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## View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



What killed the chances of Ireland and the UK hosting the 2030 World Cup was the behaviour of English football fans

during the European Championship, hosted by England this June and July. While most English fans behaved decently, a significant portion of them did not. The signs of disruption were there from the start. Booming opposing teams' national anthems became de rigueur, as did booing players who 'took the knee' in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. Sectarian and racist songs echoed from the stands. The iconic

## The European Championship and The World Cup

Ireland and the UK have formed part of a joint bid to host the 2030 World Cup. The World Cup seldom makes a profit and often registers a loss, but it gives dramatic exposure to the host countries, being the biggest sporting event in the world. For Ireland and the UK, co-hosting the World Cup a decade after Brexit could have a healing significance and help to resolve the rift between them. It would symbolise the capacity to co-operate that has been so driven by Brexit by sending a signal that, whatever about the politico-economic divergence between the two countries, we are able to unite in sport and play host to the world. That narrative may have sounded good and have been a plausible aspiration up until early July. It is a beaten docket now.



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Wembley Stadium, where England played Italy in the final, saw a stampede of thousands of unticketed fans breach security to attend the game. Oh, and there was the complete lack of social distancing and mask-wearing. All in all, it was not a good look.

The inquiries into legal and ethical breaches are underway. Already, the governing body of the European Championship, UEFA, has imposed fines on England FA in response to an English fan shining a laser on the opposition goalkeeper's face in advance of a penalty in the semi-final. More fines, and probably sanctions, are likely to ensue.

Among the most painful travesties of the competition was the way in which three of the English footballers - Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka - were targeted by some fans after missing penalties in the final. The players, who are heroes to many English children, happen to be black and they were demonised by racists when they missed their spot-kicks. The treatment they received online and - in graffiti throughout the country - has prompted national outrage in England.

Yet condemnation and punishment of the behaviour of fans lets a considerable swathe of English politicians off the hook. At the start of the competition, Home Secretary Priti Patel dismissed English players who took the knee before games: 'I just don't support people participating in that type of gesture politics'. Patel's comment has been blamed by many for augmenting race tensions. Prime Minister Johnson has expressed his usual farrago of contradictions and bluster.

One player who took the knee, Marc Rashford, gained a political profile last year by launching a successful petition to extend the right to school meals to include holiday periods. Successfully forcing the prime minister's hand did nothing to curry favour in Johnson's cab-

inet. However, Priti Patel is on the wrong side of history on this debate, and she has already been forced into sounding a conciliatory note.

Violence from English fans has a long history, as we know in Ireland. When Ireland played England in Dublin on February 15th 1995 the game was called off after the English fans started a riot, ripping out stadium seats and casting them onto the field and lower stands. Perfunctory anti-IRA sentiment continues to emanate from some English fans when England plays Ireland: 'With St George in my heart keep me English, keep me English till my dying day/ No surrender, no surrender, no surrender to the IRA' a song they learned from Glasgow Rangers' fans. (Neither has a section of the Irish population covered itself in glory during international football fixtures. On June 15th 1996, during the European Championship hosted by England, the IRA denoted a van bomb in Manchester, injuring 212 civilians).

Still, violence and anti-social behaviour from English fans has become more and more routine and the European Championship saw new lows from them. So, it is worthwhile trying to identify the source of the English football fans' rage. One of the chants that animated them was 'football's coming home' bears a striking resemblance to the slogan around which many Brexiteers rallied: 'taking back control'. There were many motives behind Brexit - a momentum that managed to unite voters in post-industrial cities as much as the monied classes in England - but one of them was certainly racism: the fantasy that England could return to a former (white) glory.

Brexit will have a lasting effect on Britain's economy, but also on its culture. Britain's weakening economy and diminishing status in the world is turning avowed Brexiteers, who have embraced a narcissistic fantasy of English exceptionalism, more inward. The behaviour of English football fans by no means represents the entire Brexit project but they are among the country's most extreme jingoists. At such international sports competitions, they are 'ambassadors' of the new Britain, and the international community is far from impressed by what they see. Is it any wonder that Boris Johnson has prohibited his ministers from using the word Brexit except as 'as a historical event that took place on January 31, 2020'. But its effects cannot be so easily compartmentalised and history has a habit of haunting miscreants.



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# Irish-American Hurdler David Kendziera Headed to Olympics

Congratulations to David Kendziera, who hails from Mount Prospect, IL on making the Olympics in the 400 meter hurdle. His parents are Dave and Maureen McManamon Kendziera, his grandparents are Bridget Campbell and the late Bill McManamon of Newport Co Mayo, who also lived in Mt Prospect, where David and family still reside.

The family is involved in the Irish American Heritage Center, and are very proud of David.

Here are some of David's stats: While attending Prospect high school he won Class 3A state title in 2013 in the 300 meter

hurdles in Stockholm, and a 1st place finisher in The Match; Europe vs USA 2019 in Minsk in the 400 m hurdles.

We asked David what it felt like to make the Olympics, and this was his reply. "It took a moment to sink in, even before the race finished with 40m left to go I could feel the athletes on my left and right begin to



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hurdles and was runner up in the 110 meter high hurdles.

He was the *Daily Herald* Athlete of the year 2013.

He was a 10 time All American at the University of Illinois and a four time NCAA medalist.

He was the 2017 Big Ten Athlete of the year, and in 2017 he was the Big ten 400-meter hurdles champion.

He still owns the Illini record in the 400 meter hurdles.

David ranks second in the 60 meter hurdles (7.69) and 110 meter hurdles (13.39) at University of Illinois.

His personal best finish time in the 400m hurdles is 48:38

Professionally, he was 5th in the Diamond league 2020 400

hurdles and was runner up in the 110 meter high hurdles. I disappeared from my peripheral vision and I knew I crossed the line in 3rd. I knew placing 3rd meant that I made the team and was going to Tokyo, but it was still a surreal moment where I couldn't believe what I had accomplished.

Months and even weeks leading up to the trials, I wasn't in the racing shape I wanted to be in so the fact that when I showed up to trials and put together my best race ever, I was more in shock and awe. But now, with each day getting closer and closer to the beginning of the Olympics, It has been sinking in and I have been getting more and more excited!" exclaimed David.

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### Cook County Property Tax

Thanks to property law attorney, Arthur Murphy (312-213-0072) for the following information!

The second installment property tax bills will be a bit late this year. The treasurer anticipates mailing the tax bills in late August.

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The bills will be posted to [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) in mid-August.

The anticipated due date is October 1, 2021.

### We Get Letters

Hi Tina: I read your column in the June issue of *Irish American News* and noted your comment about migraine disease and your mother. I'm the retired Executive Director of the National Headache Foundation and wanted to assure you that new medications are available. There are also devices that have been helpful.

I would suggest that you check the webpage of the National Headache Foundation: <http://www.headaches.org>.

Best, Mary Franklin

### Mother Jones To Appear at Grand Opening of Pullman National Monument Labor Day Weekend



Mother Jones (aka actress Brigid Gerace) will appear at noon Saturday September 4, 2021 as part of the Grand Opening Activities at the new National Park Service Pullman National Monument. The Cork born labor icon will regale the crowd with her participation in the Pullman Strike of 1894 as well as reflect on her lifelong friendship with other Pullman actors including Gene Debs and Clarence Darrow. The National Monument is located at 11159 S Champlain Ave, Chicago 60628. The performance will take place in the "tent" outside the new National Park Service Visitor Center.

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### Shamrock American Club Get Together September 4th

Welcome back members and friends! Our next dance will be held on Saturday September 4, 2021 at 8:00pm in the Shamrock American Room. Gerry Haughy will be providing the entertainment to get us back onto the dance floor! Admission is \$10.00, tea/coffee and goodies will be served. Let's dust off our dancing shoes, get reacquainted with old/new friends and remember the good times we have had!

Membership can be renewed at the door or mailed to Donna Quirk. Any questions please call Pauline Scollard at 773-203-4737, or email at [scollard@att.net](mailto:scollard@att.net).  
God's Blessing to all of you!

Pauline Scollard President Shamrock American Club

In other news, Mother Jones Heritage Project Director Rosemary Feurer announced that the Project and the City of Chicago are close to reaching agreement on a prominent site for permanent placement in a prominent site of a Mother Jones Statue. "We are so encouraged that the efforts of our supporters, especially organized labor, women and the Irish-American community have brought us to the point of seeing the dream of a Mother Jones Statue become a reality. We will announce the site as soon as it is confirmed. In the meantime, continue to contact your alderman and the Mayor's office to express your support and donate to the Statue Fund at our website."

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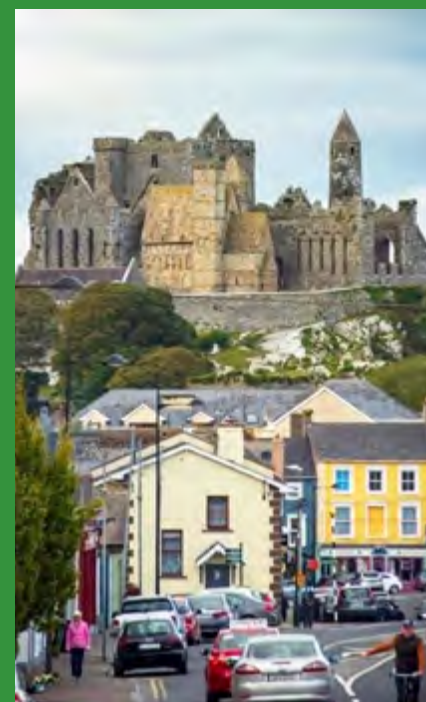
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# Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



## Green Crime Fiction

Ireland is a modern European country with well-educated, confident young people. The Catholic Church always worked against any modern social change, but its power has declined to almost nothing. These positive developments have greatly accelerated change; the Good Friday Agreement/1998 ended the civil war in Northern Ireland.

For those reasons, Irish crime fiction has experienced enormous growth. Crime fiction includes mysteries, murder mysteries, police procedurals, psychological suspense novels, and many more kinds of crime fiction. Irish crime fiction is often called Green or Emerald Noir. Webster’s Dictionary describes noir as “crime fiction with...cynical characters. But, despite cynicism, the noir detective continues the struggle against evil.” Noir writing shows that occasionally, one person can defeat evil and restore order in the world.

mystery puzzles that give the reader pleasure when we watch them unfold. This form of fiction often displays insightful and sharply drawn character observations and beautiful descriptions of nature.

Ireland is a small country, but despite its small size, it produces many first-rate writers of mysteries. I keep a file of 18 Irish authors whose books I have repeatedly purchased and reviewed for the Irish American News. I greatly enjoyed reading the new crime mystery, *Snow*, by John Banville. The review of it was published here in February. I ordered the new book, by David Pearson, *Lethal in Small Doses*. He cited the other books in Connemara. This book is situated in Dublin and is about a police investigation of a serial killer who is targeting care homes for the elderly. Pearson’s descriptions of nature are insightful and emotionally powerful.

Some of the beauty of Connemara is shown in this description of Detective Maureen Lyons. She

had just told the police searchers that the search would continue in the morning: “the weather had eased a little, and as she headed back toward the city, the clouds were scurrying across a big yellow moon high in the sky. The bog land was illuminated as the clouds passed over it with eerie light, which had a strange beauty all its own.”

The detective was going to meet someone, but as he waits, he sees “a strong shaft of sunlight had reached a corner of the table and was striking down through the polish and wood itself...the grain in the wood like underwater weeds drawn out in the streets by the slowly moving current.”

The detective’s office looked out over the trees “to the houses on the other side of the square. Throughout the day, the light on the distant brickwork changed by subtle, slow gradations...by noon, when the sun was fully up, it

would become a steady dazzling white blaze. Later afternoons were best of all though, when the bricks seemed smeared with a glaze of shimmering, molten gold, and all the windows were yellowy aflame.”

Mystery books and other crime fiction, encourages us to be mindful of the incredible beauty around us. Pearson’s new book is a fitting end to the Green Crime Fiction article. It will be fully reviewed next month in this column.

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Hi, I'm **Annie Nestor**. I was born in Ireland and have family from Galway, Mayo and Kerry. I'm a locally owned Home Care Agency founded in 2015.

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## On the Upbeat

By Maryann  
McTeague Keifer

When I was teaching literature, I often started poetry units with song lyrics to hook the students' interest. Yeats was a poet I often introduced them to as he was easy to read and his words painted pictures in one's mind. I would love to have had Raymond Driver's just released masterpiece collection album I AM OF IRELAND/ Yeats in Song.

Driver has had a lifelong love of Yeats' poetry inspired by a gift book from his father. Raymond was only 8 years old,

Fifty years later, still fascinated by the poems and word descriptions, he was walking in a woods reciting the love poem, He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven, and the music came for it. While he did not consider himself a musician, he eventually put over one hundred of Yeats' works to music. They were initially performed in New York by soprano Laura Whittenberger and pianist Peyson Moss. This album, though, was the brainchild of music producer Paul

Marsteller, and we owe him a debt of gratitude for encouraging Raymond to gather noted Irish folk singers and musicians to perform his compositions.

Despite the difficulties Covid created necessitating more than thirty musicians

their instrument of choice, and you have one incredible collection of poetry, song, and music, a true collection of the arts.

Some of the lyrics here you will recognize like John Doyle singing, "I have spread my dreams under your feet; tread softly because you tread on my dreams" from He Wishes For the Cloths of Heaven. Others may be unfamiliar, but will long stay with you put to Driver's music.

The album cover itself will pull you in. Raymond is a graphic artist by trade and has used his talent to show the beauty of Ireland and the character of Yeats himself. It would be a poster many would enjoy having on their wall. Also available is a 16 page booklet of the lyrics, many with Driver's notes, truly a treasure!

This is an exceptional album. Even if you do not consider yourself a poetry lover, you may be pleasantly surprised to find out that you are. Information to listen and/or order can be found on the I AM OF IRELAND Website.

