



***Farmhouse Founder
& Renaissance Man
Ferdia Doherty***

story page 10

The logo for Irish American News, featuring a white circle above the letters 'iAN' in a stylized, bold font. The letters are yellow with a white outline. Below the logo, the text 'IRISHAMERICANNEWS.COM' is written in green, and 'HAPPY NEW YEAR! JANUARY 2020' is written in yellow.

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From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell

'The Vintage Kitchen' and Some End of Decade Random Thoughts

It was quite a decade. So many things happened. Even to list those of more than marginal significance would occupy several columns. Consider them read. Several points stand out.

First a recommendation. At the prompting of your intrepid Editor/Publisher Cliff Carlson, I offer a suggestion for a must visit restaurant for anyone planning a trip to Dublin. Recommendations are always subjective but one restaurant I DO recommend unequivocally is the "Vintage Kitchen," where Cliff and I had a very pleasant meal during his recent visit. The restaurant is centrally located a short walk from O'Connell Bridge and has the added advantage of being right beside one of Dublin's most famous bars - and a special favourite of mine - *Mulligans of Poolbeg Street*. A DART station and Luas stop are nearby.

The Vintage Kitchen (VK) is small (max 30 at a squeeze), unpretentious and crowded - always. Decor is basic, with walls lined with an eclectic collection of art and photos. Reservations are a must, particularly in the evening where several weeks advance booking is normally required. The chances of getting a table on a walk-in basis are slim, though some can be available for the 2.15 second lunch sitting. It's not cheap, dinner runs to €35 and lunch to somewhat less, but that's not overly expensive in a city with many pricier eating houses. The VK, moreover does have the signal advantage of allowing patrons to bring their own wine for a modest corkage fee.

If they haven't already, Michelin inspectors should pay a visit. What the restaurant offers is good food, fresh and sourced overwhelmingly in Ireland, well cooked and served by a friendly cosmopolitan staff under the supervision of amiable chef/proprietor Sean Drugan and regular maitre d Andy. A varied menu includes vegetarian options, daily specials and some delicious desserts. Check out the menu on the *Vintage Kitchen* website; and the reviews, virtually all overwhelmingly positive.

The trademark starter is a delicious and award winning Cajun Chowder for which Mr Carlson can vouch. But be warned. The quantity is huge, the dish a meal in itself and anyone taking it (and you should) may struggle to finish the main course. Other



starters include a Wicklow duck liver pate and a much praised risotto featuring roasted red pepper and prawns.

Main courses offer a range of meat and fish options with an excellent fillet steak on the

evening menu. My favourite is the Slaney river slow roasted lamb shank which melts off the bone while the hake is also always good. The desserts are to die for but will do little for your diet, particularly the half-baked chocolate cake. All in all the *Vintage Kitchen* experience is one not to be missed, assuming you can get a reservation. If not you can always drown your sorrows next door in *Mulligans*.

Now the Decade Just Ended

The overarching events of the decade may well prove to be not politics, wars, the refugee crisis, or any other conventional topic, but rather the rise of the Social Media in tandem with the explosion in Smart Phone use, both underpinned by the Internet. It is less than a generation since the "Information Superhighway" of the Internet became a reality. Whatever about information it is now the malleable base of a genuine communications revolution which is having profound implications for societies around the world. There are currently an estimated 3.3 billion smart phones operational, covering a good proportion of the world population of 7.7 billion, with almost saturation coverage (and usage) in many countries.

Billions use the various Social Media daily. Twitter has revolutionized social contact and the almost instantaneous harnessing of opinion with all that that implies in terms of bringing pressure and influence to bear on any topic or occurrence. From the tweets of Trump, through the "Me Too" hashtag, to the platforms provided to pressure groups and like-minded followers of every hue, the advantages - and limitations - of the new social communication order are everywhere apparent. A learned article on Global Warming from a Nobel Prize Winner counts for no more on Facebook than the rant of some ignoramus. (That without even entering the areas of fake news, fake websites and misleading and manipulative on-line discourses.)

Barack Obama commented at the end of his term that he was fortunate to have been elected prior to the emergence of this new social media reality, implying that it was a reality all his successors would have to take cognizance of and be shaped by. And indeed it has been a game changer,

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bringing instant attention and focus locally, nationally, and internationally on events as they develop. Trump's tweets and the resulting "dialogues" are a prime example. A mundane Irish example is the way in which populist opposition to paying water charges was coordinated and consolidated into a (successful) mass pressure group. Internationally the plight of refugees has been highlighted in dramatic photo footage published on the Web, while a downside to this has been the populist manipulation in Britain and elsewhere of images of the streams of refugees crossing the Balkans in 2015. Arguably also the images posted and circulated worldwide by the protesters in Hong Kong have been a factor moderating the reaction of the Chinese authorities.

The growing international awareness of the climate crisis we face has been facilitated and enhanced through the social media, though without any demonstrated willingness by politicians to take the radical remedial measures needed. This may come as images of extreme climate occurrences circulate but right now halfway measures seem about the best to be hoped for. Climate change will probably be the dominant theme of the next decade as we move closer to the limits of sustainability. The world population has grown over the decade by 11% to an estimated 7.7 billion, the extra 800 million, even with minimum carbon footprints per head, negating virtually all

attempts to reduce man's global carbon footprint. It should be obvious to all that unchecked population growth is just aggravating the situation. Ireland's population has kept pace with the global trend, rising by around 400,000 (slightly under 10%) over the decade to an estimated 4,906,000 and continues to grow, though the rise has been more from significant inward migration than any natural increase.

The decade was not one of enhanced international cooperation and has actually been marked by an uncomfortable realignment among the major powers, reflecting shifts in the economic and political balance between them. Everywhere liberal values are in retreat with the emergence of populist movements on virtually every continent, the whole starkly demonstrated by the election of Donald Trump, who has set about tearing up seventy years of US policies. Authoritarian leaders are pushing through; China and Russia are now firmly established as major players in an uneasy and potentially unstable geopolitical situation where nationalism is now undermining such international cooperation as exists. The Climate stalemate says it all. No country or grouping, with the possible exception of the EU, seems willing to shout "Stop".

2020 promises to be interesting, Can anyone beat Trump? Who will win Ireland's General Election? And how will the Brexit own goal pan out?



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While in Newry, Northern Ireland in December 2019, the Publisher of Irish American News, Cliff Carlson, met Newry Radio host, Kevin McAllister, and an immediate ‘across the pond’ bond was formed. Kevin and Cliff are looking into the idea of send two lucky people from the Chicago area to Newry for their St. Patrick’s Day Celebrations and two lucky people from the Newry area to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, Chicago style! Any ideas how we can make that happen? If so, email cliff@irishamericannews.com or call 847-872-0700

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The West Suburban Irish (WSI) have long provided several avenues for community members to take part in the celebration of Irish culture.

Building on this heritage of fun and accessible events, they are proud to present the **First Annual Naperville Irish Fest** at the Frontier Sports Complex in South Naperville, at 3380 Cedar Glade Road, Naperville, IL 60564. The Fest will begin the afternoon of Friday, August 7, 2020, and continue for a full day of events on Saturday, August 8th.

The West Suburban Irish will host the Inaugural Naperville Irish Fest together with Lou Dog Events, the same folks behind the Naperville Ale Fest and Chicago Ale Fest.

The Naperville Hurling Club will conduct a tournament on Saturday where you can experience the fast-paced games of Irish Hurling (men) and Camogie (women). This will be a great

opportunity to see some nationally ranked teams, including the Naperville Hurling Club. Find out more at www.napervillehurling.com.

The West Suburban Irish needs and welcomes your support to make this new venture a huge success. Contact Tim Johnston at 630-235-1390 for more information. Sponsorship begins at \$250 and offers various levels of participation and packages..

Some of the other events the WSI put on are The Emerald Dinner, their main fundraiser; the annual Irish Mass in honor of St. Patrick; monthly Quiz Night at Quigley's Irish Pub; Irish Sessions held monthly at Quigley's Irish Pub and the Naperville St. Patrick's Day Parade.

For more information on any of the above events, please contact West Suburban Irish at wsirish.org, info@wsirish.org



Mike Reilly, Tom and Colleen Wronski, Terry O'Dowd, and Tim Johnston of the West Suburban Irish attending a meeting recently at Plumber's Hall, Chicago.

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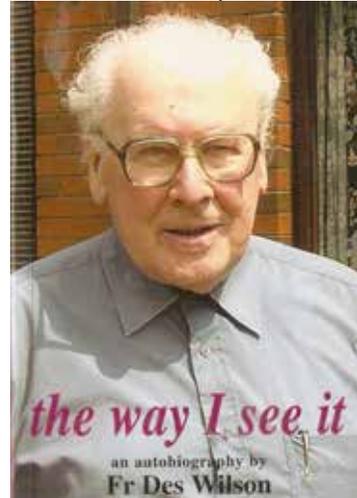
Fr. Des Wilson 1925-2019

By Michael J. Cummings

I had heard many good things about N. I. peace activist Fr. Des Wilson long before I first met him. I brought him to Syracuse NY on missionary work to meet Jack Mannion then chairman and CEO of Unity Mutual Life Insurance Co. This was one of many such trips to Syracuse as Jack was always anxious to hear news from “the front.” He would gather an eclectic group of employees, board members, ordinary citizens and the odd walk-in, to listen to Sinn Fein elected officials, ex-prisoners, victims of plastic bullets and an occasional former IRA member involved in deportation/ or extradition proceedings. This trip was my first chance to show him off.

There was a serenity about Fr. Des’ delivery and response to questions. In the space of 20 minutes, he highlighted the means and methods of anti-Catholic discrimination and all that followed from that oppression. The British, he concluded, had provided corrupt government for decades, failed in governing and had forfeited any right to rule in Ireland. He had witnessed firsthand the effects of social and political persecution and its direct link to the struggle for justice and freedom. There was, for him, no debate or question of the causes and effects of garrison rule. Like Nobel Laureate Dr. Seán MacBride, a man he much admired, he understood why people chose to resist even with arms. So many chose to criticize and condemn. He never compromised his lifetime of service as a man of God

and spoke with a Christ-like compassion for a people without hope. In 1982 Fr. Des, along with Derry doctor Raymond McLean, labor leader Inez McCormack and Dr. Seán MacBride sponsored the



MacBride Fair Employment Principles. The campaign for adoption of the Principles, for the first time, educated Americans about the systemic anti-Catholic discrimination in housing, jobs and voting. Whenever Fr. Des spoke on behalf of the Principles he ignited a passion for action. A nationwide campaign implementing shareholder resolutions and pension fund investments guidelines soon spread. Its effectiveness forced a cowardly British government to spend millions lobbying against adoption of state and local laws employing the Principles.

Fr. Des’s work was also recognized in America with a charity called Doors of Hope. It was created to support the projects of Conway Mill Trust and the Springhill Education Center in his beloved Belfast. He never stopped believ-

ing in the talent, determination and imagination of an oppressed people. The effects of his prayers, petitions and counsel is reflected today in the individuals and projects he inspired and supported.

On that trip to Syracuse Fr. Des told a story reflecting his wry sense of humor and wary view of bishops. In 1971 he led a delegation of Belfast residents who had fled the city as loyalist thugs burned their homes. These refugees appealed to the German Bishops’ Conference for relief assistance. After the delegation’s representative spoke, the chairman of the Conference explained to the gathered clerics that assistance was normally reserved for a “catastrophe.”

Fr. Des recognized that term and quickly stood up and assured the Chairman, that the loyalists’ “pogroms” of Belfast were indeed a catastrophe for Catholics! With that the Chairman announced an adjournment for lunch and fellow bishops left the room in single file. As they did so Fr. Des remarked to a member of his delegation, that that was one group of bishops that could do without a lunch! Fr. Des was not alone in his voice against injustice. Fr. Raymond Murray, Fr. Denis Faul, Fr. Aidan Troy, Fr. Joe McVeigh, Bishop Daly and Cardinal O’Fiaich were all part of this elite class of men who sought to serve God with their heart, voice and mind in a true vocation rather than seek a clerical career that too often was devoid of Christ’s compelling words and deeds. He fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith. Safe travels home Fr. Des!



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Farmhouse Founder and Renaissance Man Ferdia Doherty on His Home Away From Home

Ferdia Doherty celebrated his 50th birthday last month, which means he's officially spent half his life in Chicago. You may know Ferdia as a husband, father, founding partner of Farmhouse, President of Ireland Network Chicago, wearer of sharp suits, behind-the-bar bagpipe player... the list goes on. But Ferdia is more than any one label. He is a true renaissance man who has made Chicago his own, beginning when he first arrived 25 years ago.

THE EARLY DAYS

Hailing from Gaoth Dobhair, Ferdia grew up in a fishing village in Donegal known for music (Enya is among the world-famous musicians it has produced). He won the visa lottery when he was 25 years old - "the first thing I ever won in my life" - and packed his bags for Chicago, where his grandfather's sister, Bridget Westercamp, lived. His cousin picked him up from O'Hare on a cold November day and they drove to Oak Lawn, where Ferdia would spend the next few weeks. He recalls driving down I-90 and seeing the Sears Tower in front of him. "It was cold, I could see the heat rising from all the buildings, and I thought, wow. I'm here. I'm in America."

Those early days with his great-aunt on the south side remain fond memories for Ferdia. He remembers waking up to the smell of bacon each day, speaking Gaelic together, learning how to make a highball, and playing bagpipes in the evening. During this time, Ferdia assumed that Oak Lawn was Chicago. Little did he know what this city had in store for him.

He eventually settled in Jefferson Park with a college mate, thus beginning a lifelong friendship with the Vaughn family from Cork and many sessions at Vaughn's Pub. He got his first job laying oak flooring with another regular, both of whom would hand over their weekly paychecks to Eamon Vaughn, who ensured the money was



(L to R:) Nora, Aonghus Doherty (9), Ferdia, Maude Doherty (5) / Bebhinn Doherty (11)

safe - and not spent entirely in the bar. Vaughn's, in those days, "was our church," said Ferdia.

For the next few years, Fer-

dia worked various jobs like pouring concrete before starting his professional marketing career at Frankel and Company

downtown. He deepened his experience with years spent at agencies including Hal Riney, Euro RSCG and Publicis before launching his own design and advertising company, Rain Communications. He ran Rain for more than eight years until the recession hit, which eventually took his company with it a few years later.

THE CELTIC DAYS

Ferdia and friends would often frequent Joann's Piano Bar on Clark Street. As Ferdia tells it, one weekend they showed up but Joann's as they knew it was gone. In its place: the Celtic Crossing with John Phelan behind the bar. "And that's how I found the Celtic - or how it found me."

He met "half of Chicago" and many good friends during his time at the Celtic, but without a doubt the most important person that walked into that bar during his Celtic days was Nora Gainer. At the time, the smoking ban didn't exist and "it was like walking into a misty Irish wake." Ferdia saw Nora and was immediately enthralled. They spent hours talking at the bar

that evening, and by their next date at the Old Town Ale House were discussing their future family. Nora, Beverly born and bred, was from a large family headed by the indomitable Bill and Gerry Gainer.

"Once I met Nora, I knew there was an amazing, strong family behind her - just because of who she was," said Ferdia.

When the time came, it was at the Celtic where Ferdia asked Bill Gainer for his daughter's hand in marriage. At first Bill demurred, leaving the table for the bar. He came back with two large whiskeys and insisted on a toast to his future son-in-law before granting him permission to marry Nora. "I'm not a whiskey drinker but I tell you, those whiskeys went down like water," said Ferdia.

But Bill wasn't done yet. He insisted that Ferdia propose to Nora that evening before a Gainer family dinner. Ferdia dutifully went to his apartment, picked up the ring and drove to her sister Bridget's house in Lincoln Park. Bill asked Nora to come downstairs, and Ferdia took her to the Lincoln Park Zoo and



Doherty Family from L to R: Padraig Doherty/Ferdia Doherty/Deirdre Doherty/Setanta Doherty/Antoin Doherty

proposed as the snow fell around them. The couple arrived back to Bridget’s and surprised her family with the news. “And Bill was sitting in the corner with the biggest smile on his face because he knew everything.”

