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On the evening of December 9th, I was due to land in Dublin Airport and braced myself for the worst in my bid to get into town. Taxi drivers under the aegis of the National Transport Authority, the statutory regulatory body of the taxi industry, had planned to

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick

stage a strike at the airport that would have disrupted advantages that Uber confers on customers are postponed in favour of talks with government - but a storm that hit Ireland prevented my flight, and hundreds of others, from taking off, rendering my worries misplaced.

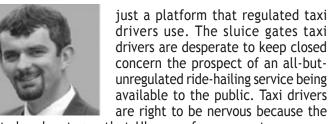
The taxi drivers' strike is far from over, but they were sufficiently placated by the prospect of talks drivers their jobs. to pull back from paralysing the key points of the Irish capital - the airport, government buildings - as threatened in the strike manifesto. They want the government to prohibit Uber from flooding the market and undercutting them. Dublin's taxi drivers, like their counterparts in most places, work hard during unsociable hours, sometimes putting themselves at jobs and to take industrial action.

As with many great ideas, Uber seems so obvious an initiative that it is surprising it only emerged 15 years ago. In cities replete with driving vehicles, Uber is by turns a method of ridesharing and a means of allowing drivers to take on casual work whenever it suits them. While there are a few hoops to jump through, in many countries, a suitable vehicle, a smart phone and maybe some additional liability coverage are sufficient to become an Uber driver. In Ireland, a Dublin Airport rank permit alone costs about \$400 per year. You can see why a Dublin taxi driver might take umbrage at the prospect of Uber drivers pulling up alongside them for nothing and subsequently undercutting them (having less overheads to service).

The disputes can be vicious. National and regional governments are often dragged in to adjudicate, sometimes with contradictory and confusing results. For example, it is possible to take an Uber from northwest Portugal across the border into Spain; it is impossible to return the same way. Uber's operation in Galicia is legally contested in the north-westernmost—the gig economy whose jobs will be swallowed up by region of Spain, Galicia.







traffic flow considerably. In the event, the strike was considerable — the price is not only competitive, but it is fixed at the outset whereas taxis depend on their metres running in heavy traffic to supplement their income. In a market already saturated with taxis, the introduction of Uber drivers would severely damage the taxi business model and would cost some

Yet their demand to keep Uber out is foredoomed, even if they manage to win the imminent battle, which is far from certain. If Dublin's taxi drivers prevail against Uber's entry into the market now, they are still faced with a far greater threat that they will ultimately break their business model completely. That is the self-driving car. For a glimpse risk, for their pay. They are entitled to protect their of that future, look at San Francisco where Waymo's robotaxis have captured up to one quarter of the city's ride-hailing market. If it can be done in curvy, hilly San Francisco, it can surely be implemented anywhere. Give robotaxis another few years to evolve and for the public to get used to the idea and the thought of a Dublin Airport taxi rank permit will seem to younger generations as quaint as a union button.

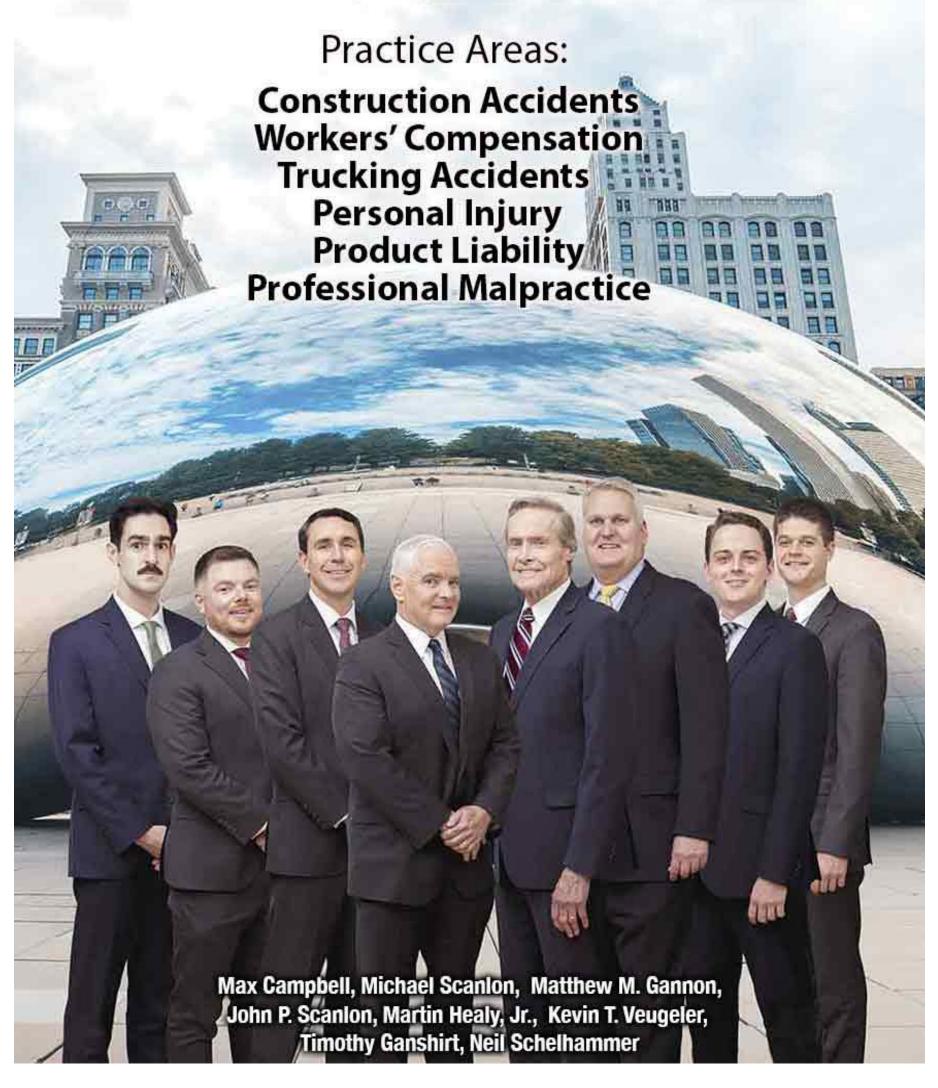
This is all very cruel on working people who want to earn their living by driving taxis, but so are most huge transitions. The transference from a strictly regulated industry to a casualised gig economy and then to robotics is a parable of the post-industrial age we are living through. The zeal to resist the change from the first to the second phase risks losing sight of the third stage and deepening the shock when its finality hits. We can sympathise with Uber eats or Deliveroo deliverers as they wade through our cities on dark, wet winter evenings. Their livelihoods could hardly be more vulnerable: in many territories those companies exit when employee status is mandated. Yet the future is even more threatening to those members of robots and drones. It has happened before - as they In Ireland, the Uber app is permitted, but that is say, every ATM is the ghost of a bank teller - but it is accelerating exponentially now.

> So, what to do? In recognition that one of the hardest ways to earn a living is through the arts, the Irish government launched what it called Basic Income for the Arts, a small pilot scheme, in 2022. It guaranteed about 2,000 artists a basic income for three years. Yet there was more to it. The government regularly surveys participants, and the results of the pilot were analysed by social scientists across several countries. The pilot scheme is about to conclude, but because it proved a success - for artists, for productivity, and for the state - it will be replaced by a permanent programme supporting roughly the same number of artists. This successor programme is surely itself a pilot for a much broader proposal to introduce a form of basic income to people who have been deprived the possibility of earning a crust. If so, Ireland's experiment in basic income may be less an anomaly than a rehearsal. Don't we live in interesting times?





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A Sixth Sense for Justice

As a country of law, order, and justice, the United States' legal system has a long and testify in the defendant's storied history. From the Sixth favor, and the right to legal defendant's case. Amendment to the Constitution counsel for their defense. to the OJ Simpson trial, the process through which one is meant to safeguard that any deliberations and accused of a crime is deemed innocent or guilty has changed and evolved over many saying goes, prosecutors generations.

The Sixth Amendment, however, can safely be an indictment isn't wellconsidered the foundation upon founded in fact, an innocent which the rights of criminal defendants rests.

speedy and public trial by an commit. impartial jury from the state or district in which the crime considered "speedy," that that they cannot have compel that witness to testify

was committed, the right to confront the witnesses testifying against you (i.e. to compel witnesses to

against arbitrary and indefinite detention. As the a ham sandwich-and if person could spend a great deal of time behind bars These include: the right to a for a crime they did not

has been the source of quite a Sixth Amendment protects judiciaries as well. bit of litigation. The Supreme Court has established a "test" for determining whether the speedy trial clause has been violated that takes into account the length of a delay, the reason for the delay, whether the defendant cross-examine), the right has waived their right to a speedy trial, and the harm that any delay caused to the where written affidavits

A right to a speedy trial a public trial guarantees discoveries made during the course of the trial process will be available to his or her own can find a jury to indict legal counsel. Additionally, the Supreme Court has ruled that the First Amendment protects the public's right party to.

Juries convened to try As for what can be must be "impartial," meaning preconceived notions about in their favor. the accused's innocence or prison.

bit more well-known. The was extended to all state

the defendant's right to question witnesses that testify against him or her. This provides an opportunity for the defense's counsel to use strategies that call into question the witness's reliability, credibility, or the veracity of their statements. It also prevents circumstances could be used to impugn The accused's right to the defendant's innocence, the person who wrote it.

compel witnesses to testify all states. in his or her favor comes into focus when faced with situations when someone defendant's favor.

which the defendant may

Last to analyze, but far guilt prior to serving. They from least important, is a must also be reflective of defendant's right to legal the area in which the crime counsel. This right has been was committed, specifically broadened over time to the state (or in DC's case, require Courts to appoint district) in which they reside. counsel to defendants who Importantly, the right to a do not want to represent jury trial is only guaranteed themselves (pro se for offenses whose penalty representation) and who is more than six months in do not have the means to hire their own counsel. The next few rights are a In 1972, this requirement

This raises an important point about the Sixth Amendment-from the getgo, it was only applicable to federal cases. This meant that states were free to grant (or not grant) their own rights to criminal defendants. It was only when the Supreme Court intervened in the 20th century that all (with the exception of the right to a jury originating from the state since that would preclude or district in which the crime counsel's ability to question occurred) Sixth Amendment rights were granted to all A defendant's right to criminal defendants across

If Constitutional Rights could be represented by Captain America, the Sixth with exculpatory evidence Amendment would be his to attend trials they are not refuses to testify in the shield. Legal self-defense is a human right, and its The Court is required to reasonable implementation individuals accused of a crime provide a process through acts as a cornerstone of a just democracy.



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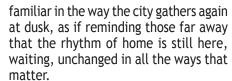




County Limerick Twilight Thursdays: When Limerick **Comes Alive Again**

There is a particular kind of light that falls on an Irish city just before night takes hold. It softens the stone, warms the river, and brings a familiar hum back to streets that once carried the footsteps of generations who left and never quite left at all. It is the hour when shop windows glow a little brighter, when voices begin to drift out of doorways, and when the day loosens its grip enough to make space for something gentler, slower, and more human...

grew up in Ireland or carry it with them across oceans, memories of home are that stops you mid-step because it feels



Music sits at the heart of it all, threading the evening together in ways both familiar and unexpected. Traditional sessions spill out from firesides and pub corners, where tunes are passed hand to hand as they always were - learned by listening, remembered by feel. Elsewhere, voices lift in song, old ballads blending easily with newer sounds, while contemporary performers reinterpret Irish music for a modern crowd. For those living abroad, it is the kind of sound that instantly shortens For many of us, especially those who the distance between where you are and where you came from - the sort

resilience - hold these gatherings with ease. From the Georgian elegance near the river to the energy of the old quarters, the city tells its own story as people move through it. For members of the Irish diaspora, walking these streets again on a Twilight Thursday can feel like

simply sit and watch the city breathe. It is easy to imagine how such evenings once marked the passing of weeks and seasons, offering reassurance that community endured even as lives changed.

For Irish Americans and members of the



stepping back into a familiar rhythm, even if decades have passed.

There is also something quietly hopeful about Twilight Thursdays. They reflect a city investing in community, culture, and connection, recognising that vitality does not always come from large events, but from many small moments layered together. Sixty events in one evening do not compete sound of live music, the warmth of with each other; they create choice, possibility, and movement - much like Irish towns once did when the evening was something to be shared, not hurried through. As the night deepens, laughter carries across streets, music drifts from doorway to doorway, and conversations linger longer than planned. People bump into old friends, make new ones, or

wider diaspora, Twilight Thursdays offer something more than entertainment. They offer reconnection - not only to place, but to a way of being together that still defines Irish life at its best. They remind us that home is not only a location, but a feeling created when people gather with ease and openness.

If you find yourself longing for the conversation, or the simple joy of wandering a city that knows how to welcome the night, Limerick on a Twilight Thursday is waiting. Come as you are. Stay as long as you like. Let the evening unfold, and allow yourself to remember - or rediscover - what it feels like when a city belongs to its people once again.



tied not just to places, but to moments like home. like this. The soft glow of streetlights at dusk... The sound of laughter spilling from a pub door... Music - a fiddle, a guitar, a familiar voice - carrying itself down cobbled streets... These were the hours when towns belonged to neighbours rather than traffic, when evenings unfolded naturally, without hurry or spectacle. In Limerick, that feeling is being quietly rekindled once again through a city-wide initiative known as Twilight Thursdays, a monthly celebration that brings life back to the city as day turns into night.

Twilight Thursdays are not about grand stages or headline acts. They are about atmosphere - the simple pleasure of being out, together, as daylight fades and the city comes alive in dozens of small, meaningful ways. On any given Twilight Thursday, Limerick hosts close to 60 events across the city. That number and theatres to cafés, bars, community spaces and family venues, the city opens itself up piece by piece. There is no single way to experience the evening. You might wander in without a plan and let music pull you down a side street, or meet friends for dinner and discover that a storyteller, singer or dancer is only a few steps away. And for those who left Limerick years ago - whether for Boston, New York, Chicago or beyond - Twilight Thursday feels like a modern echo of an older Ireland. It recalls a time when evenings unfolded slowly, when rushed or carefully scheduled. people lingered rather than rushed, destination. There is something deeply

And as the music carries people through the city, food quietly grounds the night in comfort and familiarity. Kitchens stay open a little longer, menus lean into seasonal warmth, and tables fill with neighbours, friends, and families taking their time. In local pubs an Irish feast of bacon and cabbage recalls meals shared after long days, when conversation mattered more than ceremony. Across the city, people gather over plates and pints, the way families once did when news travelled slowly and time felt more generous.

Twilight Thursdays are not only about nightlife. Families are just as much a part of the evening. Children follow street performers through markets, take part in crafts and games, or watch wideeyed as music fills the air. Museums and cultural spaces open their doors later, offering storytelling sessions rooted alone speaks to something quietly in local folklore and history. In those powerful. From historic streets to moments, the past is not preserved tucked-away courtyards, from museums behind glass - it is spoken, sung, and shared, connecting generations in ways that feel natural rather than planned.

What makes Twilight Thursdays especially meaningful is their sense of welcome. There is no ticket barrier, no sense that you must belong to a certain crowd. Locals, visitors, students, families, and returning emigrants blend easily, drawn together by curiosity and the simple desire to be part of something unfolding. It is the kind of atmosphere many Irish people abroad remember from their youth, before evenings were

The city itself becomes part of the when conversation mattered as much as experience. Limerick's streets - shaped by centuries of trade, migration, and





Game On! By Chris Wheaton







Regular readers of this to try something new, get out experiences and learning from your mind, sour your drive them so we do not fall into the and will definitely make you trap of repeating bad behavior age faster. Doing and learning and striving to always improve. are the building blocks of I don't think we need to sit extending your longevity, so

A new endeavor can

With the onset of a new that make us better the entire year, I like to take some time world would be a better place. to reflect on where I have As we weave our way through been and where I am going. cold, dark January, think back Self-reflection is one of those to things you were proud of, exercises that may not always activities that challenged you his Irish language learning some people. I think the time be pleasant but in my mind is and what you learned. something that we should all try and do from time to time. column know that I am Self-reflection is more than constantly challenging people looking back at what happened in the past twelve months—it's of their comfort zone, take the practice of examining a chance - whatever it is. our thoughts, behaviors, and Becoming stale will pollute

in solitude or put words into why wait another day? Get to a journal everyday but if we it now! consistently practice habits

(Master of Ceremonies).

sport of hurling, learning to could have seen that coming? play a musical instrument, It just goes to show you that committing to reading a there is a home for everyone book every week or month or regardless of what you are learning a foreign language. I interested in. am certain that whatever it is you want to try you will find of person who needs a New like-minded individuals in the Year's Resolution to light a Chicagoland area. I used to fire under you. I personally make fun of my friend Kevin have never been one for that Pearson when he was starting tactic, but I know it works for club, I told him, nobody wants to start bettering yourself is to learn Irish, it's too hard, it's now, whether it is January 1st dying, etc. But as I write this or the middle of June. Life is article, I can tell you that his short and don't let it pass you club has grown exponentially by, missing on all those things to the point that they almost you "have always wanted to your best ever!

Maybe you are the type

be as simple as trying the have to turn people away. Who do". Noone wants to lay on their deathbed and say, "if only I had done......" Nike hit it on the head with the famous slogan to "just do it!"

> I apologize for my pontificating, but I have heard too many stories of people passing away recently, many of them well before their due date. It makes me stop and think that we have such a short time on this earth and every day is as important as the last or the next. Don't squander time, it's the greatest gift we

Happy New Year, make it

who are supporting their neighbors.

There are so many other Catholic pantries that need our help this month, and we need yours. If you're interested in participating by bringing non-perishable food items to your parish, making a gift to Catholic Charities, or volunteering to help sort and distribute food, visit https:// www.catholiccharities.net/ give/help-us-build-hope/ If you're not part of a parish but still want to contribute, please email us at volunteer@ catholiccharities.net

This time of year, many of us

being grateful for what we have. As Christians, we have a call to give, and it's truly a gift to give to others. We're witnessing this desire to give in the response from parishes and the

Archdiocese, which is really These food pantries have beautiful. It's inspiring and humbling to be part of this network that is so generous. We invite you to help us build hope for those in need.

Harvest of Hope - Help us Build Hope

By Nicole Meeuwse Tiénou and Lake counties. Together, Food insecurity is at an all-these pantries serve 24,500 time high, with many families households each month experiencing work outages, disruptions to SNAP benefits, and high prices at the grocery store. Our Rapid Response team at Catholic Charities is poised to help, uniting with the Archdiocese of Chicago to help feed our hungry

As Cardinal Blase Cupich parishes, "In these difficult days, we are called to be a light in the darkness. The

looming spending cuts, and heightened immigration enforcement have placed millions of our neighbors at risk of losing access to food and other essentials.

