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2 Irish American News

The role of the Irish language became prominent in the Irish presidential election, not least because only one of the three candidates to receive nominations is a fluent Irish speaker - the one who became Ireland's 10th president, Catherine Connolly (pictured). The debate about the importance of our Head of State for the holder of an office symbolising Ireland.

of the Irish language engage in the language in that voice in the Áras; it will have first place as a working of gain. way only; it is symbolic of Ireland, propped up by language'. What is the basis for the implication that Uachtaráin, and she also cited the old dogma, 'tír gan Michael D. Higgins, who held the office for fourteen established a precedent that the state must provide teanga, tír gan anam' / 'a country without a language years, routinely interpolated Irish in is a country without a soul'. This may prove another his speeches and never faced censure instance of theoretical advocacy. Although the first and for doing so. most authoritative language of the state - judicially and constitutionally - is Irish, there are extremely rare as an oppressed language is an instances when the authority of the Irish language anachronistic view, far truer in the version of the constitution, Bunreacht na hÉireann, 19th or 20th centuries than in this

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick

having a command of the language took various forms is cited as superseding the English language version. President Connolly makes speaking out in favour of but was largely reducible to the proposition whether Contradictorily, English is in practice so preponderant. Irish a recurrent theme of her presidency, a focus on fluency in Irish should or should not be a requirement in all aspects of Irish public life that it voids claims the new-found confidence in Irish that animates that made for Irish (except in theory).

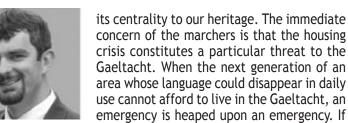
Sounding that keynote for Irish one. While the state could cite the primacy given to the language in the educational system and in the civil service since the state's foundation over a hundred years ago, a dominant attitude towards the language has been that the English language is

language with defeat and marginalisation prevailed. Ireland Assembly also managed to establish an Irish-The broad inability or unwillingness to rethink the language commission to support the language this

biggest march in support of the Irish language in border where many take language rights for granted. our history. There was not a 'low voice' among the







organised activism would be a good place to start, The word 'symbol' is key because many supporters Connolly said: 'Irish will not be spoken in a low swapping a vocabulary of affliction for a vocabulary

Irish speakers are accorded a legal status in the state theoretical defences. In her inaugural address on speakers of Irish are forced into speaking it in a 'low in the 21st century that was badly lacking for most of November 11th, President Connolly announced that voice? The subtext is that the language continues to the 20th century. For example, in 2001, a landmark she would make Irish the first language of Áras an be oppressed. Yet Connolly's predecessor as president, case in the Supreme Court, O'Beoláin v. Fahy (2001),

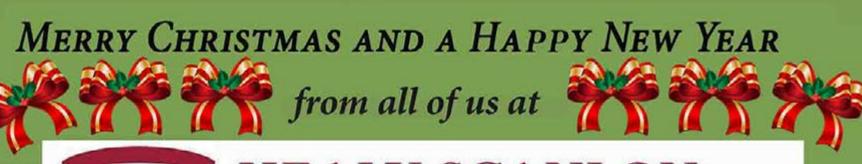
> Irish-language translations of Acts of the Oireachtas even if the president signs a legislative bill in the English language only. That paved the way for a move at a supranational level, in the European Union. Since 2022, Irish has had parity of esteem with other EU official languages - and all EU documents must now be translated into Irish.

> The view from the North is, as it tends to be, a little more complex. The flowering of the Belfast Gaeltacht, Irish-language hip hop and trad groups

infinitely more important. Associations of the Irish are suggestive of a mini renaissance. The Northern language and embrace it as a beautiful addition to October. Probably most remarkable is the work of daily life has done far more to keep it down than Linda Ervine in East Belfast in establishing community anything else. The challenges that Irish faces (and classes and now an Irish-language school (Gaelscoil) there are many) no longer stem from oppression, but in an area traditionally hostile to the language. Her from a lack of activism in using it at every level of premise is that the Irish language pervades our shared cultural heritage and our place names. Ervine faces Connolly's words chime with a march held in Dublin down threats to her life to take those initiatives in on September 20th in which over 25,000 people unionist East Belfast, displaying an appreciation of the demanded increased support for the Gaeltacht - the richness of Irish that is often forgotten south of the

This debate ultimately goes back to reframing the marchers. The strength of the turnout bespeaks a language, to rethinking its anchors and associations growing confidence in expressing the language and and envisaging a new trajectory for it. There are definite stirrings of that happening in Ireland now. So, perish the nonsense that recently arrived people to our island could feel excluded by our using Irish (that is not something that keeps the French up at night when they speak Français). An act of espousal is worth a world of doubts, hesitations and objections. Next time you are in Dublin and want to order a cup of coffee you could make a point of doing so in Irish: 'Tabhair dom cupán caife, le do thoil'. Whether the server has been raised in Ireland or is a foreign national they will probably decipher the order. If you want an espresso (for which there is no distinct translation into Irish), why not make up your own translation? 'Tabhair dom caife luais, le do thoil'. The server may well have arrived to work on the Luas (the tram system in Dublin) for years and never once wondered what the word 'luas' means. It means 'express'. Tir gan teanga in úsáid, tír gan teanga i gceart: a country without a language in use is a country whose language has not fully come into being.







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James O'Sullivan (1850-1894)

late-nineteenth century.

Constitution Corner

Silence is Golden: The 5th Amendment

The Fifth Amendment is another brief but essential part of includes a qualifier that such jeopardy, which means that officials cannot cite a person's private landowners to give the United States Constitution-its a right is only guaranteed a person tried and acquitted refusal to answer questions as up their land for sake of the brevity belies the huge amount when the accused faces being of a crime may not be tried an admission of guilt. of case law surrounding it that charged with a "capital" for that crime again...even if Should a criminal trial take process and just compensation has contributed to modern legal crime or "otherwise infamous new evidence emerges. It also place, the right to protection is guaranteed by this part of understanding and standards.

The amendment begins Supreme Court has kept and sentenced for a crime extends to an individual's valuation and deciding what by guaranteeing the right of this standard fairly broad, cannot be tried again, except right to refuse to take the constitutes the public good individuals to indictment by ruling that if a potential in appellate circumstances stand as a witness during their and what does not falls to the Grand Jury. Legally speaking, this consequence of conviction on a case-by-case basis. own criminal trial. Some folks courts to decide. right does little to protect the is imprisonment in a state Importantly, the double choose to waive this right accused from indictment. The penitentiary, then the jeopardy prohibition does not and take the stand in their the Fifth Amendment is chock axiom "Agrand jury would indict crime can be considered apply when a mistrial occurs, own defense-however, such full of rights and guarantees a ham sandwich" rings true in sufficiently "infamous" so long as the mistrial was actions allow the prosecution that are afforded to anyone many cases because Grand Juries, to require a Grand Jury not caused by prosecutorial to cross-examine you. While who interacts with the justice when asked to indict someone of indictment. Also of note is misconduct. a crime, are presented a one- that the Amendment includes The most well-known facet the fifth while on the stand, sided argument to do so by a a carve-out for members of of the Fifth Amendment, the Court cannot guarantee enshrining a fair rule of law prosecutor and are held to a the military-rather than face however, is protection from that your doing so will not cannot be understated. legal threshold much easier to a Grand Jury, soldiers and self-incrimination. When impact a jury's perception

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reach (probable cause) than round of the trivia tv show you of a crime-even one you would be required to actually Jeopardy! and its own distinct are wrongfully accused of addresses the concept of convict a person of a crime. legal principle. The Fifth committing. Furthermore, eminent domain, by which This initial clause also Amendment prohibits double law enforcement and justice the government may compel crime." The United States means that a person convicted from self-incrimination the Constitution. Determining

someone says "I plead the of innocence and/or guilt. Fifth," this is what they are In most circumstances, the referring to. Every individual spouse of the accused may also has the right to protection not be compelled to testify from self-incrimination, and against their partner. the many forms that selfincrimination comes in. If a life, liberty, and property may police officer places you under not be deprived without due arrest, he or she will read you process of law under the Fifth your Miranda Rights, which is Amendment. This means that Contributing Writers, a list of rights that includes all individuals accused of a the right to a trial, the right crime may be penalized (or to an attorney and the right sentenced), but only after

to remain silent.

officers accused of a crime of interacting with law into the gory details of what face the prospect of a court enforcement is to simply ask constitutes a fair trial and the for a lawyer and shut up. processes that occur before, You may also be familiar Anything you say can and will during, and after one, but we with the term double be used to detain you, arrest are all guaranteed one in these jeopardy, which is the second you, and potentially convict circumstances. Lastly, the Fifth Amendment

public good. Similarly, due

So, despite being fairly brief, you are still entitled to plead system in this country. Its importance to developing and

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O'Sullivan settled. Visiting Ireland Cliff Carlson Summit a suburb of Chicago, O'Sullivan politics and city finances.' Anne Marie McIntyre SUBSCRIBE TODAY! published monthly - 1st of month • 1 year \$35 • 2 years \$60

> objective and balanced was noticed by Irish and mainstream media.' the editor of the Citizen, the Hon. John Most likely owing to his premature F. Finerty (1846-1908). The Citizen was death, the journalistic contributions

the agricultural machinery sector.

in Chicago and were all white-collar to the great City of the West, and soon workers employed in sectors ranging afterwards he was appointed teacher in from the courts service, railways, post one of the public schools.

office, retail management (textile) to From the Citizen, O'Sullivan moved to the Chicago Tribune in about 1884. James's path to Chicago was well- His journalistic output centred on the trodden by others who went before him. political affairs of the city, while he kept Studies of the Irish community in Chicago a close eye on Irish news of which he was have shown that 'by 1870, Chicago's Irish a keen observer. He never lost touch with population was significant, with the his native Limerick and his reports often Irish-born population nearing 70,000, featured stories from home. During the comprising over 25% of the city's land league agitation of the late-1880s, residents. Many Irish immigrants in O'Sullivan wrote about the league's Chicago, like those in other parts of the activities with a particular focus on United States, arrived in impoverished the actions of Limerick landlords in the conditions and took on low-skilled, west of the county. Though his attention poorly paid jobs, settling in working-class was focused on tenant rights, he was neighbourhoods.' The Irish community kinder than some in his treatment of the in Chicago played a vital role in the landed class. Universally known as 'Jim city's growth and development while Sullivan', he cultivated relationships continuing to maintain a strong sense with both political parties in the of community and cultural identity. It American arena and his influence in was into this environment that James municipal affairs was strong. It was said of him that there was 'no writer better Initially working as a teacher, in informed in the twin spheres of local

established a small guild paper known O'Sullivan was not alone as an Irishas the Teacher's Journal. In 1878, James born journalist working in Chicago. In O'Sullivan married Rose McCarthy, a her study of Irish-led journalism in late principal of a west side public schools. nineteenth century Chicago, Gillian Their marriage produced 3 children, the O'Brien has stated 'Irish journalists oldest of which was Daniel (b.1880). played a significant role in Chicago's A keen writer, he was noticed by the news landscape, with figures like city press after penning a series of letters Melville E. Stone, co-founder of the discussing 'the uses and abuses of public Chicago Daily News, and Margaret schools.' In about 1882, his engaging Buchanan, a prominent writer for the writing style, recognized as being Chicago Herald, contributing to both

an Irish weekly newspaper. Resigning of James O'Sullivan have been long from his teaching post, O'Sullivan forgotten. Away from the newsrooms of accepted a position as sub-editor of the Chicago, James O'Sullivan was a well-

County Limerick

'Peerless as a news gatherer, strong paper and quickly established himself as connected individual and maintained clear that O'Sullivan was a consummate and forceful as a writer of facts': one of the most promising journalists strong affiliations with numerous journalist held in the highest regard Born at Cooleygorman, Broadford, Co. active in Fenian circles in the city.

Irish American News

in the Windy City. Finerty, a fellow prominent and influential figures. He within his profession in his adopted When Limerick native, James immigrant, was born in Galway, the son was a founder and president of the country. However, as was noted in his O'Sullivan (sometimes Sullivan) of M. J. Finerty, nationalist and editor Newspaper Club, a member of the obituary, his passion for his homeland emigrated to the United States in 1869 of the Galway Vindicator. In 1883, John Chicago Athletic Association, and a informed his writing: 'while the mellow as a newly qualified teacher, little F. Finerty was elected to congress as member of both the Sheridan Club notes of his native Limerick yet lingered did he know that he was to have a an independent Democrat for Chicago's and the Columbus Club, exclusive on his tongue, there burned in his heart glittering career as a journalist and South Side. He was also involved in the gentleman's clubs. His political support a deep and tender love of the green old editor of some of the most important Fenian Brotherhood and the United for the Irish Parliamentary Party saw land that gave him birth, though many and popular Chicago newspapers of the Irish Societies of Chicago. There is no him establish a fund for the support of long years have sped since he bade evidence that James O'Sullivan was the party in the British parliament. He goodbye to the Shannon's banks and became treasurer and raised \$8,000 of the classic vales of his native Munster. Limerick, James O'Sullivan was baptised In 1884, James's success in his adoptive which \$5,000 was hand delivered by O'Sullivan's love of his native land was on 10 February 1850. He was the son of country made the Limerick newspapers; a retired judge to parties authorized of the practical kind... many who have Timothy Sullivan and Maria Barry. James the Munster News of May 1884 described to receive it in London. As his career entered the USA in the intervening had seven brothers (Dermot, Patrick, him as 'an educated scholar who passed progressed, O'Sullivan became known years have felt the influence of James John, Timothy, Eugene, Michael and his examination as a first-class teacher for his articulate approach to journalism O'Sullivan in the great metropolis of William) and two sisters (Helen and for the Examination Board in Limerick... coupled with astute skills as a political the West. He died on 4 July 1894. In the editor. O'Sullivan's reporting was molding of public affairs of the country. described as 'brilliant pieces that upheld James O'Sullivan was more of a factor the grand old cause of Irish nationality.' than is generally known.' He was particularly respected by the Irish In 1895, Jim O'Sullivan's colleagues his 'invaluable services rendered to the presented with a life size bronze bust of cause of Ireland.'

of Chicago at the inauguration banquet O'Sullivan is in the present day. of Lord Mayor of Dublin, John Shanks. and he induced Mayor Shanks to visit O'Sullivan. 1893. It is unknown if O'Sullivan visited photographs.com/historicalhis native county.

James O'Sullivan died suddenly in July 1894 in what was described as a 'great loss not only in newspaper circles but across the great city of Chicago, especially among the Irish community.'

His lengthy obituary described him as 'peerless as a news gatherer, strong and forceful as a writer of facts, not soon shall we look upon his like again.' It is

community in Chicago who recognized and friends at the Newspaper Club were their late friend. That bust was created O'Sullivan visited Ireland in 1893 by Robert Henry Parker (1838-1902). when he represented the City Council It is unknown where the bust of Jim

The above view of Chicago would His trip home was very well-received, have been a familiar sight to James

the Chicago Exposition in October of Source: https://chicago-

Researched and written by Dr Paul O'Brien, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick. 21 October 2025

photographs/













Christmas came early to battle with cancer. The club tremendous success this of actual leaders who will do take up a new hobby that a local club as the Michael dedicated its season to Paul past summer as they too what is best for the club. Cusack's Hurling Club was and did him proud by bringing triumphed at finals, winning named the Club of the Year home the Intermediate the Intermediate Camogie upon us I hope we all take is not promised to us, and we at the recent USGAA National Hurling title at this year's Championship. Great clubs do some time to appreciate the all have the ability to get the Convention in Nashville. USGAA finals. Proving that GAA sports are At a time when many local years of nurturing to build in our lives and enjoy any alive and well in the Chicago clubs are struggling to survive the proper GAA community time we can share with them. strive to "do the right thing" area, the Cusack's are the due to mismanagement, and most importantly it takes I'm sure we have all learned and enjoy this festive holiday

honor in 2024.

second Chicago club in a row leadership that is more having the right people in the that life is short and many season with those closest to to win the award, joining St. concerned about themselves right positions of leadership of us have lost close friends you. Treat people the way Brigid's LGFC who took the than the players and possessing to allow the club to thrive. and family members during you want to be treated and the ability to allow a club to The Michael Cusack's and St. the past year, some of them do your part to make this The Cusack's have flourish without the board's Mary's have both learned that much too early. It's easy to crazy world we live in a better established a standard of interference, the Cusack's lesson well and it shows in their say that we should live every place. Merry Christmas! excellence for many years have endured with an attitude and endured a very emotional of "all hands on deck". Every season as the founder of the player, whether a complete club, Paul Reynolds passed newbie or a seasoned veteran,



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and given a hurling home results. Poor management can day like it is our last but to where the player can thrive, run a club into the ground as actually follow through with friendships are formed, and we have seen recently with that is difficult. Don't wait the sense of community is some other local clubs who until "tomorrow" to connect real. Many clubs can learn are on the verge of extinction with an old friend who you a valuable lesson from both because of poor management haven't heard from in a long the Cusack's and St. Mary's, and putting ego maniacs in time, or to go on a trip you another club who enjoyed positions of power instead have dreamed about, or to not happen overnight. It takes people who are important most out of every day.

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you always thought would be With the Christmas season rewarding for you. Tomorrow

Be thoughtful, be kind,

Be the Light of Hope for Someone in Need

By Colleen Kennedy

young son escaped the fear accompany. With courageous profound new challenges and trauma of domestic compassion and joy, we take in an economy and world violence last year, she found care to make every helping that keeps pushing their a welcoming community in action, no matter how small, dreams out of reach. At the Catholic Charities' House of a message of hope. the Good Shepherd Ministry and the assistance she Charities, Keiona Johnson's one small flicker of hope, needed to start over.

their darkest moments, we helping you advocate for is transformational. respond.

At Catholic Charities, illuminating lives with hope is our mission. Hope is so much more than a wish for a better outcome ... it is the certainty of God's

love for all of us. The light time, I'm helping you feel your continued support of hope is so powerful that empowered and confident." ensures Catholic Charities is even the faintest glimmer can pierce darkness.

her young son.

We witness of Catholic Charities.

baby we help feed, and neighbors today, so When Cecilia* and her every mom and survivor we many of them are facing

message to new mom makes a difference. When When our neighbors face Dominica* was simple: "I'm it's multiplied, the impact yourself, and at the same

Archdiocese of Chicago

Dominica learned not only there to help. how to prepare for labor and

These flickers of hope delivery but also how to be of our Catholic Charities empowered Cecilia, a mom. Keiona accompanied community and for showing who went on to earn an Dominica in her birth that the light of hope associate degree. She journey, from prenatal cannot be extinguished. beams with pride at this appointments to the birth accomplishment and shares plan to delivery. She helped *privacy* her plans for a career her find her footing in the working with survivors, first few months of her son's President, Institutional inspired by the knowledge life. This family, as well as Advancement, for Catholic of how escaping her abuser Cecilia's and many others, Charities of the Archdiocese positively impacted her and has been strengthened by of Chicago. Catholic Charities the programs and services partners with mission-driven

transformations like This critical work is possible witness a message of mercy Cecilia's every day at because of partners like and hope across Cook and Catholic Charities — in you, who serve alongside, Lake counties, accompanying pray with, and support us anyone in need, regardless financially. You help make of race, gender, faith, or all who come to Catholic ethnicity. Learn more at seen, and loved.

every call we answer, every As we walk with our same time, we see how a As a doula at Catholic simple act of kindness, just

This is no time for business as usual - it's a time to show up, to shine out, and bring light into the darkest circumstances. When our neighbors seek a warm meal, connection to counseling, or refuge from domestic violence,

Thank you for being part

*Names changed for

Colleen Kennedy is Vice people and organizations to



Coming Soon to a Table Near You: MRS. O'LEARY'S **VINDICATION!**

DECEMBER 2025



She's the most maligned milkmaid in history -- if not worldwide, then certainly in Chicago history!

One hundred and fifty-four years after Chicago's "Great Fire," Catherine O'Leary clears her name in a play titled simply: "Mrs. O'Leary."

I'm a Michigan native who learned "Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight" as a Girl Scout in the 1970s.

Fast forward to 2025. I'm based in Chicago, where I earned my MFA in screenwriting from DePaul in 2019. Earlier this year, I wrote a screenplay to give Mrs. O'Leary a voice.

The genre is historic fiction, with relationships and events dramatized but with vindication at its heart: Mrs. O'Leary didn't start the fire... but somebody did!

Believing in my heart that "Mrs. O'Leary" will fill Chicago theater seats, I adapted my screenplay into a play. A TABLE READING

I'm hosting a table read in hopes of finding a theatrical home for this project.

"Mrs. O'Leary" will be read on Dec. 3 at 6 pm at the Newberry Library.

Please email me, Melissa Birks at

freemrs.oleary@gmail.com if you'd like to attend. I'll send you an evite to RSVP.

Mary Pat Flanagan

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Dean Arrowsmith has been around soccer all his life. The native of Dundalk, on the northeast corner of the Republic of Ireland, gained first-hand experience in the sport by watching his father who was the founding member of the local club. A self-admitted "terrible soccer player," he nonetheless loved the sport and embarked on a long career in coaching and management in Europe and the United States, culminating in his current role as Senior Manager, Arrowsmith was increasingly involving himself in the Soccer In The Community, with the Chicago Fire.

impact that he has made through the game, and his with what happens on the pitch. Rather, he sees his charitable work in raising awareness and helping others around the topics of suicide prevention, mental health, and navigating personal loss, as his north star that guides the work that he does and continues to this day.