The couple married on 9/9/2004 in Verona, Italy. Today, Ferdia and Nora have three children: Behhinn, Aonghus and Maude, all of whom attend Chicago Public Schools. Ferdia believes that “the local community school is where you should send your children because that’s the only way you make your local community stronger.” Ferdia knows they are lucky to live in Lincoln Park although he said their school faces some of the same challenges as others across the city. But “you don’t build a school by throwing money at it. You build a school by the community using it.” This ethos can be seen in his current role as founding partner of Farmheads.

THE FARMHOUSE DAYS

Around 2010, one of Ferdia’s former clients, TJ Callahan, suggested they open a tavern in Chicago. Callahan was a restaurateur by trade and, despite the lingering recession, the pair opened Farmhouse on Chicago Avenue in 2011. Eight years later, they’ve expanded across the city: Farmhouse Evanston, Farm Bar in Lakeview and most recently, Farm Bar Edgewater. Everything is sustainably and locally sourced, from the pasture-raised grass-fed beef to the eggs they buy from “Chuck the Egg Man” in Wisconsin. The restaurants are designed to be approachable, midwestern and stand the test of time in their respective communities. “I’ve been to their farms, I know their practices,” said Ferdia. “You’ve got to keep going with what you believe in.”

Ferdia also said they’ve found a lot of help from their peers in the restaurant business. “Chicago is one of the most amazing cities. Whether you’re a Michelin Star place or a corner tap, people are always willing to help with advice.”

Despite the obvious growth and success seen today, the business is a challenging one - margins are slim and costs

continue to rise. “Is it the best game to be in? Probably not,” said Ferdia. “But we love what we do and love what we put on the table.”

IRELAND NETWORK DAYS

Ferdia is a community leader in the in many ways, not least of which being his service with the Ireland Network Chicago.

A founding member, Ferdia and others first created the organization with the goal of better connecting people with the Irish in Chicago and Irish at home. Today, Ferdia is the current President, with his two-year term expiring this summer, and the Ireland Network has grown to become one of the largest Irish-affiliated membership organizations in the city. Partially funded by Ireland’s Department of Foreign Affairs, it serves as a bridge for newly arrived Irish, and those connected to Ireland, to the established Chicago business and Chicago Irish communities, and provides a forum to share resources, expertise, industry knowledge, opportunities and contacts through its diverse network and events program.

Ferdia views the Irish diaspora in Chicago as increasingly fractionalized and believes the Ireland Network can be the solution. “We want to be the Irish organization that connects all the Irish together,” he said. “It’s important that we don’t step on anyone’s toes - there are very heritage-driven organizations in the city - but we do want to be connected. And we’re also trying to connect them back to Ireland in a more streamlined and business and social manner.”

Ireland Network’s signature event, the annual black-tie ball, takes place next month at The Drake. Aer Lingus is a flagship sponsor and all proceeds from the raffle benefit Concern International and Irish Community Services. For tickets and information, visit: www.chicago.irishnetwork-usa.org.

NOWADAYS

After 25 years in Chicago, Ferdia is just as taken with the city as his first days here. “This city is still an amazingly strong immigrant community,” said Ferdia. “That’s something I wanted to instill in our restaurants as

well. Because I know what it’s like, coming from another country to America, planting your feet, getting your first driver’s license and getting your first job... doing things in the city that is so weirdly not where you were born. It’s difficult.”

From laying flooring to working downtown to running his own businesses, Ferdia said he never considered moving back to Ireland because he was too proud to give in. “Eventually I always found something and made it happen.” He credits much of his success in Chicago to its being an immigrant-friendly city, his Irishness (“being from Ireland really does give me a leg up”) and people like Bill Gainer, who helped him along the way.

In terms of what lies ahead, Ferdia is looking forward to spending more time with his family. His parents are still in Donegal and he has siblings in Dublin, Galway and London. But mostly, he’s looking forward to simply enjoying life: “What happens next will be the most interesting part.”

Here’s to the next 25 years!

The Bill and Gerry Gainer Family



Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Resolution for 2020: Review books that contain beautiful language. My readers have vigorous and questioning minds. Mystery books cater to those qualities and they contain psychological insight and puzzles too.

What Once Was True

By: *Jean Grainger*
Self-published

This is an exciting novel of historical Irish fiction. The novel's background is the beginning of WWII. The year is 1939. The war changed the social and economic structure of Ireland. That structure had changed little during 800 years. The invading British had set up the same social and economic system as in England. That system meant that wealthy lords were given land by the English crown. The Irish people worked as peasants on the vast estates.

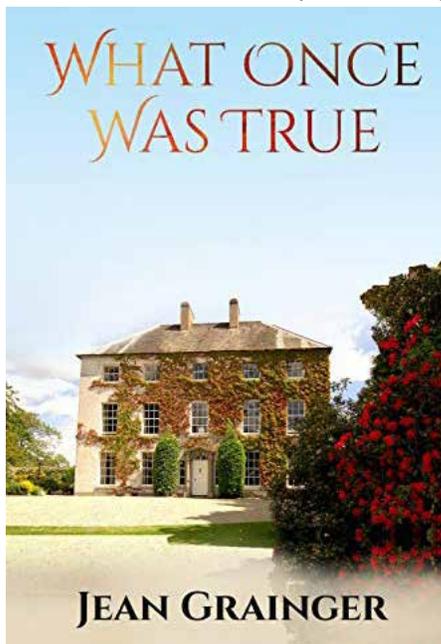
However, the War for the Irish Independence (1916-1921) changed this. Some of the Gentry, often called the Ascendancy, still controlled vast tracts of land and lived in mansions. "People said the Great War (WWI) had changed how the world worked, that the social order was upset, never to be restored, but that wasn't really true in Ire-

land. The Gentry still lived in their ivory towers, and the ordinary people slaved for them and were sup-

posed to be grateful for the opportunity. But maybe this war would be the one to change it."

Robinswood is the name of the mansion and estate at the center of the book's action. The Kenefick family had lived there for centuries. Lady Kenefick reminisces about the activity that was there. In the 10's, 20's, and 30's of the 1900's, "they used to have dances, and hunt balls... Carriages would come crunching down the driveway, and all the gentry from Waterford and Cork and Tipperary would come in all their finery."

However, she also remembers: "It was during The Troubles—that's what they called it when the Irish Republican Army



worked terror on their people, burning the Big Houses...Back in their twenties, so many of the neighboring families who lived in houses like Robinswood even had to leave for a while. They were symbols of the hated occupation of Ireland by British encroachers."

Jean Grainger develops the characters who lived at Robinswood: Lord and Lady Kenefick, their family, the grounds keeper, and his family. We are privileged to accompany the grounds keeper's three daughters on their journey from teen years until they become young women. They fall in love, marry, and life begins anew.

Amazon says that Jean Grainger writes "in the same magical tradition as classic Irish storytellers, Maeve Binchy and Frank

McCourt." This is very high praise, because I met them both, and they were lovely people. They put their own values into their characters.

Jean Grainger is the author of this book of historical fiction. She lives in County Cork. She has a bachelors and masters degree in History and English. For a young woman, she has had several careers: tour director, university lecturer. "She now teaches part-time in a secondary school."

As a lover of history, she is proud of her 200 year old stone cottage in r County Cork.

As we read about Jean Grainger's well drawn characters during the war years (1939-1945), we become closely involved with them. These quotes will give you a sense of the intimacy of What Once Was True.

At the village dance, "The band were playing sets mostly, and the hall was full of groups of men and women facing each other and dancing to The Siege of Ennis, The Walls of Limerick. Father MacIntyre was taking a quick walk round to make sure nothing untoward was going on."

"Mr. O'Leary, who was taking the money at the door, beckoned the priest over, ready to hand over the takings from the dance."

"Father MacIntyre was glad to get his money and leave!"

"As soon as Father MacIntyre made his exit, the music changed. The sedate sets with nobody touching or dancing closely... were replaced by a waltz." The band leader said, "Since there seems to be a great take-up for the modern music, he began playing 'Begin the Beguine.'"

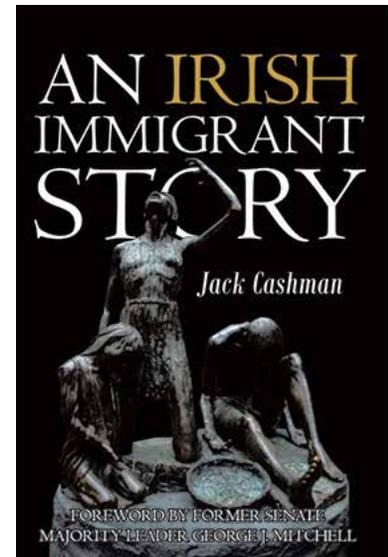
The first appearance of love: The young man dancing with her "was lovely. Tonight, she'd nearly had to catch her breath when she saw him in his dark trousers, freshly ironed shirt, and pinstriped jacket. His hair flopped over his eyes. Up close...she could see the freckles on the bridge of his nose, and the compelling blue of his eyes."

Two old comrades from the War for Irish Independence meet: "Nothing is like it was. What once was true is no longer the case. When we were young, everything was so clear-cut, black and white, right and wrong. But, as you get older, things become a little greyer, until by the time you become an old man, everything is grey."

An Irish Immigrant Story

Johanna Cashman and John McCarthy, along with over a million others, immigrated to America to escape a devastating famine. They left behind family members who faced starvation to come to a land that would give them a new opportunity for a

good life. They were soon made aware that they were not welcome in this new land and that every day would present a new struggle for survival. Johanna and John got married, determined to raise a family in their adopted country. In spite of all the obstacles they encountered, including John's untimely death, the family grew and found success. The second generation used their success to lend assistance to the country their parents were forced to leave in Ireland's drive for independence from its oppressor. This historical novel brings the reader through the heartwarming story of



a family that overcomes adversity to thrive in America. At the same time, it details the movement in the country they left to find its own independent place in the world.

Jack Cashman's career has put him in a number of roles, although the title of "author" is a relatively new one. Coming from a background of small business ownership, real estate, and insurance, Cashman was first elected to serve in the Maine House of Representatives in 1982. After five terms in office and some time away from state government, he returned to public service in 2003 in a variety of roles with the administration of Maine Governor John Baldacci. Cashman's first book, *An Irish Immigrant Story*, was published in 2018 as a historical novel based on the story of his own family's journey from Ireland to the United States during the time of the Potato Famine. Cashman's unique background of business owner, elected office-holder, and government official combine with his creative mind to bring together a collection of stories unlike any author working today. Jack has spent nearly all of his life in Maine, and currently lives in Hampden with his wife of nearly 50 years, Betty. They are the proud parents of two sons and grandparents of five granddaughters.

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Home is Where the Heart Is

By Aishling Kelly



Keeping it Simple!

As the new year turns so too does people's lives. New beginnings for everyone however for some not always the changes they had anticipated, like having to have home care when you were once independent. Last year I had the pleasure of meeting a family we had taken over the care from a previous Home Care agency. They had so many concerns and kept asking to meet with me and I couldn't understand why? I thought to myself "Why "is it so important them meet me? Mistakenly I just presumed that every agency operated in the same way that our agency does. The family came and sat with us because we were so different to the previous agency, they had hired which brought up many questions for the family. It was important to the family to understand how the company they just hired worked and how we would work for them. It was truly refreshing to meet with the family and to listen to their concerns and amazing questions regarding care. Here are the questions the family wanted to know and understand, and I want to thank them for being so transparent

and honest with me regarding their questions. I learned so much myself from meeting with them.

One of the question was " Why cant we call the caregiver directly on her cell phone " Reasons: because we are the agent for both you and the caregiver and if you change a schedule directly with the caregiver and she does not tell us then you don't get billed and neither does the care giver get paid for that time , to which she/he may quit and the company has no documentation to substantiate what you are both saying for those extra hours. Hence a lot of issues surface in this instance and we, as a company may even lose the caregiver as she/he is upset the hours were not paid for on the week they expected it.

On a recent visit to this new families home the client was very candid with me and shared her worries about changing from one company to another and her expectations. She simply stated "I want an honest caregiver" a person who will respect me and be dignified in the care they deliver. I want the caregiver to understand who I am and what goes on in my life? I want some recognition on my life as I was born in 1928 and have seen a lot. I would like my caregiver to interact and for the caregiver to be normal. No pretense or being fake? I would like her/him to be attentive to my needs, but I would also like my privacy when the caregiver is here. I would like to understand the caregiver too without going beyond personal boundaries. I would like my care giver to be natural. My expectations would be that the caregiver be honest, and I would like normality and if the care-

giver would be able to cook, even perhaps iron and do a little housekeeping that would be great.

This interview blew me away as "Mary "was not looking for much just the basics. As an agency we hire for heart, and Compassion is something we can't teach you, you either have it or you don't. Honesty, and a genuine love for seniors is also a mandatory requirement. Why? because you must want to conversate with the seniors we serve and most importantly be able to understand the era in which there grew up in in order to be successful. Everyone is an individual who needs and desires to be treated equal, with respect, and dignity. How very simple and something we all need to keep in the for front of our minds daily when caring for the frail and elderly.

Happy new year to all, may it be a blessed one with health and happiness.

Aishling Dalton Kelly
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Tom Boyle Moves to FNB Brookfield

After thirty-eight years in various positions at the local community bank, Countryside Bank, Tom Boyle (pictured) will be moving his expertise to the Board of Directors at First National Bank Brookfield where he will rejoin Dan Harrington and Mike Ryan.

Boyle was born in Visitation parish on the south side. He is a graduate of Leo High School, St. Joseph's College, Western Illinois University, and the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin. After school,

Boyle began his career as a bank examiner for the State of Illinois in 1974, and then subsequently served as an auditor and loan officer at Ford City Bank from 1977 to 1982. He settled with his wife, Josephine, and four (now grown) children in Burr Ridge.

Boyle joined Countryside Bank in 1982, only a few years after its formation, as a loan officer. He eventually became President in 1997 and Vice Chairman in 2009. In addition to his work at Countryside Bank, he has served

on numerous committees and been a member of countless organizations, including the American Banker's Association, the Illinois



Banker's Association, and the Chicago Bankers Club. He has been instrumental in the Irish American community in the city, not only in terms of serving as a banker, but also as a member of Chicago Gaelic Park, where he sat on the Board of Directors for over twenty-five years and as President for three. He is a member of St. John of the Cross Parish in Western Springs.

Please join us in congratulating him on a successful career at Countryside Bank and wishing him continued success at FNB Brookfield.



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Hailing originally from Arranmore Island, off the Donegal coast, Caroleann has been living and practicing law in Chicago for over ten years now. Her practice has been concentrated in representing labor and union workers and their families, in all types of personal injury and work related accidents; including, construction site accidents, automobile accidents and premises liability claims. Her father and three brothers all worked as tunnel miners so she has a deep rooted affinity for the working man and their families



Caroleann Gallagher
312-543-4642
cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com



Growing up, Caroleann has directly experienced the devastating impact on a family when the primary breadwinner suffers an injury. She recently joined a nationally renowned law firm concentrating in all types of personal injury, medical malpractice, nursing home abuse and neglect, workers compensation law, and wrongful death litigation. Caroleann is committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of people who are injured by the negligence of others

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There are three new albums which I know you will enjoy, each of which deserve their own entire column, but that would take us through March, and I want you to be aware of and enjoying them well before then.

I suppose you can look at this as a good problem to have, and while I won't be giving them justice, hopefully you will by purchasing, enjoying and sharing them.

Aoife Scott has been teasing us for months giving us a song from her new album *HOME BIRD* here and there and hitting the radio and TV stations to talk about it. The official release will be during the *TRAD FEST* in Dublin in this month, and tickets have been a hot item. While she will tell you she came late to performance, she has made up for it with a constant stream of “Best Of” awards. This new album will well set her to add to her collection!

