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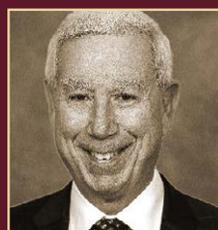


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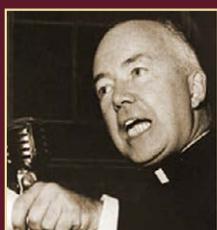


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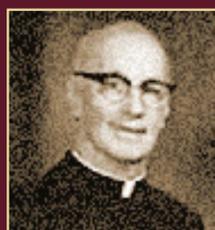
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The recent headline in the *New York Times* was hard to believe. Not the first time, nor will it be the last that headlines shock, but this was truly beyond the pale. The big news, "As the Church's Power Wanes, St. Brigid Captivates Ireland." Saint Brigid captivating Ireland? Isn't that old news? Brigid was always captivating, a beauty who as Irish folklore would have it fled from a British warrior on horseback intent on matrimony prompting her to pluck out

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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

one eye disfiguring her beauty so he'd quit bothering her. The article written by Ed O'Loughlin was datelined Kildare when it should have been County Louth, the land of my birth, the place of my rearing. I give the *Times* reporter fair due since he mentioned Brigid's alleged attainment of land under an oak tree on the east coast. That definitely occurred outside our town of Dundalk. I was reared on Brigid and recall with sheer delight following our Sunday dinner walking with my family out the country roads to visit the saint's shrine in a tiny village named Faughtert. Brigid was not canonized then, but we still referred to her as a saint. We knelt and said our prayers at her grotto and if anything ailed us like scabby knees or a sore eye, water from the nearby Saint Brigid's stream was liberally splashed on the affected spots. Cures from the stream were legend, in my memory far outweighing the cures logged at Lourdes. On her feast day, February 1st, we also celebrated the first day of Spring and witnessed

snowdrops and other spring flowers bloom in abundance followed quickly by "a host of golden daffodils." For the record, Brigid was our saint, not Kildare's.

Many years ago, a group of women in Chicago latched on to Brigid in a massive and creative way launching the Brigid Award, an annual celebration honoring Irish American women of distinction, raising money for Project Concern, currently referred to as the Irish organization that dispatches an army of volunteering men and women to famine sites throughout the world. In fact, the Irish per capita donate more money to famine relief than any other country in the world. It appears bred in our Irish hearts and souls that people the world over never have to repeat the historic Irish famine of the eighteen hundreds that wiped out millions of Irish women, children and men. An Irish team is usually first on the famine scene wherever hunger strikes. Yes, therein lies an enormous sense of Irish pride, but a new surge of worship to Brigid was somehow startling, especially in Ireland where seminaries have long ago shuttered for lack of vocations creating a wide gap in availability of clergy. As many have reported, the Irish church is in the tank, so quite unusual this dynamic news honoring Saint Brigid.

This surge of support are hoards of local and international pilgrims arriving to Kildare in prompting a massive surge in honoring this remote saint. Actually

I'm uncertain whether she was ever canonized by the Roman Catholic Church. The latter coincidentally is on the skids in Ireland, young men no longer entering the seminary, all of them shuttered years ago. A vivid case in point is Maynooth and if memory serves the last time priests were ordained at that seminary the sum total of new clerical recruits numbered a total of three. What's interesting about Brigid according to Irish folklore she's both pagan and spiritual. Serving as the second Chair of the Brigid Award in Chicago held in the ballroom of the Drake Hotel I conducted significant research into Brigid, discovering she was an ecclesiastic head of an Abbey, maybe in the Kildare region. According to legend she asked a pagan king to grant her some land to build the abbey. He refused, although commented he'd provide a piece of land the size of her black cloak. Willingly, as the story goes, she spread the cloak on the ground and it grew and grew into several acres stumping the pagan king

who obviously kept to his word. The other piece of information I discovered was the hospitality and a night's lodging Brigid offered traveling Catholic priests. It's alleged when she took a bath the water changed into beer and was utilized to quench the thirst of the clerical travelers. Clearly heavy duty fantasy although worth noting! According to the usual reliable folklore historians, Brigid's revitalized interest has much to do with her emphasis on healing, the ecology and the decline of Catholic in Ireland due in large measure by the sexual abuse scandal, the victimization of women, a growing secularism and a major shift away from the patriarchal faith of traditional Irish Catholicism. The plot thickens however with the revelation of the Brigidines, a group of nuns, Irish canonical women, who have continued to educate and bring forward the grace and goodness of Saint Brigid. The religious order formed a global Catholic congregation founded by a bishop on February 1, in 1807 and the sisters many years later launched a button factory in Tullow to raise money for a school building.