We actually have fests coming up where we can enjoy live music once again. Thank heavens for all the musicians who have been so generous to share music online for a year and a half, but Lord, I'm weary of watching it on my phone or pad!! I want to see it, hear it, and feel it live!! I'm so praying for our borders and embassies to open for our overseas bands.

La Crosse Irish Fest is being held August 13-15th. As of this writing, no entertainment list had been released, but it is a lovely small fest in a pretty setting. Milwaukee follows on the 20th-22nd. The CelticMKE Committee has worked feverishly to bring a great lineup which includes Cherish the Ladies, The Byrne Brothers, Eileen Ivers, Gaelic Storm, Jig Jam (fingers crossed), Runa, The Winifred Horan Trio, Screaming Orphans, Scythian, The Drowsy Lads, Seamus Kennedy, Seamus Egan, Mairtin De Cogain, Seven Nations, Tallymore, John Whelan & Brian Conway, Mick Maloney, Jimmy Keane & Pat Broaders, Moxie Strings, Rory Makem, and too many more to mention. There will also be an online concert series for those not yet ready for larger groups of people. Hit their full of information website for all you need to know.

The following week is another packed with talent weekend at the Peoria Irish-fest/Erin Feis. You'll get to enjoy Jig Jam, Scythian, Eileen Ivers, Lunasa members with Dave Curley, The Gothard Sisters, The Byrne Brothers, Bohola, Adam Agee & Jon Sousa, and many local bands, dancers, and exhibits.

Hope to catch you at one or both!



located in three continents to work together online to record this, the result is a stunningly beautiful album that will be a favorite of all who get to listen. Two prereleases were more than enough of a carrot for me to be chomping at the bit to hear the rest. Dervish's Cathy Jordan, accompanied by the inimitable Seamie O'Dowd on fiddles, guitars, percussion, piano, and backing vocals—no talent here...., perform the namesake, I Am of Ireland. The intro music is strong and bold. Cathy's singing gives off a pride and presence that makes you want to stand and wave the tricolor. The accompanying band, which is Seamie, still truly blows my mind as I listen to it.

The second prerelease, completely different in tone, is He Tells of the Perfect Beauty sung favorite balladeer David Curley and accompanied by Lunasa band members Cillian Vallely ace of uilleann pipes, bass man extraordinaire Trevor Hutchinson, and Colin Farrell's soulful fiddle. It is difficult not to keep hitting replay; it is that enthralling.

Twenty-four poems put to music are included, each with a different and unique sound, and each performed so alluringly that you can't turn away from them. Dave Curley, Cathy Jordan, John Doyle, Christine Collister, Eleanor Shanley, Fergal McAloon, Jackie Oates, Seamie O'Dowd, Mick McAuley, Ashley Davis, and Brid O'Riordan are the lead vocalists, most singing at least two poems. Instrumentalists are Seamie O'Dowd, Colin Farrell, Cillian Vallely, Trevor Hutchinson, Kevin Burke, Laura Zaerr, Mick McAuley, Cal Scott, Gabriel Rhodes, Joel Zifkin, David Gossage, Rick Richards, Cormac De Barra, Dana Lyn, Mick O'Brien, Niall Hanna, John Spiers, Jack Rutter, Natalie Haas, Danny Levin, Leonard Barry, Stephen O'Dowd, Derek O'Sullivan, and Mick O'Brien. Add in each vocalist playing

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## On the Law

Martin Healy Jr.

John P. Scanlon



## On The Law

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

*HealyScanlon, formerly The Healy Law Firm, is comprised of seven trial attorneys. We are located downtown at 111 West Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). [www.HealyScanlon.com](http://www.HealyScanlon.com). The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.*

### So Someone Got Injured As a Result of a Party You Threw

As pandemic restrictions are lifting and we are into summer, events and celebrations will once again resume. Whether a pandemic-postponed graduation party celebration, or a simple summer barbeque, alcohol will likely be a part of the celebrations to come. As exciting as the return of celebrating with friends and family may be, adult responsibility for distribution of alcohol must be kept in mind in order to avoid potential serious consequences to the host of the party. Currently, most states have some form of law dealing with "social host responsibility." Hosts of underage drinking situations can be civilly or criminally liable for what occurs at their homes, whether or not they are aware that drinking is occurring. Since 2004 in Illinois, the Social Host Law holds adults accountable for serving or providing alcohol to a minor or permitting the use of alcohol by a minor. The statute specifically imposes civil liability

for "any person at least 18 years of age who willfully supplies alcoholic liquor or illegal drugs to a person under 18 years of age." Under the statute, the victim can recover economic damages, non-economic damages, attorney's fees, and in some circumstances punitive damages.

The Act was passed by the Illinois legislature in response to two high profile cases. The first involved a 16-year-old girl who died as a result of drinking at a friend's house. The second case involved a hazing ritual in 2003 between junior and senior high school girls from a north suburb. In both cases, parents were aware of the underage drinking.

In the first case, the mother of the 16-year-old brought action against two brothers and their father for negligence in providing a bottle of

Goldschlager to the teenager. The plaintiff's daughter lost consciousness after drinking the bottle of liqueur, dying later that day. The mother argued that her daughter, a minor, could not appreciate the dangers associated with consumption of excessive amounts of alcoholic beverages. The mother could not pursue a "social host" theory against the family because at that time there was no statute imposing that duty upon them. However, the mother was able to pursue a "voluntary undertaking" theory alleging the defendants undertook care for her daughter but did so negligently.

The second case involved a highly covered hazing ritual that was videotaped between junior and senior high school girls. The video of a drunken battle between the high school girls was played on national television. Five girls were hospitalized. Thirty one students, twenty eight females, and three males were suspended from school, some later expelled due to the off-campus incident. Media attention focused on how such a large number of minors were able to obtain alcohol for the event. Two mothers of students were later charged for providing alcohol to the teens.

Under the current law, if a parent or homeowner over the age of 18 serves or allows alcohol consumption by anyone under the age of 18 at their home which causes the impairment, they may be liable for injuries to persons or property

caused by that impairment. It is important to note that an adult can be held liable whether or not they provide the alcohol and whether or not they are present during the occurrence.

The statute covers not only injuries to the teen but also to any third-party victims of the intoxication. If the intoxicated teenager leaves the home and gets into an accident, the homeowner providing the alcohol may be responsible not only for the injuries suffered by the teen but also the injuries suffered by any other person involved in the accident.

### The Law Prevents Blaming

Looking to place responsibility on the responsible adults, the legislators specifically eliminated any theory of contributory negligence of the minor from the statute. The Act states, "Neither contributory negligence nor contributory willful and wanton conduct shall apply to any injured party claiming damages under this Act." It does not matter that the minor may be acting carelessly, the homeowner may still be found liable for their actions.

### Liability in

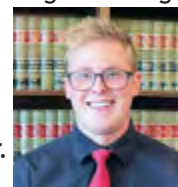
#### Non-Residential Settings

The statute makes a distinction between residential and non-residential settings. In a residential setting, an adult will be held liable for the actions of the impaired minor if

any person over the age of 18 "willfully supplies" alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs. In non-residential settings (not specifically defined in the statute), the Act provides that the adult may be held liable for simply "permitting" consumption of alcohol by a minor on their non-residential premises. The statute emphasizes that in a non-residential setting an adult does not have to buy or supply the minors with alcohol, but merely allows it to be consumed to be found liable.

The Act is another example of the no nonsense approach the State of Illinois takes to teen drinking. Everyone should be aware of this as gatherings begin to occur again in the coming months. It is important this summer and for future events to make every effort to comply with the Act so that you can enjoy social gatherings with family and friends without facing the consequences of permitting underage drinking.

By  
**Luke Nance**  
and  
**Martin Healy Jr.**



*Luke Nance, a Law Clerk and recent graduate of the University of Notre Dame, contributed to this article. He will begin law school in the fall at the University of Illinois, Champaign.*

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# Chicago Gaelic Park

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



## A Cháirde

Our month started with Irish cultural Camp and we were blessed with great volunteers and happy campers. We thank all who helped bring the Camp back this year.

GAA action is heating up, leading to the finals this month both here and in Ireland. At Gaelic Park, the semi-finals will be here on August 8th starting at 11:30, with the finals on August 15th starting at 1:00. All are welcome to cheer on their favorites or just come out and enjoy the competition and camaraderie. And please save the date for Irish Heritage and Harvest Day. September 12th will be here before you know it.

Is mise le meas,  
Bill O'Sullivan

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**Thank You To Our Wonderful Staff!**

Everything you do to keep Gaelic Park strong and take care of the Gaelic Park community is noticed and appreciated.

And best wishes to those of you who will be heading off to university this month.

We look forward to seeing you when the semester ends.



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## Ireland Should Accept Secretary Yellen's Global Corporate Tax Deal

Since taking office, one of President Biden's top policy priorities has been forcing the wealthy to pay their fair share in taxes. As an arm of the new administration, Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen is determined to achieve that goal. Her first big test? Con-

vincing countries around the world to agree to an unprecedented minimum global corporate tax rate.

A minimum global corporate tax rate would disincentivize companies from moving their operations to offshore tax havens like Switzerland, Ireland, or Sin-

gapore. Under Yellen's proposal, signatories would still be allowed to raise their corporate tax rates above the minimum threshold, which will be at least 15%, but would be prohibited from having a corporate tax rate below it.

Ratifying a treaty of this magnitude would be a huge victory for the Biden administration, but there are a few obstacles that stand in its way. Some are domestic: the Constitution requires two-thirds of the Senate to vote in favor of ratification before an international treaty can go into effect. This would mean that Senate Democrats would need to curry the favor of 17 Republican Senators in order for the treaty to go into effect. Before that process can even happen, however, Secretary Yellen has to convince a few key holdout countries that the merits of the treaty outweigh any potential drawbacks. One of these holdouts is Ireland.

As many of you are aware, Ireland has experienced enormous and unprecedented economic growth in the years since former Finance Minister Charlie McCreevy reduced the corporate tax rate in Ireland from 32% to 12.5% in 1999. Ireland's low corporate tax rate and its many tax loopholes has made Éire prime real estate for massive corporations to move their headquarters overseas through a process known as tax inversion.

Tax inversion occurs when a company like Apple buys a smaller, Irish company and utilizes that company's credentials to move

its corporate headquarters to the Emerald Isle. Thus, instead of paying U.S. taxes, Apple pays Irish taxes, and can often get away with paying a rate even lower than the "headline" tax of 12.5% using loopholes. Despite this, tax inversion has bolstered the Irish economy and created thousands of good-paying jobs for those living on the island. In 2016-2017, 80% of the corporate tax rate paid to the government was by foreign-owned businesses, and these businesses employed a quarter of Ireland's workforce.

Thus, Irish officials are worried about how joining a global corporate tax treaty might impact its economy. While the US is seeking to bring its corporations back stateside, Ireland is seeking to retain them for its own benefit. However, I still believe it would be short-sighted for Ireland to opt out of the tax treaty.

Opting out of the tax treaty could negatively impact Ireland's economy much more than joining the treaty would. While penalties for not joining the treaty haven't been fully hammered out yet, Ireland could easily find itself caught in a web of damaging economic sanctions from signatories of the deal. These sanctions could severely limit Ireland's trading partners and ultimately cause an economic collapse.

Second, by joining the treaty, Ireland could make more tax money without necessarily losing its foreign investment. If the proposed global corporate tax rate remains at 15%, Ireland would

only have to increase its own corporate tax rate by 2.5% to be in compliance. Providing a minimum tax threshold could also secure Ireland's economic place in the future, as the "race to the bottom" between competing countries seeking to bring in the most foreign investment will grind to a halt if a uniform minimum global corporate tax rate is established.

Lastly, a major provision of Yellen's tax deal could bode well for Ireland even if major foreign firms decide to exit the country. Yellen's proposal closes a loophole that many multinational companies have used to avoid paying an income tax in any one country. Her proposed reform will allow any signatory of the treaty to tax companies for the profit they make in their country, regardless of where their physical headquarters are based. This means that Ireland will be able to tax the profits of companies like Apple when those profits are made at the expense of Irish citizens.

To sum up, Ireland finds itself at a crossroads when it comes to the deal proposed by Secretary Yellen: should it continue to abide by its unfair tax practices that have bolstered its own economy while effectively robbing other countries of their own tax dollars? Or should the government opt in to a new, revolutionary treaty that would herald in an unprecedented amount of international cooperation and good will, all while forcing Big Tech to pay their fair share? I believe that the choice is clear.

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## Frank Duggan Organizes a 'Ride to Remember 911' Honoring Victims and Families on 9-12

**By RYANNE GALLAGHER JOHNSON**

In light of this year's 20th anniversary of 9/11, motorcyclists from the area, led by Galway Ireland native Frank Duggan and Woodstock Harley Davidson, are partaking in a memorial Ride to Remember, honoring those who died, sacrificed, and exemplified heroism that fateful day in 2001.

"We decided that, this being the anniversary, it was very important to get together for a ride," says Mr. Duggan. "We've done this in the past by taking the ride down to Oak Brook, to the Healing Field that had been assembled and put up by the True Patriots Care, an organization led by Gerry Christopherson. That time, that ride had about six hundred riders that participated."

True Patriots Care, an organization dedicated to recognizing and supporting those who have served their communities as first responders and as members of

loss of life, and pay tribute to all the first responders that exemplified heroism and hard work and diligence on that day. And much sacrifice. Therefore, this ride is also to help raise awareness for



post-traumatic stress for our first responders and for our active military and our veterans."

Eleven charities have been chosen to benefit from this event: Veterans Path to Hope, Warrior Wishes, A Salute to Our Heroes, Stephen Siller Tunnel to Tow-

nation. With that, you'll receive a lanyard with a memorial tag bearing the name of an individual who lost their life on that fateful day.

The ride will begin at Woodstock Harley Davidson, head down Rt 47 to Huntley, then to I90, 290, 355, and I88- all of which will be shut down for the occasion- and into Oak Brook and the Healing Field, where a memorial ceremony will take place.