Aoife has a beautiful voice and a strong stage presence, but it is the ability to make people “feel” her music and live her lyrics that draw us to her. With her partner, both on and off stage, Andy Meaney, song writing and choices are varied and aimed at the heart. Opening this album is “Another Reason” which is about a new baby niece who had captured their hearts and will be a favorite of all of us who have had the experience of a baby joining a family. She immediately goes into a poignant political song, “Ireland’s Hour of Need,” written by Barry Kerr, followed by the beautiful album



namesake about loving to be in her yellow cottage in Kildare. Andy’s “Irish Born” composition so perfectly tells of the pride of those who have left Ireland feel to be Irish. It will be impossible for you not to be swaying to “Dublin Saunter” which

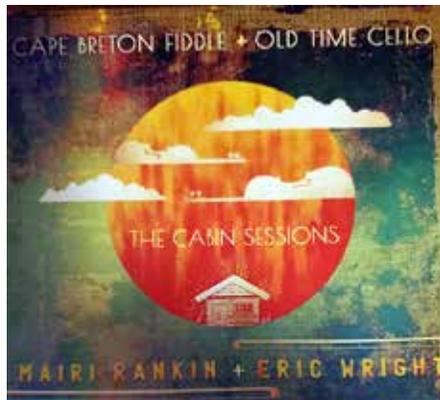


On the Upbeat

By Maryann McTeague Keifer

she learned from her Granny Black. *HOME BIRD* is a stunning second album showing to perfection the talent and connectedness Aoife and Andy have brought to the Irish folk scene.

Nova Scotia’s Mairi Rankin, member of *The Outside Track*, and *The*



Fretless’ cellist Eric Wright have just released *THE CABIN SESSIONS*, a collection of Cape Breton fiddling and old time cello that will knock your socks off! Mairi’s fiddling is fluid, dynamic, expressive and will have your toes tapping and your chair rocking as you listen to “3 Peaks” and “Jig to Reel.” “Across the Field” will tear at your heart and wring you dry; it is such an achingly beautiful air. Mairi communicates with her listeners as she plays, and is truly above others special.

From Vermont and a graduate of the prestigious Berklee School of Music, Eric Wright is a master cellist who loves to experiment with unique arrangements and styles of playing. Classically trained, it was the Irish and old timey music that have drawn and kept his interest. His cello takes Mairi’s fiddling and raises it to new heights. His playing is fresh and catchy; his bowing, dis-

tinutive. The consonance Mairi and Eric have built as they arrange and perform together has produced an alluring style that becomes addictive as you listen to them; once is never enough. *THE CABIN SESSIONS* will become a favorite in your collection and provide you with hours of great listening!

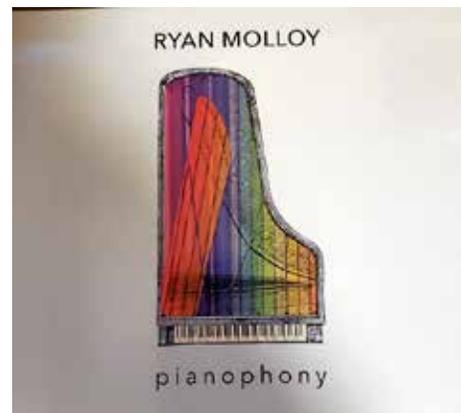
Last, but by no means least, is the newly released pianophony by Ryan Malloy, his first solo album which has been too long in coming. Ryan has been internationally renowned for his playing, arranging, composing and collaboration for over 15 years. He has worked with many artists including Irish poet Martin Dyar and has another new recording being released with fiddler extraordinaire, Fergal Scahill.

Pianophony brings you piano that is layers above ordinary. Ryan’s playing is seductive and complex. He helps you to close off from the outside world to a place of sheer peace and beauty. Any interruptions while listening are unwelcome annoyances! While some tunes may be known

to the listener, Ryan’s style and arrangements give them a new and engaging sound. Whether slow and moving or light and frisky, the tunes are fresh and appealing. His own compositions including “Loic’s Reel” and Oisín’s Reel” are interesting and innovative.

Ryan’s interpretation of Kieran Munnely’s “Greenfields” is genius.

Solo may be a bit of a misnomer as he is joined for four songs by



the rich alto voice of Donegal siren Shauna Mullin. A former member of the David Munnely Band, and solo artist of the recording *Wishing Tree*, it has been way too long since we have seen and heard Shauna out

performing. What her singing can do to you should be illegal. The craving will be insatiable once you have heard her. Match her songs with Ryan’s piano and you have bought a one way ticket to Wonderland with no desire to return. “The Heathery Hills” is heartbreaking; “Craigie Hill,” entrancing. Their arrangement of “The Briar and the Rose” is truly unforgettable!

Pianophony is a “must have” and a joy to listen to in those quiet times. It may have taken 15 years for Ryan to have recorded his own album, but he has made up for the wait with an award winner!

Three new albums, all special, all worth a spot on your shelf and in your playlist. Treat yourselves to a new year of great music!

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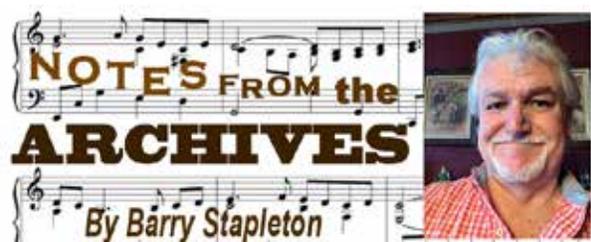
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Bunny Berigan

The accomplishments of Bernard "Bunny" Berigan have secured his place in the annals of American musical history. In his short lifetime, Berigan performed on more than six hundred recordings and achieved national as well as international success. He served as a direct link between Louis Armstrong and those who developed from his roots - Roy Eldridge, Dizzy Gillespie, Miles Davis, Clifford Brown, Wynton Marsalis, and others. Berigan and his soaring trumpet catapulted the Benny Goodman band, along with the rest of the country, into the swing era and assured Goodman's coronation as the "King of Swing." Berigan's uninhibited jazz style inspired and dominated every group with which he played, including the bands of Hal Kemp, Paul Whiteman, and Tommy Dorsey. His great technical skills and instant reading ability made him a coveted studio player for such vocalists as Billie Holiday, Bing Crosby, Mildred Bailey, and Lee Wiley. During his remarkable career Berigan not only played with the music industry's giants, he became one as well.



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Roland Bernard Berigan was born in Hilbert, Wisconsin in 1908. His father's side was originally from County Kilkenny, Ireland and his mother's family was from Germany. Berigan recognized his love for music at an early age. Introduced to the violin at age six, Berigan took up the trumpet five years later and never looked back. By age thirteen he had begun playing professionally. In 1925, a move to Madison, Wisconsin thrust the young Berigan into contact with many influential professionals and enabled him to position himself in the forefront of an elite group of emerging jazz musicians. He played with the University of Wisconsin jazz group but did not attend college there. After a European tour and some recording work he decided to move to the East Coast.

Berigan's move to New York shortly before the beginning of the Great Depression launched him on the road to success. He also met his wife, Donna McArthur and they married in Syracuse in May 1931. They eventually had two daughters, Patricia and Joyce. In addition to working as a sideman in several popular recording bands, Berigan became a principal player on the CBS radio network.

In 1937, he formed his own band and signed a recording contract with Victor. He recorded his most famous hit and theme song, I Can't Get Started, which was one of the first recordings inducted into the Hall of Fame of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. With the young tenor saxophonist George Auld and Buddy Rich on drums, Berigan had a promising new band. His drinking began to cause problems, however, and after a strong start the band stalled the following year. Considered a minor-league outfit by then despite its leaders star appeal, the orchestra was often given inferior material to record by its label and opportunities were missed. By 1939 Berigan's playing was starting to decline a bit, and his orchestra had not had a major hit in two years. The following year Berigan was forced to declare bankruptcy and the three-year old Bunny Berigan Orchestra came to an end.

Between 1936 and 1938 Bunny Berigan and his Band

had thirteen charted hits. Four of them reached the top ten with "Honeysuckle Rose" reaching #4 in 1937.

Berigan went back to Tommy Dorsey's band, where he stayed six months, contributing a few solos but sliding steadily downhill. His drinking accelerated, and Dorsey was forced to let him go. Berigan made two further attempts to lead his own big bands, but both his playing and his health steadily declined. He



died on June 2, 1942.

Over the course of his career, Berigan altered the voice of jazz for all time. One most wonder at the even greater impact that he would have made had he not succumbed to cirrhosis of the liver when he was only thirty-three. Twelve years of excessive consumption of alcohol, coupled with malnutrition and overwork, ended the life of one of the twentieth century's greatest trumpeters.



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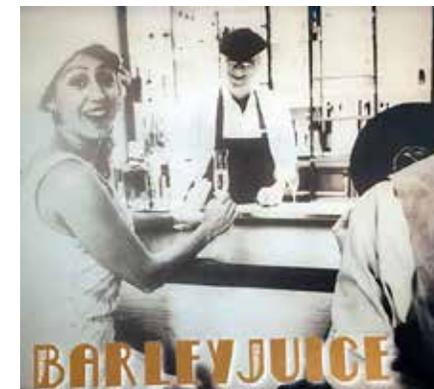
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Backing Brewer & Swanson are a mad trio of characters: captivating fiddler Alice O'Quirke, whose classical roots stray to Irish & bluegrass in the middle of the most



authentic jigs & hornpipes; drummer John Tracey, a powerhouse of driving decadence; and hopping bassist Eric Worthington, musical snake-charmer of the deep and dulcet.

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



State of the Union after UK Election

There are bad election results and then there is what happened to the Ulster unionism when the UK general election was held on December 12th. The image that came to mind was Achilles, after his face-off with Hector, hewing his adversary's dead body to his chariot and dragging it around Troy's city walls in disgrace. Responding to the meltdown, Democratic Unionist Party leader Arlene Foster said: 'It was very clear in both North Belfast and South Belfast that nationalism came together and decided they were going to get rid of Emma [Little-Pengelly] and Nigel [Dodds]'. Foster conveniently disregarded that her party led the charge in forming electoral pacts—the DUP stood aside in certain constituencies for the Ulster Unionist Party to maximise the unionist vote and, in turn, benefited from the UUP's reciprocation in other constituencies. Blaming nationalist parties for adopting the same tactic in response is no better than a football manager faulting the opposing team for scoring more goals; Foster's sour grapes are comic, at best. Now, more than ever, she cuts a forlorn figure as

DUP party leader. And neither is the UPP buoyed up: it failed to win any seats.

Since the June 2017 general election in the UK, the DUP dominated British policy in relation to Northern Ireland, on pain of its bringing down the government. When the Conservative Party government lost its majority in the UK Parliament in summer 2019, the DUP in an instant became disposable, and dispose of them British Prime Minister Boris Johnson did. That betrayal of the DUP, and of the Union itself, meant that the general election became a bowling ball thundering straight for the DUP's ten Westminster seats. The question was not if the DUP would lose seats, but how many it would lose and which ones.

Given the chance to punish the DUP, its base did so in grand style. The symbolism of the defeats is probably harder to bear than the actual reduction in seats: down from 10 in 2017 to 8 seats. Counting Sinn Féin and the SDLP together, the 'nationalist' seats now outnumber—for the first time in history—unionist seats in the UK Parliament.

Moreover, in Belfast, the DUP only retained one seat (and just about), in Belfast East. The DUP, and unionism generally, now sees itself encircled in Belfast by nationalist seats in Belfast North, Belfast South, and Belfast West.

The only consolation that unionist politicians may take from the UK election is that Sinn Féin also had a very bad outing, seeing its vote share reduced by 6.7% compared with 2017. This result for Sinn Féin forms part of its general loss of momentum in recent elections, which the party seems at a loss to reverse. It can not plausibly be denied that the general election result was a vote of no confidence in Sinn Féin's abstentionism (its policy of refusing to take its seats in Westminster).

The DUP and Sinn Féin will now seek to revivify the Northern Ireland Assembly, which, jointly, they have managed to reduce to a zombie assembly for the past three years. It is impossible to hide the cynicism of the two parties, chastened by their electoral slide, suddenly feigning an interest in the assembly after they have dissipated their stock and their strategies have failed.

The constitutional future of Northern Ireland is now firmly on the table and December's election crystallises that. As unionism attempts to gather itself, a rallying cry which unites it is a deepening fear that the Union

faces an existential threat. Prior to the election, unionist parties closed ranks far more firmly than did nationalist parties: they rallied to a 'protect the Union' mantra, something that resounds much more deeply than the merely pragmatic nationalist parties' decision to stand aside for the other party in certain constituencies so as not to split the vote and gain more seats. The following statement from Steve Aiken, UUP leader, would be an astonishing admission in most places that are not Northern Ireland: 'We are a party that believes first and foremost in the Union, and secondly in the importance of representative democracy'. Accordingly, it is now imaginable that the two unionist parties will move closer together, and even amalgamate, to fight for the cause which trumps all others: maintaining the Union. For the senior figures in the DUP—Donaldson and Foster—coming closer to the UUP would be little more than a reversion to type. They established themselves as politicians in the UPP, both leaving the party in December 2003 to join the DUP the following month.

Irrespective of what happens, there is now little that Ulster unionists can do to avert major constitutional changes throughout the UK. Boris Johnson's landslide victory enables him to push his Brexit deal through parliament. Likewise, Nicola Sturgeon's Scottish Nationalist

Party received a huge mandate (winning 48 out of 59 seats in Scotland) and will use it to demand a second referendum on Scottish independence. The prospect of Scottish independence, as well as a Brexit in which Northern Ireland will be treated differently from the rest of the UK, are ominous for the future of the UK and, therefore, of unionism.

It is debatable that, if the DUP had played its cards differently during the past two years when it was the kingmaker in the UK Parliament, ultimately things would have been much different; it is undeniable that throwing away their best cards, and sponsoring Brexit in the first place, has hastened unionism's worst nightmare. Above all, in rejecting the Brexit deal negotiated by former British PM Theresa May they are now left with a deal that is materially less secure from a unionist perspective (May's forewarning that this could happen has now come back to haunt the DUP). Unionist voters have punished this mismanagement, and have even begun to cross 'tribal' lines at elections in significant numbers. SDLP's Eastwood beat Sinn Féin's Elisha McCallion by a whopping 26,881 to 9,771 votes in Foyle (Derry). While Eastwood halved Sinn Féin's vote share from its 2017 tally, he probably took several thousand unionist votes as well. Unionism has hit a profound crisis.

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Adam Agee and Jon Sousa Concert

Adam Agee and Jon Sousa are two of Colorado's most sought-after traditional Irish musicians. Since 2004, they have been journeying together through the Irish idiom on fiddle, guitar, and tenor banjo, enchanting listeners on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. **Thursday, February 6, 7pm • Free**



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Winter Watercolor Workshop

Learn the art of watercolor, from basic design to developing a composition to watercolor techniques, in this workshop in this class designed for all levels. **Saturday, February 8, 10am-2pm • \$75**



Tea With Jane Addams

Have tea with social justice crusader and founder of Chicago's Hull House, Jane Addams in this one woman performance by Betsey Means. **Saturday, February 22, 11am • \$25 for adults and children 12 and under \$8**



The High Kings in Concert

The true heirs of Ireland's folk heritage, The High Kings are internationally acclaimed singers of Irish folk songs who bring a rousing acoustic flavor to new songs and old favorites. **Saturday, February 22, 8pm, Sunday, February 23, 6pm • IAHC Members: \$30, General Admission: \$35**



Adam Agee and Jon Sousa Concert

Thursday, February 6, 7pm • Free



The High Kings in Concert

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President's Message

Happy New Year! Here's hoping that your holidays were blessed with joy and the wonderment that Christmas can bring.



November and December were festive months for us, kicking off the holiday season with a beautiful concert from our own Irish

Heritage Singers and another very successful Christmas Bazaar. It was wonderful to see so many friends and members walking the halls, listening to music and shopping our vendors. It was a fine month of holiday music as we were blessed with the talents of the great Eileen Ivers, Rory Makem, The Dooley Brothers, the Chancey Brothers and Chicago Reel. The pub was hopping all month long and the Christmas spirit was indeed alive and well at the Center! Thank you to our tireless staff and volunteers for helping us pull it together and to all of you who joined in the fun.

