

Roaming Hoolie Party Pub *page 4*

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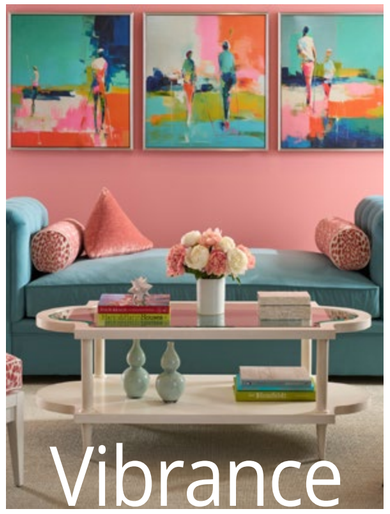
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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick

Heads as Empty as a Ball

The phrase 'bread and circuses' comes from the Roman poet, Juvenal. In his Satires (Satire X, written around AD 100), Juvenal wrote: 'The people, who once bestowed military command, high office, legions, and everything else, now … hope for just two things: bread and circuses'. Juvenal was satirising the Roman populace for giving up political engagement and civic responsibility in exchange for grub and entertainment (chariot races, gladiatorial games and the like). Today, the phrase is used metaphorically to describe governments or political leaders who maintain public support by providing material comforts and entertainment while distracting citizens from more serious political, economic, or social issues. It is populism in a nutshell. We no longer unleash lions to maul gladiators, but we do have mixed martial arts cage fighting. And we have the World Cup, a theatre in which contemporary political power plays out in a globalised and commercialised way that is every bit as gaudy as anything the Romans could muster.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino's relationship with Donald Trump dates to the first Trump presidency. In 2018, after FIFA announced that the 2026 World Cup would be hosted by the US, Mexico and Canada, Infantino made a beeline for the Oval Office, and he has brightened up the place ever since with his presence. Infantino's servility towards his political master is limitless. (It would be an oversight not to add that his name translates as 'little child'). Always alert to Trump's needs, when the Norwegian Nobel Committee cruelly passed over Trump in 2025, Infantino had FIFA magic up an alternative Peace Prize to assure Trump that he belongs in the pantheon of peacemakers.

Trump's outlandish self-conception and desperate need for the physical theatre of power have rubbed off on his Swiss admirer, as a motorcade incident in Vancouver revealed. Ahead of FIFA's April 2026 Congress, officials sought a police escort that would have given the FIFA president the treatment reserved for heads of state: traffic stopped, red lights ignored, streets cleared. Vancouver's police rejected the request - FIFA executives did not qualify. The episode was deliciously revealing: in the Trump era, Infantino has grown accustomed to the trappings of sovereign grandeur, and here the fantasy of power ran headlong into the stubborn fact that Infantino is just the head of a football organisation.

Infantino notched up many air miles in the US attempting to broker soccer to an audience more enamoured of American sports. Wielding an imaginative prop (you have guessed it - a soccer ball), his speech about soccer's universality made Tom Cruise's speech at the World Cup Final sound like an Aristotelian treatise.

All of this was prelude to the prolonged and denatured travesty that was the 23rd edition of the World Cup. Ticket prices put live matches well beyond the reach of many ordinary supporters, with official prices running into thousands of dollars, while the tournament's expansion to 48 teams and 104 matches produced a bloated competition stretched across three vast countries. Heat was severe. Yet the mandatory 'hydration breaks' supposedly designed for players' welfare were blatantly designed for advertising opportunities. Iranian players who played in the United States were forbidden from staying overnight in the USA and had to return to their base in Tijuana, Mexico – a unique form of hospitality from a 'host' country. No surprises then when Iran thought it had scored a dramatic stoppage-time winner against Egypt through Shoja Khalilzadeh, only for the VAR technical system to rule the goal offside, thus eliminating Iran at the group stage. Infantino naturally responded to these objective travesties by accusing his critics of being 'consumed by hate'.

One injustice that was symbolic of the whole circus occurred on July 6, and it is something that should give supporters of any sport serious pause for thought. Donald Trump acknowledged that he telephoned Infantino to ask him to revise the decision about the suspension resulting from the red card shown to American player Folarin Balogun, which knocked Balogun out for the following game. Plaintive as ever, Trump maintained that 'all I did was ask for a review because I didn't think it was a foul…I didn't tell him what to do. I can't tell him what to do'. Trump could call the Secretary of State of Georgia, Brad Raffensperger, on January 2, 2021, to 'find 11,780 votes', but he could not possibly call Infantino to reverse a red card suspension. Sure enough, FIFA degraded itself (which took some doing) and suspended the one-match ban, thereby institutionalising politically directed cheating. As George Orwell argued: 'sport has nothing to do with fair play. It is bound up with hatred, jealousy, boastfulness, disregard of all rules and sadistic pleasure in witnessing violence'.

The rot set in during the qualifying matches for the World Cup. Cristiano Ronaldo had a 3-match suspension for violent conduct reduced in practice to one served match, which was an extraordinary use of FIFA's disciplinary discretion. That occurred immediately after Ronaldo was received by Trump in the Oval Office. The Ronaldo incident enabled apologists to normalise the red card decision. Brett Bruen, a former US State Department official, argued: 'If people accept that FIFA can use discretion in Ronaldo's case, they cannot suddenly claim that any later suspension adjustment is automatically evidence of corruption'. Aside from the fact that many did not accept it, Bruen's argument is like declaring that the recurrence of a deadly disease for a second time is evidence that the body should get used to it. The episode is a metaphor for the disastrous state of global politics in our time.

Until July 6, the rationale for boycotting the September 2026 Irish Open at the Trump International Golf Links Ireland in Doonbeg, County Clare, was based on dissent from Trump and all he stands for - more than sufficient reason to refuse to go anywhere near his golf course and hotel. His degradation of soccer provides genuine supporters of sport with a second reason to reject his involvement in their sport. Yet, like calls to boycott the World Cup, talk of boycotting the Irish Open will go nowhere.

Absent principled protest, we might as well have some fun with the ways in which a Trump-directed Irish Open could proceed. The obvious first step is a widening of holes for American players. Non-Americans should tee off from bunkers. Greenland's golfers will presumably have to sleep in England and cross the Irish Sea for their rounds. A key difference between golf and soccer is that Trump himself can play golf. So, the most blatant cheat should be reserved for the man himself. After all, Doonbeg is his, and it is only right that he should decide what happens there. Trump could shake a leg and participate, starting every hole on the green. The winner would be a foregone conclusion. He could have a 'Now watch this drive' moment before the cameras too - George W. Bush's comment before a golf swing, after condemning hundreds of thousands of human beings to slaughter.

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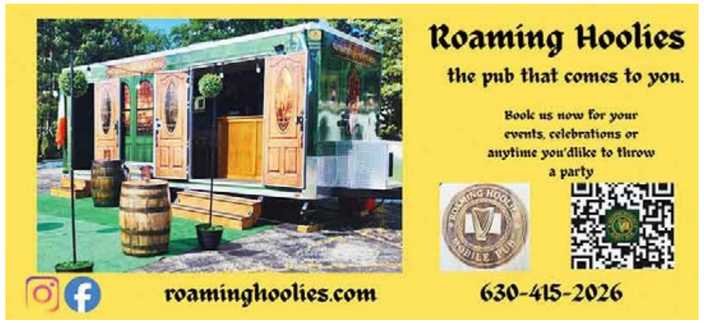
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Equality Under the Law:

The 14th Amendment

Last month, we learned about the relentless drive of Radical Republicans to abolish slavery in the post-Civil War era. Despite opposition, the Thirteenth Amendment easily passed Congress and was subsequently ratified by the requisite number of states. However, the Radical Republicans in control of Congress knew that such a measure would only do away with the legal institution of slavery, and do nothing to address the second or third-class citizen status of freed slaves.

The Fourteenth Amendment was arguably the most ambitious (and controversial) of the three so-called "Reconstruction Amendments" that were ratified in postbellum America. Its ramifications, even by modern standards, are so significant that one could dedicate their entire life to studying them. For the purposes of this Amendment, I will focus mainly on the first Section of the Amendment. It reads:

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

The first part of this Amendment has come up a great deal recently, given its implications for determining citizenship status. The Supreme Court, in Trump v. Barbara (2026), ruled that children born in the United States, even to parents unlawfully or temporarily present, are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and thus must be granted citizenship under the terms of the Fourteenth Amendment.

But, at the time of the amendment's passage, the real controversy stemmed from that bit about states not making laws to infringe on the "privileges and immunities" of American citizens. Up to this point in American history, the federal government had largely stayed out of state-level governance. There was some ambiguity about how the judiciary would enforce this portion of the Amendment, that is until the very-well-know-to-law-students Slaughter-House Cases (1873). In these cases, the Supreme Court interpreted the Privileges and Immunities Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment as applying only to those rights associated with United States citizenship, not state citizenship. In this case, the Court allowed for the state of Louisiana to grant a state-sanctioned monopoly to a state-run slaughterhouse corporation.

This meant that the rights granted to citizens by the Constitution in federal case law would not be extended to the people of the States. The protections granted by Bill of Rights have since been extended to all American citizens, but at the time this edict effectively kneecapped the efforts of Congress to extend civil rights protections to African-Americans living in the former Confederacy.

The Due Process Clause of Section One explicitly applied the due process protections of the Fifth Amendment to the states. This gave the Supreme Court an opening to weigh in on a variety of social issues. In so doing, the Court established a new right, the right to privacy. This new right served as the basis for challenging a variety of laws, including a Connecticut law banning contraception for married couples (Griswold v. Connecticut [1965]), laws outlawing abortion for women (Roe v. Wade [1973]), and laws prohibiting consensual sex between adults (Lawrence v. Texas [2003]).

Today, the legal debate around the meaning and implications of the Fourteenth Amendment almost universally stem from one little clause tagged on at the very end of Section One: No State shall...deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. This little phrase has become known as the Equal Protection Clause, and it is behind almost all of the modern high-profile cases that come before the Supreme Court.

The Equal Protection Clause serves as a basis for which Brown v. Board of Education (1954), Loving v. Virginia (1967), and Obergefell v. Hodges (2015) were decided. These cases ended legalized racial segregation, outlawed bans on interracial marriage, and legalized same-sex marriage nationwide, respectively. More controversially, the clause was also referenced in cases such as Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), Bush v. Gore (2000), and United States v. Skrmetti (2025). In these cases, the Supreme Court legalized segregation, stopped the Florida vote recount that could have determined the outcome of the 2000 presidential election, and effectively ended affirmative action, respectively.

I find it fascinating that a piece of writing from the Civil War era could have such reverberating consequences for our republic, over 150 years after it was ratified. Next time, we'll discuss the 15th Amendment and its impact on expanding political rights for freedmen-and its shortcomings. Until then, stay curious!

Our columnists voice their own opinions. If you would like to voice yours, send your response to cliff@irishamericannews.com and most likely we will print it, and /or put it on our online site.

45th Anniversary of 1981 Hunger Strike and the 150th Anniversary of the Voyage of the Catalpa Rescue

Join us at the Irish American Heritage Center October 3rd as we both honor the memory of the 10 Men who sacrificed their lives on hunger strike in the H Blocks of the Maze prison in 1981 and the 150th anniversary of the 'Catalpa Rescue' of 1876.

Evening begins at 6pm sharp at the main entrance of the Center as we honor the Hunger strikers and then move inside from 7pm till close for a talk and presentation on the Catalpa Rescue and a few "Pints" with music by Kieran Byrne.

We are delighted to have as our special guest speaker Dr. Ruán O'Donnell.

Dr. O'Donnell is an Irish Historian and associate professor in the school of History and Geography at the University of Limerick.

He specializes in modern Irish Republicanism and the revolutionary period. He is also a published author.

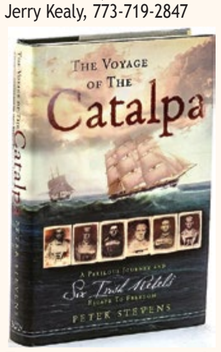
He will give a talk on the "Catalpa Rescue," an amazing but little known episode when a group of six Fenians were rescued/escaped from an Australian penal colony by a "Yankee" Whaling vessel called the Catalpa.

The historically documented facts of the whole adventure would seem far fetched in a Hollywood Script.

Attend this free event for an entertaining and educational evening. For info contact Vincent Casey 708-790-8900, Seamus Murin, 312-593-2129 or Jerry Kealy, 773-719-2847


Ruan O'Donnell


Catalpa Memorial in Rockingham, Perth, Australia, featuring six "Wild Geese."



For an enthralling read, check out The Voyage of the Catalpa, written by Peter Stevens

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Irish Pubs are Going Mobile as the 'Roaming Hoolie Pub' is Launched

By Mike Danahey

Noted suburban Chicago chef Simon Kearney is launching ***Roaming Hoolies*** where instead of you going to the pub, the pub will come to you.

Kearney said the impetus for Roaming Hoolies came to him late last year after seeing Facebook posts about similar operations in Ohio and New Jersey.

"I thought, what a fantastic idea. Plus, there is nothing like it here in Illinois," Kearney said.

While somewhat handy around the house, Kearney said he's not a builder, but he found one in Carol Stream, Advantage Trailer.

"I'm over the moon about what they're doing," Kearney said.

That business is custom making a 20-foot-by-8-foot Roaming Hoolies trailer. Kearney had hoped to have it hit the road for St. Patrick's Day season. Now it is ready to rent for your parties.

From the outside, Roaming Hoolies is like a food truck designed to resemble the exterior of a traditional Irish pub. But whereas a food truck has a kitchen, the Roaming Hoolies mobile has two beer lines and taps, including one set that can be used for nitrogen-based Guinness of course! The mobile holds 15 to 20 people who can sit inside an Irish pub-like setting, Kearney said. Toward that feel, the cozy space also include trinkets, a big TV, and a fireplace.

Kearney also supplies a tent along with beer and whiskey barrels to use as tables outside the setup.



Simon & Kathleen Kearney are ready to rollout their new pub on wheels!

Initially, Kearney plans to run Roaming Hoolies as a "dry hire" pub. That means, while he will supply the mobile pub and bartenders, those who use his services will provide the beverages that they want served at their shindig.

"We can help put together their shopping list, giving them an idea of how much beer and other alcohol they should buy based on the number of guests they expect," Kearney said.

Kearney has already had inquiries from people who are interested in Roaming Hoolies coming to their golf outings and other functions. He also sees his market as pretty much any reason people have for celebrating - town festivals, corporate events, wedding receptions, college graduations, birthday parties and maybe even Irish wakes!

Come March 2027, he hopes to be setting up for St. Patrick's Day parades and other related holiday events. If business goes as well as anticipated, Kearney said he will have a second Roaming Hoolies vehicle available, too.

For now, the plan is to take assignments anywhere within a 50 mile radius or so of St. Charles, where Kearney lives.

Kearney came to the Fox Valley from the outskirts of Belfast in 1998 to be the head chef at McNally's Irish Pub in St. Charles, where he worked for 10 years. He's been involved in several restaurants since, including Whiskey Bend in St. Charles and O'Hare's Pub in Bartlett.

"I thought I would give it a year or two, and I've been here for almost 28 years," Kearney said.

With that much time in the kitchen, Kearney felt he needed some time off, which he began late last year.

Now he's devoting his time to launching Roaming Hoolies. His wife, Kathleen, who works in healthcare, will be lending a hand with the new business as will grown children Maeve and Liam.

Contact at 630-415-2026
roaminghoolies@gmail.com
www.roaminghoolies.com







The Host Gets on the iBAM! Bus! Bill O'Sullivan, President of Chicago Gaelic Park, joins Josephine Craven, President of iBAM!, aboard the iBAM! POP-UP Bus. A big thank you to Bill and Gaelic Park for welcoming our first POP-UP at Gaelic Park Irish Fest! iBAMChicago.com

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Bill O'Sullivan, President of Chicago Gaelic Park, joins Josephine Craven, President of iBAM!, aboard the iBAM! POP-UP Bus. A big thank you to Bill and Gaelic Park for welcoming our first POP-UP at Gaelic Park Irish Fest!

Golfing Fore Green Sept-19 at Billy Caldwell

The Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC), located in a beautifully renovated 86,000 square ft. school on the Northwest side of Chicago, nurtures and strengthens Irish culture and heritage through a wide variety of programming and resources.

"Golfing Fore Green" is an annual event that helps us maintain our building and continue to develop and present more programming for our membership and community. It coincides with the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day celebration at the IAHC, providing additional opportunities for golfers to enjoy the day beyond the 10th hole hospitality room!

Join us as a sponsor and golfer on Saturday September 19th for a wonderful fall day of golf at the Billy Caldwell Golf Course in Chicago to support the Irish American Heritage Center.

What's better than a round of golf in the lovely autumn weather! An information table will be available for sponsors' use on our return to the IAHC for the 10th hole hospitality.

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ADMISSION **$10**



HALFWAY TO ST. PATRICK'S KICKOFF CONCERT – THE BOW TIDES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 | 7:00 PM

Kick off the IAHC's Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Festival with an unforgettable opening-night concert featuring The Bow Tides! This powerhouse Celtic ensemble is led by acclaimed Irish fiddlers Ellery Klein, Jessie Burns, and champion Irish dancer and fiddler Katie Grennan, joined by Grammy-nominated bassist Eric Thorin and multi-instrumentalist Jeff Lindblade. Together, these internationally celebrated musicians bring traditional Irish music to life through rich harmonies, driving fiddle tunes, original compositions, and incredible onstage energy. Start your Halfway Festival weekend with an evening of world-class Celtic music, tradition, and celebration at the IAHC!

TICKETS **$30 IAHC Members | $35 Non-Members**



IRISH COMEDY SHOWCASE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 | 7:00 PM

Get ready to laugh at one of the biggest new additions to this year's Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Festival—the Irish Comedy Showcase! Headlining is County Armagh native and acclaimed Chicago comedian Adam Burke, known from NPR's Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!, The Onion, Second City, and stages across the country. Hosted and produced by Conor Cawley of Don't Tell Comedy Chicago, the show will feature even more comedians to be announced. Grab dinner and drinks at the Fifth Province beforehand and join us for what promises to be one of the funniest nights of the festival!

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Celebrate halfway to our favorite holiday as the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Festival returns to the IAHC! The main festival festivities take place over the weekend, bringing Chicago's Irish community together for live music and entertainment, Irish dance performances, Irish vendors, food and drinks, kids' activities, bounce houses, face painting, outdoor games, cultural programming, and plenty of craic. Sponsorship opportunities are also available for businesses and individuals looking to support the Center's nonprofit mission.

FESTIVAL TICKETS **$25 IAHC Members | $30 Adults | $20 Seniors** (65+) | **FREE for Children** (12 & under)



GOLFING FORE GREEN FUNDRAISING EVENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 | 8:00 AM

Tee off for a great cause at the IAHC's annual Golfing Fore Green outing at Billy Caldwell Golf Course! The day begins with an 8:00 AM shotgun start and includes nine holes of golf, a cart, on-course challenges and contests, and a complimentary lunch at the IAHC following the outing. Best of all, the fun doesn't end on the course—after your round, head over to the IAHC and continue the celebration at our Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Festival. Don't miss one of our favorite annual traditions—a great morning of golf followed by an unforgettable day celebrating Chicago's Irish community!

REGISTRATION **$85 Individual | $300 Foursome**

Irish American Heritage Center

4626 N. Knox Ave.
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Sponsorship Levels

- ☐ **Festival Sponsor — $25,000**
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- ☐ **Gold Sponsor — $2,500**
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- ☐ **Business Friends of the IAHC — $250**
  Support the festival and our mission while joining our growing community of supporters.
- ☐ **Individual Friends of the IAHC — $100**
  Support the festival and our mission while joining our growing community of supporters.
- ☐ **In-Kind Donations**
  Businesses can also support the festival by donating products or services. Examples include food and beverages, raffle prizes, gift cards, volunteer refreshments, and more. In-kind sponsors receive recognition commensurate with the value of their contribution.



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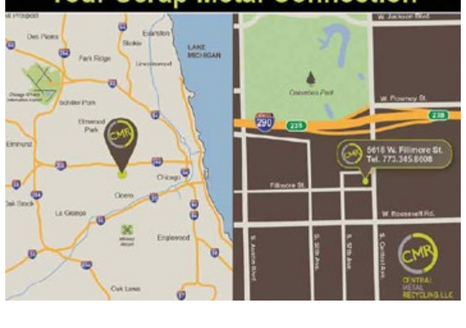
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Tour to My Homeland

By Geraldine McCarron/Healy

What began as a simple way to celebrate my 60th year with eight friends and family members turned into something far greater than I ever imagined. It became a journey of friendship, heritage, and homecoming.

For years, I had dreamed of bringing the people I love in America back to the place that shaped me. I wanted them to see more than Ireland's beautiful scenery. I wanted them to experience the Ireland I knew as a child, the Ireland of family, neighbors, stories, and community. When I first shared the idea with my family in Monaghan, they thought I was a bit crazy.





But if you know me, you know that once I set my heart on something, it is hard to change my mind.

What started as a small celebration soon grew into something extraordinary. One friend invited another, and then another. Before long, a group of 27 friends and family members had committed to traveling across the Atlantic with me on an eight-day tour through the homeland I have carried in my heart for over 40 years.

