



John Williams

*Chicago's Musical Treasure Mines
the World of Irish Traditional Music*
page 20

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The Generosity of the Irish

By Mike Danahey

In December, the for-profit crowdsourcing platform GoFundMe named Ireland the most generous country per capita in the world for 2021 and the third consecutive year.

This March offers further examples of the giving spirit of the Irish and those of Irish heritage, right here in Chicago, as two nonprofits with deep Irish roots gear up for major fundraisers.

Mark Schmeltzer, Director of Communications with Mercy Home for Boys & Girls, said the nonprofit's connections to Irish and Irish-American history run deep.

Mercy Home's mission is to minister to children and families in need, and "all eight of our presidents since Mercy Home's founding in 1887 have been Catholic priests of Irish-American descent, including Irish American Hall of Famer and our current President and CEO, Fr. Scott Donahue," Schmeltzer said. "Our founding was approved by Chicago Archbishop Patrick Feehan, a native of Tipperary."

Schmeltzer said a delegation of County Cork business leaders regularly hosts a number of young people from Mercy Home in their homes as part of a cultural exchange program. The leaders typically visit Chicago around St. Patrick's Day and march with the nonprofit in the St. Patrick's Day Parade downtown.

The COVID-19 pandemic meant no Mercy Home for Boys & Girls' March for Kids tied to the parade in 2020 or 2021, but the campaign is back again this March 12.

"It's at a new venue that overlooks Grant Park right near the start of the parade, Venue SIX10 inside the Spertus Institute along Michigan Avenue," Schmeltzer said.

Schmeltzer said anyone can support this effort online, too, at www.mercyhome.org/march-for-kids/.

Donations made during the month of March will be matched by a benefactor, he said.

Also holding a fundraiser tied to the downtown parade March 12 will be Misericordia.

Its post-parade party will be held at IBEW Local 134, 2722 S. Martin Luther King Drive, Chicago. The hall is just two miles from the parade route, and there is plenty of free parking available. Information can be found online at <https://www.misericordia.com/events/st-patricks-day-post-parade-party/>.

"The Sisters of Mercy, which were founded in Dublin in 1831, have overseen Misericordia since its inception in 1921, from its original mission of offering prenatal care, hospitalization, and medical support for mothers of meager means to its current mission of supporting and sharing life with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities," said Misericordia Foundation Director of Creative Arts and Marketing Manager, Julie O'Sullivan.

In December, after 52 years at the helm, Sister Rosemary Connelly, 90, stepped down as the Misericordia executive director to chair the newly formed Misericordia Foundation.

O'Sullivan noted that Connelly, a native Chicagoan, was born to Irish immigrant parents Bridget Moran and Peter V. Connelly from County Mayo.

"She grew up in a family rooted in deep faith and service," O'Sullivan said.

O'Sullivan has been working with Misericordia for almost 20 years. She grew up on Chicago's Southside of Chicago and attended Mother McAuley High School, which was also founded by the Sisters of Mercy.

"My parents are people of faith who celebrated their Irish heritage. My mother was a Catholic school teacher and my father, a Chicago police officer. I learned from them to be of service to others," O'Sullivan said.

As for why the Irish can be seen as a generous people, Erin McCormack, Chicago-based Program Officer, Humanitarian Training for Concern Worldwide US, said, "Our history is one that hung at the precipice of the goodwill of others at times - most notably during the Great Famine - and, for that, there is an air of paying it forward in the way we live our lives."

McCormack said the Irish collectively acknowledge that during the Great Famine, invariably, the poorest suffered the most and generally lived in the remotest rural parts of the country. That plays a role in the generosity of Irish people, she said.

"It's a perspective that guides and drives how the Irish show up time and time again to support communities who endure experiences of hunger, migration, displacement, and poverty - especially within remote communities, from Biafra and Ethiopia to Somalia," McCormack said.

McCormack said those who support Concern Worldwide, Ireland's largest aid and humanitarian agency, know that the organization doesn't just arrive when the emergency hits, that it goes where we're needed the most and stays until it's not needed at all.

"And there, in those moments, is when their generosity shines - when the response is incredible, long-lasting, and impactful," McCormack said.



Lá Fhéile Pádraig!



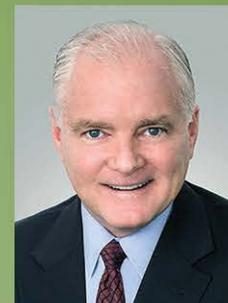
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Martin J. Healy, Jr.



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Kudos to the Founders of Irish American News, Jean and Bob Burns. This paper was first published on March 17, 1977 and is entering its 46th year!.

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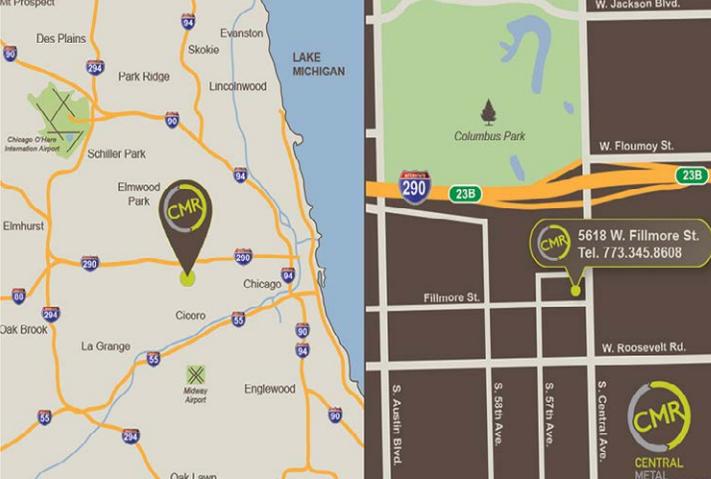
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They're Back! Who? Celtic Rockers The Elders! With New CD "Well Alright Then"

"Well Alright Then" is the new album Celtic rockers "The Elders" will release on St. Patrick's day, March 17, 2022.

The new album was conceived after the band retired in 2019, after 20 years on the road, but retirement couldn't prevent band members from collaborating musically.

Storytelling "The Elders Way" best describes the 15 tracks -- from "Old Man Dan" to "We Are Same," a single recently released regionally.

The tunes are all original songs born out

of emotions and feelings from life events, written and produced by The Elders, including the late Steve Phillips. Several guest artists also contributed to "Well Alright Then."

The Elders music can be heard on a variety of musical social platforms and with this new album, the band promises some live performance dates this year.

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Finding Home: An Irish American Story

by Lois Farley Shuford, online and local bookstores. Published by AnTobar Books, antobarbooks.com

A nineteenth-century photograph glimpsed at a family reunion sets the author on a transatlantic quest to discover the life of her great-grandfather Patrick. Following his journeys between two continents, from the Great Irish Famine to the American Civil War and Westward Expansion, she uncovers not only his story but also her own—and a secret kept for generations.

Finding Home: An Irish American Story traces one family through an epic century of disaster, epidemic, and divisions strong enough to tear countries apart. In the midst of it all, these ordinary, yet extraordinarily resilient people strove for a better life, for a better world. In uncovering their stories, Farley Shuford explores how the past shapes the present and the lessons our ancestors have for us today.

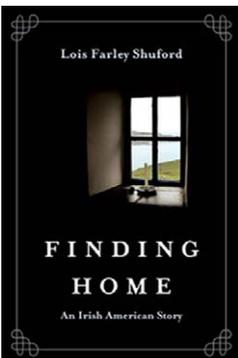
Author Bio: Lois Farley Shuford was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, where she developed a love of history, music, and of course, baseball. Now empty nesters, she and her husband live in an 140 year old

house in Evanston, Illinois. Mom to four adult children, she has had a rich and varied career in all levels of education, most recently at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, as administrator of an international graduate journalism residency program. She has always been driven to know who and what came before her, which has led her to many trips to Ireland, uncovering her paternal roots. This is her first book.

Advance reader comments:

‘Finding Home is an engrossing love letter to Ireland that emanates from the deepest human yearning to find one’s own roots. Part history, part memoir, Lois Farley Shuford takes readers “beyond the pale” of the Irish countryside, to the doorstep of the American plains, and into dusty archives as she seeks to unravel her family’s own Celtic knot. The result is a moving and poetic tale told with the humor and grace of a storyteller, the doggedness of an investigative journalist, and the incisiveness of a historian’.

– *Lauren Etter, Investigative Reporter for Bloomberg News, author of The Devil’s Playbook*



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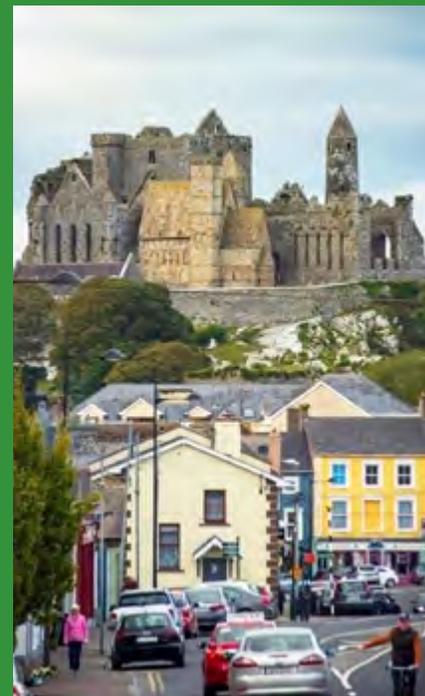
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In the early years, Colleen sold her wares from her decorated wagon through the streets of Chicago during the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Her motto was, "If they try it, they will buy it!"

Colleen's bread has received 1st place medals in multiple competitions through the years. Her customer base grew from her old neighborhood of Norwood Park to her hometown now of Rolling Meadows through Palatine and Arlington Heights.

In 2010 Colleen decided to take her baking to a commercial kitchen where she can bake up to 300 loaves each night. Family members and friends come to help Colleen bake, wrap, and decorate every loaf with shamrocks and ribbon.

Her grandmother Bridget Therese O'Mal-

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John Patrick Shanley’s ‘Outside Mullingar’ at Lake Forest’s Citadel Theatre thru March 13

As the theatrical world continues its long march back to normalcy, one local theatre company - Lake Forest’s Citadel Theatre - will stage John Patrick Shanley’s play “Outside Mullingar” through March 13.

Shanley, an Irish-American writer who grew up in New York, earned an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay for 1988’s Moonstruck and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and a Tony Award for Best Play for 2005’s Doubt.

“Outside Mullingar” originally premiered on Broadway in 2014, earning a Tony nomination for Best Play, and was adopted for a movie titled “Wild Mountain Thyme,” starring Emily Blunt, in 2020. As the title suggests, the story is set outside Mullingar in County Westmeath and follows a man and a woman who live on neighboring farms and have differing perspectives on the prospects of becoming romantically involved.

“It’s a fun play, a romantic comedy,” said Scott Phelps, who serves as Artistic

connection between our times and the setting of the play, according to director Beth Wolf.

“We are living in this strange time right now where everyone has felt isolated and lonely, and this play addresses those feelings,” Wolf said. “The characters talk openly about being lonely, anxious, and depressed living in rural Ireland. It feels cathartic in this moment.”

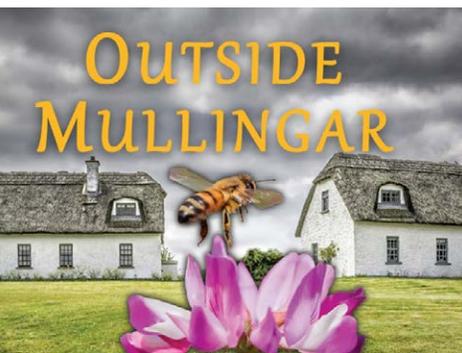
Distinctive “Irishness”

Citadel Theatre originally opened in 2002 and has been in its current location in Lake Forest since 2010. This is not the first time that Citadel has staged an Irish-affiliated play, having run Ann Noble’s debut “And Neither Have I Wings to Fly,” which kicked off the Seanachai Theater Company, now known as Irish Theatre of Chicago. For “Outside Mullingar,” the cast members, who all hail from Chicago, worked with an Irish dialect coach in an effort to present an authentic depiction of contemporary life in the Irish Midlands.

Wolf called out the distinctive “Irishness” that comes across from hearing the actors speak in that language.

“In particular,” she said, “what elevates the script is that the language becomes poetic in casual conversations between the characters. Something about hearing it in the Irish dialect makes it sing even more than reading it on a page.”

Citadel Theatre is at 300 S. Waukegan Rd., Lake Forest. Tickets at www.citadel-theatre.org or 847-735-8554. Citadel is offering tickets as part of Chicago Theatre Week (www.chicagotheatreweek.com), a celebration of Chicago’s world-class theatre scene that runs February 17-27, 2022.



Director of Citadel Theatre and selected this play over others that were focused on darker or more serious storylines. “We knew people could use some comic relief so they can laugh a bit.”

A Play for our Times

Phelps acknowledged the challenges of staging performances in the era of COVID-19 but emphasized that adequate health protocols, which include proof of vaccination, masks, and temperature checks for all audience members, will ensure a safe environment. He remains hopeful and optimistic that theatregoers will be eager to fill the void of missing live performances as the world emerges from the pandemic era.

In addition to the safety protocols, audience members might notice another

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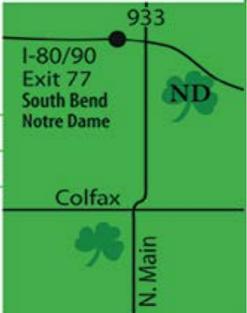


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PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY

I have been writing for this newspaper for more than 20 years so my regular readers probably know that I have certain favorite subjects. I am sure that we would be living in a much better world if we could get our "bosses" to listen to our well thought out ideas. But no, the boss is frequently convinced that her/his thoughts are far better than our own.

Once, years ago, I challenged my boss about a project that he wanted to install on a national basis. It had to do with getting a better handle on our recruiting costs. I had recently transferred from a different part of the company and had developed several such systems successfully. The boss had only recently been promoted and he wanted his system not mine. The conversation got somewhat heated, so I finally caved. Not one of my eight colleagues said a word while they were in earshot of the "boss"; yet every one of them told me privately that my approach was much better, but they were unwilling to speak-up. The boss never developed his approach to solving

the problem. Unfortunately, he viewed my disagreement as a personal challenge and he held it against me.

The other eight guys knew I was barking up the wrong tree and remained silent. I learned a lesson, all bosses don't listen - and pick your fights.

I have addressed the unwillingness of many of us to speak up to our bosses. We simply don't want to challenge our boss with our perception of the truth. Even if we see evidence of problems, we remain silent. The general unwillingness of people in authority to listen to their team members is so obvious. Don't we find that our children are always saying that their parents don't listen to them? If you work in a factory, isn't it commonly stated that the foreman doesn't listen to those working on the floor? Do you feel heard by your mayor, governor, or Congressional representatives? Do you think that the folks in Washington are listening to you?

Greg Fream, a former neighbor and pal, now a management consultant in Wisconsin, once said to me: I have lived my life by being a person who would always tell the person I was talking to what I thought was true while recognizing



Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



that I could be wrong. I would also advise him of my assumptions. Doing this one time got me fired but I will not change. I just realize in the world we live in and the dynamics of changing ownership, you are only one phone call away from being removed in spite of your track record. What's the sense of kowtowing to the boss when he may fire you the next day anyway. Don't you want your integrity to be intact? What price Honor?

Here is the view of a human resources officer at a major Chicago bank who says "Guess I should stop being so hard on our leaders, but it still feels to me as though they are accountable for what goes on within the organization(s) they oversee. Encouraging people to speak their minds goes hand in hand in appreciating their honesty and courage in speaking up. Being willing to listen to bad news as well as good is an important characteristic." Do you cultivate this trait within your family or company?

One of the real challenges of being the boss is knowing when to listen. There are some people who are professional critics, they see problems everywhere. But there are also a great number of people who are smart and competent who DO see REAL problems. If you are a decision maker you need to work on your ability to discern one from the other. If you are

a person without authority, you need to develop the skill to deliver the message without any anger or personal animosity. You need recognize that your passion for a particular point of view is not always going to be persuasive. What do you want to achieve? Do you want your opinion to be accepted or do you want the problem to be resolved?

The motto of the Christopher movement is: "It is better to light a tiny candle than to sit and curse the darkness". Does that motto speak to you? If it does, it could change a lot of things in your life. Do people come to you for an informed opinion or are you seen as the perpetual cry baby?

Many of us throw rocks at our political leaders about their decision making capabilities, but that criticism applies to virtually all authority figures in our lives. We all make mistakes; that's human nature. But the impact of mistakes can be mitigated, if the boss heard all sides of an issue before making a final decision. Are you willing to give your boss a copy of this article as a discussion point? **CARPE DIEM.**

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James F. Fitzgerald was the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates; he retired on 12.31.20.

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Entertainment at the Ireland Network Gala included these young ladies from the Murphy Roche School of Irish Music. Back: Amelia Carnana Kiley, Imogen Kiley, Bella Barnwell, Ciara Haran Front: Delainey Schwarz, Molly Mendez, Maeve Barnwell

DANÚ at the McAninch Arts Center March 13

Danú, one of the leading traditional Irish ensembles, brings their St. Patrick’s Day



Celebration to the McAninch Arts Center (MAC) at 4 p.m., Sunday, March 13. Winner of numerous awards from the BBC and Irish Music Magazine, Danú takes audiences on a musical journey to their native Ireland, offering a moving and memorable concert experience filled with jigs, reels, songs and more in advance of St. Patrick’s Day.

For over two decades, Danú’s virtuoso players on flute, tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion, bouzouki, and vocals (Irish and English) have delighted audiences worldwide. From County Waterford, Kerry, Dublin and Donegal in Ireland, Danú is one of the leading traditional Irish musical groups today. Their standing-room-only concerts throughout Ireland are mesmerizing shows often featuring a mix of ancient Irish music and new work from their repertoire. The

Washington Post hails them as, “a vibrant mix of virtuosity, energy and empathy.”

The musicians of Danú are Nell Ní Chróinin (Lead Vocals, Flute & Whistles), Benny McCarthy (Button Accordion, Melodeon), Oisín McAuley (Fiddle, Backing Vocals), Éamon Doorley (Irish bouzouki, backing vocals), Ivan Goff (Uilleann Pipes, Flute and Whistles), Tony Byrne (Guitar, Backing Vocals) and Billy Sutton (Bodhran [Irish Drum] and Mandolin).

Based in the city of Waterford, Ireland and named for the ancient Celtic goddess of fertility and wisdom, Danú has released nine CD albums and a DVD since forming in 1994. Danú’s honors and awards include being voted Best Overall Traditional Act by Dublin’s magazine Irish Music and twice voted Best Traditional Group in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. Danú has toured throughout Europe and North America with stops at The Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles and Symphony Space in New York City. Their live performances have been broadcast on NPR, the CBC, and the BBC.

Tickets <https://www.atthamac.org/events/danu-st-patricks-day-celebration/> McAninch Arts Center, located at 425 Fawell Blvd. on the campus of College of DuPage, fPerformance at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 13. Tickets are \$50-\$60. Visit AtTheMAC.org or call 630.942.4000. The Box Office is open Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. and 1 hour prior to performance. For the latest COVID-19 Policy, visit AtTheMAC.org/covid-19-update/

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Jillian P.

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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.

After 50 yrs in early childhood education and owning several child care centers, I decided to pass the baton. Our children are the third generation in our family to start schools and after seeing their success & passion I decided to venture into another area of caregiving, **seniors!** I thought, I’m not going to retire I’m going to RE-FIRE!

Working with seniors reminds me of my wonderful years teaching children loving, laughing, and appreciating the joys of life.

HAPPY SENIORS singing old favorite tunes is music to my ears. Now I get to continue doing what I love with a new generation.



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Chairde: "He granted me so much grace, that through me many people would be reborn in God."

St. Patrick wrote those words some 1,500+ years ago, he knew he had made an impact, but he had no idea how strong his influence would be or how long his legacy would last. Here we are in 2022, very ready to once again celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Or actually, Patrick's Month as we say in Chicagoland where the celebration is not confined to just one day.

There will be parades, dinners, concerts, parties, films, plays and more throughout this area's strong and vibrant Irish community for all to enjoy, and Gaelic Park is proud to be a prominent destination for such celebrations. You are invited to join us any time in March, and particularly for Ireland on Parade (various dates) and for our South Side Sunday Celebration on March 13th for which we will feature entertainment throughout the building.

May your holiday time be safe and satisfying, and may you, your family and friends experience all the joy of the season. *Slainte, Bill O'Sullivan*



Saturday April 9, 2022
Gaelic Park's Annual
Easter Egg Hunt!
11 a.m. Start Time
 Chicago Gaelic Park - 6119 W. 147th Street
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Un-Wined at the Park
Join us for an Evening of Wine Tasting
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 7:30pm
at Gaelic Park

Explore and expand your wine horizons
Wine representatives on hand to provide
insider knowledge about their wines
Giveaways, Raffles, and Fun!

Cost is \$35 per person & includes light appetizers

Warm smiles, fabulous wines, and good company!
Bottles of wine available at a discount for purchase,
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There's Always Something Going on at Gaelic Park!

THURSDAY MARCH 17TH

THE EMERALD ROOM

Gaelic Park's Annual St. Patrick's Day
Corned Beef & Cabbage Luncheon
 Doors open 11:00am Lunch Served 12:00pm
Tickets \$32 in advance - Adults Only
 Entertainment Provided by Joe Cullen
 And a show by The Cross Keys School of Irish Dancing



THE TARA ROOM On Stage

1:00pm St. James Gate
5:00pm Joe Monahan
8:00pm Related Rhapsody

And an appearance by the Lavin-Cassidy School of Irish Dance
No Cover Charge

CARRAIG PUB - Open 11:00am
 Pub Food 11:00am - 9:00pm
ON STAGE

12pm - Billy O'Donahue
4pm - Kieran Byrne
 An Appearance by The Doonaree Pipe Band
8pm - Gerry Haughey
 No Cover Charge



Selected Dates Available
For Your
2022 Weddings & Events
In our newly remodeled
Emerald Room,
Our Tara Room,
Our Celtic Room,
Our Patio And In Our Pub



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



Our Monthly Mass & Breakfast
Sunday, March 13, 2022
with Celebrant Fr. Karl Langsdorf
Mass at 9:30am followed by Irish Breakfast
in the Emerald Room.



Irish Breakfast consists of:
Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Bacon, White Pudding,
Black Pudding, Milk, Orange Juice, Coffee or Tea

Adults \$10 / Children \$5

Chicago Gaelic Park
6119 W 147th Street
Oak Forest, Illinois
(no reservations needed)

ENTERTAINMENT IN the Carraig Irish Pub

March - Live Music!