It's the time of year when we'd really like to ask everyone to **MEMBER UP!** and either renew or purchase your membership. We continue to work hard to make membership a true value and will of course continue to do so in 2020. Buy gift memberships for friends or family and give the benefit of a membership to the IAHC! To join or renew, visit www.irish-american.org.

Mark your calendars for one of our favorite evenings of the year; Cash for Kids, Chicago's one and

only Johnny Cash Festival on Saturday, January 25.

The evening, a tribute to the Man in Black on multiple stages, Cash for Kids is a fantastic fundraiser in support of the Children's Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

As we turn the pages on our calendars to 2020, we continue our

Winter Concert Series. On Thursday, February 6, we welcome Adam Agee and Jon Sousa to the Fifth Province Pub for a FREE concert of traditional Irish music. Agee and Sousa journey through the Irish idiom on fiddle, guitar and tenor banjo, and have been enchanting listeners on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean for more than a decade. The duo put down musical roots in County Clare, where they lived together and now make frequent visits. Their connection to their instruments and the transcendent energy in their music is guaranteed to captivate and uplift audiences of all ages.

It's not too late to contribute to our Annual Appeal. This important fundraiser goes a long way to improving our bottom line throughout the year and fundraising capital projects to improve our building and facilities. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please consider doing so! We will list donors in the Heritage Line from February through May.

Best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year and see you around the Center!

Mike Shevlin, President

The Heritage Line Staff

Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors: Meg Buchanan, Laura Coyle, Catherine Kelly, Sheila Murphy, Mike Shevlin, Becky Tatz

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JANUARY ENTERTAINMENT

Music Starts at 8pm unless otherwise noted

- 1/3 Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor
- 1/4 Mulligan Stew
- 1/10 Larry Nugent and John McDonagh
- 1/11 Kathleen Keane and Peter Brady
- 1/17 Cirrus Falcon
- 1/18 St. Stephen's Green
- 1/24 Dave Dunne and Joel Batty
- 1/25 Cash For Kids, 5pm
- 1/31 The Dooley Brothers



Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions: January 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

JANUARY 2020

1/1	Happy New Year	Building Closed	
1/2	Genealogy Research Night for IAHC Members	Library	7pm
1/3	Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor	Fifth Province	8pm
1/4	Shamrock American Club Card Game	Sham Am Room	7:30pm
1/9	Myths and Facts About the Great Highland Pipes	Library	7pm
1/11	St. Patrick Fathers Social	Room 109	8pm
1/12	IAHC Book Club - <i>Say Nothing</i>	Library	1pm
1/15	Tara Club Monthly Musical Gathering	Room 304	10am
1/16	Digging Into Griffith's Valuation	Library	7pm
1/17	Shamrock American Club Meeting	Sham Am Room	8pm
1/21	Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304	7pm
1/25	Cash For Kids Johnny Cash Night	Theatre and Fifth Province	5pm
1/26	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

Mon-Fri	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	3pm-8pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
Wed	Genealogy Consultations	Library	10am
	Fall Watercolor Class	Room 309	6:45pm
	Traditional Irish Music Session	Room 111	7pm
	Na Gaeil Language Class	Room 304 and Library	7pm
Thurs	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal (resumes 1/23)	Room 306	7pm
	The Thursday Shindig Music Session	Fifth Province	7pm
	Fall Watercolor Class	Room 309	10am
Sat	Na Gaeil Language Class	Library	11am
Sun	Celtic Art by Hand and Eye (through 1/12)	Room 311	11am
	Celtic Art Portfolio (through 1/12)	Room 311	1:30pm

Library Hours: Tues 10am-2pm; Wed 4pm-8pm; Sat 10am-2pm



Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



Falls and Fractures at Illinois Nursing Homes:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that 1,800 nursing home residents pass away every year from injuries related to falls. Many of these falls result in injuries and damage, including minor bumps and bruises to more serious injuries of broken bones, traumatic brain injuries and even death. Even those residents who survive a fall, can be left with terrible pain, suffering and disability, that further reduces their quality of life. The CDC reports that nursing home falls occur twice as often as falls among elderly people not living in a nursing home. Often, it takes longer for a vulnerable elderly, often times already infirm person, to recover after a fall. Routinely additional medical complications arise for those nursing home residents who fall and injure themselves during their nursing home stay.

Nursing homes owe their residents an obligation to make sure that their premises are safe for their residents and in addition, to offer sufficient supervision to those residents that require it, so that they can insure avoidable injuries are prevented. Unfortunately, many nursing homes do not take the necessary precautions or staff their homes adequately and the result is that residents are finding themselves susceptible to falls resulting in serious injuries. Here at Dwyer & Coggan as nursing home abuse and neglect lawyers, we provide aggressive representation to residents and their families, to seek compensation for injuries and death caused by falls at nursing homes.

Falls are a well-recognized issue in the long-term care industry and assessing a resident's fall risk is one of the standard assessments that are done in almost every nursing home immediately after the resident

is admitted to the nursing home. There are some factors that place a resident at risk for falling, and these include:

- Musculoskeletal weakness/gait dysfunction
- Intermittent or constant confusion/dementia
- Neurologic disorders
- Vision deficits
- Incontinence
- Medication usage

When a resident is admitted to a nursing home and is assessed as being a fall risk, the nursing home is obligated to develop a care plan to address the risk of falling. Some of the common measures that are taken to reduce fall risk include:

- Physical Therapy or restorative therapy to improve strength and balance;
- Assistance or supervision while walking;
- Placement of residents in areas where staff is nearby such as by the nurse's station;
- Use of a bed alarm, chair alarm, or mobility alarm;
- Placement of the bed in a low position;
- Use of floor mats or padding near a residents bed;
- Use of bowel or bladder retraining;
- Use of a toileting schedule;
- Reduction in medications;
- Keeping areas free and clear of tripping or slipping hazards;
- Make sure that good footwear is in use at all times;
- Use of assistive devices such as a cane or a walker.

Once the care plan is put into place, it must be carried out on a day-to-day, shift-to-shift basis to ensure the safety of the resident. Moreover, the effectiveness of the care plan must be revised in light of experience and changes in the resident's condition over time and if necessary changes need to be made to the care plan.

The assessment and care plan are required by federal regulations, and the nursing home can be held liable if the staff (1) fails to perform a proper assessment of the resident's risk of falling, (2) fails

to develop a proper care plan that addresses the resident's fall risk, (3) fails to carry out the care plan as required, or (4) fails to revise the care plan when necessary.

Most falls in nursing homes are not “accidents” the way a slip-and-fall in a grocery store is, and as experienced Chicago nursing home lawyers, we know better than that. The truth is that most nursing home falls are due to shortcomings in the care planning process which is the true basis of how care is provided in a nursing home setting and most falls are avoidable with the proper care and planning.

If you feel like your loved one needs additional fall protections other than what the nursing home is suggesting, speak up and insist that they be provided to your loved one. As I have said time and time again in this column, you are the greatest and most important advocate for your loved ones, so use your voice when you feel that things are not as they should be.

At Dwyer & Coogan we fight for the rights of our most precious aging population and their families who are suffering due to nursing home falls and injuries. If you believe that you or your loved one may be a victim of nursing home negligence please call our office for a free consultation.

*Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney now licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of personal injury law - including nursing home litigation, medical malpractice law, wrongful death claims, transportation injuries, premises liability claims, defective product claims, construction site injuries and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com or at 312-543-4642.



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Breaking the Chains

As a young boy, along with many others, I had designs to be a Fireman, Gunslinger or a Jungle Explorer when I grew up. These were exciting occupations at the time and very suitable to my keen sense of adventure. However, as I progressed through the various stages of education, I started to move away from these 'dream careers' as they were either not paying enough annual income or they simply did not exist in the real world. That was a great pity and a big disappointment for me.

I was then graduating towards less exciting and physical positions towards ones that were somewhat dull but paid more. And there were times over the years

when my head was full of schedules, deadlines, HR issues and the like when I would gaze out of the office window and wonder 'was it too late to run away and join the circus?'



Do you ever dream of doing something completely different, not just something similar to what you are doing today? Many of us tend to stay in situations that can make us unhappy in our working life. This is sometimes called the 'golden handcuffs' problem. When you are very good at what you do, it is almost impossible to convince yourself to give it up, even if it

doesn't make you happy. Many surveys have shown that only about 10% of people who dream of changing their careers actually turn their ideas into reality. This is often forced on them through losing their job or other drastic changes. There is also another disturbing statistic which says that over 80% of us are in jobs we shouldn't be in.

When changing career, you should not worry too much about your specific skills. Matching your values, life experiences and attitudes to your new environment

and being curious and adaptable are much more crucial for how well you will get on and succeed in your new environment. Do not be afraid of the challenge and you can learn the elements of the new job afterwards as a secondary consideration.

Real change can be hard to achieve. Indeed, as individuals we call for change in all aspects of our society. We do not want to bring our car to a mechanic who does not have the latest computer diagnostic equipment or entrust ourselves to a doctor that does not have access to the latest information and techniques in health care. However, when it comes to changing the way we operate in our own professional lives we sometimes do not see the need for it. In life, as the old saying goes, we can be certain of only two things, death and taxes. Indeed, we can also be assured of a third, and that is change. As we enter into the brand new year of 2020, and also the start of a new decade, it might be an appropriate time to examine the condition and strength of our own chains.

'Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail' - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

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Impeachment

The Democrats have gone off the diving board in the deep end of the pool. President Trump is irascible, sometimes arrogant, sometimes impudent, but should he be impeached?

The Democrats have planned this from day one! Even before the President was inaugurated. When Hillary Clinton deleted 30,000 emails from her private server, Donald Trump asked - tongue in cheek - if the Russians could find them? That was before he was elected. Hardly an impeachable offense. As an independent voter I have followed the process of impeachment for weeks. Congressman Shiff, and Nadler come across as being mean spirited. They could star in a Dracula movie driving wooden stakes into vampire's hearts.

President Trump second guesses everybody's decisions, hence the revolving door at the White House.

Harken back to President Clinton's impeachment, and the trail of tombstones left behind when he was Governor of Arkansas. Fast forward to the Clinton Foundation and Chelsea's New York condo.

The Democratic Party is in disarray. There are 15 contenders for President, at least two are billionaire's, several are multi-millionaire's, and all of them want to give away the store. There is a strong undertow of racist agendas. Senator Corey Booker said, "there are more billionaire's than blacks in the Democratic debates."

Back to Trump and the Ukraine. Obama said, "bigger nations can bully smaller

ones to get their way." He also said, "now is not the time for bluster . . . there are no easy answers, no military solutions." Obama also did nothing when the Russians shot down a commercial airliner. He also did not intervene when the Russians marched into the Crimea.

Trump authorized the sale of Javelin anti-tank missiles to the Ukraine. Is Trump unorthodox in his approach? Let's not forget he was never a Washington insider. He wanted to upset the proverbial apple cart. He flushed the Washington toilet.

The trial in the Senate will be different. The Republicans will now rebuke the Democrats. Meanwhile, caught in the middle is the greatest country in the world, the USA.

The Democrats should have let the ballot box judge Trump. As an aside read what Wikipedia has to say about Hunter Biden.

Democratic Debate 1219

The Democrats had a debate in California, I hope they taped it so they can use it on "Saturday Night Live." Elizabeth Warren was ranting about the rich corporations controlling elections. Bernie Sanders and his usual bluster, "millionaire's and billionaires,

medicare for all."

Joe Biden with his toothy grin reprising his experience in government. Nobody on that stage is presidential.

Ex Cardinal McCarrick

Sexual predator, former Cardinal McCarrick got away with it for years. As reported by Jeff Anderson and Associates. He and the Diocese of Newark, New Jersey are being sued under the new and historical victims rights bill in New Jersey.

- The Survivor will speak publicly for the first time about the abuse by McCarrick in approximately 1995 or 1996 at a parish in Hackensack, New Jersey"

- Reveal and discuss how other clergy members and Church hierarchy received multiple allegations of McCarrick's inappropriate sexual conduct at least as early as the 1980's and into the 1990's, long before McCarrick sexually abused Plaintiff. McCarrick is believed to have sexually assaulted at least seven boys between 1969 and 1990 alone, and several seminarians;
- Reveal and discuss how the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis, U.S. Church hierarchy and clergy covered up for McCarrick, protected him and ignored the many allegations of his sexual abuse. The Holy See was informed in at least 2000 of McCarrick's sexual misconduct.

McCarrick was a prominent celebrity and prodigious fundraiser within the national and international Catholic Church, and was allowed to serve in multiple high-level roles in the Church hierarchy after several members of the hierarchy learned of his sexual misconduct accusations:

It's always about the money.

Pennsylvania Ends Abuse Time Limits

Pennsylvania overhauled its child sexual

abuse laws Tuesday, more than a year after a grand jury report showed the cover-up of hundreds of cases of abuse in most of Pennsylvania's Roman Catholic dioceses over the last seven decades.

The central bill signed by Gov. Tom Wolf gives future victims of child sex abuse more time to file lawsuits and ends time limits for police to file criminal charges.

The grand jury report spurred several states to change their laws and other states to begin similar investigations.

Wolf said the new laws will help repair "faults in our justice system that prevent frightened, abused children from seeking justice when they grow into courageous adults."

The legislative package was based on recommendations in last year's report regarding six of eight dioceses in the state.

Wolf, a Democrat, signed bills to invalidate secrecy agreements that keep child sexual abuse victims from talking to investigators and to increase penalties for people who are required to report suspected abuse but fail to do so.

Two members of a Dauphin County family of five sisters who were sexually abused as children by a trusted family priest are seeking to bring to court the two Catholic dioceses at the heart of their abuse.

Patty Fortney-Julius and Lara Fortney-McKeever on Monday filed a civil lawsuit in New Jersey against the Archdiocese of Newark and the Diocese of Harrisburg. The lawsuit takes advantage of New Jersey's newly enacted legislation that accusers more time to make legal claims.

The lawsuit outlines the sexual abuse of the members of the Fortney family at the hands of former Newark Archdiocese priest Augustine Giella, and the cover-up of his crimes by the dioceses in that city and Harrisburg.

Giella was transferred to the Harrisburg Diocese, where he met the Fortney family. He sexually abused the Fortney sisters in Pennsylvania and on trips to his New Jersey summer home.

"I'm looking forward to being

able to get answers to so many questions."

Their attorney, Benjamin Andreozzi, said discovery could take up to two years, and would require the Diocese of Harrisburg to turn over every document related to predatory priests.

"I anticipate hundreds of thousands of documents, Andreozzi said.

Liberal Wealth

Former President Barack Obama and his wife have just purchased a home on Martha's Vineyard for 12.5 million dollars. The house sits on 40 acres of land. Their home in Washington is worth 9 million, and they have homes in Palm Beach, Hawaii, and Chicago.

A friend of mine, Chris Lynch, used the euphemism, "champagne liberal" in reference to Michael Bloomberg, who is suffering from a Robin Hood syndrome. Rob the rich and give to the poor. Bloomberg is worth about 54 billion give or take. He won't miss a few bucks in taxes.

Congressman Nadler is worth about 9 million.

Speaker of the House

Nancy Pelosi should not be appearing on the Steven Colbert Show on CBS. They are holding the impeachment process up for public ridicule. While we are at it let's include Congressman Adam Shiff in that one. Do we need government officials on late night tv criticizing the office of the President? We've had three years of the media circus.

JFK

"Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought."

Happy New Year everyone!

Queen Contest

The St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Contest takes place January 19th at Plumber's Hall in Chicago. Visit ChicagoStPatricks-DayParade.org for all the info on entering, and on the Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner later in the month!

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some of the choir members from work and they invited him to join the group. That was the start of many friendships and relationships that grew over the years.

John loves the music the choir director, Paul Matijevec has chosen ever since he became the choir maestro. John’s current favorite pieces are the three U2 numbers.

The November concert at the Irish Center was one of the best we’ve sung thus far. The accolades are still coming in and we’re so pleased. As always our director Paul Matijevec created a wonderful program for us. We are so grateful to have him. We sang pub songs, poems by Yeats, and U2 as well.