The 2,977 3x5 American flags set up in the field will also have timelines of the events of that day, and how they unfolded. Those present will have the honor of listening to speeches given by two people who were there that day, one who was in Tower One when it was struck, and one who was in the Pentagon when it was struck.

The charities that will benefit from the ride are all dedicated to helping our first responders and those who have served in the military, and Mr. Duggan has been impressed with the work he's seen from some of them.

"A few years ago we did a ride, and one of the benefactors of the ride was Bravehearts in McHenry, and it was an absolutely fantastic operation to see, and the dedication of those people in helping our veterans was absolutely tremendous to see firsthand."

The ride has been put together by Mr. Duggan, and has received much support from many groups in the area.

"I cannot express the thanks to all the agencies that are helping me with this ride," says Mr. Duggan. "Any ride, any venture, cannot come together without a solid team."

Fond memories of visiting America as a child, on holiday with his family (which his mother, he says, 'saved like crazy for'), and seeing the World Trade Center towers for the first time, have inspired Mr. Duggan to spearhead the tributes to memorialize the 9/11 tragedy.

"Being a Galway lad, (I'd never seen) a building over six stories. We visited the World Trade Center, and at that time I think it was six months to a year old, and we went

up to the observation deck. And to this day, I can remember the views from that building."

He credits his wife, Maureen, for keeping him on track with planning these events, and his son, a firefighter in Arlington Virginia, and daughter, a Chicago resident, for giving him so much support.

"And I have to say kudos to my boss, Doug Jackson (at Woodstock Harley Davidson)," he adds. "He's always allowed me to do this ride, given me the latitude that I need. We're very fortunate that we have a dedicated memorial on our premises to our Veterans. It's one of the only ones, I believe, that's

on a Harley Davidson premises. And we also have a Hall of Honor, and it's dedicated to all those that have served in our military.

"Now, I feel, we have an opportunity as a motorcycle community, to really say 'We in Chicago remember what happened, and we will honor those 2,977 people that lost their lives that day.'"

For more information on the Ride to Remember, you can visit [truepatriotscare.com](http://truepatriotscare.com), and you can call Woodstock Harley Davidson at (815)-337-3511 and ask for Frank Duggan in the service department to register for the ride. Cash and checks are accepted.



Frank Duggan

the armed services, seeks to enrich the lives of those individuals and their families through honor and support. The 9/11 Memorial Healing Field in Oak Brook is a "stirring display of 2,997 flags that will bring the community together in a patriotic tribute on the 20th anniversary of September 11, 2001. Each U.S. flag represents an individual and tells a story. Flags may be sponsored to honor individuals that fell that horrible day." ([truepatriotscare.com](http://truepatriotscare.com))

"This year, I thought it'd be proper to have a ride that honors the victims of that dreadful day, as we all remember 9/11 and the

ers Foundation, 10-41 (Chaplain Services), Greg Lindmark Foundation, Oscar Mike Foundation, Braveheart, 100 Club of Dupage County, Camp "I Am Me", and The Emerald Society.

"We feel this is one way we can give back as riders," explains Mr. Duggan, "And show our appreciation for all those who have served our country and our community and are suffering from post-traumatic stress. And also, we would like to include the many thanks and gratefulness to their families."

For those interested in joining, the event is looking for a \$50 do-

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## Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

### Sophie du Plantier and the Lost Children of Europe

This past week I was on the phone with Robert, an old friend from my Dublin days of twenty plus years ago. He comes to County Cork every year and I had been trying to remember the name of the small town that he and his family head for.

"Ah", he said. "It's Goleen. I keep telling you that you would love it. It's right near the southwest tip, a village where Time has just about stood still; and Heron's Cove, where we stay...what a special place, and with lovely food.

"The village is just beyond Schull there."

OK, so now I know exactly where we're talking about. Because Schull has been on the news

off and on for all of a quarter of a century; and this past month there has been an intensity of interest in the murder that took place there on December 23, 1996. Two books, with more on the way; an in-depth multi-episode podcast and now two television series on the murder: Netflix's excellent 'Sophie: A Murder in West Cork' and Jim Sheridan's less well critically received 'Murder at the Cottage: The Search for Justice for Sophie.'

You'll notice that both examinations feel free to call the murdered lady by her first name. It's something that I feel ambivalent about, although I understand why. After some hours over the years spent looking at images of her and puzzling over her savage end, I also think of her as Sophie; and yet in even choosing the headline for this short piece, I felt the need

to give her a full title. Because after all a first name is just too intimate, too personal when I never met her.

Whatever one's feelings on the rival documentaries, however, it is satisfying to see this talented, complex, beautiful and layered woman recognized as something more than a victim. Frozen in time and space as these now-familiar images place her, she is stylish in that hard-to-define way that certain French women simply are...and yet she is equally part of the landscape and coastline of Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way and the area that she loved for its remoteness and ruggedness. And she can pass as bohemian, she is that as well... and fits in with and yet is apart from the many fascinating New Age types who find themselves drawn to this part of the world. The ones that writer and former resident Elizabeth Wassell calls in her fine phrase 'the Lost Children of Europe.'

If nothing else then the past month has stopped me thinking of the brutal murder of this woman and its aftermath as 'the Ian Bailey Case'. Right or wrong he was the only real suspect there ever was in the murder of Sophie du Plantier - and this aggressive and menacing blowhard of a man would not deserve the hours that have been devoted to analyzing him but for that dreadful incident.

Briefly, he appears to have been at the young age of 20, very successful as a journalist in England with the Sunday Times; and there he set up an agency that did well.

There followed a brief marriage in Gloucester that went badly, basically leaving him with nothing. And it was on to the first flight to Ireland, which a former colleague describes him as seeing as some sort of Nirvana.

Forty-odd years ago I learned about fitting into an Irish town and it wasn't to go on like Bailey did. Denis Quinlan, who at that time ran The Courtyard Bar in Schull, recalls the 6' 3" figure of Bailey calling the pub to attention and reciting some of his poetry whilst everyone was supposed to stay quiet and listen to him. The drinkers of Schull are obviously more

tolerant than some that I've hung out with over the years, I can tell you that for nothing. As Quinlan says: "Once I got to know him, I was quite happy if he did not come in here." Bit of an understatement I would think.

However, just because a man is a loudmouth and a clown does not make him a murderer. Unfortunately for Bailey, though, he just can't stop talking. I mean, this fella loves the sound of his own voice. Even when it came out that he had a history of violence towards women he couldn't help himself. Just couldn't. Concerning one altercation with his partner Jules Thomas, in which he had torn her lip away from her gum, pulled out tufts of her hair and left her eye so badly damaged that she almost lost it, this man made it all about him: they had both been drinking and 'it takes two to tango'. No wonder he wanted the Netflix interviews pulled.

Yet again just because a man is a loudmouth, a clown, a blowhard, writer of bad poetry (which he insists on reciting even when he's being questioned), violent and an admitted beater of women doesn't mean that he's a murderer.

And it really doesn't: by God, was this a botched investigation from the start.

I took a liking to Eugene Gilligan, the forensic expert who led a team from Dublin; less so to Dermot Dwyer, the Detective Superintendent from Cork who has to be seen to be believed. One of those smug hail-fellow-well-met types, who just make my teeth ache.

I almost swallowed my tongue in laughter when Bailey described him as 'a psychopathic criminal wearing the uniform of a garda.' And there's Detective Dermot Dwyer (who is amusingly described as a Columbo, at which point I thought my ribs were going to give out) saying: 'I told him the man who did this is local, a headcase and I've a good idea who that is and I think that you've a good idea.'

I'd love to have been in that room, listening to the two of these blusterers.

Detective Dwyer might have had something to bluster about if in the meantime the garda had not forgotten to take photographs of the wounds and scratches that were on Bailey's arms and brow (although they did do a drawing, to be fair).

Or lost an entire gate that was to be used in evidence, seeing as how it was next to Ms. du Plantier's body and was splashed with blood. And when I say gate, I don't mean one of those garden things that you pull shut behind you when you're on your way to the old 9 to 5; I'm talking about a bloody great gate that you let cattle through. How the hell do you lose that from a small village evidence room?

I have no idea where that gate is today, but I like to think it has Lord Lucan riding Shergar on the far side of it.

Toma McCullim, who had come to the village in the 80s, was another who came across to me as likeable, but again had a strange story of police methods of the time. A self-described lesbian-feminist, she said that after the murder a garda came around with a photo of the victim and asked:

"Well, what do you think of this woman? Could she be... a lesbian?"

It's incredible, really. It's only 25 years ago and yet it sounds like something straight out of 'Father Ted'. Maybe he thought it was contagious; maybe there was a theory going around that an outbreak of lesbian activity was leading to murder in West Cork. Who knows?

And it is of course all too easy to be flippant. And unfair. Human, but terribly unfair. Because a woman died. And hopefully we will eventually see some kind of resolution to the pain of her family.

This is how her son Pierre remembers her:

"The house in Ireland, for me, is the only place I would go with my mother - and where I continue to go today. It's like going to see her. It's like going to stay with her every time. Mum is very present in this house."

Sophie du Plantier. 1957 - 1996. [charleybrady@gmail.com](mailto:charleybrady@gmail.com)

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# Naperville Irish Fest

Friday, August 6th & Saturday, August 7th



Live Music & Entertainment



Cultural Events



Children's Activities



Hurling & Camogie Tournament

Join us as we Celebrate the Music and Culture of Ireland



Food and Drink



Vendors



Beer Tents



**Frontier Sports Complex**  
3380 Cedar Glade Road, Naperville, Illinois

For a complete schedule  
visit [www.wsirish.org](http://www.wsirish.org)



## Friday, August 6

2:30p Opening Ceremony featuring Paddy Homan  
Bagpipers: Firefighters Highland Guard of Naperville

3:00p - 10:00p "Try Hurling"  
3:00p - 10:00p Long & Straight Shooting Contest

### Main Stage

3:30p - 4:40p Cirrus Falcon  
5:00p - 5:45p McNulty Irish Dancers  
6:00p - 7:40p Paddy Homan & the Noble Call  
8:00p - 10:00p Without U2

### Platform Stage

4:00p - 5:15p School of Rock  
6:00p - 6:20p McNulty Irish Dancing  
6:20p - 6:40p Learn the Jig with McNulty  
7:00p - 9:30p Karaoke!

### Sessions Tent

4:00p - 6:00p Sessions Trad Irish Music  
by Murphy Roche

6:00p - 6:30p Bagpipers:  
Firefighters Highland Guard of Naperville

Storytelling 4:00p - 4:45p  
read by 95th Street Library staff in the 95th St. Community  
Plaza which is adjacent to Frontier Sports Complex.

	Food Trucks	Beer Tents
Friday	3:00p-10:00p	3:00p - 9:30p
Saturday	12:00p - 10:00p	12:00p - 9:30p

### West Suburban Irish Tent

Friday 3:00p-10:00p  
Saturday 12:00p-10:00p

Spin the "Wheel of Chance"  
Win Prizes \* Festware  
WSI Membership \* Raffle Tickets

### Photo Booth

Inside WSI Tent  
Saturday 2:30p - 6:30p

### Children Activities

Storytelling + Fairies  
Face Painting  
Irish Wolfhounds  
Bounce Houses  
Home Depot Crafts for Kids  
Irish Language Scavenger Hunt  
Carnival + Firetruck  
Chicago White Sox Southpaw

## Saturday, August 7

12:00p - 12:30p and 6:00p - 6:30p  
Bagpipers: Firefighters Highland Guard of Naperville

10:00a - 5:00p Hurling Tournament  
12:00p - 10:00p "Try Hurling"  
7:00p - 9:00p Long & Straight Shooting Contest

### Main Stage

12:30p - 1:30p Yoga w/Karin Steinbach, B.A. RYT200  
1:30p - 2:30p Mimosas  
1:40p - 2:40p The Boils  
3:00p - 4:00p Whiskey Mick  
4:15p - 5:00p Trinity Dancers  
5:15p - 5:30p Raffle Drawing & Sponsor Thank You  
5:40p - 7:40p Chicago Reel  
8:00p - 9:30p Breakfast Club

### Platform Stage

1:45p - 2:30p Hogan Irish Dance Academy  
3:15p - 4:15p School of Rock  
5:40p - 6:00p Trinity Dancers  
6:00p - 6:40p Learn the Jig with Trinity  
7:00p - 9:30p Karaoke

### Sessions Tent

4:00p - 6:00p Sessions Trad Irish Music  
by Murphy Roche  
Storytelling 11:00a-11:45a, and 3:00p-3:45p



## Enya

With her blend of folk melodies, synthesized backdrops, and classical motifs, Enya created a distinctive style that more closely resembled new age than the folk and Celtic music that provided her initial influences. Enya is from Gweedore, County Donegal, Ireland, which she left in 1980 to join the Irish band Clannad, the group that already featured her older brothers and sisters. She stayed with Clannad for two years, then left, hooking up with producer Nicky Ryan and lyricist Roma Ryan, with whom she

recorded film and television scores. The result was a successful album of TV music for the BBC. Enya then recorded "Watermark" (1988), which featured her distinctive, flowing music and multi-overdubbed trancelike singing; the album sold four million copies worldwide. "Watermark" established Enya as an international star and launched a successful career that lasted well into the '90s.



Enya (born Eithne Ní Bhrónáin) was born into a musical family. Her father, Leo Brennan, was the leader of the Slieve Foy Band, a popular Irish show band; her mother was an amateur musician.

Most importantly to Enya's career, were her siblings, who formed Clannad in 1976 with several of their uncles. Enya joined the band as a keyboardist in 1979, and contributed to several of the group's popular television soundtracks. In 1982, she left Clannad, claiming that she was uninterested in following the pop direction the group had begun to pursue. Within a few years, she was commissioned to provide the score for a BBC-TV series called "The Celts." The soundtrack was released in 1986 as her eponymous solo album.

