizations in the Twin



Cities will be there. Minnesota United is based in the Twin Cities, a sports City at the core of America's Heartland, renowned for its many successful sports franchises.

As both the League of Ireland and the MLS continues to grow, this match between two huge clubs is sure to excite football fans on both sides of the pond, with many Irish expats set to attend. St Pat's will be wearing their brand-new green jersey to mark the occasion.

St Patrick's Athletic General Manager Anthony Delaney welcomed today's announcement:

"It is a great and unique opportunity for St Patrick's Athletic to test our squad against Minnesota United.

The MLS has shown rapid growth in the last number of years so it will be exciting to play a team from this league.

We were introduced to our colleagues in Minnesota United by friends of the Club and once we found an available date that suited both teams, it was an easy fixture to set.

There is a big Irish-American community locally and we will be in town for St Patrick's Day and with the fixture occurring a few days later, this will no doubt add to the occasion."

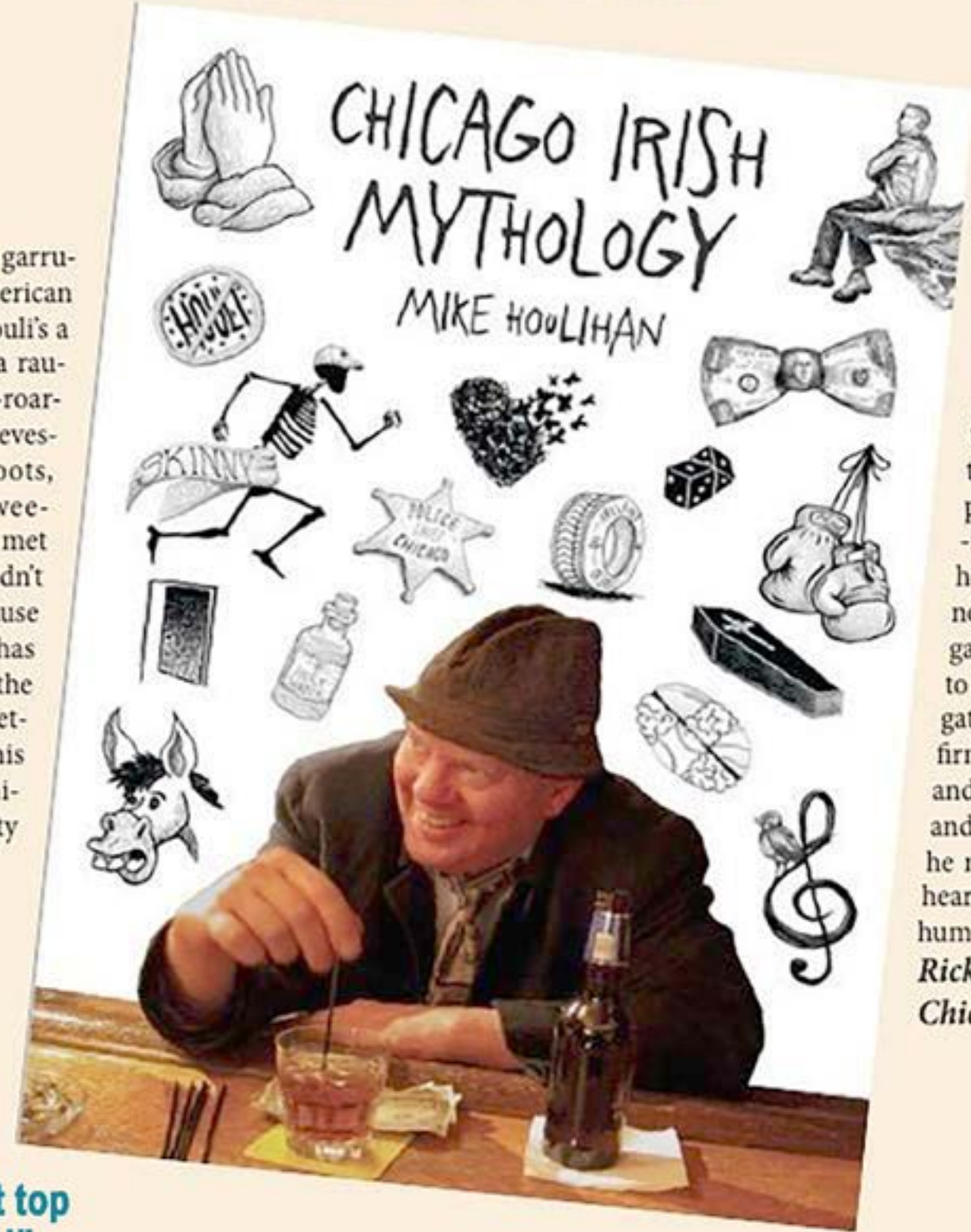
The owner of the club is Garrett Kelleher, of Chicago real estate development fame.

<http://www.stpatsfc.com>

Houli's New Book!

"Set them up for this garrulous giant of Irish American letters for in truth Houli's a keeper of the flame, a raucous, rollicking, rip-roaring, roll-up-your-sleeves-and-put-up-your-doots, Whitman-for-the-wee-man poet who never met a lonely heart he didn't embrace or a lost cause he didn't cheer. He has lit up the pages of the Irish Echo like a petrol bomb; long may his gorgeous prose illuminate the Windy City for our readers."

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir
Publisher,
Irish Echo



"There is only one Mike Houlihan and though he has artfully and energetically and successfully tackled many artistic endeavors--actor, producer, filmmaker--it is as a writer that he achieves what is not only the top of his game but also gives joy to readers. This latest gathering of stories is firmly focused on people and through this wild and wonderful crowd he manages to get to the heart of our shared humanity."

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Chicago Tribune

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Peter McDermott,
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**Ireland With Michael
"Live" at Northshore Center 3/22**

By *Ryanne Gallagher-Johnson*
"I'm a bit of a talker," admits Emmy-nominated Irish singer, Broadway performer, television host, and producer Michael Londra.

This is very good news for lovers of excellent entertainment, as one of his current jobs entails telling people all about his home country, in his incredibly popular television series, Ireland with

Michael. First aired in 2021 on Public Television across the U.S. and Canada, the travel show is now in ninety-seven percent of American households, and has inspired a new, live multimedia concert series, which will show at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, IL on March 22nd.

Hailing from Wexford, a lovely little coastal town in southeast



Ireland, Michael got his first big break when he was cast as the lead tenor in Riverdance on Broadway in 1998, subsequently traveling with the show during its U.S. National tour. Since then, his first solo album, "Celt", has been released in fifteen countries, he's produced PBS specials, and he started VenuWorks Theatricals with business partner Steven L. Peters, a company that focuses on producing unique theatrical events and summer series on Broadway (michaellondra.com). Now, as the host of his own TV show, he takes viewers around Ireland and gives them an inside look at what makes the country so special.

"Welcome to Ireland with Michael," he begins each episode.

"A show where I get to tell you everything I love about my home country, the only way I know how: through music."

Combining "glorious footage from the vistas of the Emerald Isle, fascinating travel destinations, exciting cultural experiences, and performances from popular Irish artists and rising stars," (michaellondra.com), the popularity of the series took him and his team a bit by surprise.

"It kind of caught us off guard at how successful it was when we started," he explains. "In truth, season one was put together with scotch tape and a box of matches. But I gradually figured out how to do it over the past few years, and now, you know, season three was on all of the transatlantic Aer Lingus flights in the last year."

He has a passion for showcasing Ireland, to help bring more robust tourism into the country and give Americans and Canadians a stronger love for it. Working closely with companies like Tours of Ireland, Aer Lingus, and CIE, Michael plans out the episodes to make each season better than the last.

"I've always taken a bit of pride in highlighting how brilliant Ireland is, but now to be part

of the whole system that sells Ireland to America, I love it. I really love it," he says.

The success of the show has led to the opportunity to bring the series to people in a new way.

This month, the Ireland with Michael - LIVE event at the North Shore Center for The Performing Arts will combine songs and stories performed by Michael with footage filmed for the television series.

Tickets at <https://northshorecenter.org/event/ireland-with-michael>

As described on his website, "The stunning set for Ireland With Michael - LIVE adds a multimedia dimension to the show. Conceptualized and designed by an award-winning Broadway Lighting & Projection designer, the backdrop incorporates drone footage and excerpts from Michael's PBS travel show of the same name."

He loves having the opportunity to see and perform with his band during the shows, and is very proud of the production of the event.

"It looks just beautiful. It kind of takes you there, to Ireland."

When he's not working on his television series, or touring with the live event, Michael spends the other half of his life producing shows and theater. That, he says, is where his heart really lies.

Currently, he has a secret project underway that he is very excited about.

"It's the project of my life, really. My biggest dream was to produce a show on Broadway. I got to sing on Broadway, as the lead singer of Riverdance. But I remember when I left... I said the only way I'd come back is if I could produce a show. I had to wait twenty years to make it happen, but I made it happen."

For more information about Ireland with Michael, including tickets for the upcoming live show, you can visit www.irelandwithmichael.com

St. Patrick's Day Events ALL Month!

AURORA
St. Patrick's Day PARADE
Sunday, March 17th 2024
from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Water Street and Downer
Place, head west on Downer,
and end at Downer and Stolp
Avenue. <https://www.aurora-il.org/2418/St-Patricks-Day-Parade#:~:text=Patrick%27s%20Day%20parade%20will%20take,join%20in%20on%20the%20festivities!>



St. Patrick's Family Day at Ballydoyle Saturday, Mar 9, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. CST
Ballydoyle Irish Pub 28 W New York St Aurora, IL 60506.
<https://www.ballydoylepub.com/event-details/st-patricks-family-day-6>

CHICAGO
DYING THE RIVER GREEN



10AM on March 16 Officials do remind the public that the lower level of the riverwalk will be closed on that date, with no access available via public stairwells in the area. Instead, revelers are asked to watch the festivities on Upper Wacker Drive, with the best views available between Columbus and Fairbanks.

ST PATRICK'S PARADE
Saturday, March 16 at 12:15pm starts at Balbo and Columbus, and will travel north on Columbus Drive to Monroe. The viewing stand will be located in front of Buckingham Fountain.

MERCY HOME KIDS POST PARADE PARTY
1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Venue SIX10, 610 S. Michigan Ave.

SHAMROCKIN' THE BLOCK FOR OLD ST.PAT'S
Saturday, March 16. 625 W. Adams.

ST.PATRICK'S DAY AT GALLAGHER WAY
March 10, 2024. 11AM
635 N. Clark St., Chicago
Free

COUNTRYSIDE
St Patricks Day Parade
Saturday, March 2nd at 1p.m. at 55th Place and Edgewood and ends at 63rd Street and Brainard Avenue.
St. Pat's Party March 2 6:30 6200 Joliet Rd Countryside, IL 60525..

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER
All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry 3/15
St Patrick Fest :
March 16 @ 1pm & 17@ 3pm
Screaming Orphans Concert-
March 17 7pm

OAK FOREST FLEADH
March 2, 2024
Downtown Oak Forest

SOUTH SIDE PARADE
South Side Irish Parade 2024
Sun, Mar 17, noon at 103rd and Western Avenue, marching south to 115th and Western.

TINLEY PARK
Running o' the Green 8k (Tinley Park) March 10, 2024
8:00 am - 10:00 am. Tony Bettenhausen Recreation Center 8125 W 171st St. Tinley Park, IL 60477

WESTERN SPRINGS
St. Patrick's Day Party (The Village Club of Western Springs) MARCH 9 4PM.
4221 Lawn Avenue, Western Springs, IL 60558

DOWNERS GROVE
Leapin' Leprechauns (Downers Grove) March 17. 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Catch some leprechauns at Lyman Wood! William F Sherman Jr Interpretive Center - Lyman Woods. 901 31st Street Downers Grove, IL, 600515.

EAST DUNDEE
Thom McNamee Memorial Dundee St. Patrick's Day Parade Sat. March 9 11am. East Dundee Depot.

ELMHURST
Elmhurst St Patricks Day Parade. March 9, 2024 at 12:00 Wilson St & Spring Road heading North. Ending at the railroad one block South of St. Charles Road in front of Silverado Grill.

FOREST PARK
St Patricks Day Parade (Forest Park) 1 pm on March 2, 2024 Madison and Van Buren and travels east on Madison to Elgin

GAELIC PARK
Hooley in the Park at Gaelic Park Fri March 22- Sun March 24 6119 147th St, Oak Forest, IL 60452



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Saturday March 16
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Sunday March 17 - St. Patrick's Day!
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- 3/17 ZIA'S SOCIAL
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St Patrick's Day Kicks Off The Spring Travel Season In Ireland



Clockwise from top left: The Vee Drive, The Vee, County Tipperary; St Patrick's Day Parade, Dublin; Cycling along the Cork Greenway, County Cork; Dunluce Castle, County Antrim.

SAIN'T PATRICK'S DAY resonates deeply with Irish America. The whole month of March has been designated as Irish Heritage Month in this country for some years now and is a wonderful time to remember the contributions of our predecessors: from the Presbyterians who came here in the eighteenth century in search of the freedom to practice their religion, to the more than a million souls who fled starvation during An Gorta Mór (The Great Hunger) of the mid-nineteenth century, to the many who came here to escape poverty in the early twentieth century, and to thousands who have come to America's shores in recent decades bringing with them their ingenuity, talent and skills in the areas of technology, science and construction, among other disciplines. Irish America is more than 30 million strong and its influence can be seen on virtually every city block.

The first Saint Patrick's Day Parade anywhere in the world was held in New York in 1762 and the New York Parade is still the biggest. Chicago dyes its river green, and San Francisco is hosting its 173rd consecutive annual St Patrick's Day Parade this year. For many years the holiday was celebrated much more in the US than on the island of Ireland itself. Up until the 1980s St Patrick's Day was a day of reflection, starting with Mass and mostly featuring a simple meal. Pubs were not open! That has all changed now and the Irish are 'all in' for the party.

Nowadays Saint Patrick's Day is a truly special time to be in Ireland. Virtually every town and city from Derry to Cork, and from Dublin to Galway, will celebrate our national holiday. Parades, music, dancing, and the ubiquitous 'craic' (fun)

are the order of the day.

Festivals

As with anything else in Ireland, if its worth doing at all, its worth doing well. Several cities put on lavish festivals to commemorate our patron saint. Dublin is the biggest, and this year will host its Saint Patrick's Festival over four days between March 15 and 18. Cultural events will take place at various locations across the city and the highlight will be the National Saint Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 17, featuring several creative pageant groups and marching bands from all across the island of Ireland, as well as from the US and Canada. Well over half a million spectators are expected.