Our adventure began in County Louth and continued through Tyrone, Donegal, Derry, and finally to my beloved County Monaghan. Every stop held its own beauty and history, but for me, the most special moments came from seeing Ireland through the eyes of my friends. Watching them experience the warmth of the people, the beauty of the countryside, and the richness of our culture reminded me just how fortunate I was to grow up there.

I am humbled beyond words that 27 people chose to take this journey with me. In my wildest dreams, I never imagined such a response. When I told my family in Monaghan that this group was coming to visit, they were shocked and amazed. They couldn't believe that so many people wanted to see our small corner of Ireland and experience the places that had shaped my life.

One of the highlights of the trip was bringing everyone to my family home and farm, the ancestral home of the Patandy McCarrons. The farm has been in the McCarron family for more than 300 years and is now lovingly cared for by my brother, Packie McCarron. Standing there with my friends was deeply emotional. I wasn't just showing them a house or a farm. I was sharing generations of family history, the roots of who I am, and the place that will always feel like home.

As we walked the roads and fields around the farm, memories of childhood came flooding back. I remembered walking to Knocknagrave School, playing with my neighbors, the Pat Jacks (McMeels), the Campbells, and so many others. I could almost hear the laughter of those carefree days. Sharing those stories with my friends made the memories come alive again.

Planning this journey was not easy. There were challenges and disappointments along the way, and the first two tour operators I worked with simply did not understand the vision I had for this trip. I wasn't looking for a typical sightseeing vacation. I wanted a true homecoming experience.

Thankfully, everything changed when I found Tina Bennett, Martin Lynch, and the team at Fáilte Tourism Ireland. They immediately understood what I was trying to create and helped turn my dream into reality. From the very beginning, they embraced the personal nature of the tour and worked tirelessly to make it happen.

When our group arrived at Dublin Airport, we were greeted by Pat Quill, our tour driver, guide, storyteller, entertainer, and friend. Pat was truly one of a kind. His humor, kindness, and love of Ireland added something special to every day of our journey. Together, Pat and Tina ensured that my friends experienced not only the beauty of Ireland but also the genuine warmth and hospitality for which the Irish people are known around the world.

For anyone considering a trip to Ireland, I highly recommend Fáilte Tourism Ireland. Tina Bennett and her team have the expertise, passion, and personal touch to create memories that will last a lifetime.

For me, this journey was about much more than visiting places. It was about sharing my roots, my family history, and the Ireland that lives in my heart. Watching my American and New Zealand friends fall in love with the same landscapes, people, and traditions that shaped my life was one of the greatest gifts I have ever received.

As our journey came to an end, I felt overwhelming gratitude. Gratitude for my family, for my friends, for my homeland, and for the opportunity to bring them all together. What began as a birthday celebration became a celebration of heritage, friendship, and the enduring connection between Ireland and those who carry it in their hearts, no matter where life takes them. It is a journey I will never forget:

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Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago Celebrates 125 Years on September 17

Former Irish Taoiseach Enda Kenny to join anniversary celebration at Theater on the Lake

By Noreen Heron

CHICAGO – One hundred and twenty-five years after a group of Irish Chicagoans came together to strengthen their community and celebrate their heritage, the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago will mark its 125th anniversary on September 17, 2026, at Theater on the Lake.

Former Irish Taoiseach Enda Kenny will be the special guest at the celebration, which will run from 6 to 10 p.m. and feature performances by the Shannon Rovers, who are also celebrating their 100th anniversary, along with Tom Gleason, the Chancey Brothers and Jimmy Moore. The evening will conclude with fireworks over Lake Michigan. Tickets are $175, with sponsorships available for $2,500, including 10 tickets.

Founded in 1901, the Irish Fellowship Club began as an organization dedicated to bringing Chicago's Irish community together and strengthening its civic presence. From its earliest gatherings, the Club developed a tradition of welcoming leaders from Chicago, Ireland and beyond.

That tradition was evident in 1910, when President William Howard Taft attended a Club gathering, recognizing the accomplishments and growing influence of Irish Americans.

The Club's relationship with Ireland became particularly significant in 1928, when William T. Cosgrave, the first president of the Irish Free State's Executive Council, visited Chicago at the Club's invitation. According to the Club's historical record, it was the first official U.S. visit by the leader of an independent Ireland and helped establish a pattern for future diplomatic relationships between Ireland and the United States.

Over the decades, the Club became woven into Chicago's civic history. Its presidents have included political leaders, business executives, labor leaders and other prominent Chicagoans. The Daley family alone represents several generations of leadership, beginning with Mayor Richard J. Daley, the Club's 56th president, followed decades later by Mayor Richard M. Daley as its 100th president.

The Club's legacy also extends beyond fellowship. Through its Foundation, it has provided scholarships to Chicago-area students and supported Irish cultural organizations. By 2004, the Club had surpassed $1 million in grants and scholarship assistance, continuing a tradition of giving that remains central to its mission. As of today, that number stand close to $5 million.



Former Taoiseach of Ireland; Enda Kenny, Justice Margaret Stanton McBride, and past president of the Irish Fellowship Club, Justice Maureen Connors

Kenny's appearance carries its own piece of Club history. He previously participated in the Club's St. Patrick's Day festivities in 2012, when he was Taoiseach and also served as Guest of Honor of the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade.

"This will be a special evening to recognize the accomplishments of the Club and Irish leaders across the Chicagoland area," said John Wrenn, 125th Anniversary Co-Chair.

Irish Fellowship Club President Devon Bruce of Power Rogers said, *"We are delighted to have [Enda Kenny] celebrate this auspicious occasion with the Irish Fellowship Club."*

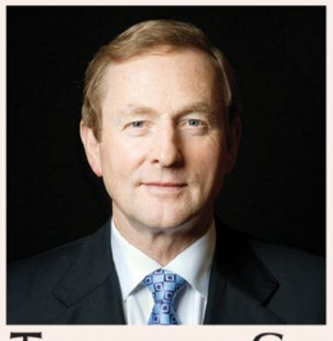
After 125 years, the people and times have changed, but the purpose remains: fellowship, Irish heritage, community and service.

On September 17, the Irish Fellowship Club will gather once again to celebrate that enduring legacy.

For tickets and sponsorship informatio go to www.irishfellowshipclub.com

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REMINDER: The Irish Fellowship Club Christmas Luncheon will be held a week later in 2026.
SAVE THE DATE for December 11, 2026 at the Hilton Chicago.

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Ryan Schiff Releases Bestselling Memoir on Golf, Relationships, and... Ireland



Before 2026, Ryan Schiff could be called many things - standout hockey player, foreign exchange trader, husband, father, man of faith, and avid golfer, to name a few. Starting in January of this year, however, this Renaissance man added the title of author when he wrote his first book, a memoir titled ***"A Fool's Errand: A Neighbor, A Top 100 Chase, A Different Scorecard,"*** which was published in June.

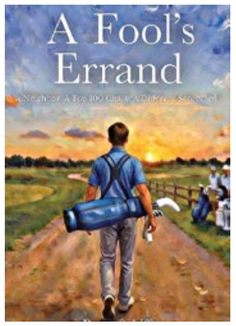
It is safe to say that Schiff was unprepared for what happened next, as the book quickly became a sensation, climbing near the top of Amazon's top golf biographies list, behind the recent bestseller about Rory McIlroy.

"I could never have imagined anything like this. Every day I get the same kind of texts about the book, from people who I've met over the years, telling me how much they enjoyed and related to the book," says Schiff, who called the Chicago area home for decades.

The premise of the book is straightforward; a golf memoir organized in 18 chapters that begins with 12-year-old Schiff meeting his seventy-year-old neighbor who introduces him to the game and begins a lifelong passion that includes his chase to play every single course that has been rated as a Top 100 course in the United States. (Spoiler alert: he's played 99.)

While Schiff may have been surprised by the book's meteoric rise upon its release, in many ways this was the culmination of his life with the game of golf, and, more importantly, his own personal journey.

A Long Island native, Schiff admits that for most of his adolescence, hockey was his primary focus in life, and he went far in the game, playing in college and in minor professional leagues before officially calling it a career. After hanging up his skates and moving to the Chicago area, he started foreign exchange trading, which he has now been doing for 37 years, including the last 27 with one team of



trusted colleagues and friends. Along the way, he also found time to own the Glen Ellyn Brewing Company, a sports shampoo company, and the Lincoln Stars, a team in the US Hockey League, among his many "side hustles."

Throughout these ventures - and while raising his family - Schiff ensconced himself in the game of golf. Without spoiling the books contents, his journey has traversed the worlds of public and private golf, beginning with that first round with his neighbor and continuing through his work as a caddie and ultimately as a player crisscrossing the globe to play the best courses in the world.

Naturally, Schiff's journey to find the best golf in the world took him to Ireland. Much has been written about golf on the Emerald Isle, some on the pages of ***Irish American News*** as well as other seminal works like Tom Coyne's A Course Called Ireland and the dozens, if not hundreds, of other books on the topic. With this book, Schiff adds his own contribution to the annals of Irish golf literature, but his introduction to golf on the island was anything but planned.

"This was in the early 1990s, when I was a young guy and happened to be in Dublin for a work conference on foreign exchange trading," Schiff recalls. "I had a free afternoon and figured I'd go and play golf, so I took a cab to Royal Portmarnock and asked the guy in the pro shop if I could play. He said yes, gave me a set of rental cars, and I walked over to the first tee when I met an older gentleman who asked me if I wanted to join him on the links. I'll never forget him telling me, 'Play with me, lad!'"

Schiff's first round of golf in Ireland gave him a crash course into everything that makes Irish golf what it is: true links golf on a world-class course, 40 mile-per-hour winds, 45-degree temperatures, and, most of all, building a true, authentic, relationship with a fellow golfer throughout his four-hour round.

In subsequent years, Schiff would return to Ireland for work and pleasure, crossing off rounds at some of the most well-known courses that the island offers and ultimately joining Carne Golf Links in Belmullet on the coast of County Mayo as an overseas member.

Schiff's experience golfing in Ireland forms the basis of



several chapters in the book, so readers can glean their own insights from his printed words, but through his time on the island, Schiff clearly fell in love with the country's golf culture.

"Golf in Ireland is what it's meant to be. These are the greatest courses in the world, but the best part of golfing in Ireland is the people. It's the people you meet, and the people you are with... something about Ireland just brings out the best in relationships with each other."

Hearing Schiff share what makes Irish golf special - the weather, the accessibility of the game for everyone, the way in which caddies can be members at the very same club - naturally draws contrasts with golf culture in the U.S..That is not lost on Schiff.

"You don't need all this money to play golf in Ireland. It's not elitist, the courses are unique, if not quirky, and you play in all weather! In the U.S., we only play in nice weather," he reflects, noting that with the increased golf tourism from the States - what he calls the "Americanization" of golf in Ireland - many of these special attributes are in danger of being lost in the future.

For now, golf in Ireland - and specifically, making and strengthening relationships while golfing in Ireland - remains special for Schiff. Indeed, in many ways it is this theme of the importance of relationships that forms the essence of his book.

"What I realized through the process of writing and publishing the book is that maybe the whole point of this wasn't about the chase to play the top 100 courses in the world. What it's about is the chance to meet people who became close friends. Golf is a great game for making and building relationships, and these relationships have been the best part of this entire journey."

A Fool's Errand: A Neighbor, A Top 100 Chase, A Different Scorecard, by Ryan Schiff, is available on Amazon and other online book retailers.




Between the mounds at the famed sixth hole at Lahinch Golf Club, County Clare

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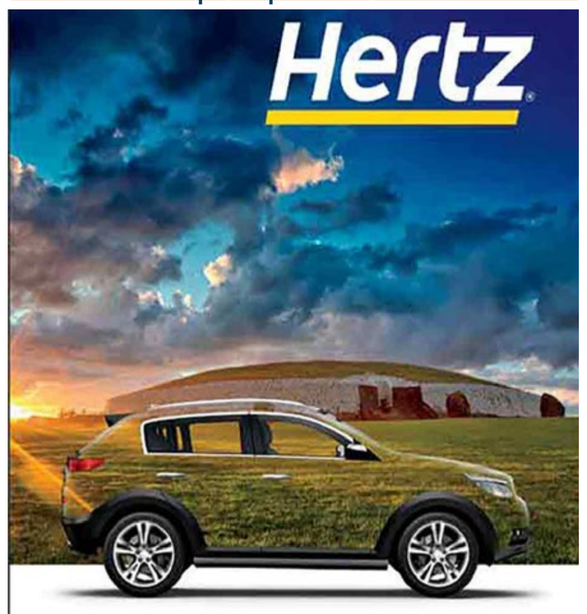
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Coolin' it in Ireland

by Irish Correspondent Grainne McCool

Irish Railways were built between 1834, when the Dublin to Dun Laoghaire line opened, and the early years of the 20th century. Being a Donegal native and based here in the Northwest, I often hear stories of the railways right here in years gone by. But sadly, the railway link to this area is no longer in service.



The Bar in the Car!

It's really only recently that I've discovered the comfort and the fun of rail travel and I have begun travelling from Derry City to Belfast, to Dublin and even to Cork, via railway. So imagine my delight when I realised that there is such a thing as Railtours Ireland in existence. A real opportunity to discover Ireland by rail and one that's been operating for near 30 years. Yes, my excitement was real.

It was mid-August this year that I spoke with Jim Deegan, CEO of Irish Railtours. What an interesting story there is behind this wonderful tourist initiative right here on our island. Jim told me that, 'we are now in the 29th year of operation. We started back in 1998, just after the Good Friday agreement.' Jim' s own background is in Travel and Tourism, where he worked for 'Bord Fáilte' and B&I shipping line. Jim told me that back in 1998, the only bus tour operating on the island was one from Dublin to Newgrange, and that was it. Based in London back then, Jim saw US tourists visiting the UK and wanting a one-day and indeed a half-day tour of Ireland (from London). This interest from the tourists set the seed which Jim has since nurtured and grown. With his lifelong interest in railways, he believed that by using trains, he could bring tourists to iconic Irish sites (Cliffs of Moher, the ring of Kerry, the Blarney Stone, and more). And he could get them there and back again in a day!

So back in 1998, that's exactly what Jim Deegan did - he embarked on Railtours, and it has evolved into the great success that it is today. The seed was firmly sown, and it has not only taken root, but those roots continue to grow annually.

When you visit the webpage, www.railtoursireland.com it will tell you, 'Ireland's extensive rail network allows you to reach some of the Emerald Isle's top destinations - comfortably and sustainably! Travel car-free, carefree with Railtours Ireland and discover Ireland - the best way!' Jim has created something very special in this. And his passion for it precedes every undertaking he does with the company.

Rail Tours Ireland offer anything from a one-day tour from Dublin to Waterford and Killarney, to an 11-day tour of the island of Ireland. There are two-day tours, 4-day tours etc. From the Cliffs of Moher to the Giant's Causeway, Bunratty Castle to Killarney, there really is something for all. Immerse yourself in the delight of the Irish countryside, see real historical sites, and enjoy all from the comfort of the Irish Rail Tour experience. Visit the website and see for yourself the vast range of tours now readily available. And including all the iconic heritage/cultural sites of Ireland, North and South; and of course there is the Wild Atlantic Way to also explore.



Relax to Music in the Bar in the Car!



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And still there's more. There is the Emerald Pullman Railcruise of Ireland - a vacation with a difference. This really is the rail tour to beat all others. The Emerald Pullman is the luxury train you didn't know existed, right here in Ireland. Have your own private train for 8 days, staying in 4-star luxurious hotels and visiting most of the bucket list destinations on the island of Ireland. Accompanied by expert local guides you will learn as you travel. And as an added bonus, this is the only train to serve 'draught Guinness' on board, Jim tells me. It also boasts a fully stocked bar and has live music on board. This train will leave you within walking distance of most of the hotel stops along the way. This really is the car-free/care-free way to see our wonderful countryside and all it has to offer. One US tourist recently wrote, 'This is the perfect way to see Ireland. It was so much more than a tour of Ireland, travelling on the Emerald Pullman was a treat in itself.' Another satisfied customer/tourist wrote, 'What a fantastic journey across Ireland on a private heritage train.' Do you want to go yet?

A trip on the Emerald Pullman will see you visit Waterford and Killarney from Dublin, then to Cork, Cobh and the Ring of Kerry. From there it will take you to Galway and Connemara, and then to Westport. Following here it's to Belfast and the Giant's Causeway, and returning on day eight to Dublin. Accommodation along the way will see you visit the Great Southern Hotel in Killarney, the Abbeyglen Castle Hotel in Clifden and the Europa Hotel in Belfast. Each hotel with a touch of Irish luxury and each with a special hotel embrace. And all through travel on the luxurious Emerald Pullman. The 'car free/care free' motto resonates at every turn.

For US tourists visiting Ireland this really is a special way to experience the countryside of Ireland. It's an opportunity to see it in the most relaxed manner. And it's a rail tour with a difference. And it's very much Irish to the core.

This rail experience and many more wonderful tours of our island are all available at Jem Tours, www.jemtours.com, who offer a wide variety of customised tours, bringing together a close management team with specific expertise and decades of experience. They offer a highly collaborative service to ensure each groups' needs are catered for. They deliver a fun, enjoyable and quality vacation experience to all their clients. Their extensive product knowledge, coupled with their close relationship with local suppliers, guarantee exceptional travel experience. Check out their website for full detailed information on all their tours.

Having a rich heritage in railway throughout the island of Ireland since the early nineteenth century, it's now an absolute delight to know that this company is offering the full-Irish experience via rail to our tourists. It's a comfortable, cultural, and relaxing way to see the countryside, meet the real people, and visit the ancient, iconic, cultural sites around the island. With superb hotels to stay in, a friendly welcome at all locations, and authentic Irish food to eat, the Rail Tours Ireland really is the way to travel our countryside and see the real Ireland.

Comfortable and sustainable, with exceptional attention to detail, Rail Tours Ireland is the best way to discover Ireland today. if you decide to do a tour on the rails, go to their site, pick your destinations and use the code **EMERALD 10** to secure a 10% discount at **www.railtoursireland.com** and **www.jemtours.com** for more info.





August 5, 2026

Dear Ms. Land,

I read your recent article in the August 2026 issue of Irish American News.

I have some additional info for you that you can use as you see fit. I don't need any credit for it.

My dad, Martin Walsh, was a friend of Father O'Donnell when growing up. My dad was born in 1915 so Father Steve might have been a year or two older.

When they got into their later teens, six of the friends chipped in $5 each and bought a car. They all took turns driving and if one of them got a ticket, Steve would put the ticket in an envelope and mail it to his uncle who would have it dismissed. His uncle was named Kelly.

In your article you mention Limerick which is where my maternal grandfather is from.

My great-great-great grandfather bought a large plot at Calvary Cemetery. There are now 30 people buried there.

There is a picture of Mayor Daley in the same issue of IAN. There is a slight error in the caption for the picture on page 39. Richard Daley, the son, was not named after his father, Richard Daley. The son's name was Richard M. Daley.

Next to the Daley photo is a picture of Harry Truman with Mayor Ed Kelly. He was Father O'Donnell's uncle.

I had an uncle named Father Philip Cahill.

Besides being a professor at Quigley, he was the chaplain for the Pioneers Total Abstinence Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, an Irish group of course.

Take care,

Phil Walsh ptw072941@gmail.com

p.s. I turned 85 a week ago and I'm still kicking.

Editor's Note: Patricia Land wrote the story, A Murder at the Crossroads on page 20 of the August edition.

Upon watching the Oscars with Conan O'Brien, I decided to advise him to hire a person to sit on his head to flatten his hair.

After suffering a case of the flu, my family wanted to know how I was doing. My response was, "I am RePooperating!"

Sincerely,

Joan McDonough





Record Breaking Crowds Create A Magical Experience at 2026 Belfast Fleadh



Although it is not unusual for the annual All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann to draw huge crowds, no one could have predicted what happened this year in Belfast. Some 800,000 visitors were expected to attend, but it turns out a record-breaking 1.6 million visitors descended upon the city when Belfast hosted its first All-Ireland Fleadh August 2nd- 10th, 2026.

As quoted in the Irish Echo on August 10, Belfast Lord Mayor Councilor Róis-Máire Donnelly said "Words cannot do justice to how proud I am of the city in the magic that it has produced over the last eight days. The pictures and videos of our people, our music and our streets projected right around the world show our city at its best."





The result was positively magical, not only for visitors, but for the native Belfasters.

The name Belfast derives from the Irish Béal Feirste or "Mouth of the Farset", a river whose name means "a sandbar" or tidal ford. This was formed where the Farset flowed into the Lagan along what is now High Street. Belfast is known for linen, ship building, music, murals, and of course "The Troubles."

Topping the Belfast tourist attractions are the Titanic Belfast and the Ulster Museum. Visitors can also enjoy the abundant murals and landmarks like City Hall and the Botanic Gardens. And if one seeks a lovely day trip, the fascinating Giant's Causeway lies just 2 hours north of Belfast in County Antrim. This area consists of approximately 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, felt to be the result of an ancient volcanic fissure eruption. However, some believe it to be the work of the giant Fionn mac Cumhail (Finn MacCool). The story goes that the Irish warrior Finn and the Scottish giant Benandonner (often called the "Red Man" of the North) challenged each other to a contest of might. But there was the small matter of the Irish Sea in the way. So, the industrious Finn built the Causeway as a bridge across the sea. So, what do you think? Science, or giants?