Enya didn't receive much notice, but Enya and the Ryans' second effort, "Watermark", became a surprise hit upon its release in 1988. "Orinoco Flow," the first single, became a number one hit in Britain, helping the album eventually sell eight million copies worldwide. Enya spent the years following the success of "Watermark" rather quietly; her most notable appearance was a cameo on Sinéad O'Connor's album "I Do Not Want

What I Haven't Got." She finally released "Shepherd Moons," her follow-up to "Watermark", in 1991. "Shepherd Moons" was even more successful than its predecessor, eventually selling over ten million copies worldwide; it entered the U.S. charts at number 17 and remained in the Top 200 for almost four years.

Again, Enya was slow to follow up on the success of "Shepherd Moons," spending



nearly four years working on her fourth album. The record, entitled "Memory of Trees", was released in December of 1995. "Memory of Trees" entered the U.S. charts at number nine and sold over two million copies within its first year of release. 1997

saw the release of a greatest-hits collection, "Paint the Sky with Stars: The Best of Enya", which featured two new songs. Enya's first album of new material in five years, "A Day Without Rain", was released in late 2000.

At the time of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, Enya's single Only Time, was used as a theme for the underlying sense of loss and triumph of the rescue workers. She would later donate her profits from the song to the Firefighters Fund that was set up in response to the event.

The Lord of the Rings trilogy also gave her music a wider audience. Her song on the Lord of the Ring - The Fellowship of the Ring helped the album to go platinum. In addition, she was nominated for an Academy Award for 2002 Best Song Nomination for The Fellowship of the Ring, as well as a Golden Globe in 2002 for Best Song Nomination for The Fellowship of the Ring. Her music was also heard in The Two Towers and The Return of the King.

Enya does not tour, and her public performances have been limited to special occasions. Enya is still extremely popular throughout the world. Next to U2 she is the top-selling Irish artist in the United States with total sales of over 22 million albums.



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Society of County Will

[www.CountyWillIrish.net](http://www.CountyWillIrish.net)

*The Irish American Society of County Will hereby pledges itself to the following ideals:*

- \* To promote Irish culture in America and to preserve Irish-American Heritage
- \* To promote education, friendship, understanding and cooperation among members, and the community in general.
- \* To promote and cooperate in the general welfare work of the community.

## WILL COUNTY CELTIC FEST 2021 CANCELLED

Earlier this year, the usual site of CELTIC FEST, St. Joe's Park, announced that the all large park rentals for summer 2021 were cancelled. Then, recently, it was announced that the Park would be open beginning August 1st. However, IASCW was informed that our regular 4th Saturday in August had been given away. Instead we were offered Saturday August 7th (West Suburban Irish Fest in Naperville date) or Sunday August 22. The IASCW Board declined these alternate offers from the Park. WILL COUNTY CELTIC FEST is scheduled for **Saturday, August 27, 2022.**



## IRISH AMERICAN SOCIETY OF COUNTY WILL MEMBER PICNIC

Members and prospective members are invited to the IASCW Member Picnic.

When: 1PM to 4PM, Sunday, September 19, 2021

Where: Will County Heritage Village Open-Air Museum; 249 W 2nd St, Lockport, IL 60441.

<https://willhistory.org/heritage-village>

**Reservations required. Email [info@countywillirish.net](mailto:info@countywillirish.net) or text Tim Brophy at 815-791-6424**

Begin your journey into Will County's past here in the Visitors Center, learning about the history of each building in the Village. Also, view the amazing exhibit of Mirjana Urulesku on the immigrant experience during the building of the Illinois and Michigan Canal.

All paid members are welcome for a light lunch, beverages, fellowship. Enjoy the seven preserved structures and beautiful grounds alongside the original canal.

[WillCountyCelticFest.com](http://WillCountyCelticFest.com)



# Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

I find it hard to admit I’m wrong, but on this day I concede I was in error about New Jersey. I believed the state adjacent to New York City sported a massive population of Irish immigrants. Makes sense, New Jersey often described as an adjunct to Manhattan, easy for the Irish to commute back and forth. Yet, to this day the Jersey Shore displays abundant Irish flags flying from chimney tops and elaborate mansion gates.

However, the breaking news mid-July over the fate of a swan on the Jersey shore clearly demonstrates there was not a single Irishman or woman coming to the aid of a white majestic swan charged with creating an uproar in Brick Township. Mayor John Ducey exclaimed “this is crazy,” as he and staffers worked with residents in an attempt to save the life of the swan scheduled for euthanasia. This would not be an issue, if the Irish came forward citing Irish mythology highlighting the age-old respect and treatment of swans in the Emerald Isle. How many of us learn at our grandfather’s knee that most famous tale about the Children of Lir? It captivated and penetrated the love of

swans into the marrow of our bones symbolizing both light and purity. It’s puzzling, how can you be an Irish immigrant and not know the folklore of Pre-Christian Ireland? Hence my conclusion New Jersey’s Township of Brick County is devoid of an Irish population.

The swan on death row is named Alfie. According to an informed source it was a peaceful resident gracing forever the Seawood Harbor. Residents joined together fighting to keep Alfie paddling the harbor, claiming that the creation of Jet Skis and their owners who have issued formal complaints to federal wildlife officials demanding Alfie be relocated or snuffed due to his cantankerous behavior. The question arises, who came first the swans or the skiers? Supporter’s contend the water skiers create loud noise and deliberately taunt the swan whose responsibility is to maintain safety for his life-long mate and the occasional gaggle of ducklings.

Pre-Christian Ireland viewed swans as creatures who could connect where the gods and goddesses lived. The folklore of The Children of Lir is a sad and vicious tale casting a light on evil and vindictiveness. Swans bring a sense of comfort, tranquility and peace of mind and it’s no wonder the male Alfie became agitated when ski riders took pleasure in provoking him. New Jersey should take a page from New York’s Governor Andrew Cuomo who passed legislation in 2014 blocking conservation officials from setting a goal of eliminating all swans.

Allegedly the swans were damaging ducks and geese while running a risk to passenger jets.

The story of the *Children of Lir* immortalized in Irish folklore involves a widowed King left to raise four children. He remarried and as is often the case,

his wife resented the children. A vicious nasty stepmother, she cast a spell turning the children into swans. Not only was the curse harsh, it had a lifetime of 600 years. The first 300 years the swans were banished to a lake, followed by another 300 in the Sea of Moyle, a cold, vicious narrow expanse of sea in the North Channel between County Antrim in the North of Scotland. According to folklore the twelve-mile body of water was so harsh the swans nearly died from cold and continuous harsh storms.

On the Jersey Shore, children feed the swans, treating them as delightful ornaments, although when swans feel threatened, they hiss. Experts maintain where friction occurs between swans and people, it is the people, not the birds who are the transgressors. However, as

complaints mounted a federal inspector pronounced a death sentence or removal of the swan. The latter was thwarted under the New Jersey wildlife regulations, a species that is deemed invasive cannot be moved to a different habitat. The only option, to humanely euthanize the alleged aggressive bird. Residents balked and contacted the operator of a

local animal rescue organization who agreed to take the swan if it could be brought to the facility. However, transporting an animal under such circumstances requires a permit from the New Jersey wildlife enforcement agency. Even that hit a wall when the US Department of Environmental Protection issued a statement that because of a contract with the agriculture department, New Jersey officials stated the agency does not relocate aggressive, non-native wildlife to zoos or other private settings. On a recent Friday the swan Alfie was to be euthanized. Cries from the community were ignored but the Gods of swans intervened. The man willing to take Alfie received a telephone call reporting a swan was in distress in the waters near Seawood Harbor with fishing gear around its neck. He required help. The owner drove to the area and using bait coaxed the swan back to shore, into his vehicle and back to its facility. Given the bureaucratic obstacles trying to move the swan he said the tangle of fishing line probably saved its life.

A good ending for Alfie but not for the Children of Lir. When the curse finally lifted the four swans landed on a lake in the South of Ireland. According to legend a fisherman touched the swans and they turned to dust. Moral of the story, don’t screw with swans!

Estelleshanley@aol.com

New York, 1863.

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of what America could be.*

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## Irish American Alliance Picnic! Fun for the Whole Family!

Sunday, August 8, 2021 1:00 P.M. to Sunset Turtlehead 01 Shelter at Turtlehead Lake Harlem Ave (South of 135th St)

Mass: In lieu of the usual on-site service, we are encouraging everyone interested in Sunday Mass to attend the 11:30 Mass at St. Alexander Catholic Church, 7025 West 126th Street, Palos Heights, IL (708) 448-4861, which is reasonably close to the picnic location.

Featuring Live Traditional Irish Music, Bean Bag Tournament, Kid and Adult Games and Activities On-Site Prize Raffle and More FREE BEER, WINE, SODA, HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS AND SNACKS BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Catered Buffet Entree with all the trimmings and dessert! A mere \$10.00 per person donation allows you to partake of the Early Buffet Supper.

Sponsored by The Irish American Alliance Social Club  
9231 South Roberts Road, Hickory Hills, IL 60457 For Details Call: 708 598-4838. [www.chicagoiaa.org](http://www.chicagoiaa.org) for pictures of prior picnics and much more!

## Treaty or Treason by Phillip Kerrigan

"Treaty or Treason" is a 20th century Irish saga of a friendship that faces many challenges and ultimately falters. The 1916 Easter Rebellion, the War of Independence and a Civil War all occurred within eight years. They pushed the small country of

They grow into young men in a heart breaking coming of age,



Ireland into an acceptance of a future not many wanted but was thrust on them by a power they could no longer resist.

Westmeath, a county in the Irish midlands. It's the beginning of the 20th century and two boyhood friends grow up in the rural countryside dominated by the British military in Athlone. "Treaty or Treason" is an historical fictional account of those whose lives were affected by the major events in Ireland in that time.

seeing the horror and heroism of the Easter uprising debacle in 1916 unfold in Dublin. But it is an event that ignites a national blaze and turns the two young men into revolutionary fighters whose secret activities put them in grave danger and change their lives.

For two years from 1919 they fight the Irish War of independence against the mighty British Empire all the time seeing the prize of their beloved Republic and independence getting closer for Ireland.

The brutality of their foes, the mercenary Black and Tans and their treatment of the civilian population forges their friendship and resolve. Their society torn apart, their leaders challenged. The boot heel of Imperialism stamps down on their country.

This is a saga of boys to men to fighters at a time when the world is recovering from World War 1. But for Ireland the struggle is just beginning and the fight will be ferocious and vicious against a powerful enemy.

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Chicago (South Loop)  
Crystal Lake~Glen Ellyn  
Naperville~Norridge  
Westchester  
Dubuque, Iowa and  
Lake Geneva Wisconsin

## Irishfest in Downtown La Crosse In Wisconsin on August 13 Thru 15



Here we go! Our 16th Irishfest La Crosse will be held August 13-15 on the fest grounds in downtown La Crosse, Wisconsin (615 2nd St. N, La Crosse, WI). We are thrilled to be back after the COVID year's break!

Join us for fantastic Irish music

from traditional to harp to rock and everything in between. In addition to music, we will have Irish dancers, cultural displays, workshops, storytelling, Genealogy Tent, Highland games, Fiddle Contest, Kilt Run, shepherding, an Irish Market and more. Our

Harp Stage this year will feature the Harp Twins and their eclectic style of music. Our Wee Folks area is sure to entertain the kids with games, activities, contests, sheep shearing, music, puppets, and Irish dogs. There is the arcade and Aran Islands Golf for the older kids. A variety of food and drinks will be available.

We are a family friendly festival run by a completely volunteer board along with our volunteers. All musical performances will be under tents. Entertainment will include Gaelic Storm, Eileen Ivers, The Harp Twins, Máirtín de Cogáin Project, Seamus Kennedy, Ian Gould, Compás and many others. Due to current travel restrictions between Ireland and the U.S. we aren't able to confirm some of our performers at this time but check our website: [www.irishfest-lacrosse.org](http://www.irishfest-lacrosse.org) and Facebook for up-to-date information and tickets.

Friday, August 13 we are honored to have Consul General, Kevin Byrne and Vice Consul, Sarah Keating officiate at our Opening Ceremonies.



***U.S Representative, Marie Newman, with Irish Consul General of Ireland Kevin Byrne discuss a number of topics including immigration and common interests in Ireland and the USA in Chicago recently.***



Join us on the links for  
**GOLFING FORE GREEN**

*a fundraiser for the Irish American Heritage Center!*

**Where: Tam Golf Course, 6700 Howard Street, Niles, IL 60714**

**Date: Saturday, September 18**

**Start: 9:30am**

Each group going out every 10 minutes

**Price: \$75**

**Includes:** Nine holes of golf, golf carts, voucher for a sandwich and drink (beer, wine, or soft drink), prizes, and more!

**Sponsorships and Challenges:**

Hole Sponsor \$100

Closest to the Pin wins \$200

Longest Drive wins \$200

Since it will be Halfway to St. Patrick's Day, there will be prizes for Best Kilt on the Course and Most Green Worn.



4626 North Knox Avenue • Chicago, IL 60630

Register online at [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org)

Or Mail Checks and Info to IAHC



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AUGUST 2021

We have been busy here this summer, and we're not slowing down! We've had some great musicians and bands join us in the Fifth Province pub on Friday and Saturday nights, and have enjoyed hosting the Jefferson Park Sunday Market every other weekend. This month, we have so many wonderful events going on, we hope you can join us for some of them!

This month in the pub, we're joined by friends of the Irish American Heritage Center, The Boils on August 14th and Jon Buschner on August 20th. Also joining us this month for concerts are The Byrne Brothers, Irish Fest favorites, on Thursday August 26th, and on August 28th, we'll be joined by one of our favorite trad quartets! STEAM will be performing on the south lawn for a first-ever outdoor concert. Bring your lawn chair, and the IAHC will provide the food and beverages!

Join us for a pint, some fries with curry, and enjoy some great Irish mu-

sic while helping to support the IAHC!

Speaking of pints, did you hear that the Fifth Province has its own beer tap?! Lakefront Brewery collaborated with us to create the Fifth Province Ale, which is a mild Irish red ale brewed with the finest ale and caramel malts. This is the perfect beer to pair with good conversations, live music, and great friends!