Arrowsmith's own journey to his current professional position and charitable leadership roles was anything but a straight line. He went to college in Dundalk, where he studied community sports leadership, and worked in summer camps for the Football Association of Ireland and spent time in Chicago to serve as a coach in the MLS Counts program. Upon leaving school, he stayed involved with the Dundalk Football Club for over three years, serving as assistant coach, equipment manager, barman, and anything else that was required of him; it was, as he says, "a labor of love."

By 2013, Arrowsmith learned a harsh lesson in the reality of working in professional sports, when the club was facing financial difficulty and no longer required his services.

"This was a rejection by a club that I had given so much of my life to, and it hit me hard," Arrowsmith recalls, and he struggled to face his new reality. He does not hide from sharing his personal low point, which came at that time of his life, when he was ticketed for a DUI for drunk driving and considered taking his own life.

Thankfully, as Arrowsmith says, "I came out on the other side of this period of my life determined to help people.

Over a decade later, Arrowsmith has made good on that promise he made to himself, starting by doing charity fundraising and returning to Chicago -specifically suburban LaGrange - in 2015 to coach in the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO). He worked there for eight years as a coach and director and now serves on the organization's board.

In 2023, Arrowsmith joined the Chicago Fire FC, where he builds fandom across Chicagoland, managing youth camps and coaches and curriculum across the city and suburbs.

"In my role, I have the ability to use a big organization (Chicago Fire) to build a community," he proudly



And yet, ask Arrowsmith about the most important for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention in 2019, after he lost his uncle to suicide two years prior. response may surprise you, as it has nothing to do In 2020, he co-founded with a friend from Ireland the nonprofit organization Head in the Game, which is dedicated to normalizing conversations around mental health. With this organization, he was able to partner



While enjoying this successful professional career, **Dean Arrowsmith, Emily, and Daughter Fiadh**

with The Football Association of Ireland, as well as professional athletes and teams, and after five years of active involvement, he stepped down as chairman in August of 2025.

Arrowsmith faced another personal challenge in 2020, when his wife Emily was pregnant with their first child, who was due to be born on December 22, 2020.

"During our 20-week scan, we saw that charitable world, running his first Chicago Marathon our daughter - Charli Mae - had a heart defect," Arrowsmith recalls. "We were sent to a specialist, and a week later she was gone.

> Faced with this loss, Arrowsmith felt that he needed to do something in his daughter's memory, so he organized a fundraising race - "100K for Charlie May" - and recruited participants in Chicago, Ireland,

> > the United Kingdom, and even Africa and Australia. The race generated \$10,000 for SHARE, a Naperville-based support group provided by Edward-Elmhurst Health for those who have experienced a miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth or neonatal death.

> > He then organized a charity soccer match between teams in Chicago and Ireland; the first game took place in Ireland in 2023 and has alternated between the countries since then. In 2026, a group of fathers who have experienced these losses is expected to travel from Ireland to Chicago to play a similar group in Chicago at Chicago Fire FC's community facility.

Reflecting on his personal and professional journey, Arrowsmith acknowledges that he has been affected by the challenges - and opportunities - that he has faced.

"As a younger person, my vision was focused on how famous I could get one day. I wanted to be known. Now, I still want to be known, but I want to be known for something that made a difference in the world."

The connections between Ireland and Chicago are on full display within Arrowsmith's charity endeavors, and that is no accident. He has spent years cultivating relationships with community leaders like Ruairi Barnwell, the former Ireland Network Chicago president whose daughters Arrowsmith coached in AYSO, and Arrowsmith himself joined the Committee of the Network in 2023.

"There's no one like the people of Chicago, and especially the Irish in Chicago. We take great pride in where we're form, we want to look after each other. I want to look after people, to help people in any way I can. That's the crux of what it means to be Irish.



11-22-25 iBAM! Gala Pictures - More in Next Months Edition!



How to Become an Irish Citizen

DECEMBER 2025

people wonder how realistic it provide tailored guidance. is to become an Irish citizen if they weren't born in Ireland.

The good news? Irish nationality law provides several

Below, we break down both entry onto the FBR. routes so you can understand exactly what's possible and how parent was registered on the

to begin (Parents / Grandparents)

Naturalization as an

Irish Citizen Through\

Residency in Ireland

period of residency.

For Irish Americans, this is broken. is by far the most common and straightforward path. If your parent or grandparent was born in Ireland, you may a few documents shy of Irish all of which require a period circumstances to spouses of

The 27th Amendment include a) you have lived in Ireland prior to 1/01/2005.

Citizenship Through an Irish-Born Parent

If one of your parents was through naturalization, you term residence and citizenship. born on the island of Ireland, must have lived in Ireland apply for an Irish passport.

Grandparent Rule")

are eligible to apply for Irish some exceptions. citizenship by making an application to be entered on children of Irish citizens need

certified copies of certificates are usually okay, as long as you opportunities. for yourself, your parent and can explain them. Spouses/civil • Family Reunification: If civil marriage certificates, naturalization, you can apply build your life in Ireland. death certificates, government- to become a naturalized Irish issued IDs, and proof-of-address citizen. After approval, you'll documents.

attend a citizenship ceremony

Irish American News

Work Permits

(Employer-Sponsored):

If you have skills in demand, By McEntee Law Group documents—such as non-such as IT, healthcare, finance, applicants must: for Irish American News originals, short-form birth or engineering, you may qualify For generations of Irish certificates, church marriage for a Critical Skills Employment line connecting them to their Americans, the dream of records, or those containing Permit. Other options include Irish-born great-grandparent. reconnecting with Ireland runs conflicting dates or names—may the General Employment Permit deep. Whether motivated by be questionable and should be or Intra-Company Transfer ongoing connection to understanding your citizenship heritage, opportunity, or the reviewed individually by an permits. These allow you Ireland, such as regular visits, options is the first step. appeal of an EU passport, many experienced attorney who can to live and work in Ireland, involvement in Irish cultural or • Citizenship Through an residence—but you will need an professional ties. Irish Citizen Parent Irish employer to sponsor you.

(Not Born in Ireland) If your parent became an Irish student visa (Stamp 2) lets you discretionary, this route is less immigration, assisting clients at clear paths. The two most citizen through foreign birth study full-time while working predictable than citizenship every stage. relevant for people abroad are: registration before you were part time. After graduation, through parents or grandparents 1.Irish citizenship by descent born, you should be eligible to programs like the Third Level — but for some, it can still be 2.Irish citizenship through apply for Irish citizenship by Graduate Program can provide a viable path. The Minister for residency and naturalization submitting an application for temporary work authorization Justice recently issued new Timing matters here—if your term residence.

 Stamp 4 Permission: This FBR after your birth, it is too is the permission spouses of Irish Citizenship by Descent late for you to claim citizenship Irish citizens receive when through that parent as the chain they reside in Ireland with their spouse. This allows you to work for an Irish employer, establish and operate your own business, and/or attend There are three main ways university. Stamp 4 Permission already qualify and are just to apply for naturalization, can also be granted in other

of residency in Ireland. These Irish citizens. •Start-Up Entrepreneur changed the law in relation Ireland in reckonable residency *Program (STEP)*: If you're to Irish birthright citizenship, for 5 years; b) you are married an innovative founder with a taking effect on 1/01/2005. to an Irish citizen; c) you are business idea that can scale For the purpose of this article, applying on behalf of a minor. internationally, STEP allows we will focus on those born in Refugees are also able to apply you and your family to live for naturalization after a 3-year in Ireland while developing your venture. It also provides To qualify for Irish citizenship a potential route toward long-

•Stamp 0 (Retirement / you are automatically an Irish legally for at least five years in Visiting Academic / Dependent citizen upon your birth, even the last nine, including one full *Elderly Relative*): Retirees if you were born outside the year of continuous residence or financially independent country. You do not need to immediately before applying. individuals, visiting academics, register in the Foreign Births You must demonstrate good and dependent elderly Register (FBR); you can simply character, show an intention relatives can live in Ireland to continue living in Ireland, on Stamp 0 permission. While Citizenship Through an maintain continuous lawful it doesn't automatically lead Irish-Born Grandparent ("The immigration status, and comply to citizenship, it can allow with absence limits—generally you to spend extended time in If one of your parents had no more than 70 days away from Ireland and create connections an Irish-born parent, you Ireland in the final year, with that could support a future naturalization application.

•Sports & Cultural

Spouses/civil partners and Permissions: Short-term only have lived in Ireland visas for cultural or sporting Once registered, you become for 3 years over the past 5 work, or hosting events, don't an Irish citizen from the date of years, including one full immediately provide longyear of continuous residence term residence, but they can This application requires immediately before applying. be a way to start your life in original or government Small absences from the country Ireland and explore longer-term

your Irish born grandparent. partners must be living with you have a spouse, partner, It remains one of the most their Irish citizen spouses/civil or close relative legally direct pathways for people partners on the date they apply residing in Ireland, you may born outside of Ireland. for citizenship and on the date qualify to join them. Eligibility Generally, applicants' required they are granted citizenship. depends on your specific family documentation will include Once you meet the circumstances, but this can be long-form birth certificates, eligibility requirements for a meaningful way to live and

Citizenship Through Irish Associations

Under Section 16(2) of the A note of caution: some and receive your Certificate of Irish Nationality and Citizenship

Naturalization—then you can Act 1956 (as amended), the a good fit to apply for Irish apply for your Irish passport. Minister for Justice may grant Associations. Even still, The naturalization application citizenship to a person with this remains a long shot for can take several years to "Irish associations," which can obtaining Irish citizenship. As include having an Irish-born the guidance is so new, and Types of Permissions in Ireland great-grandparent. This is not the application process takes a an automatic entitlement. few years, how these cases will Instead, it is a case-by-case be adjudicated under this new discretionary process where guidance remains to be seen.

Document the full ancestral

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREEN!

often leading to long-term community life, or meaningful headquartered in Chicago, IL

and create a pathway to longer- guidance for Irish Associations as to which cases may be

Start Your Irish Citizenship Journey

Whether you are reconnecting with your heritage or planning Demonstrate a genuine, a new chapter in Ireland,

McEntee Law Group in connection with its Irish 'Of Because the standard is Counsel,' provides guidance on • Studying in Ireland: A a lot higher and approval is Irish citizenship, residency, and

> Contact McEntee Law Group 1(773)828-9544

info@mcenteelaw.com www.mcenteelaw.com 4245 North Knox Avenue Chicago, IL 60641



Sign up for your free trial class today and **shine on** stage by St. Patrick's day!



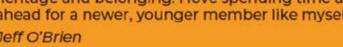


dirish american heritage center IS YOUR CENTER

Your Center for Music. Your Center for Dance. Your Center for Culture. Your Center to gather with Family and Friends.

BE A PART OF IT BY BECOMING A MEMBER OR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY! 🧩 JOIN AT IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

I joined the Irish American Heritage Center this year (2025), and in just a few months I've jumped into everything from a bags tournament, The Kilkennys concert, to the Center's 40th Anniversary Mass & Breakfast. Every event offers something special—but the people are the best part. Connecting with Irish Americans of all ages has deepened my sense of heritage and belonging. I love spending time at the Center and can't wait to see what's ahead for a newer, younger member like myself.





MEMBERSHIP:

Enhance your IAHC membership with options that fit every household and level of support: Individual/Family plans start at \$30/\$50 for 1 year or \$50/\$75 for 2 years, and include 10% off at the IAHC Gift Shop (non-sale/non-food items) and food in the Fifth Province, member-only ticket discounts, voting rights for the IAHC Board, eligibility to run for the Board (members in good standing for 3 of 5 consecutive years), and an Irish American News subscription. Step up to Harper (3 years, \$250) for all core benefits plus an exclusive IAHC member T-shirt. Go all-in with Bard (5 years, \$500) and receive all core benefits plus a private tour of the IAHC, two tickets to the Christmas Bazaar Breakfast, an Irish American News subscription, and an exclusive T-shirt. This is your Center—be a part of it by becoming a member or renewing today at irish-american.org.

Date:	Payments by credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Discover	Payments by credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ Discover				
□ New □ Renewal □ Gift Membership						
NAME	NAME ON CARD					
ADDRESS	ACCOUNT # EXP DATE					
CITY/STATE/ZIP	SIGNATURE 3 DIGIT CODE					
PHONE	Cash Check Amount: \$	_				
EMAIL	Checks payable to the IAHC and mail to:					
FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY Adult Name(s):	4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, IL 60630					
1. 2.	Or visit irish-american.org, to purchase online					

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	DUBLIN	\$20 PER TICKET \$50 FOR THREE		Address:	
*		www.irish-american.org			

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



Looking for the perfect Christmas gift? Enter to win a one-of-a-kind, handstitched auilt from IAHC's Nimble Thimble quilters! This year's piece, titled "Phases", is an 86-inch square, all-cotton quilt valued at over \$500.

Raffle ticket packages start at just \$10—less than the cost of a pint of Guinness-

and are available now through December 8, when the drawing will take place. Own a piece of functional Irish art or gift it to someone special this winter season.

THE DRAWING	13 ON DECEMB	ER OTTH
2 tickets \$10	3 tickets \$15	☐ 5 tickets \$20
Total number of	tickets purchased	
Checks payable t	to the IAHC and m	ail to:
4626 N. Knox Ave	., Chicago, IL 6063	60
Or visitirish-amer	rican.org, to purch	ase tickets or donate online
Or visitirish-ame	rican.org, to purch	ase tickets or donate online
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irish american heritage center

4626 N. Knox Ave. Chicago, IL 60630 773-282-7035 x10 irish-american.org (700

THE SOUNDS OF IRELAND TAKE CENTER STAGE AT THE IAHC

Celebrate community, culture, and connection with a festive slate of favorites. Plus, don't miss our fan-favorite raffles with great prizes. Whether you're a longtime member or a first-time visitor, there's something for everyone—music, markets, food, and traditions that bring us together. Details & tickets: irish-american.org | 773-282-7035 (Ext. 10).



'TWAS THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS IN CHICAGO CONCERT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 | 7:00 PM

The BBE presents 'Twas the Week Before Christmas in Chicago, a not-so-classical concert of carols, holiday cheer, and a Chicago-themed version of the classic famous story! Join BBE musicians on a Chicagoan's quest to catch the Santa El train. This show promises a jolly time of singalongs, games, and merry music to be had by all! With its "come as you are" approach, the BBE enjoys an interactive experience with its fans across the U.S. from its music, its program mascots, and everything in between that emphasizes community. For more info: bbexperience.org.

TICKETS \$25

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR RETURNS IN DECEMBER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 | 9 AM

Celebrate the season at the Irish American Heritage Center's annual Christmas Bazaar!VVendors will fill the Center with food, crafts, jewelry, art, and more. Enjoy live Irish music & dancing throughout the day. Stop by our IAHC Gift Shop for Irish treats & treasures! Kick off the day with our monthly Sunday Mass, followed by a full Irish breakfast buffet with live music & dancing in the Erin Room (Fourth Floor). Tickets are required for the breakfast and available on our website.

Good to Know: If you're not attending the morning Irish breakfast event, the Christmas Bazaar is free to attend! Want to be a vendor? Email vendor_info@irishahc. org for more information!

THE AIMEE MANN & TED LEO CHRISTMAS SHOW

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11 & FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 | 8:00 PM BOTH NIGHTS Aimee Mann & Ted Leo's Christmas Show 2025 — with special guests Paul F. Tompkins, Nellie McKay, and Josh Gondelman. A beloved holiday variety show mixing classics, sharp originals, and comedy. Hailed as "one of the season's best gifts" with "genuine, irony-free good cheer" (Boston Herald), and "a Santa-stupefying balance of naughty and nice" (NYT). A seasonal tradition since 2006.

TICKETS General Public: \$78 | Old Town School Members: \$76 | VIP: \$189

CHRISTMAS BINGO: IT'S A HO-HO-HOLY NIGHT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 | 8:00 PM

The Hit Comedy from Chicago comes to the Irish American Heritage Center, one night only! In this interactive comedy, audience members play bingo while also answering questions about Christmas traditions, the origin of St. Nick, where do candy canes come from, miracles in the Bible, and a clever re-creation of the Annunciation, complete with audience members in angel wings and halos. You will be engaged by the show's uniquely interactive approach that involves a bingo game with real prizes. Its entertaining aspect comes from the hilarity that ensues as Quade tackles off-beat myths and outrageous facts about Christmas.

TICKETS \$40

CHERISH THE LADIES: CELTIC CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20 | 7 PM

Experience the magic of Ireland this holiday! Cherish the Ladies return with a dazzling Celtic Christmas of music, song & dance. Call in for the IAHC Member Code for \$5 off your ticket(s): 773-282-7035 (EXT 10).

TICKETS \$32.50 for IAHC Members | \$37.50 for Non-Members

OUR FAVORITE ANNUAL AER LINGUS RAFFLE IS BACK!

TICKETS \$20 Each | Three for \$50

Enter for your chance to win two round-trip tickets to Dublin, Ireland on Aer Lingus! The winner will be drawn on Oiche Nollaig na mBan, January 6, 2026.

Purchase By Mail: Send payment to Irish American Heritage Center / In Person: Buy tickets at the Center during open hours / Online: Purchase securely on our website

Good luck—and thank you for supporting the Irish American Heritage Center!

ANNUAL QUILT RAFFLE - "PHASES" BY NIMBLE THIMBLE

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift? Enter to win a one-of-a-kind, hand-stitched quilt from IAHC's Nimble Thimble quilters! This year's piece, titled "Phases", is an 86inch square, all-cotton guilt valued at over \$500.

Raffle ticket packages start at just \$10—less than the cost of a pint of Guinness—and are available now through December 8, when the drawing will take place. Own a piece of functional Irish art or gift it to someone special this winter season.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW | Buy online at irish-american.org | Drawing December 8

Irish American News

By Anne Marie McIntyre M.S.

CHICAGOLAND'S GREEN

plastic-free gifts.

and unique gifts.

& CULTURAL GIFT SOURCES

https://irish-american.org

https://chicagofairtrade.org

Chicago Environmentalists-

Browse Chicago's sustainable shops,

An Irish Complex By Thomas O'Gorman

"Say Another Rosary for Chicago, but Only After You've Washed the Dishes"

homemade pot pies is here.

fish pie. Simple. Great for Christmas Eve. It's one never changes. I first tasted years ago at Chez Youen a wonderful torrential rain, praying for snow.

All local ingredients in the pie came from the that, Comrade Putin.

nearby fishing boats. Some cod, turbot and halibut. You'll find good fish closer to home. There's a good big pinch of local fresh chopped tarragon. A sauce created from a good fish stock. And carrots. Lots of sweet carrots and onions to sautée to frame the flavors. Then some good double Irish cream to make a thick roux with some flour and the fish stock. Use some good Chablis to thin the sauce plus a good pinch of white pepper. Chop the carrots smaller when adding to the sauce. When the sauce cools add the raw fish. When assembling the pie dough put some fresh parsley, generously, in your concoction.

Make some homemade Thousand Island dressing harmony of flavors.

WFMT, the fine arts radio station, is really cothe 16th century, "The Coventry Carol." Each than five minutes. I will clean it when I've used it. indictment of so many politicians. connects us to the harmonies of place. The timeless music of the earth, everyone from Thomas Tallis century ago, our grandmother, Nora Ryan to Ralph Vaughan Williams helps create that grand back on life.

That's the pleasure of the season, to have the

it more?

Ruskie army at the gates. Or the arrival kitchen. of freshly growing Omicron statistics.

(Do we say OH-meee kron or oh-MY-kron?) Trinity College Dublin word crafters say both are good. But in the face of such fear and terror there may called "scones." My sister really perfected grandma not be much we can do. That's why I say make a Nora's timeless recipe. Still warm, the unsalted fish pie or a treasured Boeuf Bourgingnon. Pour Kerry Gold Irish butter melts luxuriously as we Christmas is certainly in the air. We can feel in that sturdy French Burgundy. Get the crunchy eat our lobster salads. The taste of the scones it near, and even smell it now if your tree is baguette ready for dipping. There's a restoring really brings Nora Ryan O'Connor back to us. Such up. And we can taste it now that the weather for and calming set of nourishment in such culinary nostalgia brings us all a surprising lift. Dinner guests projects. Test some good wines for the approaching who never knew her, simply love the homemade I have begun the season with an Irish Christmas Christmas feast. Write out your menu, even if it bread rolls. But there is love and memories aplenty

For Christmas learn to make Dutch pancakes. seaside French bistro in Baltimore, West Cork. There are some easy recipes online. Make a are a revered treat, more appreciated than our Sitting beside a roaring fire. Pouring chilling blueberry compote and serve as a sauce for the prime rib and Yorkshire pudding. How mysterious pancake. I promise that will restore you. Take things can be.



back to normal.

A four-hour deep cleaning by my new worker and English carols like we were in the Gaeltacht furniture around to make her floor cleaning easier our politics or the Cotswolds. My favorite Irish carol is the has been a freeing experience. Out of it has come

Ironically my sister, Mary Regina, said that half a

sacred aesthetic environment suitable for high advocating that exact same kitchen advice. fan as she. She'd rail at the cost of good butter and dining, prayer, monastic simplicity and reflecting Apparently my ears were closed earlier to her old eggs. How improved the Brandy Alexanders have fashioned Irish wisdom.

time for nostalgia. In the faces of family, and fill the dishwasher. Everything now gets washed relatives with stories to tell. And the shared ASAP. The kitchen is spotless, dishes always ready common history that emerges to unite and restore. for reuse. I hope granny has learned of the news (Artwork by Thomas O'Gorman

Was there ever a time when we needed in heaven, she'll be thrilled and can finally take some satisfaction that her words might be delayed, The disarray of life at the moment at times, but they still have the power to give a can be frightening. Like Putin and his lazy grandson the correct push. Especially in the

> Funny, but when my sister comes for Christmas dinner, she always brings a shipment of freshly baked Irish yeast buns that our grandmother always as the butter melts.