Meanwhile back in Chicago, the Brigid Award continued to great success and continues today honoring women of Irish extraction and distinction, the money raised to prevent famine. On a personal note, I was privileged to serve as Chair of the second Brigid Award held in the posh Drake Hotel Ballroom. I did not mention the bath/beer story for obvious reasons, but working with an amazing group of dedicated Irish American women managed to have delivered from Ireland the famed Saint Brigid's Cross woven from the green spikes of reeds that grow profusely in wetlands throughout Ireland. These crosses were blessed and placed on every lunch table as a remarkable and unique relic of Irish agriculture and religious belief. Saint Brigid crosses are currently sold all over Ireland, etched in gold, silver, pewter although freshly designed ones are difficult to find as weavers are scarce and in demand.

Lastly, it is said that Brigid and her female successors governed not only nuns but male monks as well and despite being a woman she was ordained a bishop! The Church of Ireland voted in 1990 to permit women to become priests and in 2013 appointed the first female bishop. Pat Storey, in December that year became bishop of Meath and Kildare, the first woman to hold the title since Saint Brigid. Hope reigns supreme for the ordination of women!

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Admission is free. For information or to support the ad book, go to motherjonesmuseum.org

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ISSN #1085-4053 USPS #013454
April 2022 Vol. XLVI #4

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Cathy Curry Carlson

Advertising Sales Cliff Carlson
Photographer Cathy Curry Carlson
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Johnson, Maureen Callahan

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Catholic Charities

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PO Box 7, Zion, IL 60099

PUBLISHERS STATEMENT

The opinions and statements
expressed in this newspaper are
entirely those of the authors,
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Distribution 12,013 monthly

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(l to r): The Mayor of Co. Cork, Ireland, Clr Gillian Coughlan, visited Cook Co. Board President, Toni PreckWinkle, to discuss ways to further tourism, economic development and public health between these great 'Sister Cities.'



(l to r): Irish Minister of State, Patrick O'Donovan, TD, meets Rob MacElhinney at the Irish American Heritage Ctr., at the na Gaeil Chicago Irish language booth. Rob, a proud Dubliner, moved to Chicago in 1985.

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Hailing from a working background Caroleann zealously represents all types of injured workers in the Workers Compensation Arena and is committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of people who are injured by the negligence of others."



Caroleann Gallagher

Misericordia Candy Days

This year, I have had the honor of being appointed President and Executive Director of Misericordia. Misericordia has taken the important step in forming a Foundation through which all of our fundraisers, like Candy Days, will go through. Sister Rosmary Connelly, Chairman of the Misericordia Foundation, and Lois Gates, Executive Director,

In spite of these prayerful and lasting memories, the greatest gift has been for my sister Sheila to become a resident here at Misericordia. During her years here now she has thrived with the help of so many talented and patient staff.

Sheila is my older sister. Both she and I were adopted at birth through Catholic Charities. We grew up in a happy household and all was great until Sheila's early teen years. At that time she began to have mental and emotional challenges that she would carry with her throughout her life. Due to some of the treatments at that time, she was left with some diminished capacity. Since she was 15 years old,

she had lived between Home, Hospitals and various long term care facilities.

19 years ago Sheila began coming from one of these facilities to our day programming twice a week. This opened many doors for Sheila as she advanced especially in her artwork. A couple of years later, we were offered the opportunity of having Sheila live here at Misericordia. In her own words, "heaven on earth". This has been a real gift in both of our lives.

Because of the COVID pandemic, Sheila has had her own challenges and so has Misericordia, like everyone else. Our Candy Days are upon us and I am reaching out to you, our friends and contacts to see if you can help. Any donation you can make will help us. I can't honestly say that I will miss being out on the streets collecting, but I do miss the Spirit of Candy Days which in the past seemed to permeate around the City and Suburbs.

Donate at

<https://www.misericordia.com/giving/candy-days/>



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Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos Honors the Shannon Rovers for Their 95th Birthday

Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos was honored to have the opportunity to present the Shannon Rovers with a resolution for their 95th Anniversary.

"The Shannon Rovers were originally created to bring the beloved music from their homeland to Chicago. The Rovers have since become an important part of the fabric of Chicago. Chicago has a rich history of Irish culture and heritage and its not fully celebrated unless the Shannon Rovers are part of that celebration," said Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos.