- Fri 3rd Joe Cullen
- Sat 4th Mike Brown
- Fri 11th Joe McShane
- Sat 12th Seth Mercer
- Fri 18th TBD
- Sat 19th Bernie Glim
- Fri 25th Nicky G
- Sat 26th TBD

TRINGO IS EVERY TUESDAY 7PM!

Chicago Gaelic Park's

"IRELAND ON PARADE!"

Irish Step Dancing School Performances

In the Emerald Room

Doors Open Each Evening 5:30pm - No Cover Charge

Music by *The Irish Musicians*

Hot Food Buffet Available in Tara Room



Thursday, March 10, 2022

- 6:30pm - Music by The Irish Musicians
- 7:00pm - McCormack Fay School of Irish Dance
- 7:30pm - Mulhern School of Irish Dance
- 8:00pm - Cross Keys School of Irish Dance

Friday, March 11, 2022

- 6:30pm - Music by The Irish Musicians
- 7:00pm - Weber Irish Dancers
- 8:00pm - Lavin-Cassidy School of Irish Dance

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

- 6:30pm - Music by The Irish Musicians
- 7:00pm - Mullane/Godley Irish Dance Academy
- 7:30pm - Blackbird Academy of Irish Dance
- 8:00pm - Eilish Sullivan school of Irish Dance

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

- 6:30pm - Music by The Irish Musicians
- 7:30pm - Foy School of Irish Dance
- 8:00pm - Trinity Academy of Irish Dance

Sunday, March 13th South Side Irish Sunday!



Doors Open 1:00pm
Admission \$10.00 - Kids 12 & Under \$5.00
(3 & under are free)

Four Stages of Entertainment

Delicious Hot Food Buffet in Tara Room available from 1:00pm

Carraig Pub

2pm - St. James Gate
6:30pm - Kieran Byrne

Emerald Room

1:30pm - The Larkin & Moran Brothers
6:00pm - Arranmore
7:30pm - Dennehy Irish Dancers

Tara Room

1:30pm - Taylor Street Band
6:00pm - Liam Durkin



Children's Activities

1:30-5:00pm



Time to rejoice, we got this far, yet the pandemic lingers, as do masked and unmasked faces while each of us developed our own choreography of survival. I perfected the Covid dance of avoidance in supermarket aisles and abundant corners, including the shuffle to hiding places available at Costco. Nonetheless, angst, forever intermingled in the marrow of our bones harbored fear for ourselves and loved ones. We fostered aloofness, (it couldn't happen to me,) followed by complacency, although vaccinated, boosted and forever masked, I imprisoned myself in a shuttered home accepting the pandemic was here to stay leaving a path of panic in its wake.

Nonetheless good things occurred. A friend from the distant past appeared out of nowhere, invited me to lunch, we sat and shared snippets of our past lives, couple friends, both of us widowed. His first and middle name, Roy Macbeth indicates with

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supreme clarity he comes from good stock, Scottish merged with a bountiful dose of Irish history, an abundance of music from the Emerald Isle interwoven with a deep love and appreciation of Irish hospitality and luxury sites available in historic castles of grandeur scattered throughout the land. Dromorland, Ashford, and Castle Leslie, Co. Monaghan slips back to Celtic times. A few miles outside Dublin Center, unknown to many Clontarf Castle is steeped in Irish History dating back to 1172 offering the charm and splendor of a unique royal experience for \$159 per room. Over the years my friend did not dodge his abiding interest in and about Irish Actress Maureen O'Hara. Somewhere, somehow he received a signed professional photograph of the spitfired, red-haired Irish woman where it hangs in a significant place in his California home. Truth be told he continues manic about the late Irish actress and most especially, the historic film *The Quiet Man*.

During the sixties and my feminist period back in Boston, I watched the film, hurriedly walking out of the theatre mid-way, disgusted over the abusive shenanigans of the American cowboy John Wayne toward his seemingly unwilling bride Maureen O'Hara. I was also embarrassed by the role played by Barry Fitzgerald demonstrating the foolishness of an Irishman who acted the fool with or without the endless glass of Guinness. Yes, I suffered and danced the conniption jig arguing with Irish and American friends the scandalous behavior the film manifested in a negative way the land of my birth. And yet, despite the hooliganism I confronted on the screen, I admit astonishment over its continuing cultism and success.

It was 1952 when the *Quiet Man* was launched in Ireland and America. An enormous brain drain occurred in Ireland during the fifties and young Irish men and women escaped Ireland for lives in America, Australia, Liverpool and even Canada. No argument, the film was hailed as a John Ford masterpiece, winning two Oscars.

Good morning Ireland Radio on GlobalIrishradio.com or gir.ie





Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

According to local folklore the film raised more money than many films before or after it's release.

All well and good, it remained an embarrassment as I viewed Barry Fitzgerald a living breathing leprechaun of an idiot, playing a role that held little respect for



Maureen O'Hara in her 90's in Glengarriff, Co. Cork, Ireland

women. None the less, the film amazingly sold close to 200,00 copies within the first four years in Britain alone. By 1990 the *Quiet Man* netted an estimated quarter of a million with no signs of abating the film's greatness.

All that said, friends over the years continued to argue that the movie was one of the best ever produced, and I held to my disgruntled attitude, most especially with my friend Roy Macbeth Pitkin who often

commented and indeed challenged I would eventually come around, see the light and cheer the *Quiet Man*. Recently in his presence I agreed to give the film another go and watched Maureen O'Hara literally pushed, shoved, dragged across a field by the tall and handsome John Wayne claiming her as his property. A large lump to swallow. I kept quiet, and watched what John Ford, John Wayne, Barry Fitzgerald and the beautiful redhead Maureen O'Hara brought to the screen. How could one not admire and fall in love with the scenery Connamara affords, the sheer wildness of the land, abundant stone walls, the seemingly choreographed fields and meadows, its natural beauty and the tranquility it forces into one's very soul. I was smitten. The light in the eyes of Maureen O'Hara as she fought with her brother for permission to marry and receive her rightful dowry which was her right, was painful. Without what was due her, she would marry but not indulge in any matrimonial assets. In a blistering rendition she'd cook and sew for her husband John Wayne but that was all.

The film was made on the grounds of the beautiful Ashford Castle, and John Wayne fighting for his wife demanded her brother release all that was due his sister. Eventually, he gave in, and they all lived happily after. As an elder, I learned a good deal watching the film. As an I was moved to tears observing the sneaky looks of love from O'Hara to Wayne and the pride she harbored as he fought her brother who released the dowry. It was a win, win, a beautiful love story that endures in film to this very day. My reaction, well received, even applauded fills me with personal pride and I forgive myself for holding out all these years without claiming the *Quiet Man* one the loveliest Irish stories every told.

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Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



Musings Of An Immigrant Turned U.S. Citizen

I arrived in Chicago O Hare airport on a bitter cold January day in 2008. Almost 14 years to the day, on an equally freezing cold day, I sat in the Federal Courthouse waiting to be sworn in as a US Citizen at my Naturalization Ceremony.

Martin Luther King once said, “You don’t have to see the whole staircase to take the first step” and there are no words more fitting to describe my decision to leave everyone and everything I knew and take a chance on “The American Dream”. Because of ongoing COVID 19 restrictions I was not allowed to bring anyone with me to my swearing in ceremony which was, in some ways ironic. I arrived here pretty much alone and here I sat alone again all these years later, about to take my Oath to become a US Citizen. I was a little sad that I couldn’t share this special moment with anyone, particularly my American born daughters, but in some ways, it was also lovely to sit there alone and reflect on what has certainly been an incredibly kind but also sometimes difficult journey.

When I arrived in Chicago, I was a 30-year-old Lawyer, with no job, no home and I knew only a handful of people. I am still not too sure what I was searching for when I left Ireland that January. Looking back, it was clearly a finding myself moment, that I didn’t fully realize I was embarking on. It was incredibly hard to leave a great family and a core of supportive friends, and I was really scared, but something in the back of my heart told me the long difficult goodbyes would be worth it.

The night before I left my parents’ home, a friend came to visit. As we hugged goodbye at the door, she handed me a business card. It was a lawyer she had met when she tended bar in an Irish Pub on the Northwest side of Chicago. She said, “take it, you never know when you might need it”. I called that lawyer a few weeks into

my trip. Of course, we lawyers know how to screen our calls well, so I didn’t get through to him that day. I left a voice mail saying who I was, and I asked for a call back. Surprisingly he called back! We talked for a while, and he admitted that he didn’t really know if he could help me- but he really liked my accent and he wanted to hear more so he invited me to meet for coffee. We had coffee and I left with a job.

After that - there was the small little hiccup of the fact that I was now an Irish lawyer not qualified to practice law in America. I had to fix that. I set about a difficult road of having my Irish qualifications, my Irish law degree, and my years of practice there, recognized here. It was tedious and frustrating and as I was providing test results from High School to the Illinois Board of Admissions, there was many a time that I wanted to just give up and go home. I could slip back into my life there with no one questioning if my law degree was up to par. But I persisted and after a long grueling eighteen months of form filling and document gathering - I got the call; “we accept it - now go take the bar exam”.

Taking the bar exam as a 33-year-old, already qualified lawyer was not fun. I was certainly one of the oldest in the room. It was hard. I was very lost in many of the basic things that kids beside me had been taught in high school. I asked my American classmates to give me basic civic lessons so I could understand what these teachers were talking about. But I kept my head down and got on with it. Did I enjoy it - no - but by April 2011, I was Attorney at Law. Those days, coupled with a savage feeling of loneliness for home - were some of the hardest days I’ve had here, but finally being done and being able to get back to what I loved doing, was totally worth it.

The years in law have been kind to me. I have met incredibly supportive mentors, colleagues, and friends throughout my time. I stayed with that lawyer from that business card for nearly 9 years. We did great things together and I will always be grateful to him for giving me a chance and that he liked my accent! I’ve moved on since then and am now a Partner at a personal injury law firm specializing in construction accidents, truck accidents, nursing home abuse and neglect, medical malpractice, and workers compensation.

As well as trying to get my qualifications recognized I also faced the difficult and long immigration path of seeking my permanent residence in this country. Much like the scrutiny of my education, separate and apart I was being scrutinized as to what I could bring to this county from an immigration point of view. Over the course of 14 years, I have held four different visa’s and lately a green card, sponsored by my then employer. It was a long, expensive road with no certainty ever. The path to citizenship is broken. It is archaic and it is tedious, and it is not for the faint of heart. You are always at the mercy of some random immigration officer who will ultimately decide your future. Their discretion is immense and even though on paper all looked like it would be fine, you just never know. It is strange and unsettling being the mother of US Citizens but you yourself are not recognized. Much like in the law, the process was kind to me. It is not so for many others. It is still quite hard to believe I am a fully-fledged citizen now despite all the twists and turns in the road.

One of the earliest and best things I ever did was join the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois. The organization and its members are truly some of the most brilliant, gifted, and talented people I have ever met. From day one - I was welcomed with open arms and welcoming smiles. One of the proudest moments of my career so far was being invited by one of the Women’s Bar Association, Board Members to run for a Director Position in 2021 - which I am humbled to say I succeeded in getting. I now co-chair several committees for the Women’s Bar, including the Mentor/Mentee Committee, The Judicial Evaluation Committee, Legally Mom’s, and The Judicial Reception Committee. I have met some amazing friends while engaged in this organization and I no longer feel like my core friends are in Ireland - they are also, now here.

As I sat waiting for the Judge to swear us in and read over the Oath, I’ve probably never felt prouder. I’m now married to my Irish born Husband - Patrick (another Northwest Irish Pub story!) and we have two beautiful and lovely little girls, Ava, and Ana. In them - I truly know I have found my “American Dream”. If there is any message in my story, it is this- follow your heart, work hard, be brave and don’t be afraid to take steps that you don’t always know where they will lead. I am honored to be among you.

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Easter Bunny Bingo: Jesus, Resurrection, & Peeps Live, March 18 Through April 16 at Greenhouse Theatre

Is it a sin to answer your cell phone during Mass? Can you text your confession to your priest? Is it a sin to eat meat on a Friday during Lent? You'll learn the answers to these and more as Vicki Quade's comedy, *Easter Bunny Bingo: Jesus, Resurrection, & Peeps!*, reopens on March 18, just in time for the Easter season, at the Greenhouse Theater Center, Chicago. The show world premiered in March 2020 and ran one week-end, closing when the pandemic forced the closure of theaters throughout the city. "It's a real joy to celebrate this reopening,"

Quade says. "It's been a long two years."

The premise is that Mrs. Mary Margaret O'Brien, a former nun, is here tonight to play bingo and talk about Easter traditions, why Easter is never on the same day, the history of no-meat Fridays, why we either love or hate Peeps, Easter movies, and much more!

It's a crazy night of Easter trivia, audience interaction, and a wacky contest all built about the concept of sin! Add to that a box of wacky prizes, some Easter candy, fun bingo cards, and a lot

of Catholic humor for a night of entertainment you'll never forget. And in this interactive bingo show, you'll actually play bingo. What could be more fun? You'll be laughing so hard, you'll have to be careful watching your bingo cards!

Sharing the role of Mrs. O'Brien on stage will be the show's creator, Vicki Quade, and veteran Chicago comedy actresses Liz Cloud and Nancy Greco.

Easter Bunny Bingo is the latest installment in Quade's bingo series, which also includes the long-running hits *Bible Bingo*, *Christmas Bingo*, and the Halloween comedy, *Holy Ghost Bingo*. She is also the co-creator of the long-running hit comedy, *Late Nite Catechism*, and a host of other religious comedies.

"As the creator of *Late Nite Catechism*, Vicki Quade knows a thing or two about what makes a one-person show successful," says Pioneer Press, Chicago.

Easter Bunny Bingo will run for five weeks only during the Lenten season, starting Friday, March 18, through Saturday, April 16. There is no show on Easter Sunday. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. All performances are at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago.

Ticket prices are \$35, group rates available. For tickets, call the box office at 773-404-7336 or go to: <https://greenhousetheatercenter.thundertix.com/>

You don't have to be Catholic to enjoy these shows. But it pays to love bingo!

More fun than Sodom and Gomorrah!!

So much fun, you'll have to confess it!!!

<https://greenhousetheatercenter.thundertix.com/>

Written by Vicki Quade, one of the creators of the hit comedy *Late Nite Catechism*, *EASTER BUNNY BINGO* looks at Easter traditions, why we eat Easter eggs, the history of no-meat Fridays, who really loves Peeps, a funny quiz about modern sins, and lots more.



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Bernie, with her award

I am absolutely over the moon to have been awarded Business Management Consultancy of the year 2021/22 by the Republic of Ireland Prestige Awards.

To say the last two years have been a challenge is put-

business Solutions Consultancy Ireland and going it alone. I also created a strand to what I had been doing since 2015, mentoring start-ups, entrepreneurs and established companies and I included the arts and crafts sector. Crafters of Ireland was born.

My personal life and work life had become monotonous. I also moved away from where I had been living and made a fresh start for myself - I did this on the evening of the very first lockdown. I'd had enough and I had the confidence, energy and belief in myself to start afresh.

I believe Andy Warhol said **"Better to jump and make a mistake than to sit there too frightened to make a move"** Now two years later we are still changing to suit the needs of what the world around wants,



Lucky Emerald - Touch of Venus Jewellery

ting it mildly. In March 2020 I decided the time had come to make changes, big ones. This involved restructuring my



The Strong Woman, by D. P. O'Malley

as the economy changed and the needs of our customers changed. We keep as fluid as possible so that we can continue to support the arts and crafts sector in Ireland.

Crafters of Ireland's website is getting a complete redesign. The new and improved website will be much easier to navigate, faster and user-friendly. Thus, improving the service for both our vendors and customers.

Additionally, we will be adapting our service to suit the needs of our vendors. Our new package is for Irish and Celtic crafters from around the world. The service will include a store

on our website and social media and access to our Facebook group. To sign up, contact us at craftersofireland@gmail.com

We love nothing more than to show off our crafts peoples work to you. We also love you to come and visit Ireland, the beautiful Emerald Isle. We love all our friends and customers in the U.S. Your support has been absolutely amazing. Thank You.

From all involved in Crafters of Ireland.

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On the Upbeat

By *Maryann
McTeague Keifer*

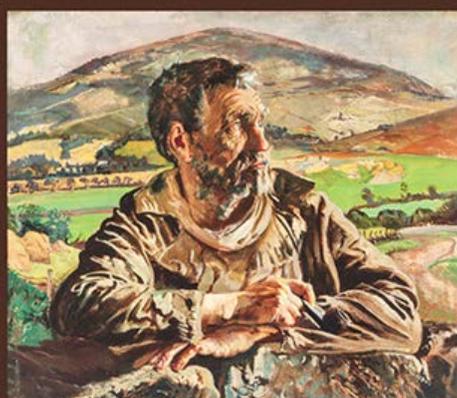
As Ireland celebrates its Centenary this year, there is a significant Chicago connection to this commemoration. Local musicians Liz Carroll and Marty Fahey have produced, both also composed, an album that accompanies an exhibition of Irish Art being hosted by the Snite Museum on the campus of The University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

Marty is the curator of The O'Brien Collection, a noted treasury of Irish Art. You will remember their major role in the Chicago Art Institute's exhibition Ireland: Crossroads of Art and Design, 1690 - 1840, and its accompanying album. This exhibition, Who Do We Say We Are? Irish Art 1922|2022, is a commemoration of The Exposition d'Art Irlandais held in Paris, cultural center of Europe, in 1922 to reintroduce Ireland to the world as a Free State via its culture, rich in art, literature, and music. In this role, Marty has worked with Trinity College in Ireland, University of Notre Dame, as well as several other groups to highlight the art of Ireland, which to many is little known.

In talking to him, he uses the metaphor of a diamond with all of its facets. The brilliance of the diamond as a whole depends on each facet adding to it. Like the diamond, Irish culture's beauty depends on each of its facets—music, art, literature, history, etc. to be woven together to create the whole. Take one piece away, and

you dim its resplendence. Thus, a multilayered presentation with the artworks being presented along with music written for each piece, poetry and literature excerpts tied in with the art and music, and presentations by Marty, other experts, authors, musicians...make it a very meaningful experience.

Marty was instrumental in making sure the music was an integral part of the experience. Bringing in childhood friend and musical companion, the world known fiddler and composer, Liz Carroll, he commented that "The compositional expertise of Liz was significant. I couldn't



WHO DO WE SAY WE ARE?

Irish Art 1922|2022

THE MUSIC

have done it without her." Liz composed ten tunes for the accompanying album, Who Do We Say We Are? Irish Art 1922|2022, The Music, Marty three, and Liz Knowles one. There are also several other tunes including those from the original program in 1922.

I asked Liz about how different it was composing for a piece of art. She said her 'normal' composing would be something she felt an inspiration about, often in small pieces to be put together, or not, later. She might get up and think "What might I write today?" Occasionally, she'd write a tune for a friend, but seldom for an event. Composing was mostly for her enjoyment. This was completely different, but she found she enjoyed it. She likes reading mysteries and the world they put her in, and approached this as a mystery. Who was the artist? What were the times like when he/she painted it? She kept notes on each painting and used them to solve the puzzle of what the tune should be.

When it came to who the musicians playing her compositions should be, she and Marty both agreed that they wanted working musicians. Musicians for whom playing was their profession. Liz has always loved everything Seamus Egan does. She likes his playing, his themes, and his compositions. She had gone to see his Seamus Egan Project band and told Marty she believed they should be the ones for her music. The Goodman Trio had been on the first exhibition album, Ireland: Crossroads of Art and Design 1690 - 1840, at the Chicago Art Institute, and were asked and happy to be a part of this event also, as was Liz Knowles.

While experiencing this exhibit as a whole is the better way to define Irishness, this album is one to be enjoyed

at all times. It is truly as varied as each painting and artist. The time frame is the only constraint. There is a good variety of types of tunes which reflects the varied artwork it addresses. I have to say, my favorite right now, is "Cnoc An Phobail" roughly translated as "The Hill of the People." It is a stunning air that just takes you along with it whether you have the painting of The Turf Cutter in mind, or are just watching the music in your head as you listen. It transitions into a lively jig "The Three-Legged Stool."

Throughout this 14 cut album, you hear the lives of those represented in the pieces of art musically described by the inimitable flute playing of Seamus Egan, Jenna Moynahan's lovely fiddle, the harp of Mairi Chaimbeul, Marty Fahey's gorgeous piano and accordion, Liz Knowles on her fiddle, hardanger, and piano, the singing of Elizabeth Cronin, and many other musicians. The accompanying booklet includes the artworks and descriptions of each and its historical setting. Beautifully written, it is an artifact on its own. With the music, it is a masterpiece.

Whether you take the trip to South Bend or go online to enjoy this absolutely amazing exhibit, you find yourself better for it. Supported by the Irish Government, it is free to all, so take advantage through May 15!

I hope you are taking advantage of all the fabulous live music we have for St. Patrick's month! I know there are several days I have two or more events. What a great problem to have after the shut down of live music we have endured. I am looking forward to running into many of you as we get to see our favorites playing live music again.

Lá Fhéile Pádraig Sone Duit!

[Link to Irish Exhibit at the Snite Museum of Art](#)

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On the Law

Martin Healy Jr.

John P. Scanlon



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.

Healy Scanlon Law Firm, 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. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

Big Trucks and Road Trips Post-Covid

With Covid regulations loosening, many people are set to travel and explore the states after two years of reduced travel. Drivers should be alert and attentive while traveling in light of the fact that there are 13,085,643 trucks on the road according to the latest Bureau of Transportation Statistics publications (2019). For every 10,000 registered commercial vehicles, there are 3.82 fatal crashes. While this number has lowered a good deal from the 1980 statistic of 9.29 fatalities per 10,000 registered commercial vehicles, it is always in your best interest to be a defensive driver. With this in mind, this column will take a look at regulations of commercial vehicles, why they are important, and the effects that non-compliance can have on drivers' safety.

Commercial Driver's License

Vehicles that require CDL include: (1) a truck over 26,000 pounds, (2) any vehicle which transports 16 or more people, and (3) any vehicle which transports hazardous waste. To get a CDL one must pass a written test and a driving test. Both the written and driving tests are much more exhaustive than the traditional driver's license test. The study guide put out by the Illinois Secretary of State for 2022 CDLs is over 170 pages.

Federal Regulations

Obtaining a CDL is just the beginning. If you drive a tractor-trailer commercially, you are subject to many federal regula-

tions beyond what is addressed in a normal CDL course. There are 40 current sections of CDL regulations set forth by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the federal body that regulates commercial drivers.