We took scones for granted growing up. Now they

The bountiful presence of our treasured granny

as near as a platter of her fresh baked scones. And following that a trail of memories of the lilting Irish voice that told us stories and prayed with us. And showed us letters from her sons' exotic travels in World War II.

We still hear the melody of her songs and ditties. We see her great passion for walking, everywhere we now go. And the endless visits from assorted family members stopping by to see her faithfully through all 97 years of her living. Hoping, always to get a cup of tea and a fresh scone for their troubles.

We always loved taking her out for dinner on Sundays, especially to Jack Gibbon's Garden for the finest chicken anywhere. Nora was a poultry snob and expert chicken

I've been polishing silver all week. No one has aficionado. But of course we were thrilled because for a Boston lettuce salad. Mayonnaise, chili polished for a while. And now that I have a new she would always have her favorite cocktail when sauce, and a good squeeze of lemon. A real Ukrainian helper I wanted to get the heavy tarnish we were "on the town." A cool, tasty Brandy Saturday Yuletide feast. Some good Chablis, very off before I asked her to polish away. The labor was Alexander. Just one. But she became a celebrity chilled, will add delight to the meal merging a good for me. Providing a sense of getting things before our eyes lifting the silky concoction in the stem glass to her lips.

I can only imagine what she would make of the operating with the seasonal broadcasting of Irish has banished the ghosts of dusty buildup. Moving current disasters all around us. The disarray of

and the disaster of our leadership in City Hall. heartwarming "Wexford Carol." Ireland's oldest a new resolution for me. That is, no dish, pan or The frequent looting on Michigan Ave. And ICE 12th century carol. Favorite English carol is from utensil will ever sit in my kitchen sink for more kidnapping folk off our streets. As well as the

> I suspect what she'd gab about the most is her White Sox having a World World Series win in 2005. O'Connor, from Croom, Co. Limerick, was And a Pope from Chicago just as big a White Sox become. And my washing the dishes as I use them. Now a million excuses later, I'm not waiting to And then she would say another Rosary for Chicago.

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir / Happy Christmas to all.







Green Giving: A Waste-Free Christmas

As the holidays approach, our HOW TO GIVE NON-WASTEFUL GIFTS generosity grows, and unfortunately, so Choose natural, handmade, or does the volume of waste we create. The local materials such as wool, linen, EPA estimates that Americans produce ceramics, wood, beeswax, or glass. 25% more household waste between Choose experiences instead of things: Thanksgiving and New Year's, adding memberships, classes, tours, concerts, or

DECEMBER 2025

roughly 5.8 million extra tons of trash. In Ireland, the EPA reports more than 100,000 tons of additional packaging waste during Christmas, contributing to the nation's 1.2 million tons of annual packaging waste-of which only 59% is recycled.

There are alternatives to wasteful waste: use kraft paper, reusable cloth mass-produced gift giving. This Christmas wraps, or repurposed materials. Select consider embracing "Green Giving", a vintage or second-hand items: books, mindset that focuses on meaningful, vintage sweaters, restored furniture, non-wasteful gifts and sustainable or upcycled jewelry. Avoid unwanted cultural experiences available in both gifts, Americans waste over \$10.1 billion Chicago and Ireland. This shift not only annually on gifts people never use. supports local crafters and retailers, but it also keeps unnecessary plastic, packaging, and short-lived products out Genealogy services or Irish history of our already burdened landfills.

WHY GREEN GIVING MATTERS

Holiday waste is not only about to Irish Heritage Center, Gaelic Park, discarded wrapping paper or unwanted conservation groups in Ireland or gifts. The production and disposal of Chicago. The holidays should not feel holiday goods generate significant excessive or disposable. A gift chosen emissions. Americans use an estimated with care, handmade, sustainable, 4.6 million pounds of wrapping paper local, or cultural carries a different annually, and each pound of wrapping kind of magic of the season. It honors paper creates about 3.5 pounds of CO². our heritage, lightens our footprint, and Ireland's plastic recycling rate remains strengthens local economy. This year, around 30%, meaning most holiday whether you're shopping in Chicago or plastic is landfilled or burned.

"Fast fashion" also plays an outsized support artisans, and that reflect our role in holiday waste, even though it values of creativity and resourcefulness. often hides behind glossy sales and giftable prices. Globally, the fashion industry is responsible for an estimated 8-10% of all greenhouse-gas emissions, and fast fashion alone sends millions of tons of clothing to landfills each year. In the U.S., the EPA reports that over 11 fair-trade clothing, jewelry, home goods million tons of textile waste are thrown away annually, much of it made from polyester—plastic disguised as clothing. Cheap sweaters, novelty holiday outfits, and impulse-buy clothing may be worn once, but their environmental impact lasts for decades.

Fortunately, holiday giving is the perfect opportunity to shift toward more sustainable choices. High-quality natural fibers—like Irish wool, linen, and organic cotton—last longer and zero waste stores https://www. carry a lower environmental footprint. Vintage and second-hand shops in both Chicago and Ireland offer unique, stylish options that support the circular economy. Circular designer fashion boutiques such as Siopaella in Dublin, and Chicago's several vintage markets provide gifts that are one-of-a-kind and waste-free. You can also support brands who prioritize ethical production, fair wages, and durable design. Instead of fast fashion, consider giving wearable pieces with a story, a lineage, and a lifespan measured in years—not weeks.

Baked goods make meaningful and less wasteful gifts of the season. A tin of homemade cookies, a loaf of Irish brown bread, or a box of holiday scones offers a delicious alternative without the plastic packaging adding to landfills. These gifts carry personal history of family recipes, and the simple pleasure of something made by hand. And best of all, baked goods are shared, enjoyed, and gone... leaving behind only good memories, not waste.

chicagoenvironmentalists.org/ sustainable-local-shops

EXPERIENCE GIFTS:

Chicago Botanic Garden https://www.chicagobotanic.org The John G Shedd Aquarium https://www.sheddaquraium.org

Art Institute of Chicago https://www.artic.edu Chicago Architecture Center -

We've Always Been Green! https://www. architecture.org Friends of the Chicago River (donation gifts) https://www

nature experiences. Reduce packaging chicagoriver.org IRELAND'S BEST SUSTAINABLE SHOPS & EXPERIENCES

The Kind (Dublin) - zero-waste Irish goods. https://thekind.ie Irish Design Shop - Irish-made ceramics, textiles, and jewelry.

https://irishdesignshop.com

Avoca - Irish wool, artisan crafts. natural textiles.

https://www.avoca.com The Burren Perfumery - organic fragrances made in the Burren.

https://burrenperfumery.com Siopaella (Dublin) - circular fashion and designer resale.

https://www.siopaella.com Tree-planting gifts- Hometree https://www.hometree.ie Crann - https://www.crann.ie **RESOURCES & REFERENCES** U.S. EPA Holiday Waste Statistics

stats-and-facts EPA (Ireland) Packaging Statistics https://www.epa.ie

- https://simplifytheholidays.org/

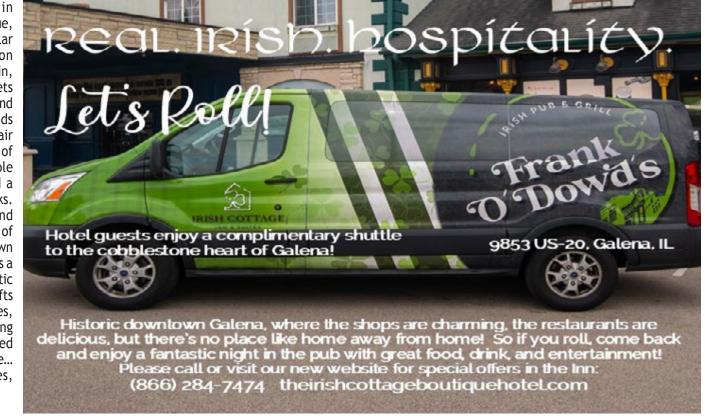
Irish Examiner Holiday Waste Report - https://www.irishexaminer.com EcoCenter Holiday Waste Emissions https://www.ecocenter.org Chicago Recycling -

https://www.chicago.gov/recycling



Kitchen Party Ceili Radio

Sun. 9am CT www.wicronline.org Mon. 10 CT 979harrisville.org Fri. 6:30 am CT bluesandrootsradio.com



CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREEN!



DECEMBER 2025

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

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir

There is no better time of the year at Gaelic Park than Christmas. It is beautifully decorated inside and out, thanks to the hard work of all our volunteers. I can't imagine any place decorated any better. But of course, I am very biased.

There is so much going on this month. I just am going to give you a quick rundown on some of my favorites. The very popular Mingle & Jingle Holiday Party is December 11. Everyone attending will enjoy a delicious buffet dinner, a 4-hour Premium open bar and a live DJ. All for \$50. This is such a great idea if you own a small business to bring your team out to enjoy all the festivities or just a night out with your friends to celebrate the holidays.

Our Monthly Mass will be held on December 14th. Fr. Mike Joyce will be the celebrant. In case you hadn't heard, Mass is celebrated every 2nd Sunday of the month, October through May. In case you didn't know, Gaelic Park has their own choir that sings at mass. It really is a special day. We also have an Irish breakfast after Mass for only \$15. The price for breakfast is reason enough to celebrate with us.

The Super Fundraiser Drawing is being held on December 14th, and all are welcome to come and see who wins the \$100,000 grand prize. Thanks to everyone who helped make this raffle sell out. On December 19th we are excited to be hosting Rory Makem's Holiday Show. If you are fan of the Makem Brothers, you won't want to miss out on Tommy Makem's son, Rory. This is going to be a great show and I'm really looking forward to it.

Lastly, I would like to wish all our directors, volunteers, staff, members and patrons a Joyous Christmas and Happy New Year! Maureen Gill O'Regan - Member of the Board of Directors

Meet Ericka Vetter, Director of Events at Chicago Gaelic Park



Ericka Vetter, El Vacilon Photography

If you've visited Chicago Gaelic Park in the past few months or planned an event with us, you've likely had the pleasure of meeting our new Director of Events, Ericka Vetter. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet her, let us tell you a bit about Chicago Gaelic Park's newest team member!

Ericka joins us with over 20 years of hands-on experience in event planning, staff management, client relations, sales strategy, and marketing under her belt. Ericka has already made a positive impact at CGP. She has enhanced client experiences and streamlined banquet operations to execute events our clients dream of.

Like many in our community, Ericka has a special connection with Chicago Gaelic Park and the surrounding area. She grew up in Oak Forest and currently resides there with her husband and two children. Ericka and her family look forward to being volunteers and patrons at CGP events. She is deeply committed to community engagement - a value that really resonates with us at CGP. For nine years she served as a volunteer with Fierke Education Center's nonprofit Parent Teacher Organization in Oak Forest, including four years as Board Secretary. In this role she successfully executed community events, built lasting

partnerships with families and locals businesses, managed volunteer teams, and significantly expanded the organizations digital presence. You can see clearly why she is a great fit for our team! Her extensive background in catering and hospitality, paired with a passion for community-driven service and team leadership, positions her to make a meaningful contribution to CGP.

Ericka works together with Lyric Childs, our Event Coordinator, to take care of those of you who trust us with life's biggest moments. Ericka and Lyric have already been a part of many couples' dream wedding days at the Park. They both bring a passion for delivering perfect days for CGP couples. Their sense of humors paired with professionalism, work ethic, and thoughtfulness make them an ideal duo for our organization.

We are so glad to introduce Ericka to our community and we look forward to sharing her talents with you all!



"Tis the Season! ENGAGEMENT SEASON-

The holidays are a time when all you love gather near and sharing life's special moments with those you love is extra cause for celebration!

Chicago Gaelic Park offers many excellent spaces for indoor and outdoor wedding ceremonies and receptions. Our beautiful surroundings make the perfect backdrops for portraits with your spouse and wedding party! End the best day ever dancing the night away and top the night off at The Carraig for afters.









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December 14 -TRAD THURSDAY

December 19 -BERNIE GLIM

GERRY HAUGHEY

JOE MCSHANE

51 LINCOLN KATIE SULLIVAN

THE CHANCERS

December 31 -JOHN STAUNTON

How do we maintain the accomplishments of the Gaelic Park Community and ensure that it will thrive in the future?

Give the gift of Irish Heritage to succeeding generations by contributing today!



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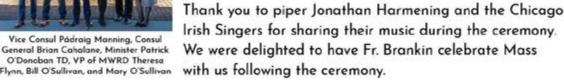
Chicago Gaelic Park Remembers



place at Chicago Gaelic Park on Sunday, November 2nd. We were joined by Ireland's Minister for Culture, Communications, and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan TD, Consul General Brian Cahalane, and Vice President of the

The 2025 International Famine Commemoration took

MWRD Theresa Flynn. We thank them each for joining us. The Commemoration took place at our Famine Memorial, which was dedicated in the fall of 1999 in remembrance of the millions of Irish people who died or emigrated due to the Great Famine. The Famine Memorial was sculpted by Father Anthony J Brankin.



Chicago Gaelic Park would not be what it is without our friends - our volunteers, our board, our staff, and so many more. Our gratitude cannot be expressed enough. The strength and spirit of our community is a testament to those that came before us, all of whom were affected by An Gorta Mór in some way.

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Thursday, December 11







Friday, December 19







Saturday, January 31









Dr. Christine Lawless

Popular Local Duo, The Chancers, Personify Contemporary Irish Folk Music

This month, my tour of Irish traditional music sessions of this emerging form of Easter Uprising and later in Chicago was interrupted expression I sat down with intended) with the popular local O'Mordha (Richie) and Patrick heritage on my shoulders of both As they performed "Rocky born and raised in south County resistance." Road to Dublin" at a local trad Dublin. He explained that he session, I immediately identified comes from a rich history of that this was no ordinary struggle for independence was always filled with song. "Rocky Road." This rendition against the British on both sides Richie became fascinated by ago at the Irish American film and contemporary Irish folk had a distinctive "edge" to it of his family, albeit in different that was simultaneously both ways. His father's side practiced Irish traditional and new age cultural resistance-meaning punk. If seeking a label, The speak the Irish language, get Chancers personify what is involved in Gaelic sports and known as "contemporary Irish use your Irish name. Paternal folk music." Warning- this is great-grandfather was the great NOT your grandparent's Irish two-time All-Ireland Hurling folk music.

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Tommy Moore (17 October 1890 - 14 May 1973); note: the All-Ireland Senior Club Hurling Championship trophy is now named the Tommy Moore Cup. On his mother's side, armed resistance predominated. Maternal great-grandfather Louis Marie (French father, Irish mother) fought for Ireland in the 1916

joined the Free State Army. graduating high school at Loyola with the new songs are the by a chance encounter (pun Chancer's members Risteard Thus, Richie feels "a massive Academy in Wilmette IL, Patrick traditional 300-year-old songs. completed a degree in business Irish Folk duo, "The Chancers." Dillon. O'Mordha, age 38, was cultural resistance and armed at Northeastern Il University in While his parents played is father to 5 children ranging what contemporary Irish folk

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREEN!

no instruments, their home in age 7 to 16 years.

THE

CHANCERS

DUBLIN - CHICAGO



Patrick Dillon and Risteard (Richie) O'Mordha

tin whistle, mandolin, banjo, Heritage Center. Although there Irish identity can become and classical guitar, which he were originally three Chancers, started studying and playing at one of the members did not age 8. As a youngster, he spent share the same commitment limitations. a lot of time with the Comhaltas as Richie and Patrick and he Ceoltóirí Éireann organization left the group. So, it's been as their headquarters were just accounting and finance at clicked, and we not only made can become when freed from Dublin Institute of Technology, O'Mordha left Ireland at age 23 to travel the world. He spent time in Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and in Kauai Hawaii. It was in Kauai that he had used in Dublin; it refers to a Dublin-Chicago, consists of 15 an epiphany, "Although I was person who pretends to know tracks of varying subject matter staying in an island paradise, I what he's doing. Over the past and instrumentation. The first was not happy and I longed for 8 years, The Chancers have track consists of musician the island I grew up on- Ireland." become one of the most popular friends and colleagues trying to Shortly after this he decided to Irish folk groups in Chicago, define what "chancer" means. devote himself entirely to Irish performing to sell-out crowds Their comments continue folk music, and to fully embrace in a variety of venues. Recently, intermittently throughout on the Irish tri-color. For the last 10 they played a huge corporate other tracks. My favorite songsyears, he now lives in Chicago event at the Field Museum the Dublin via Chicago, Tiger Eyes, with his wife Anna, and two weekend of the Ireland vs New World on Fire, and Met You children ages 6 and 10.

Chancers is Patrick Dillon, age were honored to be the only testing yet here it is- Deal with 45, who hails from Glenview IL. North American group to be It. The Chancers get high marks Although his parents did not play invited to play at the premier for originality and remaining music, they encouraged Patrick of the documentary film true to the genre they espouse to start Irish dance at age 7 "Celtic Utopia" at the Chicago - contemporary Irish folk years old. He studied dance International Film Festival. music. Well done, Chancers! quite seriously, competing at The Chancers popularity You can download the album the World Championships on appears to be related to the on Bandcamp: https:// at least 3 occasions. Always fact that audiences recognize thechancersdublin-chicago.

just the two ever since. Both up the road. After studying Richie and Patrick said "We just reconsider what Irish identity good music, but we also shared similar feelings, passion and internal limitations. knowledge of Ireland, and the same vision for The Chancers."

interested in drums, he took them as being cutting edge; bandcamp.com/album/dublin-

music, but also the music of other contemporary folk musicians like Lankum, John Francis Flynn and the Mary Wallopers. Songs could be about being homeless in Dublin, or drug addiction, or the Church, or the Celtic Tiger economic collapse. But mixed in

heard in "Rocky Road." The

Chancers perform their own

Richie advised me to watch "Celtic Utopia" if I wanted Chicago. Now married, Patrick to have an understanding of music is. IrishFilmTV.com These two first met 8 years captures the essence of the music in this review: "In the emerald shadows of Ireland's postcolonial landscape, a revolution is brewing—not in the streets, but in the songs. CELTIC UTOPIA from Stockholm-based filmmakers Dennis Harvey and Lars Lovén, captures something extraordinary happening in Irish folk music today: a generation of artists wielding traditional melodies like weapons against complacency, creating music designed, in their own words, 'to scare priests and politicians.' CELTIC UTOPIA reveals how folk music has become a space for processing trauma and imagining futures. In a society where the old certainties-religious authority, political deference, cultural homogeneity—are crumbling, these artists are creating new mythologies. Their rebellion isn't just aesthetic; it's existential, challenging audiences to reconsider what when freed from both external oppression and internal

> Their rebellion isn't just aesthetic; it's existential, challenging audiences to both external oppression and

The Chancers first album of original songs was released a Chancer is a common phase few months ago. The Chancers: Zealand International Rugby in Thailand. I've never heard Richie's partner in The Rematch at Soldier Field, and a song about 23 and me DNA up the bodhran at age 12. After people must be hearing what I christine.lawless@yahoo.com

What's the Best Pub in Ireland?

The Laurels, Clondalkin Crowned Pub of the Year at 2025 Irish Pub Awards

The Laurels, a long-standing favourite on Main Street, Clondalkin, has been named National Pub of the Year at the 2025 Irish Pub Awards, the highest accolade in Irish hospitality. The ceremony took place on November 12 at the Mansion House, Dublin.

The pub also claimed the title of Best Local Pub, securing a rare double win that underscores its reputation as both a community cornerstone and a standout in the national hospitality landscape. The achievement follows an earlier victory this year, when The Laurels was named Local Bar of the Year at the Bar of the Year Awards.

Owned by Louis Fitzgerald and managed by Damien Long, The Laurels has served generations of locals, earning a loyal following through its warm welcome, quality food, and lively atmosphere. Its deep community ties are exemplified by the Laurels Cycle Crew, which has raised nearly €1.4 million for charity through events including the Santa Cycle and the Galway to Dublin Cycle.

Inside, guests can expect freshly prepared dishes made with locally sourced ingredients, a globally inspired cocktail menu, and weekly specials such as Steak Nights and Family Friday Meal Deals. The entertainment lineup spans live music every weekend, big-screen sports, and seasonal celebrations that draw

The Laurels also regularly hosts local groups, from craft fairs to senior citizens' afternoon teas, and supports its long-running Golf Society. Far beyond a pub, it has become what many describe as the beating heart of Clondalkin.

Speaking about the awards, owner Louis Fitzgerald said: "We are absolutely delighted that The Laurels has been recognised as both National Pub of the Year and National Local Pub of the Year. This is the highest honour in our industry and a true credit to Damien and his fantastic team — their dedication, passion, and genuine care for their customers and community shine through in everything they do. Across all our bars, restaurants, and hotels, we strive to deliver this same standard of excellence. We couldn't be prouder of The Laurels and look forward to celebrating this success with our loyal customers in the weeks and months ahead. Our sincere thanks to the Irish Pub Awards, the LVA, and the VFI for this incredible recognition.'