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The Ebony Cross: by Anne Cassidy Waters

A world at war and the ancient land of Ireland makes a thrust for independence from the fading British Empire.

Bridie struggles to find her place and break the boundaries of her class and gender.

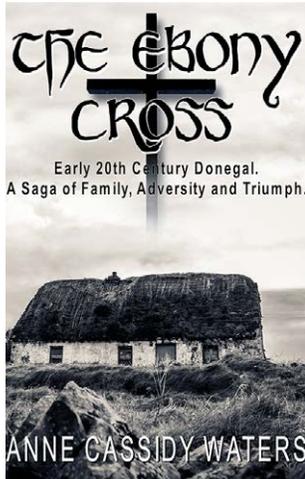
Danny is also searching and together they attempt to forge their own path.

Can Ellen put aside the shock of witnessing her brothers take the life of a neighbour, in order to help Sarah who has been violated.

The unity of the farm and the three brothers, Liam, Seamus and Ciaran is further fractured when the ebony cross, a symbol of freedom and conflict, is removed.

This is the story of the McShane family, and the bitterness that developed as Ireland struggled for nationhood. Kindle 4.95

Paperback 14.99



I have always loved writing and have had success with my short stories. The time needed to write a novel only became available once my four children became adults. My mother hailed from Co. Donegal while my father came from Co. Mayo. The stories they related of their own youth, and of their own parents and grandparents, fascinated me. The changing face of Ireland, particularly from the turn of the century and independence, intrigued me.

My first novel ‘The Ebony Cross’ depicts how women, especially, managed to find their own way, and occupy their own space, despite the barriers in place within the new Ireland. Overall, however, it is a romantic story and I hope you enjoy it. [Buy Book Here!](#)



Grand Opening of the Harling School of Irish Dance. People holding the scissors are Alyssa Harling, TCRG and Sean McDermott (mayor of Countryside). Also pictured are 2 dancers (Abigail Kamin and Dylan Rafferty - Harling School of Irish Dance’s first 2 students), John and Mimi Harling (parents of Alyssa), and Evadean Cleland (daughter of Alyssa and dancer at the school).

Chicago Gaelic Park is sponsoring a clothing drive for St Vincent DePaul on April 9&10 from 10am to 2pm.



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Is It Time To Return
To The Work Force?

We have all heard about the great number of people who have walked away from their jobs in recent months/years. If that includes you, perhaps it's time to think about returning to the world of work? I have some thoughts on things you should consider in the process.

What do you really want to do for a living? Many of us take a job simply to have a job, without giving it much thought. A buddy of yours tries to convince you to join him or her at their place of employment, you could even carpool with them. But my question for your consideration is does this job really excite you? I suggest that you go sit on a park bench or some other quiet place and think about the job you would really like. As I mentioned in my column a few months ago, I heard a wonderful speaker ask a question, "why not me?"

Having been in the employment field for years, I have seen a lot of people take jobs beneath their abilities. Frankly, as a young man I did it myself, I had quit my job with the Monon Railroad and a buddy suggested that I take a job with his company. I took the job and within the first week I was kicking myself; it was a boring job. So when I walked past the boss' office and he called me in and asked how I was doing, I told him I had only been there for a week, but I would give him a week's notice. I was quitting. What a relief that

was. Interestingly enough, I went back to the Railroad for lunch and got talking to one of the accounting managers, who offered me a job on the spot. I started that job the following Monday. My new job paid better than my previous position with the Railroad.

Development in technology now allows any job seeker to explore a far broader field of companies of course. You can search out many opportunities. You owe it to yourself to do some homework on your next position. You can equip yourself with a boatload of information about potential employers. Your research will also help you to eliminate companies that are not easily accessible. In my experience, I feel that many job seekers simply settle too quickly for a position not as good as they are capable of handling.

The idea of preparing a resume scares a lot of people. But you need to have a resume that tells your work history effectively. Go to a book store and you will find a number of books that include sample resumes. Obviously the internet can be of enormous help also. Use either or both resources; they will be helpful as you develop your resume. Once you have prepared a draft copy share it with friends, get their opinions. Commonly, if a job seeker is serious, he or she will rework and polish their draft more than once. Be sure to highlight your achievements. Does your resume answer the question, why should this company consider you?

The days of face to face interviewing

Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



has been replaced or at least modified by many companies. They will screen potential employees initially by some form of technology which allows the company to assess more candidates. So you need to be prepared to be interviewed on line. Decide what you are going to tell the remote personnel person. Practice what you going to say; remember you only have a short time to make your case. Help the HR people by giving them positive things about your background. In my experience, I can assure you that many people fail to convince the interviewer that they are a viable candidate.