These regulations are necessary because of the differences between a tractor-trailer and a normal passenger car. A tractor-trailer can be over 70 feet long and weigh up to 80,000 pounds. A typical passenger vehicle is a little over 15 feet long and weighs about 3,000 pounds. Needless to say, just based on the size of the truck, commercial vehicles can be highly dangerous.

Limitation on Hours

Anyone who has attempted to drive cross-country knows that the longer one drives, the harder it is to pay attention to what he or she is doing. This is especially true for professional over-the-road truck drivers who have to drive large vehicles for many hours every day.

Because of this, Federal regulations limit how long a driver can be on duty in a given day and week. A driver can only be "on duty" for fourteen hours. After that fourteen-hour driving period, the driver is required to take 10 consecutive hours off. "On duty" time includes driving time, plus truck inspections, paperwork, loading/unloading and other work-related tasks.

In addition to the daily limit, there is a limit which prevents a driver from driving more than 70 hours per 8 days (if the motor carrier operates every day of the week) or 60 hours per 7 days (if the

motor carrier does not operate every day of the week). In addition, it is recommended that any driving period of 7-8 days is followed by a 34-hour rest period.

Truck driver fatigue is always a serious concern for the regulators, carriers, drivers and for those in other vehicles using the highway. After a number of deaths of teenagers and children resulting from fatigued truck drivers, an organization - Parents Against Tired Truckers (PATT) - was formed in 1994 to advocate for stricter regulation of truck drivers.

It is the responsibility of both the motor carrier (or trucking company) and the driver to ensure that these hours-of-service rules are being followed. The trucking company must make an effort to confirm the times indicated in a driver's log or monitor the drivers' electronic logging device record. The company must check fuel receipts, trip tickets and other information available to it to confirm that the information provided by the driver is accurate. Finally, the company must keep all records pertaining to movement of the equipment for three years.

Electronic Logging Devices

As of 2017 almost all truckers

are required to have electronic logging devices, or ELDs, an on-board computer or satellite tracking equipment which records information, including when the truck is running, what speed it is operating at, and when fuel stops are made. These computers also have a "black box" or event recorder capabilities, that make special records of when the truck brakes suddenly, such as during an accident. This data records the truck's speed before and during an accident.

A trucking company must use all of the information at its disposal, including ELDs, to confirm a driver is staying within the hours-of-service rules and operating safely. Even if a carrier is unaware that a driver was operating over his hours because the driver submits falsified logs, the carrier can be held liable for failing to check the drivers' information. Federal inspectors conduct random audits of driver logs and underlying documents. Where violations are found, heavy fines can be imposed.

Healy Scanlon Law Firm

Trucking Cases

Healy Scanlon Law Firm handled a very important trucking case in

which a \$23,775,000 jury verdict was upheld by an Illinois Appellate Court. In the case, *Sperl v. C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc.*, the defendant C.H. Robinson ("CHR") was a broker of services and coordinated a trucker's delivery of potatoes from Idaho to Illinois. CHR obtained a contract from Jewel Osco to ship loads from Idaho to Illinois. CHR then contracted with an actual trucking company, Drag-on Fly Express, to drive the loads.

During the delivery of one of the loads, a tired driver failed to stop in traffic on I-55 and ran over multiple vehicles. CHR claimed that it could not be responsible because it was merely the broker, and the driver was not an agent of CHR. In essence, it argued that it had no control over the driver, which was required for CHR to be held liable as a principle under Illinois law.

During trial Healy Scanlon presented evidence to show that CHR had sufficient control over the trucker's timing and delivery of the load. CHR imposed heavy fines on truckers for failing to deliver their loads on time. CHR also required drivers to make regular calls, so CHR knew (or should have known) whether the truckers were complying with the limitation on hours regulations discussed above. CHR also controlled the pick-up and drop off time for the loads. The truck driver testified that the schedule set by CHR created pressure on her to violate federal limitation on hours regulations. Ultimately, the Appellate Court agreed that the jury's verdict should stand, and the families of the deceased were able to get fair compensation for the loss of their loved ones.

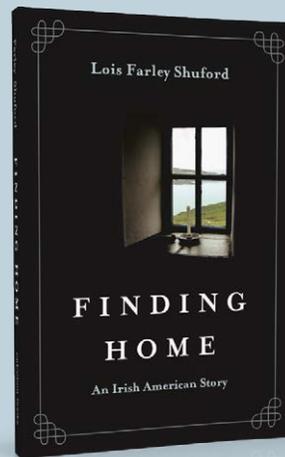
If you or a loved one is involved in a crash with a truck, feel free to call Healy Scanlon. We have successfully handled many trucking cases with numerous million dollar plus recoveries, and we understand the complexities involved in trucking accident cases.

By:
Michael
P. Scanlon



An Irish American Story

An old photo. A transatlantic quest.
A secret kept for generations.



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—Lauren Etter, author of *The Devil's Playbook*

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John Williams: Chicago's Musical Treasure Mines the World of Irish Traditional Music

By John Williams

Mad for the road. The threadbare evidence is staring at me like a scruffy mutt. My trusty roll on bag has nicks & cuts not to mention creaky wheels and broken clasps. When it was new, this wheelie could snugly accommodate my button accordion, flute, concertina, a shaver and a microphone with a divider for gig shirts and travel shirts, AND it fit into the overhead compartments on planes and trains. It has seen me through Solas tours to Dublin, Glasgow, Zurich, & London; as well as Socks in the Frying Pan tours through Montana, the Dakotas, Colorado, Idaho, and Wyoming. On my own steam, it has brought me to solo gigs in Paris, Quebec, San Juan, New Orleans, Austin, Ennis, Bunrana, Lisdoonvarna, Anchorage & Honolulu.

Rather than chucking it in the trash, that tattered old roll on relic is now repurposed to store the labeled and unlabeled pub session cassettes of summer nights in my dad's village of Doolin County Clare, DAT tapes of pro projects, minidisks, cds, sheet music, and some precious vinyl records from my parents' home at 61st & Lawndale.

These were played on Sundays after St. Nick's mass and while my mother would put the fry on: The Tulla Ceili Band, Chris Doney, The Bothy Band, The Russell Brothers of Doolin, Joe Cooley, Tony McMahon, Willie Clancy, Noel Hill & Tony Linnane, Tommy Maguire & Liz Carroll, John Kelly, The Chief-tains,, Seamus Tansey and the Irish Musicians Association of America album featuring over 30 of my musical elders. And on the cover seated next to Kevin Henry was myself at age 11, not quite comprehending at the time the lifelong privilege it was and it remains to have been in their citywide music scene and to record the music of Ireland here in Chicago.

Is maith an scéalaí an aimsir "Time is a great storyteller." Fast forward to now and the

government scratch having been well spent, I made sure to save a bit to invest in a proper roll on bag, namely a Pivot 2 Medium Spinner by Samsonite with a 10 year global warranty to roll forward to these upcoming live music events.

All Aboard!

Saturday March 5th 8pm
Steam at Fifth Province IAHC
4626 N. Knox, Chicago.

Sat March 12 Noon til 3pm
Steam at Chief O'Neill's 3471
N. Elston Chicago

Thursday March 17th 12-3pm
John Williams at Clancy's
103rd & Cicero Oaklawn IL

Thursday March 17th 4-7pm
John Williams at Clancy's on
95th Oaklawn IL

Thursday March 17th 9pm
Steam at Chief O'Neill's
Chicago IL

Saturday March 19th 5-8pm
John Williams & Friends at
Celtic Knot Public House Evan-
ston IL

Thursday March 24th 5:30pm
Steam at Historic Dixon The-
atre 114 S, Galena Ave Dixon IL

Friday March 25th 7pm
Steam at Gorton Community
Center 400 E. Illinois Road Lake
Forest IL

Sun March 27th 2:30pm
Steam at Artifact Events 4325
N. Ravenswood Ave Chicago IL

Saturday April 9th 8pm
A Mighty Squeeze: John Wil-
liams and Jimmy Keane In Con-
cert at Chief O'Neill's 8pm

Thurs. April 28th 8pm John
Williams & John Doyle In Con-
cert at Chief O'Neill's Chicago IL

Fri. Aug 5 & Sat Aug 6 Irish
Music Masters at Dublin Irish Fest
Coffman Park Dublin OH

Aug 12-14 Irish Music Masters
at An Rí Rá Montana Irish Fest
in Butte MT

Aug 20-22
John Williams at The Piper's
Gathering Litchfield CT

November 5-12 John Wil-
liams and Eoin O'Neill on Wild
Atlantic Music Tour:

Galway, Sligo, Mayo, Clare
Ireland

Full STEAM Ahead!

Steam Irish Quartet features

Katie Grennan on fiddle, Steve Morrow on bodhran, Jeff Lindblade on guitar. I wanted to start a band named after my second solo cd. 'Never quite toured and promoted that project due to filming Road to Perdition here in Chicago when Dreamworks called, and then being asked soon thereafter by a Nashville outfit to record and tour the world with Tim O'Brien and the Crossing. Steam is a compelling Irish band from sweet home Chicago and a pleasure to travel with, good people and naturally gifted players. As jazz legend Oscar Peterson remarked of his own trios and quartets over the years, they are Easy to Love, a standard indeed.

Irish Music Masters is yet another band to emerge out of the lockdowns. My Solas bandmates John Doyle and Seamus Egan teamed up with vocalist Cathi Ryan. The fifth position is frequently filled by uilleann piper Ivan Goff or fiddler Oisín McAuley. Quite a fun bunch of collaborators & the preliminary vibe out the gate tests positive after headlining the National Folk Festival and Milwaukee Irish Fest last summer.

A MIGHTY SQUEEZE!

Requiring special zoning exemptions, the mayor has allowed Jimmy Keane and myself to host an immersive double squeezebox fantasia concert. All accordions have been fully vaccinated. April 9th 8pm at Chief's. Defibrillators on site.

WILD ATLANTIC MUSIC TOUR
Nov 5-12 2022

All I can say here is watch out. Eoin O'Neill of Clare FM and I host an Irish music session tour that has it all. Stories, tunes,

songs, great accommodation and transport to Ennis, Sligo, Mayo, Galway and sweet home Doolin, County Clare. In a word, the trip of a lifetime. I can't push it too hard though because as of this writing there are only 14 spaces remaining. www.wildatlanticmusic.com. Contact Eddie Hanrahan and tell him you're mad for road. Roll on, my friends, roll on!

Regarding reserving your space on our fall session tour



of the west coast of Ireland, an Irish proverb advises:

Mura gcuirfidh tú san earrach ní bhainfidh tú san fhómhar.

"If you do not sow in the spring you will not reap in the autumn."

Irish music would die out. The accordion might come back into style. The Russians will end the world.

These 3 concerns were in the air that shaped my upbringing on the southwest side of Chicago in the seventies.

As of this writing, none of that has happened, thankfully.

Fast forward to now, Covid has jolted the world and many of our musician friends have departed for the great session in the sky. Locally, Kevin Henry, Malachy Towey, Tom O'Malley, Jim Thornton, Tony Geraghty,

Noel Rice. Beyond Chicago, we lost Joe Burke, Tony McMahon, Paddy Maloney, Finbar Dwyer, & Martin Connolly.

Yet, the beat goes on. Kind reader, you too have been through the ringer. Everyone is emerging from the pandemic with new outlooks, our systems hopefully healing. Perhaps it is too soon to try to make sense of our struggles as global citizens amidst the societal upheaval and 25/7 tragedy of recent memory.

I added an hour for good measure, because let's face it: the shit got real.

Everything changed: work schedules, locations, eating habits, gripping & rejoicing. The matching, hatching, & dispatching cycles of our lives experienced endless supply chain stress. Science and public health policy are front and center again, voting is most crucial, and truth... well, if you could bottle it, the thirst would still persist.

"But other than

all that, Mrs. Lincoln, how was the play?"

Should providence prove kind, I will see you all down the road and until then, thanks for the tunes, mind yourselves, and keep it lit. Shop local, think global, embrace education and the arts.

Ireland awaits your return... and so, one more proverb for the road.

An áit a bhfuil do chroí is ann a thabharfas do chosa thú.

"Your feet will bring you to where your heart is."

John Williams is a Chicago writer and touring musician playing 300 events a year on 10 instruments.

www.steamirishmusic.com

www.echobridgesounds.com

www.amightysqueeze.com

www.johnwilliamsmusic.com

Yorkville Hosts St. Patrick’s Celebration 3/12

By Tim Gleason

Downtown Yorkville businesses, in coordination with Yorkville Parks & Recreation, will be hosting the 6th annual St. Patrick’s Celebration on Saturday, March 12th. The event features a 5K race, an Irish Parade, Lucky Leprechaun Hunt, a fireworks show and live music throughout the day. Gleeson Irish Trio plays at the Law Office Pub at 3pm.

Food & drink specials will also be served at downtown bars & restaurants. Participating establishments include The Law Office Pub & Music Hall, Southbank BBQ, Rowdy’s, Butcher Block 360, Paradise Cove, Parma Pizza, and Suzy’s Bar & Grill.

All proceeds from the 5k race benefit CASA of Kendall County.

Sponsors for the event include Bud

Light, Pesola Media Group, and Jed Davis for State Representative.

9am 5k Race (Southbank BBQ).

9am Lucky Leprechaun Hunt

11am Irish Parade (On E. Hydraulic Ave)

3pm Gleeson Irish Trio at the Law Office

Pub & Music Hall - 6:30pm Fireworks Show

Food & drink specials, along with live music at downtown bars & restaurant throughout the day

<https://www.yorkville.il.us/632/St-Patricks-Day-Celebration>

www.facebook.com/stpatricksyorkville

5k sign-up: <https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/Yorkville/RUNSOBRUN>

[Promotional video](#)



Remembering Tom Boyle

In the late 70s my Aunt, Sister Teresa, came from Kerry Ireland to visit my brother Tom in Des Plaines and my family in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Sister Teresa taught American history and was very interested in touring the Gettysburg, Pennsylvania battlefield. Gettysburg is about an hours drive from Harrisburg

Sister Theresa was delightful. She was fascinated by the way we lived. She loved the garbage disposal, and kept asking

“Catherine, have you anything to grind”. Anyway the big day arrived and we were off to Gettysburg

We went to the VisitorsCenter to get an Irish Guide for a tour of the Battlefield.

The clerk at the desk had her back to the people and was on a personal phone call. This went on for a very long time. Finally, Tom went to the desk and in a very loud voice said WHAT IS THE NAME OF YOUR SUPERVISOR AND HIS PHONE NUMBER? In a panicked voice she said Sir, sir, what do yo need? Tom replied “I want the guide that knows all of the IIRISH stories about the battle,” we got an amazing Irish guide. I have a fond memory of Sister Teresa and the Guide standing on a battlefield and dicussing strategy.

It was a wonderful day thanks to Tom.

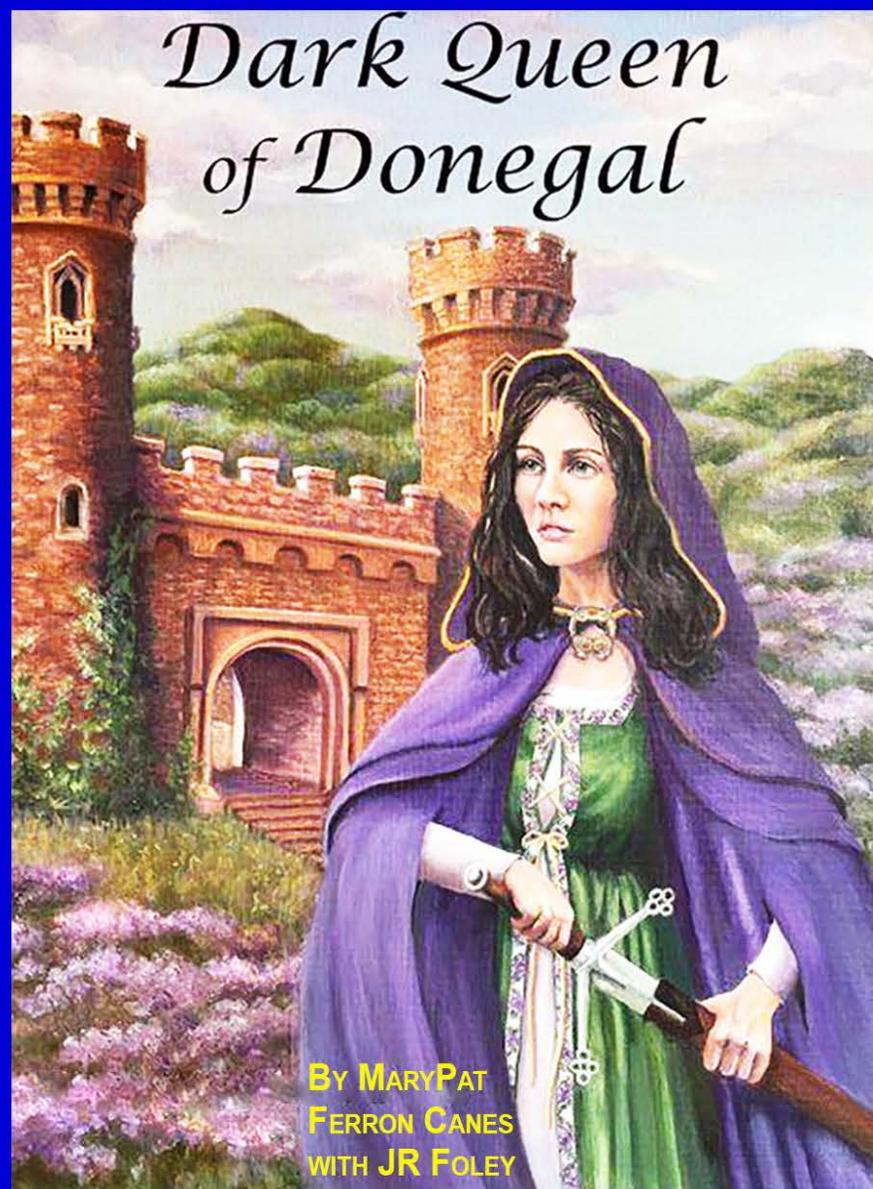
Tom loved all things Irasn and devoted a large part of his life volunteering to help the Irish, He really enjoyed the St.Patrick’s Day Parade and it is great that the parade book will have information about Tom in their 2022 parade book!

(Contributed by his cousin, Kate Shaffer.)



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DARK QUEEN OF DONEGAL IS A RIVETING, ACTION-PACKED HISTORICAL NOVEL. FILLED WITH AUTHENTIC DETAILS, IT IS THE STORY OF RED HUGH’S MOTHER, A RESOURCEFUL IRISH QUEEN WHO PITS HERSELF AGAINST ELIZABETH I IN HER EFFORTS TO SEE HER SON BECOME KING IN IRELAND



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DARKQUEENOFDONEGAL.COM

Guardai Siochana (guardian of the peace) The Irish police force was formed about 1923. It is predominantly an unarmed force they use batons and pepper spray; however, detectives and certain units carry firearms. The headquarters are located in Phoenix Park, in Dublin. The current garda commissioner is Drew Harris from Belfast.

There are 19 countries that have unarmed policemen a few include: New Zealand, Norway & Iceland. It's said that when Irish people came over to the U.S years ago that a lot of them were involved in criminal activity. However,



GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

BY TINA BUTLER

that quickly changed, and the Irish took over the police force and most of the police officers were Irish. And that fact was depicted in TV & movies for many years and continues today. In the show, Blue Bloods, there are Irish policeman.

In every police precinct, you'll have several stereotypical types of cops. The most common of these was the



O'Hara cop, with the whimsical Irish accent who usually stands on the sidelines, offering recycled stereotypical quips about the

green hills.

This sort of officer rarely, if ever, resorts to force when dealing with a criminal, but may visibly carry a nightstick, and will often have an impressive mustache.

Historically, this was how Irish were depicted on TV, as police departments in American cities like New York, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Baltimore were disproportionately staffed by Irish.

I will list a few shows that depicted Irish as police officers, I am sure there are several more. In the classic Looney Tunes bunny fakes the sound of a siren and an Irish accent. "Ok, Clancy take the boys and surround the house". In the Simpsons the police officer is called, Chief "Clancy" Wiggum. In an episode on St. Patrick's Day a banner read, 2,000 years of Irish cops. Family guy has many different episodes about Irish, I can't recall the names of the policeman.

Batman in the 60's had chief O'Hara as

their lieutenant.

Firemen and police have an Irish background from way back when New York police and fireman were mostly Irish descent. Often times, the Irish on TV were caricatures but we need to remember that those who "serve and protect" go out every day and risk their lives to serve their communities. There are many fallen heroes. We need to spare a thought for the families who have lost family in the line of duty. I think it's such an honor that us Irish have been depicted in TV and movies as the police. I think the police should be respected and held in high regard. They are the ones protecting us, maintaining order, fighting crime, and constantly trying to catch the bad guys. My hat is off to all the policemen and policewomen in Chicago and everywhere!

Gaelic for the month

- Police officers-gardai
- Criminal-choiriuil
- Gun-gunna
- Detective-bleachtaire

I wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day! I am delighted the parade is back, the festivities will be on March 12th. I will have my flag and shamrocks displayed and looking for my four-leaf clover!

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



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THE HIGH KINGS
March 9TH 2022



SOCKS IN THE FRYING PAN
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March 26TH 2022



JOSH O'KEEFE
April 9TH 2022



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April 16TH 2022

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Contributor to the library & Longstanding member of the Irish American Heritage Center Taught and Coached at St Bartholomew School and at Marist High School Inducted into the St Ignatius Sports Hall Of Fame All four Grandparents from Ireland!

‘The Craic Is Back’ In Ireland

The term ‘craic’ is a uniquely Irish one. It means fun and enjoyment and good times had by all.

After two long years, the ‘craic’ is truly back in Ireland. There is a buzz in towns and cities again, laughter in the streets, and music in the air. And what perfect timing as Spring begins to appear.

Poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote, “Nothing is so beautiful as Spring—When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush.” How those words ring true for the upcoming season. A time when Ireland emerges and opens its doors to a new chapter, a new beginning, and an opportunity to welcome old friends once again to our shores.

‘The craic is back’ and there is only one place to be ... Ireland. St Patrick’s Day will kick off the season in style. After two years, the St Patrick’s Festival is back—a week-long celebration of music, dance and outdoor shows culminating in the stunning St Patrick’s Day parade through the historic streets of Dublin on March 17th.

One can also visit the beautiful town of Downpatrick in Northern Ireland where St Patrick is buried and check out the St Patrick’s Center which is the world’s only permanent exhibit to our patron saint.