Belfast's musical heritage will take center stage in this year's Saint Patrick's Day program, a more than two week affair taking place from March 1 through 17. For the first time, the event will include the Saint Patrick's Day Music Weekend—three days of concerts, céilís, displays, taster sessions and workshops in venues across the city center, delivered with Belfast TradFest. Featuring traditional music, song and dance, bagpipes, Highland dancers, Irish dancing and bodhrán circles, a festival village will be located at Cathedral Gardens, next to Belfast Cathedral, and will include a host of free performances, alongside food stalls, céili workshops, family-friendly activities and much more.

The festivals in Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Kilkenny, and Tralee in County Kerry, are all stellar too.

The story of Saint Patrick is legendary and has captivated the world. As a boy, Patrick was kidnapped by the Romans from either Wales or Scotland and sent to Slemish Mountain

in County Antrim as a slave. He tended sheep on this quiet mountainside before escaping home, where he had a vision telling him to return to Ireland and spread the message of Christianity.

Patrick left his mark on the island of Ireland, from the iconic Rock of Cashel in County Tipperary to the breathtaking peak of County Mayo's Croagh Patrick, a site of pilgrimage for many. But it's in the counties of Armagh and Down in Northern Ireland where his legacy is strongest: at tiny Saul Church, built on the site of Patrick's first church in Ireland, in the city of Armagh where two cathedrals are dedicated to him, and in Down Cathedral, where he was finally laid to rest.

Springtime in Ireland

Saint Patrick's Day is the unofficial start of the tourism season on the island of Ireland. If you can't make it for the big day, don't despair. The months of April and May have lots to offer too. Spring is in the air, as they say, and nowhere is the spirit of newness and rejuvenation more apparent than in Ireland. Spring is a great time to visit. The weather is generally clement, temperatures fairly consistently in the mid-fifties, and even if you get caught in a April shower, relax, it normally doesn't last very long.

A Spring vacation also brings the added benefits of lower prices and smaller crowds. You'll typically pay less for airfare, accommodation, car rentals and a host of other expenses in March, April and May than in the peak summer months. You'll also find it easier to navigate some of the most popular attractions.

Outdoors attractions are very popular at this time of year, for many visitors Ireland's charm lies in the beauty of its

countryside and scenery. If you want to spend some time in the great outdoors here are a few ideas to help you on your way.

Visit one of the many estate gardens that dot the island. Ireland enjoys a wealth of stately homes, castles and estate houses, most of which incorporate beautifully planted and manicured gardens.

A few of these remain closed until May, but many like to show off their floral collections of snowdrops, bluebells and more in springtime. The wild beauty of Mount Usher in County Wicklow offers captivating blooms of purple and white crocuses, as well as the fragile beauty of spring magnolias. Others to try include Altamont Gardens in County Carlow and Belfast Botanic Gardens, a natural oasis in the northern metropolis.

Go for a long walk or a bike ride. Or, as our great bard Christy Moore sings: "Climb a mountain or jump in a lake!" In other words, get outside and enjoy the elements.

With mild weather and a 'stretch in the day' everyone has a spring in their step! March, April and May are perfect months for walkers in Ireland, and also kick-off time for the island's walking festival calendar. Join the fun at top events such as the Ardara Walking Festival, the Slieve Bloom Walking Festival and the North Leitrim Glens Hill Walking Festival. With an easy-going atmosphere, lots of chat, culture, music and guided walks, a walking festival is the way to go. Another great way to see the glory of Ireland's land- and seascapes is on a bike. Try a cycle trip down a winding country road or along a cliff-top path. Greenways can be found all over the island, fine examples of which include the Great Western Greenway in County Mayo, the Waterford Greenway,

or the Comber to Newcastle Greenway. Or simply go off the beaten track and enjoy the sights and scents of the many rural trails.

Visit a sheep farm. Nothing says Ireland like the sight of rolling green hills dotted with cotton-white newborn lambs. Frolicking, fluffy lambs are the very definition of cute—and visiting a sheep farm is a great way to learn about life on a real farm. While you're there, you can watch a sheep-shearing demonstration, see the skilled sheepdogs at work, as well as seeing the new baby lambs. What's not to love? The Killary Sheep Farm in County Galway, the Kissane Sheep Farm, County Kerry, and the Glenshane Country Farm, County Tyrone, among others, all offer a superb visitor experience.

Springtime is a truly wonderful time to visit the island of Ireland. Along with the great outdoors and the clement weather, the best attractions are there for the taking, easier to book and with less crowds.

Some of the world's top attractions—Titanic Belfast, the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin, the Giant's Causeway in County Antrim, and Killarney National Park in County Kerry, to name but a few—will be open and waiting to greet you. You could even splash out afterwards with a meal at one of the island's 21 Michelin-starred restaurants. Ireland has won much more than its share of accolades from the worldwide travel industry in recent times. *Condé Nast, TripAdvisor, Lonely Planet* and even the *New York Times* have all waxed lyrical about its charms. You will be greeted by the famed 'Céad Míle Fáilte'—a hundred thousand welcomes wherever you go.

For all the information you will need to plan your trip please visit www.ireland.com.

What fills my heart?

Having the Craic!

Fill your heart with Ireland

What makes a trip to Ireland so special? Is it the historic castles? The vibrant cities? The shimmering green landscapes or the easy ebb and flow of our rivers and lakes? Well, it's all of those things, but one thing you're sure to remember on a trip here... is the "craic".

"Craic" – it's a word that encapsulates the spirit of Ireland. It's an experience, a sensation, a great time. It's the electricity that vibrates through the crowd at a traditional music session. It's the joke shared with a wise-cracking taxi driver or a witty barman. It's free-spirited, it's unplanned and it's here to welcome you home.

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 **Ireland.com**

Listen up!

Well team, here we are again. No more anticipation; it's time for action! And it's our side that can make this happen. We've been through lots of these together, and this year we'll do even better. Our training has been demanding, and now we are ready. We'll show the world how our grit, our determination, and our love of what we do will carry us to new heights!

More Irish music, dance, films, art, literature and craic than ever. More stories and laughs with families and friends. Parades and celebrations everywhere. Green as far as the eye can see. Shampoo / Rinse / Repeat. We'll keep at it one event at a time, one day at a time. Chicagoland is prepared for a fantastic St. Patrick's month.

But you didn't really need a pep talk, did you? We know you're ready, and we hope you include Gaelic Park in your March 2024 plans. Wherever you celebrate and share your joy in all things Irish, we wish you a wonderful St. Patrick's season.

Sláinte,
Bill O'Sullivan

Upcoming Events

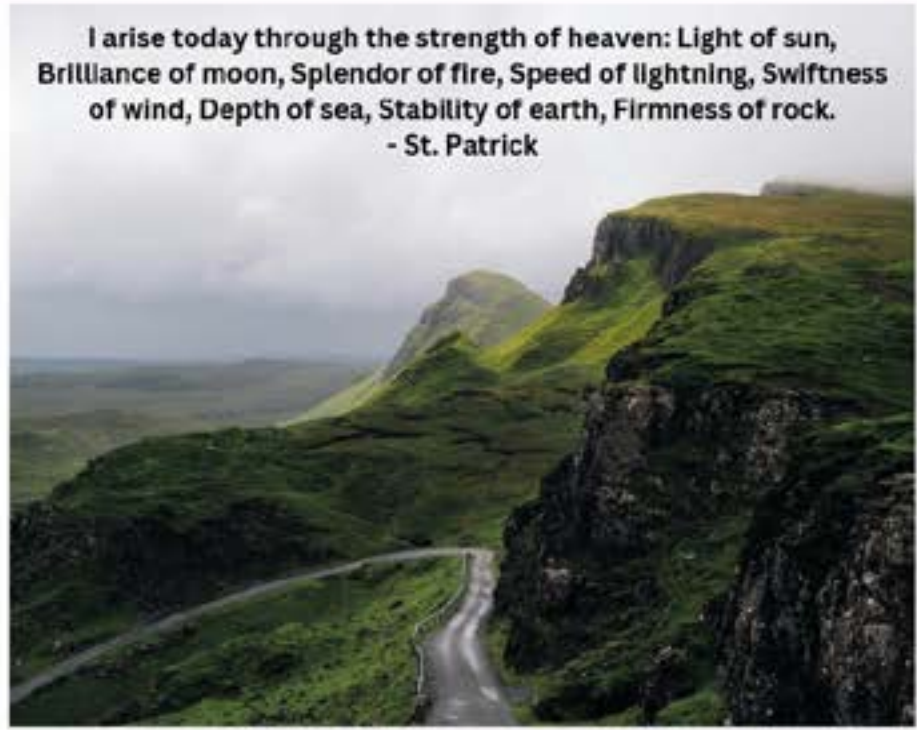
- March 1st - BROTHERS GIBB
- March 2nd - OAK FOREST FLEADH
- March 6th - MARCH MUSICAL LUNCHEON
- March 3rd - TINLEY PARK PARADE
- March 8th - IRELAND ON PARADE BEGINS
- March 9th - GREEN ROAD CONCERT
- March 10th - MASS AND IRISH BREAKFAST
- March 10th - SOUTH SIDE IRISH SUNDAY CELEBRATION
- March 16th - ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON
- March 17th - ST. PATRICK'S DAY!
- March 22nd - HOOLEY IN THE PARK BEGINS
- March 24th - WIN A CHICAGO HOME RAFFLE DRAWING

Music at The Carraig

- March 1st - DISCOUNT VINYL
- March 2nd - TRUE STORY
- March 7th - TRAD THURSDAY
- March 8th - LIAM DURKIN
- March 15th - JOE MCSHANE
- March 21st - TRAD THURSDAY
- March 22nd - LIAM DURKIN
- March 23rd - DAMIEN PATRICK
- March 30th - MULLIGAN STEW



The **Young Gaelic Association** is a group of young adults dedicated to keeping the culture and traditions of our Irish ancestors alive. Our goal is to unite the vast young Irish population on the Southside of Chicago and throughout the Chicagoland area. Adopting Chicago Gaelic Park as the home place of the YGA creates an opportunity for cultural events and community involvement, continuing the legacy our parents and grandparents created for us here. All are welcome, regardless of age, cultural background, and level of commitment. Scan the QR code to join our e-mail list.



I arise today through the strength of heaven: Light of sun, Brilliance of moon, Splendor of fire, Speed of lightning, Swiftiness of wind, Depth of sea, Stability of earth, Firmness of rock.
- St. Patrick

The Month of March at CGP

We're Irish 365 days a year, but March is a special month around here. Join us!

Parades

All are welcome to march with the Chicago Gaelic Park community this March! Our float will be in the Oak Forest parade (Saturday 3/2), Tinley Park parade (Sunday 3/3), Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade (Saturday 3/16), and South Side Irish Parade (3/17). We will offer transportation to and from the start and end points of the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade and South Side Irish Parade. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @ChicagoGaelicPark for more details.



Ireland on Parade

Ireland on Parade is an exhibition of the music and dance of Ireland that takes place at Gaelic Park annually in March leading up to St. Patrick's Day. Various Irish step dancing schools from the entire Chicagoland area are featured each evening of Ireland on Parade. Join us March 8 and March 12-14! Doors open at 5:30pm. No cover.

Concerts

The **Brothers Gibb** will take you on a complete journey through the Bee Gees entire catalog and career on Friday, March 1st.

Get ready for a Celtic journey as **Green Road**, the sensational Irish folk and ballad band from Co. Wexford, takes the stage on Saturday, March 9th.



South Side Irish Sunday

Sunday, March 10th

Start the day with our monthly Mass followed by a traditional Irish breakfast. After that, doors open at 1pm for a full day of South Side Irish fun! We have entertainment in each room that includes favorites like **St. James Gate, Kieran Byrne, Doonaree Pipe Band, Gotham Ramblers, Gerry Haughey, The Larkin & Moran Brothers, and The Fenians!** There will also be children's entertainment on-site.

Grab your tickets online ahead of time at a discounted price! \$10/admission pre-sale - \$15/admission on the day.

St. Patrick's Day Weekend

Our annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon will be held on Saturday, March 16th. We have **The Galway Gals** and **Cross Keys School of Irish Dance** on deck for an entertaining afternoon!

On March 17th, head on over after the South Side Irish Parade for a full day of festive fun. We'll have non-stop entertainment with **Kieran Byrne, Gerry Haughey, The Larkin & Moran Brothers, O'Leary's Lantern, and The Chancers.**

SCAN TO JOIN THE CGP EMAIL LIST & BE THE FIRST TO HEAR ABOUT OUR IRISH FEST TICKET PRE-SALE



Hooley in the Park

Friday, March 22 - Sunday, March 24

We want to keep the fun going after St. Patrick's Day, so we're hosting a three-day weekend of Irish social dance and music. The weekend features, direct from Ireland, dance master **Gerard Butler** and musicians **Stuart Moyles** and **Jack Keogh**. Saturday evening promises extra-fun with local favorites like **Joe McShane** and **Myles McVeigh & The Hoyle Brothers** adding to the entertainment lineup. Hooley in the Park promises to be a great weekend in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere! Get your 3-day tickets at a discounted price when you purchase them before March 1st!

Stick around Sunday night for the **Win a Chicago Home Raffle** drawing! Cash bar.

Win A Chicago Home (OR \$450,000) Raffle in the News as Ireland Golf Getaway Early Bird and Grand Prize Drawing Deadlines Approach

As we move closer to our **Grand Prize Drawing** on March 24th, the excitement is building, and the story of our unique raffle is spreading. Our Roscommon raffle duo of John Quinn and John Conroy along with Tracy Conroy welcomed reporter, Regina Waldroup, to our dream home and shared how raffle funds will be used to strengthen Chicago Gaelic Park's cultural heritage programs and improve its GAA facilities, particularly benefiting our youth. Ms. Waldroup's report aired on the NBC Chicago evening news programs, and we were pleased to see it picked up by its sister station, Telemundo Chicago. We were also gratified to see our dream home and Gaelic Park kiddos grace the cover of this publication last month. And Mark Flynn returned to WGN-TV's Spotlight Chicago joined by John Quinn this time.

Our newsmaking raffle gives you the chance for \$100 to win either the brand-new 4 bed/2.5 bath/2,800 sq. ft. home in Chicago's Mt. Greenwood neighborhood (\$650,000 est. value) OR \$450,000. As a bonus, tickets purchased by March 10th will be eligible for the **Ireland Golf Getaway Early Bird Draw**. The prize package includes 4 roundtrip airline tickets to Ireland, golf for 4 at Trump International Golf Links - Doonbeg and Roscommon Golf Club, as well as a 2-night stay at Hodson Bay Hotel - Athlone.

Visit GaelicParkHouseRaffle.com for ticket purchase and other information. When our community pulls together, great things are possible. Let's continue to support this raffle in true Gaelic Park-style! Thank you, and best wishes for a wonderful St. Patrick's season.

-Noreen Lennon Hegarty & Maureen Gill O'Regan

Win a Chicago Home

Or \$450,000

Support Gaelic Park Charities

Enter now for a chance at Early Bird Prizes!