There are three golden rules in the process of a job search. They are NETWORK, NETWORK, AND NETWORK. Too many job seekers simply don't do a very good job of networking. There are all kinds of sources that will help you find potential leads. Talk to anyone who has a pulse. You need to believe that most people will help you if you give them some reason to assist you. Yes, total strangers will help you.

You must do your homework on any company that interests you. And be sure to let the interviewer know that you did that. If you tell the interviewer something about his company that he doesn't know, it will probably be received positively.

Make a commitment to yourself that you will stay focused on the job search. It should not be a casual approach. Let everyone know that you are in the search mode.

If you are computer savvy, you have a definite advantage. Conversely, if you lack a good understanding of the internet, seek help from a smart friend. I am amazed to find that some job seekers don't use the social media as much as they should.

Other thoughts: Take some time to enjoy the ride: Help someone else in the process, it will help you in the long run; Enlist a friend as your conscience and finally, Carpe Diem (seize the day).

Other Thoughts

I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand. Unknown

If you're never scared or embarrassed or hurt, it means you never take chances.
By Julia Sorel, actress and Author of Rocky

James F. Fitzgerald, Formerly the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, has a long history in the field of employment. He retired in December, 2020.

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Irish American Hall of Fame to Recognize Class of 2020 Inductees on April 30, 2022 at IAHC

The Irish American Hall of Fame would have celebrated 10 years of recognizing outstanding Irish Americans in April 2020. Obviously, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions on large gatherings, that couldn't happen either in 2020 or even in 2021! The next Hall of Fame Gala will be held on April 30, 2022. We look forward to gathering once again with the best of the Chicago Irish community to recognize the eight outstanding 2020 inductees and Hometown Hero listed below. This esteemed group will join the 86 Irish Americans previously inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Questions? Email
halloffame@irishahc.org
2020 Inductees
Arts & Humanities
 Liz Carroll (born September



19, 1956) is an Irish fiddler, composer, and recording artist.
Conan Christopher O'Brien



(born April 18, 1963) is an American television host, comedian, writer, and producer.

Business & Industry
Kathleen Kennedy (born June 5, 1953), co-founder of Amblin Entertainment with Steven Spielberg in 1982 and currently

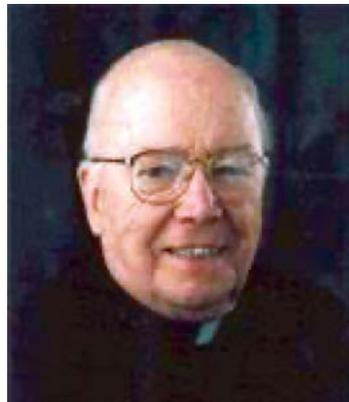


the President of Lucasfilms LTD.
Public Service
Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith (1928-2020), younger



sister to Hall of Fame inductees, President John Kennedy and Senator Robert Kennedy, she was the founder of "Very Special Arts" and served as U.S. Ambassador to Ireland from 1993-98.

Religion
Monsignor John "Jack" Egan



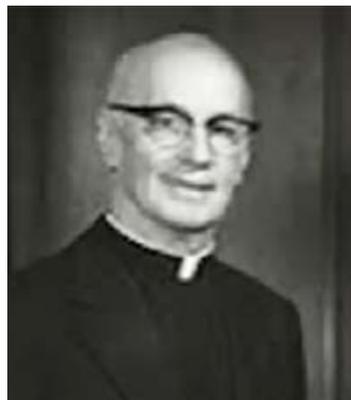
(1916-2001) was a Catholic priest who fought for issues of social justice, racial equality and human dignity. DePaul University established the Monsignor John J. Egan Urban Center in 1994 to serve the community and economic development plans and initiatives of low-income and minority neighborhoods in Chicago.

Sports
John F. McDonough (born



May 19, 1953) is a sports and marketing visionary who has presided over two of the greatest professional team success stories in Chicago history, the Chicago Cubs and the Chicago Blackhawks.

Education
Father James F. Maguire, S.J.



(1904-2000) was Loyola University Chicago's 20th president beginning in 1955, serving for 15 years. He led the university through a period of growth to become the largest Catholic university in the United States by 1970.