As a result, food pantries for each of the pantries. across our Archdiocese are under great strain. We cannot told us they are seeing a 25% stand idly by. We stand with increase in new households our neighbors through their visiting a pantry for the struggles."

Archdiocese of Chicago, that substantial increase in *Tiénou is the Director* our team is reaching out, connecting, and building a supporting the work of the *for Rapid Response for* network to deliver food to 40 parishes and the generous **Catholic Charities of the**

one of the largest groups of food pantries in our region. Catholic Charities is helping the Cardinal's Harvest of Hope food drive at parishes throughout the Archdiocese by collecting the food parishioners are donating, and then sorting and distributing it across the Catholic network of recently stated in a letter to food pantries with the help of volunteers. We're also raising funds to purchase fresh produce, proteins, milk and recent government shutdown, eggs, to supplement donations are thinking about others and



first time. Many of these In partnership with the pantries could not plan for **Nicole Meeuwse** demand in a short time. We're **of Community Impact** Catholic food pantries in Cook Catholics across Chicagoland Archdiocese of Chicago.

Irish Consul St. Brigid's Day Event 1-30 at Univ of Chicago Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Chicago Consulate General of Ireland | Chicago



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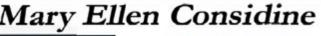
The Consulate is delighted Naughton Institute for Irish St Brigid's Day event at Notre Dame.

This year's visiting poet will Girls (The Gallery Press, 2025). University of Chicago will take be Annemarie Ní Churreáin, place on January 30 2026, in a poet from the Donegal partnership with the Keough- Gaeltacht who is currently the January 6!



poetry editor at The Stinging to announce that its third Studies at the University of Fly Magazine. Her latest book is Hymn to All the Restless

Mark your calendars for registration, which opens on







Michael Kerrigan; Board Member and former Executive Director, and Mr. Thomas Tormey; Treasurer, Irish Georgian Society. Mr Tormey donated a substantial amount towards establishing an educational fund in honor of the late, great Rosie O'Neill.



Pauric Manning; Irish Vice-Consul, speaking to the guests at a luncheon at The Casino Restaurant in honor of Rosie O'Neill on December 18, 2025



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Brothers Connor & Patrick Stewart Add New Chapter to Family Legacy with Mary Jo McGuire's

Ask any selfrespecting Chicagoan to name the city's first singles bar, and their answer will be the same: Butch's. Ask any wedding party where they want to go after a downtown reception, and their

the same. Butch's.

and Patrick Stewart come in.

The Stewart boys happen to be the grandchildren of Butch and Mary Jo McGuire, and they added their own chapter to the storied lore of Butch McGuire's by opening up their new saloon, aptly called Mary Jo Maguire's, in October 2025.

The bar and restaurant, located at 2251 Lincoln Avenue in Lincoln Park - in the building that once housed the Lion's Head for those who remember the glory days of bar hopping in that area - is already receiving rave reviews and drawing crowds that would be familiar to those of us who have spent countless minutes waiting in line to get into Butch's on cold winter nights.

How did these two brothers manage to recreate the Butch's magic in their own



Butch's. Ask generations of overnight. While the boys than that. families which saloon they look like they have only want to return each year to recently matriculated from celebrate Christmas in the their alma maters - Connor city, and their answer will be from Southern Methodist University and Patrick from Butch McGuire's has become the College of the Holy Cross such a Chicago institution - their youthful appearances that it needs no special belie the fact that they have description. What makes it spent the better part of the special is indefinable, and for past decade getting a master many people, impossible to class in running a saloon

space in Lincoln Park? In education in the family answer will be the same: short, it did not happen business goes farther back opportunities."

To say that running an Irish saloon was in their blood may sound like a cliché, but it happens to be true. Growing up in suburban Washington DC, Connor and Patrick were part of a large, Irish Catholic family and would often travel with their parents Bruce and Loretta and two other siblings back to Chicago to spend recreate. That's where Connor by working weekends at time with their extended Butch McGuire's. But their family. Naturally, these visits

His father before him Mary Jo's. was a bricklayer, and

in Butch's, which, by the time they came of age, had already the Windy City.

"Our mom's family was all here," Connor remembers, "and even though we moved around a bit during our childhood, Chicago was a moves."

"We'd bus tables, greet

hardworking, the first media advertising in Chicago. in our family to go These diverse professional to college and then backgrounds would prove to law school, before be invaluable as the brothers going out on his own built up the business plan to start his law firm. and ongoing management of

Two years ago, Connor he believed that hard and Patrick - working fullwork would lead to time jobs and moonlighting at Butch's on weekends -Once the boys were old decided to consider opening enough, they began working their own saloon, starting with a robust framework, a 20-page business plan that reached legendary status in they refined with their father and uncles.

"It happened slowly," Patrick shares, noting that he, Connor, and his family members thoughtfully considered every angle constant through all the before moving forward with the concept. "But before we knew it, wow, we were in the thick of a real estate search, we're working with a bank, and then we're negotiating an operating agreement."

> Apart from making sure that they lined up financing, real estate, accounting, and the million other details essential to launching a business, Connor and Patrick knew they also needed to secure support that had nothing to do with dollars and cents: the backing of their family, and in particular, their uncle Bobby who runs Butch's. After all, they knew what it meant to put the McGuire name on a saloon in Chicago.

"Our uncle Bobby welcomed the conversation to expand to a new location with open arms," the boys proudly state. "We had both worked at Butch's for 10 years in some capacity, and he was confident that we understood what was important, namely that the key to serving customers is with a personal touch. We didn't rush into it, and we incorporated our family's feedback at each step of the process."

By October 2025, the moment had finally arrived: As Connor recalls, "Our company SBI Growth, while Butch McGuire's officially (paternal) grandfather was Patrick worked in sports had a sister bar, as Mary





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included time spent at Butch customers, and do anything McGuire's, which had been else that was asked of us," founded by their maternal Patrick says, while pointing grandparents in 1961.

side, Connor and Patrick's outside the saloon. Connor grandfather was a firstgeneration Irish American and sales before serving as a World War II veteran whose commercial fisherman parents had immigrated to the and ultimately landing United States in the 1920s.

out that he and Connor still On their paternal ancestral pursued their own careers spent years in technology in consulting at the local





Owners, Patrick and Connor Stewart

a new destination for those its new-car smell. looking to celebrate the season in style.

saloon will be unmistakably over the next three decades. a sister site to the original, it replicated."

Jo McGuire's opened for and service from staff that business. Immediately, patrons have come to expect crowds began filtering in, and from Butch's. Visitors to Mary they have not stopped coming Jo McGuire's will recognize during the new bar's first this level of staff - and three months of operation. some of the staff members Opening shortly before the themselves - when entering holiday season proved to the new space. They will also be another smart business notice a selection of antiques, move, as Connor and Patrick furniture, and other pieces have sought to replicate the borrowed from the original Butch's Christmas magic location that show off the with lights, décor, and other old-school nature of the festive touches that resemble establishment, but in a clean, the original saloon, making it renovated space that still has

what the saloon looks and Ask the Stewart brothers to feels like, Connor and Patrick share their vision of Mary Jo are already considering what uncles, my parents, and our McGuire's, and they are quick the saloon will mean for the to point out that while the neighborhood and its patrons

As Patrick shared, "One is impossible to fully recreate of the things that makes it; as Connor says, "the Butch's so special is the Butch's character cannot be idea of generations coming together for those full-circle What can be replicated, or moments at the saloon. We at least emulated, is the high see whole families embracing level of personal attention the tradition. That's what

we want to see at Mary Jo's. We'd love to see people in their twenties and thirties who are coming into the bar now, come back with their children and grandchildren decades from now. That would be incredible.'

Reflecting on how they arrived at this unique moment in time - where they are adding an original chapter to the story of a Chicago institution - the Stewart brothers come back to family, faith, and their Irish blood.

"Our (paternal) grandfather would make it a point to speak Gaelic with our family, and it was very important for him to keep that alive. In fact, he claimed that he was more Irish than our mom's side (the McGuires). Being Irish has been a blessing, and we're proud of that tradition," Patrick points out, also referencing the importance of their Catholic faith. "Just like going to Mass was a tradition, going to Catholic schools was a tradition. Faith was always a big part of our lives, and one that I try to carry on with my own family (which includes his wife and infant) now."

"Family is the number Beyond the specifics of one reason we did this," Connor unequivocally states. "Working with Patrick, my other siblings, that's the greatest thing about it. We all know the stereotypes of an Irish Catholic family, but they're founded in some level of truth, and being able to be with them is something I cherish."

Ever the older brother,



Connor allows Patrick to have Mary Jo built, then what the final word in summing up (parents) Barb and Larry what this moment means for built, and what (uncle) them.

(grandparents) Butch and to the lineage of family."

Bobby carries on, we are "Looking back to see what ever grateful to history and





For My Good Friend,

Patrick Duffy!

Congratulations Patrick! On your successful

first Irish class.

Céad míle comhghairdeas le Patrick Duffy as ucht a chéad rang Gaeilge a thabhairt! Ón Túr Babel go Sráid Ave Maria go

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CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

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

Happy New Year!

Have you been seeing recommendations regarding New Year's resolutions, such as: focus on one goal; split the major goal into smaller goals; decide on specific actions; and, make sure to set rewards for yourself? Might I suggest a resolution for you that automatically comes with its own rewards? That is, resolve to increase your investment in your relationship with the Irish Community.

Make time for one more parade in 2026 and you'll be glad you did. The same with one more Irish concert, dance, play, film or festival. An extra visit to watch GAA teams in action. Another bacon and cabbage dinner in a cozy pub or beer garden, along with the chat and maybe a pint. The opportunities are endless. Rewards, not regrets.

If you run short of ideas, use this newspaper as a resource, or contact any of the fine organizations in Chicago's active and vibrant Irish Community.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Bill O'Sullivan - President of the Board of Directors







件初 咖 HOOLEY 2

Friday, January 23 Chicago Gaelic Park

Jive dance workshop 8pm with Ger Butler and music with Clodagh Togher and Stuart Moyles - \$20



Saturday, January 24 Chicago Gaelic Park

Jive dance workshop 3pm with Ger Butler - \$20; Music 8pm with Stuart Moyles, Clodagh Togher, and Declan McShane - \$25

Sunday, January 25 Irish American Heritage Center

Set dance workshop at 1pm with Ger Butler - \$20; Music & Mixed Ceili at 4pm with Jack Kinsella, Stuart Moyles, Clodagh Togher, and Declan McShane - \$20.

More information and tickets at our Box Office.

The Month of March at CGP

We're Irish 365 days a year, but March is a special month around here. Save the date for a few of our March events! Stay tuned to our website for updates.

Parades

All are welcome to march with the CGP community this March! Our float will be in the Oak Forest Fleadh Family Parade (Saturday 3/7), Tinley Park Irish Parade (Sunday 3/8), Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade (Saturday 3/14), and South Side Irish Parade (Sunday 3/15).





Ireland on Parade is an exhibition of the music and dance of Ireland that takes place at Chicago Gaelic Park annually in March leading up to St. Patrick's Day. Various Irish step dancing schools from the entire Chicagoland area are featured each evening of Ireland on Parade. Join us March 7 and March 11-13!

South Side Irish Sunday - March 8

Start the day (Sunday 3/8) with our monthly Mass followed by a traditional Irish breakfast. After that, doors open at 12pm for a full day of South Side Irish fun! We'll have entertainment in each room for the whole family to enjoy. Stay tuned to our social media to find out when tickets become available. Pro tip: Grab your tickets online ahead of time at a discounted price!





We'll have entertainment in each room for the whole family to enjoy! Walk with us in the South Side Irish Parade and head back to enjoy live music and family fun. Our lineup includes: Ben Traverse 5 Piece Band, The Narrowbacks, Reilly, and Joe McShane!

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.



Schedule a venue tour! A few prime 2026 dates remain for your perfect day. Email banquet@chicagogaelicpark.org or call (708)687-9323 to inquire.



CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

6119 W. 147th St. Oak Forest, IL 60452 - (708)687-9323 - ChicagoGaelicPark.com

CGP Event Calendar

Visit chicagogaelicpark.com for more information.

GAELIC PARK BOOK CLUB January 4 -LITTLE CHRISTMAS January 9 -

MASS & BREAKFAST January 11 -January 23-25 - CHICAGO HOOLEY January 31 -AC/DC TRIBUTE

MERRY PLOUGHBOYS February 7 -February 8 -MASS & BREAKFAST February 8 -GAELIC PARK BOOK CLUB February 20 -STEELY DAN TRIBUTE February 27 -**BEE GEES TRIBUTE** April 11 -**ELTON JOHN TRIBUTE**

JOIN THE CARRAIG REWARDS PROGRAM!

- 25 point welcome bonus
- . \$5 off for ever 100 points
- 3X the points Tues-Thurs
 Free dessert on your birthday



Music at The Carraig

No cover charge for music at The Carraig.

GERRY HAUGHEY January 2 -**EVIN O'RIORDAN** January 3 -

CALEY LARKIN January 4 -

January 9 -O'LEARY'S LANTERN January 10 -JOHN STAUNTON

DECLAN MCSHANE January 11 -TRAD THURSDAY January 15 -

SOUTHSIDE BOOGIE January 16 -

January 17 -THE CHANCERS January 18 -THE FABTONES

January 22 -**KIERAN BYRNE** January 23 -**EVIN O'RIORDAN**

GERRY HAUGHEY January 24 -

JESS PEREZ January 30 -January 31 -TIME BANDITS

UPCOMING CONCERTS



Noise Pollution - January 31

When it comes to high-energy, hard-hitting rock 'n' roll, nothing compares to AC/DC—and when it comes to authentic AC/DC tribute bands, Noise Pollution stands at the top. Based in San Diego, this powerhouse band delivers a stadium-level concert experience, capturing the raw energy, iconic vocals, and electrifying guitar work that made AC/DC legends.



Gadan - February 1

With no less than three outrageous banjos, plus fiddle, mandolin and guitar, Gadan delivers a powerful strings-only sound that bridges Irish tradition and contemporary roots music. Their electrifying live performances combine precision, groove and storytelling, proving that you don't need drums to make a crowd dance.

The Carraig Weekly Specials

The Carraig Pub is open five days a week (Wednesday - Sunday)! We feature live music on Friday and Saturday evenings with no cover charge. We love seeing you at the pub, so keep us in mind when you have to grab a bite to eat with the family or need a spot to catch up with a friend over a pint!

Wednesday - BBQ Ribs

Thursday - Build your own 14" Pizza for \$10

Friday - Fish Fry - French Fried Shrimp, Brewer Battered Cod, 1/2 & 1/2, or Fried Chicken served with Fries & Coleslaw



You can buy a Carraig gift card



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!



Chicago Gaelic Park celebrates, preserves and promotes Irish culture and heritage through artistic, athletic, cultural, educational, and social activities. We provide a welcoming place for all to

GAELIC PARK PLANNED GIVING ENDOWMENT

Examples of ways to give: Cash Donations Living Will and Trust **Investment Securities IRAs**

Life Insurance Proceeds

For more information or to discuss your plans, please contact Michael Bennett - General Manager by phone 708-687-9323 or email endowment@chicagogaelicpark.org.

Planned gifts are made after careful consideration of one's financial situation and charitable goals. It is recommended to consult financial, tax, and/or share in our great Irish American experience. legal advisors regarding these types of donations.

Preserving and Promoting our Irish Mission:

- Chicago Irish Feis
- · Irish Fest
- Official Home of the Chicago GAA
- Our Lady of Knock Rosary Procession
- · Monthly Mass and Irish Breakfast
- Mother's Day Buffet/High Tea
- Gaelic Park Players
- Heritage and Harvest Day
- Children's Irish Cultural Camp
- · The Carraig Pub & Beer Garden
- Young Gaelic Association
- Premier Event Venue for Weddings, Parties, and Concerts







Saturday, January 31



Sunday, February 1



Saturday, February 7



Friday, February 20



An Irish Complex By Thomas O'Gorman

drinks bedside the Fire, Laughter to cheer you, and those you love near you, and all that your heart may desire."

For many of us, the new year is about taste and flavors. Whether the aromas are created in a nostalgic Irish kitchen here in Chicago creating that there is no room for the humanity of others? timeless cuisines from Smoked Salmon from Galway to platters of Colcannon and Roast Turkey from the and inviting the future to give us another chance. family farm.

Turtle Soup always stirred up the emotions of the Holidays for me and my family. Our family had the custom of large steaming mugs of the soup to free us from the frozen January chill in the very first hours of the New Year.

from celebrating the birth of the New Year. A huge hungry crowd of family, friends and neighbors dropped by in the wee hours ready for an full Irish breakfast with homemade Irish Sausage. Thanks to the great Hal Binyon we always had a gallons of their famous soup for the occasion.

The late night celebrations all had their origins in my father's birthday, January 1st. A feast shared with my O'Gorman grandparents' wedding anniversary, also January 1st. Our mother's birthday was Christmas.

Because New Year's day was also a Holy Day, we frequently had priest friends celebrate Mass for the guests. The first Sacrament of the fresh year.

Many years ago we were obliged to fast

fabulous soup really hit the spot. Just the whiff of it transports me back to those chilly early hours on And the folk who survive on meagre resources. New Years Eve long ago. Since Binyons closed we have been at a loss for any other soup that is its open the human capacity to be generous to others. equal as our splendid Turtle Soup.

Nothing stimulates the memory more than the flavors released into the atmosphere by food and fragrance. They are powerful catalysts for recalling the past, stabilizing the present and fashioning the future. They bring back people, faces and events with panache and verve. They come with a peculiar clarity, a helpful and healthy context for celebrating the first moments of the fresh year with family and friends.

It was also the perfect exercise for reflection the vacant space in our lives. about the quality of life and love with which we surround ourselves. As a family. As a nation. As a city. And as a person.

Celebrating the fresh year doesn't make you a good person. But it could easily cause you to look Hall who used to love throwing their paraphernalia, back on the

temperament and quality of your living, shaping a new goodness in your living. And posit some query about why you do what you do.

purses? Have you been accommodating to others? Or does your impatience spell inconvenience and drive people away to of grace and decorum. Not anymore. run and hide?

Have you cared for your health and "Walls for the wind and a roof For the rain, and that of others? Or do some foods and drinks wear away at your ability to stay at your best? Leaving you untrustworthy, irritable and a permeant grump? Or worse, the perfect holiday grinch.

> Are you someone who makes room for others? Or do you take up all available emotional space so The new calendar has a way of challenging the past

We ask these questions because, more than Here in Chicago, over on Plymouth Court, Binyon's anything else, they are the human attributes that gobsmacked when people in our own families can we find so difficult to bear in others.