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Drawing: March 24, 2024 · Winner need not be present
Donation: \$100.00 per ticket

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Ticket purchase benefits Gaelic Park Charities, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit, and constitutes acceptance of the Raffle's Terms & Conditions found at chicago-gaelicparkhouseaffle.com. Either prize selected by the winner subject to all taxes and fees.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Scan to enter OR cut out this raffle ticket and mail it in with your check for your chance to win!

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO ACCESS ALL THE CHICAGO GAELIC PARK BOX OFFICE OR VISIT TICKETS.CHICAGOGAELICPARK.COM/EVENTS/CHICAGOGAELICPARK



Connections: Usually with People, but Also With a Tradition.

I have attended the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Queen Contest at the Local Plumbers 130 UA Union Hall almost every year since 2000 and it is one of my favorite days. I was extremely fortunate to win this contest in 2000 and ever since then it has been a tradition for me to go back. Walking into the contest gives me that warm cozy feeling that things are the same year after year. My former Queen friends all show up and we sit at a special "reserved" table, wave and say hello to dozens of amazing plumbers, the Rovers roll in, corned beef sandwiches are served, the judges are ready with pencils in hand, raffle tickets are sold, speeches are made, Irish dancers parade on stage, and of course many smart, talented and beautiful young women tell all about themselves and then finally we meet the Queen. Congratulations to Grace O'Connor for winning this year! It truly is magical and those that organize it and keep it going all these years have created the most wonderful memories for so many people. Much appreciation to Jim Coyne, the General Chairman and his wife Michelle. Lisa Oakes, Diane Taghon and the Parade Committee work so hard to make the Queen Contest exceptional. To me this day feels like a big hug of Irish joy that I wait for every year and in many ways the traditions displayed gives me great comfort.

This year something was unpredictable, at least to me. The theme of the parade for 2024 is "Mental Health is Essential." The St. Patrick's Day Parade has had amazing themes over the years. A few in the past years have been: Recognizing Workers Rights, Honoring Essential

Workers, Love, Loyalty and Friendship, Music of Ireland, and Irish Immigration. This 2024 was a different type of theme than we have ever seen and it gave me such a feeling of pride. There is no shame in mental illness and this message that mental health is essential is an important message to spread to our city. Mr. Peter O'Brien is the Grand Marshall of the 2024 Parade and amazingly courageous in his message as he has had personal experience with mental illness in his family. Mr. O'Brien and his family's involvement with mental health advocacy became more personal in 1999 when his son and oldest child, the late Peter



Former St. Patrick's Day Queens with (center left to right) Mr. Peter O'Brien, the Grand Marshall of the 2024 Parade, & Mr. Jim Coyne, the General Chairman of the St. Pat's Day Parade.

O'Brien Jr., was first hospitalized and diagnosed with schizophrenia at the age of 20. It was Peter Jr.'s journey that brought Peter Sr. to the realization of the need for destigmatization, mental health

equity and a system of coordinated care for persons with serious mental illness. His speech at the Queen Contest brought tears to many eyes and an awareness that any family or person can be struggling with mental health. According to the Chicago St. Patrick's Day official website, "Mental Health is Essential means that insurance should equitably cover mental

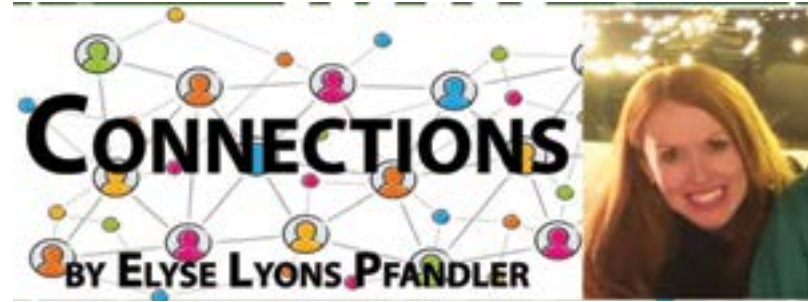
health and substance use care no more restrictively than medical care." The Parade Committee welcomes Former U.S. Representative and Founder of the Kennedy Forum, Mr. Patrick Kennedy, as the Guest of Honor. Mr. Kennedy was the lead author of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act. The Kennedy Forum is a nonprofit that leads a national dialogue to achieve systemic reform in the U.S. healthcare system by advancing evidence-based practices and programming for mental health and addiction.

Maureen "Beanie" McClelland, a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor works as a school counselor and as a private therapist on the Southside of Chicago talked with me about mental health and some ways we can help if we feel like someone is struggling. "We can all sense when someone is not mentally well and sometimes it is hard to know how to help. One way you can start the conversation with someone is just by saying 'have you thought about getting some help with some of the things that

you are struggling with?" Beanie went on to tell me that acting as a support person by just saying that you can make the call with them or to help research and explore options of someone that they can meet with is sometimes what people need to take that crucial first step toward getting the help they need. Sometimes they are resistant to the idea of help, but as long as you can communicate that this comes from a place of care and concern, people appreciate that. Reminding them that the offer stands for the future is also helpful. Another great resource Beanie mentioned was the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988. People who are struggling or people who are trying to support someone can utilize this service. When people call, text or chat with this number, they will be connected with a local Lifeline crisis center to help them through their crisis and give resources in the area. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), numerous studies have shown that most 988 callers feel significantly less depressed, less overwhelmed, less suicidal and hopeful after speaking to a Lifeline counselor.

The themes of the parade every year are always valuable and special. The people who are chosen to walk in the forefront of Chicago's Downtown Parade are special and spread messages that bring us together and connect us in some way as an Irish community. This year the theme reminds us to look out for one another. Individuals or families that are dealing with mental illness need us to be compassionate and not judgemental. They need us to check in with them and connect with them. Going to the Queen Contest will always be such a special tradition where I feel that big hug. The difference going forward is that this year's theme should bring to the forefront that we all need to be looking for that friend that truly does need a hug, a listening ear, or help in some way. So reach out to someone because you never know the journey you might help them with.

Please visit the National Institute of Mental Health at <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/> or call 988 if you or someone you know is struggling with mental health or addiction.



Get Lit at the American Writers Museum 3/12

All Get Lit events will be held at the American Writers Museum, located at 180 N. Michigan Avenue, on the second Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Get Lit events are \$15 for AWM members, \$18 for general admission, and \$25 for VIP admission, which includes two complimentary drink tickets.

March 12, 2024 | Get Lit: Pub Night
Guests must be 21+ to attend Get Lit. Funds raised at this event will go towards the AWM's Write In Youth Education Program that serves middle and high school students from under-resourced schools.

For more information and to purchase tickets, [click here](#). The American Writers Museum is the first museum of its kind in the United States. The mission of the American Writers Museum is to excite audiences about the impact of American writers - past, present and future - in shaping our collective histories, cultures, identities, and daily lives. Tickets to the museum are \$14 for adults, \$9 for seniors, students, and teachers. Free for members and children ages 12 and under. For inquiries, visit AmericanWritersMuseum.org/visit/groups/ or call 312-374-8765.



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Full Schedule & Event Details:
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Hosted by the Village of Richmond

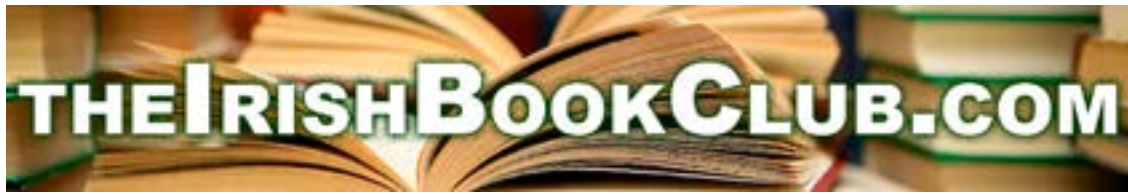
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THE DISTRICT AT HISTORIC MEMORIAL HALL

GIFTS - GOODIES - NOODLES



Much More Than Leprechauns

By Sheryl O'Sullivan
Ireland has been nicknamed the Land of Saints and Scholars, and its contributions to world literature are well-respected.

One of the ways to discover good Irish books for children is to look at the winners of the Children's Books Ireland Award.

Award-winning Irish books come in all genres from the fantasy world of Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer (2001) to the historical novel of the Irish Civil War, Melody for Nora by Mark O'Sullivan (1994).

presented in books like One (2016) by Sarah Crossan about conjoined twins, and Kelly McCaughrain's Flying Tips for Flightless Birds (2019) about a boy who embraces his sexual identity.

Since the Awards are given for any level of book from picture books to young adult novels, you will need to exercise care in choosing appropriate levels and themes for your children.

When Stars Stop Spinning (Mitchell, 1994) which deals with drunk driving, and Bog Child (Dowd, 2009) which connects a dead child found in a bog with the contemporary troubles in Northern Ireland are two examples of well-written and important books which would nevertheless be inappropriate for younger kids.

For this month, let's look a little more closely at two award-winning books.

A Bit Lost by Chris Haughton (2009) is a picture book for the very young. It has lavish illustrations and very minimal text. Both pictures and words tell the story of a baby owl who falls from his nest and goes looking for his mother.

of course, finally reunited with his mother. While the book is set in a fantasy forest of talking animals that could be anywhere, some of the terms in the book are distinctly Irish. For example, the owl calls his mother Mummy, and the animals all go home to celebrate with biscuits after mother and child are reunited. The themes of belonging and longing are relevant everywhere today, of course, and drawing attention to the different uses of words will delight young children.

The New Policeman by Kate Thompson (2005), a chapter book for older kids, is a fantasy that deftly weaves life in contemporary Ireland to the ancient ways of the old gods who live in Tir na n'Og or the Land of the Ever-Young.

The Dead Policeman by Kate Thompson (2009) is a picture book for the very young. It has lavish illustrations and very minimal text. Both pictures and words tell the story of a baby owl who falls from his nest and goes looking for his mother.

music.

Celtic mythology is woven throughout this book. While kids who know nothing about Celtic mythology can enjoy the book, the book will be greatly enhanced if they have just a bit of information about these old stories.

Many of them have been re-told with children in mind.

The second area so important to this book is the traditional music of Ireland. There are countless ancient tunes, passed down mainly by ear over the centuries, that are still played throughout Ireland today.

With her signature hair-raising suspense, razor-sharp prose, and rich emotional depth, Edgar Award winner Berry has crafted the book we've been waiting for since Northern Spy hit shelves.

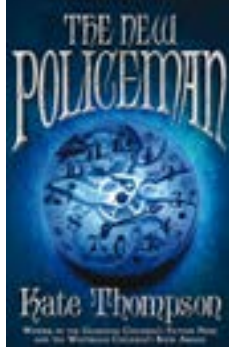
Trust Her

By Flynn Berry
Three years after they narrowly escaped the IRA's worst punishment for informing, sisters Tessa and Marian Daly have built a new life in Dublin with their young children.

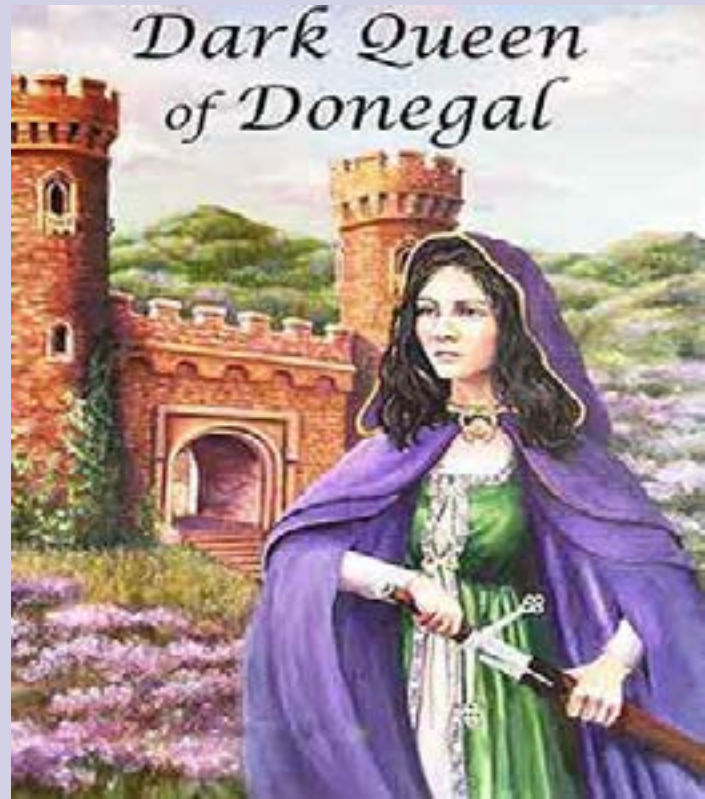
It's a small island, though, and just as quickly as they disappeared, figures from the sisters' past surface to drag them back into the conflict.

lose everything. Tessa's reunion with Eamonn revives a host of feelings she has long attempted to bury. As their relationship intensifies and the pressure mounts, long-held secrets rise to the surface, and Tessa finds herself caught in the middle of re-escalating sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland, all while trying to protect her beloved son.

With her signature hair-raising suspense, razor-sharp prose, and rich emotional depth, Edgar Award winner Berry has crafted the book we've been waiting for since Northern Spy hit shelves.



Pen Women Press Presents DARK QUEEN OF DONEGAL by Mary Pat Ferron Canes with JR Foley



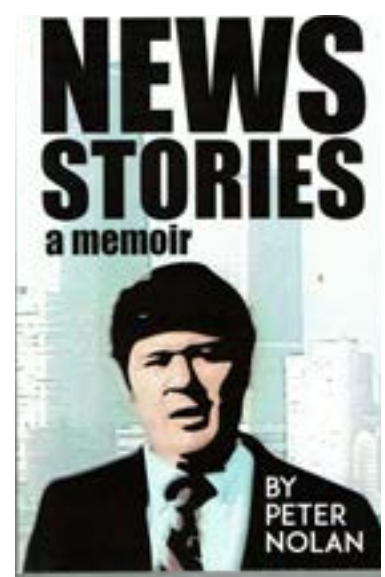
"Mary Pat Ferron Canes with JR Foley brings Ineen Dubh to thrilling life, showing how a mother's love for her son shapes and transcends history.

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

- Mary Pat Kelly, bestselling author of Galway Bay

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

News Stories, a Memoir



By Peter Nolan
The book is a memoir that chronicles my many years as a broadcast newsman from Niagara Falls to Chicago in the latter half of the twentieth century.



CAMPAIGN! the Election that Rocked Chicago



By Peter Nolan
Mike Leonard, NBC News correspondent: "This is storytelling at its best. With insight, compassion and humor Peter Nolan turns a semi-forgotten big city mayoral battle into a riveting and timeless tale of human behavior...the good and the bad."