Science
Rachel Louise Carson (1907



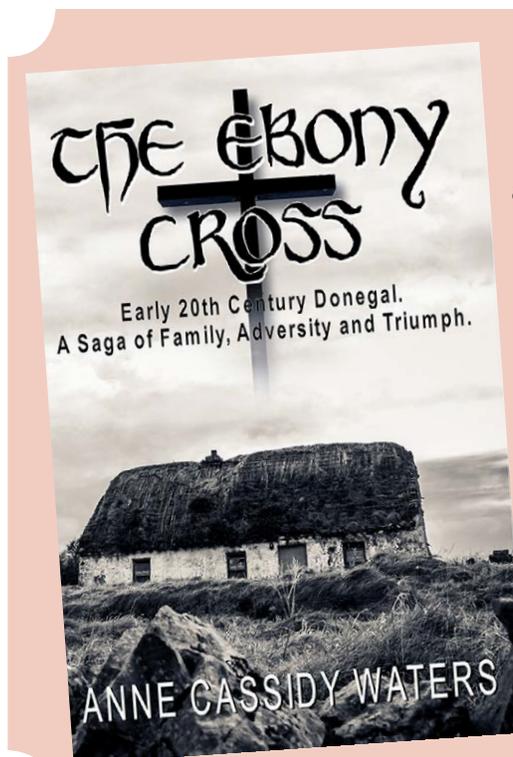
- 1964) is an American marine biologist, author, and conservationist whose book *Silent Spring*

and other writings are credited with advancing the global environmental movement.

2020 Hometown Hero
James F. Coyne is Business Manager for Chicago Journeyman's Plumbers Local 130 UA and long-time General Chairman of the Chicago St. Patrick's Day parade and the annual St. Patrick's Day Queen Contest. Jim serves as Vice President for the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago.



Be There When We Honor These Individuals, April 30th in the Erin Room of the Irish American Heritage Center
To purchase tickets to the Awards Gala, please visit www.iahof.org or call 773.282.7035, X10



The Ebony Cross by Anne Cassidy Waters

A family saga of love and loss, war and turmoil. A world at war and the ancient land of Ireland makes a thrust for independence from the fading British Empire.

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Danny is also searching and together they attempt to forge their own path.

Can Ellen put aside the shock of witnessing her brothers take the life of a neighbour, in order to help Sarah who has been violated.

The unity of the farm and the three brothers, Liam, Seamus and Ciaran is further fractured when the ebony cross, a symbol of freedom and conflict, is removed.

This is the story of the McShane family, and the bitterness that developed as Ireland struggled for nationhood.

Kindle 4.95 Paperback 14.99

Available at [Amazon.com!](https://www.amazon.com/)

See Story Page 9

Cronin Benefit 4-10 at Gaelic Park

Michael Cronin used to live here in Chicagoland. He worked in construction, and being from County Cork, he was very popular here with his fellow Irish men and women.

He moved back to Ireland with his wife and kids, and was doing well until he had a terrible accident while at work and fell some 50 feet. He survived but unfortunately, he is paralyzed from the shoulders down.

His friends, here have put together a raffle which includes a weeks stay in Florida, and a card game featuring the popular Irish game of 25 which will be held at

Gaelic Park on April 10th at 3pm. All are invited and asked to support Michael and his family.

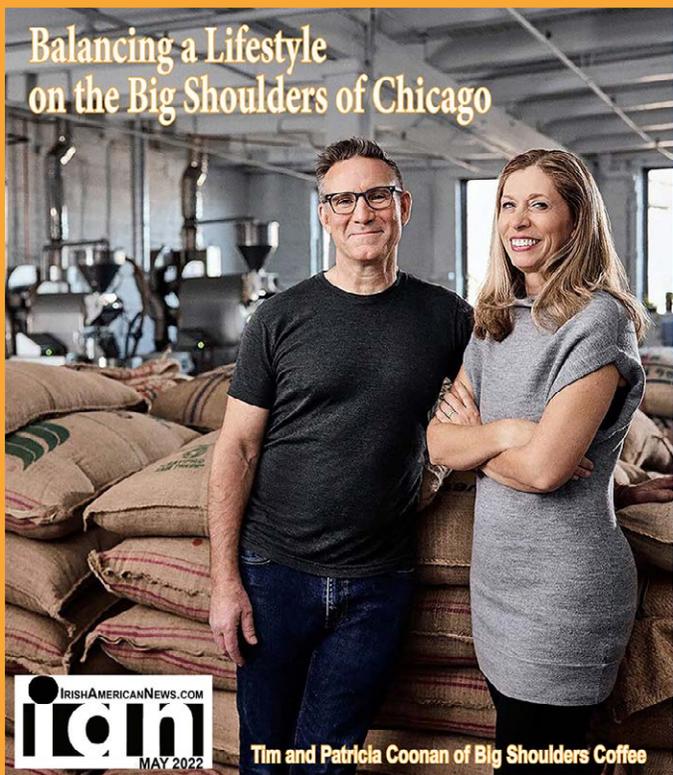
At press time we only have phone numbers, but they are working on a way to donate online.