Along with the music we have scheduled, we're also hosting the Jefferson Park Sunday Markets every other Sunday. The next dates are August 8th and August 22nd. Shop for some fresh produce, to enjoy a crepe, coffee, or tamales, and stop in the Fifth Province to enjoy a drink—perhaps one of our Sunday specials of \$5 Bloody Marys or a mimosa.

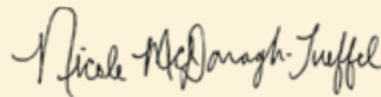
Looking for a way to get active with the Center? We have online Yoga classes at noon every Wednesdays through Zoom. Take a break from your work day to stretch, recharge, and enjoy yoga from the comfort of your

own home!

Also coming up in September is our annual golf outing, Golfing Fore Green, a fundraiser to support the Irish American Heritage Center. The cost per golfer is \$75, and all proceeds go to the Center; sign up for yourself or a foursome today to reserve your spot! Sponsorship opportunities are also available; check out our website to join as a golfer or to sponsor the event!

For information on all upcoming events, please go to [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org). You can find out more on the events mentioned above, purchase tickets to fundraisers, and more!

Have a wonderful rest of the summer, and I hope to see you around the Center soon!



Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel, President



## On tap now at the IAHC!

Fifth Province Ale, a mild Irish Red, brewed in collaboration with Lake Effect Brewing Company. Brewed with the finest pale and caramel malts. This malt-forward, mildly bitter ale is great for conversations, listening to music and enjoying meals. A real session ale to be enjoyed in a glass!

### FIFTH PROVINCE ALE



## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER NIMBLE THIMBLES QUILT RAFFLE



We can't let 2021 go by without the annual Nimble Thimbles Quilt Raffle! Purchase tickets in person at upcoming IAHC events, online at [irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org), or mail in your purchase info using this form. Drawing will be December 6th.

Here is your chance to own this beautiful Floral Kaleidoscope quilt! It features kaleidoscopic blocks, each one a different variation on the large scale print border. It measures 91 x 99 inches, a "generous" queen size, and is washable. A quilt like this, hand made by our very own Nimble Thimbles, would be at least \$500 if purchased outright.



### TICKETS:

2 for \$10 • 3 for \$15 • 5 for \$20

**DRAWING: December 6th**

*What a great Christmas gift  
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Cut this order form out and \_\_\_\_\_ 2 tickets: \$10  
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**Total number of tickets purchased:** \_\_\_\_\_

## CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE IAHC

or visit [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org),  
to purchase tickets or donate online

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# STEAM

We're thrilled to welcome STEAM, featuring John Williams, Katie Grennan, Jeff Lindblade, and Steve Morrow for a very special show on the IAHC south lawn Saturday, August 28th! Music starts at 7:00pm.

Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the music of STEAM and maybe some special guests, while the IAHC serves you drinks and dinner from our menu.

Tickets are available for \$15 each and kids twelve and under free.



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The Irish American Heritage Center is happy to welcome the talented Byrne Brothers back to the Fifth Province! Multi-instrumentalists and Irish dancers, the Byrne family, Luca 17, Finn 15, Dempsey 12, and dad Tommy have played for us in the pub and on stage at Irish Fest, and are much loved by our IAHC family!

Tickets are \$18, \$15 for members, on line at [irish-american.org](http://irish-american.org), or at the door.



**Join us on Thursday, August 26th at 7:00pm in the Fifth Province for the return of the Byrne Brothers!**

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# It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



and they all paid him back. He was largely responsible for changing Lincoln Park into a beautiful area from what was once a dangerous place to live.

The ceremony was attended by Kevin Byrne (Irish Consul General) Michelle Smith 43rd

## 'By The Shores Of Old Donegal'

© Joe McShane © Stephen Smyth

Verse 1

Along Tir Connell's lonely coast, where stars are shining brig  
To gaze upon its splendor is a blessed sight

The moonlight on the ocean as it creeps up on her shore  
We pray that she'll be kindly as the fishermen come home

Verse 2

Scenes I will remember, of a friendship we all shared  
Love within that little house the place where I was reared  
Memories come rushing back every now and then  
On nights when I am all alone my thoughts return again

Chorus

A flicker of a memory makes me think old times  
Forever will linger in this old heart of mine  
The mountains and starry nights, friends I recall  
And the nights spent together by the shores of old Donegal

Verse 3

In dreams, I often wonder if only for a while  
To see a gift from heaven in my Mother's smile  
And oft at night in sleepy dreams, I hear her sweet voice call  
Once more I'm cradled in her arms by the shores of Donegal

Chorus

A flicker of a memory makes me think old times  
Forever will linger in this old heart of mine  
The mountains and starry nights, friends I recall  
And the nights spent together by the shores of old Donegal (tag)

Although I'm far from home tonight I'm thinking of you all  
And I know I'm always welcome by the shores of old Donegal

Hello everyone,

A few weeks ago, I was invited to sing at a special celebration in honor of a man called Dan O'Donnell. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to do it, so I contacted Joe Cullen, and my son Declan and they were able to do it. Joe and Declan put on a great show which I had no doubt they would. Dan passed away earlier this year on January 19th so, even though he knew he



jobs upon their arrival but there were no jobs. He contacted the priest at a local Catholic school, he then bought blowup mattresses for them. they stayed there for a week until Dan freed up some of his own apartment, and he brought them there. He had most of them work for him in his warehouse store and got the rest jobs after making some phone calls.

A man from Costa Rica told Joe Cullen the day of the ceremony that shortly after Dan opened his store in 1969, in what was then a bad neighborhood, he started to try to change the area. The man from Costa Rica bought a huge amount of supplies to build his house but had forgotten his wallet. Dan sent him home with everything and told him to pay him Later. He loaned money to several in the neighborhood to build new homes so they could avoid having to get expensive bank loans. He gave them the supplies to build on their honor

Ward Alderwoman and of course Dan's family and hundreds of people that loved Dan so much. Dan's name is spoken with pride in Chicago and Ireland alike. His father Daniel O'Donnell was from Eighter Island, County Donegal, and his mother Nellie (Nee Casey) from Cornamona, County Galway. Thank you to Andy Clarke (Dan's son-in-law) for getting in touch with us to be part of this honor for a great man. Our best wishes to Dan's loving wife of over 59 years, Kathleen, son's and daughter Brian, Kevin, and Erin, and all Dan's family. Daniel Patrick O'Donnell R.I.P.

I thought it would be fitting to have the song for this month a Donegal song that was written recently by Stephen Smyth and me.

As always be good to one another, Joe

[Website](#)

[Joe's FaceBook Music Page](#)

[Joe's FaceBook Songwriter Page](#)

[Joe's ian Monthly Columns](#)



was to be honored, he didn't live to see the street sign that was erected in his honor. The street sign is named Dan O'Donnell Way. Dan earned this honor through all the great things he has done in his life, especially in Chicago where he is very fondly remembered and most especially by approximately 1,600 J1 students, who Dan helped over the years.

The story goes that Dan O'Donnell owned a hardware store on Armitage Avenue, Chicago. One day Dan looked out from his store and saw about eight students sitting on their luggage at the bus stop. He heard their Irish accents and found out they had been promised



Declan McShane and Joe Cullen playing Irish music at the event.

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## Larry Kirwan & *Paradise Square*: First Chicago Then Broadway!

By *Ryanne Gallagher Johnson*

The multi-talented Larry Kirwan wears a lot of hats. They include composer, *Black 47* band frontman, radio host, columnist, and political activist. He's also an Irish immigrant and a New Yorker. But recently, the two talents that are on the frontline of his repertoire are that of novelist and playwright.

His post 9/11-era inspired third novel, *Rockaway Blue*, which hit shelves and e-readers this past Spring, earned high praise from critics and excellent reviews on Amazon and Goodreads.

Later this fall, *Paradise Square*, a fantastic new musical he conceived and helped bring to life, is coming to the James M. Nederlander Theatre in Chicago, before making a run on Broadway beginning in March of next year. The early word is that it is so good it should garner award nominations.

Kirwan, who hails from Wexford in Ireland, has a simple explanation for his many areas of talent, "I have an interest in all of them, basically."

He's been a columnist with the *Irish Echo* in New York for over a decade, is the host of the Sirius XM radio show *Celtic Crush*, and was the leader of the highly successful American Celtic rock band, *Black 47*, during its 25-year run from 1989-2014.

He's pulled his interest in many of the things he does from his life experiences growing up in Ireland, and being raised by his grandfather. His inspirations include *New York Post* columnist Pete Hamill, listening to rock-n-roll on Radio Luxembourg and on the BBC, and stories told to him about his Great-Grandfather surviving the 'Great Hunger.'

But *Rockaway Blue*, he says, has been simmering inside him since 9/11.

"In New York, the way I see it, there's pre-9/11 and there's post-9/11," he explains. "The city changed because of that, and I really wanted to capture that. Also, (I wanted) to tell the story of regular people who went through 9/11. Not the story on steroids that the politicians used, like the Giuliani and Bush Administrations, to go to war in Iraq. I wanted to tell what it's like for the regular person who might have lost someone. I lost a couple of close friends, but that's nothing compared to losing a family member, and there's so many families in New York who that happened to. I wanted to capture what it was like for them, and where are they now? What's happened to them? Life goes on and they've had to deal with it. That's what the story of *Rockaway Blue* is about."

The date of the book's release can't be ignored. With the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy happening this year, Kirwan's homage paid to the event and its victims has been aptly timed.

In his writing, and in his music, he tends to tackle big issues, such as Civil Rights, the Troubles in Ireland, Gay

Rights, 9/11, and the war in Iraq.

"I use them as a backdrop. I'm obviously interested in all of them. But no matter what you're doing in the creative field, if you're a writer or songwriter or playwright, you're constantly looking for drama. And you find drama in those big events. So what I typically try to do with a song, a play, or a novel, is to put a number of characters under stress, under timed stress, and have something coming down the pike at them. Because that's when

people make mistakes, and when you make mistakes, drama happens.

"I use the songs, in particular, to rally people, and to wake them up. I don't believe that the songwriter or the writer should be advocating their way of things. It's getting people to wake up and react in their own way."

This creative tool feeds into both his most recent book, and into his upcoming

show, *Paradise Square*, a truly enormous project that has been in the making for nearly a decade.

The musical, which had its world premiere at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre in 2018-2019, is set in Manhattan in 1863, in an area known as the Five Points. There, during that time, Black Americans and Irish Immigrants lived together, worked together, married and had children together, and for a short period in history, realized racial harmony, all within the political backdrop of the Civil War.

"I was the conceiver of it, and I'm a co-writer, and I did some of the music. It's a big project," he says.

The idea was sparked while Kirwan was growing up in Ireland, hearing stories from his Grandfather about the Five Points, the famous dance halls there, and its high rate of crime. "He saw it as a cesspool where the Irish, went when they came over (to America) in the 19th century, were going to the Five Points, and you'd never hear about them again."

But rather than avoiding the area when he finally emigrated to New York, Kirwan discovered that he lived very close to it, and would frequently go there to visit. "I used to go down to the Five Points, which has changed, of course... (I'd) try and visualize where were these dance halls? What was it like down here for the Irish?"

"Around that time, I was a big reader, and I used to haunt the second hand bookstores of Greenwich Village. And one day, I came upon a book...It was about New York in the 1800s, and to my amazement, there were etchings of the African-American dance halls in the Five Points. It was a revelation, because I could actually see who was there. I was really interested in the bands, because I knew they were integrated. There were usually four people in the band. There would be an Irish fiddle player, an Irish singer, an African-American banjo player, and an African-American percussionist.

"But then, the biggest revelation came when I started to look at the dancers. It was always a Black man, a white Irish woman, and there was the look of joy and delight



Larry Kirwan

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on their faces. I could feel a love that beamed across the centuries that told me that these people were romantically attached. That's when I started to do more investigating, and found out that yeah, these unions had really happened.

"There were so many Irish and African-American unions, marriages, children, that the participants actually had a name. They were called Amalgamationists. The people themselves didn't use that name. The authorities and the establishment uptown who really frowned on these unions, they came up with that name."

This discovery and subsequent research inspired Kirwan to write the musical *Hard Times*, the first iteration of *Paradise Square*.

"We produced it twice in *The Cell*, a small theater in Manhattan. It got a really good *New York Times* review. A gentleman came to see it one night, Peter LeDonne, and he loved it and said 'Would it be ok to send the book and songs to my friend and associate,' the great empresario and producer Garth Drabinsky, up in Toronto. Garth loved it and invited me up and said 'Can we work on this?'

"So, I created another couple of characters. Garth's genius was to expand the concept. *Hard Times* was set inside a bar, a dance hall, and you could only sense what was going on outside. But Garth said 'Let's blow this whole thing open, and show what actually happened.'

"Because (it all) ended on the night of July 13, 1863, during the Draft Riots. Amalgamationists were attacked, 11 African-Americans were killed and there was much burning and looting. This was during the Civil War, a week after the Battle of Gettysburg, when ultimate Union victory was still not assured."

The production was expanded once Drabinsky became involved. The story was fleshed out, characters were added, music was newly written or re-imagined. A phenomenal creative

team was put together and brought on board, in order to give a larger life to the broadened script.

"(Garth) brought in a lot of talented artists, including Bill T. Jones, the legendary choreographer. I was a huge fan of his. Moisés Kaufman, a powerful director, Jason Howland, composer and arranger, and lyricist Nathan Tysen, along with such talented writers as Christina Anderson, Marcus Gardley, and Craig Lucas. So, it's been a huge project and collaboration. We've worked on it for seven years! It played at Berkeley Rep in California, where it was a big success. And now, I'm just thrilled that it's coming to Chicago, one of my favorite cities, before it opens in New York."

Kirwan's own experience as an Irish immigrant in the US helped to influence the story of *Paradise Square*.