From the Foreword by F. Richard Ciccone, Author of Daley: Power and Presidential Politics and Mike Royko: A Life in Print; former Managing Editor of the Chicago Tribune: "In

Campaign!, veteran newsman Peter Nolan, who covered all the players in the 1983 contest, has written a first-hand account of not only the key participants, the candidates and their top supporters, but also of relatively unknown election workers who invested their time and passions in a way not seen since in Chicago politics.

press secretary is only one of the anecdotes that reflects on how unusual the campaign seemed...This is a book that every Chicago politician ought to keep under his pillow...There is never enough history, and this is a nice slice of it."

About the Author
Peter Nolan was a television news reporter whose career in Chicago at WMAQ-TV and WBBM-TV spanned the 1960's, 70's and 80's. He won three Emmys and several journalism awards

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including Chicago Magazine's best TV reporter. In 2019 Nolan received the Silver Circle Award of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Chicago Chapter. Writing credits: Author of the critically praised CAMPAIGN! The Election that Rocked Chicago. (Amika Press 2012) News Stories, a Memoir (Gatekeeper Press 2018) Op Ed, Chicago Sun Times 12/30/2006, Op Ed Chicago Sun Times 1/8/2009.

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Large advertisement for Mariyana T. Spyropoulos Democrat running for Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Election Day is March 19th, 2024. Punch # 92. Includes contact information and a QR code.

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HAPPY
St Patrick's
DAY

March 19, 2024 Primary Election

Ballot Numbers

	91 Irish Y. Martinez		146 Arlene Y. Coleman Romeo
	92 Mariyana Spyropolis		147 Neil Cohen
	121 Joy Virginia Cunningham		150 Edward Joseph Underhill
	131 Mary Lane Mikva		151 Debjani 'Deb' Desai
	132 Cynthia Y. Cobbs		152 Russell Hartigan
	134 Celia Louise Gamrath		153 Jennifer Patricia Callahan
	136 Carl Anthony Walker		154 James S. Murphy Aguilú
	141 Pablo F. deCastro		156 Chloe Georgianna Pedersen
	143 Corinne C. Heggie		161 Bridget C Duignan
	144 Sarah Johnson		163 James Murphy
	145 Deidre M. Dyer		295 Carolyn Gallagher

Altan Releases New Album & Will Play at Old Town School of Folk Music March 27th

Altan is one of the most iconic bands in Irish music. The band delivers on their reputation as among Ireland's most important cultural ambassadors with their new release **DONEGAL**. Irish-language songs and dynamic twin-fiddling, both hallmarks of Altan's sound, framework the new album which tributes Altan's native County Donegal and its rich musical heritage, breathtaking landscapes and vibrant culture.

Altan
Bandleader, lead vocalist and fiddler Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh is in fine form throughout, lending her angelic voice to "Liostáil mé le Sáirsint" and "The Barley and the Rye" and contributing "Port Árainn Mhór/Port Kitty Rua Mooney", an outstanding set of jigs, to the project. Altan's newest member, Clare Friel, shares vocal duties with Ní Mhaonaigh, most notably on the track "Faioseamh a Gheobhadsa" and adds her fiery twin fiddle playing to great effect. Accordionist Martin Tourish brings his formidable chops and compositional sense to the medley "The House of Baoithín" which



pays homage to the mid 6th century Saint Baoithín. Dáithí Sproule (guitar), Mark Kelly (guitar, harmony vocals) and Ciarán Curran (bouzouki, mandolin) round out the band which is augmented by special guests Jim Higgins (percussion), Steve Cooney (bass) and Graham Henderson (keyboards) on select tracks. Taken as a whole, the music transports listeners to a bygone time in rural Ireland while simultaneously forging a connection between the past and modern times.

Recorded by Manus Lunny at Stiúdió na Mara ("Seafront Studio") in County Donegal, **DONEGAL** captures the essence of the region which has inspired Altan since the band's inception and further cements Altan's legacy as one of the great cultural treasures of Ireland.

No Irish traditional band in the last thirty years has had a wider impact on audiences throughout the world than Altan. Formed in County Donegal in 1987 by lead vocalist Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh and her late husband Frankie Kennedy, the group's music is influenced by traditional Irish language songs and tunes from Donegal. Over the course of their career, Altan has sold over a million records.

DONEGAL was released on March 1, 2024.
ALTAN TOUR DATES
27-Mar - Old Town School of Folk Music - Chicago, Illinois

Happy Saint
Patrick's
Day

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Recently, I was visiting my son in Kalamazoo, Michigan. I've been to Michigan several times before, but I never stopped in Kalamazoo. Every street is filled with beautiful Victorian homes. It's also a college town. Here are some fun facts about Kalamazoo:

Kalamazoo, Michigan, located in Southwest Michigan, is rich in culture and civil rights heritage. It was founded in 1831. Its original name was Bronson, named after one of the first white settlers. In 1831, Bronson's bad behavior would get him kicked out of town.

The residents then renamed the town Kalamazoo to reflect the native American heritage. The name Bronson can still be seen around town - Bronson Park, Bronson Hospital.

Kalamazoo played an active role in the anti-slavery movement. Dr. Nathan Thomas and his wife Pamela were one of Michigan's most active Underground Railway families - it's estimated they helped almost 2,000 slaves seek freedom. Some went to Detroit, others went to Canada.

In 1942, Glenn Miller had a best



selling record called "I've Got a Gal in Kalamazoo".

Also, if you like celery it was developed in Kalamazoo by Dutch immigrants. farmers. (good for headaches)

Kalamazoo has a history of inventions like stoves, oil lamps. Gibson guitars. Orville Gibson left New York when he

Charles O'Malley from County Cork migrated to Michigan around 1836. He helped establish an Irish settlement on Mackinac Island. By 1840, he owned a successful general store. He was elected as a kind of representative to the Michigan legislature. He was responsible for the Irish names given to the northern



Paper Mills were a large employer of immigrant Irish

HAWTHORNE PAPER COMPANY - Kalamazoo, Michigan

was seventeen and headed to Kalamazoo. he worked as a clerk while crafting mandolins. local investors helped him open up his first guitar shop, his guitars are famous the world over. Checker taxi cabs also started in Kalamazoo and were portrayed in the sitcom Taxi. J.P. Rhodes created some major inventions - railroad cars, automobiles.

They also have Bell's Brewery there. Lets not forget about the Peppermint king. Albert Hotchkiss he invented peppermint oil which was added to lots of top name brand chewing gums.

Here's the part I like to get to - Where did the Irish fit in here? So the paper mills were a great source of employment for Irish immigrants. Tradition has it that there were so many paper mill workers living in the area who immigrated from County Cork that the township officially named a street after them - so they all lived happily on Cork Street.

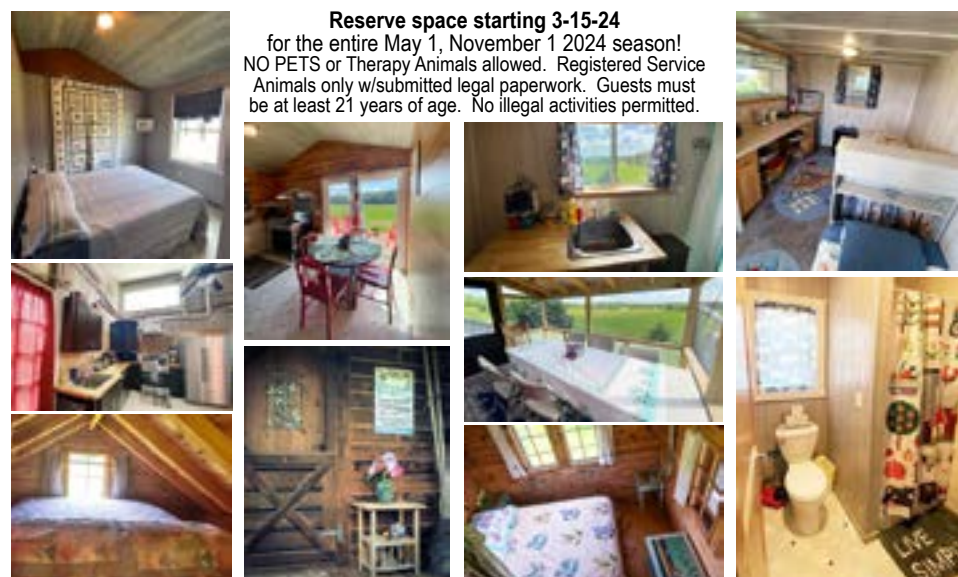
parts of Michigan counties - Roscommon Wexford, Claire, Emmet and Antrim.

Irish nationalism in the United States has been closely linked with the labor movement, in which Irish Americans were among the earliest organizers and leaders. Men like Pat Quinn, Pat Rice, Hugh Thompson, Mike McGee, who helped build the United Auto Workers into one of the most powerful unions in the United States, were staunch Irish nationalists. Union support for the Irish struggle has been strong throughout United States history. Many Irish American labor leaders have spoken in support of the Irish.

Irish American political activists today are hard-nosed, well-informed and dedicated. They are self-confident groups that have survived character assassination and government harassment. They are aware of the parallels between Northern Ireland and other troubled spots around the world and have reached out to other

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groups who struggle for justice - this sounds familiar, especially given what is happening in Palestine today.

Here's another place in Northern Michigan - Beaver Island. In the 1830s, Irish fishermen mainly the Arranmore Donegal immigrants. The Gallaghers. Boyles. O'Donnells McCauleys. Established themselves and began exploring the rich waters around Beaver Island. Patrick Kilty, an Irish immigrant, participated in the government survey of Beaver Island in preparation for the sale of the land. Kilty, along with Annie and Patrick Lony bought some of the island. However, the early settlement was quickly halted when Mormons arrived - they gained control of the island, prospered, and proceeded to drive the Irish out.

Ten years later, their leader was shot. Upon hearing this, a group of armed men set sail, attacked the leaderless community, drove the Mormons off the island, and most of the Irish returned,

establishing new fishing camps and farms. John Bonner, a Donegal man, was one of the first to reoccupy the island, while Patrick Lony and his family became the St. James lighthouse keeper. Looks like everyone got a job.

A group of County Mayo men, the five Martin Brothers, moved their families and their fishing business to the island. Beaver Island was on its way to becoming the emerald isle of Lake Michigan. It was on its way to becoming the center of the richest freshwater fishing in the world. The islanders harvested sturgeon, lake trout, perch, herring, and whitefish.

Farming on Beaver was similar to that in Ireland, with small plots that could be worked with basic implements, strong hands, and sturdy backs. The Irish could now labor for themselves, not for English landlords. Most of the fishermen originally came from Arranmore, an island off the coast of County Donegal.

The Irish who survived the Great

Famine. (Starved by the British who shipped our food out) eventually came to Beaver Island. They brought their memories and stories of death by disease and starvation, and stories of eviction and English oppression. They survived horrors that none of us today could possibly imagine.

Families on Beaver Island began to save money to bring their relatives over from

Ireland. Beaver became well known in Arranmore from letters and stories as a place where a poor man might be free. Immigrants continued to arrive, largely from Donegal. The Irish on Beaver Island were elated to be in America, a country that had defeated the British.

Hope you enjoyed this little bit of history. stop by if you're on your summer holidays.

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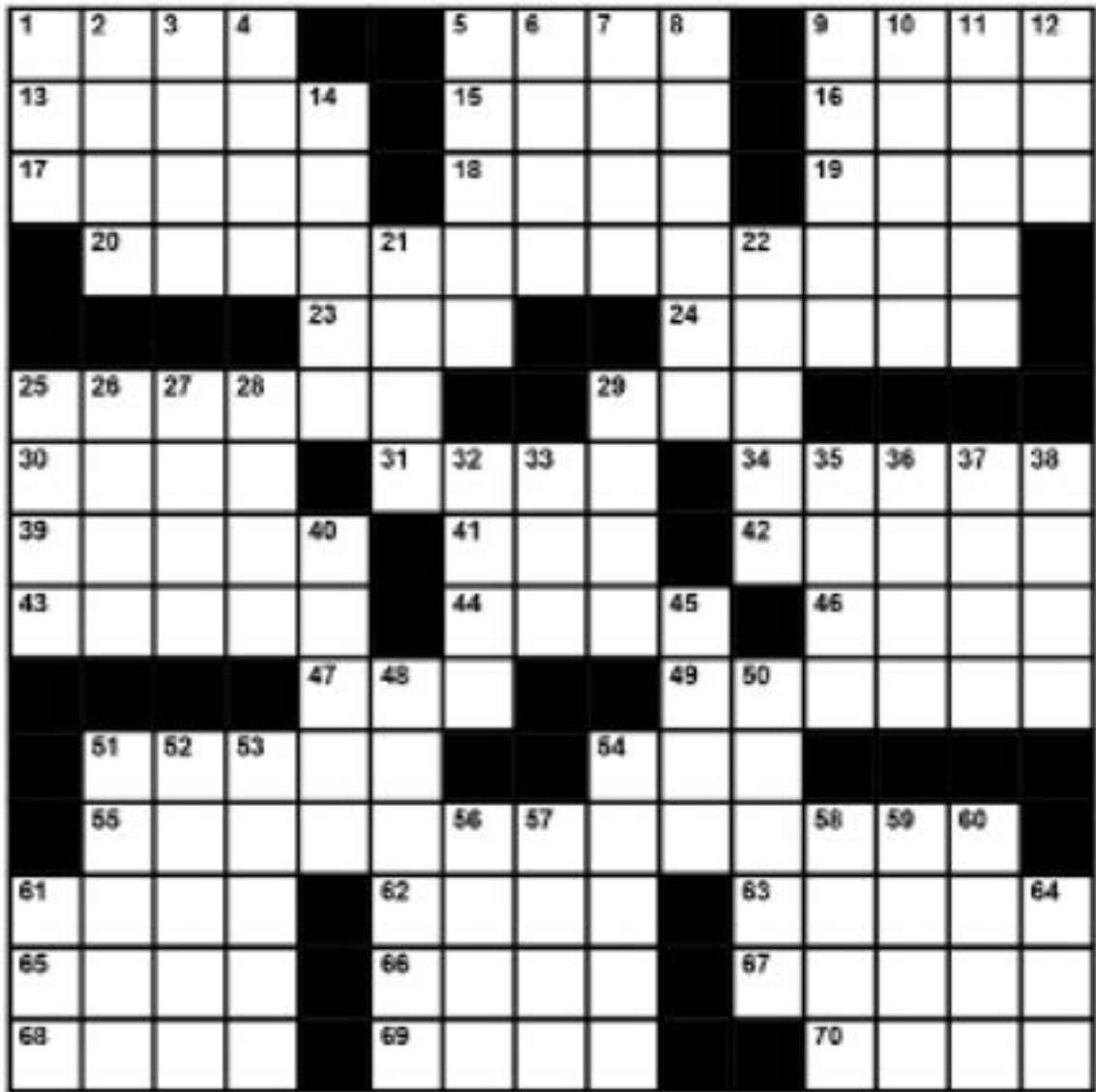
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Across

- 1. Winter pear
- 5. Day-to-day worker, briefly
- 9. Cubs big hitter
- 13. Potato growers' state in the US
- 15. Qatari head of state, for example
- 16. Jazzman Jones
- 17. Greek architectural column style
- 18. Heap
- 19. Chows down
- 20. Co-creator of Ryanair, 2 words
- 23. Just make, with "out"
- 24. German river
- 25. Eldest of the Brothers Karamazov
- 29. Programming language
- 30. What stripes may indicate
- 31. "Billionth" word form
- 34. Outfit
- 39. Major can maker
- 41. Bearded antelope
- 42. Health-care professional
- 43. Unhealthy atmosphere
- 44. Stopped working, abbr.
- 46. T ___ tango, 2 words
- 47. Handheld, abbr.
- 49. More than half the world's population
- 51. Hi!
- 54. Airline to Amsterdam
- 55. Big name in Irish women's football, 2 words
- 61. Baby's early word
- 62. 18-wheeler
- 63. Parisian quarter
- 65. Footnoter's "same"
- 66. Country on the Caspian
- 67. Group of people
- 68. Dame Hess at a piano
- 69. Not any
- 70. Helper, abbr.