Having to endure the cruel selfishness of the Becoming isolated, lonely and socially unpredictable. stingy and un-

when you start mingling with family members with a volunteers. They had to wait for a dysfunctional

for long hours before Mass on that day. So that that selfishness is rarely Comedic. It's frequently hurtful to others. Usually the weak. The confused.

You'd think that achievement and success would Alas, doesn't always happen. But it's never a healthy Niebuhr. His humanity is a powerful catalyst for thing. And what better place to numb your humanity us to understand what is possible. Maybe it will than there at the dawn of a fresh year dining table where a river of Cote Du Rhone or vintage Chablis can remove common sense and cautions for healthy living. It's almost inspirational for some. I guess that's why many uncles end the day as "drunkles," with clenched fists and fearsome threats.

Too often musical chairs around the dining table is the perfect metaphor for filling-in what's left of

for others in our life. It's not just making room at the table, but opening space in your heart.

I knew many powerful politicos in my years at City briefcases and coats at their office switchboard operators. Just like Miranda Priestly in "The Devil year past and those still yet to come. Wears Prada." I started counting and keeping track of all the places I saw such "big shots" use their own For instance, have you been generous? Or is inadequacies to frighten others by their power.It

there a big padlock on your pockets or was always overkill. And always a sad commentary about their own interior emptiness.

People used to be expected to act with some shred

From Mayoral failings on the 5th floor of City Hall on down, floor by floor, there is little humanity displayed for the living of others. A paralyzing selfishness permits many folk the luxury of being stingy to others. Whether they are homeless, hungry, isolated or just delusional.

The wounds of others doesn't seem to get much sympathetic response. Why then are we surprised at the nastiness that is sweeping over our once gentle Chicago? Why are we taken aback at the behavior of people around us with addictive behaviors or a predilection for cRime and looting? How can we be no longer sustain the most ordinary relationships?

This isn't Netflix. It's real life. No wonder the nurturing New Year of promise is the worse. And Art Institute tossed out all the educated docents Our family and guests were just in the door history, and long memories over the holiday season, moment in Chicago history to appear so that no one

would question the heinousness of their institution's racist actions.

So no wonder a remap cannot be achieved in any semblance of harmony and trust. Or get a budget passed. With politicians pitting exiting African Americans against the growing population of new Hispanic arrivals. Who's the winner in that dysfunctional warfare?

Here in Chicago leaders have lost the trust of teachers, police and fire personnel and we sit on the sidelines watching federal law enforcement get indictments on longtime elected officials who go from one dysfunctional set of values to another.

How can we unleash some of the redemptive spirit and love that falls from the mystery of the Season. Is it possible for any of us to grow as a good person? Or are

we just enduring the events around us like junior members of the Corleone family, keeping our mouths shut and our eyes wide open.

Sorry, but we all need more. Let's be encouraged by the words of the theological writer Reinhold enliven you.

He says, "Nothing worth doing is completed in our lifetime. Therefore, we are saved by hope. Nothing true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history. Therefore, we are saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone. Therefore, we are saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as from our own. It doesn't take much to reduce what room remains Therefore, we are saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness."

Niebuhr's words are a flavor I can really enjoy. This is taste we can savor. Like Turtle Soup from Binyons. Or my grandmother's Irish Soda Bread with Caraway seeds and raisins. Unleashing the power of the fresh

Happy New Year to all. Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.











For instance, businesses and

governmental entities must utilize

Irish American News

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

Healy Scanlon Veugeler Gannon is a law firm comprised of eight trial attorneys and four "Of Counsel" attorneys, one of whom is from Ireland. We are located downtown at 161 N. Clark Street, Suite 2200, Chicago, Illinois 60601 (312-977-0100) (overlooking Daley Center). www.HSVGlaw.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

disclosure."

Privacy Concerns in a Data Driven World

We live in a time when our reasonable security measures to digital and biometric information is protect our social security numbers, constantly being collected by both governmental entities and private businesses. When the government collects this information, it is often for purposes of securing our airports, our public spaces and our roadways. Businesses collect our data so that they can both sell this information to other businesses and target market goods to us. To the extent that data collection practices enhance security and public safety, they serve a beneficial role.

However, the increasing efforts to gather our data for financial gain or to otherwise intrude on our privacy is a growing concern that must be addressed by reasonable laws. Fortunately, as residents of Illinois, we have several laws that provide protections unavailable in other states.

The Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act (BIPA), 740 ILCS 14/1-99, is an Illinois statute that applies to any individual or business entity that possesses biometric data. For instance, images of your face, iris scans, fingerprints, or voice print data all would be considered biometric identifiers. Any business that collects any of this biometric data must obtain a written release or consent to collect the data and the data must be permanently destroyed when the purpose for which it was collected has been satisfied. In addition, businesses are not allowed to sell, lease, or trade, or profit in any way off of the biometric data, information or identifiers collected.

Businesses are required to provide "reasonable security measures" to ensure that all of the above requirements are met and that the data collected is secured. Violations of this statute result in the award of penalties and attorneys' fees, in addition to any other civil remedies available.

A companion statute to BIPA requires all businesses and governmental entities to implement and maintain security measures to protect our personal information. The Illinois Personal Information Protection Act, 815 ILCS 530, requires that all businesses and covered governmental entities provide "reasonable security measures to ensure that our personal information is protected from unauthorized access, acquisition and

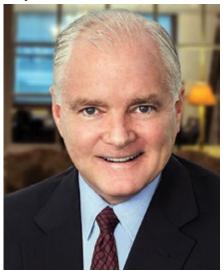
insurance information and biometric data such as fingerprints and other body images. Once again, violations damages.

In addition, Illinois has a separate law requiring that businesses dispose of materials containing personal information in a manner that renders the information unreadable and unusable. Section 40 of the Illinois Personal Information Act, applies to individuals, business entities and local and state governmental entities and requires that they utilize disposal methods that comply with the statute so that digital and paper documents containing personal information cannot be accessed by outsiders.

Hopefully, this article provided some guidance on what is permitted under Illinois law and what would be a violation of Illinois law when it our drivers' license numbers, credit comes to your personal information

card numbers, medical or health and biometric information. While the benefits of providing us safe public spaces are beneficial to all law abiding citizens, we should never allow for are subject to civil penalties and civil an environment where businesses or governmental entities profit off our data or allow data breaches that harm us.

> By: John P. Scanlon



ERICAN BREXIT

COMMITTEE

- Conservative leader vows in 2025 to repeal GFA/ Human Rights Act of 1998
- Thatcher unleashes SAS to assassinate 5 Sinn Fein elected officials/9 campaign workers.
- US permits UK double agent Nelson to purchase arms from South Africa linked to 209 loyalist killings in NI-No arrests & no prosecutions.
- Thatcher addresses Congress in 1985 and lies about democracy and rule of law in NI.
- Britain stalling for cover-up in NI rushes for Brexit referendum without the customary White Paper; real purpose was to bully Ireland to join BX and strengthen partition border and break from GFA.

THE LONG GRASS

Propaganda Trumps Truth

- Reports-Many conflict related are long delayed and usually summarized; the full report never fully sees the light of day.
- Official -British historians to write NI history but stuck on a 'censor' requirement "if a detail proposed for use might affect the reputation" of a nation or person is implicated (read United States and its officers).
- Media-Lord Hannon (WSJ), Robert O'Brien (UK Policy Exchange) Britain's safe pair of hands to be against Ireland's re-unification
- U. S. Dept of State -For years UK had separate NI office in Dept. of State; opposed visa for Gerry Adams MP; granted approval of RUC gun sale; supported UK MLAT search warrant for Boston College tapes; published a Annual Human Rights Report that claimed there were no reports of disputed killings but there are 1100 UK trying to bury.
- Public Relations-Ret. Admiral NATO Chris Perry speaking tour opposing Ireland's reunification at UK Together Foundation. He claims Ireland's reunification means threat to Britain through Russia.
- Show Time—British Army Black Watch pipers and other regiments that served in NI crisscrossed America to impress citizenry and distract from NI violence. Original Magna Carta, which King John ignored the day after he signed it, was deployed all over the U.S. used to distract from Britain's lawless killing and criminal cover-up of injustices, Catholic discrimination etc. to gullible Americans.

Britain's treachery in NI is pervasive and ongoing. The term 'special relationship,' as invoked by the British has lost its original meaning. Since 1998 the cliché has become a code word like Demetrius or Kenova, for Britain's schemes to cover its criminal past and perfect Ireland's partition. Even America's 'demarche' to England for the Legacy law feels like a scripted scenario to feign real concern where there is none. The words of the 2023 US-UK Atlantic Accord---rule of law, accountability, democracy & human rights---remain empty of meaning in the case of NI.

In President Trump's 2025 National Security Strategy document a reference is made "to help[ing] Europe correct its current trajectory." Perhaps his "unconventional diplomacy" could prove helpful in accelerating the reunification of Ireland. Decades of Britain's continuing corrupt and criminal actions in NI prove it unfit to govern there. Americans can demand change and they should.

Please give your voice and vote to Members of Congress who share these concerns for Ireland and the GFA.

Visit www.irelandsfuture.com or contact@irelandsfuture.com

and thank former Taoiseach Leo Varadkar for his leadership.

Follow the American Brexit Committee in GOOGLE GROUPS.



THE SOUNDS OF IRELAND TAKE CENTER STAGE AT THE IAHC

Kick off the new year with community, culture, and connection. From live music to markets, food, and traditions that bring us together—and yes, our fan-favorite raffles—there's something for everyone, whether you're a longtime member or a first-time visitor.. **Details & tickets: irish-american.org | 773-282-7035 (Ext. 10).**



DUBLIN

MONTHLY BINGO NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7 | 7:00 PM

Kick off the year at the IAHC—with the one-and-only Geno Cooney on the mic. Fifth Province Pub open with drinks & a hot express menu. It's not just bingo—it's a midweek mood. See you there!.

\$10 PER CARD

A BUMP ON THE LEG - THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9 | 7:00 PM

A powerful one-man play about Jimmy Mallon's true journey from a childhood amputation scare in County Armagh to hope and healing—driven by a mother's unwavering faith. Performed by Chicago actor Jonathan "Rocky" Hagloch

(by Leigh Johnson). Post-show Q&A and book signing with Jim Mallon.

SUNDAY MASS & FULL IRISH BREAKFAST - IRISH DANCE THEMED

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 | MASS 10:00 AM | FOLLOWED BY IRISH BREAKFAST

Join us for a warm Sunday tradition...with an IRISH DANCING-THEMED MORNING: enjoy a lively dance showcase, toe-tapping trad tunes, and more. (Attending Mass is welcome but not required; breakfast service begins once Mass concludes and pub doors open.) RSVP encouraged: purchase online or call 773-282-7035 (ext. 10).

TICKETS \$30 Adults | \$25 Seniors (65+) | \$15 Children (12 & under)

IRISH HOOLEY WEEKEND - PARTNERSHIP WITH GAELIC PARK

JANUARY 23 - 25 | 3:00 ~ 9:00 PM (VARIES EACH DAY)

Hooley Weekend 2026 is coming—two venues, three days, one big Irish party! From Friday–Sunday enjoy nonstop music, dance, and craic across Chicago Gaelic Park and the Irish American Heritage Center. Grab the full-weekend pass for \$95 (save \$10) or pick à la carte. Tickets are limited—lock in your pass and individual event tickets now!.

TICKETS Weekend & Individual Passes available online

IAHC IRISH NIGHT WITH THE CHICAGO WOLVES

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 | 7 PM

Join us for a special St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser with the Irish American Heritage Center at the Chicago Wolves vs. Texas Stars hockey game! The puck drops at 7:00 PM at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont, IL. Get ready for a night of Irish spirit, hockey action, and community pride. All ticket proceeds benefit the Irish American Heritage Center.

TICKETS \$36.04

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!

IRISH 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've been loving the IAHC since moving back to Chicago. My family grabbed a family membership and it's made it so easy to reconnect with my Irish roots and the local community. The Sunday Mass & Irish Breakfast is one of my favorite regular events—it just feels like home.

Nights in the pub with live Irish music—and lately the Christmas Bazaar—are always the highlight of my week to do with my family. I'm proud to be Irish American and proud to be a member of the IAHC.



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.

□ New □ Renewal □ Gift	Membership	Payments by credit card: Visa MC Discover						
NAME		NAME ON CARD						
ADDRESS		ACCOUNT #	EXP DATE					
CITY/STATE/ZIP		SIGNATURE	3 DIGIT CODE					
PHONE		Cash Check Amoun	t: \$					
EMAIL FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS ONLY Adult	: Name(s):	Checks payable to the IAHO 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago	, IL 60630					
·		Or visit irish-american.org,	to purchase online					
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\$20 PER TICKET | \$50 FOR THREE

www.irish-american.org



Over 35 years ago, Chicago's Irish American community envisioned a home to honor our past, energize the present, and sustain Irish culture. As a nonprofit, the IAHC carries that vision forward—championing the arts and proudly presenting the 2026 Biennial Juried Art Exhibit.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MIDNIGHT, JANUARY 28, 2026

Visit: www.irish-american.org for submission & eligibility details.



Kell started playing flute

at the age of four and never

stopped. Coming from a rich

tradition of Irish music and

dancing, her great-uncle

Irish American Hall of Fame

inductee Pat Roche was a

Chicago dancing legend.

Roche immigrated from

County Clare to Chicago

and began his public life as

emcee at the Irish Village

at the 1934 Chicago World's Fair. He organized the

Harp & Shamrock Orchestra

which provided music for the

dancers performing at the

Village. Roche was a founding

member and past president

of the Irish Dancing Teachers

Commission of America, the forerunner of the current Irish

Dancing Teachers Association

of North America. Most dancers

from Chicago, including Michael

Flatley and Mark Howard,

founder of Trinity Irish Dancers,

can trace their dance lineage to

Pat Roche.

University in 2006.



Clancy's Sunday Session Features Younger Generation of Irish Musicians

session is the preponderance of support from Clancy's ownermanager Kevin O'Kennedy.

with PIZZA." The deceiving

This month, my tour of Irish once inside. The owner, Kevin Tigers, and in 2002, he traditional music sessions in O'Kennedy, grew up in the Chicago led me to Clancy's Pizza Detroit area, the son of an Pub at 4624 W. 103rd Street, Oak immigrant from county Clare, Lawn, IL. Here I encountered and one of five children. Kevin's old friends Kell and Mike Chole dad, an officer for Ford Motor Success allowed Kevin to leading a Sunday afternoon Company, wanted his children open a second location in Irish Traditional Music Session to know their Irish heritage and from 3-5pm. Unique to this culture. So, he'd invite noted musicians and instructors to stay youth musicians, and the clear at their home and introduce the in both Mulligans, returned to children to Irish music. Kevin the mainland, and set out to learned to play tin whistle from repeat in Chicago what he had Clancy's, neatly occupying famed Noel Rice. Later, another 3 units of a strip mall facing house guest, a young Jimmy 103rd Street, bills itself Keane, taught Kevin a very on 103rd in 2013, Irish music as a "traditional Irish pub, special tune, which Kevin used sessions have been a staple, to win the Midwest Fleadh and façade conceals the vibrant qualify for the all-Ireland final atmosphere one encounters in his age bracket in tin whistle.

O 'Kennedy's professional career in the hotel management brought him to Maui Hawaii ifrom1990 to 2010. It was during that time that the Clancy's story began. While Kevin managed banquets at a luxury hotel, in his spare time he played in a band called the Celtic ventured to open his first business- Mulligan's on the Blue, an Irish pub located on Wailea's Blue Golf Course. Lahaina Maui- Mulligan's on the Wharf. However, in 2010 he sold his interests

done on Maui. Since Kevin opened Clancy's along with the food, drink, and fun. While the menu is surprisingly extensive,

children and teens rave about the PIZZA. Sessions started in 2013 on Fridays with fiddler Teresa Shine, later transitioning to box player John Williams. In 2015, Kell and Mike Chole and their music school students were added on Sunday afternoons. Just as on Maui, success allowed Kevin to open the second Clancy's location in 2019 on 95th St- Clancy's 95th Irish Tavern. Here, live music, trivia and karaoke contests abound. The location sponsors an annual "SallyFest," which benefits local families in need.

When asked what he hoped to achieve with Clancy's and its sessions, Kevin said, "I hope to expose kids to Irish music at an early age in a family friendly place.....music is something you can do the rest of your life." Years ago, Kevin met Kell Chole through his sister, and the



meeting eventually formed the basis of a fruitful collaboration.

Kell and Mike Chole have been married for 35 years and started Murphy-Roche School and Club in 1997. Kell grew up in McHenry Illinois, attending Marion high school and Loyola University where she received a bachelor's degree in communications. Later, inspired by a desire to including such tasty Irish teach, Kell studied for and classics as corned beef, pot received a master's degree roast, boxty and fish and chips, in education from Xavier



Kell is heavily involved in the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann (comhaltas.ie) organization. She is not only the chairman of the branch, but she's also an officer of the region which represents the United States in Ireland. Although Kell and Mike belonged to other branches previously, in 1997 they formed their own Comhaltas branch oriented towards youth and families, as they felt both were under-represented in other branches. Today this branch is known as The Institute of Traditional Irish Music.

Since 1997 the Murphy Roche school has captured 37 medals at the all-Ireland final in all age categories and all types of instruments, including fiddles, song and groups. Kell herself was a member of the Murphy-Roche Senior Grúpa Ceoil at the all-Ireland in 2012 that won 1st Place. They were one of only three American bands to ever win in that category. During the pandemic in 2021, Kell captured 2nd place in flute airs at the All-Ireland. An unfortunate accident sidelined Kell in 2021, when she severely injured her arm. She has learned how to play tin whistle but is not playing the flute guite as much as she once did.

Kell and Mike have had the pleasure of seeing students grow up get married and come





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Call for Artist Submissions to the 2026 Biannual Juried Art Competition

This is the 3rd biannual competition which is a juried show with cash awards. Submission deadline is January 21st!

Artwork is submitted via email and is juried by a group of artist from Montana.

After artists are acccepted and jurying is completed, the show will open on Friday February 20th 7pm-9pm with over \$1200 in awards given out. The show will be judged by an artist/educator from the DuPage Art League.

The monies for awards come from sponsorship and jury fees. Kathy Kelly is excited to created this special programing for the Center with a group of fellow artist made up from the visual artist group of I.A.H.C.

For information and guidelines go to www.irish-american.org back with their own children to take Irish music lessons at Murphy-Roche. They teach all instruments with the exception of the uilleann pipes and have hosted six Midwest Fleadhs and Comhaltas conventions. They also bring in guest artists from Ireland, the most recent being Siobhan Buckley, all-Ireland winning Harper (Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann, 2015).