For more see louisfitzgerald.com

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

Celtic Odyssey: Spirit of Christmas Present

even this old curmudgeon finds gathering around him. "Away computer-literate, unlike his himself getting maudlin over out in the distance I could hear Luddite of an uncle; and was the mince pies at this time of Santa's sleighbells. He's on his playing with an attachment There's just a basic decency and to walk with him for a year. And anyway, I've been way, boys; he's on his way and that let him track exactly where that emanates from the man while. He drew the attention thinking of how much I have to it won't be long now..." be thankful for! For one thing, I've a great head of hair, if I do morning: Lying in bed, afraid he was crossing India at suchbe saying so myself. A few grey to move. Then Mum and Dad and-such a time then he would had a couple of the hardest of course got a magnificent ones in the beard, admittedly, looking into the room and be making landfall at the house blows that you would never welcome as he returned home but that's OK - it gets shaved off saying "He's been, boys; he's here around... occasionally and then I look all been." And the charge down of...oh, sixty-five again.

this dimension for uncharted has brought me David Bowie's on it. frontiers, my hair will still be album 'Space Oddity'. "Ground itself and generally scaring the bejeepers out of the folks on the ticket desks.

And more seriously... in my life, I've been lucky with my friends. Not acquaintances, we all have a shed load of them; I'm talking of the die-hards who have your back when times get tough. If you are honest then you cannot count them on two hands, you cannot; but if you have anything approaching half a dozen real friends then you are a rich person indeed.

Sadly, it's a shallow world; and thus shallow, empty, plastic people abound. To borrow a quote from one of my favourite writers, the estimable Mr. Alan Moore: "Do they think that money is everything? The only yardstick that Life's quality is measured by? Yes. Yes, they do. And that is why they are so very

of whom are - like myself - not that magical land called the roof hold something as heavy as without their *ahem!* flaws, United States of America. It's reindeers and a sleigh? Imagine. I've also met a startling few some three years after America The innocence. who are/were genuinely good got that timeless show, but it Frank McCourt's 'Angela's Christmas, so please allow me some months previously. a memory of my Mum and Dad remembrances originate.

"I heard them today," he'd say there in miniature.

It's almost Christmas! And in awed tones that had us seven? eight? -- was effortlessly Snapshot of a Christmas time. He was explaining that if bit aware of it.

Irish American News



Niall Rochford, Managing Director of Ashford Castle Hotel

And I don't know how they still loves that whole wild west earlier. managed never to disappoint us. mythology. And the youngest,

On top of decent friends, some 'Star Trek', lately arrived from to a child's beliefs. Would the

people. My parents were two has been finally released over Ashes' made the misery of those. I'll single out one here in order to coincide with memoir quite the thing there more in a moment... but it's the Apollo moon landing of for a while; but I could never have written one. My childhood My younger brother gives a was far too happy for that. And first. They are after all where whoop of delight because he has talk about being lucky in life: most of my happiest Christmas opened a box to reveal action flash forward more than a figures of the Lone Ranger half century from that long-For one thing, how the heck and his Indian companion ago Christmas morning and did they do it? How were they Tonto. (In the days when you I've moved from a very happy able, on my dad's small wages, could say 'Indian' without the childhood to a very happy to provide three -- and later Perpetually Offended dragging official retirement as of last on, four -- boys with everything you out to be shot at dawn.) March. (Not without some they asked for at Christmas? And my youngest brother has VERY tough times in between, Sure, there weren't the... I don't an Actual. Working. Train. Set. mind; but still.) And as I think know, games and smartphones Life is funny. I grew up to of Christmases past, I think expected that I suppose there have my head in the clouds. also of one of those genuinely are today. But it's all relative. Donald with his cowboys, he good men that I mentioned

I had the great pleasure some Some of my happiest early Tom, became the practical years ago to be introduced memories are of my dad coming one, the engineer. Funny to to Niall Rochford, who is the in from his work as a travelling think that it may just all be set Managing Director of beautiful van salesman who delivered out for us that early, that our Ashford Castle Hotel in County groceries to the outlying villages. life's interests were already Mayo. And I took to Niall right from the off, unusual for me.

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Santa was on the globe in real without him being in the least and support of figures such

wish on anyone. But I'll only to Cong in County Mayo. Yet at the same time as he talk of one, as he has turned it to the Christmas tree and all was explaining this, he was around and through sheer force feels that if raising awareness The rest of the body may the presents left there. Me fretting that the roof might of will and single-mindedness, and funds can save even one be falling steadily apart; but as happy as Larry because not be strong enough to hold has made something positive single life, then he will have long after my spirit has exited I'm ten years old and Santa the reindeer when they landed from something almost honoured his wife. Take a look It fascinated me then and due to pancreatic cancer of Ireland and watch some of Niall's here, boogying from movie- Control to Major Tom." Words fascinates me now: this ability his beloved wife Stella. From short video presentations. Like house to movie-house, mumbling to ignite the passion of a boy to be confidently tech-savvy and diagnosis to passing took a me, you'll be quickly aware 'I remember forgotten films' to who has fallen in love with yet simultaneously hold firm devastatingly short eight that you are watching someone weeks. How he got over it at who is the real deal. all is remarkable; how he rallied astonishing.

> of as a Celtic Odyssey, making Christmas Season, all of you! something living & vibrant out of a 12-day, 250km trek. To illuminate & enshrine his wife's memory he has painted is close to his lofty goal in footsteps her life story: Maybe America can help! from her birthplace in Cork, up through their meeting place in Limerick and Clare, & finally on to the small cemetery in Cong, where Stella is now at rest.

The Cork2Cong Challenge drew interest from all over and people turned out to join him in the villages he passed through

as boxing's Katie Taylor and Sadly, in the past years, he's soccer's David O'Leary and

And he did this because he unbearably tragic: the death online at Pancreatic Cancer

Finally, to all of you out there himself to become co-founder who take the time to read of the Pancreatic Cancer Ireland this column each month, may charity, is nothing less than I thank you and wish you and yours the very best and the As I write this, he has just most loving and peaceful of completed what I can only think Christmases. Have a wonderful

> charleybrady@gmail.com editors note: Charley didn't ask for the below, but Niall





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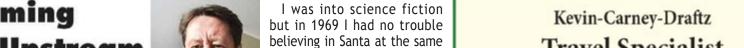












time. Many years later and on another Christmas, I was visiting

Tom and saw again how two opposing streams of thought

could be held in a young mind:

My nephew Mark, even then --

Mary Jo McGuire's to Open in Lincoln Park, Expanding the Legacy of Butch McGuire's

Family-owned saloon honors the beloved matriarch behind one of Chicago's most iconic establishments

For more than 60 years, Butch Her presence still lingers at her Chicago.' cherished as a place where tribute to her legacy. couples meet, friendships form, Mary Jo McGuire's in Lincoln Park: a sister saloon named in honor of their grandmother, the often-unsung force behind the original.

While the bar's namesake, Butch McGuire, is remembered as a charismatic Irishman who brought a bold vision to Chicago nightlife, it was Mary Jo, his wife and business partner, who helped turn that vision into a lasting institution.

The two met at the saloon in the early '60s, shortly after Butch began reserving barstools for unaccompanied women, an innovative move that sparked new connections and, ultimately, their own. Married in 1963, they ran the bar side by side for over 40

After Butch's passing in 2006, Mary Jo remained an integral part of the business, reviewing daily reports and

McGuire's has been a Division favorite booth, marked with Street landmark, credited as the Donovan family seal—her understood that what made mix of color and texture that Chicago's first singles bar and maiden name and a quiet Chicago special was its feels both timeless and full of

and traditions carry on through our family and the soul of the the saloon as a place where and an expansive collection of generations. This fall, Butch's saloon," said Patrick Stewart, neighborhoods come together, spirits, echoing the Division grandsons are expanding that Mary Jo's grandson and co-through good times and bad. Street original with updated

millwork and hand-picked "Our grandmother antiques to create a maximalist people," added co-owner character. The main floor will "Mary Jo was the heart of Connor Stewart. "She saw feature two bars, 20 draft lines



Mary Jo and Butch McGuire

supporting operations as their of honoring her legacy and connections she fostered, and son, Robert "Bobby" McGuire the lasting impact she had what a true saloon means to a musical legacy, showcasing holiday seasons. In December, carried the saloon forward. on our family and the city of neighborhood.'

"Opening Mary Jo's is our way and fun-loving spirit, the bar and a stage that will and sparkling garland from











patrons for live music, gameday festivities and private

"If it looked like it belonged in a saloon 100 years ago, we tracked it down," said co-owner Connor Stewart. "We hit more than 15 states, from backroad barns to hidden antiques dealers, in a search for the kind of pieces that would bring warmth and charm to an already historic

Mary Jo's will also carry on the McGuire family's beloved Christmas and St. Patrick's day traditions with handcrafted will find another wraparound decorations, dazzling lights celebrate Lincoln Avenue's floor to ceiling during the local talent and marquee acts. guests can visit Santa and toast Spanning two floors, the new The intimate 2nd floor venue the season with the saloon's saloon will blend traditional will accommodate up to 250 signature "Christmas in Your Mouth" shot.

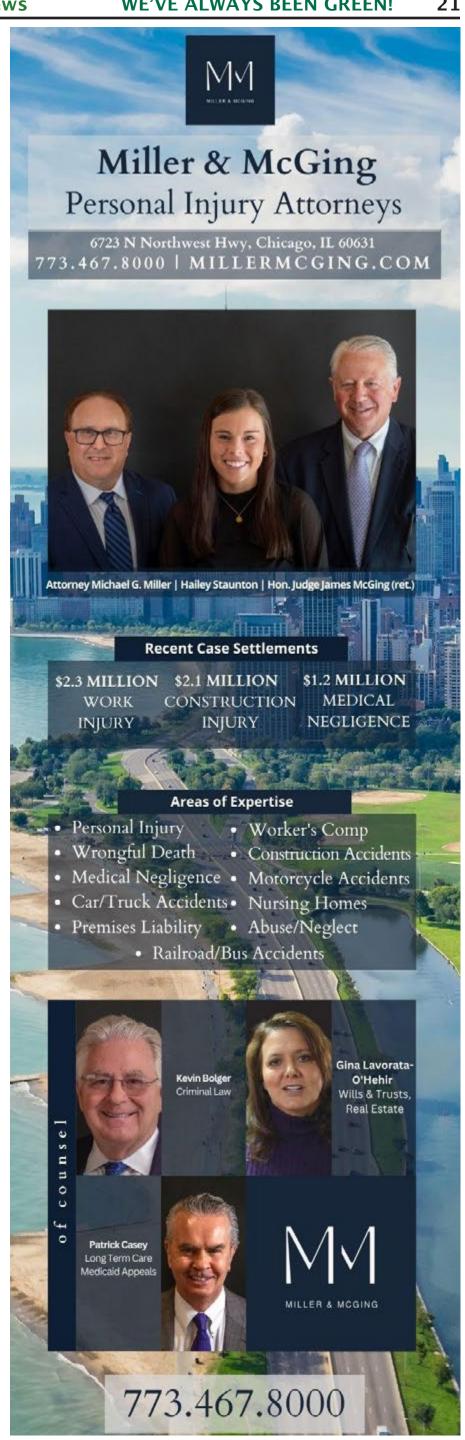
The menu draws from Butch's classics, with an expanded tavern-style pizza offering made possible by the location's specially outfitted ovens. Guests can stop by to enjoy burgers, reubens, wraps and shareable bar bites-all made from scratch. Behind the bar, staples such as the Harvey Wallbanger, Butch Fizz and Mary Jo Margarita will be joined by rotating seasonal cocktails, a broad beer selection, and an elevated wine program.

At its core, Mary Jo McGuire's is about more than food and drinks, it's a place where neighbors, friends, and cherished family can come together to create lasting memories in a setting that feels like home.

"With Mary Jo's, our goal is to carry on the spirit that's defined our family's saloon for generations, while welcoming new neighbors into the tradition," said Bobby McGuire, co-owner of the new saloon.

Mary Jo McGuire's is at 2249 N. Lincoln Ave. in Lincoln Park. Reservations will be available for private events of all sizes. For more information, visit www.MaryJoMcGuires.com or follow @maryjomcguires on social media for updates.





"I'm In Love for Christmas"

Veteran singer-songwriter solo debut "People Are Mad" Sean Griffiin, founding and the guitar-driven "Rocks frontman of Celtic punk Off" channeled pub-floor favorites The Ruffians, catharsis and Britpop swagger, unwraps a brand-new seasonal this new single leans into original, "I'm In Love for classic pop craft. chiming Christmas," out November guitars, wry romance, and a 7 via Right Track Records / chorus made for mistletoe Universal. Where his rowdy sing-alongs.

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"I wrote this song in December of 2004, just after meeting my wife," Griffin told Magnet Magazine. "I was scheduled to play live on WFUV's Irish show that morning and ended up writing 'I'm in Love for Christmas' about an hour before going on air. We'd only met that October, so it was our first Christmas together-full of hope, chaos, and magic. We were married the following April, and now, 29 years and six kids later, the song feels even more special. It's a little love letter to that first Christmas, and to every one we've shared since."

DECEMBER 2025

With a melodic wink that nods to Big Star and Jarvis Cocker, "I'm In Love for Christmas" showcases Griffin's gift for storytelling, equal parts tender and cheeky, while expanding the sonic world he's been building throughout 2025. It's a festive detour that still bears his signature grit, delivered with the warmth of a hearthside singalong.

The new single follows the momentum of "People Are Mad," a beer-sloshing, end-of-the-world barroom anthem, and "Rocks Off," a wall-of-sound rocker that leans into Griffin's NYC punk roots and Britpop influences. Together, the tracks highlight the range of a songwriter gearing up for his debut solo album (2026), from pub stompers to swaggering rock, and now, a modern holiday classic in the making.

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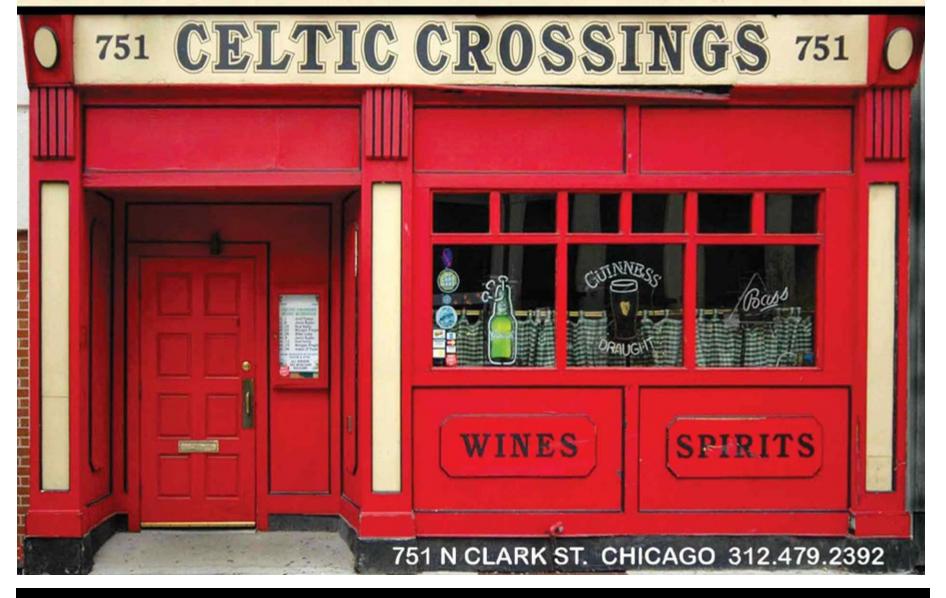


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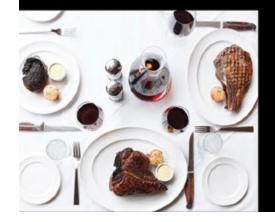
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Irish American News

of losing her and deciding what will

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14-year-old daughter.

GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

This month I'd like to share some things that Ireland and Scotland have in common. I would like to explain how the Scots are our cousins. (some would say our brothers) It takes two hours by ferry from Ireland to Scotland and roughly 45 minutes by plane, the north channel separates the countries. At their closest point there only 12 miles from each other.

Celtic knots are a huge thing in common with Ireland and Scotland, it's a major part of the art and culture for both.

Scotland's national animal is the unicorn, for its symbolism of purity, power and pride within the Celtic culture. Ireland's national animal is the Irish hare. Scotland isn't the only nation that uses a mythical animal. Wales national animal is the dragon and Greece's is the phoenix. A phoenix is a unique bird that lived for centuries in the Arabian desert, it would burn itself on a funeral bonfire and rise from the ashes with renewed youth to do it again.

I read an article in the wall street journal recently by Journalist Julia Flynn Siler on her recent trip to Scotland. She said, "her experience to Scotland was a nightmare", but that is what she was looking for. She went to research scary stories and landscapes that helped author Mary Shelley write her book, Frankenstein. It was published in 1818.

Scotland is a part of the United Kingdom it is not yet an independent country. However, in 1998 the Scottish parliament was reestablished.

Scotland has its own legal system and education system. Scotland is in the North of England, and they are connected by land. Scotland was once an independent nation but that was back in the 9th century. In 1707 Scotland and England joined, it is referred to as a political union. It is interesting to note that the Romans never conquered Scotland. That was the reason for the building of Hadrian's Wall, the boundary between Scotland and England.

You may have watched, Kitts, Nevis "Outlander" a show on Netflix, historical fantasy, it is set in Scotland. It has very nice scenery, Scotland has similar landscape to Ireland but with higher mountains and valleys (glens) than Ireland. Ireland landscape is said to be gentler, rolling

The bank of Scotland was the first bank in Europe to print its own currency. (1696) Royal Bank of Scotland is known for its longevity and innovation.

I'd like to share some similarities Ireland and Scotland have. Firstly, we

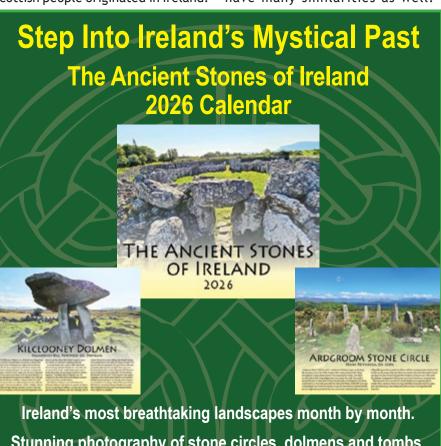


shared rivalry with England, but because we are genetically close. Studies confirm

Scottish people originated in Ireland.

because we have century and migrated north of England that include religion, weather, and became the Scots. The connection political status. between Donegal and Scotland is undeniable.

we have our differences, but we religious group is Catholic, and a have many similarities as well. I



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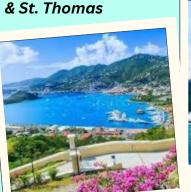


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are cousins not Irish that left Ireland in the 5th will start with a few differences

Scotland's religious demographic includes Church of Scotland, Catholic It has been many centuries, so and no religion. In Ireland the largest small percent of protestants mostly in the north.

> The weather in Scotland is much colder in the Winter than Ireland. Ireland for example would not get the snow fall Scotland gets.

The major difference with Scotland and Ireland is Scotland is a part of the United Kingdom and Ireland is Independent. Northern Ireland is a part of United Kingdom but one day we hope that will change.

Both have legendary castles. They have castles, relics, ancient ruins and prehistoric tombs. Both places are so rich in history, they both in their own right are what movies are made about. REWORD They both speak a form of Gaelic, separate languages but still sister languages. Gaelic is a Celtic language. There is another Celtic language called Manx, on the Isle of man, it is having a comeback. The reason I bring up Manx it is also a Celtic language. (there mutually intelligible) Scottish and Irish Gaelic are similar in written structure and grammar.

Both countries have shared myths and legends. For example, both share the stories about leprechauns, banshees, (female spirit signaling death of a family member) fairies and Finn McCool. (Finn created the Giants Causeway in Co Antrim). We share traditional music and musical instruments such as bagpipes, fiddles, and harps. The Irish bagpipes are

> called Uillean (means elbow) pipes. We also have the art of storytelling. Storytellers in Irish Gaelic is Seanchai and in Scottish there called, Seanchaidh. There was a famous Irish Seanchai named Eamon Kelly from Kerry.

We share many last names for example, Campbell, Murray and Stewart. My mom's neighbors in Mayo are the from Scotland) we also both use O and Mc in our names.

Next June, The Scottish highland games will be in Wheaton, IL and celebrate their 40th anniversary.

Famous traditional songs of Scotland: the Skye boat song, Caledonia (Latin for Scotland) Famous traditional songs of Ireland: Fields of Athenry and Parting Glass.

"There are few places in my life that I've found more ruggedly beautiful than the Highlands of Scotland." - The Scotsman

"May your home always be too small to hold all your friends." Irish blessing

Thank you for all the kind messages you have sent throughout this year. May the next one be even better, here's to new beginnings!

May your Christmas season be wrapped in happiness and tied with Love! Questions, please email me: Molanive@ yahoo.com



It's coming up for Christmas and even as she knows she is approaching choice to play Linda McCartney, first 2026 - where has the last year gone? her final days. Nevertheless, she has wife of Paul McCartney, in Sam Mendes' Hollywood is already looking ahead to come to terms with her past and to the awards season, and actress a future she won't be part of while Maura Tierney is the first person her family grapples with the reality



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going to be honored with an Oscar Wilde Award at their 20th anniversary ceremony in Los Angeles on March 12 next year.

The Boston-born, Irish-American Tierney won a Golden Globe for her work on the critically acclaimed Showtime series The Affair, and she can currently be seen starring in primetime classic Law and Order.