- 21. Related
- 22. 1990s sitcom
- 25. Wee bit o' Scotch, say
- 26. W. African republic
- 27. Pre-Columbian empire
- 28. W.B.A. calls, abbr.
- 29. Strike from a list, 2 words
- 32. Locale of the Taj Mahal
- 33. Vane direction, abbr.
- 35. Paris's ___ d'Orsay
- 36. Major or Minor Bear in the sky
- 37. "Beauty ___ the eye ..." - 2 words
- 38. Animal enclosures
- 40. Fully sufficient
- 45. Auto racer Earnhardt
- 48. Takes out in a murder mystery- 2 words
- 50. Trout-like fish
- 51. Intoxicating
- 52. Sea duck
- 53. Camel cousin
- 54. "A Fish Called Wanda" Oscar-winner
- 56. He fiddled while Rome burnt
- 57. F.B.I. operative
- 58. "CSI" character Sidle
- 59. Big elevator name
- 60. Penpoints
- 61. Not brilliant
- 64. Surfer's milieu

February Answers

Midwest Fleadh

It's that time of the year again, when Irish Traditional Musicians all over the world will be heading towards their County and Provincial championships, with the goal of qualifying for the All-Ireland Championships. The All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann, abbreviated as the "All-Ireland" or the "Fleadh Cheoil" (literally "feast of music"), widely known as the World Championships of Irish music, will be held August 2024 in Wexford Ireland.

This event 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 final, where one might encounter up to 10-20 competitors in an event.

For musicians in 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.

This year, the Midwest Fleadh will be held at the Crowne Plaza Chicago-Northbrook, 2875 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Northbrook, IL from April 26th-28th. Close to 300 entries are expected to register in a wide variety of competitions. Competitors can enter more than one competition, so it is estimated 150-200 individual competitors of all ages will be on hand. The Midwest event is being hosted by a local Comhaltas branch, Murphy Roche Irish Music Club (Burr Ridge IL).

The reader is advised to get further information by going to the Midwest Fleadh website <https://midwestfleadh.org/>

CD review- The Yew and the Orchard

All this talk about Irish traditional instruments and music creates a perfect segue into the next topic, a review of the brand-new CD "The Yew and The Orchard." Released in November 2023 from acclaimed uilleann piper Cillian Valley and award-winning fiddler David Doocey, before even listening to the tunes, I give it high marks for one of the more clever titles I've seen this year.

The CD's title originates from the counties where its artists grew up, Mayo and Armagh. Doocey hails from County Mayo, whose name is derived from Irish Mhaigh Eo, meaning "plain of the yew trees." Doocey has won numerous All-Ireland titles on both fiddle and concertina, captured the first ever World Fleadh fiddle championship in 2005, and the much-coveted Féile Oriol competition in 2009. He has been a member of several noted groups, including Gráda and Blás. He has performed extensively with Sean & Dolores Keane, Finbar Furey, Michael McGoldrick, Martin Hayes, and



Journey (for all ages over 12). According to the syllabus, these two events were created for singers and musicians who want feedback on their performance from a qualified adjudicator, for those who find competition too stressful but want to be part of the festivities, or for beginners who are not quite ready for the qualifying competition. Designed to be low pressure, these events seem like a good way to get one's "toe in the water."

Comhaltas branches anticipated to be represented at the Midwest Fleadh include: Ceol NanAingeal (Los Angeles), Columbus Comhaltas (Ohio), Cooley-Keegan (San Francisco), Craobh Barry Cogan (SanDiego), DIMA (Detroit). Four Peaks Irish

Sharon Shannon.

Valley hails from Armagh City in the north of Ireland and learned traditional uilleann piping from his parents Brian and Eithne, who founded the Armagh Pipers' Club. In recent years, Valley has played and toured with Bruce Springsteen, Natalie Merchant, Mary Chapin-Carpenter, and Riverdance in addition to recording as a guest on over 60 albums. With Lunasa, he has played at The Hollywood Bowl, Glastonbury Festival, WOMAD Aledaide, Edmonton Folk Festival in addition to multiple tours of Asia, Australia, US and Europe. While County Armagh may be known for Navan Fort, St Patrick, and the Tayto Crisp Factory, Armagh is often called "The Orchard County," because of its abundant apple orchards. Thus, we have "The Yew and the Orchard."

Before I could review this CD, I needed a education on the uilleann pipes as my understanding was only rudimentary. I turned to Chicago area piper Max Dunne, former Brother Rice teacher turned financial advisor and knowledgeable uilleann piper. Max said of Cillian Valley, "one of the best in the world," and Max should know, as he has been studying and playing the uilleann pipes for the past 12 years. Max was happy to provide a quick tutorial.

Surprise: Uilleann pipes are a woodwind (reed instrument). The chanter contains a reed and plays the melody.

Beginners often start on a practice set, which consists of the chanter, pipe bag, and bellows, until they become comfortable with the basic mechanics of playing this instrument. Students must learn to pump the bellows steadily while controlling the pressure on the bag and playing the chanter simultaneously. After that, the other components of the instrument (drones, and regulators) are incorporated. Dunne said pipers must be "a bit crazy," as it is very difficult to learn to play such a complex instrument, and one can become quite frustrated while learning. Once past the awkward learning phase, pipers can aspire to the proficiency of a Cillian Valley. Thanks to Max Dunne for the education on the uilleann pipes are and how they produce the wide variety of sounds that they do.

The CD release is a compilation of new and old tunes, including six self-penned ones. While others may be traditional tunes, some have never been recorded. A complete list of tracks can be found following this article.

One can see from the track list there is no shortage of the toe-tapping reels and jigs listeners expect and will enjoy. Played with a distinctive swag and swing, Doocey and Valley produce a sound that sparkles, scintillates, and is often playful. There is something intangible, but very pleasing about these two particular instruments creating music; the result is a joyful



and soulful dance that is just "enough." More instruments could be excessive.

While the virtuosity of Doocey and Valley shines in Track 1- Billy Rushe's and Track 6 The Worcester Reel, they demonstrate they can also deliver slow tunes with remarkable sensitivity. Try West Clare Railway, Elk River Blues, and Peacock's Feather.

The Yew and the Orchard has something for everyone, but it's the unique sound of these two instruments, and these two particular gifted artists, which give the album its bounce and drive. Thank you, David D. and Cillian V., for this gift.

- 1. Billy Rushe's / Jim Collin's Rambles / The Pride of Rockchapel
- 2. Mickey Callaghan's Fancy The Glentown Reel / The

Fairhaired Boy / O'Reilly's Greyhound

- 3. West Clare Railway / The Jug of Punch
- 4. The Cider Shack / Bolt the Door / I'd Rather Be Married than Left
- 5. Tha'm Buntáta Mor / The Bullet Thrower / Red Ned's
- 6. The Worcester Reel / St. Ruth's Bush / Gay Cassidy's
- 7. Elk River Blues / Ryan's
- 8. Heights of Dart / Paddy Joe's
- 9. James Byrne's / Humours of Whiskey / Up and Down Again
- 10. The Lark's March / An d'Tiocfaidh Tú Abhaile Liom
- 11. A Ogánaigh an Chúil Chraobhaigh / Peacock's Feather
- 12. Big Pat's / Scotch Mary / Oot be Est da Vong

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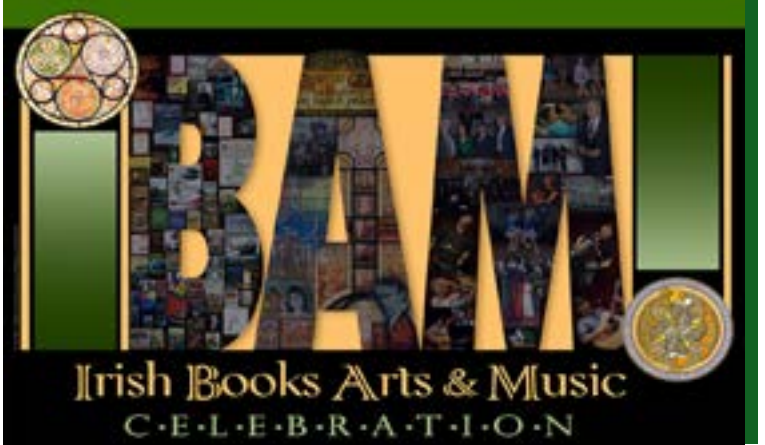
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The Bishop and Annie Murphy

Once upon a time a young woman aged twenty-five visited Ireland, sent by her American family in Connecticut to seek advice from a distant cousin with high hopes he could straighten her out.

Instead, her name became a household word as she took on the Catholic Church when she revealed her love affair with the man who fathered her son.

The story was shattering in a country that clung to clergy and religion.

It was three decades ago when this American lass told her story and it became a turning point in Irish history. The father of Murphy's child was a celebrated Irish Bishop and her incendiary story touched off heated debates in Ireland long before the ME Too movement and before allegations of sexual impropriety against the church were commonplace.

When Annie Murphy arrived in Ireland she was picked up at the airport by the cousin who had the enormous distinction of being the Bishop of Kerry, His name, Eamonn Casey. His eminence

immediately took her to live in his grand oceanfront home called the Red Cliff House, located in County Kerry.

He was an influential clergyman, outspoken and jocular, comfortable holding forth on political issues as he was on the pastoral needs of the parishes under his jurisdiction. In fact, the Bishop often made headlines in Ireland and abroad, whether campaigning to end poverty at home or refusing to meet with President Regan over Regan's policies in Central America.

Bishop Casey also was known for his indulgence in fine wines, expensive foods, traveling abroad, and fast cars that he could and did whip around his diocese at alleged breakneck speeds. His speeding was so well known it inspired folk songs about the danger Casey's cars posed to the safety of Kerry's sheep dogs!

Not surprisingly it was also reported he was once issued a ticket in London for drunk driving.

None the less he was a captivating speaker and a forceful presence.

In her memoir Annie Murphy recorded: "His smile was enchanting, the feel of his hand warm and gentle, he certainly had charm." Yes, she fell in love with him immediately arriving in Ireland in 1973.

Casey was 21 years her senior at age 46 and was equally smitten with the young woman he welcomed into his home. In her book, "Forbidden Fruit" Murphy remembered their first kiss, when the bishop slipped into her room late one night.

Meanwhile she was tormented at the beginning of their relationship fearful he would give her up due to his religious calling. When she broached the subject he assured her he'd confessed and would continue their relationship with assurance, "If God were here," he told her, "He would approve of what I am doing."

However, the Bishop valued his reputation and cautioned they had to keep their relationship a secret, even if she wanted to scream their love from the rooftops, she could not. Things changed when she became pregnant. He wanted Annie Murphy to put the baby up for adoption, but she opted to keep the child. Eighteen months after the affair began, it ended and in 1974 the new mother moved back to the United States with her infant son whom she christened Peter.

For close to two decades the son's father made covert payments to Murphy for the support of their son. However, when the boy became a teenager, his mother wanted the bishop to play a larger role in his boy's life. He refused and in 1990 Annie Murphy filed a paternity suit against Casey. She followed that up when she chronicled her affair and the subsequent cover-up in a book entitled "Forbidden Fruit, The True Story of My Secret Love Affair with Ireland's Most

Powerful Bishop.

It was co-written with Catholic priest-turned-author, Peter de Rosa, and released by Little, Brown & Co. in January 1993.

Murphy recalls landing in Ireland for her book tour that year and seeing young Irish people, many of them women, waiting for her plane. The greeting was

Meanwhile, the Vatican announced Casey had resigned as bishop of Galway but remained in the priesthood. In a recent interview with the Times, Murphy admitted that she'd play any card to get Casey close to her son. "I told him if my son comes to you and you deny him I will do anything I have to do to bring you



warmer than she'd expected. "I got off the plane and they asked me what did I do? I said I helped take the oppressive boot of the Catholic Church off the throat of Ireland, adding "Don't worry about me, worry about Ireland."

In other conversations she related that Casey was giving her guidance in the beginning, telling her he could do more for her than any psychiatrist. When he was having sexual relations with her, the big cross around his neck clattering up and down on her chest could not have been comfortable! That ritual occurred on a Saturday night after which the bishop went to confession to prepare for saying mass in the morning.

The Irish Times covered the story and learned that Casey never admitted paternity of his son. A reporter was dispatched to Connecticut to interview Murphy who was 43 years old, slim, attractive, composed but full of outrage, and proclaimed utterly convincing.



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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

This month will see the glitz and glamor of the Oscars, and as ever there is Irish talent flying the tricolor at the 96th awards ceremony, which will take place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood.

Corkman Cillian Murphy was nominated as Best Actor for his role in Oppenheimer, which topped the overall list with 13 nominations, followed by Irish co-production Pretty Things, a fantasy/comedy which had 11 nods including for Irishman Robbie Ryan in the Cinematography category.

Murphy, who won the Golden Globe already for his role, has stiff competition: Bradley Cooper for the Leonard Bernstein biopic Maestro, Colman Domingo for Rustin, another biopic, Paul Giamatti for dramedy The Holdovers, and Jeffrey Wright for satire American Fiction.

Sadly, there was no good news for Dubliner Barry Keoghan, who had been applauded for his role in Saltburn, nor Kildare's Paul Mescal for All of Us Strangers.

Biggest loser - though at over \$1.4b at the box office and eight nominations it's hardly a disaster - was Barbie, which did

not get nods for star Margot Robbie, nor carry the third Irish hope: original song "What Was I Made For?" by Billie Eilish.



Small Things Like These: Cillian Murphy to star in and produce an adaptation of Claire Keegan's acclaimed novel

A winner already at the Golden Globes, it can count as an Irish success because she has Irish and Scottish ancestry, as does more obviously her older brother and collaborator, Finneas O'Connell.