Chicago was well represented at the Fleadh. The Chicago Irish Singers Club made a splash by sending 8 members to Belfast:

Newly composed songs: Brian Harms (Orland Park) and Heather Preston (Hyde Park)

Ladies Over 18 English Singing: Jan Bauers (Lombard) and Fiona Madsen (Las Vegas, NV)

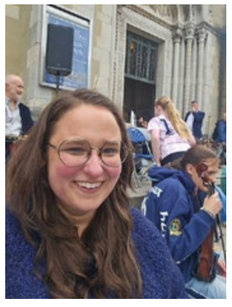
Ladies 15-18 English Singing: Tara Morley (Arlington Heights)

Irish Singing Over 18: In Men's, Zaic Holbrook O'Neil (Oak Park) and in Ladies, Savannah Rae (Chicago)

Lilting Over 18: Christine Lawless (Downers Grove), Executive Director of the Chicago Irish Singers



While all performed extremely well and to the best of their ability, no one managed to score the elusive All-Ireland medal. Of her experience, Heather Preston offered these reflections, "… I knew going in that I was unlikely to even place, as many of the competitors were prior champions and all were Fleadh participants of long standing." And of the host city, she said, "Belfast was an eye opener … Wherever we went, the shops and restaurants and even banks had signs saying, 'all musicians welcome,' and I knew when we passed a bank and saw a session going on in the lobby seating area that it was indeed completely true… It was a beautiful, magical week."



Of his experience, song writer Brian Harms said, "People really appreciated my original song, in fact, I could hear them singing the refrain under their breath… This was a magical experience for me."

When the singers were not competing, each night they could attend a 4-hour singing circle from about 9pm until 1am. These were by far the largest singing circles I had ever participated in, with over 200 singers present from all over the world. We all got to sing; but we all waited for our turn patiently, sometimes not singing until 12 o'clock midnight. Gavin Byrne of Wexford, one of the organizers of the singing circles, enjoyed meeting the new singers from Chicago. He shared, "I loved your singers. They were not only good singers, but they were great people too- very polite, and respectful." So glad we Chicagoans made a good impression!

Jan Bauers of Lombard was one of the Chicago singers who sang in the evening singing circles. She commented, "It is awesome we are doing singing circles in Chicago- cuz that is exactly what they do in Ireland. It is casual, but a good opportunity to perform a song." Jan was in Belfast with her partner Damian, and her parents Joe and Deedee. She said, "I went there to enjoy every moment, and I accomplished my goal. Of singers competing against me, I thought they were really incredible singers. But judging is unpredictable. The singer I thought would win did not place at all." Ah, that's Fleadh. Do not even try to figure out judging! It is like Figure Skating judging back in the day.

Kell Chole, Executive Director of the Comhaltas branch Institute of Traditional Irish Music and Murphy Roche School of Irish Music in Burr Ridge has been coming to the All-Ireland Fleadh for years, usually with several students and Comhaltas branch members in tow. This year was no exception. Of her branch's 17 Midwest Fleadh competitors who qualified, 6 made the trip. Her Belfast team included a variety of instrumentalists, podcast editor Caitlin Ryan, and the branch youth officer Amelia Carnana.

Mother of 4, Constance Dettman, qualified in Over 18 fiddles. She started playing classical violin at the age of 4, and Irish music in high school. After college, she taught classical violin for years before staying home full-time and homeschooling her 4 children.

One of her children is 8 y/o Beatrice Dettman, a concertina player, who also qualified and came to Belfast. As it happens, Beatrice was the youngest competitor among all the players in Belfast, a fact that led to both her and her mom being photographed by the Irish Times as well as the BBC. The photo made the front cover of the Irish Times. More Belfast magic!

Rounding out Kell's team were Over 18 fiddle player Grace Broadhead of Tennessee, 10 y/o Teddy Thomas competing in fiddle slow airs and concertina solo, and Katie Grennan in Over 18 fiddle slow airs. Kell also directs The Irish Airs Project and was invited to the Belfast Fleadh by the Fleadh hosts to record her podcast on airs. Featured players included Martin Gaffney, Moya Townsend, Adrian Brady, Cathal Tunney, Niall Murphy, Patrick Davey, and the legendary Gerry "Fiddle" O'Connor.

This 75th Fleadh in Belfast was one for books. But more important than exceeding attendance expectations, it was the warmth and hospitality of the host city that made it magical for both visitors and natives. All had a heck of a time. And for those who missed the craic, plan to attend the 2027 All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil which will return to Belfast August 1st-9th, 2027.

christie.lawless@yahoo.com

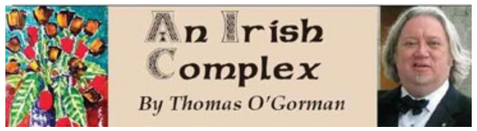












Guinnes Stew

When things get bad, don't get mad. Get cooking. You see, we can survive more fully on a satisfied meal just as much as we can after a tasteless platter of mouth numbing flavors, textures or consistencies. But nothing has to be extravagant here.

Readers of this column know, all too well, the significance this writer places on food. Favorite dishes. Tried and true delights. Savory vittles that raise and reinforce the serious care we place on efforts in the kitchen. It is transformative work. Always worth the effort. And maybe stretching ourselves a little. Restorative cuisine doesn't have to be expensive, hard to produce or much trouble for all the good it does.

In my honest estimation is there anything better than a baked potato with creamy butter? What is there to top homemade tuna salad and crunchy homemade bread? Can anything surpass a fine stew? Creamy herb infused sauce and a biscuit to dip with? What about my favorite restoring menu of very soft scrambled eggs cooked in unsalted butter with fresh ground pepper and a bit of grated Asiago Cheese? Try some bubbly with that. As much as your purse will allow.



Hon. Edward Guinness

As I grew up, many Irish households of family and friends were making room in their fridge for a big corned beef. Our family never did, though we always saved space for a great head of cabbage for creaming. And some elegant russet potatoes for baking. They are fantastic sides for the Guinness Beef Stew, we loved. Our version of nostalgic Irish cuisine and a remembrance of my pal Desmond Guinness, the late princely squire of the beverage clan. Now brewing in Heaven.

Desmond's cook at his Liexlip Castle, County Kildare, Eileen, was a mighty woman from the nearby village of Liexlip who for 40 years made the meals there fit for Irish Kings.

Desmond threw elaborate lunches which remain the highest social plateaus I've know. I once sat having dinner at the kitchen table with twelve others. English and Irish over night guests. And I was the only eater who had no hereditary title.

Eileen was Mick Jagger's favorite chef. Desmond used to bring her to Paris so she could make a feast for Mick Jagger. The following dish is one I've pilfered from Eileen. She raised it to high perfection at both lunch or dinner.

Guinness Stew.

A four pound Chuck Roast (make sure it has good fat on it)

Cut into 3 inch chunks

Brown the meat in some olive oil and the natural fat

Sprinkle on some sugar while browning. It should caramelize.

Reserve the meat after browning

Deglaze the pot with a cup of liquid to get the good bits

Add sliced onion

Chopped celery

Chopped carrots

Add baby Bella mushrooms sliced in half

After sauté replace the meat in the pot

Add fresh herbs - rosemary, thyme & a toss of herb du Provence

Also add fresh chopped parsley

Add 32 ounces of beef stock

Add 32 ounces of Guinness Stout (black beer) and stir

Add garlic to taste

Add some sea salt

Add a pinch of red pepper flakes to taste

At the end add 8 oz frozen peas

Cook on low flame for 3 to 4 hours

AS A PIE: Make a puff Pastry dough and served the stew as a pie. Brush the crust with beaten egg yolk and a few drops or water.

IN A SPUD: Or scrub 6 big baking potatoes. Slit the potato length ways. And serve the stew in the potato. Bake the spuds for 60 minutes at 425 degrees. Stick a fork in to make sure they're done.

Slit the potato length ways. And serve the stew in the potato.

Thicken the stew gravy. Make a rough with butter and flour adding some stew juice to thicken the sauce

Add 8 oz frozen peas

This is perfect as Autumn brews. It's chilled weather food.

Get some Irish soda bread to eat with the stew.

For the most Irish meal I know.

Drink some cold Guinness with the stew or a really good French Burgundy.

Good food isn't just delicious. Its timeless. Great food has never been confined by the limits of space and history or travel. Good food is often capable of liberating itself from the errors of recipes and the common sense of inflexible cooks. Those who have the vision and drive to make kitchens comfortable and life giving focusing on shared values and shared life.The sharing and sustaining values of favorite foods are fashioned at just the right moment. When food is more sustaining, it occupies a place of singularity like nothing else.

Shaping environment, culture and even the festival and feasts of deepest meaning and purpose. Reminding us also that beyond the limits of our humanity we come back to lives as fresh and expansive as the visions they embrace. Peace. Unity. And self understanding.



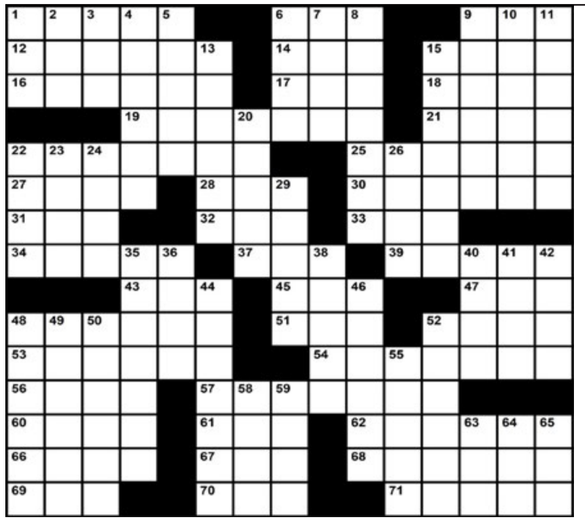






Now THAT'S a Busload! - iBAMChicago.com

Members of the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band pile aboard the iBAM! POP-UP Bus at Gaelic Park Irish Fest — bringing a little extra music, color and Irish spirit along for the ride!



ACROSS

1. "Ladybird" and "Little Women" actress, Saoirse
6. Prosecutors, for short
9. Scale notes
12. Stadiums
14. Amber, e.g.
15. Small racing vehicle, Go ____
16. Split
17. Home Owners' Association, abbr.
18. Writer Bombeck
19. Given a shiny surface perhaps
21. Toothpaste, with B
22. In the world, 2 words
25. Renaissance harmonization technique
27. Delivery vehicles
28. Brain scan, for short
30. The Iron Horse in baseball, Lou ___
31. Prefix with cellular
32. Order of corn
33. Caribbean, e.g.
34. Internet connection device
37. Like
39. Trap
43. Act relating to access of government documents, abbr.
45. Building wing
47. Soak thoroughly
48. Splices
51. Indian province
52. Native American people of Arizona
53. Smooth, musically
54. Irish actor who played James Bond
56. "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" cad
57. Portuguese island
60. ___ of the above
61. Summer in Le Havre
62. Quiets
66. 1981 Webber musical
67. Propel a boat, manually
68. Girl who behaves in a boyish manner
69. Mag. execs, abbr.
70. Secret agent
71. Pretentious intellectual

DOWN

1. 1980s cool
2. "... ___ quit!"- 2 words
3. Las Vegas state, abbr.
4. Souls
5. 70s activist for consumers, Ralph __
6. Creator of Charlie and Matilda
7. Emollient
8. Experienced sailors
9. Big name in book publishing
10. Cardin rival
11. "Hogan's Heroes" setting
13. Medium-sized sofa
15. "The Banshees of Inisherin" actor, Barry
20. Out in front
22. Reproductive cell
23. "Billionth" prefix
24. Children's author Blyton
26. "Cheers" actor Roger
29. "Holberg Suite" composer
35. Removes by rubbing or erasing
36. Street in New York's Chinatown
38. It'll show you the world
40. Q ___ queen, 2 words
41. Tomato type
42. Cardinal O'Connor's successor
44. Compounds having different arrangements of atoms but the same molecular weight
46. Cattle wrestler's need
48. Peek
49. Replenish
50. Athlete's partners
52. 150 religious poems
55. Lowest deck of a warship
58. At the highest point
59. Moist in the morning
63. Pres. Lincoln
64. "That means ___!"
65. Charlie Chaplin's brother

(ANSWERS PAGE 30)

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*MOTORS *VFDs *PLUMBING *PROCESS PIPING
*SEWER JET/RODDING and CAMERA INSPECTIONS



Good Grief

by Josephine Coleman

Hi Everyone. How was your summer? Hard to believe we're heading into August already, and the kids are getting ready to go back to school. My daughter is now a middle school teacher, embarking on her professional career, and we couldn't be prouder of her.

We had a great summer, although it took a while for the weather to warm up. June seemed unusually rainy. Normally it's April and May that bring all the showers. I remember when the kids were little we'd open the pool in May, but it was always too chilly to enjoy. By June, the weather was usually perfect.

Did I tell you my son brought me a little kitten? He's a gray and white tabby who looked like a piece of burnt toast when we first saw him, so naturally we called him Toastie. After six weeks we decided he needed a friend, so we visited a local shelter and fell in love with the only kitten they had left—a beautiful black kitten. My daughter immediately named him Guinness. I laughed and said, "You can take him to the vet when they call his name!"

We thought we'd spend our days cuddling them, but instead we're covered in scratches! They certainly love us, but they're full of mischief. When I go to the doctor's office, my arms and legs are black and blue, looking as though my husband has been beating me. When I'm standing in the bathroom brushing my teeth, they climb up the backs of my legs with their tiny claws, and I scream every single time. Everyone tells me they'll calm down in another two to four years. Two to four years? I keep telling my husband we need to train them like dogs: "No! Don't bite! Get your claws out of my leg!" Then I realized they'll probably live another 20 years. Am I going to live that long? Who's going to look after these two when we're old?

One of the best purchases we've made is an automatic litter machine. A friend recommended one, but they were quite expensive. We searched Facebook Marketplace and found an older model for a fraction of the price. You simply fill it with litter, the cat does its business, and the machine automatically rotates, sifts the clean litter, and drops the waste into a lined drawer underneath. I sprinkle a little baking soda into the drawer to keep everything fresh. With two growing kittens, I change the bag every couple of days. It's worth every penny.

Growing up in Ireland, we always had cats. I was usually the one who looked after them. Our dog, Rusty, was allowed in the house, but the cats weren't. They slept in the loft above our sows. Looking back now, it's amazing how many animals we had—chickens, ducks, a goose and gander—and the cats never bothered them.

Life on a farm was very different then. If farmers ended up with too many kittens, they often drowned them. I know that sounds cruel today, but people didn't take cats to be neutered, and veterinary care wasn't common. The same applied to dogs. If one started attacking sheep or lambs, the farmer often had no choice but to put it down. As they used to say, once a dog had drawn blood, it wouldn't stop. Their livestock was their livelihood.

The only animals I remember the vet routinely coming to the farm for were our young piglets. I can still remember my father getting hot water and towels ready while the vet worked. Dad always sent me back up to the house, but we could still hear the poor little pigs squealing. By the time they were six months old, they'd be taken to market and sold. Girls weren't allowed to go to the market back then—just showing my age!

Now I'm getting used to having indoor cats instead of simply opening the door in the morning and letting them roam until dinnertime. We back onto a park where coyotes have dens, along with foxes, possums, skunks and plenty of other wildlife, so our boys stay indoors. They have cat trees by the windows, and on nice days I open the windows with the screens securely in place so they can enjoy the fresh air.

They've completely taken over my son's old bedroom since he moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan. Sorry, AJ! Hopefully, when my daughter eventually moves out, I'll have my craft and sewing room back. Right now it's impossible to sew with two kittens trying to chew every electrical cord they can find.

Apart from our daughter's graduation party, the whole neighborhood seemed to be celebrating this summer. Everywhere you looked there were pop-up canopies for elementary, middle, high school and college graduations. It was wonderful seeing everyone celebrating together.

For my daughter's party, we even hired a mechanical bull. Those of us with titanium knees and porcelain hips wisely stayed off it, but we had a fantastic time watching everyone else being spun around while we took plenty of photos and videos.

We also took a wonderful trip to Colorado Springs, and I think it's going to become one of our favorite places. We drove there this time, but next time we'll definitely fly. It's less than a three-hour direct flight from Illinois.

We spent our days exploring the Rocky Mountains and driving up Pikes Peak, which stands over 14,000 feet above sea level. The scenery was breathtaking, although you certainly notice the thinner air at that altitude!

One of the highlights of our trip was discovering a newly opened fish and chip shop called Codswallop, owned by an Irishman and an Englishman. We had the best cod and chips, complete with proper Irish curry sauce imported from Ireland. They also stocked sausage rolls, bangers, Lucozade, Tayto crisps, biscuits and all kinds of British and Irish treats. They even mentioned they hope to open an Irish pub one day because so many Irish and Scottish retirees have settled in the area.

Enjoy the rest of your summer. Before you know it, the evenings will get shorter, the leaves will begin to change, and the children will be knocking on our doors shouting, "Trick or Treat!"

Berklee Artists Performing at Major Global Music Festivals

As part of the Berklee Popular Music Institute, students are performing at Lollapalooza, Governors Ball, Warped Tour, and other festivals this spring and summer.

This spring and summer, the Berklee Popular Music Institute (BPMI) is sending eight up-and-coming artists from Berklee to perform at 11 music festivals across the United States, Canada, and Europe. This marks the first year that BPMI artists will perform at festivals in Germany, the Netherlands, and France. These performances are the culmination of BPMI Live, a one-year course that guides students through every step from the classroom to the stage, providing critical training for a career in live music, whether as a performer or an industry professional.

Throughout the academic year, BPMI Live students reviewed hundreds of artist submissions and narrowed the field based on recordings, videos, live performances, and social media presence. The A&R group also took into account each artist's musical style for genre-specific festivals, such as Warped Tour, which focuses on rock and alternative music, and Minnesota Country Club, which spotlights folk, Americana, and country artists.

Matt Walsh: *"This performance has truly been years in the making. After months of meticulous preparation and hard work, seeing Pat onstage in front of all those people was such a surreal experience. I couldn't be more proud of Pat, the band, and the crew!"*

Pat Kennedy: *"Seeing how many moving parts and people it takes to make these things happen, and how hard my peers and students in BPMI who traveled to Minnesota with us worked was inspiring. Playing before some bands I grew up listening to was just a surreal feeling, and the team worked so well that my worry could just be putting on a great show and making the moment last."*



L to R: Gabe Kuchan (guitar), Guy Malka (electric bass), Pat Kennedy (vocals/guitar), Camden Edward Bunker (saxophone) and Tai Hofmeister (drums). Photo by Matthew Walsh

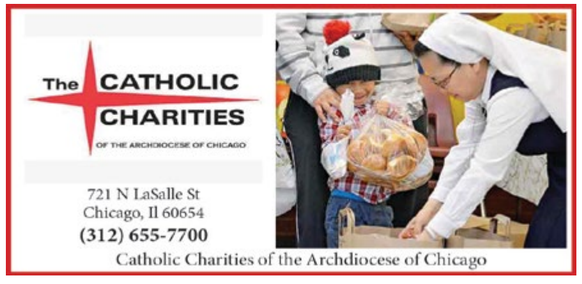
About BPMI Live

While most Berklee classes take place over the course of one semester, BPMI Live runs on a three-semester, full-year cycle. In the fall semester, the class selects the artists for the festivals and splits up into management teams. In the spring, students work on artist development, marketing, digital presence, budgets, merchandise, sponsorships, and advancing their assigned festival, in addition to organizing a spring musical showcase at a local venue. For the final semester, during the summer and early fall, teams rehearse with the artists to prepare them for the festival stage—a vastly different experience from a club show—and accompany them to each festival to handle on-site promotion, production, and tour management.











The 2026 World Taekwondo Poomsae Championships will take place in Chuncheon, South Korea, from September 16th-20th 2026. This five-day competition event brings together top international poomsae athletes to compete across individual, pair, and team categories. Kate Tierney will be competing in the individual freestyle event.

This is the first time Ireland has ever had someone compete in this category, and our team is very excited about this!

After medaling at the Northern Ireland Poomsae Championships this spring, Kate has been training to work on the performance for this event, and is very excited to have the tricolor on her sleeve.



Game On!

By Chris Wheaton

How 'bout those Sox!! Sorry South-Sider's, it is not your beloved White Sox I am referring to but the other Sox, that hail from New England. I will confess that my view may be slanted as I write this column from beautiful Maine but what the Boston Red Sox have accomplished in the past few months is nothing short of remarkable.

I love baseball as much as the next guy but like many, I found it hard to sit down and watch an entire game which seemed to go forever and did not offer much in the neighborhood of excitement. Baseball and hurling are two sports that could not be more dissimilar but strangely I enjoy both. My baseball enjoyment really skyrocketed when, in 2023, Major League Baseball introduced a pitch clock and other pace of play rules which dropped the average time of a game by about 30 minutes. Most of the between pitch shenanigans were eliminated and the baseball viewer was treated to the "important stuff", the action on the field.