She was also in eight seasons of the top-rated NBC series ER, did four on NewsRadio, plus turns on The Good Wife, Rescue Me, and movies including the recent blockbuster Twisters, Baby Mama, Liar Liar, Primary Colors, and the Christopher Nolan-directed Insomnia opposite Al Pacino, Hilary Swank and Robin Williams.

Coming right back to today, and the Kerry International Film Festival (KIFF) just celebrated the end of its 26th edition across multiple venues in Killarney. Its Maureen O'Hara Award went to Fiona Shaw (Bad Sisters, Killing Eve), and she's just been cast as a series regular in the second season of Apple TV+ legal thriller Presumed Innocent.

She'll join lead Rachel Brosnahan and Matthew Rhys, Courtney B. Vance, and Irish actor Jack Reynor in the show; this second instalment is inspired by Dissection of a Murder, the debut legal thriller novel by Jo Murray.

Some of the other award winners at KIFF included Best Documentary Short: Who Loves the Sun, Best Animation: It All Comes Down, the Screenwriting Award: Returns & Errors: Pets by Donna Bonilla Wheeler, Best Irish Language Short: Tíolacadh, Best Irish Narrative Feature (Audience Choice Award): Spilt Milk and Best Documentary Feature: In Time - Dónal Lunny. Keep an eye out for those in theaters and on streaming over the next few months.

Just finished filming in Dublin is Last Days of Rabbit Hayes, which stars Irish actresses Niamh Algar and Alisha Weir alongside Sam Claflin. Directed by Jim O'Hanlon and written by Anna McPartlin based on her own novel, the cast also includes Colm Meaney, Sinéad Cusack, Tom Glynn-Carney, and Ruth Bradley.

The story follows Rabbit Hayes (Algar), a woman who loves her life, English schoolteacher, and an Irish Catholic priest who spearhead a daring operation to help more than 14,000 children escape and begin new lives in America. Based on real events, it was written by director Richie Adams and Bart Gavigan. Finally, Irish Oscar nominee Saoirse

Ronan has been confirmed as the The Beatles movies. She joins other Irish actors in the cast: Paul Mescal as Paul McCartney and Barry Keoghan as Ringo Starr, plus also Joseph Quinn as happen to Juliet (Weir), Rabbit's George Harrison, and Harris Dickinson away though, and more recently Ronan as John Lennon.

Mexico is Pedro Pan, a movie that Apple Corps Ltd. have authorized She'll be next seen starring in Bad stars Killarney actor Allen Leech the use of the band members' lives Apples from filmmaker Jonatan Etzler, (Downton Abbey) alongside Néstor and music in scripted films, Mendes and is set to star opposite Austin Butler Carbonell (Shōgun), Danny Pino, Paz will tell the stories of each member (Elvis) in Deep Cuts, a music-themed Vega and Oscar nominee Andy García. in four separate movies, and Ronan love story adapted from the debut Set in the aftermath of Fidel is naturally expected to feature novel by Holly Brickley. Castro's Cuban revolution, Pedro prominently in the instalment about Pan follows a Cuban socialite, an McCartney.

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That quartet of movies is some time has been seen in Nora Fingscheidt's The The first time that The Beatles and Outrun and Steve McQueen's Blitz.

That's all for this month - Happy Holidays!



Templebar: A Great Dubin Connecting Point

favourite areas on the island of Ireland. An area that showcases art, culture, music, community and more - Temple Bar. An avid reader and book lover, I enjoy nothing more than browsing the book stalls and shops in Temple Bar and dreaming of those book stalls and shops along the Seine in Paris. The Temple Bar area of Dublin is reminiscent of culture align.

Bar at the heart of Dublin city you should! is more than that. It is in fact a 28-acre site which is a hive of culture and activity, and one of the most dynamic areas in Ireland.

I was very fortunate to meet with Martin Harte, CEO and Co-Founder of 'The Temple Bar Company' to talk about the origins of the area, its inception, and the continued development of it, into the present day.

Martin told me that the renewal of the area and development of it began almost 35 years ago; when then it was "devoid of people and activity. It had buildings that were falling down, a bus park, and surplus car parks. It was a dilapidated area." He continued, "It has developed now into one of the most dynamic areas in Ireland and presents as the crossroads of Dublin city". Martin explains this crossroads, a passage between the north and south of the city. "When you visit Dublin, you have to walk through Temple Bar to go throughout the city." He continued, "we now have approximately 70k people visiting this area daily. in Dublin.

As an avid Dublin visitor (from told me. There is lots happening something a little different, (free) daily. Temple Bar has a Blues artists. So, when Temple Donegal), and lover of Temple in this vibrant area. When you something discerning, Temple unique collection of restaurants Bar Trad Fest was established, Bar, I was delighted to be come to Temple Bar you will find Bar has that to offer. Martin - some whom have been here it was really following on from invited to write about one of my a Crafters Market from Thursday told me, "There's the Irish Film over 30 years - like 'Monty's' an already established musical



me, "It's a very vibrant crafters artisan cinemas in Ireland, and market, with a whole range of the oldest one in Dublin." the Montmartre area of Paris. arts and crafts. On Saturdays Art is also prominent in this Irish Music Magazine, I had to you really are spoiled for choice A place where books, art and you also have the food market." area of Dublin. There is a wide ask Martin about Dublin Trad with the best that Irish trad When one hears 'Temple Bar' of occasions I can honestly say Temple Bar area. Martin tells its home in Temple Bar. it is assumed the pub that is in you will eat more than you me, "There's Tattoo artists,

to Saturday. Martin Harte tells Institute here, one of the few he added.

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREEN!

Having visited this on a number variety of art and artists in the Fest, the music of the area, and music has to offer.

the island of Ireland. Martin Harte told me that

Temple Bar had to offer. He shopping streets in the city. performed on Fishamble Street capture your heart, and you told me, "Temple Bar is known This is a place where you come in Temple Bar, in 1742." He will be reluctant to leave. It's one of the most thriving for contemporary culture. We to browse, a place to chill out." added, "One of U2's first ever There will be an experience

destinations in Ireland." have the 'Temple Bar Gallery One of the biggest attractions gigs was here in Temple Bar. in the Temple Bar area that That's a big footfall in this and Studios: there is 'The New in Temple Bar is that many They came back and recorded you will carry with you in life, area, and really showcases the Theatre', the 'Project Arts of the venues here have live their single 'A Beautiful Day' and you will return to it again importance of the area when Centre', and 'The Ark'. These music daily. "You have 100's on the roof of The Clarence and again. don't showcase big productions of musicians performing here Hotel, which they owned until For more on this area of "Temple Bar is somewhere like in the main city theatres. on a full-time basis. This is recently. In the 90's we had Dublin city, check the website

you can enjoy traditional music which hosted many famous the Nepalese restaurant, and legacy in this area. "The Trad 'Gallagher's Boxty House'. Fest started off very small back Places like these "have stood in 2005/06 with a few concerts, the test of time and are very and a few hundred people. We worth a visit," said Martin now have approximately 200 Harte. "These and more, in concerts and welcoming over the Temple Bar area, are very 30k people. It's moved beyond popular with overseas visitors" Temple Bar to the city and surrounding area," Martin said. As a huge trad music lover, If you visit Dublin in January, and writer with the fabulous and in particularly Temple Bar,

One cannot visit Temple Bar Martin began by telling me first without also visiting The Temple the heart of the Temple Bar in should, and you will also buy graphic artists, and a huge about another interesting music Bar pub. The authentic home Dublin City Centre. But Temple lots of craft, again, more than amount of vintage shops. It event in Temple Bar: he told me of Irish cultural heritage since really is still a little bit 'fringe' that the first performance of 1840. This quintessential Dublin In relation to Arts and in terms of what it has to offer Handel's Messiah's Hallelujah pub has dispensed renowned Culture I asked Martin what in comparison to the main took place right here. This was hospitality and traditions of excellence to generations of Dubliners and visitors alike. Today The Temple Bar is famous across the globe for its traditional ambience, unrivalled vitality and craic, and its celebrated charm and conviviality. What this pub does best is, it ensures that your visit to The Temple Bar is the best pub experience you will ever remember. The pub prides itself with live music sessions daily and has hosted many top trad bands. It brings together a fine collection of gifted musicians from around

> 'America is our number one overseas market'. I don't doubt how accurate that is. The area in Dublin that is Temple Bar is one that will welcome you with open arms, offer you a warm cultural hug, present an authentic bite to eat, and always have music to warm the soul. The Temple Bar area of Dublin will

for visitors to chill out", Maritn For someone who wants available 7 days a week where the Temple Bar Blues Festival at www.lovetemplebar.com



We were dining at our favorite restaurant, earth, she happily agreed Sabatino's, on that fateful night. I remember being

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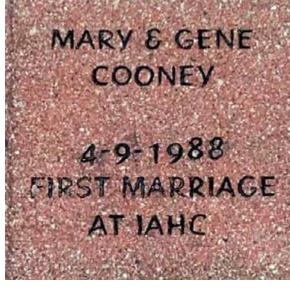
supper. I thought another Beefeater Martini would help, but I still had no appetite. There was nothing wrong with my thirst that evening. It was the night I proposed to my future wife Mary on her birthday. She hated wrist watches so I placed the engagement ring inside of a Timex box. She opened the box with great delight, excitement and tears. Like Magic the gypsy musical trio appeared and sang wedding bell lullabies at that exact moment. She obviously said yes to become Mrs. Cooney and be blessed with me as her husband. It was the year 1987 and the wonderful part of the wedding planning for all men had begun. Pure torture to every groom is the decision making process. WE DON'T CARE.

The food, the attendees, the band, the tuxedos, the flowers, the venue, etc., all of which I had little interest in. And obviously, any opinion I expressed would be soon overruled and dismissed. One day my father approached me and suggested we have the reception at the Irish American Heritage Center. The volunteers at the Center had quick changed the old Mayfair School Gymnasium into the Irish Social Center located on the fourth floor. There was no elevator at the time. The gymnasium was one of the first rooms the construction workers remodeled for reasons like fundraisers and benefits for the future of the IAHC. We were told that ours would be the first official wedding in the Social Center. Now trying to www.facebook.com/CelticaGifts 🗾 convince any bride into what is supposed to be the greatest night in memory, to hold their wedding in an old Gym/Beer Hall, can be next to impossible. The A Unique Selection of QUALITY Ritz Carlton, The Grand Ball Room, Johnny Wiegelts or the Irish Social Center in a building covered with construction dust. It was more difficult to have

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Dugan made sure that there was plenty of libations more appealing to young couples. and the DJ played music that kept the gym floor





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her to agree with this months of marriage, she wanted to cut my throat. We were happy honeymooners that set the stage notion than it was to muster up a proposal. that night for many young couples in the future. But, after convincing Hundreds of brides and grooms have celebrated their her that her married life wedding receptions over the last forty years in what would be filled with love is now called the Erin Room. It was an honor to be and happiness with the the first and an honor to celebrate our heritage in most wonderful man on the greatest Irish Center in the United States.

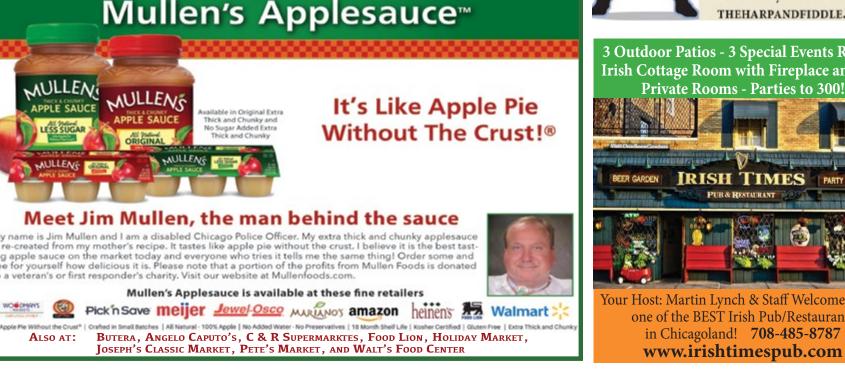
In 2004, with the help of a grant from the Irish This inaugural wedding was indeed a wonderful Consulate, the IAHC updated and beautified the so nervous to the point I could not eat my delicious night. The prime rib was catered by Heck's. Alan Social Center into a beautiful ballroom, making it

Mary had unexpectedly died in 2008 and I think of bouncing with many dancers well into the night. her every day and that wonderful wedding night. I I joked when I said that we cut the wedding cake purchased a brick in the walk at the Center to honor under where the old basketball hoop hung. After six her memory. You too can purchase a brick to honor a loved one. Contact the Center after you join up to become a member. You too can have your wedding at the IAHC. I have many subjects to write about in this column in the future, but who better can write a more positive article about myself than myself!











A Winter Break In Ireland Is A Vacation Like No Other

Ireland is nothing short of enchanting. The whole island is enshrouded in a uniquely festive atmosphere that makes a winter visit unforgettable

Ireland does Christmas differently. Most people are off work for at least two weeks and are more than ready to relax and enjoy the holiday. The result is a nationwide spirit of goodwill. There is no better time to feel the Céad Míle Fáilte, the hundred thousand welcomes which the Irish people famously bestow on their visitors.

There are uniquely Irish holiday experiences to be had all over the island. Here's a sampling of some of them: **NYF Dublin**

Dublin is set to welcome 2026 with its largest New Year celebration yet, as New Year's Festival Dublin returns with three days of music, spectacle and family-friendly entertainment. Running from December 30, 2025 to January 1, 2026, the festival will bring a vibrant program of events to venues across the capital.

This year's lineup blends some of Ireland's most exciting contemporary acts with established favorites. Headliners BIIRD lead the bill alongside Kíla, Grooveline, Still Blue, Mundy. The Awning. Chubby Cat and The Wran. Organisers say the festival aims to create an unforgettable atmosphere as Dublin transforms into a citywide stage filled with sound, color and celebration.

Iconic locations including Dublin Castle and Meeting House Square will host performances throughout the three days, while the NYF Dublin Fireworks Spectacular makes a highly anticipated return. Twin displays are planned for Howth Harbour and Dún Laoghaire Harbour, lighting up the coast in a dramatic start to the new year.

Visitors can also look forward to the Echoes of Ireland concerts, the NYF Dublin Music Trail showcasing fresh talent across the city, and a major Countdown Concert headlined by Dublin rockers Inhaler. **Christmas Festivals**

Throughout the festive season visitors can enjoy the Christmas Experience at Bunratty Castle and Folk Park in County Clare. Highlights include the Trail of Lights Experience, magical amusement rides, meeting Santa and Mrs Claus, the Polar Express Bus Ride, and Traditional Christmas Tales with the castle's resident Seanchaí (storyteller). There is also a four course Christmas Banquet accompanied by the Bunratty Castle singers performing classic and contemporay Christmas

Winterval, in Waterford County, is Ireland's largest Christmas festival and runs this year between November 21 and December 23. Waterford has been designated the European City of Christmas, a fantastic and much-deserved honor. For this year's 13th edition of Winterval the whole city will be transformed into a yuletide wonderland featuring many beloved attractions, exciting new events, and enchanting reimaginings of festival favorites.





Christmas Alleyways, the Cathedral Quarter, Belfast; Trinity College, Dublin.

Beyond the Trees Avondale creates a Winter Woodland in the heart of County Wicklow, just a hour's drive south of Dublin. Visitors can enjoy the dazzling Treetop Night Lights, Wicklow on Ice (a covered ice rink), and meet Santa in his Smurf Village. At the heart of it all is Avondale House, beautifully decorated for a Victorian Christmas, complete with Christmas Stalls, hop-on children's vintage carousel rides, and festive street food. (December 18-January 4).

Christmas Markets

Perhaps among the most iconic features of Christmas in Ireland are its fabulous Christmas Markets. These markets are the perfect places to stock up on holiday goodies, find the perfect gift, or take the kids for a sleigh ride or a visit to Santa. The Corkmas Christmas

Market in Cork City, which runs from November 21 through December 22 this year, is a great example. Emmet Place will be transformed into a bustling Christmas village, as the annual Christmas Market returns with its signature wooden chalets and sparkling lights. The market will feature a diverse mix of vendors offering seasonal treats, handcrafted gifts and artisan wares, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere in the heart of the city. Families can stroll through the stalls, sample festive snacks and take in the glittering displays that light up the square.

The Belfast Christmas Market features over 100 international and local traders, offering a delightful array of quality Christmas fayre, handcrafted goods, and bespoke artisan products. Set against the magnificent backdrop of Belfast City Hall, the market is

the perfect place to tick off your holiday shopping list.

Other markets include the Dublin Castle Christmas Market, the Galway Continental Christmas Market in Eyre Square and the Waterford Winterval Christmas Market.

Christmas Treats

The tastes and smells of Irish Christmas food and drink are all part of the charm. If you're in the mood for a culinary holiday experience that combines learning and fun there are many opprtunities to be had.

Howth Castle Cookery School, located in the 15th Century Howth Castle in north County Dublin, is offering classes this holiday season in preparing classic Christmas meals, as well as some alternatives to the traditional Christmas recipes. There is also a course on making edible Christmas gifts.

The Pearse Lyons Distillery, nestled in the heart of the historic Liberties district in Dublin, in a beautifully restored 19th-century church, is inviting inviting locals and visitors alike to enjoy unique festive experiences such as their Tinsel & Tonic Gin School, Sip & Sleigh Cocktail Class, and Whiskey & Warmth Irish Coffee Masterclass.

In the rolling green fields of County Tyrone, just 45 minutes west of Belfast is the Wee Buns Cookery School, where you can learn the art of preparing Irish baked favorites like wheaten bread, soda bread, buttermilk scones and apple tarts.

January and February

There are plenty of reasons to go to Ireland after the Christmas and New Year celebrations are over. January and February are generally considered off-season months in the travel industry, but the Winter months in Ireland have their own character, and can

reward visitors in many ways. Typically, big ticket expenses such as flights, accommodation and car rental can be found at bargain prices. Most activities that are

available in the peak Summer months are also available in the early part of the year. Outdoor activities such as golf, cycling, hiking and equestrian sports are still enjoyed by visitors and locals alike. You just have layer up, as they say. It never really gets too cold. Indoor activities think museums, theaters and restaurants—are all open and less crowded. Indeed, the pubs and cafés of Ireland take on an added charm this time of year. Imagine relaxing in front of an roaring peat fire, sipping a hot toddy, an Irish coffee, or a creamy pit of stout.

And the scenery, one of the island's main attractions for many people, takes on a completely different personality. The stark beauty of the seascapes and landscapes of Ireland are never more dramatic than under a brooding sky, stripped of all blooms and foliage. The Burren, the Cliffs of Moher and the Lakes of Killarney, some of the most visited sites during the Summer, are equally stunning in the Winter.

City Breaks

The Winter months are perfect for a city break. Both of the island's capital cities are packed with history and culture, as well as a myriad of shopping, dining and entertainment opportunities.

Dublin, a designated UNESCO City of Literature, wears its 1,200-year history with ease. From its Viking origins to its modern cultural vibrancy, the city's museums and architecture

chart its evolution across the

At Trinity College, visitors can view one of Ireland's greatest treasures—the Book of Kells, an illuminated masterpiece of early Christian art. Across town, the Gravity Bar atop the Guinness Storehouse offers sweeping views of Dublin's skyline, while the National Gallery and dozens of free museums provide rich opportunities to explore the nation's artistic and historical

One of Dublin's newest and most acclaimed attractions, EPIC—The Irish Emigration Museum—delves into the stories of the Irish diaspora, tracing how generations of emigrants helped shape communities around the world.

Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland, is a city shaped by industry, resilience and culture. Its maritime legacy is immortalised at Titanic Belfast, the award-winning attraction that tells the story of the famed "Ship of Dreams" and has been named the World's Leading Tourist Attraction at the World Travel Awards.

History is woven into the fabric of the city. The Baroque grandeur of Belfast City Hall nvites exploration, while the Ulster Museum—free to visit—offers insight into art, history and natural science. For a deeper understanding of Belfast's more recent past, a Black Taxi Tour provides a compelling journey through neighborhoods marked by the city's iconic murals.

For a flavor of local life, St George's Market, housed in a 19th-century red-brick hall, offers a vibrant mix of artisanal foods, fresh produce and handmade crafts—a uniquely Belfast experience.

Tradfest

Every January, TradFest brings Dublin to life with the pulse of bodhráns, banjos, fiddles and flutes echoing through the city's streets. The 2026 edition of Ireland's largest traditional and folk music festival runs from January 21–25, showcasing an impressive lineup of established stars and rising talent from Ireland and beyond at venues across the capital.

A signature highlight of the program is the annual Women of Note concert, staged beneath the soaring vaulted ceilings of St Patrick's Cathedral. This year's performance features the acclaimed Aoife Scott, joined by leading female voices from the worlds of Irish trad and folk. along with international guest

At the National Stadium, Hothouse Flowers will take to the stage with special guests Susan O'Neill. Steve Wall and the Discovery Gospel Choir. Other standout events include performances by The Dublin Legends, appearing with Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones; Féile Kíla; and Stockton's Wing, who will be joined by renowned singer-songwriter Ralph McTell.

TradFest is Ireland's premier celebration of traditional and folk music—an unforgettable way to start the year if you have the chance to experience it.

ireland.com



Ireland transforms into a winter wonderland during the festive months, with cobbled streets lit by twinkling lights, cozy pubs offering warmth by roaring fires, and stunning landscapes dusted with frost.

Whether you're strolling through festive Christmas markets in Belfast or enjoying a traditional music session in a charming country pub in Cork, the warmth of Irish hospitality is the perfect antidote to the winter chill.