Moving to Europe, and Irish drama Small Things Like These recently opened the 74th Berlin International Film Festival in

Germany. It stars that man again - Cillian Murphy - with an adapted screenplay from Dublin-born Enda Walsh.

The Irish-Belgian co-production is based on the novel of the same name by author Claire Keegan, whose novella Foster was adapted for the screen as the moving drama An Cailín Ciúin last year.

Set in an Irish town in 1985, Small Things Like These follows coal and timber merchant Bill Furlong (Murphy) as he struggles with his conscience and the fear of standing up to the church when

co-production from director Rich Peppiatt in which the eponymous Belfast rap trio play versions of themselves.

The first Irish language to screen at Sundance (and the first to win an award there; the Audience Award), it co-stars Michael Fassbender, and was quickly snapped up by Sony Pictures Classics, who will be releasing it here in North America this summer on around 200 screens - definitely keep your eyes open for this; it's something very wild, controversial and funny!

There's some filming going on in the North of Ireland at the moment too; a live-action adaptation of How To Train Your Dragon.

Director Dean DeBlois, who directed the original animated How To Train Your Dragon trilogy, announced that work had begun on the movie via social media, so Belfast will double as the Isle of Berk, the fictional Scandinavian Island setting of the animated films that are based on Cressida Cowell's books.

How To Train Your Dragon is understood to follow the same story as the first film of the animated trilogy, with young Viking Hiccup (Mason Thames) aspiring to hunt dragons, only to unexpectedly befriend a young dragon. Thames (The Black Phone) is joined by Nico Parker (The Last of Us) as Astrid, and Nick Frost (Shaun of the Dead) as Gobber. Gerard Butler (Gamer) reprises his role as Stoick, Hiccup's father.

The production was delayed by the SAG-AFTRA strike, and is now set for a June 2025 release.

Musician Keith Harkin at Stageit March 16

Irish singer/songwriter, Keith Harkin will be celebrating St Patrick's Day with a special livestream show via STAGEIT Saturday March 16, 2024 @ 2:00pm PST/ 5:00pm EST/ 10:00pm GMT, with encore broadcast Sunday March 17. Tickets <https://www.stageit.com/keith-harkin/live-st-patricks-day-special-live/114159#/>

Currently residing in Portugal, Harkin will play this special show with a live audience from his home bar. Growing up singing in pubs with his father, Keith

reinstates the family tradition and keeps it alive. "St. Patrick's Day for me is all about tradition," says Keith. "It's about family, music and a good Guinness!"

The special performance in celebration of St Patrick's Day and will feature traditional Irish songs, Keith's own songs, as well as some covers. The show will be livestreamed on STAGEIT one of the longest-running and most innovative livestream platforms.

"Keith Harkin is one of the most beloved artists on STAGEIT," says STAGEIT CEO,



Lou Mann. "We're proud to share this special St. Patrick's Day celebration with audiences around the world."

Keith's latest album, A Proper St Patrick's Day, was recorded last year in front of a live audience in a little pub in the backyard of his hometown, Donegal, Ireland. Buy/stream album HERE

Over the last 15 years, Keith Harkin and his musical talents have brought him across the world many times over, including shows for President Obama at The White House, Sir Richard Branson on Necker Island and performing National Anthems at The Garden for The Boston Celtics to name a few. During his time touring the states, he gained special recognition from Grammy-Award-winning producer, David Foster, who signed Keith to Verve Records. His debut solo album reached the number 1 spot on the Billboard charts in both the US and Canada.

Celtic Legal Society to hold its Annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon Friday, March 15



Mail should be mailed no later than March 1, 2024, and should be made payable to the Celtic Legal Society to Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, Attn:

Matthew P. Walsh, II, 151 North Franklin Street, Suite 2500, Chicago, Illinois, 60606. The cost per ticket is \$100, and \$1,000 for a table of 10.

This year, we will be offering the option to purchase Drink Tickets to the event via our website. Please visit www.celticlegalsociety.com for more details.

Should you have any questions, please email celticlegalsociety@gmail.com.

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GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

By Tina Butler



Who was Shane Patrick McGowan?

Some would say legend, master songsmith, a fenian. (Irish nationalist) It's been said several times, a man of many words but few teeth. A lot has been said about McGowan, he was an addict, a troubled soul and a gifted songwriter. It's no secret that McGowan had a problem with alcohol and drugs as does/did many rock and rollers but I will not focus on that or his psychiatric hospital stints.

My favorite sentiment about him is, "the outcast who became a national treasure", Richard Balls. McGowan called himself a free thinking religious fanatic. McGowan was born in England to Irish parents. (from Tipperary)

Uinseán de Búrca, 48, said McGowan had soundtracked his life, I never met him in the flesh but I felt I knew him all my life". "He was one of the greatest Irishmen, he embodied who we are the soul and spirit and expressed it magnificently. We will always be proud of Shane just like the English are of Dickens" Dermot Doran.

I normally like to write about Irish people and stories from centuries ago like Turlough O'Carolan (blind Roscommon Harpist) but this month I write with fondness for this industrious, celebrated, unsettled & proud Irishman.

McGowan once told a reporter

I'm completely Irish never mind my accent.

When McGowan was in school, he won literary contests, he read & admired famous authors such as Dostoyevsky & Joyce and even won a scholarship to a boarding school.

He co-founded the Pogues an Irish punk/Celtic band. Originally called Pogue Mahone it was an anglicization of pog mo thoin. Irish phrase meaning kiss-my-arse. McGowan has worked with many musicians, notably Sinead O'Connor. O'Connor has stated she named her son Shane (rip) after McGowan.

McGowan has said he grew up in an Irish republican family and that he regretted not joining the IRA. His song Paddy Public Enemy no. 1 is based on ex INLA (Irish National Liberation Army) leader Dominic McGlinchey. McGowan had said, McGlinchey and Gerry Adams are his personal friends.

My smart & beautiful cousin Mary Butler and her husband Dave have always been great concert goers, (Irish and non-Irish concerts) they have been to several Pogue's concerts. They say physical presence provides the best musical experience. I have only been to one concert in my life, if I recall correctly it was a Pixies concert. One of the Pogues most famous tunes, "Fairytale of New York", it remains a permanent Christmas favorite. It went quintuple (5 times) platinum. A few other famous songs include A pair of brown eyes, Dark streets of

London, Sally MacLennane, A Rainy night in Soho, The Broad majestic Shannon, & The Sick bed of Cuchulainn. In 2014 the Pogues disbanded.

The Irish president, Michael D Higgins, has led Ireland's tributes to McGowan, describing the Pogues frontman as one of "Music's greatest lyricists". President Higgins gave McGowan a lifetime achievement award in 2018. The Sinn Féin leader, Mary Lou McDonald, said Ireland had lost a beloved icon. "Nobody told the Irish story like Shane - stories of emigration, heartache, dislocation, redemption, love and joy," she said.

Gerry Adams, the former Sinn Féin leader, called McGowan a good friend and said he had been with him the week when he was released from hospital.

"Shane was an extraordinary human being whose music and kindness lifted people's spirit," Adams said in a statement. "Tá sé anois ar shlí na fírinne" - he said, which can be translated as "he has gone to his eternal reward".

McGowan was diagnosed with encephalitis (swelling of the brain) and months later died from pneumonia. His coffin in the horse drawn carriage was led through the streets of Dublin for his funeral procession. McGowan was cremated in Shannon. Sometimes artists become more famous after their death such as Johann Sebastian Bach, Edgar Allan Poe and Van Gogh. I think McGowan could fall into this camp however, I think while he was living, he was pretty famous. I hope he is finally at peace in heaven & on Easter I will have a drink in his name. go raibh maith agat craic agus ceol.

"People are talking about immigration, emigration and the rest of the f'n thing. It's all f'n crap. We're all human beings, we're all mammals, we're all rocks, plants, rivers. F'n borders are just such a pain in the f'n arse."

McGowan Smidin Gaelige Singer-amhranai, patriotism-tirghra, music-ceol, teeth-fiacla Christmas-Nollaig, fairytale-sisceal If you have any questions you can email me at: Molanive@yahoo.com

The Fitzpatrick Group Named One of Forbes 2024 Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams



The Fitzpatrick Group of Wells Fargo Advisors has been selected to the Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams for 2024.

The Fitzpatrick Group consists of Edward Fitzpatrick, CFP®, Senior Vice President- Investments, Andrew

Fitzpatrick, CFA, Financial Consultant, their father John Fitzpatrick, Financial Consultant, and Dawn

Benzinger, Senior Client Associate. Together, they have over a century of investment experience. The Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams rating algorithm is based on the previous year's industry experience, interviews, compliance records, assets under management, revenue and other criteria

Lois Farley Shuford will speak with the Irish American Heritage Center's Genealogy group on Saturday April 20 at 2:30 pm in the library. Her topic will be how using a writers' approach to research can solve mysteries and make your family history come alive. Lois is the author of Finding Home: an Irish American Story.



by SHOOK Research, LLC. Investment performance is not a criterion. Self-completed survey was used for

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This accolade represents a list of professionals that come to work with one goal on their minds - helping their clients succeed.

"It's an honor to be recognized by Forbes as one of the top wealth management teams for 2024," said Edward Fitzpatrick, CFP®. "As investment planning has become more complex, our priority is to work with our clients to develop strategies to give them confidence to help them achieve their short- and long-term investment goals."



Seamus Kavanagh: Success in Business, Strengthens Irish Community in Chicago

Seamus Kavanagh's journey has taken him from Swinford in County Mayo to Libertyville in Chicago's northern suburbs, with stops in places like Galway, the Netherlands, Texas, and Germany. Through it all, he has built an impressive career in business, and he and his wife Nuala have managed to raise an ever-growing family. Showing no signs of letting up, he relishes his role as a pillar of the Irish community in Chicago and aims to continue to strengthen that community for the younger generation.

The product of a traditional Irish family of six children, Kavanagh's father was a teacher and mother a nurse. He describes Swinford as a great place to grow up, and he credits his high school science and math teacher as a pivotal influence in setting him on the path of becoming a scientist. That teacher was none other than Frank Gleason, who Kavanagh met decades later at Chicago's Emerald Loop during an Ireland Network Chicago First Friday event that was co-hosted with University of Galway, where Kavanagh earned an undergraduate degree, a PhD in chemistry, and later, an MBA.

"Frank was a brilliant teacher, a cool teacher with long hair in a ponytail," Kavanagh remembers. "Needless to say, it was a shock seeing him in Chicago so many years later."

Upon earning his PhD, Kavanagh began his career as a Research Scientist with Dow Chemical, and his first posting took him to the Netherlands, where he and Nuala, whom he had met in Galway and married in 1988, lived for five years. In 1990, Seamus took on a new role at Dow that sent the Kavanagh's across the Atlantic to Clearlake, Texas, and they welcomed their first child, Niamh, on the Fourth of July in 1991. After two years in the Lone Star State, they moved back to Europe, this time settling near Hamburg, Germany, for another career opportunity at Dow, where Nuala had also taken a job.

1994 saw the Kavanagh's move back

home to Ireland, as Seamus took a management role with an Irish company and the family moved to Mullingar, where they stayed for a few years. They then settled in Ballina, where he set up a research and development facility for Hollister Incorporated, thus beginning a decades-long career with the company that specializes in developing, manufacturing, and marketing healthcare products and services worldwide. Kavanagh has been with the company for over twenty-five years, holding several executive roles in marketing, research and development, and, most recently, corporate development, where manages the buying and selling of companies and technologies.

"Hollister is privately held, employee owned. We do what's best for associates and customers in the long term, which is great."

As Kavanagh reflects on his career progression, he credits his decision to go back to the University of Galway to earn his MBA as the "best thing I ever did for my career," so he could complement his scientific experience with business skills that have been valued in the company. He and his family were enjoying their time in Ballina, which included frequent trips to their trailer in Enniscrone Beach and active participation in the local Gaelic football and rugby clubs, but



Seamus Kavanagh

another move was on the horizon in 2004. Hollister coaxed Kavanagh to return to the United States, so he and the family moved to suburban Libertyville, where the company is headquartered.

"This was a difficult move," Kavanagh conceded, "as my kids were young and it was a big change for them."

As time went on, the Kavanagh children adapted to their new home, and the family has been here for nearly two decades. The three children have all went on to attend college in the United States and embarked on their own successful careers.

Of course, no story of Seamus's life and career would be complete without recognizing Nuala, who was recently honored with the Chicago Sister Cities 2023 International Volunteer of the Year Award for her work leading the Galway Sister Cities Committee. The honor was a long time coming, in that Nuala and Seamus have both been involved in volunteering to strengthen ties between Galway and Chicago for the last twenty years. For his part, Seamus has served as a board member of the University of Galway US Foundation, where he works with the University's executive team and plans events and other engagement opportunities in Chicago. He is not shy when describing his motivations for supporting the University:

"I have three degrees from the University of Galway, and it has helped me to be the person I am," he shared, noting the "fantastic" mix of academia, sports, and community at the institution. Outside of his work at Hollister and volunteer efforts with the University of Galway, Seamus serves as a board member of a dental insurance company in Ireland, an advisor for medical device companies here and in Ireland, and he leads the Bike Ministry and St. Joseph Catholic Church in Libertyville,

where he and fellow volunteers fix up used bikes and deliver them to people in need. Alongside Nuala, he also fosters dogs from a local rescue organization. Reflecting on his immigrant experience, Kavanagh also issued a call to action to young people in the Irish community in Chicago, a community that now includes his first grandchild, born in October.

"The Irish community in Chicago is strong and vibrant and very proud of their heritage. The Irish have always contributed to the communities they live in and I hope that continues in the future. I would like to see the younger generation getting more involved in the different Irish based organizations and taking over leadership roles and continuing the great tradition of building better communities through generosity and kindness."

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Advertisement for Robert J. Sheehy & Sons Funeral Home, including contact information and services offered.

Advertisement for Gaelic Imports, featuring fresh baked goods, traditional Irish breakfast, and contact information.

Advertisement for Law Offices of Thomas W. Lynch, P.C., providing debt relief services.



Large advertisement for 'Siamsa na nGael' event at Old St. Patrick's Church, featuring Celtic arts, song, and dance.

Advertisement for Irish Times pub, highlighting outdoor patios and special events.

Advertisement for Good Morning Ireland Radio, listing sponsors and contact information.

Advertisement for streaming live radio from Old St. Patrick's Church, featuring performances by the choir and dancers.

Gallagher's Advice
By Caroleann Gallagher

Questions Before Buying Auto Insurance in Chicago

When buying auto insurance in Chicago, you should ask a few questions before signing on the dotted line. Understanding the answers to these questions can assist you in deciding which policy is right for you. Additionally, having this knowledge can be invaluable if you are involved in an accident and need to file a personal injury claim. I

Why Is Having the Right Type of Auto Insurance in Chicago Important?