Getting back to the Boston Club and the reason for this article requires a little bit of backing up a couple of months and viewing the squad as a team in disarray. On June 24 the Red Sox were defeated by the worst team in baseball, the Colorado Rockies, 8-6. The Rockies record after that game was 32-49 and the defeat pushed the BoSox to 32-46. As June rolled into July the Sox went on a tear that had rarely been seen before in professional sports. From June 25 until August 7, the Red Sox went on an amazing 31-5 run, which included a sweep of the New York Yankees, a 15-game winning streak and another 9-game winning binge. During that period, they moved from a hapless 15.5 games out of first into a serious playoff contender, sitting safely in the 2nd wild card spot and knocking on the door of winning the division. To add a little Chicago flavor, the starting third baseman is Caleb Durbin, a local boy from Lake Forest who has been an integral part of the team's success.

I'm not one to pontificate on how or why this turn-around happened and I am certainly not going to throw the former manager, Alex Cora under the bus, although he was sent packing on April 25 after an abysmal 1-17 start to the season. Some of you may remember his brother Joey Cora as a White Sox coach from 2004-2011 but good baseball bloodlines or not, I don't think the wild ride the Sox have been on since June is manager related. We often hear in sports the use of the word "culture" and how important it is to the success of a team. I am a firm believer in that concept whether we are talking about a sports team or a gigantic corporation; culture is everything. The shared values, attitudes and commitment of any group of individuals will have a direct impact on how that group performs. They certainly have found the secret sauce to that magical culture over at Fenway Park and the final third of the baseball season promises to be exhilarating as we watch how this all plays out.

I truly am a baseball fan and have been a rabid Cubs fan for many moons (in spite of the fact that I was born on the South-Side), but there is something magical about this Red Sox story that intrigues me and makes me long for a Red Sox - Cubs World Series. Two loveable losers facing each other in the fall classic would be something to see.



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Said the Dead

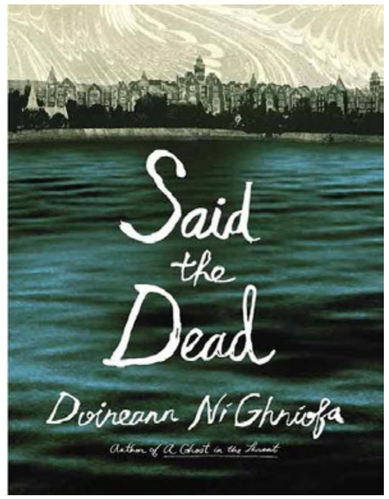
by Doireann Ní Ghríofa (Author)

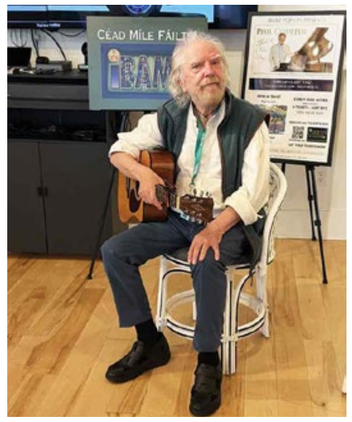
From the award-winning author of A Ghost in the Throat comes a time-traversing, form-defying, genre-morphing story of a reader unraveling the legacies of a fabled asylum and the women who haunt its halls.

In Cork, Ireland, a derelict Victorian mental hospital is being converted into modern apartments. One passerby has always flinched as she nears the place. In another time, she might have found herself held within those walls.

She notices a sign, the first of many. Guided by an irresistible impulse, she follows them. FOR SALE. The letter L, broken free from a pane of stained glass. Whispers from the river. She trespasses, steals, absconds from the routines of her life—mother, spouse, daughter—as she hears a chorus of insistent voices. They murmur from archives, old casebooks that recorded their progress and failures — no change. They slip through stairwells and walls. They are the women who knew this place best, and with them—with one in particular—she feels a connection. She is drawn out; she knocks on a door in the night. Will this investigation, this journey, this haunting, take her too far into the past or will it bring her to a new understanding of what she might yet make of the future?

A work of intense attention and tenderness, Doireann Ní Ghríofa's Said the Dead breaks boundaries between past and present, the imagined and real, history and fiction, to make something new and lasting. An investigation into the dangers of knowing our selves and the past, it is an experience like no other—a ghost story and a reclamation. Available at Amazon and others.





Some Mornings are Simply Magic!

iBAM!, the Irish Books, Arts and Music Celebration of Irish culture held it's very first iBAM! POP-UP with the incomparable Tommy Sands as their featured guest.

Tommy sang for us. He told stories. He read from his book. He made us laugh, made us think, and reminded us of the extraordinary power of a song and a story, shared simply from one human being to another.

There was something wonderfully intimate about the morning — no distance between artist and audience, just Tommy, his music, his memories and a room full of people hanging on every word.

These are the moments we dreamed about when we imagined iBAM! POP-UPS — bringing remarkable Irish artists into unexpected spaces and creating opportunities to gather, listen, talk, laugh, remember and connect.

To Tommy, our deepest thanks for sharing so generously of yourself with us that morning. And to everyone who came and helped make the room feel so warm and welcoming — thank you.

It was more than a performance.It was a gathering. It was storytelling. It was music. It was connection. It was special. And we won't soon forget it.

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A Cháirde,

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Cheers,
Bill O'Sullivan - President of the Board of Directors at Chicago Gaelic Park

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September 18 -	FOUR C NOTES DINNER & SHOW
September 20 -	CHILDREN'S IRISH LANGUAGE CLASS
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September 11 -	EVIN O'RIORDAN
September 12 -	KIERAN BYRNE
September 13 -	DECLAN MCSHANE
September 17 -	TRAD THURSDAY
September 18 -	BERNIE GLIM
September 19 -	FABTONES
September 20 -	REILLY
September 24 -	GOLD COAST
September 25 -	JOE MCSHANE
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How do we maintain the accomplishments of the Gaelic Park Community and ensure that it will thrive in the future?

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Let's Throw Away the Race Card… and Be Free to Ask Legitimate Questions

Swimming Upstream



By Charles Brady

One of the less edifying experiences since the dawn of the Internet Age has been watching how quickly the Social Media phenomenon has devolved from a wonderfully useful tool into something that far too often seems to tap into the baser instincts of human beings.

As a teenager in the 70s who entertained mainly fringe interests (old movies, early SF and horror stories etc.) it would have been a Godsend to me to know that there was a whole network of like-minded people out there, contactable in real time.

So, it must have been a marvelous thing for many when they realised that they could 'talk' to others with the same interests. The downside of this is that unsavoury individuals, who had until then been keeping their warped ways to themselves, also realised that there were others like them out there. And as we now know, you leave enough of those characters in a chat room together and they begin to normalize their deviant behaviour to the extent that they are right and the norms of Society are wrong.

It wasn't just the freaks and the weirdos who gradually became adept at using the internet to learn how to cover up their activities and to gradually make contact with others like them. These were at the extreme edge of what would ultimately lead to the moral wasteland of the Dark Web. No, there was a growing boldness on 'ordinary' social media that seemed to encourage seemingly normal people to act like barbarians.

The language used got worse; attitudes struck became increasingly vile and unacceptable; and eventually we saw anonymous keyboard warriors feeling free to throw the most appalling insults at anyone who moved into their line of fire.

Of course, anyone who puts themselves in the public eye is going to find out that not everyone likes them; but there is a world of difference between legitimate criticism of a politician, lecturing showbiz personality or indeed journalist and the kind of wicked, personalized attacks that were far too common a decade ago and which are now even worse.

Strangely, almost running parallel with the feeling that it was acceptable to say ANYTHING, came an almost diametrically opposed idea that there were certain things that were completely off limits - genuine questions that could never be asked, initially due to ethnic considerations, then latterly to nearly anything relating to gender.

Which preamble is by way of bringing us to two recent news stories, one being the - to my mind - infuriating case (because it appears to have been already brushed under the carpet) of Helen Ogbu, the Mayor of Galway and Labour County Councilor; the other across the water in Cambridge, with the genuinely tragic outcome of the Jason Arday story.

[And it's necessary to add a proviso here: these are ongoing events and as this column is written a fortnight ahead of publication, some things may have changed by the time you read them.]

Two weeks ago, as I write, 41-year-old Mr. Arday resigned from his position as Professor of Sociology of Education at Cambridge. This was amidst accusations of plagiarism and - to put it kindly - his startling embellishments of his skills and talent both inside and outside of academia.

Just a very few examples: he claimed that he went to South America and West Africa in order to install water points, which came as a surprise to WaterAid, who denied that they ever send their volunteers abroad.

In an astonishing burst of physical fitness, he said that he had once ran thirty marathons in thirty-five days and ran six hundred miles in six days from Edinburgh to London. Nine marathons from the end he even had an epileptic fit and fractured his leg, but that didn't stop him - and he went on to raise over five million pounds for charity.

He couldn't read until the age of 18, was offered an Order of the British Empire title (which he turned down on principle) and on and on…

Now these are not just little white lies, exaggerations of the type that we've all been guilty of at some time. They are bloody great whoppers and EASILY VERIFIED; but so much were the wise heads of Cambridge University enamoured by the thought of having the youngest ever black professor on their roll call that they seem to have simply played them down; and, of course, it wasn't long before the race card was produced. One journalist who started asking awkward questions found himself under investigation by the Metropolitan Police, something that doesn't surprise me in the slightest, given the current climate.

The pile-on of Jason Arday became unreasonably relentless, however, mainly because of just how 'out there' his claims were. And I'm not blameless. I initially laughed as the jokes started coming in ('Leave him alone, he was one of the Dambusters'; 'When Neil Armstrong stepped onto the Moon, Jason Arday was holding the ladder'); but as the days went on, I and many others became bothered by just HOW ridiculous these claims were, speaking perhaps of a disturbed personality, and thought that surely it had been up to Cambridge to investigate them, instead of initially doubling down. Soon many previously supportive individuals began to run for cover, leaving Arday to fend for himself.

Mr. Arday was found dead two days ago and that is as much as I can say at the moment. Others are taking it as an excuse to attack the media. But as psychiatrist Dr. Max Pemberton put it before the death, he did not build this unreal world on his own; and that 'Cambridge University and the diversity, equality and inclusive industry that made him their poster boy and handed him the bricks have gone very quiet'.

Supposedly elitist places like Cambridge never have impressed me much, but particularly not in recent years, when they seem to be suffocating under a ridiculously progressive agenda that actually discourages asking hard, often unpopular questions.

Just last week ***The Spectator*** revealed a new project being spearheaded by Farah Ahmed, the university's assistant research professor at the Faculty of Education; but as soon as I see terms like 'countering colonial hegemony in science education for Muslims' I lose the will to live.

Just what the anti-democracy, anti-integration Ahmed is doing there in the first place is a puzzler, given that up until 2010 she supported the terror group Hizb ut-Tahrir. Oh yes, and she represents a mindset that believes that 'English is one of the most damaging subjects' a school can teach.

At which point, given where she has the run of…words uncharacteristically fail me.

We have no reason to be smug in Ireland. With our usual short memories, less than two months on we appear to have put the questions concerning Galway Mayor Helen Ogbu of Nigeria behind us. Nothing to see here, move along please. Especially as it could smack of racism if we continue to ask for answers.

Very briefly, Mayor Ogbu said on her official website that in 2006 she and her family moved to Ireland 'seeking safety and a fresh start after the tragic loss of my husband.' In fact, her husband was murdered four years later, in 2010; and she herself had actually come to Ireland one year earlier. The falsehoods were repeated by several Labour politicians, even on a video on her own YouTube channel and played on a Nigerian outlet.

Attempts to establish clarity led to several different excuses, some of which were simply nonsense; and in the end the Party turned on the journalist who raised the initial questions. Which, again, doesn't surprise me at all.

In company some time back I jokingly - honest! -- remarked that it was very enterprising of Nigerian politicians to be landing in Ireland, all the better to learn a few dodgy tricks from our local chancers. Of course that was construed as racist, despite the fact that if it was racist against anyone it was the Irish. But I often say that the likes of myself are the last group that it's permissible to be abusive about with total impunity. After all I'm no longer a spring chicken; I'm a heterosexual; and I'm white. 'Pale, male and stale' as is sneeringly said these days, but something I'm quite content about.

Here's a suggestion. Let us stop worrying about race. Let us be able to address certain subjects without the race card being waved at us. Let us be in actuality as 'colour-blind' as we claim to be in theory. Then perhaps we can call people out on their acts, not walk on eggshells in case we upset whatever is the current fashion. Let's do that.

But do you know what…I'm not going to hold my breath.

charleybrady@gmail.com

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CONNECTIONS



BY ELYSE LYONS PFANDLER

As I write this, I am wrapping up two days at the Milwaukee Irish Fest. I brought my kids there when my youngest was still in a stroller, so now that he's 9, I expected them to be fascinated by the music, culture, and feel of this fest.

The first spot my family and I visited was the cultural area. There were a variety of counties represented, and they were filling our tote bags with brochures, notepads, pens, and candy. This was also where my youngest son discovered the pins. Every county represented had pins, and my son was immediately fascinated. He looked, asked politely, and searched for pins from each county, determined to cover his whole shirt. He was so excited and asked the people handing



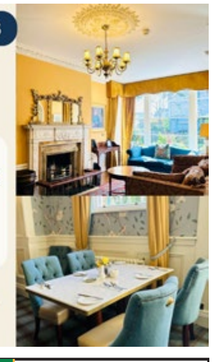
them out questions about where each county was on the map of Ireland. We moved through the festival, listened to great bands, ate amazing food, looked around the children's area, and rode the gondola. But the entire time, my son was looking for more pins. Toward the end of the day, we were all watching Gaelic Storm, and I thought that everyone was finally enjoying the music and just taking it in. At that point, my son whispered in my ear, "Mom, can we find more pins?"

Why do people collect things? Sometimes we collect things because we simply like them and get satisfaction from having a lot of something we enjoy. Collections can also provide emotional comfort and nostalgia. Maybe you traveled somewhere and brought something home from each place. Years later, you can look at those items and remember exactly where you were and the memories you made. Sometimes people collect things because they enjoy the thrill of finding a whole set to a collection. Sometimes people collect to make a profit.

I recently discovered a fascinating reality show called Irish Pickers. The show follows Dublin antique dealers as they travel throughout Ireland searching for unique historical relics and collectibles to buy and sell. It is a great way to see rare places and interesting items throughout Ireland. They often travel through the countryside, which, of course, is beautiful. My favorite episodes are when they visit old castles looking for treasures. If you like collections, antiques, and Ireland, it is definitely worth a watch.

My youngest son has now decided to put some of the pins he received at Irish Fest onto his school backpack. Now he can enjoy his collection and show it off at the same time. I mentioned to my mom and dad that he had become interested in collecting pins, and they said they were going to look for a bucket of pins they thought they had somewhere in their basement. So his collection will probably continue to grow. Years from now, he might not remember every detail of that day, but hopefully he'll see one of those little pins and remember being 9 walking around Irish Fest with his Mom, Dad, sister and brother. We were all together. I think that's the best part about collecting. It lets us hold onto memories.

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Vicki Quade and Nuns4fun Return to Where it all Began Bringing A New Show to an Old Location

Returning to where it all began, Vicki Quade and Nuns4Fun Entertainment announce the return of their religious comedies to the same theater space where the most successful solo-religious comedy in Chicago history started.

Late Nite Catechism, co-written by Vicki Quade, opened in 1993 at the old Live Bait Theater, and that space is now occupied by the Stars & Garters Theater, 3914 N. Clark St., Chicago.

Now Quade is opening her newest comedy, Late Nite Catechism Trivia Bingo, at Stars & Garters Theater, and it promises to have you laughing your sins off. The show opens for 3 Sunday matinees in Sept., as part of the Nuns4Fun Late Nite Catechism series



Audiences are loving this new show. "It was great and so terrific to laugh so hard!" says Kate Mini, who attended the premiere last May. "We absolutely adored everything. The show, & audience, all so much fun," says Judy Rossignuolo-Rice, legendary Chicago actress.

Quade is bringing her hit Halloween show, Holy Ghost Bingo: God, Goblins, & Games, to Stars & Garters, for 44 Sunday matinee performances in October.

The premise is that Mrs. Mary Margaret O'Brien, a former nun, is here tonight to raise money while playing bingo and talking about Halloween traditions, scary movies, condemned board games, haunted churches, the best candy, and the worst costumes. It's a crazy night of Halloween trivia, audience interaction, and the funniest costume contest ever seen.

Late Nite Catechism Trivia Bingo will run 2 p.m., Sundays, September 13, 20, 27.

Holy Ghost Bingo: God, Goblins, & Games runs 2 p.m., Sundays, October 4, 11, 1, 25.

Tickets are available at https://www.starsandgarterstheater.com. A small # of discount tickets are also available on HotTix.

In addition to comedy, stand-up, and other entertainment, Stars & Garters also features evening burlesque shows.

"So," Quade says, "come for the sin, stay for the salvation."



On the Law

Matthew Gannon, John Scanlon, Martin Healy, Jr. and Kevin Veugeler

HEALY SCANLON VEUGELER GANNON
TRIAL ATTORNEYS

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

The column will also respond to legal questions relating to personal injury that are sent to us. We are located downtown at 161 North Clark Street, Suite 2200, Chicago, Illinois 60601 and our telephone number is (312) 977-0100.

AVOIDING AUTO ACCIDENTS DURING HARVEST SEASON

Our beloved Chicago Bears are not the only ones returning to the field this month, as farmers began harvesting their summer crops. Harvest season may bring corn and soybeans to consumers, but this time of year also creates conditions for auto accidents as farm vehicles and other harvest-related equipment travel the roads.

A research study published by the University of Iowa showed that only 10% of survey respondents considered farm equipment crashes to be a top road safety concern, yet the fatality rate of farm equipment-involved crashes is nearly five times more than the average for all road crashes.

To celebrate the 82nd Annual National Farm Safety and Health Week (NFSHW), September 21-25, 2026, here are several tips for safe driving within the more exurban and rural areas of Chicagoland during harvest season:

1. **Enter Intersections with Caution:**

When approaching an intersection, particularly a blind intersection where cornstalks or other crops may block your line of sight, be sure to yield or even come to a complete stop. A blind intersection prevents drivers from locating oncoming traffic in all directions, and failing to stop at intersections to look in both directions may lead to auto collisions.

With that being said, it should be noted that under Illinois law, crops or plants that grow into or above the public right-of-way, including highways, ditches, shoulders, and other adjacent areas may bring the landowner liability under local municipal ordinances for obstructing traffic.

2. **Slow Down in the Presence of Farm Vehicles:**

Farm vehicles such as tractors or combine harvesters frequently travel along country roads and two-lane highways during harvest season, and do not typically travel over 20 miles-per-hour. Given this, drivers should decrease their speeds when approaching or trailing these vehicles to give them room while turning, braking, or continuing on their route.

3. **Be Wary When Passing/Overtaking:**

When passing, be extra cautious of oncoming traffic that may be out-of-sight due to the width of the farm vehicles. It is important not only to adhere to the yellow traffic stripes on the roads, but to also adjust to a greater following distance to increase sight lines. As with semi-trucks/trailers, if you cannot see the tractor's mirrors, the tractor driver cannot see you! If you are ever doubting the safety of passing, be patient and wait until the vehicle turns or pulls over to the edge of the lane allowing for better visibility of oncoming traffic.

4. **Patience Saves Lives:**

Furthermore, farm vehicles may first move to the right in order to take wide left turns. Be sure to look for potential roads or driveways that the vehicle may be pulling into, along with basic hand signals or turn lights. According to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, nearly half of all incidents between motorists and farm vehicles involve wide-left turns or rear-end collisions

5. **Limit Distractions:**

Distracted driving is dangerous and liable to cause severe injuries at any time during the year, but with the additional vehicles - some being quite large and slow - the roads are even busier with more potential for accidents. Avoid cell phone conversations or conversations with passengers, overreliance on GPS devices and apps, eating foods as they require your hands to be off the steering wheel, and as always, no texting and driving. Texting and driving is still illegal in many states and municipalities.

If you or someone you know has been injured in an auto accident, call the attorneys at Healy Scanlon Veugeler Gannon for a consultation.

By Ethan Garard

Ethan Garard is a law clerk at Healy Scanlon Veugeler Gannon and a second-year law student at University of Illinois-Chicago School of Law.

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Finding a Second Home in Limerick

By Abby Mason

Ten years ago, as a sophomore at Loyola University Chicago, I made a last-minute decision that would change my life. While friends were planning study-abroad experiences across Europe, I impulsively applied to spend a semester in Limerick, Ireland — even though I had never travelled outside the United States.



I was a sheltered kid from Ohio who didn't even have a passport, and one of the first things I would be doing entirely on my own. Still, my application was accepted, and before long I was on my way to Limerick, Ireland.

Growing up on the west side of Cleveland, Ohio, Irish heritage was woven into daily life. Families proudly held onto their Irish-American identity, celebrating St. Patrick's Day with colcannon, corned beef sandwiches, Irish whiskey, and parades. In the melting pot of cultures that is America, the Irish-American community always struck me as one defined by strong family ties, close-knit communities, and enduring traditions.

Although Limerick would soon become the city I claimed as my own, my ancestral roots actually trace back to Achill Island in County Mayo on both sides of my family. My relatives spoke proudly of where our ancestors came from, but none had ever returned to visit.