If you would like to donate you can sponsor a table at the card game, even if you can't be there to play for \$100, and/or you can buy raffle tickets for the week's stay in Florida at \$50 each.

To lend your support, contact Mike Murphy, 708-774-2427, Gerry Neland, 708-601-4678, or Rasher at 708-860-8226.

Coming in Our May Edition
Our New 'Irish in Business' Column
Featuring Tim and Patricia Coonan of
Big Shoulder's Coffee Fame

Balancing a Lifestyle
 on the Big Shoulders of Chicago



Tim and Patricia Coonan of Big Shoulders Coffee



Gaelic Games Rocking Music City

By Conor Doolan

Nashville, the home of Country Music, Hot Chicken and Honky Tonks, is one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. Music City is also home to a dedicated club of Gaelic Football and Hurling fanatics. Though they may be far from the green sods of the Irish homeland, Nashville Gaelic Athletic Club continues to go from strength to strength.

The club origins have their roots in an enthusiastic group of Middle Tennessee State University students who fell in love with hurling. These students joined the Nashville GAC after it was founded by John Watson and Anji Wall. The club's green and gold jerseys are inspired by Blackrock GAA in Cork City.

Historically, Tennessee has a long and proud legacy of Scots-

settling in south eastern states.

Today, the ever-growing Irish community centered around Nashville features traditional dancing and music schools, folk bands, and a local branch of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

In the GAA ranks, the Nashville Gaelic Athletic Club recently won its first invitational football tournament in November. Nash-



Irish settlers dating back to the 1700s. Those early pioneers played their part in the founding of Nashville. For example the Donelson, Robertson and Henderson families can all trace their lineage to Ulster. In the aftermath of Ireland's darkest hour, the Great Hunger, in the mid-1800s Irish families immigrated to the

ville GAC hosted the tournament and featured competition from neighboring clubs from Memphis and Atlanta. Naturally being located far from the major hubs of the Irish diaspora, Nashville's club membership is predominantly American born. Every year the club has a very active social calendar including monthly meetings and family dinners.

Nashville GAC featured as part of an impressive line-up of Irish cultural events in early March, providing exhibition games for the County Sumner Irish Festival, which was held in Bledsoe's Historical Park near Gallatin, Tennessee. Events Manager at Sumner County Tourism Grace McKinney confirmed that 2,300 visitors were exposed to the world of Gaelic Games. The festival itself was a

resounding success.

Chairman Noah Fitzpatrick is keen to develop links with the ever-growing Irish community in Nashville. "This is certainly something we want to continue to see grow," says the Tennessee native Fitzpatrick, who traces his lineage back to County Cork. "Our long-term goal is the establishment of our own Gaelic grounds somewhere in this rapidly expanding city of Nashville, that would be a dream come true - especially if all of the Irish groups continue in working together to promote Irish culture."

"The club is a tight knit group," says Jennifer Barry, Nashville GAC's Public Relations Officer and wife of Cork-born Liam Barry. "Our club consists of folks from all walks of life and we are always looking for new members to join our family." Barry says the

club's next event will be one of the most exciting of the year. "Our next major event is the Music City Invitational Hurling Tournament on April 2nd. We'll be holding it at Ted Rhodes Fields just north of the city center. We'll host clubs from Knoxville, TN; Atlanta, GA; Naperville, IL; Memphis, TN; and many more. So, get in touch. We can be found on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram as NashvilleGAC. We'd love to hear from you!"

Nashville GAC would love to hear from Chicago GAA clubs (football, hurling and camogie) if they want to come down and visit us or vice versa, contact Conor Doolan at

doolan32@gmail.com

Find out more on the clubs at www.nashvillegac.com

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Harold Washington at 100: Rick Kogan Discusses with Author Peter Nolan 4-20

WHO:

The Society of Midland Authors hosts Chicago Tribune columnist and WGN Radio “After Hours” host Rick Kogan in conversation with former NBC5 political reporter Peter Nolan, author of “Campaign! The Election that Rocked Chicago” (Amika Press).