"I wasn't just an immigrant, I was an illegal immigrant. That gives you a certain look at the country that you don't get if you're legal, because you're operating below the radar, and you have to fit in. You have to

learn how to mix in with the different communities.

"I was one of the few white people in my particular neighborhood in the lower East side of Manhattan. Definitely one of the few Irish people at that time... One of the great things about that area was the after-hours culture. These were clubs that local people could start that the authorities paid little attention to. Oftentimes, they were run by African-American women. I went out to these clubs 4-5 times a week and became friends with many of the owners.

"There was only one rule in these after hours clubs: you could not take out your weapon. If you took out your weapon, even just to show someone, you were banned for life. That's how order was kept. And the women were the ones

who maintained that order. There was a great mixture of people. A lot of LGBTQ, other immigrants, and many African-Americans. It was a really great scene.

"Lately I've been thinking that all that was the root, in a way, for *Paradise Square*, because those after hours clubs

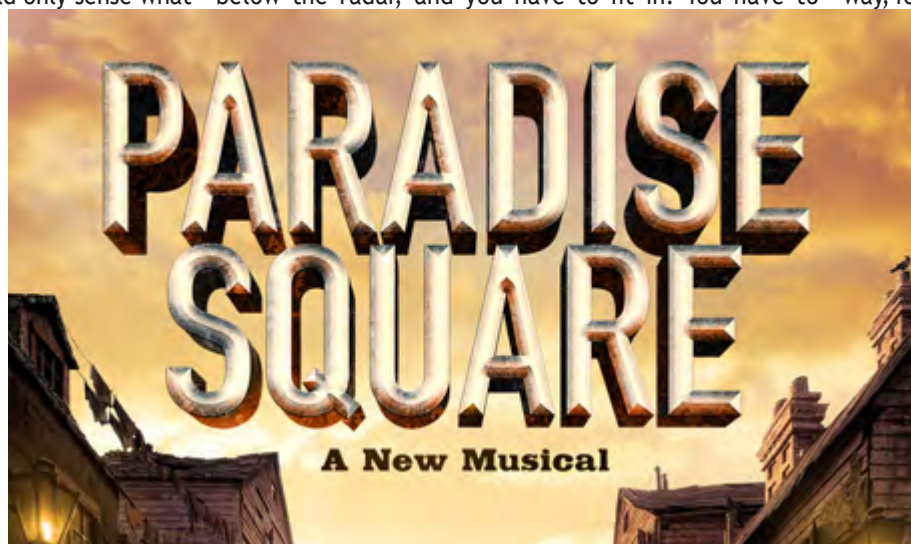
were not unlike the dance halls where the Irish immigrants fraternized with African-Americans. They weren't that different. It was the same rules within them, I would imagine. I learned a lot in those clubs that I was able to use within songs for *Black 47*, and story lines for *Hard Times*, and for *Paradise Square*."

As with any musical, the choreography is key to *Paradise Square*, but it plays a much more central role in this particular show than it does in many others.

"Dancing is really important in any musical, but in *Paradise Square*, I think it's paramount. When the Irish went to the African-American dance halls, they (all) had dancing in common. It was a universal language. Both communities loved to dance, they watched each other danc-

*"There was only one rule in these after hours clubs: you could not take out your weapon. If you took out your weapon, even to show someone, you were banned for life."*

**Larry Kirwan**



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ing, and then eventually, they began to have contests between them.

"We're blessed that we have Bill T. Jones, who is an amazing choreographer. He challenges everyone to get to the heart of what you're doing.

"I knew if we were going to incorporate Irish dancing into the play, we were going to need Irish dancers who were not only experts at their craft, but were also people who were really willing to go out on a limb. And the dancers I thought could do that best were a company called **Hammerstep**, (co-founded by) Jason Oremus and Garrett Coleman. They were friends of mine, and were already using hip hop beats and different styles of urban dance. So I had a feeling that they would be the ones who would really spark from Bill's influence, and that's been the case.

"When you look at Irish dance now, the upper body and the arms are usually rigid. And that's what we were working with at first. But then I went out one night and saw Sean-Nós dance, which was a style that was more prevalent on the West coast of Ireland, and I realized that this was what the Irish brought over with them. The stiff-backed and stiff-armed Irish dancing was more a later reaction to the religious authorities who wanted Irish dancing to stay really chaste, so breasts and upper bodies wouldn't provide "an occasion for sin."

But Sean-Nós' dancing was very open, your arms could move, your body could move. And that's what sparked the competitions and the collaborations with the African-American dancers. Sean-Nós was a perfect partner for the African 'sway' moves and the dances that they had taken with them from Africa. What our choreographers have created is a glorious thing on stage - an amalgam of African-American and Irish dancing.

When you watch these dancers and you watch the collaborations they come up with, you can feel you're back in 1863, when these two brutalized people - one fleeing famine and political oppression, and the other fleeing enslavement came together. It's something that we've experienced in the last seven years, that when we put young Irish dancers and young Africa-American dancers together, they come up with a whole new world that is just wonderful to both behold and become part of."

When asked what it is that he thinks makes a musical tick, he says,

"Just one word: Collaboration. You can't imagine the scope of these musicals. I don't know how Garth Drabinsky holds the whole thing together. You must possess a great brain, and you almost have to be a psychiatrist in ways, to deal with all the ambitions and egos that are involved. You have to be willing to give up some of your own ideas, and adopt other people's ideas, and learn to listen to what other people want to do,



because everyone has a say in what goes on in a musical. From the actors, to the choreographer, to the director, and the producer. So, collaboration is the name of the game, and if you can do it with goodwill, all the better, and you'll definitely come out learning a lot."

**Paradise Square** comes to Chicago November 2nd and will run through December 5th. Kirwan plans to attend every night of the previews, as well as opening night.

"When you come, you'll see the amazing, talented cast we have. I'm looking forward to seeing what Chicago thinks of it."

Info and tickets for **Paradise Square** can be found at [broadwayinchicago.com](http://broadwayinchicago.com). Kirwan's 9/11 novel, **Rockaway Blue**, is available on Amazon and other online outlets, and all bookstores.

**Editor's Note:**

*If you would like to meet Larry, he will be on hand to receive the iBAM! 2021 Award for Performing Arts, and will be in attendance at the Gala Awards Dinner on Friday, October 22nd. He will also be participating in the Saturday and Sunday programming, October 23, 24, 2021 at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago 60630.*

## How to Stay in Business for 50 Years

Fifty years is a long time for a business to survive. The failure rate is more than 90% over that span. To survive, you must fit a market niche and do what you do better than anyone else. And also show the ability to adapt to changing market forces.

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In addition to unkept flooring, restaurants can also get nega-

tive reviews from worn furniture and dirty drapery, and "lived in" upholstery. These items usually need to be removed to be cleaned or repaired, so we developed on-location maintenance, a service that has proven quite popular. Restaurants get like-new décor without the disruption.

In the last year, with the pandemic making restaurants rethink their environment sanitization routines, we knew we needed to adapt yet again. When we found ActivePure, a hospital-grade air sanitization technology with NASA certification, we knew it could be a difference maker



from surfaces and the air. Now that people are thinking more critically of clean environments, it gives restaurants a way to pass along peace of mind to their customers. The units are also obviously available for new systems, as well as portable units.

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## Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



### Do You Tell Your Family and Friends How Important They Are To You?

Recently, my wife and I watched a television special about the outstanding career of Garth Brooks. I had no idea how successful he has been, for years, until perhaps the last year or so. But when watching the program for a second time, I was blown away by one of the songs he sang, IF TOMMOROW NEVER COMES. We had just returned from our annual family reunion, of 21 people, in Minnesota. Attendees ranged in age from mid-eighties to one teen. Our two granddaughters said they could not image a summer without a family reunion. There has been a reunion every summer, but one, for the last 21 years.

Our talented nephew, Robert, who is an excellent guitar player and singer, closed his two-hour concert singing that marvelous song from Camelot, IF EVER I SHOULD LEAVE YOU. He dedicated the song to his parents, who love that song. This caused some teary eyes.

With the combination of the family reunion and Garth Brooks' song, IF TOMMOROW NEVER COMES something really spoke to me. We were all going to leave the reunion site and return to any one of six states. What guarantee did we have that all 21 of us would be able to attend next year's reunion? Would some of us be absent due to illness, travel restrictions or other factors?

What it said to me was, be sure that you let every single person you know how important they are to you. Somehow we get busy with our lives and don't keep in touch with others. I believe it's a gradual thing, but don't you find it happens to all of us? I received a letter this morning from a friend whose wife died quite recently; let me share a few lines with you quoting his son speaking about his mother, "She loved getting

something in the mail if you sent a card to her, it was displayed in a place of honor on the island in the kitchen. She was tickled when people would think of her and do something so thoughtful." How often do you remember to contact your family members? Or for that matter how often do you speak to your "best" friend? Show those you love that you really care for them, they have been a vital part of your life.

Perhaps you might consider expanding your "contacts" to new pals or buddies. Talk to your waiter/waitress like they are "real people" who have families and are vital to their family members. Many people live lonely lives, engage them in conversation. Ask them how their day is going. Your bit of conversation may be the only actual interaction with another human being they will have that day. You can impact on their lives with just a few kind words. They will feel better and you will too.

Of the many problems caused by the Covid virus the sense of isolation that many people feel is a frequent one. They would welcome interaction with a real person, like you. I went to our post office last Friday wearing a Notre Dame shirt, and a gentleman about my age asked me if I had gone to ND. I told him no, but I had been a recruiter of ND account-

ing majors for seven or eight years and he quickly told me that he too had recruited students from ND for the Hormel Company. We wished each other well and went our separate ways. So even a brief encounter can improve a persons' day. Just a thought, maybe you might consider performing an act of kindness

a time or two during the week. It just strikes me that we are all in need of some kindness, however modest it might be. Say hello to people you bump into on the street and smile while you are doing it. I am convinced that most people are good folks. I remember carrying some boxes to my office, as I got on the elevator a young man asked if he could help me. I agreed and off loaded a couple of the boxes to him. When we got at off at my floor I pointed to my door, he said he was going there too, he had an appointment with a Mr. James Fitzgerald, that was me. Stuff like that does happen. Give it a try. We all need a boost.

**CARPE DIEM/ Seize the day  
OTHER THOUGHTS FOR  
YOUR CONSIDERATION:  
To argue with a person who  
has renounced the use of  
reason is like administering  
medicine to the dead.**

Thomas Paine. English-American activist, writer & revolutionary.

There is an Irish blessing: *Tis better to buy a small bouquet, and give to your friend this very day, then a bushel of roses white and red to lay on his coffin after he's dead.*

*James F. Fitzgerald was the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, a Naperville firm that specialized in executive coaching and outplacement. Jim recently retired.*

**PERSONAL NOTE:** Our family has found that family reunions enhance family interaction. Yes, emails, tweets, letters and even phone calls are nice. But there is something special about sitting across from another family member, those you love who are so very dear.

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## Scions

With major news events occurring daily, 'fast and furious', some headlined, others studiously ignored by the press, it's barely possible to absorb it all, much less piece

it together. I suppose that's the purpose of blitzkrieg. We are in a political process that began before we all were born and have arrived at a point where that process is being pushed to critical mass.

President Biden, long-time Delaware tax haven overseer, named Antony Blinken Secretary of State. Blinken has now called on the U.N. to mount an inquisition into the U.S. white race to judge its "racism". The subject's not death or taxes, so I can't be certain another race won't be grilled.

Blinken: "The United States intends to issue a formal, standing invitation to all UN experts who report and advise on thematic human rights issues. As a first step, we have reached out to offer an official visit by the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism and the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues."

Will the "Rappor" be on tour to rap the skulls of the mostly Christian and working-class folks living in the suburbs of solid one-party welfare cities as he pours the chrism of critical race theory on their white-privileged brows? Will the sanctified and progressive academic and corporate elites come forth from their gated, walled and monitored estates to assist in this awakening from original sin?

We haven't heard if Rapporteur will be from China, which the Global Slavery Index reported in 2018 had 3.8 million slaves; or from India, the country with the highest number of slave people (14.3 million) in the world. But I don't think the Rapporteur will be calling many scions to the river. (I'm talking about aristocratic heirs, not the Scions the ones you drive that handicap your aristocratic airs.)

When President Biden's scion, Hunter, graduated Yale at 21, he landed a super job at MBNA. The world's largest credit card bank desperately needed a consultant. Hunter oozed so much talent, he made executive vice president in two years flat. Later, heeding the call from President Clinton to serve his country, he left MBNA to join the U.S. Department of Commerce. But the bank showed its gratitude by continuing Hunter's payments. When he became a lobbyist Hunter's sense of honesty was confirmed once again when he established a "don't ask, don't tell" relationship with his dad, who was hard at



work on bankruptcy legislation affecting banks: "Joe wouldn't ask Hunter about his lobbying clients; and Hunter wouldn't tell his father about them."

Hunter really enjoyed his work with fellow scions. He partnered with Chris Heinz, scion of Secretary of State John Kerry, brokering big gas deals with Ukraine's Burisma. Hunter also partnered with the Thornton Group, run by James Bulger, nephew of late uncle "Whitey", and scion of Massachusetts state senator Billy Bulger.

Billionaire George Soros has been more than helpful to budding political scions. He reportedly set a new personal record in his efforts to tilt US elections in 2020, donating more than \$50 million for left-wing causes and candidates. He had only poured \$22 million into the 2016 presidential election. Soros has also pumped tens of millions of dollars into local races in Texas, Colorado, California, Oregon, Washington, Florida, and New York, as well as swing states like Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Arizona. He spent \$2 million on a single sheriff race in Arizona, and \$1.7 million to elect Larry Krasner, scion of Russian immigrants, as DA in Philadelphia. Quoth Soros: "The main obstacle to a stable and just world order is the United States." And "Changing the attitude and policies of the United States remains my top priority".