His favorite performances were singing the national anthem at the Chicago Stadium before a Bull’s game in front of a packed audience and singing at the Sligo Music Festival in Ireland in 2003.

Next we moved on to Advent Mass at the Center followed by caroling in the Pub. On December 15 we performed the final concert of the year at the Glenview Library; It’s been a good year for us. So far our Marketing Director, John Mahal has booked 12 concerts in March 2020. I’m sure he isn’t finished yet. Everyone wants an Irish choir in March.

John has been an active recruiter through the program/ad book to raise sales so the choir can be more self-sustaining. John and Margaret still live on the Northside currently in Old Town. They love the music and all the wonderful relationships that the choir has brought into their lives. Did I mention that John is one of the nicest people I know?

As I usually do I’d like to introduce you to another member of the choir. John Comer sent me his bio and here it is. John has been in the choir for 17 years. He’s a bass. John grew up on the Northside of Chicago. Both of his parents come from the West coast of Ireland; his father from Co. Mayo and his mother from Co. Galway. The Comer household was a musical one and folks who visited had to be prepared to do a party piece if requested.

As Bob Healy said after the November concert come and join us. There is a short audition with our music director, Paul. We’d love to see you. We’re currently on our Winter break so plan on coming to a Thursday rehearsal in February at 7:30 in room 306 at the Irish Center. We’re starting what I hope will be another successful and rewarding year.

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 at 4pm Central on WXTF 97.9 FM in Harrisville,
 Michigan, and on Friday 6:30 am Central on Blues
 and Roots Radio, bluesandrootsradio.com

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Professionally John began his career at Rush Medical Center recruiting nurses and later worked for the Metropolitan Healthcare Council representing 115 hospitals. While working at Rush he met and married Margaret Mary Harvey from St. Alibi’s parish on the Southside. John learned about the Irish Heritage Singers when they performed at the Milwaukee Irish Fest some 17 years ago. It was love at first sight. John knew

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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

Loneliness

Loneliness is a killer. A quarter of Americans live alone and at hospitals doctors are sometimes the only ones to witness a patient's death. There are no loved ones around due to our mobile society, families scattered across the land, busy with jobs and families and most especially the elderly are left alone and so often forgotten.

We are facing a loneliness epidemic that affects all ages and crosses all socio and economic lines. It affects health, produces stress hormones, can lead to inflammation and other health problems and if we are lonely we are less likely to go to a doctor's appointment, take medications or eat properly.

We also whinge when we're lonely, feel depressed and out of sorts. It's miserable. Those of us who write on these pages are not interested in following examples of what the British do, but one has to pause when the Brits take the lead and appoint a Minister For Loneliness. Baroness Barran, appointed a year ago, warns that loneliness leads to erosion of society where people isolate and become disconnected. In the US and the midwest region, Chicago's winters are challenging and its easy to hibernate, a self imposed form of isolation.

Several countries prompted by the leadership in the UK are looking at the sweeping disadvantages of loneliness, including Canada, Germany, New Zealand and Australia and perhaps the United States should follow suit.

If given a choice in our current state of suffering political fatigue we endure during the eternal long haul of presidential campaigning would we forgo it and rather be lonely?

The Brits initiated a "Let's Talk Loneliness" campaign handing out financial grants to develop gardening clubs, bird watching groups inviting people to join.

Social connections are the answer. A minister for Loneliness does not need to be a national post, rather cultivated for cities and towns across the land to open opportunities for societal contact.

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The conference focused on "The Women the Vatican Couldn't Silence." McAlesse was joined by US theologian and Benedictine nun, Sister Joan Chittister who in 2001, under threat of excommunication by Rome, spoke in Dublin at the first Women's Ordination Worldwide Conference. While Rome threatened, to excommu-

nicate her, the Vatican did not follow through on its threat and Chittister continues. She talks tough, dishes it out inspirationally with abundant challenges from the pulpit, Ted Talks, television, Oprah and through a litany of her best selling books.

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McAleese who studied Canon Law in Rome recalled Pope John Paul's description of sex in marriage in his book "Love and Responsibility."

Brace yourself, a sense of humor is necessary when you read his words. "It is the very nature of the act that the man plays the active role and takes the initiative while the woman is a comparatively passive partner whose function it is to accept and experience".

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Lay Catholics

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Continued to page 29



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Cháirde

Can you believe that 2020 is here? We are ready for it, and first up is Women's Little Christmas (Nollaig na mBam) on January 6th. There is no cover charge for this event and all women are invited to join in the craic and camaraderie. On Tuesday nights in January and February, Mary Kivelhan will teach our Jive classes. All levels are welcome. It won't be long until the Merry Ploughboys return for their annual visit, and we have begun the search for our 2020

Irish Fest Queen, with the actual Contest to be held at the end of next month.

We hope to see you at Gaelic Park and our events and at the Carraig Pub throughout the New Year. And do remember that we are the perfect spot to host your own custom event. You can keep up with us by signing up for our emails or following us on Instagram or Facebook.

Is mise le meas,
Bill O'Sullivan

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Sat	Jan 4	Joe Cullen	8:00pm
Fri	Jan 10	Joe McShane	7:30pm
Sat	Jan 11	TBD	
Fri	Jan 17	Ray Gavin	7:30pm
Sat	Jan 18	Jerry & Kara Eadie	8:00pm
Fri	Jan 24	Bernie Glim	7:30pm
Sat	Jan 25	Liam Durkin	8:00pm
Fri	Jan 31	Kieran Byrne	7:30pm

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Sun	Jan. 5	Book Club (<i>No Ordinary Women</i>)	
Mon	Jan. 6	Women's Little Christmas	
Tue	Jan. 7	Jive Classes	7:00pm
Sun	Jan. 12	Monthly Mass & Breakfast	
Sun	Jan. 19	Titanic - Presentaton by Jessica McCann	

FEBRUARY

Sat	Feb. 1	Merry Ploughboys	
Sun	Feb. 2	Super Bowl	
Fri	Feb. 14	Valentines Dinner	
Sun	Feb. 16	Bridal Boutique	
Fri	Feb. 21	All Ireland Trivia	
Sat	Feb. 22	Dancing for Our Stars	
Sun	Feb. 23	Jive Workshop with Gerard Butler	
Fri	Feb. 28	Gleeson Irish Trio	
Sat	Feb. 29	Queen Contest	
Every Monday		Set Dancing	7:30pm
Every Tuesday		Ceili Dancing	7:30pm
		Ceili Lessons -	7:00 pm
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Carraig Pub 5K Challenge



Continued from page 26

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Sister Joan Chittister

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FIVE GENERATIONS FLOOD BROTHERS 

Growing Forward: Father's Sacrifice Drives Brothers' 30-Year Efforts To Help Young People Have A Brighter Future

By Mary Beth Sammons

For Jim and Bob Murphy, growing up in a modest household alongside some of the North Shore's more affluent neighbors and watching their hardworking parents juggle multiple jobs to ensure that they could receive a top-notch, college prep education, is an experience that has never left them.

Their parents' sacrifices to send them to Loyola Academy and Marquette University motivated the Highland Park-raised duo to help level the playing field for others facing obstacles that make their dreams seem out of reach.

In 1989, a year after their father's death, the then 30-something brothers wanted to honor his legacy. At the time, they were experiencing success as traders for the Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE) and gathered a small group

of buddies to see what they could do.

Fast-forward 30 years. Today, the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund is Chicago's largest high school scholarship program, with more than 3,000 scholarships awarded over the course of three decades. DMSF seeks to make a life-altering difference in the lives of students from under-resourced neighborhoods through four-year scholarships to high-performing college prep high schools and boarding schools nationwide, academic support and programs to give students the best opportunity to succeed in high school and college.

"We just hoped we could help a few kids," says Bob, Vice-president of Commercial Real Estate Services for Wintrust Financial Corporation who lives in Lake Forest with his wife, Linda. He is a father of four and grandfather

of one. "We all threw a couple thousand dollars into the pot. We were making money in the markets and wanted to do something to give back."

That first year, they awarded scholarships to four Chicago high school students.

For alumni like Dionte Durham,

of Chicago all on her own and she was determined that we would not become a statistic. I'm proud to say that today we are both attorneys."

The numbers speak volumes about DMSF and its success. During the last 30 years, DMSF has contributed more than \$3.6 million

in annual combined scholarships and enrichment programs. During the 2019/2020 school year, more than 460 Murphy Scholars are benefiting from the program at more than 80 partner high schools throughout the City of Chicago and at boarding schools around the country, including Brother Rice, The Chicago Academy of the Arts, DePaul College Prep, Ida Crown Jewish Academy, The Latin School, Loyola Academy, St. Ignatius College Prep and Willows Academy. The average gift aid for Scholars from the Class of 2019 attending college was \$44,000.

One hundred percent of Murphy Scholars have gone on to graduate from some of the nation's most prestigious colleges. Sixty-four percent are the first in their families to graduate college. What's more, the program is developing leaders and role models including Chicago area business professionals, lawyers, physicians, teachers and more who are returning to mentor scholars, serve on the board and give back to the organization. Murphy Scholars come from 40 Chicago neighborhoods including some of its most at-risk including Englewood, Little Village, Uptown, North Lawndale,

"Murphy Scholars produce extraordinary outcomes because they are given the task to succeed at the most selective high schools in Chicago and around the country," says Jose Rodriguez, DMSF executive director. "The real nature of this work has been transforming for students who do a phenomenal job academically at our partner schools. It's changed the trajectory of their lives. What's most significant is that they've come back to mentor and support other young people in the city."

Fore(!)ward Thinking:

A big part of that, of course, is financial aid, and a key source of that aid for the Murphy caddies is a summer caddy program that lets students work and earn funds and an alliance with the Chick Evans Scholarship, along with the organization's annual Golf Classic. Every June, DMSF welcomes nearly 500 golfers to five golf courses on the North Shore for the event which grossed \$1.9 million last June.

"I was a caddy," says Jim, who lives and Chicago and was a Chick Evans Scholar and caddied at Bob O'Link Golf Club in Highland Park. "A couple of our other board members were caddies." He's a father of three with three grandchildren. Jim is wearing his Ballybunion Golf Club shirt, where he is a member of the Kerry, Ireland club. "We knew what a caddying program can do. The benefits are

big time."

"Jim and Bob have built a bridge between the students and their families, the partner schools and DMSF who all are making the sacrifices it takes to make education the great leveler," says Justin Foley, head of trading for Gelber Group LLC. He is the past board chairman of the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund and continues to serve on the organization's executive committee. "They're giving kids who don't have a chance a chance because their father did that for them. Now, they feel they have the obligation to do that for others. They exude that generosity in everything they do."

"I remember being at a golf outing and being seated next to a high school senior who was terrified because she was the key speaker in front of a largely white male audience. I remember looking across the room and seeing her parents beaming with tears of joy as she crushed it with her speech," says Foley.

Father's Lessons Inspire Success

Daniel Michael Patrick Murphy didn't have all the things he wanted for his family so he went out in the world and hustled, working a series of blue collar jobs including being a foreman at a dairy and giving back to their Highland Park community as head of the Rotary Club.

Marrying his high school sweetheart, Caroline, both Murphy parents worked hard because they wanted their sons to go to good schools and reap the benefits of the North Shore community where they lived in. Jim and Bob both remember watching their parents getting up early, working late and working on the weekends to make sure they were fed, had shelter and had the opportunity to have a strong education.

Daniel Murphy, who served four years in the Pacific on a destroyer in World War II (even though he always pointed out he couldn't swim a stroke, says Bob) and received a full athletic



Bob and Linda Murphy (Outside) Letitia and Jim Murphy (center)

DMSF has been a life changer.

"Twenty years ago, I walked across a stage at my honor's assembly and I briefly met a man named Jim Murphy," says Durham, a 2003 Murphy Scholar and Chick Evans Scholar who graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2007 and John Marshall Law School in 2012. Now 34, he is Senior Legal Counsel, Head of Real Estate (Americas) for Infosys Limited, a global tech firm. "He handed me my trophy, shook my hand, gave me his business card and told me to have my parents call him. That 30 second encounter changed my life. I was 14 years old. Looking back at the opportunity I was given, I see DMSF as a parent, big brother, a mentor, a resource and a different path. It was a doorway to a better life for me, my family and my community. My mom raised two boys on the West Side

in annual combined scholarships and enrichment programs. During the 2019/2020 school year, more than 460 Murphy Scholars are benefiting from the program at more than 80 partner high schools throughout the City of Chicago and at boarding schools around the country, including Brother Rice, The Chicago Academy of the Arts, DePaul College Prep, Ida Crown Jewish Academy, The Latin School, Loyola Academy, St. Ignatius College Prep and Willows Academy. The average gift aid for Scholars from the Class of 2019 attending college was \$44,000.

One hundred percent of Murphy Scholars have gone on to graduate from some of the nation's most prestigious colleges. Sixty-four percent are the first in their families to graduate college. What's more, the program is developing leaders and role models including Chicago area business profession-

scholarship to The University of Illinois as an All-American football player, embodied the adage of leaving things better than you found them, says Bob.

"My dad was friendly, outgoing, emotional at times, a fiery Irishman who was passionate about everything he did and an amazingly great storyteller and joke teller" Bob says. "He was also extremely hard working and committed to helping others. He felt that it was important for everyone to use their lives to be impactful in society. He saw a good education as the ticket for us to succeed."

Growing Global

Carrying on their father's legacy, the Murphy brothers emulate the code that hard work pays off. Both say they are certain that their parent's generosity of spirit and commitment to doing the things in life that really matter have shaped their personal and professional lives. They also say their Jesuit "be a person for others" education at Loyola and Marquette contributed significantly to their commitment to give back.

These days Jim is chairman and president of Grow Forward, which funds, mentors and grows sustainable enterprises that are just as good for business as they are for the communities in which they work. Established in 2006, Grow Forward was founded based on his passion for launching and accelerating community-driven businesses

The 14 companies under the Grow Forward umbrella all focus on sustainable solutions that help with global issues and include: MightyVine, which employees 450 people and supplies 75 million fresh harvested, premium glasshouse tomatoes year-round to more than 300 restaurants and customers including Frontera Grill, Monteverde Restaurant & Pastificio, Whole Foods, Costco, and Jewel.

Raised by an Irish father and Italian mother, both Bob and Jim and their families are frequent travelers to Ireland, and Italy. They are of course, especially drawn to Ireland's golf courses.

Jim says that part of his evolution from trader to entrepreneur was sparked by a visit in the early 1970s to Ballymaloe House and Hotel (before it became the international culinary destination and cookery school it is today) and was simple country house B & B.

The door was opened by Darina Allen Ireland's best-known cook and best-selling author of 15 cookery books and the head

of Slow Food Ireland. Darina has been instrumental in setting up the Farmers' Market Movement in Ireland. She was nine months pregnant at the time with her third child, daughter, Lydia, now married to an organic farmer.

"She told us to make ourselves at home," Jim remembers. The next morning, he and his wife woke up to discover a note from Darina: "Sorry, I've gone to have a baby."

"The whole food-to-table concept of healthy eating fascinated me," says Jim. "That visit opened my eyes to that part of work and I realized I wanted to be involved in helping the environment."

Since then, both he and Bob and their families have trekked frequently to Ireland. Once, they assembled 20 Murphy family members to take cooking lessons



Bob and Jim Murphy

at Ballymaloe.

The admiration between Darina and Jim Murphy is mutual. They've built a long-standing friendship. When she received the culinary award at the Irish American Books, Arts and Music (IBAM) in 2015, Jim and his friend Rick Bayless, chef and restaurateur of the Frontera fame, helped shepherd her around Chicago.

"It's so nice to see someone so inspired by producing local foods and it's obvious he is an entrepreneur bursting with ideas and putting them into action," says Allen. "They are a lovely family and spent a great afternoon here taking cooking classes. I'm thrilled to see what Jim has done with tomatoes. It's brilliant."

Now that some of the first Murphy scholars are in their 40's, they are making their

Today, the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund is Chicago's largest high school scholarship program, with more than 3,000 scholarships awarded over the course of 3 decades.

mark globally.