That changed when my father visited me during spring break. Together, we travelled to Achill Island to see the place our family had called home generations ago. It was there that I discovered Achill Island is twinned with Cleveland, Ohio, creating a connection that felt almost destined. When my dad located a distant relative in a local pub, he welcomed us as though no time or distance had ever separated us, and soon we were sharing stories and pints together.

Years later, while watching The Banshees of Inisherin, I discovered that my great-grandmother's childhood home had been featured in the film. She had left Ireland for America at just 18 years old, only slightly younger than I was during my own journey across the Atlantic.

What began as a curiosity about my family history soon became something much deeper. Ireland was no longer simply the place my ancestors had left behind—it became a place where I created my own memories, friendships, and sense of belonging.

Studying at Mary Immaculate College in Limerick turned out to be one of the best decisions I have ever made. From the moment I arrived, I experienced the warmth of Irish hospitality. A college driver greeted my roommate and I at dawn and chatted cheerfully throughout the journey to campus. Once there, a member of staff brought us into the city centre to buy bedding, food, and other essentials before settling us into our dormitory with four Irish students. Before leaving, she told us to stop by her office anytime for a chat—a sentiment that perfectly captured the welcoming spirit I would encounter throughout my time in Ireland.

Over the following months, I discovered a city full of surprises. Limerick offered medieval castles, riverside walks, lively markets, excellent restaurants, traditional music, and easy access to some of Ireland's most beautiful landscapes. Today, it is a vibrant university city with a thriving cultural scene that continues to evolve while remaining deeply connected to its heritage.

Days were spent walking along the banks of the River Shannon, exploring the city's streets and enjoying coffee with friends. If there's one thing I love, it's a walkable city, and Limerick quickly became one of my favourites. My first visit to the famous Milk Market introduced me to what I was assured were some of the finest fish and chips in Ireland. Surrounded by stalls selling local produce, artisan foods, and handmade goods, it became one of my favourite places to spend a Saturday morning.

As I explored, I found myself connecting more deeply with Ireland's literary, artistic, and musical traditions. I recognised places I had encountered in books and films, particularly Angela's Ashes, though the city itself felt much more vibrant and colourful than those depictions suggested. Walking the same streets that once shaped members of The Cranberries felt almost surreal.

Perhaps the most unexpected part of my experience was the friendships I formed. Before arriving, I knew nobody. Within months, I had developed a close-knit circle of friends not only from Ireland, but from Denmark, Austria, Germany, Sweden, Finland, and the Netherlands. Together we discovered what makes Limerick special.

We had our favourite pubs: Dolan's, Fennessy's and O'Dwyer's — our own "Holy Trinity." There was always great conversation, live music, and plenty of laughter. Whether it was a bowl of stew, a curry, fish and chips, or Dolan's famous chicken wings, I never had a bad meal. Traditional music sessions seemed to be around every corner, and no matter where I went, strangers quickly became friends.

As the semester drew to a close, one of my final experiences was attending a Munster rugby match at Thomond Park. Even as someone who was never a huge sports fan, I could not resist the atmosphere. The passion of the supporters and the energy inside the stadium made it an unforgettable evening and provided another glimpse into the strong sense of community that defines Limerick.

Although the rain never bothered me, I was grateful that the city treated me to a taste of an Irish summer before I left. As my departure approached, the sunshine seemed like one final gift from a place that had become unexpectedly important to me.

Leaving Limerick felt like saying goodbye to a second home. Yet I left with immense gratitude for the people I had met and the experiences I had shared. I promised myself that I would return one day.

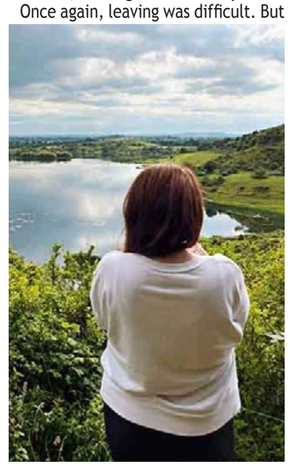
Last month, I finally fulfilled that promise when I returned to Ireland for my cousin's wedding. The moment I arrived, the same feeling of belonging that I had experienced as a student came rushing back.

Together with a friend I had met during my semester abroad, I revisited many familiar places. We walked around our old college campus, explored the city centre, and enjoyed lamb and Guinness stew at Dolan's, which seemed wonderfully unchanged despite the passing years.

This time, however, I also discovered new corners of County Limerick. One highlight was Grange Stone Circle, a remarkable Bronze Age monument whose entrance aligns with the rising sun during the summer solstice. Standing among the ancient stones, I felt connected to Ireland's deep and enduring history.

From there, we travelled to Lough Gur, one of the most beautiful places I have ever visited. Surrounded by rolling hills, archaeological sites, and peaceful walking trails, the lake offered a perfect reminder of Ireland's natural beauty. In the unusually warm weather, locals and visitors alike relaxed along the shoreline, soaking in the scenery.

Once again, leaving was difficult. But this time it felt different. For many Irish Americans, Ireland begins as a story passed down through generations. For me, it became much more than that. In Limerick, I found not only traces of my family's past, but friendships, adventure, and a second home. And if there's one thing I know for certain, it's that I won't wait another ten years before returning.





(PAGE 20 CROSSWORD ANSWERS)

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Naperville Irish Fest Halfway to St. Patrick's Day with Music, Culture, Community 9/18-19

Festival kicks off one day after the halfway point to St. Patrick's Day, bringing the spirit of Ireland to downtown Naperville

The luck of the Irish returns to downtown Naperville this fall as Naperville Irish Fest celebrates its sixth year on Friday and Saturday, September 18-19, 2026, at Central Park. Hosted by West Suburban Irish, the two-day festival brings together authentic Irish music, dance, food, culture, and family fun while supporting the organization's mission to preserve and promote Irish heritage throughout the community.

The festival begins just one day after the halfway point to St. Patrick's Day, making it the perfect opportunity to celebrate all things Irish before March arrives again.

This year's Naperville Irish Fest is proudly presented by Woody Buick GMC of Naperville as the Emerald Isle Sponsor, with Spennare Americas serving as the Shamrock Sponsor. The festival is also made possible through the generous support of the Naperville Special Events & Community Arts (SECA) Commission.

Festival guests can enjoy live Irish music throughout the weekend, performances by award-winning Irish dance schools, cultural exhibits from the Irish American Heritage Center, the Irish Culture Tent, unique shopping in the Irish Village, and a variety of food and beverage offerings. Returning favorites include the Irish Food Truck, Home Run Inn Pizza, and The Creamery.

Families will find plenty to enjoy with crafts, face painting, games, the popular Kids' Parade, interactive storytelling, playground activities, and photo opportunities with St. Patrick and leprechauns.

"There's something special about bringing the community together to celebrate Irish culture in the heart of downtown Naperville," said Chris O'Hara, Co-Chair of Naperville Irish Fest. "Whether you're Irish by heritage or simply Irish for the weekend, Naperville Irish Fest offers incredible entertainment, authentic traditions, and fun for every generation. We're also incredibly grateful to the Naperville SECA Commission for their generous support, which helps make this celebration possible."

Beyond celebrating Irish culture, Naperville Irish Fest continues its tradition of giving back to the community. In keeping with the philanthropic mission of West Suburban Irish, the festival will once again donate $25 for every volunteer who works the event. Each volunteer selects one of the festival's partner nonprofits to receive the donation in their name.

"Naperville Irish Fest is about much more than music and entertainment," said Linda Dimitropoulos, Co-Chair of Naperville Irish Fest. "It's about strengthening our community, supporting outstanding local nonprofits, and creating an event where families and friends can come together to experience Irish hospitality and culture. Every volunteer helps make a meaningful impact, and we're proud to continue giving back through our volunteer donation program."



Volunteers may designate one of the following nonprofit organizations to receive a $25 donation in their name:

- ALIVE Center
- Irish Community Services
- Loaves & Fishes Community Services
- Naperville Area Humane Society
- St. Patrick's Residence
- Institute of Traditional Irish Music

TICKETS

Festival attendees are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance. Discounted advance tickets are available for $10 each or two for $15 through September 11, 2026. Beginning September 12, tickets are $15 each or two for $25. wsirish.org/IrishFest.

EVENT DETAILS

- Dates: Friday and Saturday, September 18-19, 2026
- Location: Central Park, downtown Naperville (104 East Benton St., Naperville)
- Activities: Live music, Irish dance performances, bagpipers, Irish cultural exhibits, children's activities, sporting demos, whiskey tastings, food and beverage vendors, and more, including:
  - Irish Culture
  - Irish genealogy
  - History of the Mother Jones Project display
  - Irish book authors
  - Irish hurling & Gaelic football demos with a "batting" cage
  - Kids' Activities
  - St. Patrick & leprechaun photo opportunities
  - Kids' parade, interactive storytelling & playground
  - Face painting
  - Home Depot wood crafts
  - Guinness & Whiskey Tastings
  - Guinness Tasting: Enjoy a guided Guinness experience hosted by WSI at ***Quigley's Irish Pub***.
  - Whiskey Tasting: Savor premium Irish whiskeys in a curated tasting session hosted by the West Suburban Irish at Quigley's Irish Pub.
  - Both tastings require a separate ticket, which includes one general admission ticket to our Irish Fest.
  - Entertainment Lineup
  - ***Pre-Fest on Thursday, September 17 - Celebrate the halfway point to St. Patrick's Day at Quigley's Irish Pub*** and hear the sounds of Character Fleadh the evening before Naperville Irish Fest.

Friday, September 18 - Fest Kicks Off

- McNulty Irish Dancers
- Mulligan Stew
- On the Lash
- Classical Blast
- Saturday, September 19 – Day Two of the Fest
- Firefighters Highland Guard of Naperville (bagpipers)
- Bailey Murray Academy of Irish Dancing
- McNulty School of Irish Dance
- Joyce Boys
- Bentley Academy of Irish Dance
- Celtic Roots
- The Chancers
- Reilly

For additional information, the complete entertainment schedule, ticket information, volunteer opportunities, and vendor details, visit wsirish.org/IrishFest.



About Naperville Irish Fest

Hosted by the West Suburban Irish, Naperville Irish Fest celebrates and promotes Irish culture and heritage through a vibrant community event that brings people together. The Fest aims to foster a sense of unity, cultural exchange, and tradition while supporting local non-profits and enriching the lives of those in our community. In the philanthropic spirit of the West Suburban Irish, Naperville Irish Fest has a commitment to both cultural celebration and community support. wsirish.org/irishfest

About West Suburban Irish

West Suburban Irish (WSI), Inc. is a registered 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization based in Naperville, IL whose mission is to cultivate a genuine appreciation and understanding of Irish heritage, culture, language, music, art, literature, and sports across the communities in the western suburbs of Chicago. Our motto, "Friendship, Fun, Service," embodies both Irish culture and our approach to achieving our mission.

For 30+ years, WSI has cultivated a genuine appreciation and understanding of Irish heritage by fostering a robust social network of members, volunteers, artists, and enthusiasts across our local communities. Guided by our WSI Board, we've brought joy to thousands of people in the western suburbs of Chicago through our charitable giving efforts, parades and festivals, cultural events, and more. wsirish.org.

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Catholic Charities supports those previously adopted from St. Vincent Orphanage with non-identifying background info, search and reunion services, mediated communications between birth and adoptive families, and with individual and group counseling services.

The impact: These services have been provided for more than 100 years, serving thousands of adoptees and birth mothers during what can be a very challenging process.

The milestone: For the 13th year, Catholic Charities will host a Homecoming Mass and Reunion on Sunday, Sept. 20, 2026, at the former site of St. Vincent Orphanage, now Catholic Charities headquarters, at 721 N. LaSalle St., Chicago.

By Lisa Francis

Catholic Charities continues its legacy of walking with adoptees and families from St. Vincent's Orphanage for more than 100 years. The Catholic Charities Post-Adoption team provides search and reunion services, mediated communications between birth and adoptive families, individual counseling, and support group meetings. Last year, we served 150 individuals and we're expecting many to join us at this year's Homecoming Mass and Reunion, being held on Sept. 20, 2026.

The Homecoming Mass and Reunion draws guests from all over the United States, and they'll come with relatives to experience it together and tell their stories. It's a special day of homecoming, reconnection, and experiencing the loving, caring atmosphere of St. Vincent's. This gathering brings everything back for our guests — the babies, childcare technicians, adoptive parents, and families. Together, they have so much emotion and connection to St. Vincent's that you can feel it in the air.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Archdiocese of Chicago

Founded 1881 by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Vincent's Infant and Maternity Hospital served women & children with the support of Catholic Charities social services until it closed in 1972 when the state moved to a foster care model. It was a starting point for babies born to teen & single mothers, some left as foundlings by its doors, or serving as temporary housing for children who could no longer be supported by their families due to war, poverty, and illness. Serving 232 children & 35+ mothers-to-be at a time, St. Vincent's was a safe haven for many, caring for tens of thousands of children over the decades. Its history is filled with memories of babies in buggies trotted down Michigan Avenue, halls filled with children's laughter & music from the young childcare technicians who cared for the children as if they were their own.

As these adoptees came into adulthood and had questions about their history, that's when our Post-Adoption Services expanded. Catholic Charities carries forward its commitment to adoptive families and babies, even though it no longer facilitates adoptions. We offer support groups for birth and adoptive parents and adoptees, and we assist with searches for birth parents and adoptees.

I am a licensed, clinical social worker who joined the maternity and adoption services department 38 years ago and discovered the important work we do every day. We have the ability to make a difference in people's lives and support them in crucial ways during what could be an existential crisis. The search process can be a time when adoptees feel alone. We walk with them through this process, connect them with other people who were adopted, and show them respect, care, empathy, and the dignity they deserve.

The social worker plays a critical role in preparing the searching person for this emotional process and supporting them throughout. One adoptee I recently worked with was connected with her with her birth mother who just turned 100 years old. Even though it had been more than 60 years since adoption, they now stay in contact, celebrate each other's birthdays together and have a great relationship. They are grateful to Catholic Charities for connecting them because now both of their lives are really enriched, both feel lucky the other is in their life.

For an adoptee to be able to look for the very first time into the eyes of someone who gave birth to them 60 years ago is life changing. For adoptees to hear from a birth mother, "I loved you and cared about you and that's why I gave you up for adoption," can bring about a feeling of completeness, and they no longer feel such a void in their lives.

Lisa is a licensed, clinical social worker and Post-Adoption specialist for Catholic Charities. To support Catholic Charities Post-Adoption Services or register to attend the 9/20 Homecoming Reunion, call (312) 655-7088 or email Lisa Francis, LCSW, lfrancis@catholiccharities.net

More about the history of St. Vincent's Orphanage at: St. Vincent's Orphanage: Adoption History

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773-472-5555 SOUL OF IRELAND - HEART OF CHICAGO

Celtic Rockers "The Elders" Release'The Spirit of the Sea'

The new five-track EP explores themes of history, migration, and human connection, driven by the band's signature soaring vocals and complex instrumentation.

"This album is a journey across the water and through the heart," said lead singer, Ian Byrne, "it serves as a travelogue of the soul."



The EP features a dynamic emotional arc across five new tracks:

SHORES OF FAREWELL The beginning of the story. Leaving Ireland. The heartbreak of departure. The start of a new Journey/Adventure

THE CELTIC WARRIOR Strength and Honor: Traditions and pride. Memories and a sense of respect for the myths and the stories of Irish history. Legacy Traditions

SAILED THE WATERS The journey. The storms and crashing waves. Tragedy on the long journey. From the old to the new world

THE MAN After the storm. Looking back at great memories. The man whom you respect and admire. Inspiration. The hero in our lives

NEXT TO YOU LUV The resolution. After the sailing, the fighting and the heartache. The conclusion of the journey and the realization that home isn't a place on a map, but the person standing next to you

"We've poured the spirit of the land and the salt of the sea into these tracks," said founder member, Norm Dahlor, "we can't wait for our audience to experience them."

Since forming in 1998, The Elders have remained one of the top Celtic-rock bands in the United States, sustaining a dedicated fan base through relentless touring, passionate storytelling, and precise musicianship.

"The Spirits and The Sea" will be available on all major streaming platforms, including Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes, Amazon and www.eldersmusic.com

Kansas City Missouri based: Ian Byrne (from Ireland) (lead vocals, percussion), Kian Byrne (born in Dublin) (vocals, drums, bass, acoustic guitar, mandolin), Norm Dahlor (vocals, bass, acoustic guitar), Shannon O'Shea (vocals, fiddle), William "Liam" Latas (vocals, lead guitar, acoustic guitar), and Daniel Loftus (vocals, keyboards, bass)

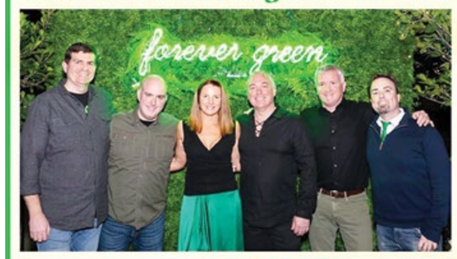
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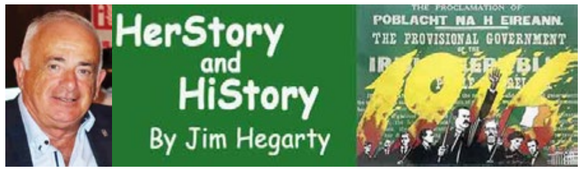
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'Lest we Forget!' - (Rudyard Kipling)

The Irish have a proud record of both American Military and Political Service,many of which are heralded on an annual basis,what is less acknowledged are American born Irish heroes in the land of their birth.

For me this came to the fore when in1963 President John Fitzgerald Kennedy caused great excitement when he visited Ireland, the land of his forefathers. During his visit he accepted an invitation to address the Irish Parliament (Dail) and Senate in its Chambers at Leinster House,Dublin. It was just 40 years after a bitter Civil War and the establishment of the Irish Free State, & 15 years since Ireland 26 counties were declared a Republic. It was the first time that both houses of Government sat in a joint formal setting.It was also the first time a foreign dignitary addressed both houses of Parliament.

Fighting Irish

The President took this opportunity to present a historic flag of the 9th New York Volunteers Irish Brigade from the American Civil War to the Irish people,lest their brave deeds would be forgotten in Ireland.He explained their motto,

'The Union,'Our Country and Ireland Forever'.

Made up of Irish immigrants and of Irish Americans the 9th became an important symbol for generations of the Irish community.

This gesture of acknowledging unsung heroes in the land of their birth by foreign dignitaries,would be reciprocated sixty three years later (2026) in Lynn Mass.

Today the flag stands proudly on display in the Irish Parliament Building.

A few short months later the President was assassinated,following which his widow, Jacqueline Kennedy,requested that the Irish Army Cadets perform the 'Queen Anne' silent drill at his graveside.The President had been captivated by this drill on his earlier visit.The Drill,includes a reversal of arms (tilting the Lee-Enfield rifle on its head pointing towards the toe) as a profound sign of respect for the dead.

It remains the only time in American history that foreign troops have performed graveside honors for an American President.

Today Irish people of a certain age know exactly where they were when they heard the news of the President's assesanation (I certainly can).

Washington D.C.

On one of my many visits to America I took the opportunity to visit the Arlington National Cemetery, the final resting place of up to 500,000 service members,many who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom of their country. Stopping at the graveside of John F.Kennedy to pay my respects,seeing the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier being respected and continuously guarded by the U.S.Army. Seeing so many white crosses and wondering how many were of Irish descent now resting there. Anxious to also visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (having met many Veterans over the years) on my walk I passed the Women in Military Service for America Memorial.I believe it's so important to honour the often overlooked vital role of women in all wars.Crossing the Potomac River by the Arlington Memorial Bridge I arrived at the very impressive Lincoln Memorial.

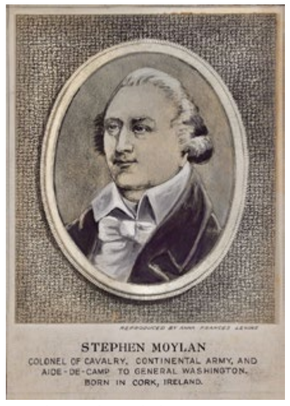
My time at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial has left a lifetime emotional impression on me.Seeing all the names on its wall and watching loved ones tracing their beloved names on paper as family keepsakes and wondering what the backstories are particularly of the Irish names.Wondering are they acknowledged or forgotten about back in the land of their birth.Thinking how important the memories of unsung heroes are preserved and spoken about.

Other important memorials nearby are the Korean,WW2, Martin Luther King Memorials and the Washington Monument.

2026 Ireland Honours its Local and American born Heroes

This year as America celebrates its 250th year of Independence,on the other side of the pond many Irish communities are also celebrating and acknowledging their forefathers involvement in this important time of world history.

Early in the year Cork City Council under the leadership of Lord Mayor



Fergal Dennehy took the opportunity to honour two patriots,Cork born Stephen Moylan who fought for American Independence and later in the year he travelled to America to honor American born Joe Murphy who made the ultimate sacrifice for Irish Independence.