The St Patrick’s Festival is the highlight of the early vacation season and what a year 2022 is going to be. This year don’t miss the new Game of Thrones Studio Tour at Linen Mill Studios in Banbridge, just a short drive from Belfast, the newly designated UNESCO City of Music. Keeping with the artistic theme, Dublin will be celebrating in style the centenary of James Joyce’s masterpiece Ulysses. A host of literary events, exhibitions and artistic commissions are set to mark the 100th anniversary of the publication of one of the world’s most iconic works of literature.

So, whether you decide to wander through 5,000 years of history in Ireland’s Ancient East, discover Ireland’s breathtaking west coast along the Wild Atlantic Way, embrace a giant spirit in Northern Ireland, or enjoy the unspoiled



Bloomsday celebrations in Dublin.

majesty of Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands—you can do so in the knowledge that you will receive a welcome warmer than ever before and the guarantee of the experience of a lifetime.

‘The craic is back’...it’s time you returned too.

Ulysses, 100 Years Old in 2022

Dublin will be thronging with lovers of literature this year as the city celebrates the centenary of James Joyce’s revered masterpiece Ulysses.

All over the globe a host of literary events, exhibitions and artistic commissions are set to mark the 100th anniversary of the publication of one of the finest books ever written in the English language.

However the author’s birthplace will be the epicenter of the celebrations as Dublin, a UNESCO City of Literature comes alive with a program of artworks, readings, talks, food and walking tours, exhibitions, music, theatre and much more.

Dublin’s Joycean celebrations



Enjoying buskers in Belfast.

marking the centenary will be the Museum of Literature Ireland, located in one of Dublin’s finest historic houses. The museum, branded ‘MoLI’ in homage to Molly Bloom, Joyce’s heroine in Ulysses, will be the focal point of the city’s celebrations.

Throughout the year MoLI, will host a series of events, inviting artists, writers, academics and performers to celebrate Ulysses and its continued impact on creativity today.

Literary fans can also bookmark the annual Bloomsday Festival, run by the James Joyce Centre. It’s an event that every book lover should attend at least once. A major literary holiday in Dublin, it brings thousands together for great fun, readings, musical concerts, pub crawls and other events that pay homage to a novel that is firmly embedded in Irish culture.

A uniquely Irish festival, Bloomsday takes over the streets of Dublin that inspired Joyce and his works. If you’re lucky enough to be there, go all out and dress in the fashion of the period, sample dishes mentioned in the book and



New Game of Thrones Studio Tour in Banbridge.

will take place throughout the year and will culminate on June 16, which is internationally known as ‘Bloomsday,’ in honor of the novel’s central character Leopold Bloom. In Ulysses, the story unfolds around Dublin on Thursday, June 16, 1904. Coincidentally, June 16 in 2022 is also a Thursday.

Among the literary attractions

visit the featured locations for the full Bloomsday experience.

Make sure to head to the traditional Bloomsday spots of Sweny’s Chemist on Lincoln Place, Glasnevin Cemetery and Davy Byrne’s Pub on Duke Street, as well as James Joyce Martello Tower in Sandycove along the coast of south County Dublin.

There are few cities in the world that care so deeply about the written word as Dublin. It is associated with four Nobel prize winners: WB Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett and Seamus Heaney, and it is hard to turn a street corner without seeing some reminder of it’s literary character—a plaque on a door, the name of a street or a bridge, or a statue. The city boasts many excellent museums and galleries, as well as several major theatres, the Gate, the Gaiety, the Olympia, and the Abbey, home of the National Theatre of Ireland.

If you are a fan of all things literary, then Dublin is the place to be!

Belfast, UNESCO City of Music

Everyone knows Belfast rocks, but now the city has hit yet another high note by being awarded the coveted City of Music status by UNESCO, making it one of just 59 Cities of Music worldwide.

Belfast is the first city on the island of Ireland to receive City of Music status, which celebrates its rich musical heritage and recognises its outstanding contribution to music. As a holder of the title the capital of Northern Ireland will deliver a series of major music events over the next few years.

Belfast is dotted with live music venues suitable for small and intimate gigs as well as the big sets of international superstars. The city regularly hosts top-notch music festivals including the AVA Festival and Belsonic in June and Féile an Phobail in August. It even hosted the MTV European Music Awards back in 2011.

Among the musical highlights on a trip to Belfast is the Oh Yeah Music Centre, a three-storied creative hub for musicians housed in

what used to be a bonded whiskey warehouse. Here you’ll be able to enjoy an exhibition and learn about the depth and breadth of creative talent that has originated from Belfast and Northern Ireland, including top DJs, world-famous bands such as Snow Patrol, Thin Lizzy and The Undertones, the legendary Sir Van Morrison plus a modern scene that includes the likes of Foy Vance, Ryan McMullan and Two Door Cinema Club.

But it’s not all about chart toppers—Belfast’s musical roots run deep, with a history of outstanding traditional music and unique native instruments. Pipe bands make a rousing accompaniment for fiddles and flutes at any session—trad music isn’t just alive here, it thrives!

The best way to see this city’s passion for music is to follow local musicians on the Traditional Music Trail tour around Belfast. Starting in The Dirty Onion Bar in the Cathedral Quarter, you’ll embark on a musical journey, learning the history of the Belfast’s trad scene, as well as songs and stories about the city. As you wander through the streets, peer through the doors of any pub, and you’re almost certain to find a pumping trad session to get you dancing!

So what are you waiting for? Whether you’re a rocker, a groover, a reggae head or a raver, Belfast has a ready-made music scene to get you moving to your very own beat.

Raise Your Banners!

HBO’s Game of Thrones is arguably the most successful TV show in history. It was aired in more than 200 countries and territories, culminating in record-setting ratings, and it won a plethora of awards.

Much of the action was filmed in Northern Ireland, home to more GOT locations than anywhere else in the world. The stunningly rugged scenery combined with a surfeit of medieval and Norman castles to make Northern Ireland the perfect backdrop to this epic fantasy.

For several years now, devotees of the show have flocked to Northern Ireland to see at first hand the settings used: Castle Ward in County Down, which was transformed into Winterfell; Tollymore Forest Park which became the Haunted Forest; and the Dark Hedges which were turned into the King’s Road, to name but a few of the filming locations.

Now GOT fans have even more reason to travel to Northern Ireland than ever before, with the opening on February 4

this year of a brand new Game of Thrones Studio Tour, located at the Linen Mill Studios in Banbridge, one of the series’ original filming locations.

The brand new 110,000-square-foot interactive experience will allow fans to explore a vast array of original sets, costumes, props and set pieces, with the aim of bringing visitors closer to the Seven Kingdoms than ever before. Fans can step inside the iconic Great Hall at Winterfell where Jon Snow was proclaimed the “King in the North,” see Daenerys Targaryen’s imposing Dragonstone throne, delve into the incredible props, weaponry and visual effects of Game of Thrones and learn more about the skills and craftsmanship that helped bring the show to life on screen. The immersive and sensory-based experience utilizes cutting edge design and technology to bring Westeros to life

and evokes the show’s epic scale—from King’s Landing, Winterfell, Dragonstone, The Wall and the lands beyond.

Julian Moon, Head of EMEA Warner Bros. Consumer Products, was very impressed at the official opening on February 4.

“What an incredible honor to be opening the doors today to the first-ever Game of Thrones Studio Tour. This marks a first for Warner Bros. Themed Entertainment to launch a world-class attraction in Northern Ireland where fans can explore, up close and personal, a vast array of authentic sets, as well as a comprehensive collection of costumes, props, set pieces, and so much more.”

2022 is promising to be a good year on the island of Ireland. It’s time to press the green button and start planning your trip on ireland.com .

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SUN, OCTOBER 30 7PM

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The Quiet Man Screening

Join host Gene Cooney in the Mayfair Theatre for a matinee screening of John Ford’s classic 1952 film.

The screening is part of the Free Movies for Members series. **Not a member? There’s a \$5 suggested donation at the door.**

Dress as your favorite character for a chance to win prizes!

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 6:30pm
The Pub is open!

Irish American Heritage Center

4626 North Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630
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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

St. Patrick's Day Dinner 2022

The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago is delighted to be gathering members and guest together for our 120th Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Friday, March 11 at the Hilton Chicago.

President John Wrenn commented, "After two years of not being in person, we are excited to be hosting our St. Patrick's Day Dinner again this year. A big thank you to Hon. Bridget Gainer and Jim Tracy for accepting the leadership of this important event for the Irish Fellowship Club and Chicago."

The 2022 Annual Dinner will recognize Hon. John Griffin, the Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Consul General Kevin Byrne, the Guest of Honor. The Irish Fellowship Club is particularly proud that Hon. John Griffin, is a former President of the Irish Fellowship Club and long-time leader of our activities as well as a strong Irish leader in Chicago. Proceeds from the dinner will support the Irish Fellowship Club Education and Cultural Foundation with provides scholarships to each of the Catholic high schools in the Chicagoland area as well as grants to Irish cultural organizations in Chicago.

The Irish Fellowship Club Dinner also recognizes our past Chairman with the Richard J. Daley Award as a thank you for outstanding service to the Club. This year, the Club is pleased to honor three of our past Chairmen, Hon. John Griffin, Kevin Flood, and Rose Doherty.

Chaired by Hon. Bridget Gainer, Cook County Commissioner and James T. Tracy, President, Chicago Firefighters Union Local 2, the event will begin with cocktails at 6pm and dinner at 7:30pm. Following dinner, guests will dance to the music of Rich Daniels and the City Lights Orchestra. Tickets are \$175/person or \$1750/table of ten.

The Irish Fellowship Club also seeks sponsors for the event.

★Emerald Sponsor: \$10,000 (name in program book and table of 10 near dance floor).★ Celtic Sponsor: \$5,000 (name in program book and table of 10 Premier Seating).★ Shamrock Sponsor: \$2,500 (name in program book and table of 10).

For information, go to the website: www.irishfellowshipclub.com or call Executive Director, Kathy Taylor before March 1, 2022 at (312) 858-0628



Kevin Flood, Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, Rose Doherty

The Irish Fellowship Club Educational & Cultural Foundation is the charitable arm of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago

The Foundation supports Irish cultural organizations in the Chicago area and most importantly, provides scholarship assistance to students in need in each of the Catholic high schools in the Chicagoland area. Your participation as a hole sponsor or through raffle tickets will help support our mission. You can further support the Club's mission and be the first to know about upcoming Irish Fellowship events by becoming a member.



(l to r): Governor Pritzker, and former Taoiseach, (l to r): Parade Grand Marshall; John Griffin, James Coyne, Leo Vadikar



Join the Irish Fellowship Club

The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago has been getting the Irish together since 1901. Become a part of this historic organization that has a great time throughout the year, while helping others through their Educational and Cultural Foundation, the charitable arm of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago. The Foundation supports philanthropic causes in the Chicago area and most importantly, provides scholarship assistance to students in need in each of the Catholic high schools in the Chicagoland area.

Apply on the website: www.irishfellowshipclub.com or by mailing the form below to the Irish Fellowship Club at P.O. Box 31604, Chicago, IL 60631

Join the Irish Fellowship Club!

New Member Application

Last Name		First Name		Middle Name	
Street Address					
City, State, Zip					
Firm Name			Email Address		
Street Address					
City		State	Zip	Occupation or Title	
Credit Card #		Expiration Date		CVC #	

Or you can mail this form with a \$75 check for membership dues to:

The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago
c/o Kathy Taylor
P.O. Box 31604
Chicago IL 60631

Mail to: Business Home
Marital status: Single Married

Dingle GAA Clubs ‘Win a Home in Dingle’ Fundraiser
In 2022 there will be one lucky winner of a €250,000 home on Ireland’s world-famous Dingle Peninsula!

Dingle GAA Football Club, one of Co. Kerry’s best-known clubs from the world-famous town in the west of Ireland, has launched ‘Win a Home in Dingle’. The lucky winner of the raffle will become the proud owner of a beautiful home, valued at €250,000, mortgage-free, in the vibrant heart of Dingle town in County Kerry - one of the most sought-after locations in the world. All funds raised are being used to improve local community facilities and to support Kerry Hospice Foundation.

Dingle was described by National Geographic as “one of the most beautiful places in the world” and has become one of Ireland’s most vibrant areas. If you have Irish roots, or an affinity with Ireland, this truly is a once in a lifetime opportunity to own a home away from home in Dingle, Ireland.

Dingle offers a captivating coastline, Caribbean-blue stretches of ocean, miles of golden sandy beaches, magical coastal

islands, some of the best walking and hiking trails in Ireland, sporting activity hubs, thriving Irish language community, rich musical tradition, great sporting heritage, iconic food scene, & bustling pubs.

Other top prizes, all with a distinctive local/artisan theme up for grabs, include a specially commissioned oil canvas painting, ‘Dingle Harbour Reflections’, by highly regarded artist Liam O’Neill valued at €25,000, an all-inclusive Dingle Skellig Hotel holiday package (including activities) valued at €3,000, a beautiful hand-crafted luxury piece from Brian de Staic Jewelers, ‘Dingle Trinity with Diamonds’ valued at €2,800 as well as a handmade ‘His & Hers Luxury Travel Set’ from Holden Leather Goods valued at €2,600. The raffle will be held on 5th August 2022, tickets cost €100 at www.winahomeindingle.com.

Keep up-to-date with the campaign at www.facebook.com/winahomeindingle

Premier Irish Tenor Paul Byrom
In Concert in Barrington Thurs., 3-31

One of Ireland’s premier tenors, Paul Byrom, returns to perform at McGonigal’s Pub on Thursday, March 31, as part of his 12-city US 2022 tour.

Fans remember him as one of the original members of the world-renowned all-male singing group Celtic Thunder, which he joined in 2007. During his time with them, the group had six #1 World Billboard albums and appeared in several television specials on PBS stations throughout the



country. His performance at McGonigal’s will feature songs to touch the heart and uplift the soul, and he’ll share humorous stories of his musical career. The concert begins at 7:30 pm. General admission tickets are \$35 and the Meet and Greet package is \$50.

Tickets or info at www.paulbyrom.ie. McGonigal’s is at 105 S. Cook Street in Barrington. 847-277-7400.



Ruari, Mairéad, Conor, John Van Santen and Siobhainn O’Connor Van Santen enjoy the Ireland Network Ball, February 12, 2022.

Save the Date! September 23
in the Mayfair Theater
The Irish Village Reunion Show!
Starring
Comedian George Casey

GEORGE CASEY

Born and Raised in **County Clare**

George has performed at Caesar’s Palace, The Sahara, and is a regular act at The Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

George has opened for and toured with:

- Mary & Francis Black
- Paddy Reilly
- Phil Coulter
- Glen Campbell
- Tony Kenny
- Frank McCourt
- Brendan Grace
- Bobby Vinton
- The Osmond Brothers
- Rosemary Clooney
- Donald O’Connor
- Lou Rawles

Remembering,
Enjoying, & Savoring
All the Good Times
We Had Just a Few
Short Years Ago!



The Parting Glass with Jimmy Moore, Catherine O’Connell, and Seamus O’Kane

Full Details Here in Our April Edition!

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March is finally here and it is a great time to be Irish or wish you were Irish. This is the month we celebrate the feast day of Ireland's patron saint, Saint Patrick. St Patrick lived in the late 4th and early 5th century and is credited with bringing Christianity to the island nation as well as banishing all the snakes.

On March 17 we celebrate the supposed date of his death. The first St Patrick's day



parade was held in 1601 in St Augustine Florida and the celebration has been going on strong since. The Chicago parade originated in 1843 but really became an

By Jim August
Thought for Food



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institution under Mayor Richard J Daley in 1956 with a parade down State Street. In 1962 the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Local 130 assumed sponsorship of the parade and started dyeing the Chicago River Green. This year we see a return to all the Chicago land parades due to a two year covid19 hiatus. Originally the parade was held on March 17 but to eliminate traffic congestion it was moved to the Saturday before the 17th. This is where it becomes tricky. The Southside parade is held on the Sunday before St

Patrick's Day, and the neighborhood parades and celebrations are usually the week prior to that. So this year the festivities will kick off on March 5. In 2023 March 17 is on a Friday so you get the picture nearly a month of celebrating. Let's face it there's only so much corned beef and cabbage you can handle.

Back in my entertaining days I do recall one St Patrick's day where my partner Peter Brady and I started playing Irish music at 7:30am at the Holiday Inn Apparel Center, Then off to a pre-parade party on Wacker Drive, then Kitty O'Sheas for the post parade crowd, off to Porter Co. Indiana for a private party, finally ending up at Vaughan's on Milwaukee Ave finishing up at 3am. Oh to be young again.

It is also a very busy time for my Irish shop. Besides all the tee shirts, hats, and beads I will probably end up baking about 300 loaves of soda bread, brown bread, and countless scones.

Here are a couple of my favorite recipes for the high holy month one sweet and one savory.

Rueben Egg Rolls

16 servings

3/4 lb cooked corned beef chopped or shredded

1/2 cup sauerkraut (I like to add sautéed onion, and apple or carrot with a little caraway seed)

4 oz Cream cheese softened
1 1/2 cup shredded Swiss cheese
3tbs Russian dressing
1tbls horseradish
2tbls chopped chives
16 egg roll wrappers
Vegetable oil for frying

In a bowl mix cream cheese, Swiss cheese, Russian dressing, and horseradish until blended. Add sauerkraut, corned beef and chives stir until combined. Place egg roll wrapper point side up on a flat surface. Place 2tbls of mixture in the center. Fold bottom half up and fold in sides. Tightly roll wrap and seal edge with a few drops of water. Continue with the remaining wrappers. At this point egg rolls can be put in a freezer bag and frozen for future use. In a large deep sided skillet add 1inch of oil and heat until it starts to bubble. Fry eggrolls turning until all sides are golden about 1 minute per side remove from oil and drain. Slice eggrolls in half on a diagonal. Serve immediately with Russian dressing.

Russian Dressing

1 cup mayonnaise
1/2 cup chili sauce
2tsp prepared horseradish
1tsp Worcestershire sauce
1/2 tsp paprika
Salt to taste

Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Refrigerate

Car Bomb Cupcakes

Inspired by the classic cocktail of Guinness, Irish whiskey, and Baileys

24 cupcakes
Cupcakes
1 cup Guinness
1 cup unsalted butter room temperature
3/4 cup Dutch process cocoa powder
2 cups Flour
2 cups sugar
1 1/2 tsp baking soda
3/4 tsp salt
2 eggs
2/3 cup sour cream

Whiskey Ganache

8 oz chopped bittersweet chocolate
2/3 cup heavy whipping cream
2 tbs unsalted butter room temp
2 tsp Irish whiskey

Baileys Frosting

2 cups unsalted butter room temp
5 cups powdered sugar
6 tbs Baileys Irish cream

Instructions

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Line muffin tins with paper liners. Place Guinness and butter in a saucepan and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Add cocoa powder and whisk until smooth. Remove from heat. Whisk together flour, sugar, baking soda and salt in a separate bowl. In a bowl use your stand or hand mixer to mix together the eggs and sour cream until smooth. Add Guinness and chocolate and beat until combined. Add flour and beat on a slow speed until combined. Divide the batter between the cupcake liners. You can use an ice cream scooper for this. Bake for 15-17 minutes. You can check by inserting a skewer or thin knife in the center of the cupcake. If it comes out clean it is done. Transfer cupcakes to a wire rack and cool completely.

For the whiskey ganache place chocolate in a bowl. Heat the cream in a sauce pan until it begins to simmer. Pour cream over the chocolate and combine using a rubber spatula stirring from the center out.



When combined add the whiskey and butter. Let it cool.

Baileys Butter Cream

Whisk butter in a mixer for 5 minutes until smooth. Gradually add the powdered sugar mixing until combined. Add the Baileys increase speed and whip additional 2-3 until light and fluffy

Using a paring knife cut out the center of each cupcake going about 2/3 down. Divide the ganache between the cupcakes filling the centers. Frost the top of each cupcake using a star tip and pastry bag or offset spatula. Place in a covered container. At room temperature cupcakes will last at least 4 days.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MARCH 2022



The high holy days of March are here, and I hope you have your calendar nearby so you can mark down all the fun and wonderful things going on at the Irish American Heritage Center! While we celebrate our culture year-round, March is always a special month for us, and this year is no different! We are ready to don our green in celebration of St. Patrick and so much more!

We welcome back our St. Patrick's Festival after two long years. To say we're all so excited to host this event is an understatement! The festival will be on Saturday, March 12, and doors open at 1:00pm. We'll have music, dancing, food, drinks, shopping, a kid's area, and so much more, and as always, kids are free. If you're an IAHC member, you can pre-purchase tickets for \$15 per person; otherwise, tickets will be

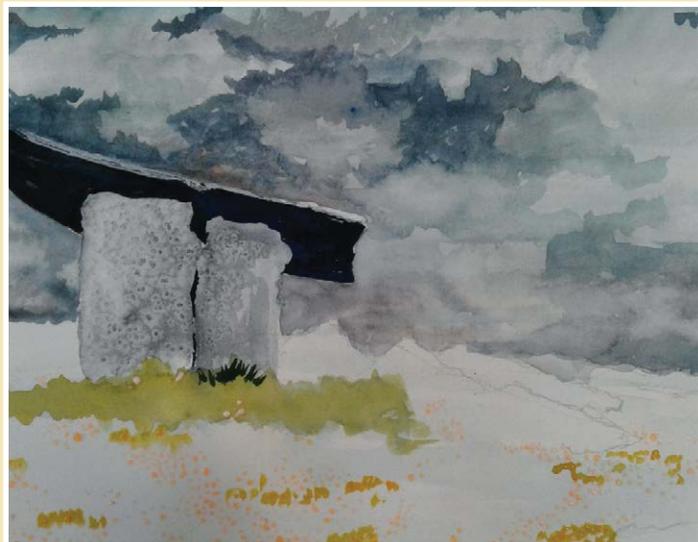
\$17 at the door. If you're not a member, this is a perfect time to Member Up to take advantage of the discounted pre-sale ticket prices (<https://irish-american.org/support-us/membership/>). We have been working hard to have a fun event, and we hope you can join us to celebrate our patron saint, and all things Irish!

Along with our St. Patrick's Festival, we have many other events in March that are sure to satisfy! We have music every Friday and Saturday in the Fifth Province, the Screaming Orphans are performing on March 18th, the great and our Friday Fish Fries for lent are back, and this just announced, Cherish the Ladies will be in the Mayfair Theatre on March 26! Irish Art in Practice is a new program presented by the Irish American Heritage Center and the

Consulate General of Ireland that explores the world of Irish arts and artists, and the living applications and impressions they make in the world. For more information on upcoming events, visit our website at www.irish-american.org. We're always adding more events, and our website is the most up-to-date.