In 2010 after graduating from Harvard and the University of Virginia School of Law,

An immigrant from Ghana, Hoover learned about the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund when she was in eighth grade at St. Thomas of Canterbury in Uptown.

"Most of the students were immigrants and had no means to attend a college prep high school," says Hoover, who graduated from St. Ignatius. "DMSF became my guiding light and opened the door to a whole new world for me. Now, the city is filled with my fellow students who were given great opportunities. It's a league of its own in this city."

Another time, while waiting for a flight at Dublin Airport years ago, another Murphy alum approached him: "Aren't you Mr. Murphy?" She was spending a semester there studying.

Bob has had similar experiences abroad. Recently on a trip with his family to Italy, they were standing among a sea of tourists on the Rialto Bridge in Florence, when one of the students he mentored, Guillermo Estrada, and his wife and daughter walked up to say hi. "It's so exciting to bump into these alumni, many who are now in their 40s all over the world," says Bob, who vividly remembers meeting Estrada when he was in eighth grade and lobbying to make sure he was awarded a Murphy scholarship. He did and went on to earn his M.B.A. from DePaul University in 2010 and is currently a Business Alliance Manager at OnX Enterprise Solutions in Chicago.

"Moments like that remind me of the generosity of the people in Chicago," says Jim. "Lots of generous people have been the key to our growth."

Ellen Yiadom Hoover, a Class of 2002 Murphy Scholar remembers an outing with a friend to the POV lounge atop the W Washington D.C. hotel. She and her friend were about to sit down at their window-side table when she spotted two people sitting at their table. She remembers: "I was like, who just grabbed our table?" It turned out to be Jim Murphy and one of his daughters who was working in Washington D. C.

"I never expected to see Jim Murphy, but we ended up sharing the table and spent a lovely evening in a heated debate over politics," says Hoover, who today is a mom of two small children living in Chicago. She recently accepted an offer at a Chicago law firm to work in its diversity and inclusion department and currently serves on the DMSF board of directors.

What's next for the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Fund? As past presidents of DMSF, both brothers continue to contribute on the Chairman's Council and interview the next generation of Scholars, and their adult children have also gotten involved in volunteering. Today, the organization continues to grow and is run by Rodriguez, the executive director and a staff of more than 10 employees, a Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Chairman's Council and Associate Board.

"I say let's go bigger, let's try to serve more students," says Jim. "There is no shortage of great kids out there. We just need to find them and lift them up. We are working to break OUT of a cycle of poverty and help them break INTO a cycle of opportunity."

Some Ideas for the New Year!!!

Years ago, my former pastor and a friend of mine, Father James Lennon of the Diocese of Joliet wrote an article he called: Ten Commandments of Human Relations. As we start this New Year, I have taken some liberties and expanded my version of his article to 20 SUGGESTIONS on the subject. Perhaps you will find some use for one or more of these ideas during the new year.

20 Suggestions That You Might Find Helpful In 2020

1. Decide that you are going to speak to people whenever an opportunity presents itself. Many people live in a lonely atmosphere: i.e. widowed individuals,

isolated men and women, old people (men and women) and a lot of young people also. Just hearing a friendly or cheerful word from a total stranger can be welcomed; for a moment it creates a connection between two people.

2. We have all heard the old bromide that it is easier and less demanding to smile than to frown. A genuine and warm smile goes a long way in helping people feel appreciated and welcomed in any setting.

3. Reportedly, the sweetest sound to anyone's ear is the sound of their own name. So use a person's name when you are greeting them.

4. Strive to be friendly. It's the quality that

Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



virtually everyone likes in others. Most of us respond better to friendly people. Accept compliments with a "thank you".

5. Be willing to change your mind, when you realize that you are mistaken. Typically, there are three sides to any disagreements; yours, the other fellow's and the right one.

6. Always strive to do your very best regardless of the task. There is a great You Tube wherein retired four star Seal Admiral William H. McRaven speaks of the importance of making your bed the first thing every morning. He says fixing your bed will

serve you well throughout the day, and besides however well or poorly your day went, you can climb into a well-made bed.

7. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect. Learn to listen to the other person. S/he may be a heck of a lot smarter or experienced than you. Show kindness.

8. Be willing to laugh at your own mistakes. It helps others to see your playful side. Give credit where due.

9. Help others when they need it; ask for help when you need it. Most people will respond to your request for help. Actions speak louder than words.

10. Always do your best to hear another person's point of view. Take action! Don't waste your talents and time—use them!

11. Keep your promises. Strive to be a better person every day. Life's a gift; share more.

12. Be generous with your praise and be cautious with criticism, the person you are criticizing may be a friend or relative.

13. Learn to trust others; you may regret it occasionally, but remember, trust helps to build lasting relationships.

14. A good sense of humor is invaluable in life. A good level of patience is also essential to achieve some success. Of course, don't forget to be humble.

15. Stop comparing yourself with others. Stop putting yourself down.

16. Recognize the magic of a positive attitude. Use positive affirmations to enhance your life. Associate with positive, supportive people.

17. I once heard a consultant say there are three ways to gain someone's trust—be positive, be positive and again be positive.

18. Show pride in how you do your job.

19. Be true to yourself. Remember you are a creature of God.

20. Take advantage of the tools available to boost your self-esteem.

For Your Consideration: "None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can do small things with great love, and together we can do something wonderful." Mother Teresa

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead, famed Cultural anthropologist.

A Happy And Prosperous New Year To You And Your Loved Ones! Jamesffitzgerald.com
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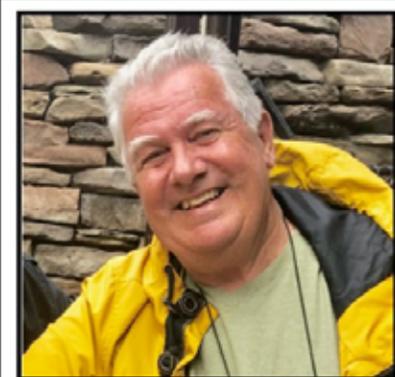
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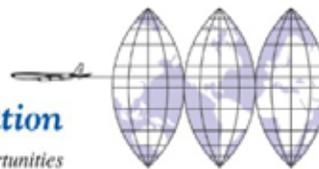
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At the time of this writing, the Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives have introduced articles of impeachment against President Trump for Obstruction of Justice and Abuse of Power. Pending a majority vote, President Trump will likely be impeached by the House, which will then cause a trial to take place in the Senate. Considering Republican opposition to the impeachment inquiry, the Senate would likely vote to acquit Trump, resulting in a net gain of zero for Trump’s opponents.

How did we get here? Less than a year out from the 2020 Presidential Election, the Democrat-controlled House has chosen to undertake a risky process that could easily backfire in the coming months to shatter any hopes of a Democratic candidate beating Trump in the general election. Four years after one of the most controversial elections in American history, Democrats could be shooting themselves in the feet.

Instead of wasting energy in a symbolic effort that will likely only result in a footnote in future history books, Congress ought to be chopping away at what has made America such a chaotic place in recent years: the mistrust of its citizens. Ask any person on the street about politics and they’ll say that politicians are crooked, greedy liars. Most people have accepted this adage as a tragic fact of life, but it doesn’t have to be that way.

Most people will agree that there are two main things that motivate politicians: money and their re-election chances. After the Citizens United decision, which allowed Political Action Committees (PACs) to funnel an unlimited amount of money into the re-election campaign of anyone, politicians can satisfy both of their desires at once! An exchange could be voting against a piece of gun control legislation in exchange for \$50,000 in campaign contributions, or approving

the construction of an oil pipeline for a similar amount. The system in place in the United States concerning campaign contributions amounts to little more than bribery with more hoops to jump through.

Another dysfunctional facet of American politics is the way in which we elect our Presidents: the Electoral College. The Electoral College is an artifact of a bygone era, where state’s rights were paramount and African-Americans were considered only three-fifths of a person. As time has gone on, the Electoral College has continually worked against the will of the American people. In 2016, Hillary Clinton had 2.8 million more votes than Donald Trump, yet still lost the presidential election. 2.8 million voices were disenfranchised by the Electoral College, resulting in Trump’s victory. The Electoral College also disenfranchises voices in a more indirect way: by having a winner-take-all policy

in most states, the voices of the people belonging to the minority party are also disenfranchised.

Take Illinois, for example. The last time Illinois’ electoral votes went to a Republican candidate was in 1988, when George H.W. Bush was elected president. Republican voices in the Chicago suburbs, and in the rural heartlands of Illinois oftentimes don’t bother voting in Presidential elections because they know the state will go blue because of Chicago’s massive Democratic base. While some people think Democrats would unilaterally benefit from the abolition of the Electoral College, the reality is that every American’s vote would count equally. I think that’s something we can all get behind.

As the Democrats finish their inquiry and formalize the impeachment of Donald Trump, we ought to be looking to the future rather than mumbling about the situation we’re currently stuck with. The rhetoric of this year’s Democratic field is promising and revolutionary; Democrats should be focusing on what they can deliver rather than trying to undo what’s already done.



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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

chasbrady7@eircom.net



Shane McGowan Deserved Better - And So Did We

I suppose I should have known not to break the habit of a lifetime and go all optimistic. And I really had been quite pumped-up for the December Friday 13th Late Late Show on RTE, which promised to be a tribute to the great Shane MacGowan of The Pogues.

I've been clearing the room and giving my opinion that the man's a genius since long before it was fashionable. And I've always seen him as being every bit as much a poet as a singer. So many of his songs can be read out loud just for the sheer pleasure of the man's words.

And look at how many of them stone cold nailed a time and place. As a for instance, just as I write here, I've got his eighties song about enforced immigration - 'Thousands are Sailing' - playing in the background:

"Where'er we go we celebrate/

the land that makes us refugees/ from fear of priests with empty plates/ and guilt and weeping effigies."

I worried about how he would get along on a two-hour show. The last time I saw photographs of him - at his marriage to long-time partner Victoria Mary Clarke - he was in a wheelchair, wearing slippers and looking awful frail. Although he's now sober for the first time in decades, he still uses the chair after a 2015 fall that fractured his pelvis. But there's no question that the long years of alcohol and drug abuse have left him looking balloxed.

Still, the program's host Ryan Tubridy and his organizers had decided to decorate the set with a homely barroom atmosphere and surround MacGowan with a goodly crew of genuine friends and admirers, as well as the band themselves.

Okay, I know we had 60th birthday celebrations last year. But I still thought it was a really terrific

idea to honour one of the greatest artists to ever come out of Ireland with a tribute show whilst he was still actually sitting perched and breathing on the twig, instead of waiting until he fell off it -- and then going into a blind panic, before wheeling out people who had talked to him for about two minutes, thirty years ago.

Nor am I one of those guys who stick the knife into Tubridy all the time. Sure, he's 'waaaay overpaid but he comes across to me as a nice guy. Maybe too nice for some of the chancers he gives an easy ride to. But I'm always going to forgive him a lot because of his genuine passion for the movies and the fact that he's another of we dying breed that religiously go to the cinema.

So it was all so far, so good.

It's a weird thing, looking at MacGowan as he is now: as I said above, the prolonged excessive binges have left him banjaxed, no question. And yet there's a strange serenity to him now that it would have been literally impossible to imagine twenty or thirty years ago. He's got a kind of luminousness to him and has an intense stare that seems to be taking everything in. (And oddly it actually added a whole new dimension to the inevitable climax of having him duet with Philomena Begley on 'Fairy Tale of New York' *.)

And the overdone respect was the start of the problems with the show. Too often Ryan Tubridy seemed to be treating him like a piece of fragile Irish crystal. He would ask him a question, but then rush on to someone else without really giving him time to answer.

Which he was well able to do,

given the chance. There's a dry wit still very much in evidence there.

And if he had been allowed, we might even have seen a bit of rage. I was hoping that he was going to go off on one when he was asked about the politically correct drivel over the use of the word 'faggot' on 'Fairy Tale'. But, as elsewhere, Tubridy looked as if he was going to have a full-blown panic attack when Shane let loose with the F-word. Moving swiftly along...

Why do a show on a guy like MacGowan if you're going to make it lightweight and sanitized? Why couldn't they have played a few clips from the past, instead of sticking to the safe old reliables?

I'd like a no-doubt bewildered younger generation to have seen the snarling, raw, blistering, scary energy of The Pogues at their peak. If they were wondering who this old wheelchair-bound geezer was, that would have soon put a halt to their gallop. imagine a blast from the brilliant 'Streets of Sorrow/ Birmingham Six':

"May the whores of the Empire lie awake in their beds/ and sweat as they count out the sins on their heads/ While over in Ireland 8 men lie dead/ kicked down and shot through the back of the head".

Bloody Hell, it would have been worth it just to see Tubridy passing out peacefully whilst the phone lines lit up with the complaints of the Perpetually Offended. And as it happens, those numpties were out in force anyway, moaning that the faux-pub setting was glamourising and normalizing alcohol.

Really? Shane MacGowan at 61 is an advert for boozing? I must be missing something there. I don't

see Whiskey Inc. rushing to sign him up for a selling campaign any time soon, that's for sure.

I'd like to have heard more from actors Aidan Gillen and Patrick Bergin. Gillen is known for his portrayal of the devious, scheming, loathsome little creep Littlefinger in 'Game of Thrones' (and to a lesser extent for his portrayal of the devious, scheming, loathsome little creep and former Taoiseach Charlie 'Littlefinger' Haughey in the offshoot 'Game of Thrones: The Irish Years'); and Bergin will probably be remembered as Julie Roberts' murderous, towel-arranging, control freak of a husband in 'Sleeping with the Enemy'; but if there were any justice WOULD be remembered for purely inhabiting the role of Victorian explorer Richard Francis Burton in the unforgettable 'Mountains of the Moon'.

I wandered off there...oh yeah, these guys would have been aware of McGowan during the heady punk days around London's Camden area. What they were both saying about the man and his talent was interesting, but only left the viewer thirsty for more as once again it was Moving Swiftly Along...

I've no doubt that Shane and his missus were happy with the show and I don't really mean to be throwing sour grapes. But for me, McGowan's words and music could, on the one hand, often move the listener to tears with the sheer beauty of the imagery; but on the other it would grab you by the jacket, knee you in the nuts and head butt you into submission.

I'd like to have seen a little of the latter type of energy, Christmas or no. Instead we got the comfy-sofa, 'Good Morning' talk show approach.

And there was and is a lot more to Shane MacGowan than that.

* It is a favourite at this time of year, yet is often mentioned as lyrically being one of the bleakest of Christmas songs. I'm not so sure about that. Take a listen sometime to Tom Waite's 'Christmas Card from a Hooker in Minneapolis'. You'll still be depressed this time NEXT Christmas!



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their businesses to the U.S. Using the E-2 visa, we have seen our Irish clients enjoy incredible success in the U.S. across industries, from traditional pubs to tech startups. This is a great option for brick-and-mortar businesses with substantial expenses, but even low-overhead startups can potentially qualify for the E-2.

The E-2 visa is popular for many reasons, particularly for small businesses. Unlike other employment-based immigration options, there is no lottery or backlog.

Unlike the EB-5, which can require investments in the millions, there is no minimum amount required but generally we recommend no less than \$100,000 - \$150,000. The recommended investment amount can be responsive to the realities of the applicant's industry so this can vary depending on the

have employees who share your nationality and meet certain requirements, you can apply to have them work in the business as well on an E-2 employee visa.

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2. You invested, or are actively in the process of investing, a substantial amount of capital into a real and operating enterprise in the U.S.

3. You control the investment of the capital, and you invested this capital in developing the enterprise in a way that cannot be recovered.

4. The enterprise will support employees beyond yourself and your family.

5. You are applying to enter the U.S. to develop or direct the enterprise, and you have the power to do so. This means that you either own at least 51% of the company, or you own 50% and you are in a position in the enterprise that gives you control.

E-2 visas are a great option for Irish entrepreneurs, and because E-2 applications require extensive documentation to qualify, we would always recommend receiving guidance from an experienced immigration attorney who regularly works on E-2 applications. If you are interested in exploring this option, our team at McEntee Law is happy to chat.