Embrace the festive traditions and fill your heart with Ireland this season...



Christmas is a time of joy, celebration, connecting with family, but it can also feel overwhelming. There are presents to buy, dishes to prepare, decorations to arrange, parties to attend, and gifts to wrap. December's to-do list is long, and while it's filled with festive fun, it can also BY ELYSE LYONS PFANDLER be a lot of work. Last year, I set aside my

lists and attended the Cherish the Ladies Christmas mom and a few friends. The evening filled our hearts Center. with joy and relaxation as we enjoyed the music, watched the dancers, and listened to the stories. Gaelic Park on December 11th. This year, I plan to return—and this time, I'll bring my daughter along.

Since your holiday list is likely long, I've put together a selection of Irish-inspired Christmas activities in the Chicago area—meant to ease your stress and give you time just for you.

*On Friday, December 5th attend the Irish American tug in the Irish American heart. Heritage Center to see "Twas the Week Before For many Irish Americans, the pull of Ireland often and more recently film fans, from around the world. music." No stress there.

Christmas in America.'

coffee and just call it "Little Women's Christmas" the rhythm of local life for generations. even though it isn't.

playlist while you drink your Baileys and coffee.



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*Shop for something just for you at the Christmas smile (and maybe inspire you to pour another Baileys). Concert at the Irish American Heritage Center with my Bazaar on December 7th at the Irish American Heritage There's so much Irish Christmas cheer to see and do—

*Bring your favorite friend to Mingle and Jingle at take a break from the hustle, grab a friend who's just

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREEN!

*Have a laugh and watch "A Very Irish Christmas" on Celtic joy, you never know, the journey might be the YouTube by Foil Arms and Hog.

At Ireland's Edge, A Family Legacy Awaits Its Next Chapter

A heritage-rich Portmagee landmark enters the Kennedy family have watched over. Beyond Valentia

of story still lives inside the walls of The Moorings—a and sea. *Call a friend to come over to drink Baileys and beloved harbor-side institution that has quietly shaped

*Tell Alexa or youtube to play an Irish Christmas restaurant-and-boutique-hotel is being offered for narratives. For 60-plus years, generations have poured lasting way, the timing feels almost poetic.

A Place Rooted in Real Irish Life

Michael tours... before Star Wars scouts arrived in at home right away"—a phrase that resonates deeply town... before the Wild Atlantic Way was even a with Irish Americans who return seeking something concept... there was The Bridge Bar.

place where fishermen gathered after long days, name. Some say it's the traditional music floating out where news was traded over pints, and where warmth over the pier. mattered more than polish.

property in 1988, they didn't reinvent the place—guardian across the water.

market-stirring memories, curiosity, and a familiar rises the outline of Skellig Michael, the 6th-century monastic island that has drawn pilgrims, scholars,

and only one short month to do it! So, this December,

as holiday-stressed as you are, and dive into a little

DECEMBER 2025

Christmas in Chicago" concert. This show advertises begins with a story: a grandfather's memory of a For many Irish Americans, this coastline feels that it is a "jolly time of sing-alongs, games, and merry windswept pier, a grandmother's tales of village strangely familiar—even if they've never set foot in dances, or a faded photograph of a pub glowing with Portmagee before. There's something in the air here *Spend Saturday, December 6th at the Old Town life on a dark Atlantic night. In the fishing village of that echoes the old stories: resilience, humor, a sense School of Folk Music for a concert called "Irish" Portmagee, on the far edge of County Kerry, that kind of community formed in tight spaces between land

A Living Chapter of Family Heritage

The Moorings is more than a business; it is, in Now, for the first time in decades, the iconic pubmany ways, one of the village's most enduring family sale. And for Irish Americans who cherish the idea of pints, cleaned rooms, steered fishing boats, plated reconnecting with the old country in a meaningful, meals, and welcomed strangers who felt like friends

That continuity is part of what gives the property its Before Portmagee became a gateway for Skellig magnetic pull. Visitors often comment that they "feel familiar yet hard to define.

That was the family's original pub in the 1950s—a Some say it's the way the staff remembers your

Others say it's the view from the bar window: tide When Patricia and Gerard Kennedy took over the rolling in, tide rolling out, Valentia Island rising like a



they simply expanded on what was already real. A An Invitation to the Next Storyteller music and the smell of fresh seafood drifting in from nature, and village life.

same thing: a feeling of being right on Ireland's edge. past is still very much alive. Step outside the door and the harbor is right there boats bobbing in the tide, gannets cutting across the connection to Ireland—something beyond souvenirs sky, the entire village wrapped in the salty stillness or short stays—the opportunity holds a powerful of the sea.

Across the narrow channel lies Valentia Island, a Not everyone can claim a piece of Ireland's past. But walk or drive the island's rugged coastline, explore the possibility of becoming part of its future.

restaurant arrived in 1994. A small collection of rooms Now entering the market, The Moorings offers followed. By the late '90s, the old pub had been something increasingly rare in Irish hospitality: a transformed into what locals now know as the heart turnkey operation with deep roots, strong goodwill, of the village: a welcoming bar filled with stories, and a location at the crossroads of heritage tourism,

For the right buyer—especially one with Irish roots In the 2000s the family added more rooms and suites, or an affinity for heritage—The Moorings represents not to modernize the place beyond recognition, but to more than an investment. It is the chance to become ensure the hospitality that defined it could continue. steward of a story that began long before tourism The Atlantic—and Valentia Island—as Neighbors boomed along the Wild Atlantic Way. A chance to carry Travelers who visit The Moorings often describe the forward the feeling of stepping into a place where the

> And for Irish Americans who dream of a meaningful emotional appeal.

place of rich history and quiet charm. Visitors can every now and then, a place like The Moorings offers

its lighthouse, or simply gaze across at the Atlantic For serious inquiries only, please contact John P. horizon—the same waters that generations of the Young, Auctioneer, at jpyoungefrics@gmail.com

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head to Co. Wexford, known as "The of Ireland Model County". The movie Saving Private Ryan was filmed in

Counties

Wexford. It was about WW2. they produce electricity. in Wexford about 400 years Wexford include Anne Doyle, ago when the infamous Oliver (journalist and TV presenter Cromwell (17c politician and on RTE), John Banville, (an soldier) and his group invaded author), and Colm Toibin, Wexford.

This month we

The famous song, Boolavogue, was written in remembrance of Kindness: tells how a priest, initially didn't **Around You** want to join, but became a

sanctuary, they include seabirds' completely dependent. razorbills and cormorants.

concerns that such a plant would hospital. bring. There are no nuclear The moment I want to plants in Ireland. There are highlight is the story of the several windfarms in Ireland, most kindness I received at the



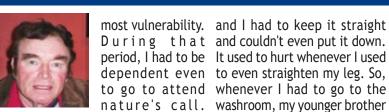
(journalist and author).

I will close with a story on

the Wexford Rising. The song Kindness is Near You ... All

"Kindness is like energy, it leader after his chapel was can neither be created nor burned and led his parishioners destroyed, it just passes against government forces. from one person to another. Although initial there were For me, kindness started at wins the Irish were ultimately home, when I was the most defeated at the Battle of Vinegar vulnerable. I remember during Hill, and Father Murphy and my graduation, due to a other leaders were executed. sports injury, I was completely The Saltee Islands are off bedridden and in a blink of the coast of Wexford, they are an eye went from completely unoccupied. They are a bird independent to becoming

puffins, gannets, guillemots, And there were umpteen moments of kindness which Wexford made serious I was fortunate to receive headlines in the 70's after a during that time, be it friends proposal was made to build a supporting me, lifting me and nuclear energy plant there, the taking me to the classroom, or plans were scrapped because bringing food to my room when of the objections from the I couldn't move and washing townspeople. They had natural utensils for me, or dropping environmental and health everything to rushing me to

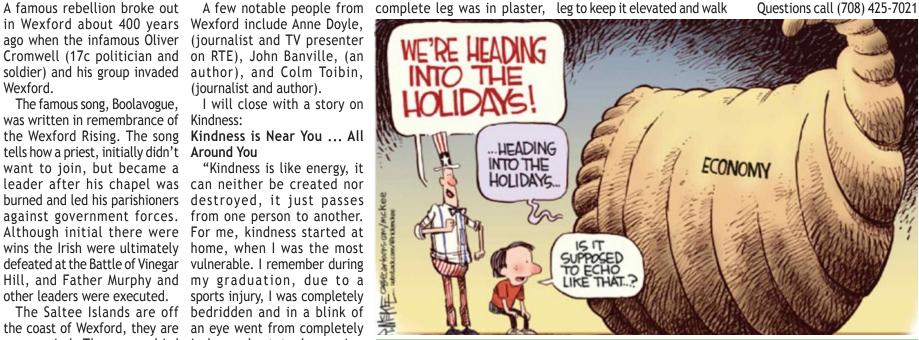


most vulnerability. and I had to keep it straight like that till the washroom and During that and couldn't even put it down. back to my bed. period, I had to be It used to hurt whenever I used I will always remember those dependent even to even straighten my leg. So, moments of kindness."

"No act of kindness no matter nature's call. washroom, my younger brother how small is ever wasted" Right after the operation, my used to bend forward, hold my

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is Finally Here

The list of things for you to do math seven individually plated courses stick separately and slice the meat from and ready to go. You'll be surprised by includes, decorating the house, putting for 19 people. God bless the dish washer. the thigh bone. up tree, buying the gifts, wrapping I am still formalizing what I am going to them, sending out Christmas cards, serve. In the past I have done themes sharp flexible knife between the breast degustation. Most importantly spend making food, eating food, doing the or random dishes that I think will go bone and the breast meat pulling the time with your family and loved ones. dishes, and hopefully sitting down and together, but I never repeat a course meat away from the bone while cutting. No amount of money can buy that. enjoying a drink because God knows you from previous years. We always start it away following the breast bone to deserve it. There is this urgency to get with an amuse to activate the palate release the entire turkey breast in one everything done on time. Your stress followed by appetizer, then a soup, and piece. Repeat process for the other side. level is up to 100. And you say to yourself perhaps a salad. I always make a sorbet I'm not going to do this again next year for an intermezzo to cleanse the palate. the turkey slices and drumstick on a until next year comes around and you Next, I serve a fish course followed platter to resemble the cooked turkey. find yourself in the same situation like by a meat course. Both are garnished You can cover it with foil paper until the movie Groundhog Day. Let's face vegetables and starches appropriate to ready to serve. I cook my turkey sitting it, deep down inside, you love every each protein. We finish with a dessert, on a bed of chopped carrots, onions, minute of it and you wouldn't change it or multiple desserts. I do have a cheese and celery. When done I pour off the for the world. For the lack of a better course available if anyone is interested. fat and deglaze the roasting pan with word lets call it tradition. A tradition that everyone has come to expect and Milanese, pasta with alfredo sauce, bits from the bottom of the pan. Add

Christmas is probably my favorite will include ice cream. holiday. I love decorating the house and tree. I have developed a system Christmas crackers. It's fun to see and chop the neck meat, heart, and and order that actually works . We have everyone wearing their paper hats gizzard add back to the strained stock. I must admit I'm sorry to see it all come that is shared with everyone at the table put your gravy over the top. down after the holidays and deal with by breaking off a piece and eating it. the dark days of winter.

I get a little crazy when it comes to loved ones by the family members. have graduated to the adult table so talked about for many years. this year it will be 19 adults and 5 kids.

The Christmas Season That's right I cook a separate meal for find the separation between breast and make a prep list. In the restaurant

The kids will be eating Chicken chicken stock scraping up all the brown a tradition you have mastered, Bravo! and glazed baby carrots. Their dessert this to a stock made from the gizzards,

One tradition we do carry on are black peppercorns, and bay leaf. Strain

Christmas dinner. I have been hosting it Whatever your heritage or background, water for a few hours changing the Brine 1 hour for every pound of turkey for over 40 years and I consider it part make sure you include and preserve your water once or twice. Score the fat side usually overnight. Remove the turkey of my gift to my family. I usually cook a family traditions when you celebrate. of the ham in a diamond pattern and from the brine. Discard the brine and seven to eight course meal with wines They become part of your family legacy bake your ham covered with foil paper. rinse turkey with cold water inside and to match. Some more of the grand kids and will be fondly remembered and Glazes usually have a high sugar content out. Pat dry with paper towels. For a

Here are some tips for your Christmas during the last 30 minutes of cooking eight hours before roasting.

dinner this year.

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREEN!

If you're roasting a turkey, try brining thicken. it before you cook it. I's a simple process and I guarantee you will never have a dry and cauliflower. Blanche in salted boiling turkey again. Also, you only need to cook water for 3-5 minutes. Quickly drain and it to an internal temperature of around place in an ice water bath. When ready 165-170 degrees. Also let the turkey rest to serve season with salt and pepper. tented with foil for about 20 minutes to Dot with butter, cover with foil paper let all the juices settle.

The best way to carve the bird is to the kids. The clean up is much more leg, Pull back the leg and cut it away world we call this mise en place. Once work than the cooking. You can do the from the carcass. You can serve the drum you have all your ingredients prepped

Slice the breast meat and reassemble turkey neck and heart, celery, onions,

Prayers and wishes are made for all the hams are fully cooked. You can reduce in refrigerator or outside area if the the saltiness by soaking the ham in cold temperature is 40 degrees or colder. and can burn easily so glaze your ham crispier skin air dry the turkey for six to

time. Remove the foil and let the glaze

One last tip for vegetables like broccoli and place in a hot oven for 8-10 minutes.

If you are doing the cooking this year, how easy the rest of the meal comes Following the breast bone inset a together, even for a 7 or 8 course

> Nollaig Shona Duit Turkey Brine Recipe;

Here is an easy brine for your turkey

1- plastic 5 gallon bucket, with lid

1 gallon of warm water 1.5 cups kosher salt

½ brown sugar

3 bay leaves

1 tablespoon crushed black peppercorns

5 cloves garlic crushed

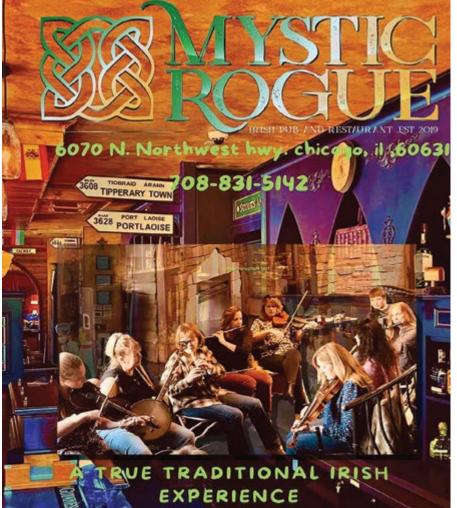
2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary 1 tablespoon chopped thyme

You can substitute dried herbs just

halve the amounts

Enough additional water to submerge the turkey completely.

Place all the ingredients in the bucket a family room with a vaulted ceiling so while eating dinner. Another tradition Thicken with corn starch and water or and stir to dissolve the sugar and salt. every year we buy a 12 foot Fraser fir from my Polish heritage is oplatki. It is make a roux of equal parts of turkey fat Place the turkey in the bucket breast and I need a step ladder to decorate it. a wafer similar to the eucharistic host and flour. This is a flavor bomb that will side down. If needed, add additional water to completely submerge the If you are baking a ham, remember turkey. Cover and place the bucket





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Inaugural Speech of President Catherine Connolly

Dublin Castle

Tuesday, 11th November 2025

Phríomhbhreithimh, Airí, Baill - and again I want to welcome Chomhairle an Stáit, Baill an the former President and husband uaisle ar fad, chomh maith le an landmark event in shaping a shared Chéad Aire an Tuaiscirt, Michelle vision for the future of Ireland. O'Neill, agus ceannairí eile ó gach cairn den Tuaisceart.

Toronto, agus míle buíochas go

proudly as the 10th President of this beautiful country.

The people have spoken and have given their President a powerful mandate to articulate their vision for a new Republic.

A Republic worthy of its name where everyone is valued and diversity is cherished, where sustainable solutions are urgently implemented and where a home is a fundamental human right.

The change that led to this joyful day began with a small group of elected representatives and volunteers facing what appeared to be insurmountable challenges.

We were led to believe that it was too great a leap, that **President, Catherine Connolly** differences. narrative.

represent people's values and and climate change concerns.

spoke of how it served to silence, to other, to label, to exclude and times, and our actions or inaction to stifle critical thinking.

with meaningful engagement, inherit. we saw the emergence of hope, their voices to shape a country and with each other. that we can be proud of.

tolerance and active citizenship. planet.

Previous Presidents faced It is significant that today is

shifting following the fall of the and genocide. was undergoing its own seismic acceptable to us.

Thaoisigh, A former President Mary McAleese to conflict and war.

assumed office - and again I want Ba mhaith liom céad mile fáilte to pay tribute to his courage and mo dheartháireacha, thaisteal The reverberations of that crisis of conflict. siad ó cheann ceann an domhain continue to impact upon and shape ó Atlanta, Georgia, ó Ceanada, ó people's lives and our economy.



our ideas were too far out, too and the threat of ongoing wars, left, at odds with the prevailing both of course are inextricably and growing diaspora. There is Eistimis leo siúd ar fad nach bhfuil linked.

Time and time again, people close our eyes to these realities.

These are the challenges of our their hearts. will determine the world our

It is both an individual and a we saw the emergence of joy, collective challenge and one which the spirit of this country. Having aon drogall nuair is gá. along with the courage and obliges us to reflect on the way we travelled the length and breadth determination of people to use live and interact with our world of the island, I have witnessed it believe that the President should

As President of Ireland, I of those entrusted with public the music, the literature and change reflecting our desire for a will ensure that all voices are office to come together both the dance of our people, in the Republic that lives up to its name. represented, heard and valued, nationally and internationally to deep tradition of solidarity and I will embrace the role of and promote a public discourse lead and to create the conditions decency that continues to be the the President with dignity, that nourishes inclusivity, for a sustainable existence on our dominant force behind our people. determination and courage.

different challenges reflecting Remembrance Day, the eleventh of the dominant issues of the day. the eleventh 2025. It is significant In 1990, when Mary Robinson on so many levels, but it gives us - and I want to welcome Mary an opportunity to pause and reflect Robinson and her husband Nick on the horrors of war in a world - when Mary was elected, the where unfortunately we have all parameters of geopolitics were become witnesses to ongoing wars

Berlin Wall the previous year Given our history, the and the dissolution of the Soviet normalisation of war and genocide Union, while at home, Ireland has never been and will never be

changes laying the foundation for As a sovereign independent nation a modern and inclusive society. with a long and cherished tradition

1958, Ireland is particularly well challenges that they face. In 1997, one year before the placed to lead and articulate. Is sibhse, muintir na tíre,

colonisation and resistance, an fheachtais. Sibhse a chuaigh Oireachtais, Ambasadóirí, Martin - was elected in the midst of a catastrophic man-made agus a théann i ngleic le heaspaí Ceannairí Eaglaise, agus dhaoine of the ongoing peace process, a Famine and forced emigration seirbhísí agus riachtanais gach lá gives us a lived understanding of beo, easpaí nár cheart a bheith In 2011, Michael D. Higgins a mandate for Ireland to lead.

of peace and reconciliation was Ar ndóigh, tá tábhacht na teanga Now in 2025, as I assume the the result of meticulous and chun anam agus spioraid na tíre a chuir siad an dua sin orthu féin. privilege of office, we face the methodical work over a long thabhairt chun cinn tuigthe agam I stand before you humbly and existential threat of climate change period of time, and this work le blianta fada anois; anam agus continues to this day.

of all who live there.

which sets out in detail the firm a spioraid a chur in iúl.

In shared conversations all over As I speak, I am acutely conscious that does not have a personal tugtha dóibh mar Ghaeilgeoirí ina the country, however, it became of the 165 million people currently experience of migration. On every dtír féin agus in ómós dóibh agus evident that the dominant forcibly displaced from their homes continent our emigrants have put duinne. narrative did not reflect or and countries due to war, famine their ingenuity and hard work at Gaeilgeoirí, Gael, agus lucht We cannot turn back the clock nor Yet they have kept their love of á labhairt go híseal a bhéas an Ireland and its culture deep in Ghaeilge san Áras ach sa chéad áit

there will be many opportunities go fileata, go ceolmhar, faoi mar Along with that however, along children and grandchildren will for me to celebrate with them and atá cloiste agam agus mé ar fud share our experiences.

of neutrality and an uninterrupted and stoicism of those who simply record of peacekeeping since keep going, despite the very real

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREEN!

Good Friday Agreement, the alternative diplomatic solutions cosmhuintir na tíre, a casadh orm agus mé ar fud na tíre a spreag mé, Indeed, our experience of agus a spreag m'fhoireann le linn dispossession, hunger and war and fos ann i dtír atá chomh sabhair. Spreag sibh mé le bhur ndúthracht We can and should take real agus bhur bhfláithiúlacht, ag pride in the success of the Good roinnt bhur scéalta agus taithí a chur roimh mo chlann freisin, his work - Michael D. assumed Friday Agreement, knowing that liom go fial. Is sibhse a thug agus a atá anseo. Mo bheirt mhac, mo office as a global financial collapse this is recognised far and wide and thugann misneach dom, misneach fhearchéile, mo dheirfiúracha, shook Ireland and the world. is a model for peaceful resolution a bhainfidh mé úsáid as anois agus a thógfaidh mé air agus mé ag We also know that this journey obair ar bhur son mar Uachtarán.