WHAT: *Harold at 100: Politics, Characters and the Great Harold Washington*

WHEN:

Tuesday, April 20, 2022

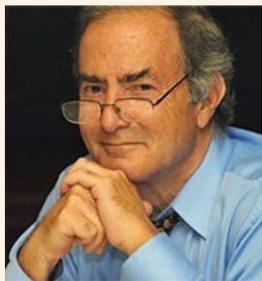
Cocktails 6:00-7:00 p.m. (Cash bar and light refreshment buffet)

Program 7:00-8:00 p.m. Free of charge

and open to the public, no advance registration required

WHERE: Cliff Dwellers Club, 200 S. Michigan Avenue, 22nd Floor, Chicago

WHY: April 15, 2022, marks the 100th birthday of Har-



Rick Kogan



Peter Nolan

old Washington, Chicago’s first African-American mayor. To commemorate this centennial, two veteran newsmen will trade memories and

share their insights regarding Washington’s tumultuous, history-making 1983 election, his time in office and his legacy today. As one of Chicago’s favorite men-about-town, Chicago Tribune and WGN

Radio journalist **Rick Kogan** was in a front row seat during the Washington years. Multi-award-winning television journalist **Peter Nolan** covered Harold Wash-

ington extensively over the course of his long tenure at NBC5 and explains that he was inspired to write his book “Campaign!” because

“I’m not sure there was ever a better time to be a newsman in this town.”

Art Exhibit ‘People’s Choice’ Awards Given Out May 1st

The art show at the Irish American Heritage Center recently was a big success.

Well over 200 people came to view the exhibit!

First prize of \$350 went to **Margaret Prescott** for her oil and cold wax entry, *Winter in County Wicklow*.

Second prize of \$250 was awarded to **Peter Bucks** for his oil painting *Jean’s Coffee*.

The third prize of \$150 went to **Julie San Felipe** for her mixed media piece called *A Child Dancing in the Wind*.

On April 21, as part of “Irish Art in Action,” the gallery will be open from 6-7:00 PM. It will close for a lecture in the library at 7:00 and reopen for 30 minutes to end the night’s events. Go to www.irish-american.org to register for this

The *Irish American Heritage Center Award and Peoples’ Choice Award* will be given out May 1st at the closing reception at which all are invited to attend, scheduled for 1-4 pm.

Artists can take their work home after 3:30pm

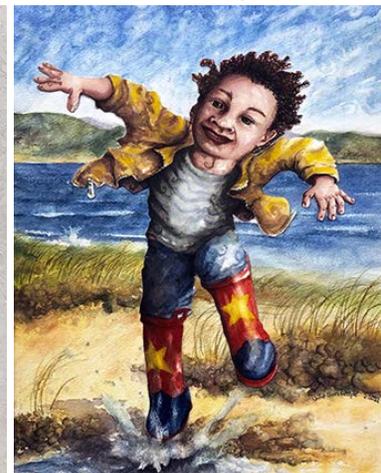
For other opportunities to view the exhibit, contact Kathleen Kelly at 773-736-1713



Margaret Prescott, 1st place *Winter in County Wicklow*



Peter Bucks, 2nd place *Jean’s Coffee*



Julie San Felipe, 3rd place *A Child Dancing in the Wind*



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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.

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In New Book, Loyola Professor Adds Fresh Perspective on Northern Ireland Conflict

By Emmett Fitzpatrick

The Northern Ireland Troubles have been the subject of academic papers, songs, poems, novels, news stories, and even movies (think Belfast) since the signing of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, and local scholar Molly Melin has added to this library with her new book *The Building and Breaking of Peace: Corporate Activities in Civil War Prevention*. In the book, Melin, a Lake Forest resident who serves as Associate Professor of Political Science at Loyola University Chicago, studies the unique role that corporations have played in peacebuilding efforts across the globe, including in Northern Ireland.

Melin spent years engaged in research putting together this book, crisscrossing the globe between countries that recently experienced a resolution of significant conflict. Notably, the role of businesses in resolving the Northern Ireland contrasted with their role in ending the conflict in other places like Colombia, where they

played a more direct role in crafting the agreement, not only urging its passing.

"Corporations in Northern Ireland played an important role in ending the conflict by promoting peace," Melin said during an interview with Irish American News in March. "Businesses were struggling, many of them were a target of bombings, and their main focus was ensuring that a deal was made, not the particulars of the deal."

Melin, an Irish American who has called the Chicago area home since 2008, has particularly relished the experience of researching and leading students on trips to Northern Ireland. Her son, a proud redhead, felt an immediate connection with the people of Derry, and she benefited from engaging with a small academic community of scholars in Belfast and the surrounding area.