Fiona McEntee is the Founding & Managing Attorney of McEntee Law Group an immigration law firm, located in Chicago with a national client base. Fiona and her team of advocates work with multinational corporations, tech and healthcare startups, inter-

national rock stars, professional sports teams, human resource and management companies and many more. They counsel their clients on the ever-changing immigration policies and help them and their employees achieve the American Dream.

Fiona is one of few spokespeople for AILA, the bar association of over 15,000 immigration attorneys. She is regularly tapped for her immigration thought-leadership by major media outlets including MSNBC, BBC, CNN.com, The New York Times, Politico, Inc. Magazine, Chicago Tribune, Irish Central, Irish Times, RTE News.

Fiona is also nationally recognized for her advocacy work in immigration law including being inducted into the Irish American Hall of Fame in 2019; being selected to the 2018 Chicago's Notable Women Lawyers; the ISBA's 2018 Elmer Gertz Award for Human Rights; the 2019 & 2017 Illinois Super Lawyers List; the Irish Legal Top 100; and, Irish Echo's 40 Under 40.

Fiona has 12 years of experience practicing immigration law. Originally from Dublin, Ireland, and now a naturalized U.S. citizen, she is in a unique position to provide sensitive, compassionate and comprehensive advice to all her clients. Fiona is also the author of Our American Dream, a children's book that celebrates the immigrant experience.

Alex George is an Associate at McEntee Law Group. While earning her Juris Doctor at Chicago-Kent College of Law, Alex was honored to volunteer with the Cara Family Detention Pro Bono Project, where she helped women and children seek asylum near the U.S.-Mexico border. She started working in immigration law as a Law Clerk in 2017, and has been a member of the McEntee Law team ever since.

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From the Emerald Isle to the beautiful Windy City

St. Patrick's Drama Group, Westport presents a modern classic of Irish theatre

THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE by Martin McDonagh is a dark comedy set in the mountains of Connemara that tells the story of Maureen Folan, a plain and lonely woman in her early 40's, and Mag, her manipulative aging mother. Mag's interference in Maureen's first and potentially last romantic relationship sets in motion a chain of events that are tragically funny as they are horrific. The Play was written in 1996 and staged on Broadway in 1998, and returns to Chicago in a riveting revival production by St. Patrick's Drama Group, Westport. Mary Carr directs with the stellar cast of Regina McCormack, Conor O'Neill, Colette McGinty and Seamus Beirne.

You really can't miss this "Heart Stopping incredible piece of literature!" The show runs on Thursday, February 20th through Friday, February 21st. Curtains go up at 8 p.m. at The Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox Ave, Chicago, IL 60630.

ST. PATRICK'S DRAMA GROUP

An amateur drama group, St Patrick's, was formed in the coastal town of Westport, County Mayo on the west coast of Ireland in 1964 by two young enterprising local men Martin Curry and Michael Collins. Both men shared a passion for live theatre; both saw a need for an outlet through which young people could express themselves by engaging in a wholesome and satisfying pastime.

The founders started out with nothing - no funds, no assets and no hall wherein they could perform.

The group persisted and thrived despite hardships that would seem insurmountable today. In the initial three years, chairs and props had to be "begged, borrowed or stolen." Neighboring drama groups in Newport and Louisburgh were most supportive.

The initial hardships were ameliorated somewhat when the group obtained access to the Town Hall in 1968 and the Town Hall became, and still is, the spiritual home of the group.

Membership of the group has always been open to anyone who likes theatre whether in an acting or non-acting capacity. Core membership is typically between 30 and 40 members, but a transient membership can increase this number to 60 or more, especially when pantomimes and musicals are staged. Group activities are totally amateur - members join for fun, not for profit and any profit generated from shows is donated to St Patrick's Club to help maintain Westports' Town Hall.

From the outset the underlying theme of the group was to have fun and the motto of the group expresses this aptly, "Drama for the fun of it." That motto still applies today. The satisfaction members get from their pastime is twofold; they enjoy themselves and also provide enjoyment for those who come to see their plays, and the latter reason is equally as important as the former.

An early drama group member was Patsy Staunton, a wonderful actor and proud supporter and friend until his untimely death in May 2019.

Over the years the drama group has travelled to Chicago and London to perform various productions. These have always been most enjoyable experiences. One of the highlights was a visit to Chicago in 2006 with the production of "A Wake in the West."

In February 2020, St Patrick's Drama Group, Westport will re-visit Chicago for two performances of Martin McDonagh's "The Beauty Queen of Leenane."

ABOUT THE CAST

Mary Carr directs the Westport production, which is produced by Marion Moran. Mary joined St Patrick's Drama Group in 1976, when she moved to Westport. Apart from great stage performances, Mary has become a hugely accomplished director, staging over 20 plays with the group, including *Blood Brothers*, *Semi Private*, *Sive*, *Same Old Moon*, *Drama at Inish*, *The Loves of Cass McGuire*, *Lovers*, *Them*, *Stolen Child*, *Anyone can Rob a Bank* and *Funny Money*. Mary is very proud to now be directing Martin McDonagh's iconic play, which won four Tony awards with The Druid Theatre and has enjoyed huge success in the West End, Broadway and around the world.

Colette McGinty, who plays the part of Maureen is no stranger to the stage. Colette has been involved in many productions with Castlebar Music and Dramatic Society and she has also taken part in musicals in both Ballinrobe and Westport.

Conor O'Neill joined the group in 2018 and has been a very busy actor since, on stage in both *Funny Money* and *Drinking Habits 2*. Now he takes on the role of Ray. A neighbor who thinks he knows a lot about life and can't wait to get out of Connemara. Ray is both impatient and humorous, bringing some sunshine into the darkness.

Seamus Beirne has played roles in many plays over the years including that of The Playboy in *The Playboy of the Western World*.

John B Keane's plays include *The Year of The Hiker*, *Sive*, *Big Maggie* and *Moll*. Other plays include *The Country Boy*, *The Weir*, *Drinking Habits*, *Thy Will be Done*, *Bless me Father*, *Stop it Nurse* and *The Loves of Gabriel Foley*. He would describe *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* as "the type of play every actor aspires to be part of," and says, "I am honored to play the role of Pato Dooley."

Lastly, **Regina McCormack**, who plays Mag, joined St Patrick's 18 years ago and has been involved in all aspects of the group, from acting to backstage management. She has produced three plays, worked as group PRO, and she is the group's current chairperson. Regina's first performance was in *Steel Magnolias*, under the watchful eye of the late Martin Curry. She has also starred in *A Wake in the West*, *The Country Boy*, *Widows Paradise*, *Attaboy*, *Mr Synge*, *Pretend Sick* and *Funny Money*. Regina considers it an honour to have played Grace O'Malley in the European debut of *The Matriarchs*, written and directed by Anne Chambers.

ST. PATRICK'S DRAMA GROUP
WESTPORT, CO. MAYO, IRELAND

THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE

BY MARTIN McDONAGH

 Irish American
Heritage Center

4626 N KNOX AVE. CHICAGO IL. 60630

02.20.20 + 02.21.20 @ 8:00PM

TICKETS: \$35

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Hosted by McEntee Law Group

Thursday, January 30th

From 4:00-7:00pm
Irish American Heritage Center
Hosted by the Chicago Legal Clinic

Thursday, February 13th

From 3:30-6:30pm
Irish American Heritage Center
Hosted by McEntee Law Group

Thursday, February 27th

From 3:30-6:30pm
Irish American Heritage Center
Hosted by McEntee Law Group



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- Class location is the Irish American Heritage Center.
- Classes commence on Saturday, February 1st 2020
- Class outline & additional information available upon request.

To Register Call or Email:
773-282-8445 or
info@irishchicago.org



For more information contact 773-282-8445

PROPOSED IMMIGRATION FEE CHANGES

USCIS reviews its fees every two to three years. The agency asserts that without its proposed changes, it would fall short of covering its costs by more than \$1.2 billion each year. USCIS has a longstanding policy of charging applicants what it calculates to be the full cost of processing these forms, rather than seeking taxpayer funding to help cover these costs.

- USCIS is proposing to **limit fee waivers** to only a few forms related to survivors of domestic violence or trafficking. This policy change **eliminates fee waivers for naturalization** (both full and partial waivers) as well as for work permits and for green card applications and renewals.
- USCIS' proposal would **increase the fee for the N-400 naturalization application** from \$640 plus the \$85 biometric fee to \$1,170 (including costs for biometric processing). Because fee waivers would no longer be available, **all nonmilitary naturalization applicants would need to pay the \$1,170 fee.**
- Applicants for **adjustment of status (green cards)** would need to pay **separate fees** for their work permits and reentry permits when they submit applications for these permits together with their I-485 adjustment applications. Instead of paying \$1,225 for all three applications, someone filing all three applications would need to pay \$1,120 for the green card application plus \$490 for the work permit and \$585 for the reentry permit, or **\$2,195 for all three.**
- Provisional waivers (I-601A), which enable undocumented people who qualify for LPR status to proceed with consular processing without triggering the 3- and 10-year bars, would increase from \$630 to \$960.
- USCIS is proposing to **end its separate biometric fee** for most applications (currently \$85) and fold the costs of biometric processing into the application fees.
- USCIS is also factoring into its fee analysis a **transfer of \$207 million to ICE** to conduct fraud investigations and cover other unspecified costs.

Throughout the past ten years, USCIS had held off increases to the citizenship fee and created partial fee waivers in order to better enable qualifying low-income immigrants to apply. Ending fee waivers and raising fees will prevent hundreds of thousands of long-term legal immigrants from seeking citizenship and thus shut them out of voting and other rights that come with citizenship.

U.S. Citizenship Workshop

Saturday, March 7th, 2020

Time: 10:00am-2:00pm

Where: Irish American Heritage Center

Workshop Fee: \$50 per person

Call 773-282-8445 to register



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Wednesdays 10am-12pm

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All
Welcome



WHAT IS ICS PLAYGROUP ?



ICS Playgroup is a weekly meeting that aims to connect parents, caregivers, and children through fun and fellowship. Through free and structured play, arts and crafts, music and movement, and intergenerational programming, children will **learn, interact, and develop** and caregivers will **build friendships and share experiences** while engaging their children to help them grow.

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ICS Playgroup meets every
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Coming soon...

Adapted classes for children with disabilities



We will be providing a Creative space for
Children with intellectual disabilities.

Activities include : Drama, Dance / Movement
and Art.

For more information or to register
contact Grace

grace@irishchicago.org
7732828445



Everyone can dance.

A short story **by Grace Odumosu**

(Youth and Family Engagement Coordinator)



In a little house in a little neighborhood in Chicago lived a little family. This family, being of Irish decent loved everything Irish. The mom played the flute, the dad played the concertina and the bodhran, the daughter played the fiddle and the son, well the son he dreamed in Irish. His biggest dream was to go to Irish dancing classes. However, he had no interest in competing, he just wanted to dance. The son was born different, he was born with an intellectual disability.

Every day he got up, he got ready, he went to school, and everyday he asked his parents if he could go to Irish dancing class. Everyday his parents hearts broke a little more, “We are still looking son” “Soon son” “How about we all dance tonight after dinner?” were some of the various responses they gave. They had no idea how they were going to make their sons dream come true. Such a simple request, yet they were stumped. Every night when the children were in bed the parents would try to brainstorm, scouring the internet for an answer. Should they just send him to an Irish dancing class? but they weren’t catered for children with disabilities, and they always wanted their son to have a wonderful experience learning at his own pace not getting frustrated because he didn’t learn the same way as other children. They had resigned to tell their son to choose another activity, that he couldn’t go to Irish dancing class.

On Sundays the family had a tradition they would go to their local Irish bar, eat food and listen to Irish music. This one Sunday the Dad brought his concertina to join the session. The children were so excited they loved watching their parents play music. When they arrived, the session had already started. They walked in the door and the son’s eyes lit up, there was a lady doing a jig in the middle of the session. Watching the joy in his eyes, his Mother decided to be bold. She asked the Lady if she had ever been a teacher. No was the answer “Not unless you include teaching my friends for fun”. That was the key work ‘FUN’. That’s what the Mother was looking for; a place where her son could learn, dance and have fun. That night they sat down and while Sligo Maid was playing they created an adapted Irish dancing class for children with disabilities.



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Support for people with
memory loss and those who
care for them.



BRAIN HEALTH AND PREVENTING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

While the underlying causes of Alzheimer's disease remain unknown, certain practices seem to help older people maintain brain health. The tips below were developed by the National Institute on Aging.

HEALTHY EATING

Good nutrition is an important part of leading a healthy lifestyle - today, tomorrow, and in the future.

- Eat or drink less sugar, salt, and solid fat
- Eat a lot of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains
- Choose lean meats, fish, or poultry
- Choose low or non-fat dairy
- Control portion sizes
- Drink adequate fluids

REGULAR EXERCISE

Physical activity is one of the most important things you can do to stay healthy. Regular exercise reduces the risk of diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. It can help prevent falls and may improve connections among brain cells

KEEP YOUR MIND ACTIVE

Keeping your mind active may help maintain your learning, remembering, and thinking skills

- Read books and magazines
- Play games and do puzzles
- Take a class or join a club

SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

People who take part in meaningful activities say they feel happier, and it may reduce some health risks. Be social and stay connected by:

- Volunteering or working
- Joining a social club or gathering with friends and family
- Trying programs at local community organizations (like Irish Community Services!)
-

GET ENOUGH SLEEP

Make sure you're well rested so your brain and your body get the down time they need to function as well as possible.

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) is a division of the U.S. National Institutes of Health. The NIA leads a broad scientific effort to understand the nature of aging and to extend the healthy, active years of life.

For Resources and Support:

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SENIOR GROUPS

Irish American
Heritage Center
&
Chicago Gaelic Park



January 2020

Our senior group meetings are a place to gather to share some good company, a cup of tea, and maybe even learn something new. Throughout the year, in the spirit of community and fun, we offer educational programs and cultural events.

ALL are welcome to join us. Our gatherings are FREE. There's no membership nor do you need to RSVP ahead of time - just show up to any program that interest you.

You don't need to be a certain age or be from a particular place. There's always a warm Irish welcome for you at Irish Community Services' senior gatherings.

We hope to see you soon!

IAHC

Monthly Musical Gathering

Wednesday 15th January

Doors: 10 AM - Program: 10.30 AM

A celebration of Irish culture with live music by Ray Gavin.

Gaelic Park

New Year Brain Boost

Wednesday 8th January

Doors: 10 AM - Program: 10.30 AM

As the old saying goes 'a good start is half the work'. Today, we kick off 2020 with an interactive program of mental exercises to boost the brain and memory.

A Morning of Music

Wednesday 22nd January

Doors: 10 AM - Program: 10.30 AM

Enjoy a morning of songs and great company- music by Ray Gavin.

All are welcome! Our programs are **Free** (excluding trips and parties) and refreshments are served. For more information call our office on 773-282-8445

Deny, Delay, Destroy

In the ‘90’s I was airing my Irish TV show from Elmwood Park’s cable TV studio and had given up on American newspapers for Irish news, since they either ignored the conflict there completely, aped the British line, or simply bent news into outright propaganda. Accessing the internet was primitive, and I relied mostly on news digests from both the Irish and British consulates of Chicago. The Northern Ireland digests pre-

The current spotlight on dishonest government tactics and media disinformation dovetails well with the focus of many of my past columns. The British are masters at both, and America’s not far behind. They often work together, as in the case of the infamous Steele dossier. Many now hope that finally the seals will finally be opened, the swamp drained, and the light of day shone in the dark corners, exposing the

sented a clearer view than any of the reality on the ground. I generally wrote the script on the same day as the newscast, and on one such afternoon received a call from Caroline Cracraft, Vice Consul at the British Consulate. She said someone was in Chicago from Northern Ireland I might want to interview. It turned out to be Nigel Dodds, who was not yet a recognizable political name and years away from election as MP. I was not prepared for the vitriol he would exhibit in that short interview. So, it was delicious to read that none other than John Finucane, son of assassinated civil rights attorney Patrick Finucane has ended Dodds term as North Belfast MP.