Kell's partner in music and life, Mike Chole, grew up on the southwest side of Chicago, attending St. Mary's

Star of the Sea and Hubbard High School. After



a brief stint at Paul University, he decided to train and work as an electrician. He has played stringed instruments since youth. An interest in medieval music led him to the Celtic Tracery series of Madrigal plays created and directed by Father Anthony Brankin at St. Thomas More Parish in the 1980s. At the second play in the series, Mike met Kell, and 2 years later they married. He has played with some acclaimed musicians like Martin Byrne, Tom Masterson and Johnny McGreevy, but one of Mike's most important influences was Bertie McMahon, who was an amazing banjo player. Mike became accomplished on several stringed instruments, starting with guitar, then lute, fiddle, mandolin, and banjo. Their son Rory plays the accordion and currently lives in Amarillo Texas.

The Chole's have run the music school out of their home in Burr Ridge since 1997. I've been there on Saturdays when most lessons occur and it's quite the center of activity, with multiple lessons occurring in every room of the house, including the kitchen and several bedrooms. The Chole's serve lunch regularly and students stay almost the whole day. The Chole's have run sessions with their students at a variety of venues in the Chicago area, including 9 years at the Kerry Piper, 4 years at the Old Dubliner and 9 years at Irish Legends. When Irish legends was sold, they then gravitated to Clancy's on 103rd in Oak Lawn.

Mike said, "We have the privilege of being able to teach kids how to play music which they can play the rest of their lives. Dancing a short-lived, but music is forever." The life-long dedication of the Choles to Irish music and teaching young people is essential to the future of Irish music in Chicago. Their commitment, in combination with that of Clancy's owner Kevin O'Kennedy's is a winning formula. Catch all the young students, and the Choles on Sundays from 300-500pm at Clancy's on 103rd St.

Write to me at christine.lawless@yahoo.com.



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

to energize the Windy City January 23rd -25th with a full slate of Irish music and social dance. This exciting

Chicago Hooley 2026 is set spot to enjoy a pint, a bite to eat, and a singalong.

Saturday Waltzing Contest

New to the Chicago Hooley this collaboration between Chicago year is a waltzing contest, Gaelic Park and the Irish American taking place during Saturday



Heritage Center promises a evening's show at Gaelic weekend of top entertainment and Park. Showcase your moves 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 one Irish cultural community." 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, where Evin O'Riordan (Friday) and Gerry Haughey (Saturday) will be performing your favorite Irish tunes. It is the perfect

for a chance to win a cash prize and the coveted bragging rights! Hooley organizers encourage everyone to participate-celebrating 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

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

'Directly Complicit in Escalating Antisemitism...' And This Lot Represent Us

Irish American News

"As a former Justice & I was still feeling a seasonal that the average Irish person is Defence Minister I want to glow, came news of the antisemitic, that we do however be absolutely clear. Like the atrocity in Australia. Australian government, the Irish government's unbalanced I had been in the next village toxic rhetoric and conduct up from me, at St. Joseph's relating to Israel/Gaza has Church in Maree, County contributed to escalating Galway. Now, I've got a antisemitism in Ireland. Both complicated history with the the Taoiseach and Tánaiste are Catholic Church, but I do love directly complicit."

Jewish Former TD Alan Shatter

to watch Sam Peckinpah's 'The Ballad of Cable Hogue' through for the first time in many years. That great old 1970 movie, with Jason Robards and Stella it was being said by Diarmuid Stevens, kicks off with a man Hogan, the big and hearty dying of thirst in the desert. He experiences a...yes, call it what Maree and my own parish of it is, a miracle; and he finds Oranmore. Long-time readers water 'where it wasn't'.

best impersonation of a wild Biblical flood outside and Cable in Chicago contacted me to say Springs up there on my screen, looking as if it is an Eden in the baking desert, it was a good choice.

wry observations from ol' Cable for my love of horror movies. on how 'we all have our own He thinks that there's enough ways of living and loving' there horror in the world; I think comes a scene that this time that you'll find more in the around just jumped out at me.

sorted and is up and ready for business. Unexpectedly and with a minimum of ceremony, Slim Pickens hands him 'the most important thing', something that will cost him nothing.

We see the American Flag being raised. And it is against and Neil Young on the sly. a beautiful desert sky, with a respectful group gathered... and in this gentle comedy it is played absolutely straight. It is the dawn of the 20th century, when the world was full of optimism, not knowing that it Afterwards I challenge him was facing into the bloodiest that overwhelming feelings period in its history.

Perhaps it's because we are living in a time when, all over the I grew up feeling guilty about globe and in dozens of different EVERYTHING and it didn't do countries, the most outrageous chancers and criminals have hijacked national symbols for less-than-honourable purposes, that it hit me as a moment of remarkable purity. And, perhaps, of pride and a little bit word 'sin'. I check it out of innocence.

It also struck me that this is What's that about? what the Western film often does so well — just stumbles onto a moment that, if handled wrongly, could be on the far side of hokum; but in the hands of a master director like John Ford or Howard Hawks or Sam Peckinpah it can instead become a silent, non-verbal, unsentimental comment on things that cut right to the very heart of us as human beings. 'The Western film', Peckinpah once observed, 'is a universal framework within which we can comment on the present.'

The Saturday night before to hear Mass said there.

Perhaps it's because of the warm feeling that you get The other day I took a notion from the small community that gathers in it, I don't know. It just feels like the simple and comforting way that a Mass SHOULD be celebrated. And priest who presides over will know that I've spoken of With Storm Bram doing its him a couple of times. Indeed, some years back several of you that you'd had the privilege of knowing him.

Now... we disagree on quite a few things, Diarmuid and Then, in the middle of some I: for a start he doesn't care Old Testament. He has an It's when Cable has his oasis open and optimistic way of looking at things; I'm a bit more cynical.

Then again, he is more of a New Testament, peace-andlove, good-will-to-all kind of guy. Wouldn't surprise me if he listens to Jefferson Airplane Fein and all the rest of the

And now...what's this he's saying in his opening few words? That he doesn't see any room in a modern church for dwelling on feelings of 'guilt'? I'm not having that. of guilt are the best bit about being a Catholic. The best bit! me any harm! Of course, I'm just having some banter with him. Well, kind of, heh. And he's telling me that the word 'love' is used more often in the New Testament than the afterwards. He's right; it is. lot actually understand what

The next day - the Sunday we begin to hear reports come in of the outrage in Australia, murders committed by those who would be simply unable to have the kind of good-natured ribbing and agree-to-disagree discussion that Diarmuid and I have just held.

I've been grateful to Irish American News these past two years for the opportunity to put forward several pleas for understanding of the situation that our Jewish neighbours find themselves in. I've argued A couple of days later, while that whilst I don't believe

have a government and a raft of politicians in general who have made things so much worse for Jews. And worse it is getting: it's no longer unusual for me to hear passing remarks on 'the f***** Jews and their war.'

Not 'Israel'; not 'Netenyahu'; on the f***** Jews in general. That is dangerous.

go unchallenged and you are helping to bring us to the point we're at, the point where generally across the world Ireland is now considered a deeply antisemitic country. God knows you can see why.

I don't really need another reason to despise our politicians, that's a given. Yet as low as they sink, they always manage to surprise me by sinking lower. Watching them tie themselves in knots by suddenly pretending to have 'solidarity' with the Australians as they deal with the massacre on Bondi Beach has been somewhere between pitch black comedy and vomitinducing.

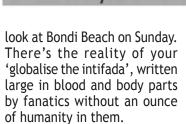
These are the same politicians who invited representatives of the terrorist group Hamas to speak here; the same who couldn't wait to rub it in the faces of our tax-paying, lawabiding Jewish community by flying the Palestinian flag indeed, by recognising Palestine as a State.

Fine Gael, Fine Fail, Sinn nauseating, virtue-signalling, banner waving hypocrites, I don't differentiate between any of them. It's not even a month ago that there was an attempt to rename Herzog Park in Dublin. Not because Chaim Herzog had anything to do with the current conflict in Gaza - he could scarcely have, being dead since 1997 - but because he was a Jew and our lot wanted to score a few despicable points with the clowns who like to dress up in their brand new keffiyehs and chant 'Globalise the Intifada'.

Well, I don't know if you you are chanting, but I do hope that you had a good

Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



And don't even get me and his skin-crawling, suckingup letter to the President of Iran - major funder of Hamas and not a place notable for its record on human rights. But hey, they may have their faults when it comes to organising the odd mass murder but at least they're not Jews.

And what does he do when the Irish peasants find him out? Well, he blames the Jews, of course! They must have leaked it.

No, I think that it's fair to say that I couldn't loathe our politicians much more than I

So...watching an old movie on a stormy afternoon, having a bit of humorous to-and-fro with my parish priest after Mass of a Saturday night...it may not seem like a lot; but having the freedom to do it is something that I cherish. And there are groups in this country who want to take that freedom and our simple pleasures from

us. Hell, they're aided and abetted by our politicians who have somewhere along the way morphed into the enemy of the people, in collaboration with large sections of the media.

It's my turn to tie myself You let that kind of dross started on ex-President Higgins in knots, by trying to find ANYTHING positive to say about the Sunday bloodbath at Bondi; but I have to salute the courageous Muslim who very possibly saved dozens of lives. We need more like him. We need Muslims who will - as other groups have done down through the years - march and demonstrate and cry to Heaven that this slaughter is NOT being done in their name. I'm not hopeful, if I'm honest, not at all. But...

> It's a new year, let's try... let's just try to make it a new dawn. Like good ol' Cable Hogue, who found water where it wasn't, let's make an honest attempt to find peace where none exists.

> And this time, let's be grownups. Let's not listen to the politicians or the warmongers unless they offer to send their own children first. At the risk of sounding utterly naïve, let's make that peace last.

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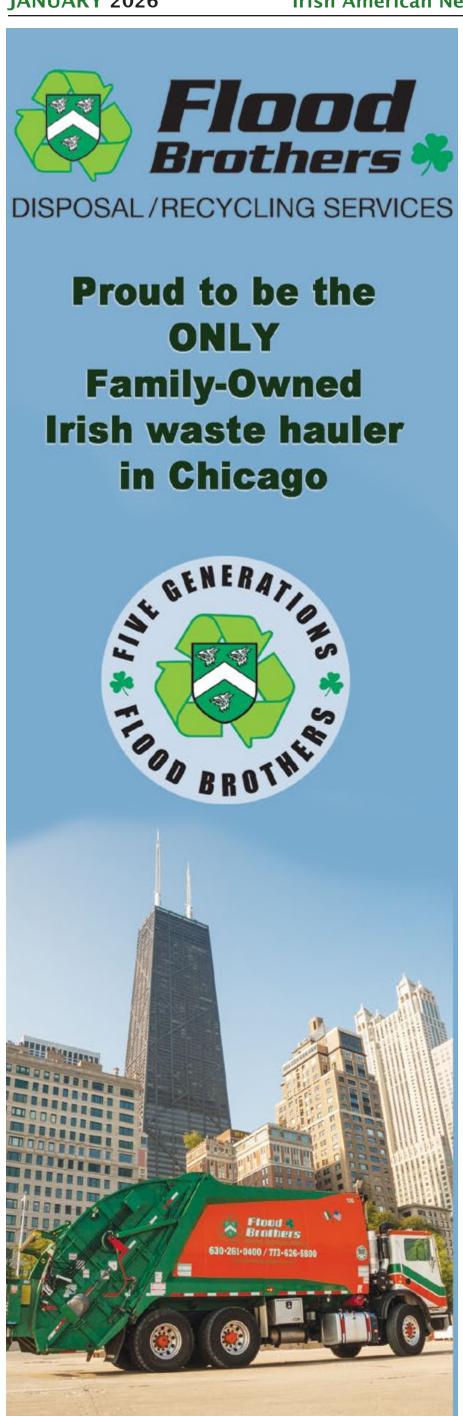
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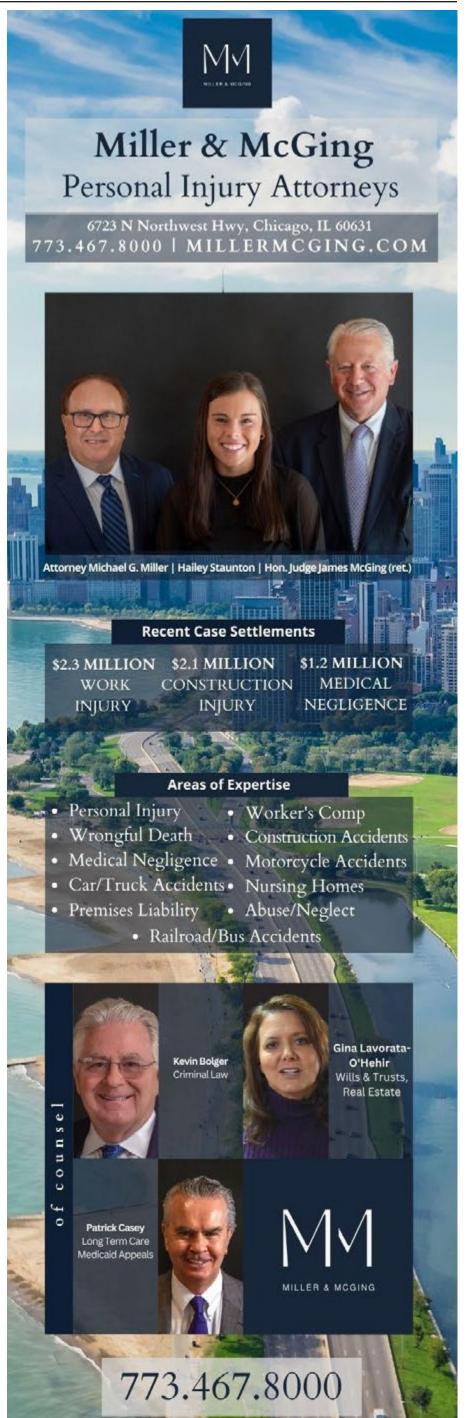
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AOH Condemns Political Suspension of Diversity Visa Program

Dan Dennehy, National Immigration Chair of the Ancient Visa Program.

indefinite suspension of the Diversity Visa Lottery Program with grave concern. While we mourn the tragic loss of life at Brown University and MIT,

to be exploited to close one of the last remaining legal pathways for Irish immigration to America.

It should not be lost that the suspect in these murders came to America as a student 25 years ago and was vetted before receiving a Diversity Visa green card in September 2017. Laying the fault of his horrific acts on the Diversity

Visa program makes about as for ordinary Irish citizens once again. much sense as laying it on the maternity hospital where he the United States. We sadly was born; this is nothing but note that, as we approach political opportunism.

Chair Dan Dennehy states: "The Diversity Visa Program has its roots in bipartisan Irish-born signers would be Congressional legislation ineligible to immigrate under passed in 1990, specifically to address Irish immigration

Order of Hibernians (AOH), inequities towards the Irish America's oldest and largest in US immigration law. It Irish Catholic organization, brought together our previous issued a statement today efforts, the Donnelly, regarding the announcement Morrison, and Berman visa of suspension of the Diversity programs—all created with Irish immigrants in mind. The Ancient Order of This program represents more Hibernians views the than policy; it embodies the announcement of the historic bond between Ireland and America."

The suspension announced by Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem effectively eliminates we cannot allow tragedy the only remaining avenue



seeking legal immigration to the 250th anniversary AOH National Immigration of America's founding document, the Declaration of Independence, its three current immigration rules.

We respect the need for needs caused by historic thorough security vetting

(though, again, we ask how effective vetting can be for acts committed nearly a decade later). Indeed, diversity visa applicants already undergo extensive background checks and must meet education and work experience requirements. The program's security protocols should be strengthened, if needed, rather than eliminating the program.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians urges Congress to pass immigration reform that creates meaningful opportunities for Irish immigration. And we call on

all Irish Americans to contact their elected representatives to demand action.

America was built by immigrants, including millions of Irish who came seeking opportunity and freedom. It is time to remove the 19th-century "No Irish Need Apply" sign from 21st-century American Immigration policy.

We will not stand silent while America's door closes to the Irish

Dan Dennehy, AOH National Immigration Chair



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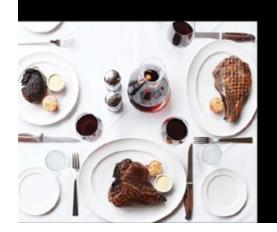
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Shamrock Shuffle Takes Off in Grant Park March 22

In Chicago, St. Patrick's Day weekend is a beloved tradition. With dyeing the Chicago River green, the Chicago St. Patrick's Day parade through the heart of Grant Park and the South Side Irish Parade in Beverly and Morgan Park, the weekend is a festive celebration of all things Irish.

However, the celebrations don't conclude with the end of the South Side Irish Parade. One week later. tens of thousands of participants will once again put on their green gear and return to Grant Park for one of Chicago's largest road races: the Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle.

Founded in 1980, the Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle has grown into a can't-miss event on the calendar for runners and walkers from Chicago and its surrounding suburbs. This one-of-a-kind race attracts everyone from eight year olds running their first race to elite athletes competing for prize money in the Deloitte Elite Club Competition.

"The Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle is one of the highlights of the running season in Chicago," Carey Pinkowski, executive race director of the Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle, said. "The Shamrock Shuffle sees serious competition with our elite athletes, but also welcomes those taking their first steps in their running journey."

The Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle features three distances: The Mile, the 2-Mile Walk and the marquee race, the 8K Run.

The Mile, this year scheduled for

Saturday, March 21, kicks off the weekend's running events. The course is contained entirely within Grant Park, making it a convenient addition for those already planning to spend time downtown on Saturday at Packet Pick-up at Buckingham Fountain for the Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle. The Mile welcomes all participants regardless of whether they plan to take part in Sunday's events, and

routinely attracts a diverse crowd of speedy runners, dedicated walkers and children experiencing the excitement of a race for the first time.

"The Mile perfectly showcases how running events can be for everyone," Pinkowski says. "Every year, I look forward to cheering on our participants in The Mile as they approach the finish line. It's an inspiring way to start the weekend."

Participants in The

Mile receive a race shirt, a finisher's medal, an event bib and a timing device. It is \$25 to register, and \$15 for youth ages 8 through 12. The race will begin at 11 a.m. in Grant Park. More information is available at shamrockshuffle.com.

On Sunday, March 22, the main event begins. The 8K Run is the largest of the three races contained within Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle weekend, routinely attracting over 20,000 participants. Leading the way are members of more than 70 elite USATF-member club teams from around the country. These runners are typically those in the earlier stages of their careers, making the Shamrock Shuffle 8K Run a unique opportunity to see runners before they emerge as leaders in American distance running.

> 2023 men's champion Zach Panning went on to finish as the top American man at the World Athletics Championships Marathon that same year, and 2022 women's champion Natosha Rogers was the top American woman at the 2025 Bank of America Chicago Marathon.