Krasner won the 2017 Democratic primary with 38% of the vote, making him a shoo-in for the general election (Democrats in Philadelphia have nearly a 7-1 advantage in registered voters). What is Soros buying? His first week in office, Krasner fired 31 prosecutors. His office dropped drug charges against suspected killer Hassan Elliott. Elliott was arrested again for cocaine possession while on probation for a gun charge and released on his own recognition. A week later, Elliott took part in a fatal shooting. When he didn't appear for the drug charge, a warrant was issued for the shooting. The following month Elliott was charged with murdering Philadelphia police officer James O'Connor IV. On the night of O'Connor's death, Philadelphia police officers formed a human chain at Temple University Hospital entrance to prevent Krasner from entering.

San Francisco's new DA, is Chesa Boudin, a former translator for the late Venezuelan

socialist dictator Hugo Chavez. Boudin is also the scion of two Weather Underground domestic terrorists convicted of murder for a Brink's armored car robbery that killed three people. Boudin was raised by Obama advisor and U of I professor, former Weather Underground leader Bill Ayers. At Oxford, Boudin earned two master's degrees, one in forced migration. Boudin is one of the DAs on this list who refuses to prosecute what he calls "quality-of-life crimes" such as camping in the streets, offering or soliciting sex, public urination, etc.

Did you know "Secretary" drives from the Latin secretarius "person entrusted with secrets"? New Secretary of State, Antony Blinken is a scion of investment banker Donald Blinken and his second wife, Vera, Hungarians who have made major bequests to the Central European University (CEU) founded by George Soros. The Open Society Archives at CEU is named for them. Clinton appointed Tony's uncle, Alan, as ambassador to Belgium, then named his father ambassador to Hungary. Young Antony also showed talent early. He coasted into Harvard, interned at the New Republic magazine, organized a film festival and hosted a celebration for filmmaker Spike Lee. In 1998, Antony Blinken was named Chancellor of the International Council of CEU. He later became a member of its Board of Trustees.

But, recalling the remarkably dismissive answer given by another recent Secretary of State: "What difference at this point does it make?" © 2021 Michael P Morley  
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This month I'd like to highlight Andrew Jackson our 7th president. Did you know his parents were from Ireland? They came from Co. Antrim. (Orchard co) Jackson was born in one of the Carolinas. He was born over 250 years ago. Jackson was a politician, lawyer, and soldier. He is said to be a controversial president, but he must have done something right to land on the \$20.00 bill. He is famous for being an advocate for democracy and the common man.

Speaking of money, with the deadly covid virus, there has been a lot of talk that paper bills are full of germs and we should use a safer means of currency. In 2016 there were plans in the government to change the \$20.00 to the face of Harriet Tubman (a former slave who rescued several slaves) however, Donald Trump opposed the idea. I do think that changing the 20.00 bill is still in discussions.

Jackson is famous for several things but one that stands out to me was how he was unhappy with the banking system. He felt the banks, financial institutions only benefited the wealthy. He "took down" the bank. He became the only president to completely pay off the national debt. (Our debt today in America is roughly 27 trillion) Jackson's presidency also marked the beginning of the "Spoils system". A practice in which a political party gives

government jobs to its family and friends. (cronyism & nepotism) I'm pretty sure that is illegal today & just bad government.

Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act which forcibly removed Native Americans (60,000) from their homes/tribes' territory. Nicknamed the trail of tears.

Jackson survived the first assassination attack on a president. (Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley & Kennedy were not so lucky) As you may have heard of a town in Florida called Jacksonville. That is in honor of Jackson.

I will leave you with this story. "During the gold rush, a man who had been mining in Colorado for several months quit his job, as he hadn't struck gold yet and the work was becoming tiresome. He sold his equipment to another man who resumed mining where it had been left off. The new miner was advised by his engineer that there was gold only three feet away from where the first miner stopped digging."

Moral of the story don't give up what you're striving for could be closer than you think.

Happy Anniversary to my beautiful wife Mary of over 50 years! Thank you for all these wonderful years, I cherish all of them. I pray every day that we are blessed with many more.

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

## Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



Who are the tinkers-travelers-itinerants-gypsies? lucht siúil in Irish, the walking people. They say the "traveling people" broke away from the settled people over 400 years ago. There are several theories how "traveling people" started. A. That they are related to the Celtic people that invaded Ireland, B. They became homeless during the Cromwell period in 1650, C. They are related to people that were evicted from their homes during the famine or D. that Ireland has always had travelers.

They are an indigenous minority and live in very close-knit communities. They are mostly Catholic and pay detailed attention to issues of healing. Their traditions are all oral, unwritten. They were once known for being great storytellers. (Homer's Iliad & Odyssey were passed down through oral tradition)

Travelers have been ostracized over the years which has contributed to mental health problems. Co. Galway has the most concentration of travelers. They do odd jobs such as cleaning chimneys, fortune telling, scrap metal and deal in horse trading & dog breeding. In the past they worked as tinsmith (a person who works in tin) hence the name 'tinker'. It's said after the death of a family

member they burn the caravan and possessions of the deceased, for fear of the individual's ghost or bad luck.

They are a nomadic group & several superstitions surround them, burial rituals, taboos and folklore. They inter-marry, marrying a cousin is normal and a common occurrence. Research was done by Murphy & Croke they identified a certain genetic disease such as galactostomia (genetic blood metabolic disorder) of being much more common in the traveler population.

A common practice among travelers is bare knuckle boxing, travelers are known to be fighters and it's said they solve their issues with fighting. Francie Barrett, a traveler, a professional boxer represented Ireland in the Olympics in 1996.

Travelers received ethnic status in 2017, formally recognized by the government as a minority group. There are roughly 35,000 in Ireland today. There are also Irish travelers in England, Scotland and the US. (Texas, S. Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Arkansas, Mississippi, Florida & New York)

Some sad statistics about travelers is men are 6 times more likely to commit suicide than settled men. The health of travelers is significantly poorer than the settled population.

Traveler children often grow up outside the traditional education system meaning less opportunity & growth.

I'm giving a background on travelers because I want to highlight a traveler named Sharyn Ward. She is from Co. Longford; she was a contestant on Ireland's Got Talent. Her talent was singing. Ireland's Got Talent presenter Lucy Kennedy actually spotted Sharyn Ward. (Winners of the show receive \$50,000) Ward didn't win the \$50,000 however, she won in the sense that she performed her songs/ballads on the big screen.

There is another famous Ward whose family were travelers, Shayne Ward (singer and winner of X-factor) he grew up in England. I'm sure you have heard of Finbar Furey, a famous musician from Dublin. The first traveler to obtain a doctorate degree was a woman named Sindy Joyce. Eileen Flynn was first female traveler to serve in the Oireachtas. (Irish parliament) We do not get to choose how we start out in life, but we get to choose where we go.

My dear friend Michelle recently went to Dubai (most populous city in the United Arab Emirates) A country in the Persian Gulf. It's known for luxury shopping and its nightlife. On artificial islands just offshore is Atlantis, The Palm, a resort with water & marine animal parks. Michelle told me how she saw a heavy Irish influence. She ate at the Irish village, she bought Keoghs crisps and Irish salmon at the grocery store. Greetings to all my Irish ex pats living in Dubai, all 11,000 roughly.

Gaelic for the month  
Traveler-taistealai  
Superstitious-piseog  
Singer-amhranai  
"What you seek is seeking you" Rumi

"A nomad I will remain for life in love with distant and uncharted.

Places" Isabelle Eberhardt  
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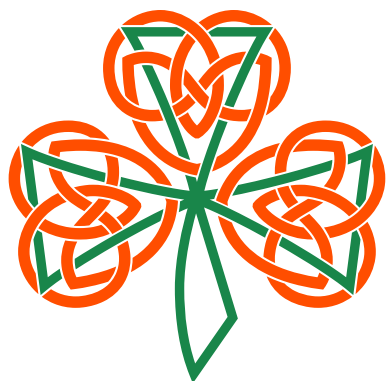
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(l to r): Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle discussed immigration, the links between Cook County and Cork County and the links between Cook County health services and the Irish and European governments with Irish Consul General; Brendan Byrne, and immigration activist, Cyril Reagan.

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# GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



## The Bridge Of Tears

Dunfanaghy. County Donegal

Just a few miles (kilometers) outside Dunfanaghy there is a little stone bridge that my daughter and I walked over during our trip home while visiting my cousins and paying my respects at my parent’s gravesite. My daughter was the one who actually drew my attention to the inscription written in Gealic on a plaque on the stone wall.

Fad Leis seo a thagadh cairde agus lucht gaoil an t’e a bhi ag imeacht chun na coigrithe. B’anseo an scaradh. Seo Droichead na Ndeor.

Hopefully I got the spelling correct. Loosely translated it means.

“Family and friends of the person leaving for the foreign lands would travel this far. Here was the separation. This is the bridge of tears”.

So I guess long before roads and railways this was the route they took to get to the docks in Derry to pick up passage to America. Australia. England. Scotland. It was said that their loved ones who walked with them would mourn their departure like a death as they knew most of them would never return home. Years would go by and families would still tearfully sit and pray for their loved ones by the bridge. My daughter asked me how many of our family members left home including myself I just said a lot as I was over taken with emotion thinking how my poor mother felt upon our departure across the Atlantic. It really doesn’t hit you until you have your own children. We all tried to go home every few years as back then the flights were expensive but our hero. Tommy Ryan who owned a travel Agency was so wonderfully kind to all us young Irish. He would let us pay our airfare in installments even long after we got back to Chicago. We all loved Tommy he was a real gentleman.

Anyway going back to the Bridge of tears. I was interested to read that the famous Irish song writer Percy French. Who hailed from County Roscommon around 1900? Percy French was inspired by the story of the bridge so he put pen to paper and came up with a song called The Irish Mother. Beautiful song it’s a mother lamenting about her children being so far away and they are left behind still toiling away every day but like all good Irish children back then they

sent money home as much as they could. Here are some more of Percy French songs that my parents grew up with and sang to us every Saturday night

as that’s when the Irelands own magazine with the green song pages in the middle was delivered by our bread man along with sugary treats and Irish crisps. The poor man had to travel seven miles to our house from the town. As we got older and ventured to try our hand at playing guitars, piano and violins we sang the songs back to my parents. Saturday night was always fun. They are some of my fondest memories.

The mountains of Mourne.

Are you right there Michael are you right? (Lord Help you if your name was Michael as the teasing would never stop)

The immigrant letter.

Phil the flutters ball.

Come back paddy Riley to Ballyjamesduff. This particular song so they say was written for the real Paddy Riley who was Percy French’s driver. Paddy and his family immigrated to Scotland. Percy was upset that his driver had gone so he wrote the song maybe to entice him back no one knows? Years later Paddy returned but by then Percy had passed away. Today if you visit Ballyjamesduff in county Cavan you will see a bronze statue of Percy French sitting on a bench in the town square. He also loved to paint with water colors. His art work sells for thousands of euros.

Hope you enjoyed my little Story. How is everyone holding up. I am still recovering from knee surgery. Yes, I have a new titanium knee. I really thought I would be up and back to work after six weeks. Boy was I wrong. I am still in physio therapy trying to bend my knee. I guess the younger you are the faster you heal which causes scar tissue so you can understand why it’s a problem. Anyway I’m getting there I’m about 110-115 degrees right now. I was looking forward to getting into our pool hoping that would help bend my knee even more. My husband was filling it up when the side of it collapsed. Our kids were so upset as we had the pool for twenty years. It was a huge part of their childhood. OH what fun they had with half the neighborhood kids wanting to swim. I have a whole shed full of forgotten shorts, towels, flip flops, goggles yet to be claimed.!!

The good news is we decided to purchase another one. Unfortunately we didn’t realize how in demand they are. A lot of the local swim stores are backed up until next year. Due to the persistence of my husband

he found one it’s been delivered. The installers coming in four days. The ground work is done as we just collapsed the old pool all they may need perhaps is to add

more sand to smooth out the liner. Well, there you have it. I’ll be as fit as a fiddle in no time with the help of our new pool. Bye for now till next time.

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# Aer Lingus is Ready to Take You Back to Ireland and Beyond!

Bill Byrne, Aer Lingus' Senior Vice President of Global Sales took time out to discuss with Irish American News what they are doing to make it easier for us in the U.S. to get to Ireland.

Bill received a bachelor's degree from Loyola University of Chicago and a Masters and Ph.D. from the Illinois Institute of Technology. Byrne is a native of Chicago and a dual National of the U.S. and Ireland. He is married and the father of four children.

**Q.** Bill, you've got a long, very distinguished background that looks like a great fit with Aer Lingus. When did you join Aer Lingus and what do you hope to accomplish with them?

**A.** I started with Aer Lingus in January of 2018. I came over from Hertz, and before that I spent 30 years with United Airlines. Most of my focus has been on international travel for the last 25 years.

So what we're trying to accomplish with Aer Lingus is to expand in the US. We fly to more cities now than we did when Aer Lingus first started going to the US. Our history in the US was predominantly Chicago, Boston, New York, and eventually San Francisco and Washington. Now we fly to 14 cities in North America, including Miami, Orlando, Seattle. We try to fly wherever there are Irish Americans to provide as much non-stop service as possible. In the near term we are really trying to make sure that all those routes are effective and profitable again.

We are reaching out to Irish American communities across the country so that they know where they can catch a direct flight to Ireland. The biggest issue with travel to Ireland for so many years

was that you could only get a direct flight out of three cities, so you had to connect to those cities from anywhere else in the country.

When you can provide direct access, you get so much more increased tourism because people like to fly nonstop, as opposed to flying with a stopover. And so what we have found is as we've expanded, we've been able to grow the direct service into Ireland in terms of tourism. So, we're working on having more direct flights to Ireland. Along with that, we hope people will see us as a gateway to other cities in Europe as we fly to many!

You can fly Aer Lingus from Los Angeles and can connect in Dublin to other cities in Europe; whether it's Paris, Venice, Amsterdam, London, Manchester, Glasgow and more. The second thing we're trying to get people to realize is not only should we be your choice for return to Ireland, but we should be your choice of airlines to other cities in Europe as well. Once you are in Ireland you are only a short flight from Europe!