Like many states in the U.S., Illinois requires all vehicle owners to have a minimum amount of auto insurance coverage. The state-mandated minimums are: Bodily Injury Liability: \$25,000 per person, \$50,000 per accident; Property Damage Liability: \$20,000 per crash. Illinois has enacted these insurance

minimums to protect individuals involved in an accident, but they are all too often inadequate to cover a Chicago resident's medical costs, lost wages, and property damage, depending on the severity of the crash.

For example, suppose you are in an accident that results in the death of another person. In that case, the \$25,000 limit will not be sufficient to cover all of the damages. If the situation were reversed and you were in an accident that took your life, that person's minimum requirements would likely not cover your family's expenses. In this case, it is crucial to understand your Illinois insurance policy and what it covers.

How Does Liability for Auto Accidents Work in Chicago?

A person's right to recover compensation after suffering injuries in a personal injury accident like a car crash or truck collision is protected under Illinois tort law. These actions allow a car accident victim to sue the motorist responsible for causing a crash that resulted in their injuries. If you can prove that the other driver was at fault for your crash, you may be eligible to recover the following losses stemming from your accident:

- Lost wages (past and future reasonably expected to be incurred)
- Medical bills (past and future reasonably expected to be incurred)
- Pain and suffering (past and future)
- Loss of a normal life
- Future costs (if any - including medical bills reasonably expected to be incurred)

While where you reside affects your car insurance rates, premiums are also influenced by age, gender, marital status, and driving record. Therefore, identifying an insurance policy that covers you in the event of the unknown can be challenging. However, you can start by asking these common questions:

1. What Auto Insurance Discounts Am I Entitled to for This Policy?

Going above and beyond safe-driver discounts, many car insurance companies offer additional savings called "credits." These can come in the form of having certain safety features installed in your car, like alarms, air bags, or anti-theft devices. Other potential discounts include; Good student discounts, master's or doctorate degree discounts, Membership in an organization, like the American Automobile Association (AAA)

2. Does My Policy Include Uninsured or Underinsured Motorists Coverage?

Uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage is optional here in Illinois; however, you may not want to waive that coverage on your policy. This type of insurance protects you if you are in an accident with a driver who does not have insurance or does not have enough insurance to cover the damages to your vehicle or the injuries, they caused you to suffer.

Also, our state enforces very low

minimums for bodily injury coverage. Underinsured motorist coverage might provide you with the necessary compensation to cover the remainder of your bills if they exceed the at-fault motorist's policy limits.

3. If My Car Gets Toted, How Much Will My Insurance Pay To Cover The Loss?

The claims check to cover your totaled car could surprise you if you don't address this when you buy your insurance policy. In the case of a total loss, some insurance companies pay out "actual cash value," while others pay out an "agreed upon value." If your policy has an "agreed upon value," the total loss value of your car will not depreciate over time. Typically, insurance companies use the NADA Guide to determine a vehicle's actual cash value; however, if you have this type of agreement with your insurer, they will pay out the total amount specified in the contract.

4. Do I Have Enough Coverage for Comprehensive and Collision Claims?

Liability insurance will pay for bodily injury and property damage to the other driver if you are at fault for the Chicago crash. However, those policy limits don't cover repairing or replacing your car. That is why it's essential to have collision and comprehensive coverage on your Illinois vehicle. Collision insurance covers damage to your car from an accident with another vehicle or object. Comprehensive insurance protects you from non-collision-related damages, such as theft, fire, or glass breakage. The best way to avoid an unpleasant claims experience is to protect the value of your automobile.

What Is a Medical Payments Coverage?

It may benefit you to purchase additional coverage from your insurer. One such coverage, called medical payments or "MedPay," covers health care expenses for you and your passengers after an accident, regardless of who is at fault. These additional insurance options should give you peace of mind.

Accidents happen every day, and many people suffer injuries. If you're injured in an accident, you may feel overwhelmed and unsure what to do next. My colleagues and I have the experience to handle whatever situation comes your way - and all consultations are free so don't hesitate to call if you have a question.

**Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney now licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of Personal Injury Law, Medical Malpractice, Construction accidents, Nursing Home Abuse & Neglect, Transportation accidents and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at cgallagher@cgttrial.com or at (312) 782-7482.*

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We've Always Been Green!
By Anne Marie McIntyre



Celebrating Irish Women

During the month of March, Chicago erupts with countless celebrations of Irish culture and heritage. Parades held around the state, festivities abound at the Irish Heritage Center and Gaelic Park and traditional Irish tunes will be playing 'round the clock at local pubs. Not to mention, the annual dying of the Chicago River symbolizing our Irish pride right in the heart of the city.

March is also Women's History Month, observed annually in the United States since 1987, recognizing women's contributions to history, culture and society. This year the theme is "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion" highlighting women who understand the need to eliminate bias and discrimination from individuals' lives and institutions. A few notable events were held recently in Chicago that intertwine Irish heritage with Irish Women who embody this sentiment.

Nollaig na mBan, or Women's Christmas, held in January, honors the role of Irish women as leaders in families and communities. The Irish American Partnership revitalized the ancient tradition of Nollaig na mBan, by celebrating the contributions of strong Irish women and reclaiming the day as an opportunity to acknowledge female leadership and its lasting influence locally and throughout world.

The Partnership held a Nollaig na mBan Women's Leadership Celebration, in Chicago. Editor-In-Chief of Glamour and Partnership Ambassador Samantha Barry conducted an interview with the first female President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, who is also the former United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights, and founding member and current Chairperson of The Elders. The conversation between these renowned Irish women left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege to attend.

A unique collaboration that brings together civic engagement and artistic expression, is that of Bridget Gainer and Amanda Williams, who embarked on a tulip planting initiative that goes beyond beautification to address a historical grievance: redlining. Gainer, known for her advocacy and policy work, and Williams, celebrated for her insightful art that often explores themes of race and urban space, joined forces to plant tulips in areas historically affected by redlining.

This initiative serves as both a symbolic and practical act of resistance against the systemic discrimination that redlining represents, turning neglected

and changemakers.

On the eve of St Brigid's Feast Day (February 1) the University of Chicago International House, hosted another cornerstone event celebrating women and Irish heritage. Consul General Kevin Byrne moderated an evening of conversation around the arts including poetry readings and policy discussion with Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer, Irish poet Julie Morrissy and Chicago poet and creative



Irish poet Julie Morrissy

writer Rachel Galvin, The event, "The Art of the Possible: The Role of the Arts in Policy Making," highlighted the unique intersection between the arts and policy, showcasing how creative expressions can be a powerful vehicle for political and social change.

Julie Morrissy's poetry often delves into the nuanced layers of history and memory, bringing to light the stories that have been obscured or altered by time. One striking example is her exploration of the airbrushing of Elizabeth O'Farrell legs and boots from the iconic photograph of the 1916 Easter Rising Surrender in Ireland. Morrissy's work poignantly addresses this act of erasure, highlighting how O'Farrell's pivotal role in delivering the surrender message to Brigadier General Lowe alongside Patrick Pearse has been visually minimized in historical narratives. Through her poetic lens, Morrissy not only commemorates O'Farrell's contribution but also critiques the broader practice of sidelining women's roles in significant historical moments, urging a reevaluation of how history is recorded and remembered.

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spaces into areas of growth and beauty. Through the simple yet profound act of planting tulips, they are advocating for change, bringing attention to the enduring impacts of redlining on communities, and fostering a dialogue about equity, renewal, and the importance of community-led transformation. The project not only beautifies neighborhoods but also plants seeds of awareness and action against an unjust system, showcasing the power of collaboration of art and policy in tackling societal issues.

These events, set against the backdrop of Chicago's vibrant Irish-American community, not only celebrate the past but also pave the way for future generations of Irish women to continue making significant impacts in the world through art, policy, politics, and social activism. They remind us of the power of heritage, the importance of female leadership, and the transformative role of the creative arts in societal development.

It is clear that the contributions of Irish women to the fabric of global society are immeasurable. From the historical legend of St. Brigid to the trailblazing efforts of Elizabeth O'Farrell and Mary Robinson, Irish women have, and continue to, change the world through their leadership, creativity, and unwavering commitment to making a difference. It is my hope that the legacy of these women, our Irish mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers will be a beacon of hope and a call

to action for all who believe in the power of change and the importance of preserving cultural heritage as a source of inspiration and guidance for generations to come.

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Catherine O'Connell	21+ years	Larkin Brothers	19+ years	Sheila's Carpet Clean	4+ years
Celtica Gifts	9+ years	Late Night Catechism	25 years	St Patrick's Parade	8+ years
Cntrl MetalRecycling	4+ years	Law - Thomas Lynch	5 years	Tourism Ireland	27years
Chicalba Bagpiping	18 years	Lizzie McNeil's	18+ years	Trinity Irish Dance	28+ years
Clancy's Pizza Pub	10 years	Marquette Bank	21 years	Unforgettable Edibles	28 years
Considine, Mary Ellen	28 years	Martin Healy Law	25 years	Vaughan's Rest/Pub	23+ years
Coogan Gallagher	3 years	McEntee Law	5+ years	West Suburban Irish	22+ years
Corrigan Financial	27+ years	McGonigal's Pub/Rest	13 years	Whiskey Mick Music	2+ years
Fiddler's Hearth	13+ years	McNulty Dance	29 years	Winston Sausage	28 years
Flood Brothers	10+ years	Mel Dermody Hearing	6 years	Wolfhound Bar/Kitchen	2 years
First National Bank	3+ years	Mickey Finn's	10 years		
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Gaelic Imports	26+ years	Milwaukee Irish Fest	28 years		
Gaelic Park	27+ years	Mystic Rogue	3 years		
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Irish Fellowship Club Kicks Off St. Patrick's Day Celebration With Dinner at the Hilton

The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago will host its annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Friday, March 15 at the Hilton Chicago. Co-chairs Devon Bruce of Power Rogers LLP and Pat Clair have planned an outstanding event to kick off St. Patrick's Day Weekend in Chicago. Says Devon Bruce, "IFC members and guests will be 'wearing the green' and celebrating our heritage with all proceeds benefitting the Irish Fellowship Club Education and Cultural Foundation, providing important support to Catholic high schools and Irish cultural organizations."



Co-chair Devon Bruce

This year is a big year for the Irish Fellowship Club. Club President Jim Coyne, Business Manager of Plumbers Local 130 UA is also the General Chairman of the St. Patrick's Day Parade which has been organizing the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade for 68 years. "The Irish Fellowship Club is excited to honor this year's Parade Grand Marshal, our former IFC Chairman, Peter O'Brien and the Parade's Guest of Honor, The Kennedy Forum and Hon. Patrick Kennedy. Both are key leaders in the area of mental health and are outstanding representatives of the Parade theme of "Mental Health is Essential".

It will be a spectacular dinner and kick-off for the Parade Weekend. I invite everyone out to watch the dyeing of the River and to march in the Parade on Saturday, March 16."

The Dinner will begin with cocktails at 6pm and Irish Music with Larry Nugent. As tradition, the Shannon Rovers will escort head table guests into the ballroom at 7:30pm for dinner. After dinner, guests will be entertained with a performance by the O'Hara School of Irish Dance and dancing to the Rich Daniels Orchestra.

Co-chair Pat Clair comments, "Tickets for the dinner are \$225 or tables of 10 for \$2250. We thank all of our sponsors for their support in making this a great event. It's not too late to buy tickets or provide sponsorships. Please visit our website (www.irishfellowshipclub.com) or email is at irishfellowship@gmail.com."



Co-chair Patrick Clair

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Always a highlight of St. Patrick's Day Weekend, the Parade will step off at Balbo and Columbus at 12:15pm on Saturday, March 16. The Irish Fellowship Club will have a float and all members and guests are invited to join us. Thanks to Plumbers Local 130 UA and General Manager of the Parade, Jim Coyne, for their leadership of the Parade.

SAVE THE DATE:

IFC GOLF OUTING JULY 15

The Irish Fellowship Club Golf Outing will be on July 15 at beautiful Ridgemoor Country Club, 6601 W Gunnison St, Harwood Heights, IL 60706. Please plan to join us for a wonderful day of fun and fellowship.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB OF CHICAGO at www.irishfellowshipclub.com/contact-8 OR FILL OUT THE FORM TO YOUR RIGHT!



IFC Chairman Bob Flood and past Chairman John Wrenn celebrate with 2024 Grand Marshal Peter O'Brien and IFC President Jim Coyne."



Come march with the Irish Fellowship Club on Saturday, March 16th



Irish Consul General Kevin Byrne, Patrick O'Donovan, Irish Minister of Public Works, and John Wrenn

Join the Irish Fellowship Club! New Member Application form with fields for name, address, contact info, and membership details.



What Devolved Government Returning to Northern Ireland Means for Irish Reunification

Honestly, I didn't think February 3rd, 2024 would ever come. That the world would see a member of Sinn Fein be appointed First Minister of the Northern Ireland Assembly seemed impossible all but a month ago. Yet here we are-Michelle O'Neill has made history.

The power-sharing situation in Stormont, which was first framed in 1998's Good Friday Agreement, nearly crumbled as Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) stalwarts stymied Westminster's every attempt to satisfy their pro-Brexit, anti-trade restriction desires. Nearly two years after Sinn Fein won the largest number of seats in the 2022 Assembly election, we finally have a pro-reunification politician in the First Minister's chair.

The whole saga has been a headache for the several UK Prime Ministers that have come and gone since that election (Boris Johnson, Liz Truss, and Rishi Sunak for those keeping track at home), but Sunak has made Northern Ireland a priority for his government since he took office. He thought he had tied up an easy political win for his administration after unveiling the Windsor Framework amendment to the DUP-despised Northern Ireland Protocol in March 2023. Yet it took nearly a year of persistent begging, pleading, shouting, and cajoling to finally get the DUP to relent and return to Stormont.

This, of course, was because the DUP hated the idea of giving Sinn Fein the First Minister seat. After all, 2022 was the first time since the Good Friday Agreement was ratified that a nationalist party had won a plurality of seats in the

Assembly. Allowing Sinn Fein to waltz into Stormont and seize the title of First Minister would have amounted to an acknowledgment of the shifting attitudes in the North towards reunification.

But what does Michelle O'Neill's premiership over the Northern Ireland Assembly mean for the broader cause of Irish reunification? Well, the First Minister has already promised that there will be a referendum on reunification before 2030 (an idea that the DUP has already pushed back against), and anecdotally it seems that former unionists are reconsidering their politics in the wake of Brexit.

As the United Kingdom's GDP stagnates, the Republic of Ireland's has continued to grow steadily-in fact, the Republic's per capita GDP is now greater than the UK's. And despite the relaxing of trade restrictions in Northern Ireland, the negative economic impact of Brexit on the Northern Irish is very real-and as James Carville once so gracefully alluded to, the economy is the number one issue for everyday voters, both in the US and abroad.