"We are proud of the tradition of fast racing up front at the Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle," Pinkowski said. "Deena Kastor

set the American women's record in the 8K here in 2005, and every year the race proves to be a great test for up-and-coming elite runners."

Following in the footsteps of the elites are participants primarily from Chicago, the suburbs and nearby Midwest states. The Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle encourages participants to dress festively, and many take that encouragement seriously, touring the streets of Chicago in their finest green activewear and fun St. Patrick's Day accessories.

The course shares a start line with the Bank of America Chicago Marathon at the corner of Columbus and Monroe in Grant Park and takes participants on a tour of downtown Chicago before returning them to the finish line, also

in Grant Park, near Columbus and Balbo.

Though the 8K Run welcomes runners and walkers alike, those not up for tackling 8K can take part in the 2-Mile Walk. This event also takes place on Sunday, with walkers starting behind those in the 8K Run. Rather than strolling through downtown, 2-Mile Walk participants are treated to a walk on the Lakefront Trail, taking in the sights of Lake Michigan before turning back into Grant Park.

Once 8K Run and 2-Mile Walk participants cross the finish line, the party begins. The Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle Post-Race Party takes place around Buckingham Fountain for the rest of Sunday morning. The Post-Race Party features live music, sponsor activations and one free beer for all participants 21 and older. One of the highlights of the Post-Race Party every year is an appearance by Chicago's famed Shannon Rovers, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year. The stirring sounds of pipes and drums are the perfect addition to this St. Patrick's Day event.

"The Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle is known locally as the kickoff to the spring running season," Pinkowski says. "After a long winter, it's the perfect way to get outside, be active and continue enjoying the spirit of St. Patrick's Day in Chicago."

The Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle 8K Run and 2-Mile Walk will take place in Grant Park on Sunday, March 22. The entry fee for the 8K Run ranges from \$51 to \$72, while the entry fee for the 2-Mile Walk is \$51. All registered participants will receive a Nike race shirt, festive item, bib number and timing device. Finishers of the events will also receive a medal. The Shamrock Shuffle 8K Run and 2-Mile Walk sell out every year, so those interested in participating should visit shamrockshuffle.com today to sign up.





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Ten bricks were purchased at the IAHC and set up in the form of the letter "H" to honor those who perished in the 1981 Hunger Strike at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland. If viewed from an aerial position, the prisons' cell blocks were shaped in the letter "H." This Hunger Strike was a confusing yet very important chapter in the peace process that had taken place in Ireland. Ten members of the

Liberation Army chose to refuse food until certain demands were met regarding the harsh conditions taking place at the prison. These ten wanted to be known as political

prisoners and not criminals.

The IRA, founded in 1919, was a nationalist paramilitary organization that sought to end British rule in Ireland and establish a united, independent Irish republic. It led to many conflicts throughout the decades between the Irish and the British rulers. Most notable was the "Troubles" from 1969 - 1998 which led to thousands of lives being lost, many being civilians, soldiers and paramilitaries.

Led by Bobby Sands, whose death drew global attention, the hunger strike was a powerful symbol of sacrifice and the love of their country to eliminate British rule. During the hunger strike, Bobby Sands was elected to Parliament and ignited the importance of how to make a difference at the ballot box. It was a large political movement that succeeded in transforming Irish republican politics, increased support for Sinn Fein (the political wing of the IRA), and forcing practical prison reform. It became a turning point in the Northern Ireland conflict.

Sinn Fein was founded in 1905 and means, "We Ourselves." It is an Irish republican political party that operates in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Its main goal is Irish unityending British rule in Northern Ireland and uniting the country through peaceful democratic means.

On May 5, 1981, Bobby Sands died at the age of 27 after 66 days of starvation. His funeral was attended by 100,000 mourners. He was laid to rest at the Milltown Cemetery in West Belfast.

Those heroic volunteer hunger strikers who followed are:

Francis Hughes
Patsy O'Hara
Martin Hurson
Kieran Doherty

Raymond McCreesh
Joe McDonnell
Kevin Lynch
Thomas McElwee

Mickey Divine

The hunger strike over time led to the political rise of Sinn Fein, giving them negotiating leverage in the peace process and resolving the Northern Ireland conflict. It radicalized a generation and politicized it turning militants into outspoken politicians. It created ceasefires and peace agreements including the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 largely ending decades of violence in Northern Ireland. Political violence declined and the two governments were able to work together. The bombs, bullets and terrorism were replaced by voting power and voices of reason and compromise. These actions of sacrifice will never be forgotten and it is proudly displayed at the Irish American Heritage Center on the walk of bricks.



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St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Contest

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

Any girl of Irish Ancestry, never married, 18-29 years old is eligible to enter the contest

through January 8, 2026



2025 Parade Queen Cara Walsh



Scan to Apply



Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade and River Dyeing

Saturday, March 14, 2026

Parade Theme: Faith, Peace and Unity

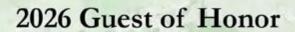
Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Doors Open at 5 pm, Dinner at 7 pm Plumbers Hall, 1340 W. Washington Blvd, Chicago, IL

2026 Grand Marshal

Rev. Thomas R. McCarthy, OSA

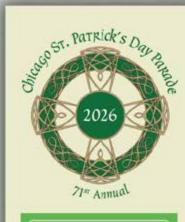


Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band









IST GRAND PRIZE \$25,000 cash

2ND GRAND PRIZE 4 roundtrip tickets to Dublin, Ireland

3RD GRAND PRIZE 4 roundtrip tickets to Dublin, Ireland

2026 CHICAGO ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

1 TICKET - \$100 ONLY 750 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD

WIN \$25,000 CASH GRAND PRIZE ROUND TRIP TICKETS COURTESY OF AER LINGUS

3 WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER THURSDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 2026

WINNER DOES NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT

Please Note: Purchase of this raffle ticket does not include admission to the Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner. Dinner tickets must be purchased separately.



CHICAGO ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE - 2026 -

Proceeds to benefit the Chicago St. Patricks Day Parade Committee. Some exclusions and blackout dates apply.

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This January marks twenty-five years since I studied abroad as an undergraduate student at Växjö University in Sweden. The memories of that cold January day when my four friends and I landed in that dark and cold country remain incredibly vivid. It is remarkable that those days, classes, parties, trips, conversations, and

emotions have stayed with me so clearly, while I ago. Studying abroad twenty-five years ago was lifechanging for me, as it has been for so many others. Living and learning in a new country provides a hands-on experience that allows the brain to remember these novel moments long after they occur. There were plenty of positive experiences, there were also moments of homesickness and confusion, all of which contributed to memories that remain especially clear. I left with a deep love of Sweden and the culture and people that I

Many students choose to study abroad as a way to explore their heritage. A few years after my









experience in Sweden, I decided it was time to learn sometimes struggle to remember what I did a week more about Ireland. I spent six weeks during the summer living in Dublin and working at a university in the Study Abroad Office. I stayed with a wonderful host couple, James and Marie, who cooked lunch and dinner each day and welcomed other international students into their home. While I had my own room, I shared meals and conversations with students from Germany and Spain. During that summer, I traveled throughout Ireland, immersed myself in the culture, and spent every penny I had at Penney's Department Store. Although I did not meet any extended family during that time, I learned a great deal about Irish the door to experiences that shape a lifetime. I culture and daily life. My host family treated me as one of their own, and that summer allowed me to feel connected to Ireland in a way that short visits Possible." While I know it will be difficult to watch never could.

> parental approval is one of the most significant. Just as my parents encouraged my journey into the factors in a student's decision to study abroad. My unknown, I will also encourage hers.

Roaming in the Gloaming

Perhaps it was twenty years ago when my spouse

Dr. John B. Duff, President of Massachusets University learned that Irish novelist Edna O'Brien was making her way to Boston to speak at Boston College. He phoned me immediately asking if I could reach her in Ireland and outline his plan to invite her to a posh Boston dinner with a varity of friends in an upscale harvard square resturant? Reaching her in Ireland was not a problem nor was her absolute delight with the invite. American readers will recall her book entitled "The Country Girls," it was credited in 1960 with breaking silence on sexual matters and social issues, during a repressive period in Ireland after the Second World War. O'brien's writing often revolved 'around the inner feelings of women and their problems relating to men.

The publication of her memoir Country Girl was published in 2012 and her last book "Girl" was published in 2019 immediately pushed her into deep trouble with both church and state. Many of her novels were based

By Estelle Shanley WITH A NEW INTRODUCTION BY



parents, Paul and Marcy, were extremely supportive of my choices to study abroad both times. Without their encouragement, I simply would not have gone. While it is not always easy to leave home due to family or financial constraints, the opportunity is invaluable for those who are able to take it.

January of 2001 feels like a long time ago, yet memories from those few months in Sweden and then later in Dublin pop up often in my memory. Living abroad profoundly changed how I see the world. I remember being so confused about how to pay on a bus in Sweden that I just got off and walked to my destination. I had many moments like this. It was humbling and gave me an awareness to treat those who are new to our country with kindness, as I was once in their shoes. For students studying abroad, whether to explore heritage in Ireland or to experience an entirely different culture, this can be a defining journey. For parents, encouraging study abroad or international travel may open recently watched my daughter on stage in the play "Seussical" where one of the songs is titled "It's her board a plane to explore the world someday, I also recall learning in graduate school that I also know that with travel anything is possible.

> in Ireland, especially in County Clare. The reaction to the Country Girls in Ireland damaged her relationship with her mother who was ashamed of her daughter. Her mother died in 1977. The press

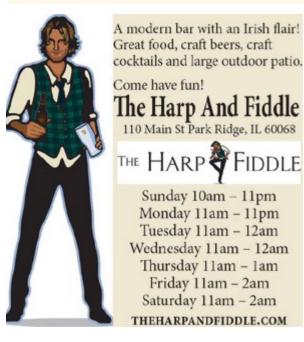
> often potrayed O'Brien as a "party girl," with American magazine Vanity

Fair calling her "the playgirl of the western world." She socialised with glamorous men including Marlon Brando and Robert Mitchum. Irish president michael D. Higgins, also a writer and poet, said Edna O'Brien was one of the first women that played an important role transforming women in ireland in their different generations and played an important role in transforming the status of women across Irish society.

The evening Edna O'Brien spoke to a packed house at Boston College she advised women not to chase after jobs in male positions. "They just don't like it" she concluded, and you'll be passed over!

In 2009 O'Brien was honored with the Hughes Lifetime Achievement Award during a special ceremony at the year's Irish Book Awards in Dublin.

She died following a long illness in London on 27 july 2024, she was 93. She is buried On Inis Cealtra a holy island in Lough Derg







20th Ennis Book Club Festival March 6-8 2026

Here is a first look at some of the wonderful events planned March 6th-8th 2026.

individually but as a special treat this festive season, we're offering a 10% discount when you book five or more events in a single purchase.

Tickets are now on sale and this exclusive offer ends December 31st.

Why not treat yourself-or the book lover in your life—to a LBGTQ+ writing gift of great stories and brilliant conversations.

will be revealed in January, but with Una Mullally celebrating here's your chance to secure tickets for some exceptional power of representation in Monday to Saturday events in advance!

2026 Early Bird events

• Anne Enright in conversation with Niamh Campbell

Anne Enright for a wide-ranging discuss their first novels with selected events have been discussion on her writing life Eoin Devereux. and latest work.

 Sophie White & Elaine Feeney with Declan Hughes

the mystery and magic behind their newest books.

• Hugo Hamilton talks to Éilís Ní Dhuibhne

Join us for a conversation on the intricate storytelling at the work.

A festival favourite. Bryan event. for the 20th annual Ennis Book Dobson and Cecelia Ahern Club Festival, taking place share their top reading events will sell quickly recommendations with Ciana

We can't wait to welcome you Events can be booked Campbell. This 2026 session to Ennis in March as we come

> https://ennisbookclubfestival.com nnis Book lub Festival

promises to be a cracker.

A vibrant panel with Chloe distinctive narratives and the contemporary writing.

Debut Authors

We're thrilled to welcome Claire Gleeson, Elaine Garvey will be applied at checkout We are delighted to welcome and Shane Tivenan, who will after tickets for the 5 or more

Historical Fiction

Sarah Waters, Andrew Miller and Nuala O'Connor join aims to promote and celebrate Two of Ireland's most exciting historian Juliana Adelman will contemporary writers explore allow us to step inside the minds of those who have shaped the come to Ennis to share the world we live in.

McCafferty

Rosita Sweetman, Muire truth, illusion, memory, and McCallion and Ailbhe Smyth pay tribute to Nell McCafferty—one heart of Hamilton's celebrated of Ireland's most remarkable journalists and campaigners—

together to celebrate great • Love and Change - new writers, fantastic conversations, and the joy of reading.

Tickets are available online* Michelle Howarth, Nicola Dinan via our website and by phone The full festival programme & Seán Hewitt in conversation from glór box office, which is contactable on 065 6843103 and is open from 10am to 3pm

> Tickets can also be booked at https://ebcf.ticketsolve.com/

> *Please note that the discount added and you proceed to purchase. Booking fees apply.

The Ennis Book Club Festival reading. Each year, readers both from Ireland and further afield, joy of reading. Our audiences • Remembering Nell include avid readers, those who haven't had the time to pick up a book in some years, those with a keen interest in current affairs, those who are simply looking to be inspired.

Background In 2007 a small

group of local volunteers, in October Arts Festival. Being • Ten Books You Should Read in this very special Saturday association with Clare County members of a local Book Club Library, identified the need for the wish was to create a literary Mark your calendars—these a new literary and social event event that focused primarily on to replace the demised Ennis readers and book lovers.



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JANUARY CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREEN!

For and Against A United Ireland

prospect of Irish unification voters on both sides of the is now stronger than at Irish border may soon have to

1921. Recently, Sinn Féin leader Mary Lou McDonald even stated that a unity referendum could happen as soon as 2030. But is a united Ireland in its citizens' best interests?

"If it comes, Irish unity will not be an end to history," writes renowned journalist Sam McBride in *For* and Against a United *Ireland*, coming this February from Notre Dame Press, in partnership with the Royal Irish Academy. "[Irish unity] will not solve all the island's

neighbours."

McBride—who is Northern Ireland Editor of the Belfast Against a United Ireland Telegraph and the Sunday Independent—and coauthor Ireland is a direct challenge to Fintan O'Toole, columnist any assertion that to debate is with The Irish Times and advising editor of the New York Review of Books, examine have ably demonstrated the the strongest arguments for democratic necessity of debate. and against a united Ireland It is up to us to realise what it in their new book.

Ireland" even mean? Would together."—The Irish Times unity be better for Northern Ireland? Would it improve lives unionists and nationalists, in the Republic of Ireland? *northerners and southerners*, And could it be brought about will find themselves united in without bloodshed? O'Toole recommending this book." and McBride each argue the case for and against unity, bringing fresh thinking to one of Ireland's most intractable questions.

O'Toole declare, there is and-against-a-united-ireland



Fintan O'Toole was the 2024 Literature Awardee at iBAM! the Irish Books Arts & Music Celebration the Sunday Independent

NOTRE DAME, IN—The much to unite the island, and any point since partition in confront what the answer to



a referendum question would ills or erase the hatred some of mean—for themselves, for its inhabitants have for their their neighbors, and for their

Advance Praise for For and

"For and Against a United to polarise and thus to put peace at risk. . . O'Toole and McBride is that we urgently need to be What do the words "united able to argue in defence of,

"Remarkably and fittingly,

-Slugger O'Toole Paperback \$30, Hardcover \$100 **BUY BOOK W/THIS LINK** https://undpress. After all, McBride and nd.edu/9780268211189/for-



Sam McBride is the Northern Ireland Editor of the Belfast Telegraph and

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Welcome back to the enchanting land of Tir na N'Og for books. This month we are going to look at two nonfiction books. As with many nonfiction works, the age-range is broad. Both books are heavily illustrated, but they would not really be considered picture books. Kids of various ages (and you!) will find these books fascinating, but younger children will need more support from an adult.

Ireland in Numbers

Jackie McCann has done something I didn't think was possible which is to make the 2022 Irish census an exciting children's book! By choosing specific facts, explaining them clearly and succinctly, and grouping them into two-page, heavily illustrated spreads, McCann and illustrator, Dermot Flynn, have brought Ireland today to life through numbers.

A main area McCann examines,



of course, is population growth, decline and movement. However, these dry numbers are attached to historical events (the Famine and subsequent population loss) and to current trends (population growth due to immigration). We see how population has moved to being more urban than rural, how transportation has changed from trains to cars, and how Ireland has changed from an insular nation in which nearly global family housing people of many nationalities.

There are sections on the Irish language, the Irish government and how educated the Irish are. There are pages on the jobs the Irish do, how Irish spread and reveals that Ireland represented. Throughout the first four chapters deal with

Much More Than Leprechauns



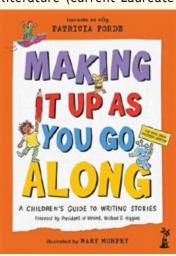
By Sheryl O'Sullivan

census of 100 years ago (just after independence) to show how Ireland has changed. explained.

The illustrations are very engaging. Little fact bites are pulled together and amplified on the two-page spreads by the many illustrations. Lots of the facts turn out to be fascinating-did you know scientists think that Ireland would now have a population of 20 million if the Famine had not taken place? And some of the facts are really helpful—I now understand Ireland's system of government much better than I ever have! As a bonus, we now have the answer to whether there are more cows than people in Ireland. Spoiler alert—there are! Kids of all ages who like facts, especially number facts-will love this overwhelming. book.

Making it Up as You Go Along

Two giants in Irish children's literature (current Laureate



everyone was born there, to a na n'Og Patricia Forde and celebrated illustrator Mary Murphy) have teamed up to write a book advising children how to write their own creative stories, and Forde and Murphy have brought a host of their children's literature friends and these ending letters often families are constituted, with them. The result is this refer to the writer's own body and what sports are popular. wonderful book aimed at kids of work which broadens the Religion gets its own two-page 8-years-old and up.

The book has short, punchy is still overwhelmingly Catholic, chapters detailing many but many other religions are aspects of writing. The children, I find myself wishing

book, the numbers of the 2022 the threads of all stories census are compared to the inspiration, characters, plot and setting. Then Forde and Murphy break things down in a different way by discussing Northern Ireland figures are beginnings, middles and sometimes included and endings. And, finally, the last half of the book looks at specific genres children might want to write. There are chapters for fantasy, comedy, mystery, historical fiction, and traditional literature. The book ends with one short chapter on the dreaded Edit.