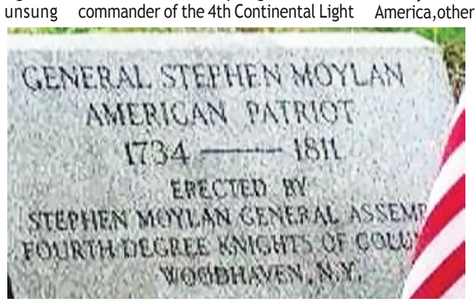
Moylan was born on Blarney Street, in1737 on the north side of Cork City into a merchant family.Due to the Penal laws limiting the education of Roman Catholics his parents sent him to France to be formally educated. Returning to Cork he joined the family shipping business. In 1768 he emigrated to Philadelphia where he established his own business.In America he also served as a general in the Continental



Shirley Kelligher, Lord Mayor Fergal Dennehy, and Jim Hegarty with Irish American News

Army and as an aide-de-camp to George Washington.He is also credited as the first person to coin the term in his writings the phrase 'United States of America'. His historic letter is now held by the New YorkHistorical Society in Manhattan.

During the war he saw active service during the Siege of Yorktown and the Battle of Springfield as the commander of the 4th Continental Light



Dragoons ("Moylans Horse"). Dragoons were noted for riding into battle on horseback, before dismounting to fight on foot.His is one of the strongest links between Ireland (Cork) and American Independence.

Never forgetting his Irish roots, Moylan founded the Friendly Sons and Daughters of St Patrick,in Philadelphia becoming its first president.There is a local Cork saying 'You can take the boy from Cork,but never Cork from the boy'. Moylan epitomizes this in his actions. It is only now that his achievements have been highlighted in the city of his birth.

Unveiling of Remembrance Plaques in Cork

Marking the 250th birthday of the United States of America in February Lord Mayor Fergal Dennehy and Taoiseach Micheal Martin, unveiled a plaque in the city of his birth; among the many attendees were members of Blarney Street and Surrounding Areas Community Association.

Lord Mayor Dennehy said at the unveiling ;" It brings me immense pride to celebrate one of Cork's own in the presence of our Taoiseach,guests from America and the local community. Moylan stands as a beacon of the enduring friendship between Ireland and America."

Taoiseach Martin, in his address, highlighted how Moylan was an early example and reminder of the significant contribution of the Irish Diaspora to the United States. He continued "I had the opportunity to meet with lots of Blarney Street people today who are proud of Moylan's contribution which has long been acknowledged in the USA,now recognised in his native city".Ireland could be proud of its role in America's fight for freedom".

Morgan O'Sullivan,of Irish America 250,added "we are honoured to be able to share the Stephen Moylan story on both sides of the Atlantic, he was a true American patriot whom Ireland could be rightly proud of".

Also in attendance were relatives of Moylans with some traveling from America,others still living in Cork. It was a very emotional day for all involved, family and friends. Having first hand experience of such days because Lord Mayor Dennehy had during his last week in office unveiled a plaque on The Laurels to honour the Hegarty family.(that's another story).

Lynn Massachusetts

Lord Mayor Dennehy,as a keen historian,was determined to honour the American born Irish patriot Joe Murphy, in the land of his birth during his term of office.(We covered Joe's story in the April issue of Irish American News).

Flying to Boston with some city officials,they travelled to Lynn, the birth place of Murphy. The Lord Mayor of Lynn,Jared Nicholson, greeted them and had a tree planting ceremony arranged for them once they arrived.Both Mayors jointly planted the commemorative tree to Joe's memory; the planting is opposite the City Hall.(hopefully a plaque will also be unveiled at the site).

Lord Mayor Dennehy commented "It was a poignant and deeply meaningful moment to see the name of a man who paid the ultimate sacrifice for something he believed in so strongly finally recognised in the city of his birth."

The original Murphy home is no longer standing ,however part of the original property wall still stands with shamrock growing from it,surely a sign for a more formal plaque to be placed at this spot.

Speaking recently to Joe's Grandniece Shirley Kelleher, she commented ."As Joe's family we're so grateful to see him recognised in both his homes because Massachusetts will always be part of his story.

Moylan's final resting place is at the Old Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Churchyard in Philadelphia, Murphy's is at The Republican Plot,in St.Finbarrs Cemetery Cork.

Further Information:
Jimhegartyauthor@gmail.com
Hegartycollection.ie
Youtube film -
The Hegartys of The Laurels

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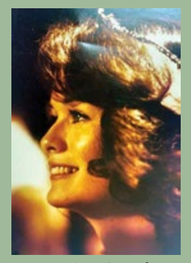
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September is a lovely time to travel to Ireland. The weather is perfect, the summer crowds have gone, and it is the traditional beginning of the shellfish season. If Ireland is on your travel plans this fall, and you happen to be visiting on the last weekend in September a visit to Galway City is a must. For the last 72 years Galway has been celebrating its famous native, Ostrea edulis, more commonly known as the oyster.

Archeological finds have shown that oysters have been consumed in Ireland for more than four thousand years. I have written about oyster cultivation in Ireland in a previous article, but this month I am going to focus solely on Galway.

Without getting too technical, oysters and other bivalves filter water, and are critical to the ecosystem. In infancy oysters float around with plankton and other organic matter until they attach themselves to other oysters or substate. Ireland provides the perfect conditions for oysters and other bivalves like mussels and clams to thrive in its many protected coves and bays. The addition of runoff water from boglands add a minerality to the flavor of the Irish oyster that makes it a prized commodity in Europe and even the U.S.

Oysters thrive in cooler winter waters so they are harvested from September through April or months with an R in their name. Sanitation may have had a little to do with this rule. More toxins in warmer water

Back in 1954 hotel manager Brian Collins had been looking for a way to attract more customers to Galway in what was then a quieter month of the year. Collins discussed the idea with representatives from Guinness and Patick Burke's Bar in Clarenbridge and the first Galway Oyster Festival was established. It had 34 attendees.



The festival was originally held in Clarenbridge village during the day, and at The Great Southern Hotel at night until 1980 when all the activities were held in the city center of Galway. After a few venue changes in 2011 it found its permanent home in the Docks and renamed the Galway Internation Oyster and Seafood Festival. Last year the attendance exceeded 22,000 for the weekend festival. The event features live music, on street entertainment, The Irish and World Oyster opening championships, oysters, world class seafood, and of course Guinness.

Oysters like caviar are not everyone's cup of tea, opening oysters can be intimidating for a novice. Once you get the hang of it its really not that difficult. If you're not into ceviche, tuna tartare, or sashimi, oysters are probably to for you. In my opinion there is no better way to experience the essence of the ocean, sweet and briny.

To open place the oyster on a kitchen towel flat side up, with the pointy end facing you so you can see the hinge of the oyster. Using the towel for protection firmly hold the oyster do not pry but insert the knife and slide it back and forth. Once the knife has been you can now twist the knife back and forth until shell pops open. Carefully run the knife around the oyster and loosen it from the top shell. Discard the flat shell and slide the knife under the oyster making sure you reserve all of the liquid in the shell. If you don't have an oyster knife you can use a flat head screwdriver with a wide face to pop the oyster open and a paring knife to loosen it from the shell. Serve on crushed ice with lemon wedges and classic sauces like mignonette, or cocktail. You might prefer a squeeze of lemon or a dash of hot sauce. There are no wrong choices.

For one of the many bars and restaurants I consulted for I did an oyster Bloody Mary shooter. Great for the holidays. If you're apprehensive about eating raw oysters try topping the oyster with creamed spinach and Guinness Hollandaise and brown it under the broiler, or place the oyster on the grill and remove it as soon as the shell starts to open. This will lightly poach the oyster. Oysters are also excellent when they are lightly breaded and deep fried, and make great Po' Boy sandwiches. Oysters can also be added to soups and to spice up your Thanksgiving or Christmas turkey stuffing. How you decide to serve them is up to you. You have nine months to figure out which way is best, or try them all. Oysters are available pre shucked in containers and are good for soups and dressings but nothing beats a freshly shucked oyster.

Give them a try and enjoy the flavor of the ocean.

Mignonette Sauce

1-/2 cup red wine, white wine, or Champagne vinegar

2 tablespoons finely chopped shallots

½ teaspoon fresh cracked pepper

Optional: pinch of salt and sugar

Combine all ingredients and marinate in the refrigerator at least 30 minutes preferably overnight. Spoon a small amount onto oyster just before eating.

Cocktail Sauce

1/2 cup Ketchup

1 Tablespoon prepared horseradish

1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

Dash of hot sauce

Combine all ingredients and chill.

Guinness Hollandaise sauce

3 egg yolks

¼ cup Guinness stout

1 tablespoon fresh squeezed lemon juice

½ stick unsalted butter clarified by melting in a sauce pot pouring off the clear butter and discarding the white milky residue.

pinch salt and white pepper

Set up a double boiler by placing a metal bowl over the pot with 2 inches of simmering water. Do not let the bottom of the bowl touch the water. Whisk together eggs, Guinness, lemon juice, salt and pepper in the metal bowl.

Whisk constantly over simmering water until egg mixture thickens and becomes foamy. Do not overcook or you will have scrambled eggs. Remove from heat and slowly drizzle in clarified butter vigorously whipping until sauce thickens and emulsifies. Take your time only add enough butter to thicken and emulsify the sauce. If there are any bits of cooked egg in the sauce pass through a fine sieve. Hold at room temperature. There are instant packages to make Hollandaise that you can buy, but it doesn't compare to the real deal.

Creamed spinach

1 10oz bag baby spinach or frozen spinach defrosted and squeezed dry

2 oz unsalted butter

1tablespoon minced onion

1 table spoon minced garlic

½ cup heavy cream

¼ cup grated parmesan cheese

Salt and pepper to taste

Pinch of nutmeg

Bring a large pot of water to a boil a blanche spinach for 2 minutes. Drain and squeeze out excess water. Add butter to pot along with onion and garlic. Cook over medium heat stirring until onions softens do not burn the garlic. Add spinach and heavy cream and parmesan cheese. Reduce until mixture thickens. Add salt, pepper, and nutmeg. If mixture seem too dry add a little more cream.

In this country there are a variety of fresh oysters available. The ones you see most commonly in the grocery stores are Blue Points from New York and Connecticut. New Jersey, Delaware Maryland, and Virginia. The west coast varieties tend to be a little smaller and sweeter but they are all excellent. Give them a go.



House Raffle in County Wexford

A County Wexford father is offering people the chance to win his family's three-bedroom Irish country cottage for around the price of a fast-food meal.

Steve Rooney, 43, has put the fully furnished property into an online raffle, with tickets costing $12 Dollars

The house, around 10km from Enniscorthy and about 15 minutes from the coast, sits on



approximately half an acre and comes with a large garden and a mobile home fully furnished.

The property is listed as being worth around €350000 while the family says some €90,000 has been spent renovating it in recent years, including work on the kitchen, bathrooms and flooring.

Furniture and appliances are also included, among them a 60-inch television, American-style fridge-freezer, dishwasher, beds, garden furniture and lawnmower with all legal fees and stamp duty paid.

Steve says he has suffered serious health problems as a result of ulcerative colitis and that his condition has left him unable to work with a permanet colostomy bag.

His wife works in Dublin during the week, while Steve remains at their Wexford home caring for their four young daughters and managing his health problems.

Steve has said the decision to leave the Wexford property has been a difficult one and quite devasting but its his only way of him finishing a degree to.employ himself after been turned down for almost 4000 jobs and with no goverment help to fund his degree, he thinks not been able to secure. employment is due to his been honest about his disability.

The raffle also has a charitable element, with Steve saying sales of each donates a part to the Children and Young People's Cancer Association in Leicester.

The father-of-four said his own experiences of serious illness helped influence his choice of cause.

According to Rooney, the target is to sell tickets at €12 dollars each with the draw on October the 30th 2026, with part of the proceeds intended to help the charity meet transport and fuel costs.

The family says the property could suit someone looking for a permanent home, holiday property or possible holiday let.

To enter the competition press link below

https://raffall.com/425506/enter-raffle-to-win-furnished-3-bed-cottage-mobile-home-wexford-hosted-by-bowiesoul47

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- Porterage of 1 suitcase per person.
- Tips and taxes in Ireland. *Gratuities to the driver/guide not included.
- Celtic Tours flight bag and portfolio of travel documents.

Day 1 Friday: Dublin
This morning you will be met at the Dublin airport by your driver/guide who will stay with you the whole trip. Our first stop will be Guinness Storefront for a self guided tour and a tasting of the famed stout. Continue on to the hotel for check in and tonight dinner will be on your own in the capital city. Overnight in Dublin.

Day 2 Saturday: Westport
Following breakfast we head West to Westport. A Stop at Seans Bar, Irelands Oldest pub for a tour and tasting. Once we arrive in Westport, you will have the remainder of the day to explore the town on your own. Overnight in Westport.

Day 3 Sunday: Galway
After breakfast, we head south towards Galway. We begin with touring of the breathtaking Connemara region and a stop for a tour at Kylemore Abbey. Followed by a visit to Glen Keen Farm for a sheepdog demonstration with tea and scones. Continue on to Galway for dinner as a group at the hotel tonight. Overnight in Galway.

Day 4 Monday: Galway
The day is yours to explore the city on your own. Overnight in Galway.

Day 5 Tuesday: Dingle
Following breakfast, we head South, our first stop will be at the awe inspiring and majestic Cliffs of Moher, which rise 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean. Continue on to Killarney for a Jaunting Cart Ride through the National Park and some free time to walk around the town. Continue on to Dingle to check into our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 6 Wednesday: Dingle
A delightful day takes us along the Kerry coast to the Dingle Peninsula, which offers magnificent coastal scenery. Beyond Slea Head, we see the Blasket Islands, the last outpost of Europe. Back to Dingle where the rest of the day is on your own. Overnight in Dingle.

Day 7 Thursday: Kinsale
Following breakfast at the hotel, we head southeast with a stop at Blarney Castle to kiss the famed stone. Continue on to Kinsale for an afternoon walking food tour of Kinsale. Overnight in Kinsale.

Day 8 Friday: Dublin
Today we leave Kinsale and head north towards Dublin. The afternoon will be on your own (perhaps do the hop on hop off bus) then an eventful dinner for your last night at the Irish House Party where you will have a traditional Irish Dinner and entertainment. Overnight in Dublin.

Day 9 Saturday: Goodbye Ireland!
Following breakfast, transfer to Dublin Airport for flight back to US.

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Play, Earn, Explore- The J-1 Summer

By Patricia Skerrett Land

"Hi my name is Caoimhe and I'll be your server." Summer in Chicago often means encountering hospitality workers with brogues and unfamiliar names. These young people are participating in the J-1 Visa Summer Travel Program. This federal program has been around since 1969, and Chicago is a popular destination for many of the Irish students who spend their summer working and traveling in a different country. Roughly 3,700 Irish students work each year in the US for a maximum of 4 months. This is the official number, however, it does not include students on tourist visas who work for cash off the books. Besides meeting the need for seasonal workers, the program's purpose is to expose young people from foreign countries to American culture and values, and to help them appreciate the many beautiful and exciting travel destinations this country offers. Chicago attracts many of these adventurers because it offers a big city vibe, relatively good pay and the opportunity to pursue the Irish sports they enjoy at home.

The process of applying for a J-1 summer travel visa is expensive, time-consuming and rigorous. Applicants must be enrolled in a post-secondary degree program and have completed at least one semester. They must have a sponsoring organization, such as the Council on International Education and Exchange (CIEE) and a pre-arranged seasonal job that involves interacting with the public. Irish participants have reported that a mandatory interview at the American embassy is also required. They must also shoulder the total cost of their program which is about $1500 to $3500. This covers expenses such as the visa charge, housing, transportation to and from the US, and mandatory health insurance. The paperwork is considerable, and the student must obtain a Social Security card. Despite all the requirements and expenses, the students are very motivated to take on this summer program.

I set out to Gaelic Park to talk to the J-1 visa holders and find out from them if all the expense and paperwork were worth the trouble. The overwhelming response was very positive. I spoke with Daithi from Galway. It was his second year as a J-1 working at Gaelic Park. This afforded him the opportunity to play Irish football and hurling and live in a GAA sponsored house nearby. After his job is finished, he will travel to New Jersey and Minneapolis, having already visited Nashville. Making friends for life, getting to know Chicago, traveling the country and getting to play the sports he loves made his summer unforgettable. His advice to those considering the program? Daithi offered hearty encouragement to follow through and start the process early.

Dillon from Dublin had a different work experience. He had had a job lined up, however, when he had to delay his arrival, the job went to someone else. When that happened, he couldn't just go and find another job. As an international worker, his visa was specifically tied to that particular employer. Nevertheless, Dillon thought his Chicago stay was unbelievably terrific. He and his friends made it a point to get to meet as many young Chicagoans as possible. Dillon was very positive about his stay, even though he had to go without a job. He felt that this time will be very beneficial for his career in athletic therapy training.

Chicago is a big draw for those looking for an urban experience and the opportunity to continue playing Irish sports. Ava, from Macroom Co. Cork was thrilled with her experience. She is on a camogie team and continued to play at Gaelic Park while working in Chicago. Gaelic Park offers 7 full sized pitches accommodating Gaelic football, hurling and camogie. Her job was at a ramen restaurant in River North. She accepted a job as a hostess there, but when she realized how much servers made in tips, she was disappointed in the pay difference. So her advice to newcomers was to take a job as a server if at all possible. She also advised those who play camogie or any Irish sport to choose Chicago and continue playing all summer. Looking back on her stay Ava declared, "It was worth every penny!"

The program allows students to connect with their American relatives. In her residency as a dermatology physician, Caoimhe from Dublin had this to say: "My J-1 summer in Chicago was unforgettable. Working as a waitress taught me confidence and independence, while living near Wrigley Field showed me the spirit of Chicago. And spending time with my extended American family, created memories and connections that will stay with me."

For many of the J-1 students this was their first time traveling and living internationally. Housing often involves quite a few roommates and demands compromise and figuring out how to get along. Additionally, navigating paperwork requirements and managing time is a lesson in life skills that will have continuing benefits. As Daithi says, "I tell everyone to do the J-1, embrace every opportunity to meet people and make friends for life."

plandirishnews@yahoo.com



Front, from L to R: Head of Tourism at Galway City Council Sally-Ann O'Brien, MWRD Vice President Patricia Theresa Flynn, Galway Chamber of Commerce President Cait Noone, (back from L to R): Galway City Council Festival and Events Officer Fergal Cushen, Galway City Councillor Peter Keane, MWRD Executive Director John Murray, Director of Services at Galway City Council Derek Pender, and Head of Engagement at the University of Galway Marc Mellotte participate in a learning exchange.

Galway Officials Visit Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

A delegation of elected officials and city representatives from Galway, Ireland, visited the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) main office building to learn about the MWRD's innovative approaches to stormwater management, wastewater treatment, and water resource recovery as Galway considers ways to improve its own systems.

MWRD Vice President Patricia Theresa Flynn and Finance Chairman Marcelino Garcia hosted the delegation, which included Galway City Council members Peter Keane, Derek Pender, Sally O'Brien and Fergal Cushen representing Galway City Council, as well as members of the city's tourism and international relations office. Their visit reflected Galway's ongoing commitment to learning from international partners and strengthening global relationships, a hallmark of Irish civic engagement. The visit comes as Chicago and Galway celebrate 29 years as sister cities.

The delegation was accompanied by Nuala Kavanagh, co-chair of Chicago Sister Cities International, and Maya Meade, senior manager of Global Strategic Initiatives at World Business Chicago. Together, they reaffirmed the deep cultural and civic bonds that have been nurtured since 1997.

The visit provided an opportunity for officials from Galway and Chicago to share ideas and learn from each other's approaches to environmental protection, infrastructure, and community resilience. Chicago Sister Cities International, an initiative of World Business Chicago, supports Chicago's global relationships and promotes international collaboration rooted in mutual respect and cultural appreciation.

Galway is located on Ireland's west coast along Galway Bay and has a population of approximately 86,000. It is a center for tourism, education and culture. Known for its festivals, rugged coastline, and rich artistic heritage, Galway continues to build on its international partnerships to strengthen its future and share its unique Irish character with the world.



So, the topic of sports is not my strong suit, but I have to give credit and praise where it's due. If I'm honest, I don't like sports or anything about sports. I am not a competitive person. (maybe I could do a spelling or geography bee)

I never understood how people spend their weekend and weekdays (golf widows) on soccer, hockey, tennis, baseball, basketball, football etc...I do understand that sports are the largest hobby (activity) across the world. If you count shopping or rearranging the house, then I'm pretty darn sporty.

My mom is from Co. Mayo, so I grew up with the red and green of Mayo (Take me home to Mayo, Michael Gaughan) The first time Mayo won the All-Ireland was in 1936! What makes Mayo's win so remarkable is that it took 75 years to bring the Cup back to this beautiful county. It gives me immense pride and joy that my selfless mother Mary grew up in Kiltimagh, Mayo. (Her mother in Bohola, pop. 100 people)

My brother Steven lives in Mayo for several years now. Steven, a big thank you for keeping the home fire lit. We also have a big brother Mick who lives in Dublin and was cheering along with other Dubliner's & overjoyed for Mayo!

Mayo had been beaten in 11 finals. As you can imagine, this has been a source of heartbreak for a county that is very passionate about their Gaelic football. The scenes in Croke Park on Sunday July 27th were so moving, and it will go down as one of or THE most memorable finals in the history of the game. Our very close friends were in the stands and took in every moment for us...