> spioraid a bhí curtha faoi chois le I look forward to paying my blianta, bíodh sin d'aon ghnó, de first official visit to the North bharr smacht na dtíoránach nó de and meeting with people from bharr neamhaird, neamhchúram all communities and celebrating nó easpa tuisceanaí. Tír gan the rich heritage and traditions teanga, tir gan anam, agus is fíor sin, mar nuair atá a teanga I am particularly conscious of múchta, ní féidir leis an tír, nó Article 3 of the Constitution, aon tír, a mianta, a luachanna nó

wish of the Irish people, the Irish Cuireadh ár dteanga, teanga nation to have a united Ireland, arsa ar sinsir, teanga ina bhfuil albeit in the conditions set out spioraid ar sinsir agus nadur ar very clearly in the Article on dtíre le mothú i gchuile fhocal, sa dara háit, gan meas nó ómós As President, I will foster an tugtha di. Plúchadh croí ár muintir inclusive and open dialogue nuair a cuireadh stop leo úsáid a across the island in a manner bhaint as a dteanga féin, teanga a that highlights and recognises chuireann mothúchain agus croí in our similarities and respects our iúl le chuile fhocal. Ach scaoilimis le chéile anois leis an bhfaitíos I want to acknowledge our large sin. Ligfimis don Ghaeilge bláthú. hardly a family on this island uathu ach aitheantas a bheith

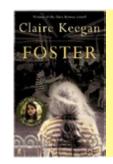
the service of new homelands. foghlama na Gaeilge, ní sa gcúinne mar theanga oibre agus beidh sí á I hope over the next 7 years that labhairt ar fud na tíre go misniúil, na tíre, agus dár ndóigh, déanfar í I have never believed more in a labhairt go húdarásach agus gan

Mar fhocal scoir, to conclude, I in every county, in every corner be a unifying presence—a steady It is also the responsibility of Ireland. I have heard it in hand yes, but also a catalyst for

I have felt it in the quiet dignity Go raibh míle maith agaibh.



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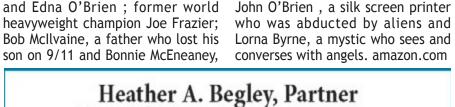
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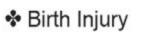
Telling Stories



Dick Morris; authors Patrick Radden a woman who lost her husband whom Keefe, James Carroll. Mary Gordon she says "foresaw his own death"; and Edna O'Brien; former world John O'Brien, a silk screen printer







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Home for the Bewildered Kindle Edition - Amazon by Michelle Tobin

It's 1974 and Dr. Dorothy Morrissey becomes the first female psychologist at St. Lawrence Asylum in Lansing,

Dorothy's patients mirror her emotional issues as they draw her into their often-chaotic lives. Thomas Perfect's impulsiveness and attentionseeking behavior—both symptoms of his bipolar disorder—often prove dangerous as a gay man in 1970s Lansing, Michigan. His flair for drama makes Dorothy laugh as much as his trauma makes her want to cry. Dorothy wrestles with an inexplicable aversion to George who had been remanded to St. Lawrence after pleading Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity. Ruth's post-partum psychiatric break threatens to draw Dorothy in with her, and Marcella, labeled as borderline frustrates Dorothy's efforts to keep her from self-harm.

The Dodger

The #1 Irish Bestseller Comes to US Once a national treasure, Kilkenny's star hurler DJ Carey had it all: a glittering sporting career with five All-Ireland titles, nine All Stars, and the adoration of fans young and old. But

behind the charm and sporting genius lay a darker story...

Now sentenced to five and half years in prison, this is the definitive exposé of the meteoric rise and fall of one of Ireland's greatest sporting heroes, DJ

There was a time when DJ Carey didn't need a surname. The star player of a Kilkenny hurling team that dominated the sport for a decade, he had a rare, natural talent that led his county to five AllIreland titles and won him nine All Stars. DJ wasn't just a hero on the pitch - his easy charm, generosity, and readiness to meet young fans made him a national treasure.

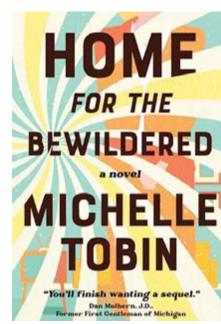
Throughout his meteoric rise, strange rumours followed him. In 2003, shocking claims that DJ was dying of cancer swept the country. Who would spread such a story about one of Ireland's most beloved sporting legends? And what could possibly be gained from it?

Two decades later, the truth emerged. DJ Carey was arrested and charged with deception and forgery - accused of faking cancer to con money from those who trusted him most.

For years, he had been telling the same lie to generous supporters who believed they were

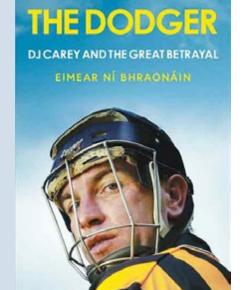
funding life-saving treatment in the U.S.Eimear Ní Bhraonáin, the only journalist who has carried out such a thorough and longstanding investigation into his scams, soon discovered when researching this book that feigning illness was not a new ploy for DJ Carey. Starting at a young age with relatively benign stunts to get out of school, the more DJ got away with, the more his

Protected by the people who loved him, his duplicity was often shrugged off by those close to him who described him as a 'Walter Mitty' or a 'man of mystery'. Little did they know, the mystery was only just beginning.



DECEMBER 2025

As good as Dorothy is at holding and interpreting her patients' past traumas, she resists looking at her own, causing a strain on her relationship with Kenneth. It seems Dorothy has no problem saving her patients... but can she save herself?



In this riveting exposé, drawing on over one hundred interviews and unrivalled access to his victims, Ní Bhraonáin uncovers the extraordinary fall from grace of a national icon, and how he betrayed the fans that once

About the Author:



deeply rooted in her community. She previously worked as midlands and south east correspondent of the Irish Independent, and in more recent years spent almost a decade working as a local broadcaster with KCLR (Kilkenny Carlow Local Radio). Since leaving her presenting role in May 2023, Eimear has been running her communications firm, Eimear.ie, based in County Carlow. She is mother to Róise, and is married to Alan O'Reilly, better known as 'Carlow

Much More Than Leprechauns By Sheryl O'Sullivan

Welcome back to the the book's deeper meanings go will be able to convince him This works beautifully because including it. You'll need to enchanting land of Tir na far beyond its adventure story. to change his ways. She gives the voice of Muireann comes spend a bit of breathless time N'Og for books. I am fresh The book questions the nature up her tail for legs and goes to through clearly, and the sparse waiting, but after that this from attending the Dublin of truth, the views we hold of the prince. International Children's those we consider "other", Literature Festival, and so the the duties we owe to fellow He is ambitious and cruel. He books I'm reporting on this creatures and the actions we takes Muireann captive and uses month are a scoop! Both books ought to take in the face of her as court entertainment. are advance copies of titles corrupt power. Friendship, She must use all her resources that will be coming out in June dealing with loss, and the and courage to find a way to of 2026 in the United States. meaning of courage are all escape the prince and still save They are both worth the wait, woven into the exciting plot. though, and remember you heard about them first here! enjoy this fine book, and it are two important themes

hard truths to light.

Jacq is being trained to to watch for it! be a giant hunter like her parents when she falls from a will prove to be a courageous and kind true friend before their adventures together end.

These adventures involve rescuing Corman's father from the humans who have captured him. This takes ingenuity and resourcefulness on the part of Corman and Jacq, and they must work together to defeat the evil masterminds of Fathach's giant hunting business. Along the way, the pair learn that the ones they have been told to hate are good and the ones they have been told to trust are untrustworthy. As with all will take in it.

rollicking fantasy tale about understand and appreciate.

Both you and your kids will

Shorelines

Shorelines Ruth Ennis coming-of-age stories, Jacq book goes deeply in its own and Corman are learning to directions, too. It explores expand their views of the world important and difficult issues

and deciding what places they and themes in a manner which will need at least a On the surface, this is a middle-school-aged youth to

a make-believe land with lots Muireann, the mermaid at of giants, and the book can the heart of the story, has certainly be enjoyed on that just lost her twin sister who level by middle-grade kids for died entangled in an oversized



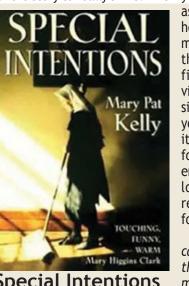
Muireann's family is wasting to question her own beauty and with a truly remarkable book. away, and she knows if she can strength. just reach the human prince, whose life she once saved, she so it is told entirely in poetry. cover is finalized, so I am

Within this plotline, there

The Thing About Giants will stay in your head for a woven throughout the book. Twelve-year-old Jacq lives long time. This is an adventure The first theme is the idea in the ancient city of Fathach book to relish and the author, of humanity's abuse of the which has been built from Christopher Galvin, is a new environment. Over-fishing is giants' bones. The people of talent to watch. The Thing imperiling not only the ocean the city hate and fear the giants About Giants is due to be life of Muireann's home, but of the land, and Fathach's most released in June of 2026, also human life in a way which lauded citizens are its giant and a sequel is already being the prince, because of his hunters. But things are not as planned for summer of 2027. position, can ignore. Clearly, **Special Intentions** they appear, and a Resistance The cover of the book is yet to the fates of the environment Movement is trying to bring be finalized, so I can't give you and humans are intertwined, a picture yet. You'll just need but no one moves to stop the prince's evil ambitions.

Shorelines is a remarkable body image. Muireann is very first novel is very like the one helicopter and is rescued by an book by first-time author Ruth large, with rolls of flesh that Kelly took in the 1960s from a eleven-year-old giant named Ennis. The story is ostensibly keep her warm in the ocean large, comfortable Irish home Corman. Jacq soon learns that a re-telling of The Little and mimic the waves of her on Chicago's northwest side giants are not the fearsome, Mermaid, and yes, there is a home. Before she becomes into the motherhouse of the emotionless beings she has mermaid who becomes human human, Muireann says of her nuns who had taught her, then been led to believe. Corman for love of a prince, but this body, "I am an astonishing back to a racially changing sea creature. I am grand, in high school on Chicago's west every sense of the word." As side. Like hundreds of young soon as she is among humans, Catholic women, Margaret though, her grand rolls are Mary Lynch sees her vocation

Shorelines is a verse novel, here in June 2026, but the words allow the deep emotion beautiful book should be on But the prince is not naive. of the story to really shine. This your young adult's shelf.



by Mary Pat Kelly

The path documentary filmmaker and nonfiction writer

www.WhiskeyMick.com

Booking contact:

whiskeymickbooking@gmail.com

how humans are fishing has labeled fat, and she is starved verse format has the collateral radically changed and has into becoming smaller. As her benefit of helping less confident left all the merfolk starving. captivity continues, she begins readers engage successfully

Shorelines is also due out

as a way to follow Christ and help the poor. In the end, like many other nuns, she leaves the convent, as Kelly did, to find another way. The novel vividly, respectfully portrays the sincerity and idealism of those young women's choices, and if its narrator has little respect for some of the rules and rule enforcers she encountered, her love and admiration for the religious women who helped form her character are obvious.

The '60s are so easy to caricature, but Kelly recaptures the hope and sense of urgency many found in Vatican II and the civil rights and antiwar movements. Mary Carroll

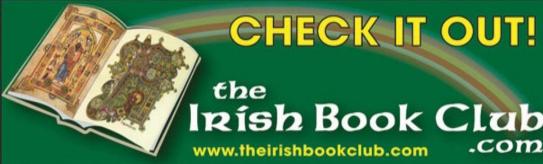
A mini-history of the Sixties, political and spiritual. A young The second issue is that of Kelly's heroine takes in this woman's journey from dreamy. eyed postulant to political radical. - Frank McCourt

Publisher: Dufour Editions January 1, 1998 First Edition English, 380 pages ISBN-10 1874597715 ISBN-13 978-1874597711 mpk@marypatkelly.com Praise for Of Irish Blood

"Fascinating story. Engrossing with enduring central character and a wonderful, rich historical background" - Mary Higgins Clark, international and New York Times best-selling author

"Kelly is a wonderful creative, intelligent writer who's endowed with a sense of humor." - Malachy McCourt, New York Times best-selling author of A Monk Swimming

Praise for Galway Bay After reading her novel Galway Bay, you might wonder if Mary Pat Kelly knows everything about nineteenthcentury Ireland, the Great Famine, and the emigrant experience in America. But it's her exploration of the human heart that moves you. Against landscapes beautiful and bleak she brings her characters to unforgettable life. As they say in Ireland, 'Take your ease with this book.' You'll need time for laughter and tears and pure magic." - Frank McCourt, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of Angela's Ashes



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ACROSS

- 1. Neighbor of Libya
- 5. Mark with a branding iron
- 9. Disney character from Hawaii
- 13. Chickpea paste
- 15. Murray who sang "You Needed Me"
- 16. Arabian gulf
- 17. Massey of "Balalaika"
- 18. Marriage symbol
- 19. Love potion number
- 20. California & New Mexico town name
- 22. Tourist destination: a causeway made of about 40,000 interlocking
- basalt columns, The _ __ Causeway 24. "Doesn't look good"- 2 words
- 25. Friend in "Once upon a Time in Mexico" 66. The Missouri R. forms part
- 26. Device for streaming video
- 29. One of the Bushes
- 30. French "to be"
- 31. TV actor, Scott of Happy Days 34. Stimulating factor
- 38. Where Switz. is, abbr.
- 39. Attribute
- 41. Single spot card
- 42. St Petersburg ballet group
- 43. Big furniture retailer

- 44. Hideous monster
- 45. In addition
- 47. One of the Twin Cities, 2 words
- 49. 1,000 kilograms
- 52. Hoot
- 53. Antlered animal
- 54. The River Nore runs through
- this Irish tourist destination 58. Goat
- 59. No ___ land
- 61. Bring out
- 62. Unit of loudness
- 63. Medicinal plant
- 64. Photography brand
- 65. Pardner's mount
- of its border, abbr. 67. Capone's nemesis
- DOWN
- 1. In vogue
- 2. Story telling, HI dance
- 3. Roman love god 4. Ruined Medieval castle in Co. Antrim
- 5. Vaughan of jazz 6. Blyton, popular children's writer
- 7. Actress, Margaret

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To promote and cooperate in the general welfare work

Merry Christmas

and Happy New Year

to our members and all IAN readers.



DECEMBER 2025

- 8. Jamaican music
- 9. Veranda
- 10. Verifying who the customer is
- 11. Slow in music
- 12. Washington's bills
- 14. Figure skater Cohen
- 21. Does very badly
- 23. Instill
- 26. Seven days
- 27. Decorative case
- 28. Winter comment
- 29. ___ de vivre
- 32. Biting
- 33. Perturb 35. Infatuated with
- 36. Hosiery shade
- 37. Fishing equipment
- 39. ____-garde
- 40. Margarita pizza herb
- 44. Chose to participate, 2 words
- 46. American painter of sports scenes 48. Representative
- 49. Off-limits
- 50. Some tournaments

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- 51. Vetoes
- 52. Early bird (e.g.)

dave@chicalba.com

- 53. Long (for) 54. Door handle
- 55. Microwave cook
- 56. Sgts. and such 57. Cravings

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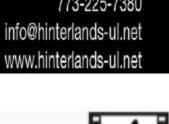
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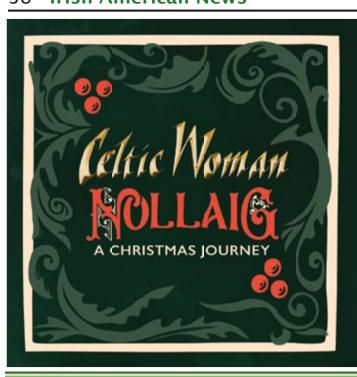












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I am not Proud to Say, We Killed Him There

Liam MacGabhann, based on reading journalism. comments made by the son of a Welsh relatives to forgive him.

DECEMBER 2025

On May 12th, 1916, one of the most and last rites. shocking executions to take place in Father Aloysius asked Connolly if he the aftermath of the Easter Rising was was willing to pray for those about to and other humorous questions are that of James Connolly. The injured shoot him, to which Connolly replied trade union leader was taken from "I will say a prayer for all men who CHRISTMAS BINGO: IT'S A HO-HO-Dublin Castle to Kilmainham Goal by carry out their duty." ambulance before being carried into the stone breakers yard on a stretcher.

The Edinburgh-born Connolly was then tied to a chair to face the firing came today squad. Connollys death left the public disgusted with those who sanctioned the callous execution but it also left poets and songwriters with much material to write.

The best known song written about the martyred leader is The Ballad of James Connolly but unfortunately the quickly call author of the song is unknown.

In 1968 Irish folk band The Wolfe Tones brought The Ballad of James this thing Connolly to a wider audience when they recorded it as a single which reached number 15 in the Irish music and the Spring

charts of that year. When the band included the song on their 1972 album 'Let the People Sing' they featured a spoken poem before the song and, unlike the ballad with an unknown authorship, we fortunately know who wrote The Poem of James Connolly.

Kerry journalist Liam MacGabhann penned The Poem of James Connolly in 1933 which was included in this book 'Rags, Robes and Rebels.' MacGabhann, who was born on Valentia Island in 1908, wrote the stirring piece from the view of a soldier in the firing party ordered to shoot Connolly.

In 1916 a Welsh regiment on its way to the Western Front was diverted to Ireland as backup for troops trying to crush the rebellion in Dublin. MacGabhann heard a story about a young soldier, a son of a Welsh miner, again who was part of that regiment and was included in the firing squad for Connollys execution and felt utter - but then

guilt and shame because of it. In the aftermath of the ghastly deed this unnamed Welsh solider tracked different too, down Connolly's widow and children to ask for their forgiveness. MacGabhann took this anonymous Welsh soldier as through, the voice for his poem who reflects on his participation in the execution of Connolly with heavy regret.

MacGabhann worked as a national school teacher in Kerry before taking up a job at the Irish Press as the world began; papers film critic. This position saw MacGabhann travel to and from Los Angeles for many years during smiling - God! Hollywood's golden age, and it kick started his interestingly well travelled

Anthony Cronin and James Plunkett. MacGabhann would go on to become editor of *The People* newspaper in *all was still* the 1950s and then news editor of the Irish Times and was one of the founding editors of the **Sunday World**. **picked to kill** Liam MacGabhann died in Dublin in A man like that!

The Poem of James Connolly by 1979, two years after retiring from

103 years ago on May 12th, capuchin miner who was part of Connolly's firing Father Aloysius was in the stone squad and who later asked Connolly's breakers yard of Kilmainham Gaol to administer James Connolly absolution

The Poem of James Connolly (By Liam MacGabhann)

Into the barrack square; A soldier I - I am not proud to say

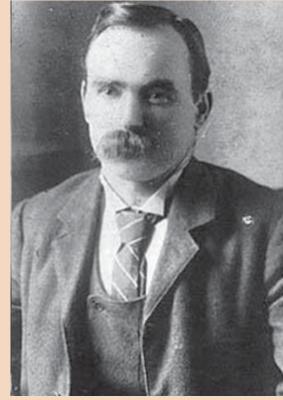
We killed him there; They brought him from the prison hospital;

To see him in that chair I thought his smile would far more

A man to prayer.

Maybe we cannot understand

That makes these rebels die; And yet all things love freedom -



Clear in the sky; I think I would not do this deed

For all that I hold by; Gaze down my rifle at his breast

A soldier I.

They say that he was kindly -

Apart from all the rest; A lover of the poor; and all shot

His wounds ill drest,

He came before us, faced us like

He knew a deeper pain Than blows or bullets - ere the

Died he in vain? Ready - present; And he just

I felt my rifle shake His wounds were opened out and round that chair

Was one red lake; I swear his lips said 'Fire!' when

Before my rifle spat

That cursed lead - and I was

Hit Comedy Christmas Bingo: It's a Ho-Ho-Holy Night at Irish American Heritage Center

One Night Only, Thursday -**DECEMBER 18, 2025**

Why were the Three Wise Men so Annunciation, complete with audience lost? What are some of your favorite holiday movies? The answers to these answered in the hit holiday comedy HOLY NIGHT.

CHRISTMAS BINGO, part of the Nuns4Fun, Late Nite Catechism series, The man was all shot through that runs one night only, Dec. 18, in the upstairs Erin Room, at the Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox Ave., Chicago.



by Vicki Quade

being Catholic: Christmas and Bingo. about Christmas." The show features the character of Mrs. Mary Margaret O'Brien, a former nun and head of the archdiocese's bingo performance at 8 p.m. Specialty fundraising department.

Reader, the show was selected as one of 10 holiday shows highlighted American Heritage Center at (773) 282by Chris Jones, the Chicago Tribune 7035, and to order tickets, go online theater critic.

members play bingo while also answering questions about Christmas traditions, at (773) 388-0730.

the origin of St. Nick, where do candy canes come from, miracles in the Did Santa babysit the baby Jesus? Bible, and a clever re-creation of the



members in angel wings and halos.

Today's Fan, an online review site, calls Christmas Bingo, "delightful." "You will be engaged by the show's uniquely interactive approach that Written by Vicki Quade, one of the involves a bingo game with real prizes. creators of the hit comedy Late Nite Its entertaining aspect comes from the Catechism, CHRISTMAS BINGO brings hilarity that ensues as Quade tackles together two of the best things about offbeat myths and outrageous facts

Tix \$40, all-inclusive, no other fees. Doors open at 7 p.m., with the holiday cocktails and other drinks will Recommended by the Chicago be available at the Erin Room bar.