Get your green on this month, and we all hope to see you at the Center this month! This is the best time if year to have Irish heritage and celebrate our culture!

Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel, President
Irish American Heritage Center



Spring Inspirations: A Biennial Visual Art Exhibit

Join us in the Art Gallery at the Irish American Heritage Center for Spring Inspirations: A Biennial Visual Art Exhibit.

Local artists competing for awards in "Best Irish Theme," "Best of Show," and additional 2nd and 3rd place awards.

Opening Reception in the Art Gallery

Friday, March 11th from 7:00pm—9:00pm.

Closing Reception Sunday, May 1st 1:00pm—4:30pm.

Saturday viewings upon request.

Coming to the Center . . .



SCREAMING ORPHANS

Will be performing in the
Irish American Heritage Center's
MAYFAIR THEATRE

Friday, March 18th, 2022

7:00pm

Tickets are \$25

*Don't miss the opportunity to see
this amazing show!*

Josh Okeefe Concert in the Fifth Province!



Join us for a rare pub performance
by troubadour Josh Okeefe.

The opportunity to see
this gifted young singer song-writer
should not be missed!

Friday, April 8th, 2022

8:00—11:00pm

There is no cover charge!

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER  UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

4626 North Knox Avenue • Chicago, IL 60630 • (773) 282-7035, ext. 10 • www.irish-american.org

It's the return of the Irish American Heritage Center St. Patrick's Festival!

The festivities follow the downtown parade and are packed with traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, food and drink for purchase, children's activities—including Wiggleworms performances, and an Arts and Craft Fair, with vendors selling Irish gifts. Visit the Library, Art Gallery and Museum for programming and exhibits and a used book sale.

St. Patrick's Festival



Saturday
March 12, 2022
1pm-11:30pm

Tickets: \$17 for adults,
but \$15 for members

Children 12 and under
FREE

2022 tickets will be limited, so
please take this opportunity to
purchase your tickets!



IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER  UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

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Folk Singer Josh Okeefe at ICHC 4-9

Guitar and harmonica playing singer-songwriter, Josh Okeefe, brings his genuine folk music to the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee on Saturday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.

According to Americana UK, "During a review of Josh Okeefe's music there's going to be a reference to Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan...

There's a rawness to his storytelling that is hugely compelling, aided by a voice that reaches out and grabs you by the throat and insists you listen carefully, as young Mr. Okeefe has a lot to say."

Born in Derby, England, the relatively new artist delivers potent lyrics with the gravitas of a seasoned veteran. After dropping out



of school at age 16, Okeefe led a nomadic life in music that spans generations and encompasses myriad genres, traditions and disciplines. He often slept on the floors of recording studios and coffee houses before traveling to the United States in search of the

places his music idols Hank Williams and Johnny Cash once roamed. After settling in Nashville, he began writing songs at an astonishing pace and selling out shows from New York to California.

Tickets and info at www.ichc.net.

Ireland Network Ball Makes Successful Return to Drake Hotel

After a one-year hiatus, the Irish flag once again flew along the Magnificent Mile for Ireland Network Chicago's Annual Ball at The Drake Hotel on February 12, 2022. More than 350 guests gathered for the unofficial kickoff to St. Patrick's Day, enjoying a champagne reception accompanied by the Murphy Roche Irish Music Club, a five-course dinner featuring grass-fed beef flown in from Ireland, and dancing to the fabulous tunes of BeatMix Music inside The Drake's Grand Ballroom. The event raised a record amount of money for two charity organizations - Ire-

land-based Concern Worldwide and Chicago-based Irish Community Services.

IN Chicago thanks its sponsors, advertisers and partners for supporting its mission as a not-for-profit serving as the bridge for Irish-born, Irish Americans and those with an affinity for contemporary Ireland to the established business and Irish communities in Chicago, as well as Consul General Kevin Byrne, Vice Consul Sarah Keating, and the entire consular team who were in attendance.

For info, scan the QR code with your camera (pics pg 35).



We Get Letters

Connor O'Connor's piece criticizing Benet is the most insincere piece of writing I have seen in a long time. He went to Benet and I am sure knew very well what the Catholic church and Benet's position was on homosexuality. It is rather clear, but now feigning insincere surprise and outrage, he rails against the institution he attended and benefitted from.

It begs the question, if he didn't like Catholic teachings on homosexuality, then why did he go to the school in the first place. He lived and celebrated in

an environment according to him that is bigoted. But again as Mr. O'Connor likes to criticize Benet under the phrase "do as I say, not as I do." Maybe he needs to look in the mirror, because the same phrase applies to him. When one is faced with moral hypocrisy in their own beliefs it is a hard pill to swallow. So getting on their soap box and ridiculing others becomes a defense mechanism.

O'Connor states that if the decision of the Benet board creates a schism with their founders so be it, indicating he doesn't care that the religious order

that founded the school will no longer be involved and that his self-proclaimed victory for political progress is more important.

Yes, Mr. O'Connor dismisses the sad fact that a religious order that founded and built a great religious institution for over 100 years will be forced out by people trying to make them act against their religious beliefs. Mr. O'Connor may dismiss the religious conscious of devout Catholic monks, but I know most people would side with devout monks over a blowhard that lives in a world of moral hypocrisy Steve



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The Tumbling Paddies - Ireland's Next Super Band?

By Emmett Fitzpatrick

As in many areas of arts and culture, Ireland has exported an impressive number of popular musicians who have found stardom across the globe, from Van Morrison and the Dubliners in the 1960s and 1970s, continuing with U2, the Cranberries, Enya, Sinéad O'Connor, and the Pogues in the 1980s and 1990s, and Hozier within the past decade. The Tumbling Paddies may be next in line.

Comprised of six young men- as in, some of them would not be able to legally buy a beer here in the United States - from Country Fermanagh, the Tumbling Paddies are no secret in their native land. They have already released four songs that rose to the top of the United Kingdom and Ireland iTunes charts, and they were recognized as the "Best Country Folk Band" during last year's Red Carpet Music Awards in the Netherlands.

Originally, the group called themselves the Paddies, until they crashed their van coming home from their very first gig, and it tumbled down a hill into a field. Thankfully, no one was injured



and the Tumbling Paddies were born.

Gareth Maguire, the group's lead singer who also plays tin whistle, is grateful to be a part of the band and excited for the future.

"I love playing each week with the lads as we were great friends before we even joined the band," he said.



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©Eve Parnell

'Lá Fhéile Bríde faoi mhaise duit' means "Happy Saint Brigid's Day, good luck and may Brigid look after you!" The art of Eve Parnell, above, can be found at <http://www.eveparnell.com/>

"It's not like work when you're having fun with your mates and enjoying the fun on stage. We can't get enough of it and now we are going full time into it."

Rounding out the band, John McCann plays drums, Martin Tracy the accordion, Ciaran Owens the banjo, Lee Jones guitar, and Oisín McManus plays the keyboard. Andrew Cox serves as the band manager and co-writer of select songs, including "Pretty Girl," which became a huge hit when it was released.

"It is brilliant working with such a talented bunch of singers and musicians," Cox remarked, "and it's great co-writing songs with them and hearing them come to life on the radio a few weeks later. They are filling every venue at the moment up and down the country."

At first listen, music lovers will be drawn to the energetic, catchy, and distinctively Irish sound of the Tumbling Paddies' music, but a closer examination of their lyrics reveals a depth of emotion that belies the young ages of the band members. Take, for example, some of the opening lyrics of their song "Untold Story:"

"Girl we just fell short of heaven
As we fell right into hell
What could have been
What should have been
Who knows who can tell?"

Most recently, the Tumbling Paddies released a cover of the Cranberries' classic alternative rock song "Zombie" that is a must-listen version of one of the most enduring artistic expressions to come out of the Troubles era.

As the live music world opens up from a difficult two years in the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tumbling Paddies are excited for a busy 2022, embarking on an extensive tour of Europe and the release of two new albums, with tentative plans to cross the Atlantic for gigs in the United States next March.



Time for Ireland to Join NATO

War drums are beating, flocks of people are fleeing, and the spectre of the Cold War has once again cloaked Europe in terror. This time, however, Russia and the United States are arm wrestling over fields of grain rather than nuclear missiles. Whatever happens to Ukraine in the coming weeks will set the tone of international politics and diplomacy for years to come.

At the forefront of this fight is NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. NATO is a mutual defense alliance made up of over a dozen countries across the Northern Hemisphere, including Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. NATO has become a point of contention for Russia, as it views the alliance as a threat to its own security. China and Iran feel similarly about the

organization.

Ukraine's government, however, has voiced its desire to join the alliance in recent years. This revelation came as a shock to Vladimir Putin, who has always viewed the destinies of Russia and Ukraine as being inexorably intertwined.

After the Euromaidan protests ousted the former, anti-EU and anti-NATO leader of Ukraine, Putin seized and annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014, a strategic piece of land internationally recognized as part of Ukraine.

Jumping ahead to 2022, Putin has now amassed over 100,000 troops on Russia and Belarus' borders with the country. President Biden and other world leaders have sounded the alarm and sent weapons and supplies to the

Ukrainian Army. Everyone is waiting anxiously for Russia to either invade or demobilize and move its troops elsewhere. By the time this article is published, this situation may have already been resolved, one way or another.

Not long ago, many people questioned whether NATO should even exist any more. After all, it was first formed in the 20th century as a way to counter the growing threat posed by the Soviet Union and its satellite states. Since the Soviet Union's dissolution in 1992, NATO has struggled to find a real purpose in the 21st century. With this renewed Russian threat, however, it seems as though those concerns have disappeared.

Ireland is a notable non-member of NATO. Every country remotely close to its borders is a member. Even Iceland and Norway, which have historically tried to remain neutral during global conflicts, are members of NATO. So why isn't Ireland?

Joining NATO would surely cement the already-strong ties the island nation has with the

West. Signaling a willingness to join the alliance at this critical time would also bolster the cohesiveness of the organization. This would be the perfect time for Ireland to join the organization.

While opponents to Ireland's accession to NATO have a laundry list of reasons to favor neutrality, have to say that I don't think these reasons are prudent nor worthwhile. Many argue that aligning with the United States and NATO means aligning with the UK. And with 6 counties of Ireland still under British rule, some would find it distasteful to join in an alliance alongside Britain.

But NATO is bigger than the UK. And it is bigger than Ireland. It is a powerful, cohesive partnership of nations with shared interests. And while Ireland would have to spend more of its GDP on defense if the nation joined the alliance, it would finally be taking a stance on some super important international issues.

In the wake of World War II, many Western countries viewed Ireland with some disdain for staying neutral while millions died at the hands of Hitler and Mussolini. If the United Kingdom had been conquered by the Germans, Ireland would have certainly been next. Many Europeans and Americans died indirectly defending the fledgling Republic.

Ireland cannot afford to remain neutral while Russia engages in the same kind of unwarranted aggression that Hitler did. By standing united with its neighbors, Ireland will finally take a real, impactful stance on these international issues. It will prove that Ireland is not indifferent to Putin's schemes. It is time for Ireland to join NATO.



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February 12th Irish Network Chicago and the Irish community celebrated and networked together in style at the Drake Hotel. See story page 32.



Ward Irish Music Archives Incorporates: New Mission Statement

The Ward Irish Music Archives (WIMA), located in the CelticMKE Center in Wauwatosa, is pleased to announce its new incorporation status and mission statement, along with an initial slate of board members. Beginning last year, WIMA began the process of incorporating as a subsidiary of CelticMKE and becoming its own entity. The organization incorporated as the Ward Irish Music Archives but are still legally associated with and supported by CelticMKE. This allows them to protect their assets and engage many other individuals that have a passion for all forms of Irish music. As their own entity they will be able to secure outside funding for WIMA.

WIMA’s mission statement
The Ward Irish Music Archives (WIMA) collects, promotes, preserves, and disseminates Irish and Irish American musics in all their forms. WIMA makes these cultural resources available to researchers, artists, and the general public now and into the future for the purposes of teaching, scholarship, and practice.

The new board of directors includes officers: President John Daley, Secretary Bernie McCartan, Treasurer Greg Baran and six Community directors: Tes Slominski, Danny Diamond, Scott Spencer, Aileen Dillane, William Fliss and Dan Neely. Non Voting members are Mike Mitchell, Executive Director of CelticMKE, and Barry Stapleton, Director of WIMA.

Jeff Ksiazek, who has been with WIMA for 13 years, is the Senior Archivist. WIMA employs two part time archivists, whose positions are funded by the Emigrant Support Programme from Ireland. Many volunteers help at WIMA throughout the year.

The Ward Irish Music Archives debuted in 1992 after

Milwaukee Irish Fest founder Ed Ward visited the Irish Traditional Music Archives (ITMA) in Ireland and found his grandfather’s books in their collections. Upon returning to Milwaukee, he asked the board to support establishing WIMA in honor of his grandfather.

WIMA has since grown to be the largest Irish and Irish American music archive in North America. Over 60,000 objects are currently held in a variety of collections. WIMA’s collections include traditional music to rock and classical music. Its earliest object is from the eighteenth century.

The organization maintains a robust online presence to bring its materials to the wider world. WIMA has released three digital collections - the Dunn Family Collection, Irish Sheet Music



Archives and the Irish Fest Scrapbook. WIMA also shares highlights from the collection through their social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and SoundCloud.

As they approach 30 years of archiving, WIMA would like to thank all of those who worked so hard to build the organization into what it is today. “We are extremely grateful for all of your support whether it be volunteering, supporting us financially or by engaging with our resources,” stated Barry Stapleton, the Director of WIMA. “We are very excited about our future and our new board of directors.”

Learn about WIMA, browse through their collections, and more by visiting wardirishmusicarchives.com.

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GOIN' EAST ON ASHLAND at 4:00 pm

Houli's one-man comic memoir of growing up Irish on the Southside, recorded live onstage at the Beverly Arts Center in 1994 and ran for over six years all over Chicagoland. A Chicago Irish classic.



OUR IRISH COUSINS at 6:00 pm

Filled with Irish music and laughter, "Our Irish Cousins" features many Irish musicians, comedians, and personalities, including 1953 Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Lattner, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, The Yiddish Sons of Erin, and a cast of thousands. P.J. O'Dea narrates the tale of "The Hooligan From Chicago" and has garnered three stars from RogerEbert.com



IN SEARCH OF WEEPING JIM at 8:00 pm

The incredible tale of Alderman Jim Kearns, the 'father of the Chicago flag', who emigrated from Mayo at the age of thirteen, attended St. Ignatius, and went on to transform America, with music from The Saw Doctors, Liam Durkin, and Gaelic Storm.



Tickets for each film are \$12 and SEATING IS LIMITED

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or by visiting the BAC Box Office at 2407 W. 111th Street, Chicago, IL 60655**

“Houli Fest” Arrives at Beverly Art Center to Kick Off “Southside Irish Parade on March 12th

Hibernian Media’s Mike “Houli” Houlihan is bringing 3 of his favorite films to the Beverly Arts Center on Saturday March 12th in celebration of the Southside Irish Parade kick-off on Sunday and the upcoming St. Patrick’s Day high holy days, including the WTTW broadcast of Hibernian Media’s TV show OUR IRISH PUB on St. Patrick’s Day

Screening at the Beverly Arts Center’s Wilcanic Lab Theatre starting at 4PM is GOIN’ EAST ON ASHLAND, Mike’s one-man comic memoir of growing up Irish on the Southside, which was recorded live onstage at the Beverly Arts Center in 1994 and ran for over six years all over Chicagoland.

Screening at 6PM that day is OUR IRISH COUSINS, which premiered at the 13th Annual European Union Film Festival in 2013

and details Houli’s first family trip to Ireland in 2009, featuring a cast of thousands along the way and garnering three stars from RogerEbert.com

And finally, at 8PM on Saturday, the most recent hit which tells the story of the ‘father of the Chicago flag’ IN SEARCH OF WEEPING JIM, which premiered at the 7th Annual Irish American Movie Hooley in September to rave reviews and tumultuous huzzahs in County Mayo, Ireland last October.

All films are audience pleasers and designed to trigger laughter and thirst at The Beverly Arts Center, where cocktails are available in the lobby. Hibernian Media will also have complimentary souvenir programs for “Houli-Fest” as well as merch and a free Paddy’s Irish whiskey raffle.

Tickets for each film are \$12 and

SEATING IS LIMITED. Order your tix NOW on the web at www.the-beverlyartscenter.com, by phone at 773-445-3838 or by visiting the BAC Box Office at 2407 W. 111th Street, Chicago, IL 60655

Hibernian Media is a public charity founded in 2013 by the Houlihan family, dedicated to Irish and Irish American culture, “telling stories to enlighten future generations while honoring our ancestors.” Hibernian Media produces a pair of weekly Irish radio programs, (The Houli’s Hooley & Hibernian Radio Hour), on Global Irish Radio; the Annual Irish American Movie Hooley film festival at the Gene Siskel Film Center; an annual pilgrimage to Ireland; and a variety of assorted Irish films, concerts, and programs. More info at hibernianmedia.org *See you at the movies!*

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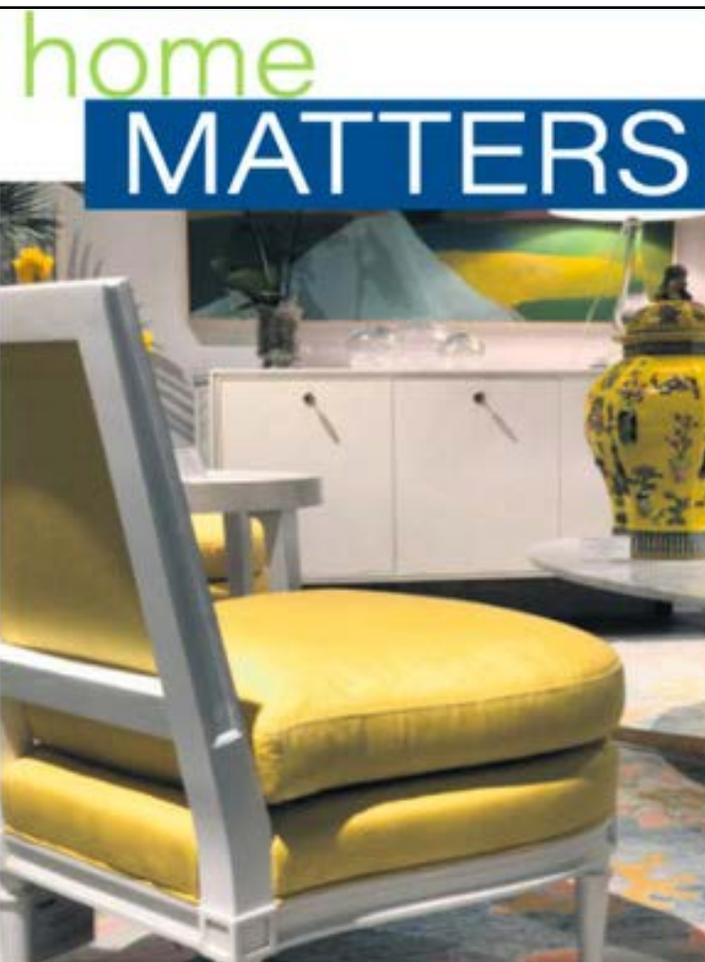
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- 3/17 BOTTOM LOUNGE
- 3/20 SHAMROCK SHUFFLE

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Ulysses Still a Scandal One Hundred Years On?

Many people associate the publication of James Joyce's *Ulysses* a hundred years ago with an iconic picture of the author when it was published in Paris in 1922. Joyce's glaucoma required multiple surgeries and, in the photograph, he has a patch over his right eye. He is seated beside Sylvia Beech. Beech was the American publisher who (more than anyone) was responsible for bringing Joyce's great fiction into the world. The public responded to the publication by turns with amazement at its brilliance, bewilderment at its complexity and rage at the perceived offences in it.

In the photograph, above Joyce there is a poster with text that reads 'The Scandal of Ulysses'.

The text is appropriate enough given how much of the debate about *Ulysses* over the past century has centred on its explicit language and themes. Despite that controversy, the book sits at the top of most lists of 'Novel of the Century'. The plaudits heaped upon the novel may have more satisfied Joyce's inexhaustible appetite for mockery than his vanity: even as solemn adjudicators of literature proclaim it as a classic, they avert their gaze from the scurrilous and obscene parts in the book.

Never one for modesty, Joyce claimed that 'If *Ulysses* is not fit to be read, then life is not fit to live'. Yet Joyce was making a serious point. An authentic rendering of the inner lives of human beings is not capable of sanitisation. *Ulysses*, aside from being widely accepted as the greatest novel of the 20th

century, is a nuclear blast against censorship. In our time when careers are ended over the alleged misuse of a pronoun and more and more words are rooted out of acceptable discourse, the 'classic' status of *Ulysses* enables it to transcend censorship—despite its use of words that, in another context, would be vilified today. Even a century after its publication, it would be easy to publish reams of *Ulysses* out of context that would elicit complaints about the 'filth'. That is, partly, what James Joyce's foremost biographer, Richard Ellmann, meant when he wrote: 'We are still learning to be James Joyce's contemporaries, to understand our interpreter'.

The book is a famously difficult read and it is surely the classic most often 'left aside for later'. Yet its complexity belies a simplicity that is humane and tender. Set on a day in Dublin, June 16th 1904, it follows inner thoughts of a series of characters, in particular a married couple, Leopold Bloom and his wife Molly Bloom, as well as an artist/teacher, Stephen Dedalus, who appeared in a previous fiction by Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, as

an autobiographical character. The couple have been riven by the loss of their son and pronounced differences in their characters; they serially betray each other.

Through these characters the world of Dublin opens up. We encounter salesmen, drunks, journalists, scholars, doctors, impresarios, romantics, nationalists, teachers, sailors, priests, singers, paupers, lovers, liars, bullies, madames, prostitutes, saviours, no-hopers, humanitarians, policemen, gamblers—I could go on. Joyce presents the thoughts, stories, hopes and desperation of these characters in, by turns, a sensuous, uproarious, intellectual and passionate affirmation of language and life itself. Throughout the novel his artistic gifts transform mundane observations and occurrences into something beautiful: 'The heaventree of stars hung with humid nightblue fruit'.

Joyce deploys a dazzling variety of styles to achieve this aim, above all using parallels with Homer's *Odyssey* to structure the novel. The result is a book that has a contemporary feel, even a century later. It is so full of conundrums, ambiguities and provocations that both the general public and scholars remain hooked.