Throughout the book, the tone is light and encouraging. The advice is child-centered, concise and clear. And the illustrations add lots of humor and whimsy. Font is used to great effect by adding large print and creative print often to draw children's eyes to important points. White space is also abundant, so the book, even though it contains lots of information, never feels

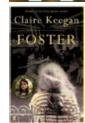
Two additional features add so much to this work. First, every so often, Forde suggests a creative task to her young readers, and then she goes on to show how she would have finished that task. Her own original ideas and the way she uses other writing for children provide such a good role model for kids who want to write.

The second feature is all those friends I mentioned in my first paragraph. The book has 12 chapters, and each one ends with a long and detailed letter from a great Irish children's writer. These letters are very specific to the chapter just finished and serve to both focus that chapter and add another writer's thoughts about such things as setting, historical fiction and the editing process. The writers are the biggest names in Irish children's literature, such as Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick and Eoin Colfer, whole book enormously.

While the book's intended audience is middle-grade I had had this book to show to my college students when I was teaching. Sometimes a children's book is just the pared-down treatment that a beginner of any age needs. Your creative kids will find this book enormously helpful, and maybe the creative you will also read it with interest. I know it incited my creative juices!

That's it for this month. Keep enjoying those Irish children's books!





Books Under Review

Sabina Clarke



Irish American News

A Clarion Call for Nuclear Disarmament

I've been patiently waiting for this book to come out for the past several years—when horrors of World War II dimmed I heard it was brewing-- and it has been worth the wait. humanity, setting the stage for It is a tour de force! This is a worthy successor to Douglass' landmark book- JFK & the Unspeakable..Why He Died, Why It Matters in 2008-- a book of profound importance called "the best book on the Kennedy assassination" by Oliver Stone.

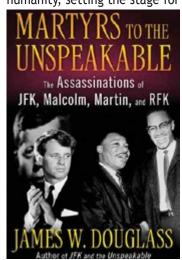
Once again Douglass refers to the "unspeakable" and credits his close friend the Trappist monk Thomas Merton with defining the term as "the void that contradicts everything even before the words are said."

fascinating portraits of four great Americans who sacrificed catapulting us towards a nuclear holocaust-- beginning atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in World War II.

impunity until the disrupters-the peacemakers: John this mistake again. Fitzgerald Kennedy, Malcolm X, wanted forever wars.

convincing. There is a pattern take the fall. in all four murders-- the patsy,

Their murders, says Douglass, "did not occur in a vacuum, The the lights in the theatre of



Wrapped within the Cold War terrorism and in the end, the threat of omnicide."

Early in his presidency, in their lives for peace, is a 1961, the CIA attempted to fascinating behind-the scenes draw JFK into a war with Russia look at the government by training Cuban exiles to apparatus-- the military invade Cuba and overthrow industrial complex, the Central Fidel Castro's government. Intelligence Agency, CIA, the Kennedy, inherited the plan Joint Chiefs of Staff and their from Eisenhower but soon war mongering Generals who realized he was being set-up have determined our nation's for an all out war with Russia policies with little interference so refused to send back-up and the exiles were defeated. with when we dropped the embarrassment for Kennedy and also a wake-up call. This was his baptism of fire and his These Generals acted with introduction to the Cold War apparatus—he would not make

Douglass gives fully delineated Martin Luther King and Robert portraits of the scapegoats (Bobby) Kennedy challenged in the murders of all four X is intimate and captivating, them and paid for this with their subjects; Lee Harvey Oswald, lives. They were a threat to the the "would -be Communist military industrial complex that defector to Russia" groomed as the lone assassin of JFK; "the Because they wanted peace Black Muslims" of the heavily not war they were prophets. infiltrated Nation of Islam in And because of this—they were the killing of Malcolm X; James targeted for death. That some Earl Ray, the "white racist" people still believe in the lone killer of Martin Luther King, and assassin lie - for each of these Sirhan Sirhan, the "Palestinian men-- Douglass gives convincing terrorist" who shot Robert proof of the government Kennedy. All scapegoats—all cover-up-- for those who need set-up by the government to

JFK very quickly realized the fall guy and Douglass that he was surrounded by makes the case well in all four Cold War warriors and had to assassinations with concrete navigate carefully - he knew the stakes were high-- his life

was at risk and the annihilation of the human race in a nuclear holocaust. He had a very tight circle of people he could confide in-- he realized that his goal to stop nuclear weapons everywhere pitted him against the national security czars of his own government and of its His rejection of the Black ally, Israel.

Douglass names the three key players in the CIA orchestrated plot to kill JFK and four years later his brother: CIA Director Allen Dulles; CIA Malcolm's growing influence Counterintelligence Chief James Jesus Angleton and a threat. Hoover's fears reach Richard Helms, CIA Deputy a fever pitch when Malcolm Director for Plans.

Angleton said, "Fundamentally, the founding fathers of U.S. intelligence were liars. The before the United Nations. better you lied, the more you betrayed, the more likely you Douglass names the forces Experiment with Truth would be promoted."

Angleton was a sinister character. Douglass says, "James Angleton demonstrated his ability to abort the birth of a better world by helping to murder John Kennedy. His chessboard movement of Lee Harvey Oswald from Moscow to Dallas as the JFK scapegoat established a norm in assassination planning."

Five years later, Angleton would steer James Earl Ray, "the Memphis scenario scapegoat" for the assassination of Martin Luther King around the world in the same manner. And, Douglass says that it is likely The Bay of Pigs debacle was an Angleton also facilitated the murder of Robert Kennedy.

> When Robert Kennedy decided to run for president, his goal was to dismantle the war machine and investigate his brother's murder - so he had to be stopped.

Douglass' portrait of Malcolm

We are introduced to an angry man and a racist-who hated white people. Then we see his transformation after his Hajj in Mecca when he has an awakening - an embrace of all men. This is when he becomes most effective as a leader. Muslims narrow philosophy enrages the Nation of Islam watched closely by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover who sees and international visibility as and Martin Luther King meet Civil Rights movement and internationalize their cause Both became marked men.

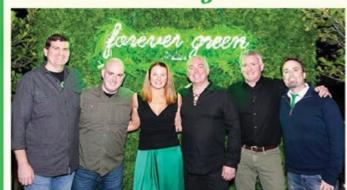
behind Malcolm's murder: the Nation of Islam, the New York City Police Department and U.S. Intelligence led by J Edgar Hoover. Hoover's white supremacist vision also led to the killing of both men, Malcolm and Martin Luther King.

All four martyrs for peace had premonitions of their deaths and they are recorded in this leader, Elijah Muhammad and is telling-- and all four were willing to sacrifice themselves in the name of peace.

About the Author

Jim Douglass is a Catholic theologian, peace activist, writer, and lay member of the Catholic Worker movement. On his deathbed, the evil to support each other in the Among his eight key published books are: JFK & the Unspeakable..Why He Died, Why It Matters and Gandhi and the Unspeakable: His Final







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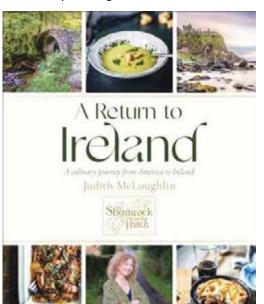
A Return to Ireland Cookbook

Written by Judith McLoughlin

978-1-57826-935-8, \$30.00 hardcover 978-1-57826-936-5, \$12.99 eBook Published by Hatherleigh Press. Distributed by Penguin Random House RECIPE #1:

Sunday Supper Rosemary Chicken Supreme - Serves 4

Chicken Supreme Ingredients 1 tablespoon vegetable oil



- 1 tablespoon of butter
- 4 chicken breast fillets (2 pounds)
- 12 ounces artichokes hearts (cut in quarters)

Fine sea salt and pepper

- Sauce Ingredients
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1 medium (3 tablespoons) shallot finely chopped
 - 2 garlic cloves (minced)
 - 34 cup heavy whipping cream
 - ¾ cup chicken stock
- 1/4 cup dry white wine
- ½ cup Dubliner Irish cheese (finely grated)
- 1 tablespoon rosemary (finely chopped)

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Season the chicken fillets with freshly ground pepper and sea salt.
 - 2. In a large skillet, melt the butter

and oil over medium high heat. Add the chicken breasts and sear on both sides until they

are browned. Remove the chicken from the skillet for a few minutes to make the sauce.

- 3. Preheat the oven to 400°F.
- 4. To make the sauce, melt the butter in the same skillet the chicken

fillets were browned. Add the shallot and cook until for a few minutes, until it is

> soft and translucent. Add the garlic and rosemary and cook for one minute until fragrant, being careful not to burn the garlic.

> 5. Add the wine and cook on medium for about 5 minutes or until the wine has almost evaporated. Add the chicken stock and cream and cook for a few minutes. Stir in the Dubliner

Irish cheese until the cheese has melted.

6. Add the chicken fillets back into the skillet and spoon the sauce on top. Arrange the

artichokes hearts all around the chicken.

7. Bake the chicken supreme in the oven for a further 18-20 minutes until the chicken is fully cooked and firm to the touch (internal temperature of 165°F).

8. To serve, place a chicken breast in the center of each plate and spoon more sauce on top.

RECIPE #2:

Crumbled Corn Beef & Sweet Potato Tart - Serves 6

Pastry Ingredients

1¼ cups all-purpose flour (sifted)

¼ teaspoon salt

7 tablespoons unsalted butter (chilled)

2-4 tablespoons ice cold water Filling Ingredients

Medical Malpractice

7 ounces corn beef (crumbled into

small pieces)

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 medium leeks (white parts and some green)
 - 4 large eggs (beaten)
 - 1 cup whipping cream
 - 1 sweet potato (cooked and mashed)
 - 1/4 teaspoon fine sea salt
 - 1/8 teaspoon white pepper
 - 1 cup of sharp cheddar cheese

a double layer of foil and bake for 10 minutes to prevent browning. Remove foil and bake pastry for a few more minutes until golden brown. Remove from oven and cool on a wire rack and leave oven on.

5. To make filling, in a large skillet add 2 tablespoons of olive oil and sauté the leeks for 3-4 minutes or until soft and fragrant and remove from heat.

> 6. In a food processor or mixing bowl combine eggs, cream, mashed sweet potato, salt and pepper.

> 7. To assemble the quiche, layer the corn beef and leek and the cheeses and then pour the egg mixture on top.

> 8. Bake for 30-35 minutes or until the egg sets and is firm to the touch. Allow the quiche to sit for at least 15 minutes before

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Judith McLoughlin is an Irish chef and owner of a gourmet food business

in Georgia called The Shamrock and Peach. Specializing in Irish cuisine, Judith has created her own unique food fusion by blending the techniques of her homeland with the newfound flavors of the South. Growing up in County Armagh in Northern Ireland and setting down roots in the South, over the past decade Judith has become one of the most recognized Irish faces and brands in Atlanta, throughout the American South and abroad. She regularly contributes to food columns in national newspapers and magazines on both sides of the Atlantic and leads numerous discovery tours from the U.S. to Ireland each year. Before A Return to Ireland, she had a cookbook entitled The Shamrock and Peach.



½ cup Parmesan cheese **DIRECTIONS**

- 1. To make the pastry, combine flour and salt in a medium size bowl or food processor. Use a pastry fork or processor to cut in the butter until it resembles coarse crumbs. Add the cold water 1 tablespoon at a time and mix until the dough is moist enough to hold together to form a ball. Flatten into a disc and wrap and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.
 - 2. Preheat oven to 375°F.
- 3. On a lightly floured surface, roll out dough into a circle about 11-inches in diameter for a 9-inch pie plate or fluted tart pan. Trim off any excess pastry and prick the bottom of the dough with a fork.
 - 4. To blind bake the pastry, line with

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Winter, you either love it or you hate it. If you're from my neck of the woods you have to take the good with the bad. Don't get me wrong, I love the holiday season, and the hope of a white Christmas. A winter wonderland straight out of a Currier and Ives Christmas card. The smell of our real Christmas tree, all the brightly decorated homes in the neighborhood, and Christmas dinner. This year it was an 8 course meal for 23, with wines to compliment every course. That's a lot of washing up to do. What I'm not too crazy about are the short days, shoveling snow, icy sidewalks and roads, and really cold days. Oh yeah, and my Nicor gas bill. I honestly don't

winter's night.

Every ethnic group has their own version comfort food. The further north you go, the hardier the dish becomes, incorporating a lot of root vegetables.

The Irish are no different. Lamb stew is probably the most well know. If you've been to Ireland, you know it has a lot of sheep. Just take a drive down a country road. Chances are you will come upon a whole herd walking down the middle of the road. They have the right of way so you will find your car surrounded by these wooly creatures, all marked with a patch of paint to identify the herd. Another Irish staple is Guinness. Since not everyone is a lamb lover, I 3 stalks of celery cut into 1 inch pieces add the vegetables. Cook stirring 1 parsnip peeled and cut into 1inch

1inch pieces

(Optional 12-15 baby Yukon gold potatoes) I like to serve with mashed potatoes

- 4 garlic cloves chopped
- 8 oz beef broth
- 8 oz Guinness the rest is for you
- 3 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 teaspoon dried or fresh thyme
- 2 teaspoon dried or fresh parsley
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons flour

Heat olive oil in a heavy covered Dutch oven (Le Creuset) until it starts to smoke. Turn heat down to medium. Season the chuck roast on all sides with salt, pepper, and granulated garlic. Place meat in pot and sear all sides. Adjust the heat to avoid burning the meat. Cook for about 4-5 minutes

> per side. When nicely browned remove the meat to a plate and

constantly for 4-5 minutes. Remove vegetables to bowl and deglaze pan 8 oz rutabaga peeled and cut into with red wine scaping up any browned bits. Stir in tomato paste, broth, and 1 leek with part only cut into 1inch Guinness. Add thyme, and parsley. Add meat back to the pot and if necessary, and add enough water to come up cover ¾ of the meat. Bring to a simmer, cover and place in a 325 degree oven and cook for 3-4 hours, about 1 hour per pound. Meat should be fork tender and have an internal temperature of 200-210 degrees. About an hour before the roast is done add the reserved vegetables.

> When meat is tender remove from the pot. Mix flour and butter together forming a smooth paste. Whisk in butter paste to thicken sauce. Check for seasoning

> I like to serve this on a bed of creamy mashed potatoes topped with the vegetables, and then the meat. Nap sauce over the meat.

> Enjoy this classic dish with friends and family,

- "Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise Duit "
- "A Prosperous New Year to You"



know how our ancestors survived with no central heat or electricity. The menu for at least five months consisted of root vegetables, beans and legumes, and preserved meat, fish, fruits, and vegetables. The trendy name for this type of cooking is called comfort food, and now we eat it by choice and not necessity.

A super satisfying, slowly cooked soup, stew or casserole, served with a chunk of warm bread and butter, and you're in heaven. Think of how lucky we are today. With access to the global market place, nothing is ever out of season. Just check out the produce department of any supermarket or grocery store. Here you find items from every corner of the planet. Remember it is summer in the entire Southern hemisphere, and with express shipping you can literally be eating foods picked and packaged just a few days earlier!

Back to comfort food. My mom used to make braised pot roast and beef stew. Every thing cooked in one pot and easy to serve. Most comfort food uses less expensive cuts of meat that require long cooking times at moderate heat that break down the collagen in the meat to ensure fork cutting tenderness. Browning the meat and the vegetables first, adding red wine, and tomato paste, parsley and herbs will render an incredible, satisfying meal on a cold

am going to show you a classic recipe for **braised pot roas**t with Guinness and root vegetables. I like to use a chuck roast which has great flavor but is a tough cut of meat requiring longer cook time, I have never used one but I suppose you could cook this in a crock pot after you season and sear the meat before braising. It's one pot cooking at its finest, and you don't have to worry about overcooking it. The perfect meal for a cold winter evening.

A few things to remember: Brown meat on all sides

Sautee the vegetables Use a heavy pot with a lid

Cook no higher than 325 this enables the meat to cook slowly and break down the connective tissue and collagen creating a fork tender roast

You can omit parsnips or rutabaga if they are not to your liking and even add mushrooms

Braised Pot Roast with Guinness and Root Vegetables

Serves 4

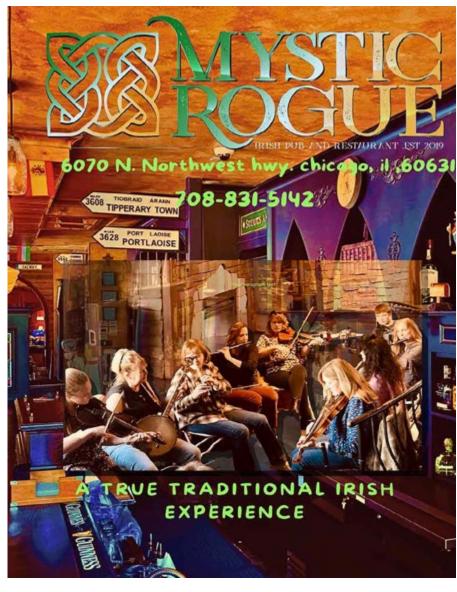
3-4 pound chuck roast at least 2 -3 inches thick

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon granulated garlic
- 2 tablespoons olive oil

8oz carrots peeled and cut into 1 inch

1 large onion cut into 1inch pieces







IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON HUGE SUCCESS

members, guests and friends for a sold Fr. Clete Kiley, chaplain of the Chicago out success on December 5, 2025. With Federation of Labor offered grace close to 1400 guests, the Club honored President Fr. Jack Clair of Misericordia for his year of service and raised funds for

was a great celebration of Irish heritage, building fellowship across the Chicagoland area. Our sponsors and guests generously supported the Foundation, enabling us to provide important scholarship grants to Catholic high school students."

The Misericordia Heart Zingers returned to the Luncheon this year, serenading guests as they entered the Hilton Chicago Grand Ballroom.

Thanks to Chicago Beverage, Guinness from Ireland, Brian Cahalane, shared and board member Jim Doney, guests were able to personalize their own Guinness glass during the cocktail hour.

the procession of dignitaries into the Ballroom for the celebration. This year was special as the Shannon Rovers will serve as the Guest of Honor for the St. Patrick's Day Parade celebrating their 100th Anniversary.

Houlihan Smith, CEO of CapitolHall Partners, welcomed all of the guests to the President's Luncheon and invited Bob

and thanks for the fellowship of the McGing Personal Injury Lawyers, Bob Luncheon.

Irish American News

The Club was honored to have Senator the Irish Fellowship Club Education and Dick Durbin attend and wish everyone a Cultural Foundation. Said Fr. Jack, "It happy holiday season. Consul General

BMO. New board members nominated were Hon James McGing; Miller & Collins; Chicago Beverage Systems, and Michael Gallagher; Gallagher Injury Law. The membership enthusiastically elected the slate.

The Irish Fellowship Club gathered Irish and American national anthems. continuing as Treasurer, Jack Kane of and Michigan at 12:30pm.



greetings from Ireland.