For more information, call the Irish to: https://irish-american.org/event/ In this interactive comedy, audience christmas-bingo-its-a-ho-ho-holy-night

You can also call the Nuns4Fun office

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Chicago Hooley 2026 - A Crosstown Celebration of Irish Dance & Music January 23-25 at Gaelic Park & Heritage Ctr

Chicago Hooley 2026 is set to energize the where Evin O'Riordan (Friday) and Gerry Haughey Windy City January 23rd -25th with a full slate (Saturday) will be performing your favorite Irish of Irish music and social dance. This exciting tunes. It is the perfect spot to enjoy a pint, a bite to

collaboration between Chicago Gaelic Park and the Irish American Heritage Center promises a weekend of top entertainment and welcoming community! Learn from a Dance Legend

The weekend features a rare stateside chance to learn from the leading figure in the Irish social dance world. Gerard Butler, a ninetime All-Ireland Dance Champion who hails from County Roscommon, will lead country jive workshops and a set dancing workshop. Whether you are a seasoned dancer or an aspiring beginner, this is an instruction opportunity not to be missed.

A Musical Lineup to Remember

The weekend's music schedule will surely keep your toes tapping. Award-winning performer Stuart Moyles and rising star Clodagh Togher, both from County Mayo, take the stage on Friday at 9 p.m. at Gaelic Park. On Saturday, again at Gaelic Park, Moyles and Togher will be joined by local favorite Declan McShane for an 8 p.m. show. Renowned button accordion player Jack Kinsella, who is from County Offaly and currently living in Chicago, will perform at the Irish American Heritage Center on Sunday evening with Moyles, Togher, and McShane.

For a cozier vibe, head to Gaelic Park's Carraig Pub,



Hibernian Radio "Every Saturday Night on Global Irish Radio, GIR.ie"



Every Wednesday night 7pm Start Dedicated to Irish First Responders WE BACK THE BLUE!

HIBERNIANRADIO.ORG

Hibernian Radio hosted by Mike 'Houli"'Houlihan Broadcast Sat nights 7-8pm on Global Irish Radio, GIR.ie Podcasts at <u>hibernianradio.org</u> Irish cops, firefighters, paramedics, music, news, obits, comedy, houli-town, life!

Presented by Madden Funds, Flood Brothers, Fox's Pizza, Local 150 Operating Engineers, Sheehy Funeral Home, & Emerald Society & Irish American News!



eat, and a singalong.

Saturday Waltzing Contest

New to the Chicago Hooley this year is a waltzing contest, taking place during Saturday evening's show at Gaelic Park. Showcase your moves for a chance to win a cash prize and the coveted bragging rights! Hooley organizers encourage everyone to participatecelebrating our shared love for dance in a fun, friendly competition.

Sunday Céilí and Farewell

The weekend wraps up with a rousing mixed céilí at 4 p.m. on Sunday at the Irish American Heritage Center following Butler's set dance workshop. Moyles, Togher, McShane, and Kinsella will provide the live music. "Irish social and set dancing is all about community," said event organizer Brendan Houlihan, "The mixed céilí is a beautiful way to end the weekend-coming together and enjoying the music and dance as one Irish cultural community.

Tickets, Travel & Info

Weekend passes are available for \$95, with individual event tickets sold separately. A special hotel rate is available at the DoubleTree by Hilton Alsip, making it easy for out-of-towners to join the festivities. Reserve your spot today at tickets. chicagogaelicpark.com or irish-american.org. For more information, please contact Chicago Gaelic Park Director Brendan Houlihan 708-280-8753. or email: houlihanb@icloud.com.

Noreen Lennon Hegarty, Chicago Gaelic Park Director



Nora Moran Marovich Award (the 'Nonnies')

pursue post-secondary education. WSI major in biology and psychology. created them as a way to celebrate and Shaye is a senior at Naperville North honor students who have demonstrated High School who resides in Woodridge. a commitment to community service and Shaye and her family celebrate and have an Irish heritage or connection to the Irish community.

DECEMBER 2025

Nonnie was a founding member and was an instrumental voice in shaping this organization. She was known for being compassionate, caring and always willing to help. We hope to honor Nonnie's legacy of supporting others and dedication to service with this award. 2025 Award Recipients of \$2,500

Shatakshi is a senior from

Carpentersville, who attends Illinois Math and Science Academy. She and her family have travelled to Ireland and she Irish pastime Shatakshi Chatterjee



she tutored younger children that the her time and curriculum did not connect with the energy on food students. She created and implemented insecurity and a developmentally appropriate plan to medicine. She meet students where they were at and is part of the encourage them to explore and succeed volunteering in STEM. Shatakshi wants to become an program at EMT with the plan to attend college and Elmhurst become a physician.

Natalie is a high school senior from has been able to



to their Irish and have

Natalie Finnegan many recipes passed down for generations. She has volunteered for multiple organizations and been the chair or president of many charitable organizations. She was chair of the tie-dye fundraiser to benefit teen mental health. Natalie has focused much of her volunteering in the areas of mental health awareness and food insecurity. She has volunteered every year at a soup kitchen with her family and continues to help feed those in need

The Nora Moran Marovich Award, aka on her own at the St. Cletus Food Pantry. "the Nonnies," provides financial support Natalie plans to attend Vanderbilt to high school juniors and seniors as they University in the fall where she plans to

remember their Irish heritage through music, 27, 2025. dance and education and feels strongly

Shaye Kelliher

on mission trips to Costa Rica to work with elementary students and is part assistant and attending Chicago Teachers camaraderie of the IAHC. of the international early childhood College, South. development task force and founded the environmental science club at Naperville North. She plans to attend the University major in education.

education can

Teah is a high school junior from Elmhurst, who attends Illinois Math and family oriented culture. Shatakshi has from Kildare and took Irish dance when embraces her love of STEM and her desire she was younger. Teah has volunteered to share her knowledge. She realized as for a variety of projects but has focused

Hospital and

Lagrange, who attends Nazareth help patients, Teah Oviedo Navarro

Academy. Her staff and families at the hospital. Her Irish ancestors exemplary volunteer resume earned her are from County the 2024 Elmhurst Commission on Youth Cavan. She Exemplary Youth Service Award. Her and her family volunteering experience has shaped her have a strong future plans, as she aspires to become a connection physician, specializing in surgery.



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Long Time Heritage Center Member-Volunteers Celebrate 60 Years of Marriage

U. of IL, Urbana-Champaign, January, Lawyer Son Frank and Grandson Jakub of Illinois at Urbana Champaign and will 1961. Sherry completed her BS Degree Avila Kowalkowski; Frank, wife Rachel of storytelling and appreciates the Science Academy. She has Irish ancestors Tucson, Arizona where Frank earned his Daughter Environmental Lawyer Audrey, When they moved back to Chicago, and Analena Avila-Torres. Frank eventually opened his own Civil

Former Commissioner of the about how and what to tour at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District IAHC in a series of several lessons. She of Greater Chicago for 18 years and arranged for various volunteers to serve Civil Engineer and Professional Land as docents at the IAHC. Frank and Sherry Surveyor, Frank and Sharilyn aka Sherry also served as docents for tour groups. In (Nee: Hooste) Avila give thanks for their addition, Sherry presented various slide 60th Wedding Anniversary November presentations about Irish/Celtic topics for the Celtic Women International as Frank was born and lived in Chicago well as Shamrock Seniors. They also food. She has all his life. Sherry was born and lived participated with other Irish Community a passion for in Peoria for her first 19 years until Services' volunteers in creating the promoting she spent summer of 1961 working as beautiful Irish Mosaic Mural outside the Director of Vacation Bible School at Kelly IAHC. Frank and Sherry enjoyed Francis Methodist Church on the south side of O'Neill Club's Irish Ceili set dancing that improving Chicago when she decided to stay in every week, attended Theresa Choske's Chicago. Frank met Sherry at Esther Irish Teas, Irish lectures, IBAM, Holiday break the cycle of poverty. She has gone Hall Girls' Club in Chicago where Sherry parties, Bloomsday, and more. FRANK lived while working as an administrative AND SHERRY LOVE the CRAIC and the

> The couple give thanks for their Frank had just completed his BS greatest blessings of three amazing adult Degree in Civil Engineering from the children and six wonderful grandchildren: in Elementary Education from the U. of and Grandchildren Clarence Bledsoe IL, Urbana-Champaign, January, 1966. and Thalia Avila; Son IT Quinn, wife After they married, they moved to Jackie, and Granddaughter Brooke Avila; MS Degree in Finance from the U. of AZ husband Bankruptcy Lawyer Jaime in Tucson while Sherry taught first grade. Torres, and Granddaughters Francesca

> > Frank and Sherry give thanks for



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joining the Irish American Heritage Republic, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Center since 2002.

Ireland which turned out to be the trip Chicago and around the world. of a lifetime. Since Sherry was a Docent at Loyola University Museum of Art and attended a National Docent Symposium, she presented slides to volunteers marriage.

Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Canary Frank and Sherry give thanks for Islands, China, Costa Rica, Dominican Mexico, Netherlands, Puerto Rico, Sherry sang with the Irish Heritage Russia, Spain, Turkey, and others where Singers for 20 years including a trip to they learned about each other's cultures an International Singing Festival in Sligo, as well as the many other cultures in

Frank and Sherry Avila give heartfelt thanks to God and to each of you who have been a part of their 60 years of











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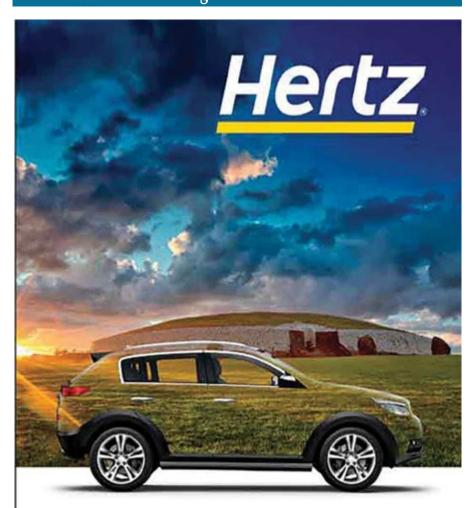
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GOOD GRIEF

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREEN!

By Josephine Coleman



Hello again. It's that time of year when we start thinking about the childhood memories of our mothers baking Christmas treats, especially in our house. I still make our usual Christmas cake and dozens of sweet mince pies to share with friends and neighbours. Recently I've come across a few recipes you may be interested in, and I can assure you I've tried and

First are the mincemeat scones.



The ingredients are:

tested them myself.

• 3 cups + 2 tbsp (500g/17½ oz) self-raising flour

- 1 tsp baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup + 3 tbsp (150g/5 oz) unsalted butter, frozen and grated
- ½ cup (100g/3½ oz) caster sugar • 1 cup (200g/7 oz) mincemeat.
- bought or homemade • 1 medium egg (I left this out because we never put eggs in Irish scones)
- ½ cup + 1 tbsp (130ml/4.5 fl oz)

If you don't have buttermilk, you can make your own by adding 1 tablespoon of lemon juice or vinegar to milk. Preheat the oven to 425°F. Place the self-raising flour and baking powder in a large bowl and mix. Grate the frozen butter into the bowl and rub it in until it resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Stir in the sugar, then add the mincemeat. Whisk the egg and buttermilk together, then pour the mixture in a little at a time until a soft dough forms (you may not need all the liquid). Turn the dough out onto a floured surface, fold it gently a few times, and shape it into a round. Pat or lightly roll it to about 4 cm thick. Cut out rounds using a 7 cm cutter or a small glass dipped in flour. Brush the tops with buttermilk, avoiding the sides. Sprinkle with sliced almonds and press lightly so they stick. Flour your baking tray—my They bake fast, so keep an eye on

I doubled the ingredients because our family loves scones. They turned out very tasty, but they could have risen higher, so next time I might add a wee bit more baking soda.

Next, I tried the sweet mincemeat cupcakes with brandy buttercream. For the cupcakes you'll need:

- 1 cup (4½ oz) self-raising flour
- 1/3 cup (2½ oz) sugar
- 1/3 cup (2½ oz) light brown sugar
- 2 tsp mixed spice • ¼ tsp ginger
- ¼ tsp baking soda
- 3½ oz melted butter

DECEMBER 2025

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Titanic visitor attraction with its

magnificent exterior facade which is

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largest ship ever built and is 25 meters

long. Also the hull is the same height

of the Titanic from keel to deck and

over 1,000 workers were involved in construction. In fact the ship's length

can hold 3,547 visitors at any one time -

the same number as the capacity of the

ship itself. The timeline for construction

of Titanic Belfast was similar to that

of the actual ship that left Ireland but

The building has the largest banqueting

facility in Belfast (the 1,000-seater

nearly the same as for the Titanic Suite

complete with a 10,000 piece grand

staircase, very close to the replica of

never came back.

Titanic Belfast opened to the public

since its spectacular opening in 2012.

• 2/3 cup (5 oz) mincemeat plus 1½ tbsp milk

Mix everything together and blend for several minutes until nice and creamy. Fill cupcake cases about three-guarters full and bake at 350°F for 20-25 minutes. Let them cool completely while you make the brandy and orange buttercream.

For the buttercream you'll need:

- 2/3 cup (5 oz) butter
- 3½ cups icing (confectioners')
- Zest of one orange
- 2 tbsp orange juice
- 2 tbsp brandy (or whiskey, which also tastes lovely with the orange)

Mix the butter until it's nice and creamy, then very slowly add the icing sugar because it goes everywhere when you open the bag. Add the orange zest, orange juice, and brandy. I didn't have a piping bag, so I used a plastic bag and cut a small hole in the bottom to make it look more professional. You can also just spread it with a knife. Sprinkle with whatever festive decorations you have. These tasted very nice. I made them in early November, so I'll definitely bake them again a few days before Christmas.

For the Christmas cake, here is the



famous three-ingredient version that everyone is raving about. You'll need: • 530g mixed dried fruit (I used

- sultanas, raisins, a handful of mixed peel, and a handful of chopped almonds)
- 300g (about 2 cups) self-raising flour — I couldn't find self-raising flour here, but Gaelic imports often carries Irish products
- 600 ml liquid of your choice: chocolate milk, iced coffee, ginger beer, or Baileys (I used Baileys because it was a gift)

Soak the fruit in the liquid overnight. Then simply add the flour and mix well. Line a baking tin with mum never buttered hers. Bake for greaseproof paper on the bottom, 12-15 minutes or until golden brown. sides, and top because the cake burns easily. I used air-fryer liners. Bake at 320°F for 1-3 hours, checking with a skewer. Mine took just under two hours. It tasted delicious and moist. It will keep for several weeks in an airtight container, so you can save it for Christmas and decorate it with fondant or icing just like my mother used to, with miniature Santas and little trees—and of course, the tiny silver edible balls.

These recipes are lovely if you want to bake with your children or grandchildren, or simply for yourself. I hope this was helpful. Wishing you happy Christmas baking. Until next time-stay warm and stay safe.



highlights the transformation of Belfast Slipway, the Harland and Wolff Drawing Offices and Hamilton graving Dock, the very places where He maintains the Titanic Belfast is Titanic was designed, built, & launched in 1912. recognized as one of the world's most Lord Mayor Mairtin emphasizes the significant iconic buildings, and also a symbol of impact of visitors that continues and the city now the renewed confidence as a destination includes a welcoming 5-star international hotel.

Visitors enjoy exhibits including a basement Mark Walker, Manager of Hilton Hotels car park and during their stay are amazed by in N. Ireland admits that Titanic Belfast Europe's largest urban waterfront regeneration made its significant impact on tourism schemes, transforming an 185 acre site on the banks of the Belfast river into a new mixed use maritime quarter with a mile of water frontage consisting of residential accommodations, office Concierge William McElroy of the Titanic Hotel,



space, hotels, academic activities along with Belfast: concierge@titanichotelbelfast.com



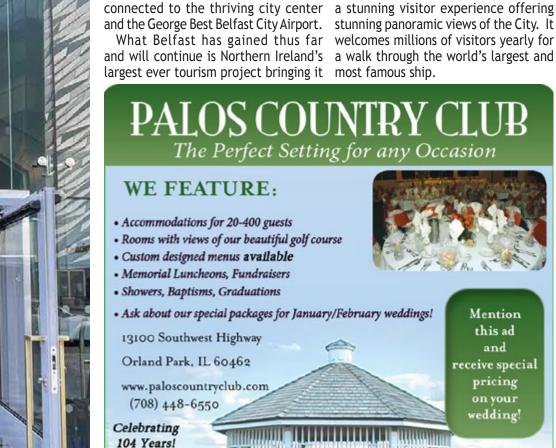
the ships. It is located behind the Titanic A great depiction of some of the builders of the Titanic in the town of Belfast, N. Ireland.

leisure, retail and heritage space. It is anticipated that over 20,000 people will work or live in the Titanic Traveller magazine named Belfast Quarter upon completion. There among the world's travel destinations definitely is new life in Belfast as it in 2012 and Fodor's Ireland's US editors becomes a major social and business cited the Titanic centenary as the meeting place with galleries, theaters, biggest tourism story in 2012.

National Geographic globally renowned

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parklands and water sports all easily In addition Titanic Belfast has become





44 Irish American News

DECEMBER 2025

Ma Goes Rogue Catering: A Fresh Collaboration on Chicago's Northwest Side

A new wave of Irish hospitality is making its way across Chicago's Northwest Side as Ma Goes Rogue Catering launches—an exciting collaboration between Donal Donoghue, owner of The Mystic Rogue, and Aine O'Brien, owner of Ma O' Brien's.

For Aine O'Brien, the venture is both a homecoming and a natural next chapter. With more than 20 years of experience at Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, she built her career across both operations and sales, eventually helping to develop the catering division of LYFE Kitchen, the healthy-food concept created by Chef Art Smith. Her work later took her to Google, where she served as the Global Catering Program Manager designing hospitality programs on a worldwide stage.

But in 2023, Aine brought her deep experience back to where her heart has always been: Chicago's Northwest Side. Opening Ma O' Brien's, she set out to create a warm, Irish-inspired community pub where neighbors-young and old-could relax, gather, and feel at home. The cozy space quickly established itself as a local favorite, known for its welcoming atmosphere and the sense of connection it fosters.

"Running my own business has brought me so much joy," Aine says. "The coming together of people and the connections made have made Ma O'Brien's a very special place."

Yet after a full year at the helm, one thing tugged at her-a longing for the creative excitement that comes with planning and executing events. As fate would have it, she wasn't the only one thinking along those lines. For months, she and Donal Donoghue had been tossing around the idea of joining forces, blending their shared love of Irish hospitality with their complementary strengths in food, service, and community engagement.

That spark has now become Ma Goes Rogue Catering, a catering collaboration built on passion, experience, and the belief that hospitality should feel personal. Together, Donal and Aine aim to bring elevated food, thoughtful service, and a warm Irish welcome to events across the city—whether intimate gatherings, corporate functions, celebrations, or community occasions.

Rooted in Aine's extensive background and Donal's culinary vision, Ma Goes Rogue Catering promises something unique: high-quality, approachable food delivered with the kind of genuine charm that feels like home.

With Ma O' Brien's thriving, The Mystic Rogue continuing to serve as a neighborhood staple, and now Ma Goes Rogue Catering emerging as their combined creative outlet, the Northwest Side is set to experience a new level of Irishinspired hospitality-one event at a time.

Contact Aine @773-490-5086



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I recently came across IAN's Royal apologist's piece describing firsthand account of the de wedding between Charles and Diana. This same author has a history of blissfully reminiscing that gaudy, incestuous, raping, thieving culture, yet the gushing of that bit was too much for me this time around.

I will not quote the article directly —it is rather nauseous and like-minded readers already saw this coming. In describing that wedding -waves of England's colors lining the streets

euphoric for the annointed male, screaming, crying, trying to touch a piece knowing that their shallow lives themselves were predestined to never rise above mediocracy because of the crime of their birth.

In short, after reading yet another of that author's defense of Anglo-Saxon privilege, I ponder the greater crime; marrying a woman one does not truly love, the shameless adulation for a people that deliberately raped, killed, banished, and starved one's own bloodline, or the premise that one should actually enjoy a slice from a 200lb, five-tiered English fruit cake.

Niall Fennessy Forest Park Up the Déise.

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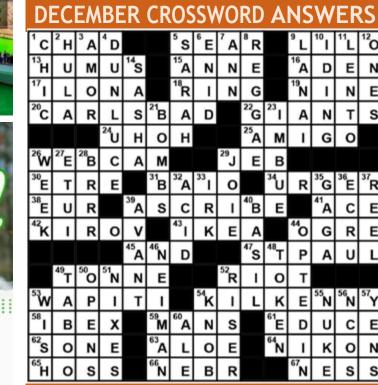




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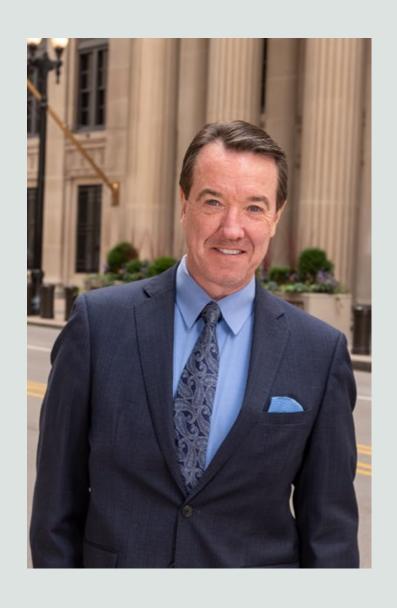








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