Joyce claimed, plausibly enough, that none of his characters were worth more than a hundred pounds. Out of that poverty came desperation and failure. In one encounter in the book, a younger sister of Stephen Dedalus, Dilly, shows an interest in learning French, which was apparently incongruous with the poverty of the family. Yet Joyce was also steeped in middle-class Ireland; even as his father kept losing money, he somehow wrangled a place for his eldest son in the 'best' Irish

schools as well as a university education (partly in Paris). Joyce acknowledged, grudgingly, late in life, that his work was 'middle class' and there are tensions between the subject-matter of his work and the point of vantage from which he wrote.

The finale of *Ulysses* is Molly Bloom's soliloquy in which Joyce pushes the stream of consciousness technique he deployed in the novel—an attempt to freely run through his characters' thought processes—to its limit. The result is what the famous psychologist Carl Jung called 'a string of veritable psychological peaches'. Jung wrote to Joyce in 1920, wondering if anyone else knew as much about female psychology and readily admitted that he, Jung, did not.

Decades later, Jung was called upon to comment on Joyce in a professional capacity. By that stage, Joyce had died and his beloved daughter, Lucia, had been committed to a psychiatric hospital where she was to remain for the rest of her days. Jung related Joyce's 'obstinate reluctance to have her certified' to Joyce's own 'unconscious psyche [which] was so solidly identified with her that to have her certified would have been as much as an admission that he himself had a latent psychosis'. Jung maintained that Joyce, by contrast, channelled his own schizophrenia into his art and that saved him from going 'over the border'.

Whether it was the madness of Ireland or a latent psychosis in his own mind, we can be grateful that Joyce found that way to use it in his art. In *Ulysses*, Joyce produced an imperishable masterpiece that, now at the centenary of its publication, still richly deserves to be read.

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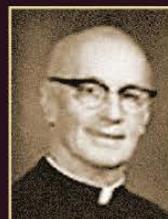
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The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

By Carla Gutierrez, LCSW, Department Director, Youth Counseling Department; and Tashika Eubanks, SCA n Program Supervisor

Last year, Catholic Charities was honored to be among those selected by the City of Chicago to operate a unique program that is aimed at giving youths concrete help and

specific tools to reclaim their lives and their futures from violence in neighborhoods affected by significant crime. Ultimately, the goal of the SCA n (Service Coordination and Navigation) program is to reduce youths' involvement in violence and contribute toward a reduction in violence at the community level.

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The program is the first anti-violence program of its kind to proactively reach out to youth (ages 14-24) who are considered the most at-risk for violence and provide them with intensive service coordination and navigation services that impact virtually every aspect of their lives. Importantly, SCA n is backed by concrete resources—such as financial assistance for rent, uniforms, or transportation to a job—that can make an immediate and real difference in their daily living situations.

Further, one of the aims of the program is to increase youths' feelings of self-efficacy, forming confidence in their ability to control their own behaviors, emotions, and environment. Thus, the program staff, called Navigators, don't set goals, but rather teach youths to set their own goals and then help them figure out how to achieve them.

The 45 youths Catholic Charities is currently serving in the Austin and Belmont Cragin communities have faced innumerable challenges in their short lives. These young people are the very hardest to reach, reluctant to trust and engage with adults. There are usually multiple issues going on with the young person at once—an incarcerated parent, involvement in the criminal justice system, experiences of abuse, extreme poverty, crime and violence in their neighborhoods, lack of positive adult role models, alienation from school, and more. Nearly all of

our youth had unstable living situations when they started the program. Many were homeless, finding a couch or floor to sleep on with a relative or friend, only to find the same substance use or violence that they were fleeing in their own homes. In fact, unequivocally, the number one goal that our youth have articulated has been: 1. A safe place to lay my head at night.

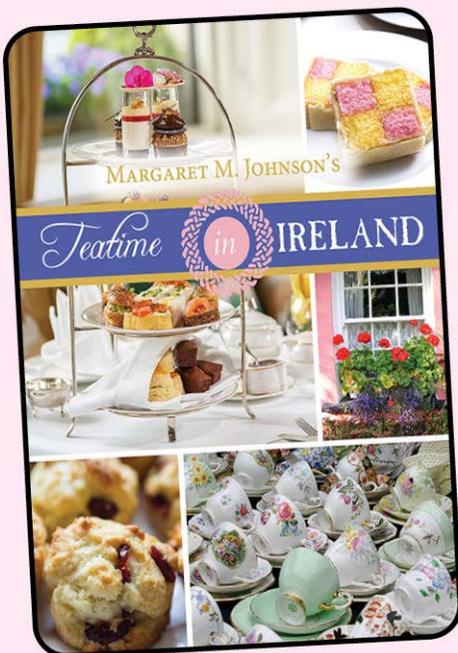
Whether we help young adults establish themselves in their own apartments, locate a new living situation for younger children, or purchase beds for those without, once the critical step of housing stability is taken, youths can begin to work on other goals such as re-enrolling in school, finding a job, or getting involved in a sport or other positive program that keeps them out of street activity. The Navigators are always by their side, helping the youth "navigate" every detail in this process.

Seeing the change in our youth has been extraordinary. Simply surviving their lives up to this point has made them strong, courageous, and resourceful. By showing them genuine care, believing in their ability to transform their lives, and equipping them with the tools and opportunities to live a life free of violence, Catholic Charities SCA n program empowers youth to channel their strengths into positive behaviors that will change their lives and the lives of those around them. We at Catholic Charities are thrilled to be a part of this ground-breaking program that enables us to provide the mission-driven services to which we are called and in which we excel—walking with people on their journey to wholeness and well-being...one person, one heart at a time.

If you would like information or know of a young person who could benefit from SCA n contact scangroup@catholiccharities.net or call 312-860-8820.

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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



Blood Boies

I've been going through a phase of watching back-to-back period shows that highlight the class differences in England. It still fascinates me how the randomness of birth could and still does determine a person's life. And, while we may not live in a society that judges someone by their class, we certainly believe that money gives you more than an unfair advantage over everyone else. Archaic notions of good breeding and proper standing have given way to wealth and prosperity. It never ceases to amaze me how the rich can manipulate and control supposed democracies. It's so easy look back to the bad old days of a rigid class system and pat ourselves on the back for the changes we've made when in fact nothing much has changed.

Bob Dylan wrote: You got gangsters in power and lawbreakers making rules. If there is a time when those words ring true, it's now. The 45th president of the United States has, since his defeat, been exposed as a liar, cheat, and egotist and still, despite his obvious crimes, manages to elude justice because he has money. His wealth makes it almost impossible for the courts to prosecute him. When someone sues, he countersues and it's a case of whose got the most money. Can you imagine the ordinary person on the street getting away with such blatant disregard for law and order? The Trump dynasty is as duplicitous and obnoxious as any of the worst aristocrats.

Donald Jr. sacrifices the truth every time he makes some claim about his father. Ivanka with her consort, Jared, are desperately trying to keep out of the limelight for fear that their avarice be exposed. Together, this band of frauds, have, collectively, used their wealth to their own advantage. They are perfect role models for Dylan's insightful lyric. But what is so bewildering is why we let them get away with it. His presidency has laid bare what we always knew, if you have money you can do what you want.

Through Trump's presidency we have become acclimated to a rhetoric that is not based on fact, which is largely anti-scientific, and racially biased. Trump did not invent these things but he brazenly paraded them as if they were virtues to



be proud of and people loved him for it. His bizarre antics, then and now, were endorsed by his enablers

Mitch McConnell and Lindsay Graham. For these men, Trump could do no wrong because they saw him as a way to gain greater political power. McConnell and Graham are pragmatists without conscience who are prepared to accept any deviant who can keep them in power.

I can imagine future generations watching endless period shows about us and wondering how could they have abided such obvious hypocrisy and do nothing about it. We will be judged harshly for our excusing the rich and powerful, and rightfully so since we have done little to change the status quo. Since we have legitimized the bigotry and gross manipulation of control by powerful men, there has been any number of lesser minions who have dominated our headlines with stupid and foolish rants. Marjorie Taylor Greene, Jim Jordan and

Kristi Noem come to mind when I think of how far we've fallen into the trap of believing the spiel of the door-to-door salesperson. They don't have to support anything they say with facts. It's simply a matter of saying what they like with little or no consequence.

They are products of the Trump era and they will continue to repopulate themselves with other idiot clones if we let them. The rock group Green Day

were prophetic in their song American Idiot when writing 'I'm not a part of the red neck agenda/nobody do the propaganda'. The America is idiot is led by those who don't research the facts, who endorse racial discrimination and lend credibility to lying to get what you want. The red neck agenda is not a slight towards those of the working classes but those who believe in white privilege and who are not smart enough to realize they are being duped by those in power.

I remember when Trump came into power. Lines were drawn. The racial divide was gaping. Discussion between parties became impossible, since power sharing was considered weak and unworkable. Any hope of ever bridging the poverty gap was lost. Those who had money had greater access to exploit those in their employment. Access to healthcare, parodied as Obamacare, was and still is under attack. Those who suffer most for this movement away from defending the poor and weak of society are those who benefit most from a more

accessible healthcare and higher wages. The American idiot shoots themselves in the foot by voting for those who want to take away the very things that make their lives easier.

When I sit and watch English shows, particularly around the Victorian era - the golden era of prosperity and wealth, I think to myself why would the working classes continue to vote for these men who are so opposed to bettering conditions for their constituents. There is no clear answer in my mind, since the problem still remains. People, blinded by a false sense of patriotism, still cast their vote to someone who cares little or nothing about their voters. These voters will stick by their party even if the party tricks them into believing the hype and not the truth.

I remember when Trump lost the election I overheard a couple of my neighbours discuss the need to clean their guns. While this talk of guns was not serious it did make me think of how seriously deluded people were by the previous administration. When I see the worst horrors of injustice by the English aristocrat being repeated by the Trump dynasty and the money people of our day, I wonder if we've learned anything from the past.

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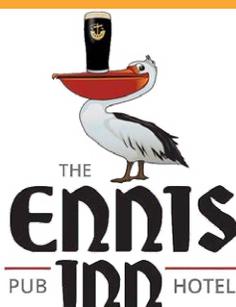
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Connemara Daly

By Bill Daly

Smoke Along the Valley Floor

This article will transport us back over 400 years to another period when the Tallow region which we know today was different in its physical appearance and involved in industries that have declined and long since disappeared over time. It is the all too familiar story of how an area can change in time from being productive and prosperous, to take on the appearance of a 19th century 'ghost town' in a short space of time. We are

recalling a period that been largely neglected in an historical sense, and the following article will be an attempt to re-create the land and people during a very important phase in the history of our local area.

Before concentrating on the industry in the Blackwater Valley I will endeavour to set the scene by describing Ireland as it looked then, with a brief sketch of the iron industry on a national scale. It is

worth bearing in mind that the Blackwater Valley, and Tallow in particular, during this period was the most important area of iron production in Ireland. How times have changed.

Ireland, at the start of the 1600's, was a country of great poverty and want and in need of outside help to feed its population. The Elizabethan wars had torn the heart and spirit from the people as well as causing the destruction of industry and the virtual collapse of agriculture. It was a country without an industrial or agricultural base, a nation faced with total disaster, and the future seemed pretty bleak indeed.

It was into this Ireland that the first English colonists came to settle and who, in a relatively short space of time, would have

the vast majority of the country under their control. It witnessed the decline of the Gaelic Irish, the language, religion, Brehon Laws, customs, folklore, and other aspects of a strong heritage which had flourished from early stone age beginnings. It was the start of the exploitation of land and people, the replacement of the old Irish Gaelic system by a colonial one. Because of differences in attitude and outlook a



dangerous tension and conflict developed between the native and the outsider, a struggle that was to continue, until quite recently, in the northern part of our country.

Once the colonial phase had established itself properly, the most adventurous among them set up iron mining and production centres at various locations throughout the country. These, at first, were to become thriving and prosperous industries but at a later date, were to decline quite rapidly. Ireland was not suited to commercial enterprises as very few roads and communications existed by which the heavy iron ore could be transported from one centre to the other. The fact that there were little or no route-ways was, in some ways, counteracted by the abundance of natural

woodland, which was the primary fuel used in the charcoal furnaces.

In many areas the woods were looked upon in a military sense as they were the hiding places of the Gaelic Irish. A large amount of wood became available when the trees were felled so as to make room for troop movements and also to deprive the Irish rebels of their places of refuge. In fact, the iron industry was strongly encouraged to minimise the hiding places of those who would not conform to the colonial system. As opposed to the iron industry in England, which was concentrated in a few localities, the Irish centres appeared in scattering locations at different times, with each prospering and then fading away independently of each other.

In general, the Irish iron industry coincided with the start of the English colonial period in Ireland and saw the embedding of industrial and commercial practices on a people who knew very little except the practice of farming and the art of fighting. It also witnessed the bringing in of artisans and craftsmen to operate the furnaces and processors and there was also a deliberate policy of not allowing Irish people to become involved at the highest level.

The old name of 'Tulach an Iarainn' suggests the ores had been mined there many centuries before invasion forces sailed up the Blackwater and Bride. Richard Boyle, the Earl of Cork, was responsible for the transformation of the Blackwater Valley from a wasteland to one of the greatest centres of iron production in Europe. He was only interested in making money, and he could possibly be considered as the very first Capitalist of all time. He established furnaces at Araglin, Cappoquin and Macollop and forges at Lisfinny and Kilmacow. As well as having abundant supplies of local ore and charcoal, Tallow had the advantage of water transport via the Bride and Blackwater to Youghal, where export links were set up at Drogheda and Sligo as well as Bristol, in England.

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Opting for the Right Tax Professional

By Brendan Houlihan
Happy New Year 2022!

Managing Uncle Sam and your taxes during your retirement years will be a crucial factor to your future. Your retirement lifestyle depends on how you manage your tax obligation. Along with a qualified financial advisor and an estate planning attorney, a sound tax professional is a key component of your planning team.

How should you and your family go about finding the right tax professional to answer your specific questions?

References. Our friends and family have given us recommendations about shows they watch, restaurants they enjoy and doctors they have seen. The positive experience and the value mean everything! Ask your relatives and good friends, who does their taxes and why? Do not be shy when finances are the topic. Selecting the right tax professional is a huge decision.

Credentials. Anyone who prepares tax returns can say they are a tax professional. The serious-minded tax professionals are Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) and IRS Enrolled Agents (EAs). Being skilled in the retirement area would be most important to you.

Training. The rules and laws regarding retirement accounts are complex. And the new

laws are always evolving. Find out if your tax professional is current on the latest tax law legislation? Continuing education seminars on retirement planning are vitally important.

Experience. There is no replacement for competence and experience! A trainee is not who you want to go to! Work with a tax professional



who oversees similar cases as your own. It is effective.

You work hard for money. Make sure you go to a tax professional who works equally as hard, and smart too!

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out.

-Brendan Houlihan, a fiduciary, is Financial Advisor at BFH Wealth Management and creator of the Learn to Earn Investment program for children. Member of Ed Slott's Elite IRA Advisor Group.

For information on Brendan Houlihan's business, you can visit his website at bfhwealthmanagement.com, call him at (708)280-8753, or contact him by email at brendan@BFHWealthManagement.com

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center March Concerts

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day all March long at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee with four of Irish music's most sought after bands; The High Kings on Wednesday, March 9 at 7 p.m., Socks in the Frying Pan on Thursday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m., Cherish the Ladies on Sunday, March 13 at 2 p.m. and RUNA on Saturday, March 26th at 7:30 p.m.

THE HIGH KINGS - Known for tight harmonies and high energy musicianship, The High Kings serve up classic ballads, rousing pub tunes, original songs and audience sing-alongs. Guitar and banjo player Finbarr Clancy

Milwaukee Irish Fest in 2018. The Hayes brothers - Fiachra on fiddle, banjo and bodhrán and Shane on button accordion, along with guitarist and lead vocalist Aodán Coyne, came together during Ennis pub sessions. According to FolkWorld, "They wrap traditional Irish tunes in modern garments and spice them up with driving groves." Irish Music Magazine said that "Their sound flows in magnetic, energetic waves, as does their banter onstage."

CHERISH THE LADIES - "It is simply impossible to imagine an audience that wouldn't enjoy what they do," according to the Boston Globe writing about one of

rise of women in what had been a male-dominated music scene. Cherish is fronted by Joanie Madden recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts who presented her with a 2021 National Heritage Fellowship, the nation's highest honor for folk and traditional artists. The outstanding ensemble joining her includes Mary Coogan (guitar), Mirella Murray (accordion), Nollaig Casey (fiddle), Gabriel Donohue (piano, vocals), Kate Purcell (vocals and guitar) along with Champion Irish dancers.

RUNA - The band enchants by pushing the boundaries of Irish folk music into Americana and roots music and finding the universal thread that binds past to present. Interweaving music from Ireland and Scotland with jazz, bluegrass, flamenco and blues, they offer a thrilling and redefining take on traditional music. Their sound stems from the musical and geographical diversity and personal achievements of its members: vocalist and step dancer Shannon Lambert-Ryan from Philadelphia, Dublin-born guitarist Fionán de Barra, Cheryl Prashker from Montreal on percussion, Nashville based Caleb Edwards on mandolin and vocals and All-Ireland Champion, bodhrán player and step dancer Jake James from New York City.



Socks in the Frying Pan

touring the US and Ireland in the 1990s with the Clancy Brothers. Guitarist and bodhrán player Brian Dunphy was with Riverdance for two years and then was a member of The Three Irish Tenors. Darren Holden plays the accordion, mandolin, guitar and keyboard and starred in Riverdance on Broadway and then played Billy Joel in the musical Movin' Out. A self-taught musician, Paul O'Brien plays guitar, banjo, mandolin, bouzouki, whistles, harmonica and bodhrán. He spent two years living and playing in Puerto Rico as a one-man band and then joined The High Kings in 2019.

SOCKS IN THE FRYING PAN - The multi-award winning trio from Ennis, County Clare, Socks have captivated audiences around the world with high energy performances, breathtaking musical ability and three part vocal harmonies. They celebrated their 10th anniversary as a band during

the most engaging and successful ensembles in the history of Celtic Music. The Grammy Award nominated Irish-American group was formed in 1985 to celebrate the

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Root & Branch

Many political events of the past decade seem more like poorly scripted Hollywood "B" movies than real events. Bad movies cast with L.A. Leprechauns. Quasi-religious epics starring pookah St. Patricks. 'Scripted', because, like the insurance salesman star of 'The Truman Show' one strongly feels an unseen presence behind it all. And often it's indeed Tinseltown directing the show. An exchange from the 1979 film 'Apocalypse Now' comes to mind. Captain Willard: "They told me that you had gone totally insane, and that your methods were unsound". Col. Kurtz: "Are my methods unsound?" Willard: "I don't see any method at all, sir."

Yeah, that's bizarrely funny. But the terror today is that there's definitely a method going down. Many of you asked for it- eagerly jumped aboard for the ride- and now we are in it- Democracy. And a heady, anxious ride it's been. Murders of police by criminals in the US has not yet reached the numbers attributed to Mexican narco-bandit Pablo Escobar who once killed police at the rate of 400 per year. But 2021 was one of the deadliest years for U.S. officers with 458 on-duty police deaths. Even discounting 301 non-violent deaths due to Covid-19, it's a shameful number. With Democrat policies treating criminals as victims, keeping an open border and providing taxpayer-funded fly-by-night transport from Rio Grande Central to all points North, will the grisly toll on police

and innocent civilians rise even higher in 2022? Some who've lived through the Fidelista fifties and SDS sixties aren't fooled. Victor David Hanson, professor emeritus of Classics at California State U. says of those behind a decade of turmoil: "These people are stone-cold revolutionaries. They want to overturn the Constitution and the customs of the United States."

Despite the costumes, the scirms, the props, the closed media sets, the cheers from the political peanut gallery and the woke work of industrialists using light and magic, some are seeing through the backdrop. Americans quickly passed thumbs down on the Biden administration, and the first week of January, viewership of leftist CNN dropped an amazing 90%.

Think of the president who won a huge landslide victory, yet two years later it seemed no one had voted for him. After August 8, 1974, it was nigh impossible to find anyone to admit voting for President Richard M. Nixon, brought down by Watergate- the first president in American history to resign. Now we have a president in office just over a year and I suspect many are loath even now to admit voting him in. Or did they vote him in?

In 2020 with a 'good crisis' of Covid-19 and imposed lockdowns, Democrats and like-minded globalist Republicans arranged for a tsunami of absentee voting. The US Census Bureau site headline read: "**Despite Pandemic Challenges, 2020 Election Had Largest Increase in Voting Between Presidential Elections on Record**". 17 million more people voted than in 2016. Of citizens 18 and older who didn't register, only 2% said it was because of concerns about the pandemic. MIT reported the total of mail ballots cast rose from 28.8 million in 2016 to 66.4 million in 2020, a whopping 131% increase. But absentee/mail-in-ballot rejection rates dropped significantly from 0.96 percent in 2016, and 1.4% in 2018 to 0.79 percent in 2020, according to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's Election Administration and Voting Survey. Will Dems go the way of the Mugwumps and be forced to create a new coalition? Not if they can keep in place court orders and bureaucratic edicts that bent voting laws in 2020. Why would they ever want to go back to normal in-person voting?

Nancy Pelosi explained "*the wrap up smear*" to members of the media at her weekly press conference in June, 2017: "You demonize... and we call it the wrap-up smear... You smear somebody, with falsehoods and all the rest, and then you merchandise it. And then you (the press) write it, and I'll say, see, it's reported in the press that 'this, this, this, and this'. So they have that validation that the press reported the smear. And then it's called the wrap-up smear. Now I'm gonna merchandise the press' report on the smear that we made. That's a tactic and it's self-evident... It's called a wrap-up smear. You make up something. Then you have the press write about it. And then you say, everybody is writing about this charge. It's a tool of an authoritarian."

The press was quick to assure that that Pelosi was not describing tactics Democrats used to smear Brett Kavanaugh; nor had they ever done such. But Special Prosecutor John Durham is now exposing the "wrap-up smear" of the century, alleging the Clinton Campaign

committed far more serious crimes than breaking into an office building to plant wire taps. Clinton's campaign, headed then by Joe Biden's current National Security Advisor Jacob Jeremiah Sullivan, allegedly hired South African tech executive Rodney Joffe to illegally use his access to White House computer data and search for "derogatory information" that might infer connections between Trump's campaign and Russia.

Now St. Patrick celebrations are nigh and Irish dignitaries are hoping they won't be barred from sharing shamrock handshakes at the Biden White House, as was Gerry Adams in 2016 under Obama/Biden and the Finucane family in 2007 under Bush.