The President's Luncheon serves as the Annual Meeting of the Irish As tradition, the Shannon Rovers led Fellowship Club and Nominating Chairman, Peter O'Brien, a former Chairman of the Club and CEO of MADO Management, presented the slate of officers for 2026 including Chairman Fr. Jack Clair, President/Executive Director of Misericordia, President, Luncheon Chairman, Margaret Devon Bruce of Power Rogers, Vice President, Liz Livingston Howard of the Kellogg School Center for Nonprofit Management, Secretary, Jim Harney of Ryan and Sarah Konieczny to sing the the Chicago Department of Aviation and

the stage following a delicious lunch their calendars for the 71st Annual 14, 2026. He introduced Fr. Thomas incredibly successful event." McCarthy OSA of St. Rita of Cascia, the Day festivities and will kick off at Balbo adjourned the Luncheon.

In his role as IFC Chairman, Jim Coyne recognized and thanked Fr. Jack Clair for his leadership. "Fr. Jack has brought humor and fellowship to the Club throughout the year, ensuring our priority on the students at Catholic Schools that we support through our

> scholarships and the Irish culture that is so important to him. This role is only his latest commitment to the Irish Fellowship Club as he has served as Chaplain to the Club for many years and has been a stalwart supporter of all of our activities. We are delighted he will continue his service in 2026 as Chairman of the Irish Fellowship Club."

The afternoon concluded with the drawing of the Raffle prizes. Said IFC Executive Director, Kathy Taylor, "We are grateful to all of our Raffle

IFC Chairman Jim Coyne, Business donors and ticket buyers. I particularly Manager of Local 130UA returned to want to thank Katina Panagopolous of Wintrust and her team of ticket sellers in his role as General Chairman of the and Jeff Smart and the outstanding St. Patrick's Day Parade to encourage students from Christ the King Jesuit the membership and guests to mark College Prep for their hard work. Our whole board is grateful to Margaret St. Patrick's Day Parade on March Houlihan Smith for her leadership of this

Margaret Houlihan Smith thanked all 2026 Parade Grand Marshal and Marty of the sponsors, table buyers, members McAndrew of the Shannon Rovers, who and guests for their generous support are the Guest of Honor, celebrating their of the Luncheon and the entire Hilton 100th Anniversary. The Parade is the Chicago team for their efforts. She cornerstone of Chicago's St. Patrick's wished everyone a Merry Christmas and

New Leadership for the Irish Fellowship Club in 2026

The President's Luncheon is the Annual Meeting of the Irish Fellowship Club where the officers and new members for 2026 were announced. The new officers will lead Club throughout 2026. Says 2026 President Devon Bruce, "As the Irish Fellowship Club begins its 125th year, we embark on a momentous time for this organization. The IFC has been a bedrock of Irish Fellowship and charity in Chicago for generations. We look forward to capping off this 125th year with great celebration as we look forward to another 125 years of laugh merriment and giving back to the community."

Vice President Liz Livingston Howard comments, "I am excited to work with this great group of people and Executive Director, Kathy Taylor. A big thank you to Jim Coyne and Fr. Jack Clair for their



Join the Irish Fellowship Club! New Member Application Middle Name First Name Last Name Street Address City State Zip Code Firm Name Email Address City State Zip Code Occupation/Title Credit Card # CUC# **Expiration Date** Or mail this form with a \$75 check for membership dues to: The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago – c/oKathy Taylor P.O. Box 31953 Chicago IL 60631 Mail to BUSINESS _Mail to HOME failte REMINDER: The I rish Fellowship Club Christmas Luncheon will be held a week later in 2026. THE IRISH FELLOWSHIP SRUE THE DRITE for December 11, 2826 at the Hilton Chicago. CLUB OF CHICAGO

leadership over the past several years. The support of our sponsors and guests have put the Club and Foundation in a great financial position for the celebration will take place future!"

Jack Kane has served as Treasurer of the Club and Foundation for many years. His priority remains on the Catholic High Schools who receive scholarship grants each year. "The schools are do- able shortly.

young people with strong faith and academics. It is a privilege to work with them each year and learn about each of their outstanding scholars." Jim Harney will be join-

ing great work educating

ing the Executive Committee for the first time in the role of Secretary of the Club. He states, "I appreciate the opportunity to become more involved with the Club. As a long time member, I am looking forward to partnering with the other officers and our membership to continue the tradition of fellowship the Club is so well known

The 125th Anniversary on September 17, 2026 at Theater on the Lake and recognize the commitment of the Irish Fellowship Club and it members through the years. More event details will be avail-

Join the Irish Fellowship Club!

This month we head to Co. Waterford "The known as, The Deise (day-shah) Deise was an Irish tribe (8th century)

that was driven out of Co. Meath and pushed to Co. Waterford. Waterford is in the province of Munster, which is the southeast region of Ireland. There is a small Gaeltacht(Irish speaking area) (with a distinct dialect) in Waterford, Gaeltacht na Deise aka Ring.

The porridge I eat every day is called Flahavans. It is from Waterford. Flahavans are in their 7th generation of the family still in the business. You can get flahavans in Russia and India & of course your local Irish shop here.

Soda bread is everywhere in Ireland but in Waterford they have another specialty bread distinctly their own called, Blaa. It is a white fluffy bread, the French (Huguenot) brought it with them over 300 years ago.

There are several castles in Waterford but I'd like to mention Waterford Castle. It's on the river Suir. & dates to the 11th century. It's a very elegant experience to stay there; it's covered with Ivy and only reachable by ferry.

Thomas Meager the famous nationalist was from Waterford, he was convicted of treason and sentenced to death, but it was commuted to exile in Van Dieman's land (Tasmania) Australia

I'm sure everyone has heard of Waterford crystal it is the most famous Irish crystal, but it was sold to a Finnish company called Fiskars. So, most of Waterford crystal is made out of the country. They use a Waterford crystal Ball in New York on New Year's Eve for the famous Times Square ball drop". Other crystal companies: Galway, Tipperary and Mayo. (Martin Lawless)

I will close with a story on Kindness: Kindness is Near You...All Around You "Kindness is like energy, it can neither





be created nor destroyed, it passes from one person to another. For me, kindness started at home, when I was the most vulnerable. During my graduation, due to a sports injury, I was completely bedridden and in a blink of an eye went from completely independent to completely dependent.

And there were umpteen moments of kindness which I was fortunate to receive during that time, be it friends supporting me, lifting me and taking me to the classroom, or bringing food to my room when I couldn't move and washing utensils for me, or dropping everything to rushing me to hospital.

The moment I want to highlight is the story of the most kindness I received at the most vulnerability. During that period, I had to be dependent even to go to attend nature's call. Right after the operation, my complete leg was in plaster, and I had to keep it straight and couldn't even put it down. It used to hurt whenever I used to even straighten my leg. So, whenever I had to go to the washroom, my younger brother used to bend forward, hold my leg to keep it elevated and walk like that to the washroom and back to my bed.

I will always remember those moments of kindness."

"No act of kindness no matter how small is ever wasted" Aesop.

Questions? call (708) 425-7021

Editor's Note: We'd like to thank Tom & his daughter, Tina for their contributions to the editorial of Irish American News. Tom is retiring his column as of this issue. If you would like to thank him for his stories on the great counties of Ireland his phone number is above!





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GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

By Tina Butler - Leonard

Who was Manchan (little monk) Magan?

Magan (1970-2025) was an author, writer, world traveler, broadcaster, ambassador for the Irish language and an influencer. His work covered topics such as nature, the landscape and Irish culture. He was a deeply spiritual person, intelligent, humble, down-to-

earth and terribly kind. Some might say odd or eccentric, I would say lovely, generous, thoughtful, and creative. He was extremely well written, multi-lingual, naturalistic, a true seeker of knowledge and the meaning of life.

When we heard of his passing, we were truly sad as if we had

personally known him. We admired Manchan and all that he has contributed to society with his work on various documentaries for TG4, his books, his lifestyle. We wished we could have met him when he came to Gaelic Park in 2023.

time in different Gaeltachts. His family background was nationalist. Magan is the grandson of Sheila Humphreys, a member of Cumann na mBan. (League of Women)

Magan ran for the Green party (focuses on climate) in the Longford-Westmeath electorate, nevertheless he didn't win.

Magan wrote regularly for The Irish Times. His TV series included: No Bearla, Crainn na hEireann, a series on the trees of Ireland and An fod Deireanach a series about the bogs and peatland. He made over 70 travel documentaries, some of them with his brother Ruan Magan. Machan was in a documentary



titled, 'Who is Dervla Murphy'? I am working on a piece on Dervla, that article will be ready in the New Year. (Dervla

means Poet's daughter) Machan created Manchan's A-Z of Ireland, a road trip around Ireland revealing remarkable and distinctive aspects of Irish heritage.

He released a cover of Kneecap's song, "Cearta" (Rights) to help raise money for refugees in Bethlehem, Palestine. Kneecap is a hip hop group from Belfast. A biographical film also

> named Kneecap came out in 2024 about the group.

Magan wrote three books in Irish, Baba ji agus Tnag, Manchan ar Seachran and Bi inGra. Other books include, Listen to the Land Speak, 32 words for Field, Irish words for Nature, and 99 words for Rain.

I wish I could practice Irish language more

consistently. I think sometimes we are too quick to say we will never get it or we just do not make the effort. We need to get our Hippocampus warmed up and our memory will improve.

Magan was a legend, icon, he has left a legacy. Magan won a best book He was born in Dublin and spent award for the year, for his book, Ninety- Nine Words for Rain.

Sadly, Magan passed away on oct 2nd he lost his battle with cancer. A few priests spoke in Irish at his funeral, no doubt extremely moving.

Smidin Gaeilge

Irish Language-Gaeilge, identityaitheantais, learn-foghlaim,

Language-teanga

"You are of this land. It breathes in you, moves through you, sings in your bones. No man, no decree, no story can take that from you." Magan

Ní thagann ciall roimh aois" ("Sense does not come before age)

If you have any questions, please email: Molanive@yahoo.com



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First things first: Happy New Year to Irish Post Awards in London, a 55-yearall you readers!

The awards season is well up and running, with the 83rd Golden Globes nominations being announced earlier last month. As ever, there are several Irish names in the mix for the big prizes.

Killarney-born actress Jessie Buckley got the nod for Best Performance by

a Female Actor in a Motion Picture -Drama. She won her nomination for her role in Hamnet, a story that looks at the tragic inspiration behind Shakespeare's Hamlet, but she's up against a couple of big names, Julia Roberts and Jennifer Lawrence, who are nominated for After the Hunt and Die My Love, respectively.

The other nominees are Eva Victor for Sorry, Baby, Renate Reinsve for Sentimental Value and Tessa Thompson for Hedda. Hamnet received six nominations overall, including for Best Picture - Drama, two for writer/ director Chloe Zhao, and one too for Paul Mescal, who was born in Maynooth and is competing in the Best Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role in any Motion Picture.

Mescal is up against a high-end group of actors too: Benicio Del Toro (One Battle After Another), Jacob Elordi (Frankenstein), Sean Penn (One Battle After Another), Adam Sandler (Jay Kelly) and Stellan Skarsgard (Sentimental Value).

Also nominated is Blue Moon, which was filmed in Ireland and co-produced by Wild Atlantic Pictures, and is fighting for Best Picture - Musical or Comedy. It's lead actor, Ethan Hawke is nominated for Best Male Actor - Motion Picture -Musical/Comedy as well; it's a biopic comedy-drama film directed by Richard Linklater and inspired by the letters of Lorenz Hart and Elizabeth Weiland, and follows Hart as he reflects on himself on the opening night of Oklahoma!, a new musical by his former colleague Richard Rodgers.

One Battle After Another, directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, got the most nomination (nine), followed by Sentimental Value (eight), Sinners (seven), Hamnet (six) and Frankenstein and Wicked: For Good (five each).

We'll find out all the winners and losers on January 11 on CBS/Paramount+

There have been some Irish award winners though: cinematographer Robbie Ryan recently received the inaugural The Hollywood Reporter (THR) Visionary in Cinematography Award at the 2025 EnergaCamerimage Film Festival in Poland.

In the past he has earned two Oscar nominations for his collaborations with Yorgos Lanthimos on The Favourite (2018) and Poor Things (2023), and the Dubliner may well get an Oscar nomination for their newest project, Bugonia, which is an awards-season favorite.

More recently, Belfast-born actor Ciarán Hinds received the Outstanding Contribution to Film & TV Award at the old event that honors the achievements and success of the Irish in the UK.

face, having appeared in Game of Thrones, The Terror, Excalibur, Road to Perdition, Munich, There Will Be Blood, In Bruges, Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows -

Part 2, Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy and more. He also received Oscar, BAFTA and Golden Globe nominations for his role in Kenneth Branagh's Belfast a few

As for 2026, shooting in Ireland early this year is psychological horror feature The Ladder, which comes from writing-directing duo Adam Mason and Simon Boyes. The story follows Emma and her husband Clay, who move into a converted church where they discover Emma becomes obsessed with finding be announced.

Moving deeper into 2026, and it has been announced that legendary actors Hinds is a familiar Anthony Hopkins and Charlotte Rampling (Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom) will start filming in the North of Ireland, and the story is about Emma Darwin (Rampling), widow of visionary scientist Charles Darwin (Hopkins), who finds herself on a journey of self-discovery and challenge to her faith - in the and wants to help MacLeod. form of her beloved atheist husband's unpublished autobiography.

Finally, Dublin-born actress Siobhán Cullen is set to join Henry Cavill in the cast of Amazon MGM's remake of the 1980s cult classic Highlander. Also in the cast are Russell Crowe, Marisa Abela, Dave Bautista, Karen Gillan, Jeremy Irons and Djimon Hounsou.

Written by Michael Finch, the action a secret hatch in the basement - and fantasy is being directed by Chad Stahelski, and production was to have out where it leads to. A cast has yet to started in the fall, but was pushed back after Cavill sustained an injury during pre-production: filming will now begin early next year.

Cavill will play Connor MacLeod, will lead a new period drama titled a Medieval Scottish Highlander who The Species. Director Justin Chadwick discovers he is an immortal warrior, and with the help of a swordsman named Ramirez (Crowe), battles other immortals across the centuries since "There can be only one." Cullen is playing a police psychiatrist who discovers the existence of immortals,

> That's all for this month - a happy and healthy time to you all!



Ciaran Hinds





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Annual Reading of 'The Dead' by James Joyce Friday, January 16 7pm

Starring (I-r): Josephine Craven, Brad Armacost, Cynthia Judge, Laurie Lister, Brigid Duffy, Marssie Mencotti, Maureen Cashin Bolog, Patrick Carton, Mark Peikarz & Kevin Cassidy (front)



To be performed in one of the finer listed above. Irish restaurants in Chicagoland; regarded as the greatest short story as space is Limited! ever written.

Join us for a staged reading of James Joyce's masterpiece, set at Dublin night.

Experience the warmth, wit, and poignancy of Joyce's storytelling brought to life by the stellar ensemble

Make sure you make your Chief O'Neill's, *The Dead* is widely reservations for this free event

This is a production of Josephine Craven's new company, Listen to Lit Reserve your seats by calling a festive Irish gathering on a snowy 773-583-30661 or emailing celtictheatherevents@gmail.com



Retirement Is About Health and Happiness

This month's article touches on crucial retirement and financial cover everything and you will have topics that can make the difference out of pocket cost. You also will no between barely surviving retirement longer be able to contribute to an H and thriving through it.

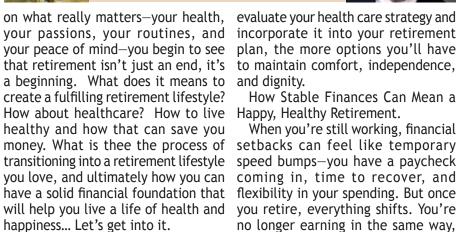
transitions—not just financially, but personally. It's a time when the focus shifts from building your career to building a life you truly enjoy. And while there's a lot to think about,

Just know that Medicare doesn't S A after enrolling in Medicare. It's Retirement is one of life's biggest complicated and most people find navigating enrolling and identifying the best Medicare plan very daunting. Help is available if you contact an advisor that is knowledgeable about this process. Our office offers that the most powerful strategies are type of guidance. Planning early helps often the simplest. When you focus you stay in control - The earlier you



Master **Your Money**

By Mike Corrigan



the most important aspects of your has to support your lifestyle, health, life—it underpins your entire life and goals for the rest of your life. during your retirement. But it's not That's why having stability in your easy to keep up with the changing finances-knowing what's coming financial landscape in addition to your own situation. And doing it wrong protected—isn't just helpful, it's could cost you your life's work in essential. A steady income, the right saving for your golden years.

one of the biggest financial challenges you'll face in retirement—and they're often underestimated. From navigating Medicare to making the kind of financial base? most of a Health Savings Account (HSA) to planning for long-term care, it's when taking a closer look. Reliable crucial to understand what's covered, what's not, and how to prepare. These Diversified income sources provide aren't just medical decisions, they're flexibility. Emergency funds offer financial ones, too.

evaluate your health care strategy and incorporate it into your retirement plan, the more options you'll have to maintain comfort, independence, and dignity.

How Stable Finances Can Mean a

When you're still working, financial setbacks can feel like temporary speed bumps-you have a paycheck coming in, time to recover, and no longer earning in the same way, Your retirement strategy is one of and suddenly the money you've saved in, what's going out, and what's insurance, a reliable place to live, Covering the Costs of Your Health is and a plan for health care are more than financial checkboxes—they're the foundation for a happy, healthy retirement. So how do you build that

Some key points to remember retirement income reduces stress. peace of mind. Annuities can SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28



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guarantee lifetime income. Social of this article. If you would like to Security remains a cornerstone. As previously mentioned, Healthcare planning prevents financial disruption. physical and mental health. Stable finances support social engagement.

points when preparing for retirement. action. You will be happy you did. There are many more important areas to review that go outside the scope

get the most out of your retirement, please contact our office at 708-215-5100 or send me an e-mail at mike@ A house that's a home improves corriganfs.com. Visit our website at www.corriganfs.com.

Remember, a financial plan builds These are just a few of the key freedom. Don't procrastinate. Take

Mike Corrigan - 708-215-5100 Corrigan Financial Services, Inc.



(L to R): Greta Thunberg, Swedish climate activist visited Aras an Uachtaráin to meet with President Catherine Connolly. The event raises funds for winter aid to families in Gaza. The evening features Ms Thunberg and Dr Mohammed Abu Mughaisib, with Caoimhe Butterly, discussing the experience of the flotillas to Gaza, and what comes next for those in solidarity with the Palestinian people. Proceeds from the event go directly to community-led aid efforts for the families in Gaza. Ms Thunberg's visit coincided with her participation in An Evening of Words and Songs for Gaza, held at Dalymount Park.