I truly do believe that the tides have begun to turn. As Brexit's impact continues to ripple through the social, political, and everyday lives of people living in Northern Ireland, I believe that Sinn Fein will continue to unite everyday people behind its message of prosperity, peace, and good will. And while I don't believe that reunification will happen tomorrow, or maybe even 10 years from now, I do believe that it will happen. I immensely look forward to that day.

Oil Lamp Theater Presents the Sham RockStars

March 9, 2024 @ 7:00pm A "SPEAK EASY NIGHTS" EVENT* Standup Comedy Night In Partnership with The Laughing Academy

Join us for a night of Irish joke-sliding with a special headliner born in the heart of Ireland, Adam Burke. Voted Best Standup by The Chicago Reader, Burke has graced comedy festivals like Bridgetown and Just for Laughs, and opened for renowned comedians including John Mulaney and Aziz Ansari. Joining him is the hilarious Peter-john

Byrnes, known for his unique voice and performances at Just For Laughs Chicago and the Limestone Comedy Festival. Don't miss this evening of laughter and entertainment! Pricing: \$25 + fees, Run time: ~70 minutes, Recommended Ages: 21+ (strong language)



Irish & Celtic Music Mondays on WDCB! The Thistle & Shamrock with Fiona Ritchie Ireland Tonight with Sharon Iberite

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Ceili Dancing at Gaelic Park and the Irish American Heritage Center

In Irish, the word "ceili" is pronounced the same way my niece spells her name, Kaylee! Spelling it might be tricky if you hear it before you see the spelling, but since it's "I before E, except after C" then you're good here, too. C-E-I-L-I

Irish ceili dancing is the traditional group dancing native to Ireland, first taught by tradition and then, in 1939, put into writing by the Irish dancing commission. The dances we teach are those generations-old dances handed down through the years, as well as newly developed original choreographies.

Ceili dances come in many forms, couples, threesomes and even 4 couple sets. Dances are in lines, squares, and circles that are danced to steps which are similar to those used in modern step dancing.

You can learn on Monday nights at 7:30pm at Gaelic Park with instructors Terry Carmody 708-738-3003 and Carol Sweeney 773-233-4196, and Tuesday nights at 7pm with Mary Carmody 708-424-3033, and Donna Killen 773-233-4490. 6119 W 147th St., Oak Forest, IL 60452

The Heritage Center offers lessons on Tuesdays in room 111 from 7:30 to 9pm, and Ceili dances on Fridays. Info at fon.setdance@gmail.com

Subscription information for Irish American News (IAN) including pricing, delivery options, and contact details.



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Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler



This month I will delve into Co. Donegal. A beautiful, just beautiful part of the country. My dear brother-in-law Colum was from Co. Donegal, he's gone to God. A very intelligent, funny and patient man. He was married to my younger sister Ann; they have five talented children. Donegal's nickname is the forgotten county it received that nickname by its own politicians. Unfortunately, how

it can be ignored by the government in times of crisis. I will never forget Donegal it is an exquisite place the scenery is breathtaking, I have met many lovely people that grew up in Donegal & speak fondly of their villages today. In China you've heard different dynasties for ex the Han Dynasty or Ming dynasty Ireland also had a few dynasty families. A notable one in Donegal was the O'Donnell

dynasty, one of the richest and most powerful native ruling families. The O'Neil's in Co. Tyrone were also a Dynasty. Donegal is the most northern county in Ireland. It is in the province of Ulster.

Donegal was deeply affected by the partition of Ireland in the 1920's it was connected financially to Derry, and it lost that connection after the partition. Donegal also negatively affected by the "Troubles" in Northern Ireland. The county witnessed many bombings and assassinations. I don't like to detail too much of the negative. However, my daughter doesn't mind facing the hardship I suppose someone has to cover that as well.



Donegal is the most mountainous county in Ulster, it's extraordinary. It has the Derryveagh Mt. and the Blue Stack Mt. The Slieve League cliffs are among the highest cliffs in Europe. Donegal has the Islands Arranmore (500 pop) and Tory Island (Pop

140) like Connemara off the coast of Galway.

Donegal was named National Geographic's "Coolest place on the planet" in 2017. Donegal is on the path of the "Wild Atlantic Way". It is a tourism trail on the West coast of Ireland.

Donegal has a large Gaeltacht area that includes Gweedore, The Rosses and Cloughaneely and the Island of Arranmore, Tory and Inishbofin. There is a festival in Donegal every year called Earagail arts fest, it's a bi-lingual multi-disciplinary Summer fest.

A few famous people from Donegal include Enya, Daniel O'Donnell (Our Dynasty surname), and St. Columba. Enya is a singer/composer, she has sung in several languages, Irish, Latin, French, English even Japanese. Daniel O'Donnell is a singer, TV presenter and philanthropist. St. Columba was an Abbott and missionary he founded shrines and monasteries in Scotland. His feast day is June 9th.

I turned 80 this past February 1. (St. Bridget's Day) I would like to end with some quotes on the topic of age.

"It matters not how long we live but how..." Philip Bailey
"We are always the same age inside" Gertrude Stein
"The spirit never ages. It stays forever

young." Lailah Akita
"To keep the heart unwrinkled, to be hopeful, kindly, cheerful, reverent that is to triumph over old age" Tom Aldrich
"Aging is an extraordinary process where you become the person you always should have been" David Bowie
"Youth is the gift of nature, but age is a work of art"

"Age is a matter of mind, if you don't mind it doesn't matter" M. Twain
"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream" C.S.Lewis
"In the end it's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years" Abe Lincoln
If you have any questions, please call (708) 425-7021

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Gatherings for Seniors

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

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.

<p>The Shamrock Seniors</p> <p>Senior gatherings at the <i>Irish American Heritage Center</i></p> <p>Wednesday 6th March 10 a.m. — 12 p.m.</p> <p>Monthly Musical Gathering</p> <p>Join us for another morning filled with the beautiful sounds of live Irish music! This month we'll be joined by the talented Ray Gavin. As always you can expect complementary refreshments and great craic!</p>	<p>The Golden Gaelics</p> <p>Senior gatherings at <i>Chicago Gaelic Park</i></p> <p>Wednesday 13th March</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day Celebration Trip To The Irish American Heritage Center!</p> <p>A free bus leaves from Gaelic Park at 9.45 a.m. and returns at approx. 3pm!</p> <p>See below for more details about the event and how to reserve a seat!</p>
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St. Patrick's Day Celebration!

Mass, Live Music and Refreshments

Irish American Heritage Centre
 Wednesday 13th March
 Mass at 11.30 a.m. followed by refreshments and live music from Joe McShane.

Bus from Gaelic Park!

For questions or to book your seat, call **Kathleen** on 773-282-8445.

Saturday Socials
 at the *Irish American Heritage Center*

Let's get together!

The kettle is on between 11am — 1pm

Saturday, 9th March
 Saturday, 6th April
 Saturday, 11th May

No plan, just a time to connect!

U.S. CITIZENSHIP FEES INCREASING!

On April 1st USCIS is raising U.S. citizenship filing fees. Irish Community Services can help you to apply for citizenship before the fee increase takes effect.

Scan the QR code or contact **Hernan**
 773-282-8445 hprieto@irishchicago.org

WINTER WELLNESS

Let's get through *Chicago* winter together!

All adult community members are invited to the *Irish American Heritage Center* for these FREE activities that support your wellbeing. Free childcare is offered for each event.

Stay for light snacks and socializing after!

Expressive Art
 Saturday, March 2
 10-11:30am

Registration Required

Volunteer Opportunities for Seniors

Support your community by helping out at *Irish Community Services*.

Opportunities include:

- Community Garden
- Intergenerational Holiday Celebrations

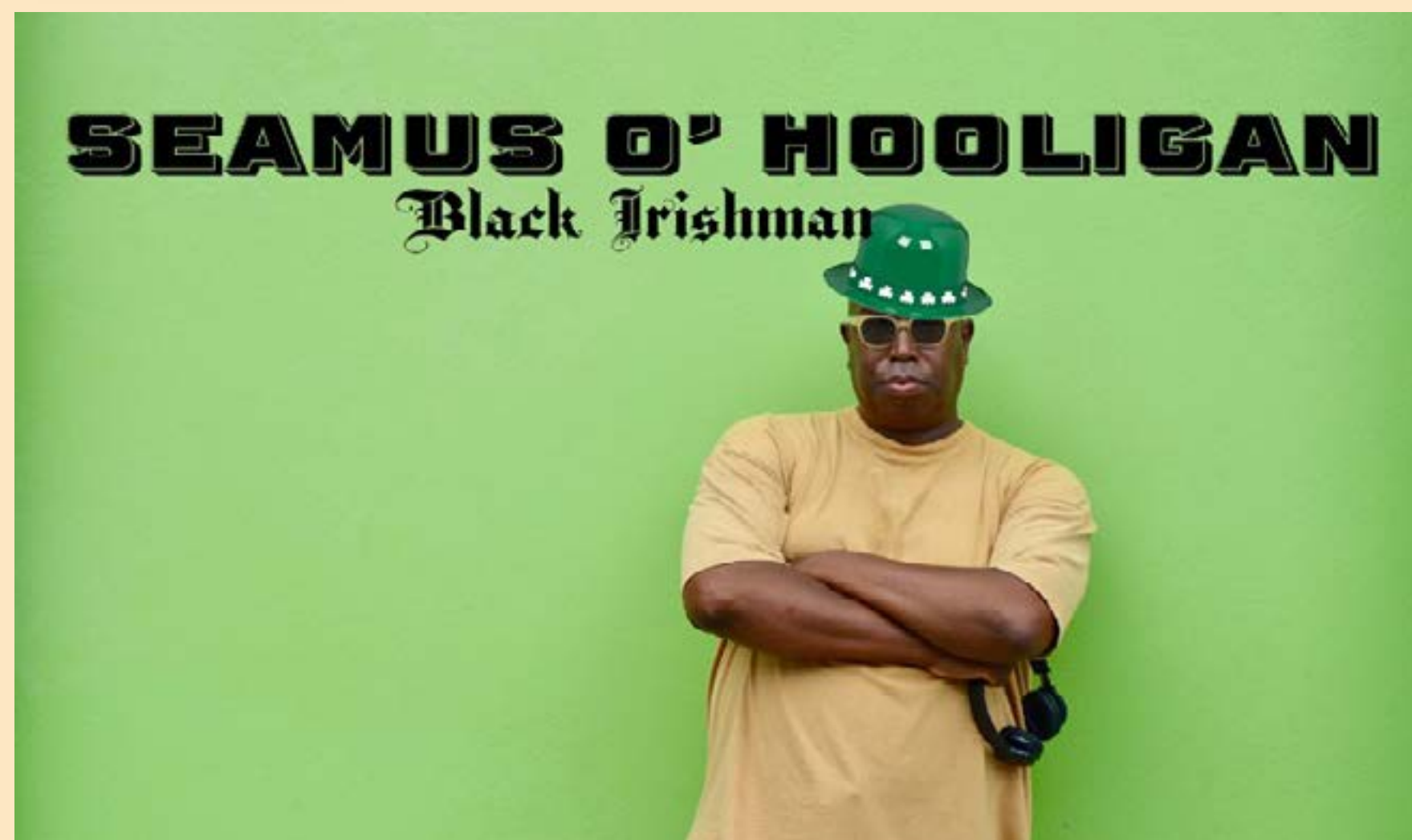
Call 773-282-8445 and speak with **Kathleen**.



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Chicagoans Among 'the Forgotten Irish' - the Redlegs of Barbados

By John Wilmes
The Redlegs of Barbados, numbering approximately 400, are likely the world's smallest remaining Irish diaspora community.

Tens of thousands of Irish were shipped to Barbados - a Caribbean island only 14 miles wide - in the 17th century and put to work in deplorable conditions on sugar plantations.

These men, women and children were victims of English policy, led by Oliver Cromwell and others, to subjugate the native Irish and solidify complete control of Ireland. The famous phrase "To Hell or Barbados" signified the "choice" given to many caught in the grip of a violent English occupation; death in Ireland or a brutal life of toil in the sweltering tropical heat of Barbados.

Early in its colonization, the tiny island of Barbados generated 60% of the world's sugar - producing incredible wealth for English planters. The vast profits were built on the backs of those shipped over from Ireland and, subsequently, African slaves.

Like Australia when it served as a British prison colony, the very word "Barbados" was once synonymous with terror. To be "Barbadoed" meant to be sent to the island against one's will - either by the authorities or by private kidnapers and traffickers - and forced to work the sugar fields where disease and death were everywhere.

No one knows exactly when the term "Redleg" was coined for the Irish shipped to Barbados, but it refers to the effect of severe sunburn on their pale skin. The historic record shows they were despised by the English planters who formed the island's political and economic elite.

Over the centuries, emigration and high mortality rates from dreadful conditions steadily eroded the number of Redleg descendants remaining in Barbados. Today, most live in the underdeveloped, rocky and hilly east coast - opposite the resort-dense west, where most tourists go. Families work to overcome the legacy of poverty - long exacerbated by the prevalence of blood diseases like hemophilia, anemia and diabetes.

Popular Irish photojournalist Sheena Jolley visited with Redleg families to help share their stories in 2000. She returned in 2008 and 2015, taking photos that showed perseverance in the face of hardship. Her work

generated media coverage of this unique community largely forgotten to the world.

Jolley's photography introduced viewers to 'forgotten Irish' in Barbados including the Downie, Yearwood, and Farnum families. She noted prophetically that, "greater opportunities and encouragement and better education, combined with an optimistic hope for a better future, could see them experience a very different future."

Jolley's work caught the attention of Chicagoan Sean Tenner, a political consultant who also owns a home in the historic Falls Road neighborhood of Belfast, Northern Ireland. Sean and his wife Shiwali, a business advisor and corporate transformation specialist, invited Jolley and her partner Thomas



Devine to deliver presentations at iBAM!, the annual Irish Books Arts and Music festival at the Irish American Heritage Center, in 2022.

Sean, Shiwali, Sheena and Thomas went to Barbados in December of 2023.

They worked with the owners of Palm Mart, a welcoming small grocery store near the Eastern coast of the island, to purchase and assemble holiday baskets of popular local foods. They brought the baskets, and good holiday cheer, to families that Jolley had met and photographed on her previous visits. They were joined by local musicians who sang to senior citizen residents.

"We saw real, positive change," Jolley noted. "There was optimism for the future and a real sense that things would be better for the next generation."

"It was great to meet many diverse and multi-generational families, and see the energy of the young people in the community," said Tenner, who also brought and distributed chocolates from North Buena Deli in Chicago's Uptown community



which he represents as 46th Ward Committeeperson.

The group is interested in learning more about food sustainability efforts in Barbados, which declared formal and complete independence from Britain in 2021. The island nation's Prime Minister Mia Mottley is an increasingly recognized global leader championing the interest of developing countries struggling with debt burdens and threats from climate change.

"We were inspired by people we met throughout the island," said Tenner. "I feel like Barbados' best days lie ahead."

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