For people who follow Gaelic football it's pure joy. What I found beautiful was in Jack Coyne's (captain) speech, he acknowledged the dearly departed who couldn't be there to witness the event. When Tommy Conroy fisted it over for the final score of the game. Grown men and women cried tears of immense joy as the hooter sounded the end of 75 years of waiting, what a day to remember.

In Gaelic Football the prize is the Sam Magurie cup. The Sam Maguire was first presented to Co. Kildare who beat Cavan, to win the All -Football Championship Final in 1928. The original cup was replaced with an identical trophy awarded annually since 1988.

The Sam Maguire cup is made of silver and the cup's design is modeled after the Ardagh Chalice. (8thcenturay) One of Irelands greatest treasures, it was used for dispensing Eucharistic wine. The original cup is in the GAA Museum at Croke Park in Dublin. The replica "Sam Og" travels with the winning team as part of their celebrations.

Sam Maguire was a real person an Irish Republican (a person who works toward a united Ire.) and Gaelic footballer player. He is remembered as the namesake of the Sam Maguire Cup. (For example, in medicine Alzheimer's is named after Dr. Alois Alzheimer)

Maguire was born in Co. Cork. He was one of seven children. He secured a job in the English Civil service and joined the London Hibernians GAA club. He later became a trustee of Croke Park, headquarters of G.A.A. Maguire is always remembered for enlisting Michael Collins in the Irish Republican brotherhood.

Maguire's story doesn't have a happy ending he did a great deal for Ireland, but they say in the end was fired from his job and denied his pension. The Irish gov't gave him $100.00 pounds and that was it. He unfortunately got sick and died penniless at the young age of 49.

He was buried in St. Mary's in Dunmanway and his grave reads, "In memory of Samuel Maguire died February 6th, 1927, by the people of Dunmanway and his numerous friends throughout Ireland and England in recognition of his love for his country." Dunmanways Dohenys GAA club named their home pitch Sam Maguire Park. In 2002 a statue of Sam Maguire was erected in Dunmanway's town center in Co. Cork. Also, that community in Cork paid for a set of bells which are installed in St. Mary's Church tower.

I want to congratulate the Mayo Sr. Football team and their manager Andy Moran! Mayo Abu! (forever)

"It's about local pride, that's what GAA is - people representing their parishes and the streets where they grew up. Gaelic football in Ireland is different. They don't move clubs when they get fed up." Roy Keane

"He's like Lazarus; but Lazarus didn't have such a sweet right boot."

— Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh

SMIDIN GAEILGE

Football-peil, Mayo-Maigh eo, game-cluiche



Getting to Know the Irish!