Hello everyone, and Happy New Year!

What a year we had. We travelled quite a bit, visiting places I hadn't seen in over thirty years-from the Smoky Mountains to the

Rocky Mountains-stopping along the way to visit family and friends. Booking hotels turned into an adventure of its own, some better than others. Their advertising can be very different from what you actually get!



By Josephine Coleman

restaurants and bric-a-brac; every inch feels suffocating.

We were pleased to see that Cherokee has retained its identity. A Native woman had opened her own restaurant, staffed entirely by local people, and



visit the Crazy Horse Memorial, which is still a work in progress.

Crazy Horse was a Lakota leader who led the Battle

of the Little Bighorn alongside Lakota and Cheyenne warriors to confront Custer after the U.S. government discovered gold in the Black Hills and sought to force Native peoples from their land. After Custer's defeat-later

rain. What followed was yet another act of colonization and disrespect toward the Lakota people.

President Theodore Roosevelt once coined the phrase, "The only good Indian is a dead Indian," a statement that starkly demonstrates the lack of understanding and respect shown to the Native peoples who inhabited this land long before Europeans arrived.

Both my husband and I found it deeply emotional standing at the foot of this immense statue. We felt spiritual and connected, and we were delighted when our tour guides told us we could pick up a few stones from the excavation site. We proudly display them in our backyard. I'm glad we were driving, as we collected guite a few stones to share with family and friends-had we been flying, it probably would have cost us a fortune!

Having land stolen and being barred from using one's native tongue resonates deeply with Ireland. That is why we were heartened to see the following story in the news recently.

In late 2025, Pope Leo XIV returned 62 sacred artifacts—held at the Vatican for nearly a century-to Canada's Indigenous peoples. These included an Inuit kayak and ceremonial items originally sent to the Vatican for a 1925 exhibition. This act followed Pope Francis's 2022 apology for abuses in church-run residential schools and fulfilled a promise to return items that were stolen or unethically acquired.

The artifacts were formally handed over to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in November 2025, with plans to work alongside Indigenous leaders to identify and return them to their rightful First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. Indigenous leaders described the gesture as emotional and meaningful, while emphasizing that reconciliation is ongoing. The Vatican described it as a sign of dialogue, respect, and acknowledgment of its colonial past.

Stay tuned for more of our travels across this great country. We have so many wonderful memories, but this one was especially meaningful.

Until next time—wishing you all the very best in this new year.

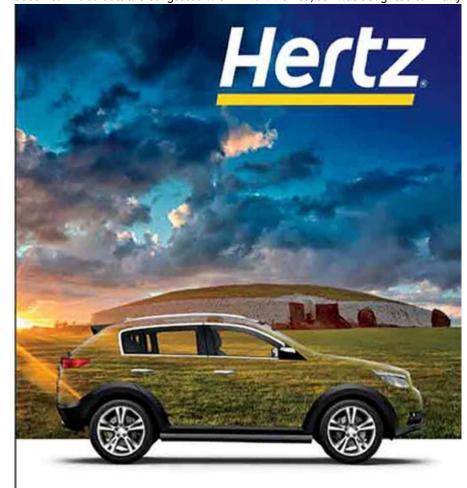


I was especially excited to return to Cherokee, a place I remembered fondly from a previous visit. Unfortunately, to get there we had to pass through Gatlinburg. I remembered it as a quaint little village at the foot of the Smoky Mountains, known for wonderful German food and rich hot chocolate. I was shocked by how commercial it has become. The streets are congested with

the food was amazing. We ordered fish and chips, and the young waitress even asked if we wanted malt vinegar. They had clearly done their homework on how us Irish like our chips (French

Travelling to Dakota was another highlight. It was one place I had missed years ago on my way to Colorado and New Mexico, so I was delighted to finally known as Custer's Last Stand-Crazy Horse eventually surrendered to U.S. troops. Although he was supposed to be under protective custody, he was killed by a bayonet-wielding guard at Camp Robinson, Nebraska.

The Crazy Horse Memorial, begun in 1948, honors him and the Indigenous peoples of the area. When completed, it will depict him on horseback pointing toward his tribal lands and is projected to be the largest mountain carving in the world. The mountain itself is sacred. Many Native people were deeply unhappy when the faces of U.S. presidents were carved into Mount Rushmore, which they knew as the Six Grandfathers. These represented kindness, love, wisdom, and guidance much like human grandfathers. Until the 1920s, the mountain stood untouched, shaped only by wind and



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70					71					72				

ACROSS

- 1. Stop by, 2 words
- 6. Patriots' NFL Conference, 72. Utah lilies
- 9. Irish actor who starred 1. Loan figure, abbr. ion "Schindler's List", _____ Neeson
- 13. 40 winks
- 15. Slangy refusal
- 16. Austen heroine
- 17. Shock to the body
- 18. Be indebted
- 19. Made, as a spider web
- 20. Echo
- 22. Sun Devils' sch., abbr.
- 23. Central
- 26. Sound of reproach 27. Wheeler-_
- 30. Tolkien cannibal
- 31. Chest bone
- 32. Scrape 33. Couple
- 34. Secret
- 37. Loan type
- 39. Mr. Rogers
- 40. Flaps
- 44. Irish actor who played 31. Cringe Lestat de Lioncourt in The 35. Lean-_ "Queen of the Damned" film, Stuart
- 47. ___ticon: email add-on! 41. Floor model
- 48. Armed attack
- 51. Mauna
- 52. "Blazing Saddles" director, ____ Brooks
- 53. "Lawrence of Arabia" star, Peter
- 54. Pampered one
- 55. U2's lead vocalist
- _ be good if
- 57. Holy qualities 60. Facebook short video
- 62. Bic filler
- 63. Outer edge
- 67. Sea eagle
- _system
- 69. Sings on a mountaintop
- 70. Founded, abbr.

71. Grammy nominee in 2007: Corinne Bailey __

DOWN

- 2. Crew member
- 3. Spanish coin, abbr.
- 4. Bury
- 5. Identify
- 6. French film actress Aimee
- 7. Babe in the woods
- 8. Cheese type
- ___ Miz"
- 10. African antelope
- 11. Tickled pink
- 12. Farm fertilizer
- 14. French licorice-flavored (24), to name a
- 21. Spider-Man's Harry _
- 23. Night insect
- 24. Racer Luyendyk
- 25. Nordic nation deserved national
- abbreviation
- 28. Profit, abbr.
- 29. American oil company
- _ (sheds)
- 36. Lace place
- 38. Dog in "Beetle Bailey"
- 42. Black cat, maybe
- 43. One one's own
- 45. More liable to dry
- 46. Contact
- 48. Evening party
- 49. Aquatic carnivores
- 50. Squirrel or mouse
- 54. Orange ____ tea
- 55. Flip side of a vinyl single, 2 words
- 58. Ancient S. American
- 59. Love god
- 61. Guided forward
- 64. Item in a photog's file,
- 65. Shine, in ad-speak
- 66. Twisty curve

Trinity Irish Dance Company Coming To Auditorium With World Premiere Work - Saturday, February 28th

in November, the iconic at the World Championships, American Hall of Fame and Auditorium studio on Wabash winning an unbelievable 4th last month's inclusion in Irish is buzzing with a collection of the globe's most innovative contenders. Saori brings Top 100," his fourth time being Irish stepdancers from Mexico, Canada, and across the unexpected and international USA. While individually they represent a diverse group of exceptionally talented artists, collectively they are known to an increasingly larger world audience as the Trinity Irish Dance Company (TIDC).

of months since their sold out 5-show run at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art and their wildly successful debut at the iconic Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival where they made history as the first full program of Irish dance to be presented on the historic Ted Shawn Theatre stage in the prestigious festival's 93-year history.

The studio was alive with the endless possibilities of what might be born out of the minds of Artistic Directors, Mark Howard and Chelsea Hoy as they prepare for upcoming landmark engagements that will continue the celebration of their milestone 35th Anniversary Season: a week-run at New York's iconic Joyce Theater (Feb 17-22) and a homecoming performance at Chicago's Auditorium (Feb 28).

filled with two dozen diverse

Lemus (29), Sofia Dorantes (21), Saori Nakasone Nakamurakari (23) and Patrick Grant few. The first three are all from Mexico, where they enjoy welladoration for their competitive and performance Irish dance successes. Patrick Grant is from Canada and recently moved to

Chicago - a World solo champion

be "Irish dance royalty." Howard and Hoy's ability to attract such a potent group of international talent speaks to the level of work they have reached and the higher ground they are always striving for and increasingly achieving.

As one of 2025's International Dance Magazine's "Top 25 to Watch" artists, Francisco's young career is already becoming legendary. Newcomer, Sofía Dorantes - a vision that has earned him is one of Mexico's highest appropriate recognition through

together much of TIDC's story - an Irish-American company that, throughout 20+ years of touring in Japan, has become Japan's most toured foreign dance company.

"Saori is a powerhouse It had only been a matter individual with four Japanese grandparents, while she and her siblings were all born and raised in Mexico City." says Associate Artistic Director, Chelsea Hoy. "She is an incredibly engaging mover and we can't wait to see her unleash her power in front of New York City's elite dance audience before returning home to The Auditorium here in Chicago. Perhaps of greatest anticipation, will be Saori's Japan," she added.

TIDC, Saori explains that "Mark, Chelsea and our guest choreographers don't believe in following trends, mirroring other artists or taking cues from audiences regarding what they want to see. I'm inspired by TIDC's determination to present the unknown to audiences who One thing is for sure: this would otherwise be limited surprising standouts. Francisco Irish dance world, and I'm dancers.

On a weekend afternoon placing female solo dancers a recent induction into the Irish out of hundreds of international America Magazine's "Business named to this list.

> Over the years Howard has turned down a bevy of personal commercial opportunities and invitations to move his company to New York. "We are embedded in Chicago because we are born of Chicago. There Irish dancer; a dynamic is an emotional bravery to this city, and its hardscrabble rhythms inspire us in ways other cities cannot. Chicago is always looking up while staying grounded in heartland values. It's a loveable town where you can feel safe but also feel a healthy pressure to continue to create fresh new work. It's a magical place where anything is possible," he said.

On the heels of their debut on our next tour of historic 2025, the company is gearing up for major When asked about what landmark collaborations and excites her the most about engagements next month. They are currently in creation with Michelle Dorrance, widely considered to be one of the most talented percussive choreographer and definitely one of the world's most recognized tap dancers. Michelle, who received the MacArthur Genius Award, has been in and out of Chicago for is not your grandfather's Irish to gravitating towards what the past few months working Dance Company. The floor is is familiar to them. This is a on a much anticipated, particularly prevalent problem rhythmically complex piece athletes and artists with some in the overly commercialized in collaboration with TIDC



representing an Anna Gorman, Shannon Kearney, Margaret Nalley, Chelsea Hoy, Irish-Canadian Lydia Fredrick & Micah Roby - ©2025 Michael Shay Polara

Howard's professional life has

consistently been led by his

heart. He has always insisted

that this ancestral art form

evolve with integrity and be

allowed to speak for itself as

opposed to being stuck in a

formulaic commercialized box 7:30pm

run at New York's iconic Joyce Theater, the company's 5th engagement at one of the most storied performing arts dance stages in the world. A week later, they will bring the thunder back home to The Auditorium, celebrating the additional world premiere of a

The company

will celebrate the

world premiere

of this new work

during a week-

family considered by many to grateful to be included in the work by guest choreographers Jamey Hampton and Ashley collection of artists Mark and Chelsea have assembled to lead Roland of BodyVox, and an evening topped off with special the way towards authentic and important work," she described. guests from Chicago's A-list Irish To his credit, Mark

music scene. Read more about TIDC's upcoming premieres in the February issue.

February 17-22, 2026 - The Joyce Theater - New York, NY February 28, 2026 - The Auditorium - Chicago, IL -

Tickets and more info, visit trinityirishdancecompany.com

Celebrate ST. BRIGID'S DAY at OLD ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH January 24 Through March 7

"St. Patrick's Church is a shrine to St. Bridget as well as to St. Patrick."

Thomas A. O'Shaughnessy, earlytwentieth-century stained-glass artist of St. Patrick's Church

Beginning January 24 and running through March 7, 2026, Old St. Patrick's Church in Chicago will host its third annual series of programs celebrating St. Brigid of Kildare: "Brigid 2026: Welcome that Heals. Hope that Empowers."

In 2023, the Irish government designated St. Brigid's Day as a national public holiday, promoting equity with St. Patrick's Day. In response, the Friends of St. Brigid at Old St. Pat's created an annual faith-based celebration of St. Brigid, honoring her legendary, healing hospitality and witness of service, justice, and leadership in the Catholic Church. In keeping with the popular saying, "There's room for everyone under the mantle of St. Brigid," The Friends of St. Brigid welcome people of all ages, genders, and faith traditions to join them in 2026 when they celebrate St. Brigid with service, prayer, storytelling, art, and advocacy for a more inclusive and peaceful world.

"Brigid 2026: Welcome that Heals. Hope that Empowers," begins with a St. Brigid's Cross Weaving Workshop to be held at the Irish American Heritage Center on Saturday, January 24, from 9 am to 12 pm. Experienced St. Brigid's cross-makers, as well as those eager to learn, will gather to carry on the centuries-old tradition of weaving Irish rushes into St. Brigid's crosses. Weave one for your home and then stay on to help weave more to sell during Old St. Pat's Foundations Youth Ministry's Pancake Breakfast the next day. All proceeds will support Foundations worktours, where teens work in underserved communities to help people in need.

The Annual St. Brigid's Day Lecture will take place over Zoom webinar on January 27, from 7 pm to 8:15 pm. Dr. Heather DuBois, a professor of theology and peace studies at Boston College, will discuss "Catholic Resources for Mitigating Trauma," including how such efforts related spirituality.

On St. Brigid's Day itself, February 1, join members and friends of Old St. Patrick's who will gather at the crossroads of Adams and Desplaines in Chicago for 11 am Sunday Mass, with special prayers and music celebrating St. Brigid. At noon local time, all are invited to join in a one-minute, silent "Pause for Peace." This rolling, worldwide prayer on St. Brigid's Day was first launched in 2024 by the Solas Bhride Christian Spirituality Centre and the Kildare County Council to commemorate St. Brigid's legacy as a peacemaker and to build global solidarity for peace.

The St. Brigid's Day Festival of Service and Stories will begin immediately following Mass. Those who wish may remain in the church for a brief tour of Thomas O'Shaughnessy's artwork dedicated to the saint. Others can head over

midwinter warmth. From 12:15 pm to 3 pm, festival-goers can join in weaving a St. Brigid's cross, a symbol of healing and peace for the home, while listening to storyteller Brigid Duffy weave tales of the good saint. An art station will present images of St. Brigid through the centuries, while a history station will reveal untold stories of inspiring women leaders in Old St. Pat's own history. Everyone can become a storyteller by bringing along a digital image of a modern-day "Brigid," projecting it onto the wall of a "video studio," and recording a story to share.

Brigid 2026 concludes on Saturday, March 7, with a unique Lenten Day of Reflection to be held from 8:15 am to 4 pm in the Grand Vista room inside the James & Elizabeth Bramsen Tropical Forests building at the Brookfield Zoo. Explore how St. Brigid models Pope Francis's call

for an ecological conversion of heart and mind (Laudato Si). Through reflection, prayer, animal encounters and woodland walks, embrace the sacredness and interconnectedness of all living beings. Then join in a transatlantic conversation over Zoom with speakers from Solas Bhride who will share stories of ecological healing that leads to justice and suggest steps we can take to care for our common home.

Most of the events of Brigid 2026 are free, but donations are greatly appreciated! For more information or to register, please visit the Friends of St. Brigid webpage at www. oldstpats.org/friendsofstbrigid.html. Volunteers and sponsors are being sought to help grow interest in St. Brigid's Day in Chicago and to support the Friends of St. Brigid. Interested parties can email

friendsofstbrigid@oldstpats.org



to Fellowship Hall at 625 W. Adams to enjoy light refreshments and Irish music before joining in a community service project sharing socks, gloves,







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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 the venture is both a homecoming and a natural next chapter. With over 20 years of experience at

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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, Irishinspired 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.

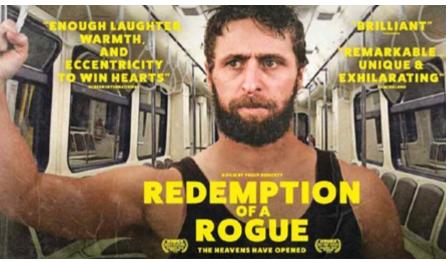
That spark has now become Ma Goes Rogue Catering, a catering collaboration built on passion, experience, and the belief that hospitality should feel personal. Together, Donal and Aine aim to bring elevated food, thoughtful service, and a warm Irish welcome to events across the city—whether intimate gatherings, 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 Irish-inspired hospitality—one event at a time.

Aine @773-490-5086 maroguecatering@mysticrogue.com



Hibernian Media Monthly Movie Hooley, Sat. January 17th at 7PM at Chicago Gaelic Park with Redemption of A Rogue Join us for this Black Irish Comedy you will never forget





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





Josie's Wheel's

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Nancy Bunce
Phone: (708) 567-3138
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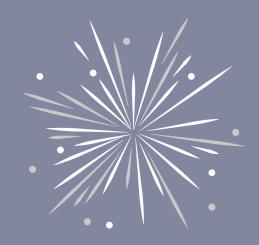




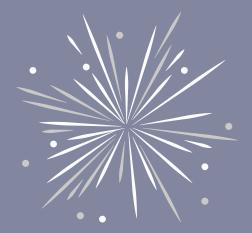




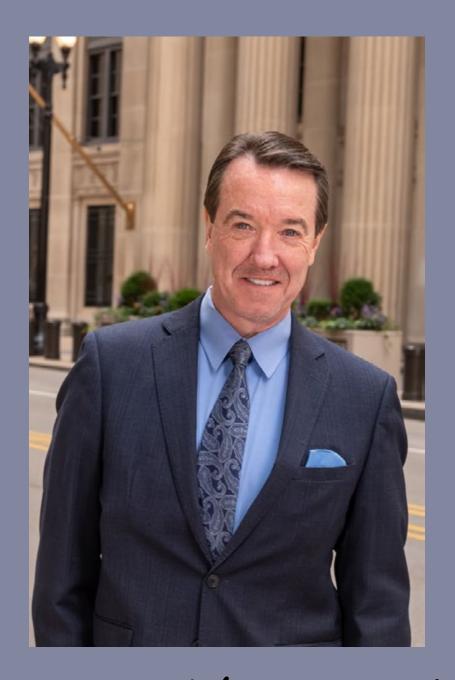








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