During John’s election campaign, hooded men appeared with ladders to hang large, professionally produced banners prominently in pro-British Protestant areas of Belfast, along with Union Jacks. The banners featured photos of John Finucane and his murdered father, dripping in blood, and read: “The Real Finucane Family - Human Rights Abusers. Steeped in the blood of our Innocents” The banners were dutifully “condemned” verbally by Britain’s current Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Julian Smith. And Northern Ireland police announced they’d be making “inquiries to establish if slogans constitute ‘hate incident or hate crimes’”. Just one more sectarian mystery they’ll surely be solving any day now.

peddlers of perjury. But I think it’s a longshot the general public will soon be exiting Plato’s cinematic cave. Here’s a timeline of the Finucane family’s quest for justice. - a brutally Kafkaesque endeavor: 1989 - February 2 - Civil rights attorney Pat Finucane is assassinated in his home while at dinner with his family in north Belfast by the Protestant Paramilitary Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), a division of the Ulster Defense Association (UDA). (In a simple subterfuge, the British government outlawed as terrorist groups the UFF and other paramilitaries under the UDA umbrella, but allowed the UDA to remain legal until August 1992.) 1998 - April - British reject a UN call for an independent inquiry



Mick

Mike Morley



into the murder. 1999 - April - Sir John Stevens, deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, appointed investigate. June - Former UDA quartermaster William Stobie is charged with Finucane’s murder. 2000 - Amnesty International

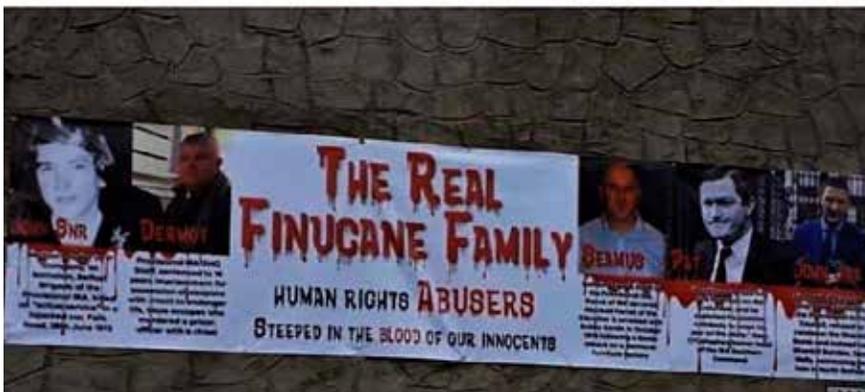
inquiry. The government refuses until the criminal proceedings against Barrett are completed. September - Ken Barrett sentenced to 22 years’ imprisonment. Northern Ireland Office announces an inquiry and plans to introduce legislation. 2005 - The Inquiries Act introduced. Hamill, Nelson and Wright inquiries created. The Finucane family opposes the new law, saying it would enable government ministers to void the decisions of any inquiry. Canadian Judge Peter Cory said: “I would advise all Canadian judges to decline an appointment” to such an inquiry. 2006 - Plans for an inquiry into Finucane murder are halted by Northern Ireland British Secretary of State Peter Hain. Barrett released early; exits Northern Ireland. 2007 - June - The Public Prosecution Service claims insufficient evidence to charge police or soldiers with the Finucane murder. 2010 - November - British Secretary of State, Owen

Paterson, says he will decide the following year whether there should be a public inquiry. 2011 - May - The Finucane family expects to hear soon that the government will hold a full inquiry. October - The British government rules out an inquiry, but proposes a leading QC, Sir Desmond de Silva, review the case. Taoiseach Enda Kenny meets with Pat Finucane’s

widow. Says he will push for a public inquiry. 2012 - January - Finucane family wins the right to a judicial review of the government’s refusal to hold a public inquiry. December - Sir Desmond de Silva’s review confirms that agents of the state were involved in the Finucane’s murder but says there was “no overarching state conspiracy”. Finucane family brand decision a “sham” and a “whitewash”. 2015 - June - Finucane family lose a judicial review of prime minister Cameron’s decision to rule out a public inquiry. 2017 - February - Belfast Court of Appeal dismisses an appeal against the decision. 2018 - June - Case for a public inquiry goes before the Supreme Court. 2019 - February - Supreme Court votes against a public inquiry.

The long game: Deny, delay, destroy evidence, and appoint “unimpeachable” judges to decide.

The recent election handed Britain’s Labor Party its worst defeat in 3 decades, returned the largest Conservative majority since Margaret Thatcher’s third victory in 1987, and the largest share of the vote (44%) won by any party since her first win in 1979. A major issue was the alien question; and it showed the British working class has itself been alienated by Labor’s policies. Those voters are culturally conservative, economically populist. They believe social security should not exclude cultural security. They support country and family. Their ingrained tolerance is being overwhelmed by change. And they see soaring addiction admissions as far more threatening than carbon emissions. Democrats facing election here in less than a year’s time will ignore this message at their peril.



demands a public inquiry. 2001 - Stobie case collapses. Two months later he is shot dead by loyalists. Retired Canadian Judge Peter Cory appointed to investigate allegations of collusion. 2003 - April - Stevens Report says “rogue elements” in the police and army helped loyalist paramilitaries murder Catholics in the 1980s. The Finucane family repeats its call for a full, independent, public inquiry. May - Loyalist Ken Barrett, UDA, charged with Finucane assassination. 2004 - April - Cory Report concludes that military and police intelligence knew of the murder plot but failed to intervene. Judge Cory recommends a public

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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler

Bridges of Ireland

It has been said that a bridge has no allegiance to one side...On one of our recent road trips my husband and I were driving over the centennial bridge in Rock Island, Illinois (connects ILL/Iowa) crosses Mississippi river, it's almost 200 feet about the water. The bridge is about 80 years old it dawned on me that this bridge or any bridge we cross might need some maintenance.

I'd like to highlight a few of the bridges in Ireland namely: Carrick-a-Rede Rope, Daly's, Ha'penny, Knocksink, Dromana & Bennett's bridge. They say you should build bridges not walls. Bridges are immensely important to us because they allow safe passage where previously it wasn't possible. A bridge is a structure carrying a road, railroad, or canal across a river, road, railroad, or other obstacle. Bridges can be friendly to the environment; they make travel possible and can provide border security. However, there are downsides to bridges if they are not being maintained. Older bridges pose safety threats, nature & accidents break bridges down. And some bridges maximum life is fifty years, they need upkeep like everything else. Bridges are meant to be inspected every two years. The federal highway administration estimates that the government needs to invest 20 billion annually to repair all the nations bridges.

Some famous bridges around the world include: Great Belt in Denmark, Chenyany in China, Rialto in Venice, Al Cantara in Spain, Star most in Bosnia & of course the Brooklyn bridge in New York. The longest bridge in the world is in China, called Danyang Kunshan Grand bridge, it's 102 miles long.

Some of us have fears or phobias, it's estimated that 12% of Americans do have a phobia. The fear of bridges is called, gephyrophobia. And now to Irish bridges:

Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge is in Co. Antrim. This bridge links the mainland to Carrick-a-Rede island and it is shaky. Traditionally used by fisherman who needed to check their nets. These days fearless tourists who cross the 20m wide bundle of rope and wood, some say it's worth it to see the view.

Daly's bridge in Cork spans the River



Lee, it is a wrought iron pedestrian bridge, it links the long winding, Sunday Wells Road to the north side and UCC campus. It's

Cork's only suspension bridge.

Ha'penny bridge is one of Ireland's most famous and adored structures. The Ha'penny is a historic icon, a symbol of Dublin. A meeting place and the handiest way to get across the Liffey as a pedestrian. Built in 1816 it was once considered an eyesore by some and there were plans to demolish it. Luckily, those plans were canceled, and the bridge just celebrated its 200th birthday. It takes its name from the toll a person used to pay to cross the bridge, though the official name is the Liffey bridge. Renovated in 2001, it continues to be the busiest little bridge in the country.

Knocksink in Enniskerry, Wicklow built 150 feet above the Dargle River Tributary. In the surrounds of the Knocksink woods is a special area of conservation, there is a rich collection of diverse & extensive fauna and bird life.

Dromana in Waterford is located at the entrance to Dromana House in Co. Waterford. It is a rare example of Hindu-Gothic architecture. Built in 1849 this ornate gate lodge was once inhabited and marked the entrance to an 18c estate called Villierstown. The small bridge spans the River Finnisk and while it's now a private estate it still attracts visitors because of its beauty and uniqueness.

And lastly, we have Bennett's bridge in Kilkenny. A beautiful seven arch limestone bridge across the river Nore it is included in the national inventory of Architectural heritage. It owes its name to St. Benedict; it was dedicated to the saint. Ducks and swans are in abundance in the river Nore below. It dates back to 1763 although there are records that suggest it dates back to 1285. It was thought to have been washed away in the great floods of the 1700s. Bridges that you cross before you come to them are over rivers that aren't there, which means don't worry because it will probably never happen.

Gaelic for the month:

Bridge-droichead

Wall-balla Travel-taisteal

"Greatness is not measured by the walls we build but by the bridges"

DaShane Stokes

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

Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler

Old Irish Farm Equipment

If you have your own farm or ranch, to you, it might be the most beautiful place in the world. And you're probably not selling it anytime soon. There is a lot of pride in owning and working a farm. It is back breaking work that goes very much unappreciated by majority of people who live in urban areas. About 2% of America is farming, cattle, corn, soybean are the top farm products. The state of Texas has the most farm production. Ireland by contrast is about 65% farming, top products include: beef, lamb, barley, sugar beets and wheat. The top three countries that produce the most food include: China, India and USA. Sadly, in India many of their own population can't buy the food they are producing.

I remember some of the most important equipment used in farms years ago, they include: the butter churn, the harrow, the hay cart, the mowing machine, reaper binder, potato digger, swath turner, thrashing machine, two horse plough, & a turnip/beet root pulper.

The butter churn had many piseogs (spells/superstitions) associated with butter making. It was believed butter could be stolen by a hag using magic. In most rural homes the cream was poured into a churn and agitated until butter was made, visitors were expected to take a turn at churning. The harrow cultivated and broke up the soil in order to produce a suitable seed



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bed for setting crops. The hay cart was used to bring in hay from the fields. Mowing machine was used to cut the

long grass that was made into hay. The hay was stored in the haggard and used to feed the animals during the winter. Reaper binder was a great invention, prior to this machine, a group of men (meitheal-working party in Gaelic) were required to cut and bind the corn. The reaper allowed the corn to be both cut and bound. Potato digger pulled by two horses the board share of the digger ran beneath the potatoes which were lifted from the soil. A swath turner flipped the hay so all sides could get sun and dry. The thrashing machine thrashed the grain from the straw and winnowed away chaff. It was a great social occasion around the thrashing days, a lot of storytelling and though hard work it was also a lot of fun. Two horse plough was used for ploughing, a man and his horse would walk ten miles a day. Lastly turnip/beet root pulper was used to chop up root crops for easier consumption by the livestock. If you didn't grow up on a farm or would like to see a farm up close, they have farm tours across Ireland. They have dairy tours, beef, sheep, pig, & poultry in various counties.

I have a New Year's Resolution for anyone out there thinking they need to get one, volunteer. Charities need volunteers year-round. Brighten your life and someone else's by signing up to volunteer. Not only are you doing a good deed, but it will get easier for you, and you'll get better at your job the more you do it.

If you have any questions or comments, please call (708) 425-7021

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We Get Letters

Northside vs. Southside

What's the difference? Crowd Control We all know that attending a Cubs game or concert is a different experience at Wrigley field than it is at Sox park.

The Northsiders have total disrespect and no orderly exit. Not everyone, a large percentage according to the Chicago Police department.

Having experienced it myself at both venues it's easy to see that those exiting Wrigley, a lot of them are all liquored up and the Cubs attitude is let the police deal with it. They just want to encourage liquor sales. There is total mayhem after a game, even more so after a concert.

After a Sox game people leave in an orderly fashion and give the Chicago Police very few problems. There are the occasional troublemakers yet not at the level of the Northsiders.

At a Jimmy Buffet concert at Wrigley two summers ago there was an incident that was life changing for me.

Having worked several Irish fests over the years my gut was telling me that the way they pack them in at Wrigley and feed them alcohol this was an accident waiting to happen.

Did we mention that the beer was flat. The product that was being put out was terrible and expensive.

After complaining to several people that the product was inferior they took my information and, of course, nobody ever called me.

When the concert was over the herd made their way out of Wrigley.

Standing outside, there was a man arguing with his wife. All of sudden he hit her with a vicious right cross. That punch knocked her to the ground.

I immediately got in between the two of them and pushed him back away from her. That gave security personnel enough time to get him under control. Next came the Chicago Police who handcuffed him and placed him under arrest. The woman was being comforted by her friends.

One of the security personnel pulled me aside and thanked me for stepping into the mix. My response was, "I was right there, i wasn't just going to watch".

A representative for the Cubs took my information as well as the Chicago Police. Having witnessed what happened

I was pretty shaken.

The next day I called the Cubs front office with the intention of speaking to someone about necessary changes that need to be made at all events like these.

The PR person told me everything was handled with proper protocol. So the Cubs accepted no responsibility for what transpired.

So a marriage was possibly ruined because of overserving and the Cubs see nothing wrong with that. They swept it under the rug.

They might know baseball. They know nothing about putting on a concert.

One marriage lost to domestic violence is one too many. When do human lives mean more than profits?

The Cubs continue to use concerts as a tool to pay down debts.

What makes this story relevant is that no changes have been made.

The Cubs swept it under the rug. The city puts up with it for the taxes.

The Chicago Police Department is expected to handle it And somewhere a marriage has been broken.

Yeah, go Cubs go. How about go away.

Sonny Scanlon
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Hello there again. Here we are almost into 2020. We had a lovely visit from Cousin Alice from the beautiful Inishbofin Island outside Galway. My daughter and I went over on the Ferry boat last June. We were blessed with beautiful company and the sun shone the whole time we were there. It's always sad to see your visitors leave. Many thanks to my friends who helped fill up my table at the saint Patrick's father's fashion show. Big shout out to Marion and friends for putting it altogether, yes that was a lot of hard work, great job. Also my buddy Josephine Boyle, see you at Irish American heritage center in March. Gaelic Park was our venue for our Thanksgiving dinner. We were entertained by Joe Mc Shane and son. It was absolutely delicious [loved their Brussels} and best of all it was so nice to chat with friends who live there. I went to see Jim Mahon play at chief O' Neils. It was a wonderful true story based upon his childhood bout with cancer. He travelled to Lourdes alone at a very young age as money was tight so ultimately between his mother's



prayers to our Blessed Virgin Mary and his trip to the sacred Grotto he avoided the advice of surgeons to amputate his leg. My friend and I actually cried. We are very very happy that you're still here Jim now you need to take it on the road

I am dedicating this column to my little brother who passed away from brain cancer eleven months ago also to everyone who passed away so expectantly this year. This is a poem my little cousin leann wrote for my brother.

DAVID

How well do I remember all the special times we had growing up together?

We always had each other to laugh and play. We fought a time or two and shed a tear along the way.

But no matter where life took us, each on a journey of our own.

You were always there looking out for us, we never felt alone.

Flamboyant in life, a great character too. Purple was your color it looked so good on you.

Always up for a party and a good time. You loved life to the fullest with a smile and a wink.

But home is where your heart was. Your favorite place to be to catch up with friends and family over a cup of tea.

You loved to spend time outdoors with your horses in the yard.

Like them you were strong and protective always standing guard.

Yet we could not predict the road that lay ahead.

The man above decided he had other plans instead.

We will never understand just why you had to leave.

Our hearts are broken it's so hard not to grieve.

Special memories we now treasure deep within our hearts.

Brotherly love is a special bond we hold right from the start.

Rest easy now with mum and dad. Hughie. Angela and our Aiden too.

Please continue to look over us as we remember you.

Sadly missed and forever in our hearts.

Wishing you all a healthy and blessed New Year.

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Father's Sacrifice Drives Brothers to Help Youth to A Brighter Future

Story page 30



*The Murphy Brothers Paying it Forward!
(l to r): Bob, father in the picture, and Jim Murphy. Story page 30*