Solicitor Pat Finucane was shot dead in 1989 by British Loyalists conspiring with Crown forces as he sat at home with his family for dinner. Even former British PM David Cameron agreed there had been "shocking levels of collusion" in the murder. In 2004 Judge Peter Cory recommended a public inquiry into the case, but the British government has continued stonewalling.

In 2020 the Finucane family said they were hoping for the "fresh support" of the US President-Elect. The murdered man's son, John, now a Sinn Fein MP said: "When he was then Senator Biden as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he supported our calls for an inquiry."

And Joe Biden has been hailed as the most Irish-American US President since John F Kennedy. His great-great grandfather Patrick Blewitt, born in Ballina in Co Mayo back in 1832 and left for America in the hunger year of 1850, returning later to over his parents and siblings. Patrick's granddaughter married a Finnegan and their daughter married Joe's father, Joseph Robinette Biden Sr.

Joe's other great-great grandfather was Owen Finnegan, from the Cooley Peninsula in Co Louth. He married Jean Boyle in 1839 and together they had four children including James Finnegan in 1840 - Biden's great grandfather. The family sailed to America and James eventually settled near Scanton with his wife Catherine Roche.

But the President is not chatty about his Biden ancestry. Details in an excerpt from Politico correspondent Ben Schreckinger's upcoming book on the family not only reveal how Biden's brother Jim and his son Hunter peddled the family name for profit, but report that West Virginia genealogist Alexander Bannerman and lineage expert Gary Boyd Roberts discovered no less than two relations in Biden's ancestry who held slaves in Maryland. According to the 1800 Census, Jesse Robinett, the president's great-great-great-grandfather, enslaved two people in Allegany County, said Bannerman; and in 1850 Thomas Randle, another third-great-grandfather of Biden, enslaved a 14-year-old boy in Baltimore County. Perhaps attempting to downplay a scandal, Bannerman told Schreckinger that it is not uncommon for Americans with roots in the colonial era to have ancestors with ties to slavery, and in Biden's case, it was "very minimal". (I'm guessing he meant Biden's slaves were few in number, not small in stature.)

But, come to think of it now, my own spouse has ties to slavery...

You can read the rest of this story online at: Irisheye.us/new.html

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50th Parade Party in Milwaukee 3-12

The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin's 50th annual Post Parade Party returns to the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center of Wisconsin, 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee on Saturday, March 12, 2022, from 1 until 6 pm.

The Party will feature four stages, four dance groups, one Irish comedian, and five bands, plus a dedicated children's area. There will be food served, and retail and cultural groups represented. The cost will be \$8 for attendees over 12, and \$20 for a family of up to six.

Entertainers include the dance schools Glencastle Irish Dancers; Trinity Academy of Irish Dance;

Kinsella Irish Dancers; and, for the 30th year in a row at the PPP, the Caledonian Irish Dancers; Music by Radiation; Athas; Blackthorn Folly; Atlantic Wave, and The O'Bradys.

New this year is Irish comedian Adam Burke. Burke is well known for his appearances on NPR's Wait Wait, Don't Tell Me.

We will have a dedicated Children's Area, featuring Eileen O'Rourke: Leprechaun Stories. <https://mkeirishparade.com>

We will follow the City of Milwaukee Covid 19 guidelines. The Irish Cultural and Heritage Center is located at 2133 West Wisconsin Ave.

St. Patrick's Events: Rockford

Starting lineup at the BMO parking lot on 7th street and 5th ave starting at 2pm and the kick-off will be 3pm. We will march the same route, up 7th Street, left onto State Street and right on Madison to end at the Prairie Street Brewing for the PaddyFest which goes from 4-730pm. Adult

tickets (12 and up) are \$10 for a wristband which gives you access to the bands and food line. No kids area this year but a free dance lesson for them.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for the parade area and wristbanding areas. Sign up at on the website www.irishmarchingsociety.com

Southside Parade, Sunday 3-13

The South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee has chosen "Thankful for Catholic Elementary School Teachers" as the Grand Marshal for 2022. In 2020, these educators had been set to receive

school teachers and students represent the themes that we hold dear and are worthy of the Grand Marshall moniker again for 2022. We are also pleased to honor the Tom Hopkins Foundation and to announce Bailey O'Connell as our Parade Queen for 2022. We are a family-friendly event, and we are very happy to be celebrating our community once again," says Don Larisey, Co-Chair of the South Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The Tom Hopkins Foundation, founded by the children of Tom Hopkins, or "Papa Hops", strives to assist families affected by cancer and to support youth athletics.

Parade Queen Bailey O'Connell, who had been selected in 2020 grew up in Mount Greenwood and is an alumna of Mount Greenwood Elementary and Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School. The South Side Irish Parade Queen will receive sponsorship from the South Side Irish Parade Committee to compete in the Chicago Rose of Tralee Selection as the South Side Irish Rose.



their honor, so finally, they will be recognized.

They educate Chicago's Catholic school students, particularly during these challenging times. The Grand Marshal unit will feature local area Catholic schools led by their school principals, teachers and staff. The family-friendly parade is set for Sunday, March 13 stepping off at 12 noon at 103rd and Western Avenue.

"Our local Catholic elementary

We Get Letters

Hi Estelle, I just read your review of Belfast, thank you.

Growing up in Ireland, the cinema, esp cowboys and indians, was a big part of life for boys, who played those games, or war games, or sword fighting, all the time.

Be it the weekly serial or the movies of John Wayne, Audie Murphy, Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, and Shane himself, it

brought us American celluloid heroes we could worship from afar. Buddy himself seems more drawn to the gladiator genre.

A favourite memory from childhood is having my gifted cowboy (part of the admission price) shot off my head in the tradition of Buffalo Bill by Roy Rogers, or one of those singing cowboys at the old Gaity cinema in Ballymote. Tony

Pettipiece

"The Americans have colonized our subconscious" - *Wim Wenders, Kings of the Road*

Dear Ms. Shanley, just read your review of Belfast. We must be related as I agreed with every word including the tears. Excellent and thoughtful review. See you again in *Irish American News*.

Bernard Hollywood (Father from Newry, Co. Down).



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We're looking forward to seeing you all at our
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Chicago Gaelic Park

Events for Seniors

At the Irish American Heritage Center

Monthly Musical Gathering

Every month—usually on the first Wednesday—we host the **Monthly Musical Gathering**. Through live musical performances, we celebrate our shared Irish heritage. The **Monthly Musical Gathering** always takes place at the **Irish American Heritage Center**. There is no charge to attend and **ALL** are welcome. Refreshments are served free of charge.

The Front Parlor

This gathering is named for the room in old Irish houses where people came together for important guests and special occasions. Once each month—usually on the third Wednesday—we meet to share our Irish heritage and our love of Ireland through cultural and educational programs. We meet at the **Irish American Heritage Center**. There is no charge to attend. **ALL** are welcome and refreshments are served free of charge.

Monthly Musical Gathering

Irish American Heritage Center
Wednesday 2nd March

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Live Music with Terry Byrne

Join us for a morning of good cheer and great live music with our friend Terry Byrne providing the tunes! Remember, there's no fee to attend and we offer refreshments!

St. Patrick's Day Mass

Irish American Heritage Center
Wednesday 16th March

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day and host our friends visiting from Gaelic Park! Together we will honor St. Patrick's Day with a mass followed by a live Irish music performance.

At Chicago Gaelic Park

The Get Together

There's nothing like a good Irish get together! Twice each month—usually on the second and fourth Wednesday—we host **The Get Together** at **Chicago Gaelic Park**. We express our Irish heritage through an engaging variety of educational programs, cultural performances, lectures, and fun activities. There is no charge to attend and **ALL** are welcome. Refreshments are served free of charge.

North Side St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Irish American Heritage Center
Wednesday 16th March

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

We're going north to celebrate St. Patrick with friends at the Heritage Center. A FREE bus will be leaving from Gaelic Park for a day of Irish comradery, mass and live music.

The Get Together Gaelic Park

Wednesday 23rd March

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Student Takeover

ICS is fortunate to often host student interns. While they're here, we provide them with opportunities to see the work we do and today our intern will be running the show! Let's see what they have planned!

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So press the Green Button and discover something new.

Start planning at

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Dundee St. Patrick's Day Parade is Back!

The little parade that could - and did - is back in 2022. After a two-year pandemic hiatus, East Dundee's Thom McNamee Memorial St. Patrick's Day Parade is set for Saturday, March 12. "We've been waiting

for two years to marshal the parade together again," said Eileen McNamee, chairwoman of the parade committee. "We are going to make it a great one."

McNamee took up the reins of the event after her brother, Thom, passed away in 2009. He began the parade with a fledgling crew and a handful of spectators in 2004.

Today the parade has grown to some 80 entries and has attracted as many as 15,000 spectators, according to official estimates.

The parade kicks off a day of Irish celebration in East Dundee's Culinary District with its array of restaurants, bars and brew pubs. Don't forget to try all of East and West Dundee's finest corned beef served at more than a dozen local restaurants.

West Dundee festivities include a Big Wheel Race after the parade.

The celebration continues the following weekend with a stunning fireworks display Saturday, Mar., 19. Fireworks begin at dusk from the pedestrian bridge over the Fox River north of Illinois 72.

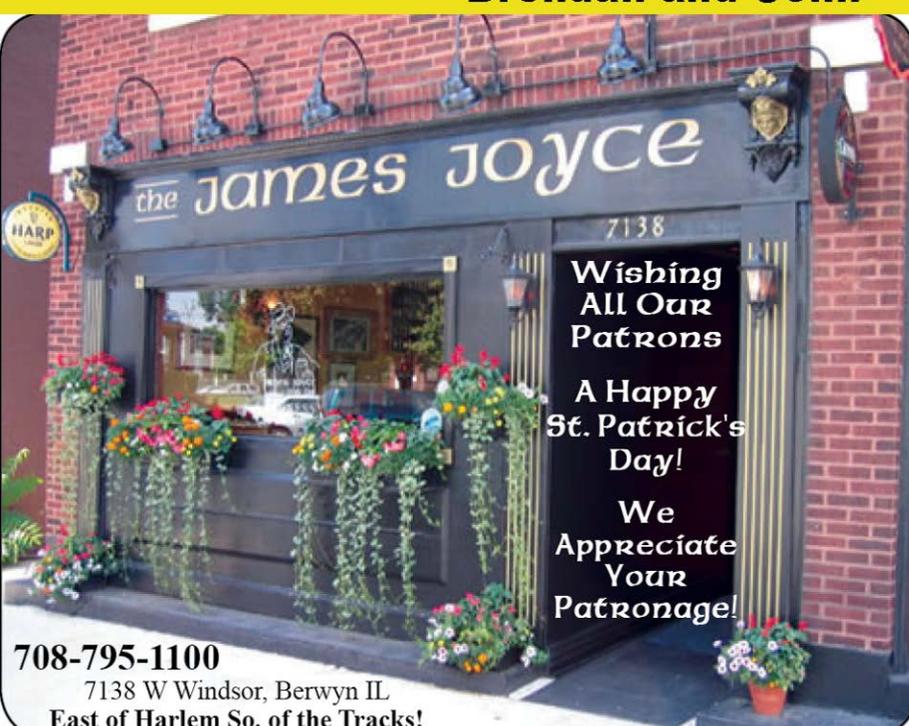
A highlight of the day starts early, with the "DUBLINDEE Kilted 5K Race and Fun Walk" (voted into the top 50 themed races

in the U.S.) which starts at 8 a.m. at Life-line Plumbing, Heating and Cooling in East Dundee, 296 Williams Place. Entrance fee includes a kilt, free breakfast, a commemorative glass, and lots more!

Registration is \$45 until March 6 and then increases. Register online at DUBLINDEE Kilted 5K Race and Fun Walk. Race proceeds go to help the FISH Food Pantry and Friends of the Fox River.

At 10 a.m. the parade festivities start with a Pet Parade for animal lovers in downtown East Dundee. At 11 a.m. the parade steps off from Rosie O'Hare's Pub with Irish performers, marching bands, first responders, a color guard and lots of Irish entertainment. Check the website www.dundeestpats.org for registration information.

We'd like to express our gratitude to our loyal customers as we Celebrate our 22nd Anniversary! Brendan and Colin



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A Letter From Ireland

For Peace Comes Dropping Slow

a Chara, In his poem, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree", Yeats writes, "And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow".

I was reminded of that line this week. First, when I visited my hometown of Belfast and later when I watched an interview with Rep. Richard Neal.

While I was in Belfast for a series of political meetings, I had the opportunity to tag along with Gerry Adams on a visit to a community project.

Gerry had supported the project proposals 20 years ago when I first worked for him.

20 years on and the building work is nearing completion. The community had to campaign for years to secure investment from government agencies. The building will be an incredible asset for the community and a testament to all those who had campaigned for years.

I was struck by how the Falls Road had changed over the last 25 years. Here was a landmark building preserved for community use. Across the road was Conway Mill, once derelict, now a thriving enterprise centre. Further up is the newly rebuilt Royal Victoria Hospital, an Irish medium high school, cultural centres and the James Connolly Visitors Centre.

The road is physically different but retains the community spirit that has shaped generations. There is more to do combat poverty and redress inequality, but progress should be acknowledged. A community shaped by resistance to oppression became the builders of their own destiny. Long may it continue.

Rep. Richard Neal, a longer-term friend of Ireland, was interviewed on local Belfast TV. He reminded us all of the transformative power of the Good Friday Agreement. Belfast and Ireland was a different place.

Where once the North was an international symbol of intractable conflict it was now viewed as a place of peace and a symbol of hope. He reminded us that this should not be taken for granted and the Good Friday Agreement remained the will of the people in Ireland and the US. It is also the way to resolve current issues and shape our future through peaceful and democratic methods.

Sometimes we miss the wood for the trees. It is good to be reminded things have changed and will change further.

Peace and progress do come dropping slow. With patient determination, dedication and commitment, obstacles can be overcome, community centres built, and peace and progress delivered. **Ciarán**

Ciarán Quinn is the Sinn Féin Representative to North America

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23rd Chicago Irish Film Festival: March 3-13, 2022 - HYBRID STYLE!

This year, as a hybrid festival you can join us at our wonderful screening venues for four days and nights enjoying films on the big screen with friends and family as we celebrate Irish films and filmmakers! You can also enjoy the festival online! We will be bringing much of the festival program to our Elevent platform so all you need to bring is the popcorn!

If you’ve missed traveling, and who hasn’t, this year’s festival will transport you across Ireland with humor, horror, and history, from Dublin to Belfast, Ballylough to Killyleagh and Cork to Carlingford, capturing a landscape of untold beauty and creative storytelling from coast to coast.

Opening the festival is **DOINNEAN** (STORM) the first Irish language mystery



thriller shot in Northern Ireland and directed by Damian McCann. Set on a remote island off the northwest coast of Ireland, investigative journalist Tomás (Peter Coonan) and his family live a quiet life, until one day his wife and son go missing while he’s on assignment on the mainland. Suspecting the worse Tomás looks to retired policewoman Labhaoise (Brid Brennan) for help, desperate to find them before a deadly storm shuts the island down.

Closing the festival are two screenings that have more than their fair share of nonsense. With the support of the Irish Film Institute the festival is delighted to be screening the recently restored 1938 classic **BLARNEY** starring the much-loved



Irish actor and comedian Jimmy O’Dea and Irish stage legend Noel Purcell in a farce that lives up to its title. Shot in County Louth the film centers on a cross border rivalry between a southern garda and a northern RUC man for the love of a local girl and a hapless cough-medicine salesman (O’Dea) who works the border and accidentally gets involved with jewel thieves when they give him a lift to Greenore. The second film is the delightful Irish language comedy **RÓISE and FRANK** (MO GRAH BUAN) directed by Rachel



Moriarty and Peter Murphy, starring Bríd Ní Neachtain, Cillian O’Gairbhi and Lorcán Cranitch and filmed in the Waterford. **Róise**, a recent widow, has all but given up on life, until one day she encounters a stray dog and becomes convinced it’s the re-incarnation of her hurling-loving husband Frank after he leads her to their favorite spot. Despite doubts concerning her sanity, by family and friends, **Róise** follows her heart and finds a new way of looking at life.

In between the opening and closing screenings is the caustic black comedy **REDEMPTION OF A ROGUE** directed by



Phil Doherty and starring Aaron Monaghan as nihilist, Jimmy, who has a hilariously bleak view on life. Filled with guilt and shame Jimmy returns to his rain-soaked hometown of Cavan to atone for his sins only to find himself stuck in a Groundhog Day-like purgatory. Tom Cosgrove’s **HILLWALKERS** finds us out on the bogs of Glenkill as a group of urban dwellers head off for a charity walk that turns into a life-or-death scramble in the foggy

wilderness that borders an off the grid backwoods farm. Back in Dublin we meet Mags, a hot-headed pizza delivery cyclist, who sees herself as totally self-sufficient until her bike is stolen and she’s on the verge of eviction during Dublin’s housing crisis. Conor O’Toole’s **BICYCLES THIEVES: PUMPED UP** is part investiga-



tive thriller, part heist and part magical action comedy that is a wild ride from start to finish. And **KEEP IT A SECRET** is the ride many people wish they could take on the glorious surfing waves on



Ireland’s western coast. Sean Duggan’s documentary is the amazing true story of establishing the country as an international surfing destination during the ongoing conflict of the Troubles as Ireland hosted the 1972 Eurosurf championship.

Other features screening during the festival are Connor Slattery’s **ONCE UPON A TIME IN IRELAND**, Emma Bowell’s **THE QUAY CO-OP**, Niall Owen’s



GATEWAY, Peter Kincaid’s **ALIQUIP-PA, PA**, Jonathan Creasy’s **THE BLUE SHROUD**, Colin Hickey’s **WHERE THE MERROWS ROAM** and Danny Patrick’s **THE MALTESE CONNECTION**.

And in keeping with tradition the festival will screen over forty short films with such fascinating topics as artificial intelligence, pig branding, vampires wee folk, bank heist and chicken suits!

Chicago Irish Film Festival-Hybrid Style: IN PERSON March 3-6 | ONLINE March 7-13

FULL PROGRAM & TICKETS @ chicagoirishfilmfestival.com

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Regular Screenings: \$12

Passes: All Access Passes In-Person and Online: \$100 - \$225

2022 CIFF IN PERSON Screening Locations:

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THE LOGAN THEATRE: 2646 N. Mil-

waukee Avenue, Chicago **SOCIETY FOR ARTS Gallery Theatre:** 1112 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago

PLEASE NOTE: Not all films will be available Online or In-Person please check program for each film’s screening options.

COVID 19 UPDATE: All guests and staff will be required to comply with the City of Chicago’s Health & Safety protocols while attending any of the festival’s screenings at all locations. All guests and staff are required to provide proof of vaccination. Please arrive early to be checked in. Updates to this policy will be on our website.

The 23rd CIFF is presented in partnership with the Consul General of Ireland-Chicago, IFI-International & Culture Ireland with aims to strategically build an audience for Irish film through worldwide cultural exhibition.

Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler



Ghost Stories

Well we're in the dead of winter so it seems ghost stories aren't fitting in this season but in Irish culture they fit anytime. Ghosts or as they are called in Irish, puca. The village I come from is called Clopook, meaning ghost town. Before TV, ghost stories were a form of entertainment on long Winter's nights. Ghosts are said to live in a state between this life and the next. They are held by some longing or duty unfulfilled or even anger against the living. I will haunt you is a common threat. If one is mourning after a dear friend a neighbor might say be quiet now you are keeping him from his rest.



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As Dickens wrote the ghosts of Christmas are really the past, present and future around us in the dead of the year. They are a reminder we are haunted all the time by good and bad ghosts.

The tradition goes back much farther than Christmas Carol or Christmas itself. Those who die suddenly are believed to become haunting ghosts they go about moving furniture and want to attract attention. Others believe when the soul has left the body it is drawn away sometimes by the fairies. If a soul eludes the fairies, it may be snatched up by evil spirits the souls of young children are especially in danger. Some families in the west sprinkle the blood of a chicken that the spirits may be draw away to the blood. The souls of the dead sometimes take the shape of animals, or insects especially butterflies. In Scotland the fetch (folklore) a fetch is a supernatural double or apparition of a living person. Doppelganger and sightings are regarded as omens of impending death.

There is a famous ghost story from a place known as Slaughtaverty, in Co. Derry, it's a grassy mound known as O'Cathain's Dolmen, marked by a single thorn tree. It is said that a vampire is buried under it. A chieftain known as Abhartach was notorious for his cruelty towards his own family. He had a strange deformed appearance and rumors abounded that he was an evil male witch. When he died people were so relieved and had him buried in a manner befitting a man of his rank. However, the day after his burial his corpse, seemingly alive, reappeared in his village, demanding a bowl of human blood. His terrified

former victims turned to another local chieftain, Cathain, and asked that he kill Abhartach.

Cathain killed him three times and after each murder, Abhartach's gruesome corpse came creeping back to the village in search of the blood. Finally, Cathain consulted a holy Christian hermit for guidance. He directed that Abhartach be killed using a wooden sword made of yew; (type of tree) he then had to be buried head downwards, weighted with a heavy stone. Finally, thorn bushes should be planted tightly in a circle around the burial site. It's a creepy story alright and there are several others. But I will leave you with a pleasant story and wish you every good blessing and all good ghosts for 2020!

One day an elephant saw a hummingbird lying on its back with its tiny feet up in the air. "What are you doing?" asked the elephant. The hummingbird replied, "I heard that the sky might fall today, and so I am ready to help hold it up, should it fall." The elephant laughed cruelly. "Do you really think," he said, "that those tiny feet could help hold up the sky?"

The hummingbird kept his feet up in the air, intent on his purpose as he replied, "Not alone. But each must do what he can. And this is what I can do."

Source: Chinese Parable

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Game On!

By Chris Wheaton



The past weekend presented quite a few options for even the most casual sports fan. The Super Bowl or "Big Game" as we are now required to call it was contested, the winter Olympics were in full swing and the All-Ireland Senior Club Hurling Championship was played. I was not overly excited about the football game but knew I would watch because it seemed like "the thing to do". It turned

out to be a very entertaining game and although none of my squares resulted in a payday I was glad I tuned in.

As for the Olympics, I have to admit that I am kind of an Olympic geek. Sports that I would never watch in the 4 years prior to the games grab my attention and I can't look away. Curling is one of those games, although many have argued that it is not really a sport. There is something about someone sliding a big rock down a sheet of ice and a few others using a broom to steer it or make it go faster is quite relaxing. I have no idea how the game is scored or who the best players are but I have sat in front of my TV for hours mesmerized by it. Perhaps it's the fact it looks like anyone could do it or that the uniforms are basically what you would wear out to a pub on a Friday night.