Passengers are familiar with our product and with Dublin airport and what we do. They're familiar with the service, they like the service. You get that Irish welcome, you're not going to get anywhere else in the world except on our flights! Transiting in Dublin, it's really easy. It's a relatively small airport and easy to transfer. We think it's a very good choice.

**Q.** The pandemic has shaken and stirred things quite a bit. Many of the folks that I've talked to about going to Ireland, are apprehensive and confused about what will be open and what they can see and do while they are

there. They're mostly vaccinated and not apprehensive about COVID. Instead, it is about being able to travel around without a lot of hassle and red tape while they are there. They're afraid pubs and major attractions will be closed, what would you tell them?



**Bill Byrne**

**A.** I don't blame them for being confused. And I don't blame them for being apprehensive. Up until recently, Ireland had the most restrictive COVID policies across Europe, but those have been substantially relaxed now. Fully vaccinated people don't have to quarantine or take a PCR test. If they have children 11 and under accompanying them, they also don't have to take a PCR test. Children 12-17 do have to take a PCR test. It is easy to sort it out though.

Folks just have to go on the website in Ireland, [www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie), and that will tell them everything they need to know. Our website, [AerLingus.com](http://AerLingus.com), also has the information they want.

So for a single or a couple that have been vaccinated to they'll probably have to show their CDC vaccine card. Our airport people have examples of pretty much every vaccine card that exists.

I would also tell travelers to make sure they bring their CDC card that they would have gotten when they got their vaccination. When they present that at check-in they will be allowed to board. They will have to complete an electronic passenger locator form which is relatively easy. And all that does is it allows the health services to track somebody down

if they contracted COVID. That will have to be completed 48 hours before departure. And, as far as I know, there's no need to take a temperature for fully vaccinated passengers.

I would advise people to the extent that they can, to look at social media and look at the web to see what kinds of things are open. Because if a particular museum is the one thing you want to see, then you can make sure it is open.

Pubs are opening, tourist attractions and hotels are opening up. So I think very soon people will see everything is wide open that they normally want to see whether it's Giants Causeway, or the Ring of Kerry. They're all open as you would think they would be.

What travelers will find now is a country that has been waiting for them for 18 months, and can't wait for them to get back! And they will have a wonderful time.

**Q.** How many airlines does Aer Lingus have to compete with? And why should we fly Aer Lingus and not one of them?

**A.** So out of the U.S. on a non stop basis its Delta, United, and American Airlines.

And on a connecting basis you can get to Ireland a whole variety of ways. I think the biggest thing I would say is we're the Irish airline, Right? So we've been flying to Ireland since 1962 and we are good at it!

American carriers really didn't start in earnest to Ireland until the mid to late 90s. We have an authentic Irish crew, Irish pilots and flight attendants. We have Irish food and an on board experience that is entirely Irish. It's not a side business. For us. This is what we do.

The flight attendants and the

cabin crew know that most of the people on board are going on holiday or actually visiting living relatives. And that sometimes is one of the most important things that our customers have to do is connecting back with their relatives - whether it's their mom or dad or aunts or uncles, they know they're going home, and that doesn't exist with other carriers.

I think the difference is our service and our people know that Ireland is important to them, and they want to show it off in the best possible light. And we're experienced in doing it.

We've been doing it a long time we know how to do it, and we do it really well. I think that's what makes the difference.

Safety is very important, and at Aer Lingus our safety record is second to none, and it always has been. We've always taken it very seriously. And since the pandemic we've stepped up our cleaning using electrostatic spraying to remove all harmful substances. Aboard the aircraft we have the Heppa filters that maybe some of the readers might have heard about. The filters take the air quality in the cabin to hospital grade.

So the experience on board will not only be friendly, the service and the food is good, and it will be safe, very clean and enjoyable.

Fares have never been better or more manageable and there's a lot of flexibility while traveling, so at the last minute if needed, travelers can change their ticket without a fee up to two hours before departure. I think it's a really good time to go home to see family and connect again, and it won't be any easier than it is right now!

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## Performers are Within Reach at the Peoria Irish Fest August 27-29

Peoria Irish Fest organizers have confirmed their cultural festival will take place August 27-29 in Peoria's Riverfront Park. can't promise the same depth of experience for everyone, performers are exceptionally accessible in Peoria.



(R-L): Jimmy Keane & Pat Broaders of Bohola!

Theresa Hoadley can remember the exact year her family plunged knee-deep into the Peoria Irish Fest.

"It was 2002," said the mother of three. "Our family had attended the fest most years before, but maybe not every time." That was the year her family helped host the event's first direct-from-Ireland band, Rig the Jig.

Band members brought their wives along, so local families were recruited to make them feel at home. "It was a wonderful experience for our entire family. We kept Jimmy Flanagan and his wife, Bernie, for the weekend - took them to our son's soccer game, showed them our lives, and we became good friends."

The Hoadleys hosted band members in following years, have stayed with the Flanagans in Ireland multiple times, and are now on the event's organizing committee.

While fest organizers

wandering the grounds along the picturesque Illinois River.

Entertainment Chair Tom McConaughay likes to call the Peoria fest small but mighty. "We're on the calendar between the Milwaukee and Kansas City fests. So, bigger-name groups are often available to play in Peoria. Yet we're far smaller than those great events. It's much easier to get a CD signed or to have a conversation with your favorite musicians."

The Peoria Irish Fest is the largest Illinois Celtic festival outside of Chicago.

Tickets at the door will cost \$13, with a three-day Event Pass for \$30. Discounted tickets are available online now, and kids under 12 are always free when accompanied by an adult.

Bands who reside in Ireland, Scotland or anywhere outside the U.S. are unable to tour here this year. So, the fest is featuring great U.S.-based bands, both international and American groups."

Performers scheduled to play include:

Scythian, Eileen Ivers, Jig Jam, Members of Lunasa, The Gothard Sisters, Adam & Jon, The Byrne Brothers, Bohola and more!

### Relaxed by Design

If the world seems focused on high-energy, pulse-quickening experiences, the Peoria Irish Fest's low-key vibe is intentional. Guests' mindsets are shaped when greeted by entry signs proclaiming 'You are now entering Ireland on the Illinois River.' Around 12,000 are expected to flow through the gates over three days. So even a crowded day is easy for everyone to manage.

"We offer an experience that is meant to be savored slowly, not swallowed hole," said Event Co-Chair, John Martin. "We try to arrange our fest like a small Irish town. Guests who have visited Ireland have noticed, and complimented us on the effort we make."

Central to Peoria's 'town' is the shopping area, plop in the middle of everything, like a downtown High Street. Dozens of vendors offering Celtic jewelry, wearables, and wide ranges of other goods tempt passing eyes.

Just off the High Street, you'll find 'the shops.' Guests can visit the local undertaker to learn the history behind Irish wakes. Or discover Peoria's Irish sister city. You might even hear a tale from a seanchaí, or story teller.

A short stroll away - and scattered throughout the fest grounds - are small food shops specializing in Irish treats and unique tastes.

The community comes together in the children's play area. Peoria enlists Bradley University's Chemistry Club to engage the Wee Ones with safe, enter-

taining experiments.

On the edge of 'town,' the sports field invites guests to try their hand at the Highland Games (Saturday) before the athletes get down to serious competition (Sunday). Axe throwing lets everyone channel their inner Celtic warrior, too.

Next to the sports field is the large community dance / music hall. It's just one of the fest's five pubs and four entertainment stages. "We feature artist workshops in our smallest venue," said Martin. "Our guests are literally within an arm's reach of the weekend's headliners."

"We've tried to build our event as both a peaceful place where families gather every year ... yet everyone can find an exciting show, too."

It doesn't bother McConaughay or Martin if anyone calls their fest 'small time.' They feel it's just the right size and - far more importantly - entertainers, vendors and guests enjoy being there.

No pressure. People like to talk to you. Everyone's having a good time.

"When bands here for the first time check out, they often remark how friendly everyone has been - staff and guests alike," said McConaughay.

"That's just how we are. We're all friends here."

### Additional Info

With more than 40 performances on multiple stages, the Peoria Irish Fest has something for everyone. Fantastic shopping opportunities, a Cultural Village chocked full of exhibits, delicious food and beverages, and kids' activities.

An axe-throwing station will make fierce Celtic warriors of guests Friday and Saturday. Members of the public can try their hand at the Highland Games on Saturday, while the athletes compete against each other on Sunday.

Peoria Irish fest is a partnership between the St. Patrick Society of Peoria and the Peoria Park District. Get tickets and more information at [www.peoriairishfest.com](http://www.peoriairishfest.com)

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## Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



### Understanding Workers Compensation Benefits

If you suffer an injury on the job, you may be entitled to workers' compensation benefits. This month's article is to give you a better understanding of the requirements needed to receive workers' compensation benefits and what some of those benefits are. As always if you have questions regarding a work-related injury or incident, please do not hesitate to call me here at Dwyer & Coogan, all of our consultations are free.

**Requirements:** The Illinois Workers' Compensation Act (820 ILCS 305, et al.) provides relief to employees who are injured in the course of their work. In order to receive workers' compensation benefits three requirements must be met:

1. You have suffered an injury while in the course of your employment;
2. The injury arose out of the course of employment; and
3. The employee notified the employer/supervisor of the injury.

In short, what these requirements mean is that the injury must have occurred while doing something in the course of your job and that the injury actually resulted from an activity related to your employment. Furthermore, you must notify your employer or supervisor of the injury within 45 days of the injury or incident occurring. This time frame is very important so please seek advice regarding a work related injury as soon as possible.

**Benefits:** If above-mentioned requirements are met, you may be entitled to the following benefits:

1. Medical Expenses,
2. Temporary Total Disability ("TTD"), and
3. Partial Permanent Disability ("PPD").

**Medical Expenses:** Illinois workers' compensation benefits include reasonable medical care that is required to cure or relieve the injury suffered. In other words,

the medical expenses incurred through hospitalization or rehabilitation are, and should be, paid for by the employer. The treatment must be reasonable and necessary and assist in the injured employee's recovery.

The medical expenses must be incurred as a result of the injury. An extremely important caveat to this and what we advise all of our clients to do is to make sure that you mention to your treater that your injury was from work. In the workers compensation system, there is a huge difference between a doctors note that mentions that you are injured versus a doctors note that mentions that you are injured specifically because of a work-related activity, injury or incident.

**Temporary Total Disability ("TTD"):** In the event that your injury prevents you from performing your job and otherwise forces you to take time off of work you may be entitled to TTD benefits. Again, it is important that your medical doctor feels that you cannot perform your job during your recovery period and states that in your medical records. TTD is calculated as 66% of your gross average weekly wage and should continue for as long as you are unable to perform the job.

**Partial Permanent Disability ("PPD")**

Employers are required to pay PPD benefits to injured employees who have suffered from a physical impair-

ment, disfigurement, or an amputation caused by the work-related injuries. The rate of the PPD benefit is determined by the nature and extent of your injury, the body part injured, and your wage differential. The amount used in determining PPD is based on 60% of your gross average weekly wage. In the workers' compensation system there is a chart called the 'Illinois Workers' Compensation Conversion Table'. Depending on the injury suffered and the treatment sought, the Conversion Table is used to determine the specific value of your injury. PPD benefits are typically paid to the injured employee in a lump sum payment at the conclusion of

It is important to have an experienced workers' compensation attorney, like my colleagues and I, who will better ensure that all your rights are represented, that you receive every benefit owed to you, and that you are not being taken advantage of. Our team has decades of collective experience in representing injured employees and we have the knowledge, experience, and resources to walk you through the process and obtain the most desired outcome possible.

*\*Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney now licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of personal injury law and Workers Compensation. Contact her at cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com or at (312) 782-7482.*

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# Crafters of Ireland

Corina Fitzgibbon is a Visual Artist and Print-maker currently based in Kildare, Ireland. She obtained a BA Honours Degree in Fine Art Print-making and Contemporary Practice from Limerick School of Art and Design. She has been working hard within her practice



Corina Fitzgibbon

A world she visits often and sits a while. Corina's artworks are inspired by the world around her, by the beauty of Irish Nature, animals and old historic Irish buildings and ruins.

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and has exhibited her artwork all over Ireland. Art collectors from Ireland to America all the way to Saudi Arabia have purchased her original artworks, Illustrations, and prints.

Corina works primarily in pen, using a 0.05 black fineliner pen, beautiful textured Fabriano paper and a lot of patience to create intricate illustrations using the pointillism technique. Her work can take anywhere from 10 hours to 500 plus hours to complete.

Corina is drawn to traditional techniques and processes to create her artwork. She works in black and white; this style has developed because of her love and background in printmaking. This gives the viewer more personal interaction with her work, using their imagination to see the piece in colour if they wish to.

Within Corina's practice, her works convey her own world, a world where she escapes the everyday, a world of daydreams.

These artworks are created as way of documenting her visions as she travels to different areas of her own mind. A fantasy world filled with spectacular vast forests and steams, mountains and stars and gateways to the unknown.



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## ICS Welcomes Kathleen Howlett

ICS is happy to announce a new addition to our team! Kathleen Howlett is ICS's new Coordinator of Group Programs. Kathleen will be responsible for the day to day coordination of ICS's senior groups, community play group, and Fáilte youth club.

Kathleen graduated from DePaul University with a degree in Public Relations and Advertising with minors in Digital Cinema and Intercultural Communications. She spent a semester studying at University College Cork and has close family ties to Ireland. Kathleen is from Park Ridge and currently lives in Evanston. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, meeting new people, and making art.

**You can contact Kathleen at [khowlett@irishchicago.org](mailto:khowlett@irishchicago.org) or at 773-282-8445 ext. 4**

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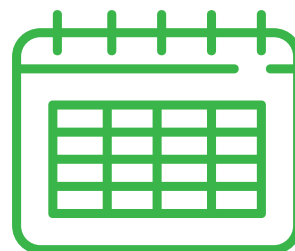
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