By Tina Butler - Leonard



~~~

I'd like to thank and show my appreciation for our parents' caretaker, Claudine Dumas-Veard. She is with Best Care Services in Lincolnwood. Claudine, words can't express how much everyone appreciated & were deeply overwhelmed for how you cared for Tom and Mary. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the hard work and dedication you put in every single day. You always went above and beyond. We are profoundly grateful & forever indebted to you for all the love & care you lavished on them!

They ask for You every day!

Remembering Fr. Mychal Judge on the 25th anniversary of 911

He was a Franciscan priest and beloved chaplain of the New York City fire department. He died while administering last rites at the World Trade Center. His parents were Irish immigrants.

Fr. Judge's daily prayer, Lord, take me where You want me to go; Let me meet who You want me to meet; Tell me what You want me to say; And keep me out of Your way".

Questions, please email at: **Molanive@yahoo.com**

Editor's Note: Tom Butler, Tina's father, Tom, past away on August 16.

Tina said this about her dad. in the obituary:

Tom was a true Irishman and a committed Catholic. He was also for many years an active member of the AOH, (Ancient Order of Hibernians). He had a sharp wit and was never short of a story, he loved to entertain. He was also a die hard "Kilkenny Cat"! During his working years Tom was a tremendous worker and often worked multiple jobs. He was an avid sportsman; hurling was his game. He will be remembered for his monthly column in the Irish American News and love of sharing Irish history & culture. "The harp that once through Tara's halls the soul of music shed, now hangs as mute on Tara's walls as if that soul were fled." (Thomas Moore, Dublin)

He planted love in every heart he touched, and God called him home to tend his highest garden. Ar dheis de go raibh a anam (May his soul be at Gods right hand).

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12th Annual Irish American Movie Hooley Returns to Wilmette September 25-27

Three Days of Irish and Irish American Film Celebrate Storytelling, Filmmaking and Culture at Wilmette Theatre

The Movie Hooley is returning to the village of Wilmette this September with their 12th Annual Irish American Movie Hooley film festival. Celebrating a 5th anniversary at the Wilmette Theatre Sept. 25-26-27 with four extraordinary films. The festival is sponsored by the Irish American Labor Alliance including Local 130 Plumbers Union led by President/Bus. Mgr. Jim Coyne, Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council led by Kevin McLaughlin and Iron Workers Local 1 led by President/Bus Mgr. John Gardiner, and the Irish Film Institute.

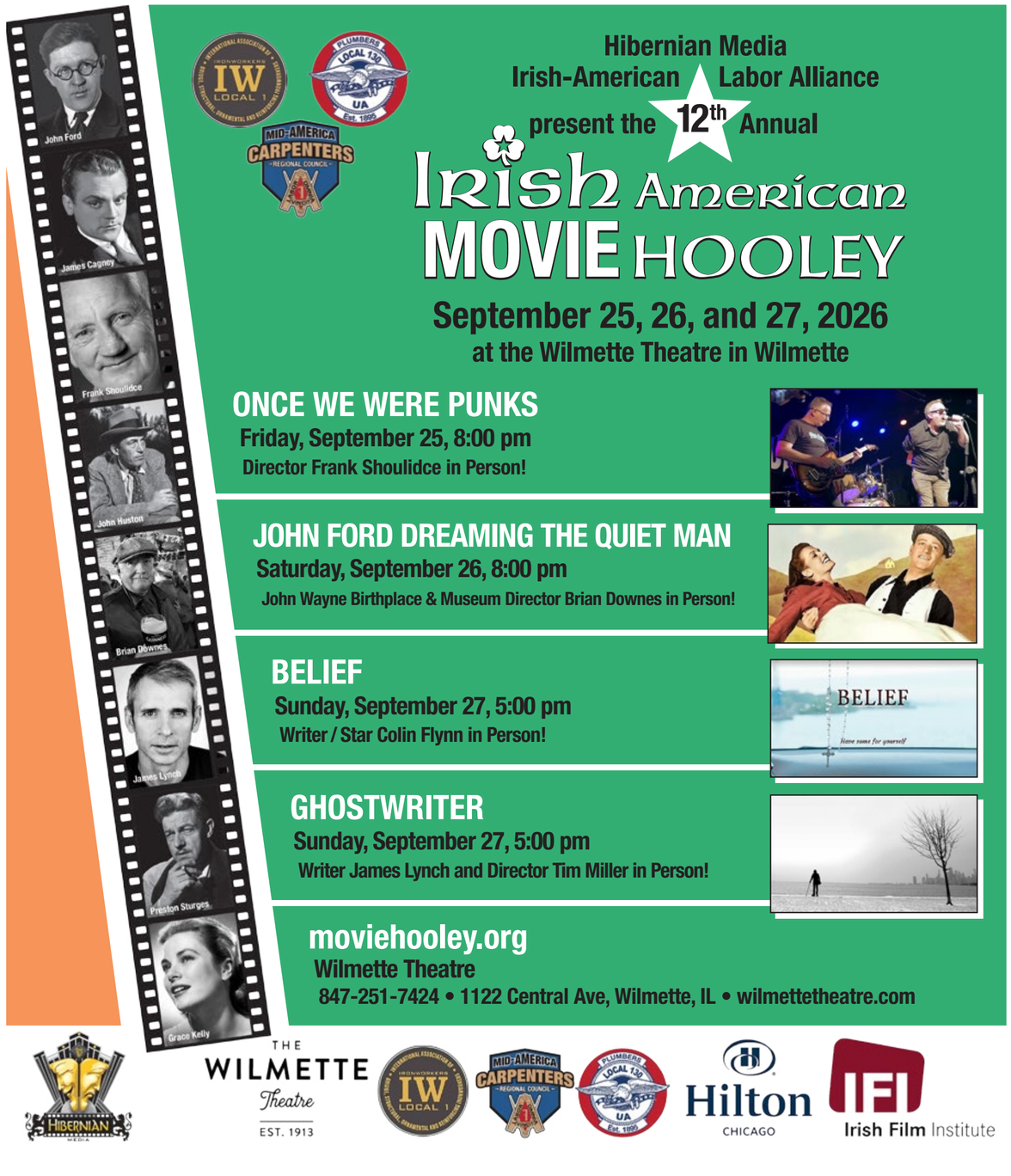
The film festival will kick off Friday night, 9-25 at 8pm with Frank Shouldice's classic 2025 Irish documentary ***ONCE WE WERE PUNKS***, that follows four school friends from 1980s Bailieborough, County Cavan, who form a punk band called The Panic Merchants, drift apart for 25 years due to adulthood and emigration, and then reunite in middle age to pick up where they left off. Director Frank Shouldice will be joining us that night to meet the audience and discuss his film. Frank previously screened his classic film THE MAN WHO WANTED TO FLY as the marquee opening feature at the 5th Annual Irish American Movie Hooley. We are thrilled to welcome him back to Chicago!

On Saturday night, 9-26, we will be screening ***JOHN FORD DREAMING THE QUIET MAN***, directed by Se Merry Doyle; his homage to legendary Irish film director John Ford and his unforgettable classic film THE QUIET MAN. Hibernian Media joins the 75th Anniversary celebration of this film marking the start of filming on location in Ireland in 1951.This film explores Ford's 20-year personal quest to bring his passionate epic storyline to his ancestral homeland featuring insights from Martin Scorsese, leading lady Maureen O'Hara, Irish filmmaker Jim Sheridan and Peter Bogdanovich. Representing director Se Merry Doyle and joining us for this screening will be Brian Downes, Executive Director of the John Wayne Birthplace & Museum in Winterset, Iowa and the personal recommendation of Doyle to rep the film.

Sunday the focus is on Irish American filmmaking, breaking with tradition to screen our first short film ***BELIEF*** by Irish American actor/filmmaker Colin Flynn and then screening ***GHOSTWRITER***, written by Chicagoan, James Lynch and directed by Tim Miller. The film features a brilliant local cast including the late, great Mary Ann Thebus in a heartbreaking performance. Flynn, Miller, and Lynch will all be with us in person for the screening and post-screening discussion.

Tickets to the films are $20 and can be purchased at the theatre. Sunday's tickets include both films. Wilmette theatre is located at 1122 Central Ave, Wilmette, IL 60091, with plenty of parking in the area. There will be plenty of popcorn, snacks, and a variety of drinks available for purchase. **(847) 251-7424**

Hibernian Media NFP is a not-for-profit public charity dedicated to Irish and Irish American culture and all donations are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to Hibernian Media, PO Box 5650, River Forest, Il 60305. More info at **hibernianmedia.org** See you at the movies!





River Shannon Pub Celebrates 80 Years!

If you would like to visit an original Irish pub that dates back to 1946, The River Shannon is celebrating 80 Years young & still going strong! www.theriversshannon.com

COMING IN OCTOBER

There will be a feature article on the Galway Book Store that is world famous - Kenny's Bookshop and Art Gallery, written by Josephine Craven





BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS



Welcome back to the enchanting land of Tir na N'Og for books! This month both of our books are set in Northern Ireland giving young readers a feel for the past and present of the North.

OUR WEE PLACE
by Sophie Kirtley,
illustrated by Ellan Rankin

Emily loves to go visit her



Granda, sit in his wee garden and look at his old red book that has pictures of him when he was a child. For a while, this is all the adventure Emily needs. But when she and her friend, Zak, have a falling out, Granda decides a road trip will help Emily feel better.

Granda takes her to all the places in Northern Ireland where he and his sister used to have adventures. Through the text and illustrations, we are treated to scenes in Belfast and then further afield to castles, waterfalls and the Giant's Causeway. Eventually, Emily and Zak make up and begin to make their own adventures back in Granda's garden.

Our Wee Place refers to Granda's garden and author, Sophie Kirtley, brings in all the beloved Northern Ireland sites of her childhood. In addition to this setting, Kirtley uses lots of Irish words and expressions which put you and your child right into Northern Ireland. For example, the kids play a game called Chasies and eat snack bars called fifteens. The use of the word "wee" also occurs throughout the book in several contexts.

As a picture book aimed at ages 3-7, Ellan Rankin's illustrations are just as important as the text in bringing the Northern Ireland sites to life for young readers. And the illustrations are also good at picturing the loving relationship between Emily and Granda.

Our Wee Place gives us a gentle guided tour of Northern Ireland, delves into the nature of friendship and forgiveness, and shows us a loving cross-generational relationship. That is quite a lot to get done in one short picture book!

GIANT
by Judith McQuoid

Set in Belfast from 1908 to 1910, Giant is the story of fictional character, Davy, meeting young C. S. Lewis. As with most historical fiction, many of the characters were actual people, and many of the events actually happened. So, in Giant we have C. S. Lewis' real-life loss of his mother, and his subsequent and hasty departure for boarding school. We also see the Belfast shipyards as workers there are building the Titanic. All of this reality will give kids a glimpse of Belfast in the early 1900's.

Beyond all this history, though, Giant's author, Judith McQuoid, tells an exciting and compelling story of friendship by the introduction of fictional Davy Caruth and his family. Davy's mother is in service at the Lewis' household, and she takes Davy along thinking perhaps he can do a few extra jobs for pay. Davy makes friends with young Jacks (C.S.), and the boys help and support each other as good friends do.

In spite of the early twentieth-century Belfast setting, kids will find lots of familiar issues being considered in Giant. The friends are very different, but find ways to relate to each other. They come from different classes with Davy's family always facing hunger and Jacks sometimes not being welcome in lower-class Belfast. The loss of Jacks' mother and his unhappiness



at school are difficulties that may be familiar to many young readers as are Davy's worries about finding a vocation that suits him.

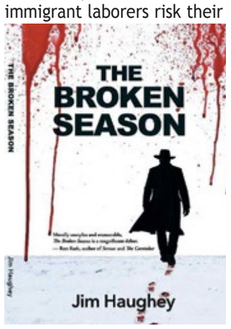
The book has a timeline of C. S. Lewis events and a map of Belfast which both lend authenticity to the story. A short chapter book, Giant will appeal to third through fifth graders and may lead to follow-up reading of Lewis', The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

That's it for this month. Hope you and your kids enjoyed our brief trip to the North. Keep reading those Irish children's books!

The Broken Season

By Jim Haughey

On the eve of the Civil War, deep in the rugged Blue Ridge Mountains, hundreds of Irish immigrant laborers risk their



lives to carve a tunnel through solid granite. In the remote Appalachian camp where they live, death comes easily—through blasting accidents, rockslides, disease, drink, and violence.

But when a young laborer is condemned for murder, a weary priest arrives to hear the man's final confession and deliver last rites. Instead, he uncovers a secret far darker than the crime itself—one capable of shattering the fragile world around them.

In The Broken Season, author Jim Haughey blends rich historical detail with gripping suspense, bringing to life the forgotten struggles of Irish immigrants in 19th-century Appalachia. Atmospheric, haunting, and deeply human, the novel explores faith, guilt, survival, and the hidden costs of progress in a nation on the brink of war.

Perfect for readers of historical mysteries, Southern Gothic fiction, and immersive Civil War-era storytelling, The Broken Season is a powerful debut novel from a longtime literary scholar making the compelling story of friendship by the introduction of fictional



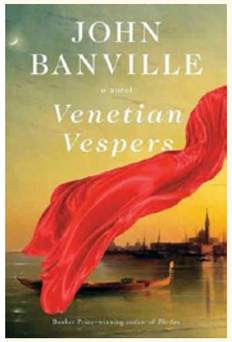
Venetian Vespers

by John Banville

Faber & Faber ISBN 978-0-571-38663-5 · 2025 · 368 pg

John Banville is an acclaimed Irish author (totaling around 36 books), born in Wexford, Ireland in 1945 (80 years). His 20 novels include The Sea, for which he won the Booker Prize (2005). In addition to his novels he has written 13 crime fiction novels including the Quirke series. He is known for his serious fiction novels that garner critical acclaim and literary awards but not a huge audience. "He


Banville in 2019



is more respected than read, a writer's writer, whom even admirers admit can be difficult," wrote Tom Deignan of Banville in America in 2010. Since 2006 Banville (at first under the pseudonym Benjamin Black) also began publishing crime novels. He created the alter ego specifically to write his "Quirke" crime fiction and noir thrillers. In 2020 he dropped the pseudonym and returned to publishing under his real name, beginning with Snow, while continuing to write crime fiction.

His latest book is Venetian Vespers, published in September 2025. It does not fit neatly within either his hi-brow fiction or crime novels genre. It has been described as a "dark atmospheric historical novel," set in the winter of 1899-1900 in Venice. It follows a struggling English writer Evelyn Dolman, a hack by his own description, and his wife Laura Rensselaer, the daughter of an American oil tycoon. Following a rift in his wife's relationship with her father, in which his wife is disinherited from a substantial sum of money by her father's will, the couple travel to Venice in an attempt to rekindle their romantic life, which has not resulted in them making love since before they were married. Following a wine-soaked, volatile first night at the Palazzo Dioscuri, Evelyn wakes up to find Laura gone.

The Palazzo Dioscuri is the ancestral home of the Barbarigo family, a prominent Venetian family dating back to the 13th century. From the first moments at the palazzo a series of seemingly otherworldly occurrences begin to accumulate. Evelyn's frayed nerves disintegrate further following the disappearance of his wife. From the start their marriage was not made in heaven. While Evelyn is deferential to his wife she has no interest in the intimate side of their relationship. Following the disappearance he happens upon a brother and sister couple off St. Mark's square. The brother swears he was a couple of years behind Evelyn in boarding school but Evelyn has no recollection of him. His sister however becomes the immediate attraction to Evelyn, to the extent that its intensity quickly surpasses anything he felt towards Laura. The brother and sister offer to help Evelyn find his wife, resulting in a denouement which involves subterfuge fitting for Venice.



WANTED: LITERARY AGENT

Looking for a forward looking, easy going, literary AGENT who wants to go to meet the King of Norway!

I NEED A LITERARY agent who, when seeing a pile of rocks upon the roadway, does not merely see a pile of rocks, but sees within them, the vestiges of a great cathedral. jamescrowley@yahoo.com

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS



But For Ireland, I'd Not Tell Her Name

by Gerard Taylor 2015
Jazz -Fusion Books
Torpoint, Cornwall, UK

Fulfilling A Dying Man's Wish Becomes A Journey of Self-Discovery

It has been said that all the stories are in families—and this extraordinary beautifully told, highly imaginative and gorgeously illustrated true story about Joe o9, the author's great uncle is haunting and gripping to its very last sentence. I was transported!

The story begins with the author's visit to Joe Collins whom he has not seen in 12 years.

It was shortly after his mother died while he was a "mature" art student at Darlington Art College after just having finished his career as a gardener. The loss was great and he needed to know about the Ireland his mother came from and never spoke about. She said she would never go back or speak of Lismore because it held too many sad memories.

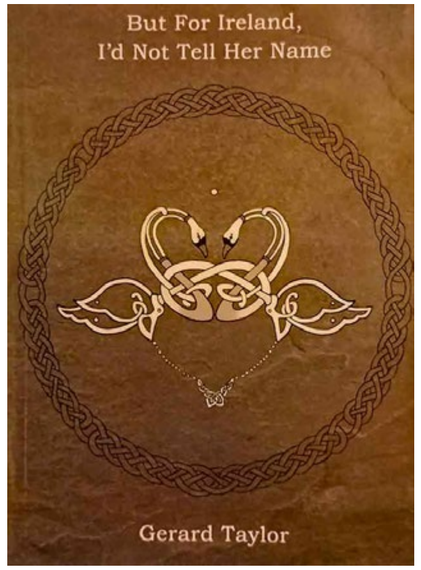
Gerard Taylor knew little of his mother's life in Ireland before she moved to London so he saw his great uncle Joe as the last living link to his mother's past-- the only living link which made his journey more urgent.

He recorded his uncles memories and promised to fulfill his uncle's last wish.

The first part of his journey was the discovery of his family's history in Lismore, County Waterford where his great-uncle and his mother were born. He records the words of Collins family members and friends - anyone with information about his family and their memories of the Old Ireland and the War of Independence that Joe Collins fought in and the memories of the villagers and the unmarked graves of the Famine dead and the hardships remembered and passed down from generations during the Famine all recounted to him on his journey to his mother's and his great uncle's birthplace.

The second part of his journey is where myth merges with fact and the author's imagination soars. It is where we enter the land of banshees and fairies and echoes of a time when Ireland was a land of ancient bards and storytellers like the famous blind poet Raftery-- where there is a thin boundary between this world and the other-world.

As the author embarks on his promise to fulfill his great uncles' last wish I am transfixed -suspending disbelief and embracing the vision the author sees where there is no separation between this world



and the other-world and myth takes on a life of its own.

Gerard Taylor's portraits of his great-uncle Joe Collins, his mother Annie Collins (Taylor) and his grandmother Mary Collins are evocative. He writes like a poet. His storytelling is so powerful that factual and mythical become one.

This is a work of art where mood and memory meet.

Postscript: In a conversation with Gerard Taylor, he confided, "It was sometime after the book that I kept feeling that the book was not enough- I felt that I wanted something tangible to acknowledge Joe's last wish to be with his wife and daughter."

"So even though my great -uncle Joe Collins was buried in England-- I found a way to fulfill his last wish by creating an alternate reality. My son Daniel and I laid a new headstone --- replacing the small broken rusting metal



cross that seemed so forlorn and misplaced amongst the manicured graves-- and finally my great-uncle Joe was united in spirit with Delia and their daughter Cara who died with her mother in childbirth."

About the Author: Mural artist and author Gerard Taylor was born in London to immigrant parents. His father was a South African sailor and his mother was from Ireland. They met and married in London during World War II.

Gerard was raised in London and married Linda at the age of 17. He had 4 children, adopted 1 child and fostered 220 children. After sailing around the world in the merchant Navy, Gerard, became a gardener working in the gardens of stately homes. Then he became a mural artist in 1980 working internationally in Italy, Saudi Arabia, Barbados and the USA.

His mural work stopped in 2010 when he lost sight in one eye. Ironically, this illness gave him the opportunity to create artwork for his book and after 30 years, bring it to its conception.

He lives in Cornwall and is still painting and writing.

Michaela

By Gerard Taylor
Tivoli Books
September 2026
Pages: 316
$18 paperback, $9.95 ebook
ISBN paper: 978-1-966218-12-8
ISBN ebook: 978-1-966218-13-5
tivolibooks.com

An Irish-American family and the shadow of an untimely death. Frank Kirby's exquisite debut spans six decades

The spirit of Alice McDermott, ***Colm Tóibín***

Tivoli Books is honored to publish Michaela, a remarkable new novel by Frank Kirby, who makes his literary debut at the tender age of 71. Trust us, it was worth waiting for.

Michaela is the story of the Murphys, who meet on a playground in Upper Manhattan, court at Coney Island, and bring four children into the world. It's a great life until catastrophe strikes, and the surviving Murphy kids find church, family and one another inadequate for coming to terms with the loss.

Frank Kirby was raised in New York's borough of Queens and lives in Ridgefield, Conn. He earned a BA in creative writing and literature at SUNY Purchase, and master's degrees in international finance (CUNY) and education (Fairfield). He's had careers as a chief financial officer and a high school English teacher. But he was writing fiction all along.



Baseball, Brotherhood, and the Birth of the All-Star Game

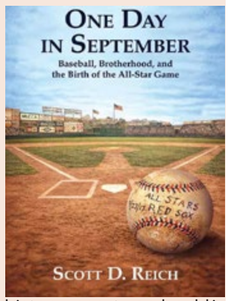
By Scott D. Reich

On a crisp September afternoon in 1917, as the country waged war and the national pastime faced questions about its purpose, baseball paused to reconsider what it stood for. At Fenway Park, the game's greatest stars—many of them rivals, some near the end of their careers, others just emerging—took the field together in an exhibition played not for standings or championships, but for a colleague who had died, and for a cause larger than the game itself.

Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, Tris Speaker, Walter Johnson, Connie Mack—and more. One newspaper called it "the greatest baseball show on earth."

What unfolded that day was more than a benefit or a curiosity. It was a moment of recognition—among players, fans, and the sport's leaders—that baseball could be something more than competition. It could be a shared stage. A public trust. A civic ritual capable of carrying the weight of a nation.

Scott D. Reich is a nationally acclaimed author, historian, attorney, and nonprofit leader whose work explores how Americans make meaning—in



history, sport, and public life—especially in moments of uncertainty and change.

He is author of The Power of Citizenship: Why JFK Matters to a New Generation; host of the podcast Curveball, which explores life's unexpected turns and the resilience they demand; and founder and CEO of Believe in a Cure, a global nonprofit supporting the rare disease community, which includes his son.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Reich has practiced law at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP and American Express and has taught at Penn. His work has been featured widely, including on The Today Show, in The New York Times and People, and across national television, radio, and major publications.

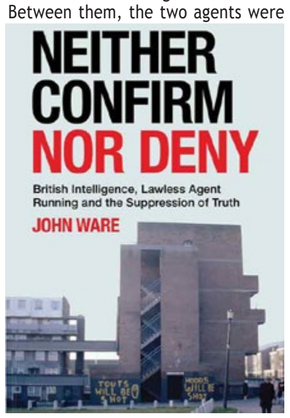
More at **scott-reich.com**

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Neither Confirm Nor Deny

British Intelligence, Lawless Agent Running and the Suppression of Truth by award-winning former BBC Panorama journalist John Ware Available Now

Based on decades of reporting on the Northern Ireland conflict, Ware tells the inside story of two of the most notorious agents ever run by the British state: Brian Nelson, the UDA intelligence officer codenamed 6137, and Freddie Scappaticci, alleged to have been the IRA's notorious agent Stakeknife. Between them, the two agents were involved in some two dozen killings, as well as numerous abductions, tortures and attempted murders.



With major new revelations about their recruitment, handling and protection by British intelligence, the book examines the extraordinary moral and legal compromises made when the state prioritised intelligence gathering over criminal justice - and sometimes human life. Ware also reveals new details about the Sandy Lynch case, the Stevens investigations into collusion, attempts to interfere with a BBC Panorama investigation, and the use of 'Neither Confirm Nor Deny' to suppress the truth about state agents.

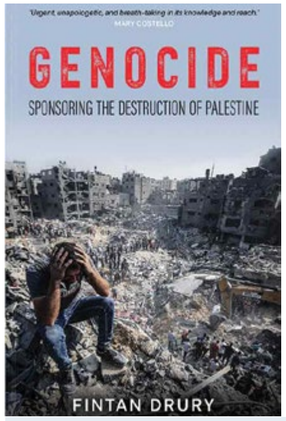
For Irish-American readers with a personal, family or historical connection to Northern Ireland, the book offers a remarkable account of the unresolved questions surrounding the conflict and the role of the British state.

Genocide:

Sponsoring the Destruction of Palestine

by Fintan Drury

A former RTÉ journalist and author of the acclaimed Catastrophe: Nakba II, Drury examines the international political, military and financial forces that, he argues, enabled Israel's war on Gaza and the wider assault on Palestine.



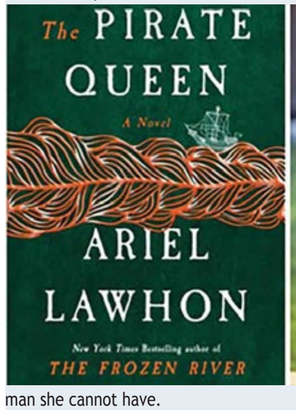
Combining political analysis, legal scrutiny and a detailed reconstruction of pivotal events in 2025, the book focuses particularly on the role of Western powers, including the United States and the United Kingdom.

At the heart of the book is Drury's forensic reconstruction of 13 October 2025, when Donald Trump travelled to Israel and Egypt to unveil his so-called Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict. Drury argues that the day exposed an alliance of political power, military influence and commercial self-interest in which Palestinian lives and rights were largely absent from the vision being advanced. Both Neither Confirm Nor Deny & Genocide are available at https://www.irishacademicpress.ie

The Pirate Queen

by Ariel Lawhon Price $32
Available at Amazon and others
Doubleday ISBN: 9780385550345

Grace O'Malley was born to be a sea captain. But despite her natural skill on the water, Grace learns early that her dreams of a life at the helm are not compatible with the expectations of her noble family. As the only daughter of a powerful chieftain, her role is to secure a strong alliance and bear children. But when she's sent to foster with a nearby clan, Grace falls for a clever and open-minded second son—a man she cannot have.





Married off against her will to a brutal warrior, Grace performs her duty, all the while gathering followers loyal to her, and consolidating her husband's power, only to be ousted from his lands. But this betrayal offers Grace the opportunity to return to sea, finally leading clan O'Malley's mighty fleet. Just as she finds true independence, Queen Elizabeth's incursions into Ireland grow bolder and Grace must fight to defend her land, her ships, and the people she loves most against the cruel and power-hungry English deputies, who will stop at nothing to check her power.

Keenly observed and fiercely written, Ariel Lawhon's new action-packed novel channels the untamed beauty and harsh realities of sixteenth-century Ireland, as seen through the eyes of an unforgettable heroine who rightly became "the Pirate Queen of Ireland."

ARIEL LAWHON is an award-winning, critically acclaimed, New York Times bestselling author of historical fiction. Her books have been translated into over forty languages and have been Good Morning America and One Book One County selections. She lives in the rolling hills outside Nashville, Tennessee, with her husband and four sons. Ariel splits her time between the grocery store and the baseball field.

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Southside's 2nd Generation Irish Catholic Brian Leonard Brings His Show Home to Chicago

Therapist Zero is an unflinching, darkly funny solo show about raising a brilliant, but troubled daughter - and the endless revolving door of therapists who couldn't help her. Written and performed by Brian Leonard and directed by Ken Sonkin, the piece traces a decades-long journey through misdiagnoses, meltdowns, and moments of grace.

Along the way, Leonard reflects on his own chaotic childhood: smoking by 2nd grade, forgotten during a family trip to Niagara Falls, etc., and how that upbringing shaped the parent he became.

Blending biting humor with deep vulnerability, Therapist Zero isn't just about parenting a child in crisis; it's about the generational echoes we carry, the limits of expertise, and the stubborn, imperfect love that sometimes requires walking away to find your way back. Under Sonkin's deft direction, the show walks a tightrope between laugh- out-loud absurdity and raw emotional truth.

At its heart, Therapist Zero asks a deceptively simple question: What happens when everything you thought would work... doesn't?

A story of failure, persistence, and hard-won healing, Therapist Zero will resonate with anyone who has ever tried to help someone they love, especially when that love defies easy answers.

Therapist Zero is a raw, funny, and deeply personal exploration of parenthood, mental health, and what happens when the person you count on most suddenly disappears.

Following its sold-out premiere at the San Francisco Fringe Festival, the show has been praised by parents, mental health professionals, and fellow artists as "a show every parent should see."

'This is a damn decent piece of theatre: Quietly funny. Deeply human. Unpretentious.' ***FringeReview UK***

"Leonard's exploration of the mental health industry's absurdities is sharp and funny, but beneath the satire is the moving story of a father desperate to help his daughter however he can." - ***Larchmont Buzz***

"A powerful show worth experiencing." ***DiscoverHollywood***

"A performance that combines unflinching honesty, warmth, and wit." - ***TheaterMania***

"Leonard's honesty, humor and refusal to offer easy answers remain compelling." - ***Stage Raw***

"Brian Leonard is a terrific storyteller whose ease, vulnerability and perspective paints an extraordinarily honest picture of dealing with mental health." - ***Gia on the Move***

"Critics' Pick" - ***San Francisco Chronicle***

Below is an interview Brian did recently:

Q:At what point did you realize this wasn't just your family's story anymore, but a story other people needed to hear?



When I first started writing the show, it was really about my childhood. LIke a lot of people, I grew up in a dysfunctional family and I found myself gravitating toward the more outrageous and funny stories. As my daughter likes to remind me, "I hate stories about your childhood. They never end well.

As I kept writing, I noticed the contrast between the way my parents raised us and the way my wife and I were trying to raise our daughter. We were dealing with severe mental health challenges, cycling through therapist after therapist, and trying to navigate a system that often seemed as confused as we were. Gradually, those stories started to take over.

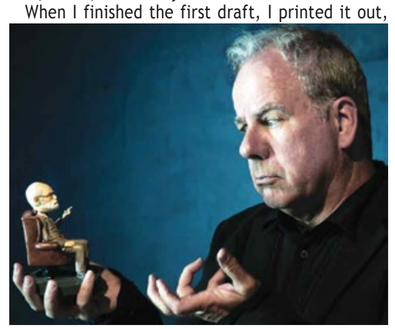
The show stopped being a collection of funny childhood stories and became something larger: a story about what we inherit from our parents, what we try to do differently, and how imperfectly we all love the people closest to us.

I never wanted this to be confessional theatre or some flavor of drama therapy (Lord knows, I've had enough therapy). It's deeply personal, but the goal was always to tell a story that audiences could see themselves in. Whether they're parents, children, or simply part of a family, people recognize pieces of their own lives in the story. That's when I realized that it wasn't just our story anymore.

Q: You share some pretty personal moments in this show. Was there anything you almost didn't put in because it felt too private? What made you decide to include it?

When I first started to explore sharing stories about my daughter, I flat out asked her what she thought about that. She considered it for a good :20-:30 and said, "Yeah, that's okay."

When I finished the first draft, I printed it out,



handed her a copy with a red Sharpie and told her that I was going to perform it for her. If there was a word, a sentence, a page that she didn't like or was uncomfortable with, draw a line through it. Don't explain why or justify it. Mark the script and it's cut. I performed it for her and at the end she was crying; it was very difficult to hear these moments played back to her. She handed me the script and told me I shouldn't change a word.

She's a very private person, so the fact that I'm able to tell any of this is kinda remarkable. As the script evolved, I continued to check in with her. Sometimes she'd ask me to remove a story, or change a detail. Other times she'd suggest a better way to phrase something. Eventually she even started rewriting some of the jokes. I said, "Okay, that's fine, leave the jokes to Dad."

Q: The show talks about your own childhood and how it affected the parent you became. Was there a moment while writing or performing this where you realized something about yourself that you hadn't fully understood before?

Yeah, there was a moment during family therapy that shifted the way I thought about my own childhood.



I realized that the things I didn't receive as a kid: emotional support, attention, patience, and so on... had made me acutely aware how much my daughter needed all of those things from me.

I told the therapist, "All the things I'm not, made me all the things I am." Emily shot me a stink-eye and said, "Did you just quote Kanye? You wonder why we're in family therapy, when Kanye is your spiritual advisor?" I had to remind her, "Yeezy. I think he wants to be called Yeezy. Or Ye."

That's our family in a nutshell. Even the deepest moments eventually end with somebody getting roasted.

Q: This show seems to ask, "What do you do when nothing you've tried is working?" Did creating this show change how you think about failure, parenting, or even hope?

I don't think the show changed how I parented as much as it helped me understand that parenting isn't about finding the perfect answer, it's about continuing to show up when there isn't one. Hope is not a strategy. But, believing your presence still matters is. Even when you don't know what to do next. That's a much more durable kind of hope.

Q: After people see Therapist Zero, what do you hope they're talking about on the drive home? What's the conversation you hope this show starts?

I've heard from a lot of parents who've shared that they thought they were the only ones going through what they are. The circumstances may be different. But the frustration is the same. The sense of helplessness rings familiar. If the show gives someone permission to have a conversation they've been avoiding, or to see a parent, child, or even themselves with a little more compassion, then I'll take that as a win.

The goal of the show is to entertain and if people argue over whether we really needed twenty-eight therapists, that's okay too.

Therapist Zero will be at the Athenaeum Center, 2936 N Southport Ave, Chicago Il 60657. Friday Sept 11, 7pm Sat., Sept 12 7pm, Sunday Sept 13 5pm, and More shows to be announced. Tix $34.Direct link to tickets here: https://athenaeumcenter.org/events/2026/therapist-zero/



Barney's on the bus! - iBAMChicago.com

iBAM!'s 2024 Volunteer of the Year Barney Farrelly and his son Brian Farrelly join iBAM! President Josephine Craven for a little fun aboard the POP-UP Bus. A beloved member of the Gaelic Park Players and former board director of Chicago Gaelic Park, Barney has been part of Chicago's Irish cultural community for decades - and we couldn't let him pass the bus without getting aboard!



This month sees the 83rd Venice Film Festival in Itaty, and congratulations to director Sophie Fiennes, Irish production company Keeper Films, and the entire team behind The Pervert's Guide to Utopias, a documentary that will receive its World Premiere there.

The movie is an Ireland-UK-Slovenia-Netherlands-Norway co-production, and sees philosopher Slavoj Žižek guide us through landscapes of classic film, music, social media, archive and webcasts as he maps the utopian illusions of our times.

Though it has perhaps a questionable title, this concludes a two-decade collaboration between Fiennes and Žižek, and completes a trilogy that began with The Pervert's Guide to Cinema (2006) and The Pervert's Guide to Ideology (2012).

Also, this month is the 51st Toronto Film Festival in Canada, which will see several Irish movies on screen – with more to be announced. So far that list includes Kim Bartley's Lemonade, Frank Berry's The Lost Children of Tuam, which I discussed last month and was a winner at the recent Galway Film Fleadh, Louise Bagnall's Julián and David Turpin's Ancestors.

Lemonade will make its World Premiere, and it follows teenager Danny, who after making a mistake that could derail his future, unexpectedly reconnects with Josh, a social worker who once tried to help him but whose own mistakes drove them apart.

The Lost Children of Tuam looks at the real-life story of how, whilst researching the Bon Secours Mother and Baby Home in Tuam, County Galway, for a local historical society, history enthusiast Catherine Corless uncovered the devastating possibility that as many as 796 children had been buried in unmarked graves on the property.

Julián will make its North American Premiere, and follows the wide-eyed Julián, who is about to spend the summer in Brooklyn with a grandmother he barely knows. He finds out a lot of things, including that he is, in fact, a mermaid!

This month also sees the 78th Emmy Awards taking place in LA, and A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms, which was filmed in parts of the North of Ireland, is up for nine of the Creative Arts Awards including outstanding drama series, production design, cinematography, costume design, hairstyling, music composition, sound editing, visual effects and stunt performance.

The six-part HBO drama is adapted from George R.R. Martin's novella The Hedge Knight and stars Peter Claffey as the wandering hedge knight Dunk, and Dexter Sol Ansell as his young squire, Egg. The ceremony – a week before the main televised event – will see a large number of Irish craftsmen and women with their fingers crossed. Good luck to them all!

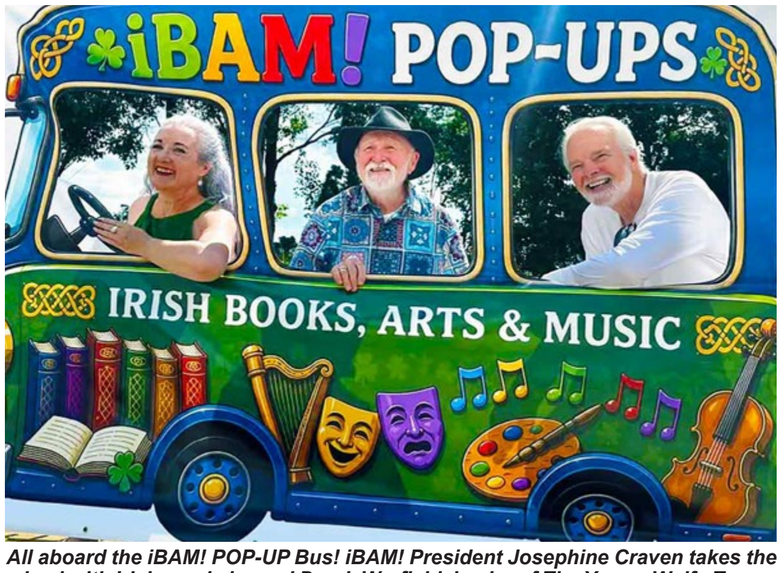
In the realm of emerging Irish talent, young Belfast actor David McKenna, 13, one of the breakout stars of Netflix and the BBC's recent Lord of The Flies drama, has just signed with Hollywood powerhouse agency CAA. Amazingly, his turn as "Piggy" was his first acting role, having secured the part after a casting search involving more than 7,000 young actors.

He is already set to appear in Greta Gerwig's adaptation of Narnia: The Magician's Nephew for Netflix, and according to online reports he will play Digory Kirke, the character who later becomes the professor portrayed by Jim Broadbent in the 2005 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. This movie will star Meryl Streep, Carey Mulligan and Daniel Craig, and is scheduled for release in February next year.

Finally, the latest news from the always-busy Ballymena actor Liam Neeson, who can be seen in the trailer for his new movie The Mongoose. Directed by Mark Vanselow, it sees him play Ryan "Fang" Flanagan, a fugitive on the run for a crime that – guess what? – he didn't commit.

The trailer shows plenty of car chases and explosions, including Neeson being pursued by a fleet of Texas Highway Patrol cars led by Pope (Michael Chiklis from TV's The Shield). Flanagan is supported by his ex-wife, played by Marisa Tomei, and his loyal friend from his army days in Afghanistan, played by Ving Rhames.

Director Vanselow is Neeson's long-time stunt double, and the movie hits theatres in October. "Things are going to get a whole lot worse for you," Pope tells Flanagan at one stage, to which Neeson replies with his trademark gruff snarl: "Sounds like a threat. Bring it on."



All aboard the iBAM! POP-UP Bus! iBAM! President Josephine Craven takes the wheel with Irish music legend Derek Warfield, leader of The Young Wolfe Tones, and Irish American News publisher Cliff Carlson at Gaelic Park Irish Fest. Next stop: Ireland, as iBAM! takes its POP-UP across the Atlantic for the first time, with a very special stop at the famous KENNY'S BOOKSHOP IN GALWAY ! Read the full story in the October issue of Irish American News! iBAMChicago.com

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