My time was also occupied viewing the Olympics' newest sport; monobob. I have always watched both the 2 and 4 person bobsledding events but this was just the driver. A man /woman and his or her machine going as fast as they can down an icy highway hoping that they arrive at the finish in any position other than upside down and with the fastest time. It appeared to me that the person who could push the sled the fastest at the start was going to win and because of that the sport has recruited a bunch of former track athletes who may have lost a step in the 100 meter dash but could extend their athletic careers by pushing a fiberglass box down a hill and hanging on for dear life.

Another intriguing story from the Olympics is the saga of the 15 year old figure skater from Russia who had a positive test for a banned substance but yet allowed to compete by the Court of Arbitration for Sport because they felt she would suffer irreparable harm! Am I missing something here? A positive test is a positive test and it shouldn't matter if she knew what she was taking or not. Figure skating is a sport that starts young and most of the top skaters have been dealing with the doping protocol for many years prior to showing up at the Olympics. It all sounds very dodgy to me and puts the Olympic Games in a bad light. I'm not even go into the fact that Russia was banned from these Olympics because of a previous doping scandal and are competing as the "Russian Olympic Committee", what a joke for international athletics.

All of that nonsense made me appreciate Saturday's Hurling Championship even more. Hurling is the purest form of amateur athletics in that the players play for their home club and even the best of the best are not paid for their service. It is all about home parish pride and having the opportunity to shine in front of your neighbors and co-workers and your entire family. If you live in a certain parish, you play for that parish; no free agency, no trades, no enticements to move to another parish, just

unfettered pride for where your roots are. It is one of the purest forms of sport in the world and some of our athletes here in America could learn from the hurlers. As old school athletes say "it is always more important to be playing for the name on the front of the jersey than the name on the back".

The championship was even more intriguing with the Ballyhale Shamrocks from Kilkenny going for their third title in a row and Wexford's own Ballygunner's vying for their first. The match did not disappoint as the Ballygunner sub, Harry Ruddle scored a tremendous goal mere minutes after entering the game and moments before the final whistle blew. It was a game for the ages and one that the Ballygunner fans will celebrate for years to come. Club and county pride are what makes the sport so great and that should serve as a lesson for our professional teams and so called amateur Olympians. As sports fans we can all learn from the purity of hurling and Gaelic football and the valuable lessons that those sports teach.

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CORK & KERRY

Hi everyone, how are you all doing? Spring is in the air. I love seeing all the spring flowers in my neighbors gardens but not mine as some time ago my niece bought me hundreds of mixed spring bulbs. I had a great time mapping out areas in my garden where I would be able to appreciate them. That spring I was so excited .

March came and went then April, May June July.

I eventually took my spade and dug where I had planted the bulbs the previous october. I couldn't find one bulb. I asked my neighbor kay. She laughed and said because we live in the park we have an abundance of nesting squirrels.

GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



They love digging up spring bulbs. It's a real treat for them.

I was totally gutted. My mothers garden was always so colorful in the spring. You could smell her hyacinths a mile away.

Back home I don't remember seeing squirrels. We had lots of rabbits they would get into my mothers vegetable garden.

I called my father in Ireland as him and mum were great gardeners, and he also worked for the park district. At first

he said maybe I put them in upside down or too deep. I laughed and said just wait til you hear what happened to five hundred bulbs.

Suddenly down the phone there was a huge explosion of laughter. He could hardly get the words out. Forever the witty Donegal Father. He was jokingly trying to say that the squirrels were watching me and rubbing their hands with glee waiting for me to finish planting so they could have a huge feast. Yes, my father and my mother could see the funny side in everything .It took me a minute but eventually he had me laughing with him. His advice was lay down chicken wire on top of the soil the bulbs would push through or sprinkle cedar chips as they hate the smell. Well, I did neither. I just buy potted spring flowers for my easter table and then leave them outside for the squirrels to feast on. I hope mum and dad you're laughing up there with the angels. I was just reading an article about some ladies in Dublin who got together and formed an uplifting secure ladies skating group, brilliant. They invited anyone who is having a bad day. They call themselves "The Huns of Anarchy". This is a group of women whose aim is to uplift each other during these hard times. You can find them on Dun Laoghaire pier Dublin every wednesday evening in their skating boots and protective gear zooming around the pier. They will help you if you have no skates. or experience. I definitely will visit them next time i'm home. They raise money for various causes through the sales of their merchandise. Hats. Jumpers (called sweaters over here T.shirts. Check them out you can find them on Huns of Anarchy. Yes i know isn't it wonderful they sound like a caring supportive group. Just what ladies need right now given what happened to the beautiful twenty three year old teacher Ashling Murphy who was viciously murdered while out jogging in Tullamore in County Offaly. January

twelfth. Ireland is still reeling from the shock as we are here. We joined Ireland with the candlelight vigil offering prayers for Ashling's grief stricken family and her little students who loved her dearly. Ashling was also an accomplished musician she held classes every week for the local children she wanted our traditional music to live on through them what a beautiful sentiment. Violence against women and young girls has to stop. We should be entitled to feel safe no matter what our activities we choose to participate in be it day or night. Going into dark car parks worried someone is going to attack you or abduct you in your own car. Yes thats how we live. We worry about our daughters going off to college. We arm them up Y to the teeth with Mace and whistles anything that might help them if they are being attacked. We need to raise our sons to value women so we can stop living in fear. I just heard that Chicago Saint Patrick's Day parades are on this year. That's surely something to look forward to. I was going to say I hope we have good weather with no snow. Right now I don't even care as just getting back to some degree of normality is heartwarming. Stop by our Irish American Heritage center. They have tons of entertainment and lots of goodies to buy. Check in here for your local entertainment and Irish import stores. Don't forget your Easter eggs. If you're like us, we love an Irish breakfast. It keeps you full while we celebrate our special day. My father used to say it'll put hairs on your chest?? Huge congratulations to Brooke Scullion from Derry who has been chosen to represent Ireland at this year's Eurovision Growing up we were glued to the telly, we even had bets on who would win. Now with the magic of the internet we can tune in anywhere in the world. Good luck Brooke do your best for Ireland. Well that's it for now. Here's hoping we have seen the last of winter. Hello Spring flowers.. Happy Blessed Saint Patrick's Day to you all wherever you may be until next time.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

Forget it, Jake; it's Chinatown.

You know, I've always thought it an awfully ugly word, 'greed'. I mean, it looks ugly on the page; it sounds ugly on the lips; it is heavy and dull and lumpen and leaden and just sits there, inviting you to look at it with distaste and revulsion.

Perhaps it's because I first saw the masterpiece that is Polanski's 'Chinatown' in my 'teens, but I always associate that awful word with Jake Gittes (Jack Nicholson) genuinely trying to get his head around just how greedy and reptilian Noah Cross (John Huston) really is, wondering how much more money he actually needs when there are only so many houses that you can live in or lobster dinners that you can eat.

Let's give the word its due respect. In fact, let us put it in bloody great big capitals: **GREED**. And let us even spell it out: **G.R.E.E.D.**

Yet, do you know something?

For me that is STILL not going to cut it when it comes to describing just how rapacious Robert Watt, our Irish secretary general of the Department of Health really is. Nor the C.E.O. of the Health Service Executive (H.S.E.), Paul Reid. I think that I would have to put a fish hook through the word, drag it across an open sewer and then leave it to bake in a Death Valley sun before we could get the correct bouquet/stench that we're searching for.

Who to start first? Well, they're much of a muchness, so I'll toss a coin... and let's go with Paul Reid.

Some time back it came out that he had put in a claim for €20,000 in expenses for 2020. You know, the year that everyone was suffering and we were all in this big crisis together, should be lighting candles for the frontline nurses and giving them a round of applause and blah, blah, blah.

Give them a more than deserved wage increase or shut the hell up. And yeah, I hear ye. Politicians,

civil servants, these beauties would put in an expense claim for crossing the road. But what made Mr. Reid's claim stand out is the abundance of goodies he had been awarded

around the same time. Let me count the ways: This guy is on €426,000 a year, which I think we can all agree is not a measly annual payment.

Well, maybe not all of us agree. BMW Ireland sure don't because they took it upon themselves to give Paul - you don't mind if I call you Paul, do you? I feel as if we're on first name terms, you're doing so much for the country - a free €60,000 Beamer. Now that's nice.

But I know what you're thinking and it's what I would be thinking myself. It is that if I am so important and my work is so much more essential than some unimportant nurse who is only looking after annoying patients, after all, then what am I doing driving myself around?

Do not fear, Paul! Because an HSE spokesman swiftly made it clear to we peasants that he could not be allowed to become tired during the horrendously long (yes, that's sarcasm) commute from Leitrim to Dublin. God knows how everyone else manages it, but they're not as important as Paul.

Problem solved! Our Defence Forces to the rescue as they decided to give Paul a driver. We may not be able to hold back the Russians if they take it into their heads to invade Cork but by God! we will give Paul Reid a free army driver or know the reason why not!

[Just as an aside, I'm surely not the only person who finds it strangely hilarious that teeny-tiny French President Emmanuel

Macron is slightly taller than vertically-challenged Russian President Vladimir Putin. Can you imagine the boasting going on in the Macron household at the moment? He's probably telling his missus that he and Alan Ladd were exactly the same size! Mind you, that pathetic giant phallic table suddenly makes sense.]

This is where it gets complicated. The car that Paul was ACTUALLY being driven around in was a BMW, but not THE BMW. That was described as a company car (paid for by the HSE) so he was being driven around in the €50k car, not the €60k one. That one was at home.

In this Wonderland of ours, I guess that's slumming it. The HSE did in fairness give an explanation for why he needed two cars, both donated ('to maximise his working time during a particularly difficult stage in the HSE's pandemic response') but I was getting close to losing the will to live at that stage and wasn't paying much attention.

Where was I? Oh yes:

Paul; €426,000 a year; BMWs (2 of, a BMW 530d X-Drive SE and a SUV model, the BMW X1, for you Petrolheads in the audience) gifted to him; Irish Army driver in case he gets tired. None of this is unusual in the Mad Hatter-run country that is Ireland in 2022. He did pay the tax on the first one though, so that means that his piggy-bank must have been broken into. No doubt the HSE will reimburse him for a new one in order to maximise his working time.

What really DID stick in the craw was that despite this abundance of treasures he was small enough and petty enough to STILL put in a claim for just a shade under €20,000 for a car allowance (!!!), when he knows that a junior nurse

is only taking home between €21,000 and €22,000. And as someone who has had to visit the hospital a small bit lately, let me nail my colours firmly to the wall:

ANY junior nurse is worth fifty of people like you, Reid. So don't be kidding yourself as to how important you are in anyone's eyes except the usual political creeps. And despite the inconvenience that it would cause me at this time I would back the nurses 100% if they decided to strike for a decent wage.

And the same AND MORE for our next subject:

Robert Watt is beyond shameless. He has taken three pay rises in ten months and his next one in October of 2022 will take him well over €300,000 a year.

Now this is a guy who was given an €81,000-pay hike and doesn't see anything wrong with it. Of course, he DID say that he would defer it until such a time as the 'economy had recovered'. But guess what? Apparently, the economy has recovered and we didn't know! And as of writing this I'm not even clear as to whether or not it's been backdated.

I'm so happy. We need more greedy people like Watt. With prices skyrocketing right across the board, all in the same week, it's nice of him to let us know that the economy is now up and running again.

Shame on you, Watt - pure and simple shame on you.

He refused to answer questions for weeks on end, backed by shallow and brittle Varadkar and Martin who I've given up on. In fact, Martin actually took the opportunity to lecture Joe Soap on the street that it is unhelpful to be asking for a wage increase at this time. Needless to say, that does not apply to people like Watt.

They back up this nonsense, these people. Of course they do. Creatures like this tend to gravitate towards each other. And I don't see things ever changing, as we simply don't seem to have the gumption to remind these characters that they work for us, not the other way around.

Ah, forget it, Jake; it's Chinatown. charleybrady@gmail.com

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Happy Paddy's Day from Hibernian Media!

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hello everyone,

A very happy St. Patrick's Day to you! It is so good to be on the other side of the pandemic. Now we can start to enjoy our St. Patrick's season again. Since the age of 15, I have been performing and never had more than two weeks off at any time. Up until these last two years that is. So like all my musical friends, I've been chomping at the bit wanting to get back in action again.

Quite a lot of people asked me

about something I had written about a few years back. It was about how my son Declan learned to play a tune on the harmonica at around the age of 2. So, here is what happened - I put the song 'Galway Girl' on a CD player in my van and just let it keep playing over and over. The version I had was in the key of D. So, I gave Declan a D harmonica and as he sat in the child's seat behind me, he would play around on it. It was quite a racket at the start

but as the weeks went by I could hear the right notes creeping in as he played away with Sharon Shannon's accordion. Within less than three months he was playing note for note with Sharon. I don't write this here because I think Declan is a genius, although I am very proud of him. The reason I mention it is because I think anyone can do it. Children are very inquisitive and they figure things out. They are so intelligent that I don't think we "grown-ups" can grasp it. There are things a child will do, things, we maybe don't know why. Unfortunately, I believe we suffer from the dreaded "social conditioned syndrome". For instance one of the voice exercises I do is to vibrate my lips like a bubble-blowing thing, which is a way of lowering and relaxing the vocal cords. It is taught by all vocal coaches in every genre. So, maybe when a child does this naturally, could it be that they are getting ready

to develop their voice? When we don't like some of the things they do, where did they learn them? Would a simple look in the mirror explain it?

This month on March 20th, 1964 we lost one of Ireland's greatest writers, Brendan Behan. He died after collapsing at the Harbour Lights bar (now Harkin's Harbour Bar) in Echlin Street, Dublin. He was taken to the Meath Hospital, in central Dublin, where he passed away, aged 41. His funeral was described by several newspapers as the biggest Irish funeral of all time after those of Michael Collins and Charles Stewart Parnell. Brendan Behan was one of the wittiest and most intelligent people that ever graced this earth. He would not have reached 41 years old if he had been 18 at the time of his arrest in England and charged with treason. He was 16 years old then so, he escaped the gallows. (it's not that far back

in history if you were black or native American you could be hung at 13 years old legally in America) Instead, he was sent to Borstal Boys Institution to serve his time. He later wrote a vivid memoir of his time at this young offender's institution. The book is called 'The Borstal Boy'. If you pick this book up, you will not want to put it down. It is writing at its finest. R.I.P. Brendan Behan.

This month's song is about my home-place in Ireland, the area is known as Ummeracam which in Gaelic is: 'An lomaire Cam' meaning 'the crooked or winding ridge'. My son Declan and I wrote the song and we called it 'Down That Old Crooked Road'

As always, be good to one another and I hope you have a wonderful St. Patrick's Celebration.

[Joe's FaceBook Songwriter Page Website](#)

[Joe's ian Monthly Columns](#)

'Down That Old Crooked Road' (Ummeracam Song)

Written by Declan and Joe McShane

Verse 1

Through miles of misty dreams
And streams of memories
Every night I travel on that journey with
No street light no concrete
No sidewalk to be seen
Just flowers, trees, and every shade of green
As the city starts to rise
I rub my weary eyes
But I'll fly away in dreams again tonight

Chorus

Down that old crooked road
The place I called home
I believe that God blessed every stone
Though I left it far behind
I can't erase that time
It's going to stay forever in my mind
The one place I know
That owns my heart and soul
The house down that old crooked road

Verse 2

So blow a gentle breeze
Across the stormy sea
Whisper sweet memories in my dreams
The times we'd run and play
The smell of new mowed hay
The journey that would take me far away
My Mother's last goodbye
The tears that filled her eyes
My father broken-hearted by her side

Chorus

Down that old crooked road
The place I once called home
I believe that God blessed every stone
Though I left it far behind
I can't erase that time
It's going to stay forever in my mind
The one place I know
That owns my heart and soul
The house down that old crooked road

Nimble Thimbles Assists an Angel

A couple of years ago, our members read an article in the *Chicago Tribune* about "*The Angel of Lower Wacker Drive*". He is Dr. Patrick Angelo, dedicated to serving the unhoused community in the Chicagoland area. He delivers food, water, clothing and other items on a regular basis. To see his story on Youtube, you can search for The Angel of Lower Wacker Drive.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWFUYmi2mFs>

The Nimble Thimbles had just received a large donation of yarn, so it just seemed natural to match the bounty to the need. We tracked Dr. Angelo down, and started knitting! We've made and donated hats and scarves galore. We have also donated jeans, blankets, socks, duffle bags, gloves and shirts. We have made "sit-upons" which are mats made with two layers, one vinyl and the other upholstery fabric. This provides a waterproof surface for sitting or sleeping. They are stitched on 3 sides with a strap across the open side to function as a handle so that they can be

used as a tote bag as well.

We are a creative and talented group of women supporting the Irish American Heritage Center

by sewing, quilting and knitting. Join us on Tuesday & Saturday mornings. Call (773-282-7035) and leave a message!



3 of our Nimble Thimble members, (l-r): Fran, Pat & Maryanna modeling the knitted hats and a scarf!

Stephen T. Sexton Memorial Foundation

985 Graceland Avenue
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847-827-1188
847-827-1191-Fax
<https://www.sextonmemorial.com/>

February 7, 2022

Dear Reader,

One of the unexpected consequences of the pandemic is a marked increase in suicide, particularly involving young people and first responders.

You have supported the Stephen Sexton Memorial Foundation in the past through the raffle. We have decided not to conduct the raffle because it has run its course. The Foundation has continued to be funded since the raffle for the last two Covid years, primarily by family members. The cause remains a worthy one. The money we raise is put to good use and expenses remain below 3%

Please join us and Sexton family members, as we continue to work to defeat this insidious disease. **ANY** said donation will be greatly appreciated

Sincerely,

Edward W. Sexton Sr.
President

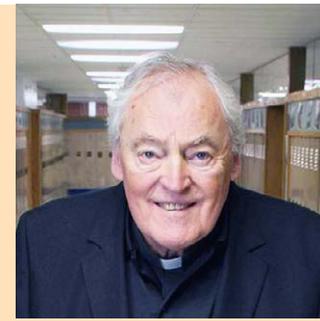
YEAR	TOTAL	DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS
1987-2014	\$1,235,100.00	451,200 - Maryville Academy 228,450 - Glenview Youth Service 5,000 - Evanston Hospital 274,700 - Rush Pres/St.Lukes 6,000 - L.O.S.S. 1987-1995 750 - span u.s.a.(Year 2000) 51,000 - Father John Smyth Standing Tall Foundation 5,000 - Joseph Academy 153,000 - Medical College of WI
2015	\$54,200.00	20,000 - Medical College of WI 19,000 - Maryville Academy 8,000 - Glenview Youth Service 7,200 - Father John Smyth Standing Tall Foundation
2016	\$56,500.00	20,000 - Medical College of WI 20,000 - Maryville Academy 7,500 - Glenview Youth Service 7,000 - Standing Tall Foundation 2,000 - MAS Scholarship Foundation
2017	\$64,850.00	20,000 - Medical College of WI 21,000 - Maryville Academy 8,250 - Glenview Youth Service 8,500 - Standing Tall Foundation 1,000 - Loss 6,100 - MAS Scholarship Foundation
2018	\$54,500.00	13,000 - Medical College of WI 22,000 - Maryville Academy 6,500 - Glenview Youth Service 7,500 - Standing Tall Foundation 1,000 - Loss 4,500 - MAS Scholarship Foundation
2019	\$51,500.00	9,500 - Medical College of WI 21,000 - Maryville Academy 6,000 - Glenview Youth Service 7,000 - Standing Tall Foundation 1,000 - Loss 7,000 - MAS Scholarship Foundation
2020	\$47,000.00	7,000 - Medical College of WI 22,500 - Maryville Academy 6,000 - Glenview Youth Service 6,000 - Standing Tall Foundation 1,000 - Loss 4,500 - MAS Scholarship Foundation
2021	\$55,000.00	6,000 - Medical College of WI 31,000 - Maryville Academy 6,000 - Glenview Youth Service 11,000 - Standing Tall Foundation 1,000 - Loss
TOTAL	\$1,618,650.00	(EXCLUDES FUNDRAISING EXPENSES, WHICH ARE 3% OF GENERATED FUNDS)



**Sister Catherine Ryan
Ex. Dir. Maryville Academy**

Over the years the generosity of the Sexton family and others who have contributed to the Stephen T. Sexton Memorial Foundation has enabled Maryville to enhance and enrich its training program, a program not only offered to employees, but one that also at times reached into the community to provide training to other professionals and to parents.

The Stephen T. Sexton Memorial Foundation has enabled us to provide training directly and indirectly focused on suicide prevention. We appreciate all that the foundation does as an ongoing memorial to Stephen to help us help others.



Father John Smyth, Ex. Dir. Standing Tall Foundation, Deceased, 4/16/2019

"His Care for the Underserved & Forgotten Children Lives On"

The funds received by the Standing Tall Charitable Foundation assist at-risk youth and their families. The ability to break out of a never ending cycle of poverty and violence is instrumental in achieving mental health and overcoming depression.

This underscores the Foundations and belief that education is the key to achieve these goals and this fulfills the promise of, "it's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." The Stephen Sexton Memorial Foundation is one such candle.

ST. PADDY'S

SAT. MAR 12 - FRANK QUINN & THE QUARANTINIS (3:00 PM)
ENTRY & TABLE COVER CHARGE MAY APPLY
FITZ AND THE CELTS (6:00 PM)
MARLON AND THE SHAKES (9:00 PM)

SUN. MAR 13 - MCNULTY IRISH DANCERS (1:30 PM)
BRIDGEPORT RAMBLERS (3:00 PM)

THU. MAR 17 - 17TH ANNUAL WIIL ROCK TOM & STINO (9:51 PM)
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SHAMROCK & ROLL MORNING SHOW (7:00 AM)
FREE IRISH BRUNCH (7:00 AM - 11:00 AM)
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THE GUILITES (6:00 PM)
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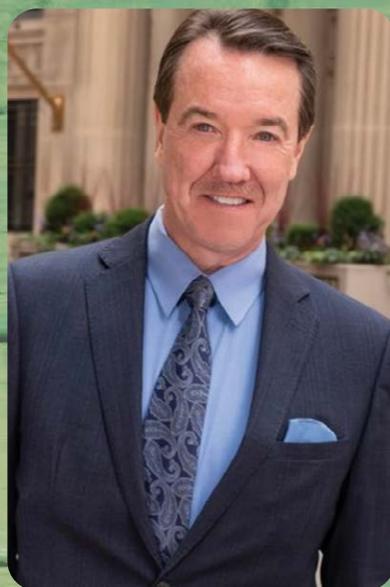
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