"People were so open and willing to help with my research," Melin remarked. "It made me wonder how people who are so friendly could have ended up in such a



Molly Melin

violent situation."

While the peace agreement has largely held, Melin emphasized that Northern Ireland still faces challenges, particularly regarding intergenerational unemployment, continued segregation in schools, and the effects of Brexit. To that end, she currently works with Community Dialogue, a Belfast-based organization that is committed to a dialogue process, developed over the years, to help transform understanding and build trust among people who often hold opposing political, social

and religious views. She believes in the importance of "making peace more desirable for everyday citizens," particularly by providing career and entrepreneurship opportunities for young people to ensure they are invested in maintaining peace.

Questions about the role of businesses in addressing violent conflicts have taken on new relevance as the world witnessed Russia's invasion of Ukraine this year. Melin cautioned against making an exact comparison between 1990s Northern Ireland and present day Ukraine, for one main reason: in the current crisis, companies are largely taking a stand against one side (Russia), rather than acting as impartial supporters of peace, as they did in Northern Ireland. Still, the role that corporations play in conflicts will likely subject of debate for years to come, and Melin shows no signs of slowing down her travel or research activities. This spring, she is embarking on a book tour of Europe and plans to lead a group of Loyola students to Belfast for a special study abroad program next year.

Professor Molly Melin's *The Building and Breaking of Peace: Corporate Activities in Civil War Prevention and Resolution* was published by Oxford University Press in 2021 and is available for purchase online.



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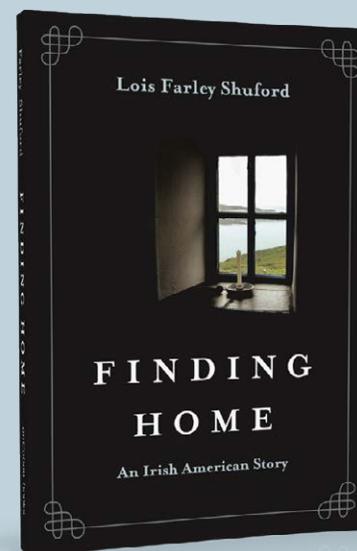
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—Lauren Etter, author of *The Devil's Playbook*

Available from antobarbooks.com or wherever books are sold.

Grave Sites Available Gratis

Single grave sites are available, gratis, to individuals who participated in the struggle for freedom and justice in Ireland.

A few are in Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Hillside, IL. Clan na Gael plot in Lot A, Block 1, Section G.

More are in Chicago's Mt. Olivet Cemetery, 2900 W. 111th St., in the Irish Nationalist Brotherhood plot 340 in Section 15. For further information contact maryosullivanpaa@gmail.com or 312/664-7651



Turtle Bunbury Celebrates the Lives of Global Irish

Turtle Bunbury's Global Irish is a new series celebrating the extraordinary lives of Irish people who found fame in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. The Global Irish episodes will be released on a weekly basis, which began with the story of Hercules Mulligan (1740 - 1825), the Irish tailor and Patriot spy who saved none other than George Washington's life...not once, but twice!

The next episodes include: **Ernest Shackleton (1874 - 1922)**: The Kildare-born sailor, one of the most remarkable explorers of all time, whose heroic exploits in Antarctica have inspired people for over a hundred years. The discovery of the wreck of Shackleton's ship *Endurance*, announced on 9 March 2022, makes this especially timely.

Nellie Cashman (1845 - 1925): The Cork woman who befriended Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, and became known as the 'Angel of the Cassiar' after a daring rescue operation in British Columbia.

The Incredible Mr (Arthur) Kavanagh (1831-1889): The limbless nobleman from County Carlow who became one of the most astonishing travellers in history.

Lola Montez (1821 - 1861): The incredible tale of the tempestuous Sligo-born dancer who seduced Franz Liszt and brought King Ludwig of Bavaria crashing down before embarking upon a new life running a saloon for gold miners in California.

Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 - 1930) The remarkable story of the Sherlock Holmes creator's Irish roots.

Turtle Bunbury's Global Irish will be available weekly across all podcast platforms, including Spotify, A-Cast, Audible and Apple.

Commenting on the origins of the series, Turtle Bunbury said: "I've always been very passionate about the subject of the Irish abroad, and the impact they have made on history. I was a travel writer for many years, and I always looked for Irish connections wherever I went. I was never disappointed. I adore telling these tales through the medium of podcasts, and I am thrilled to work with *The Irishman*, a delightful portfolio of whiskeys produced in my own home county of Carlow."

Bernard Walsh, the creator of *The Irishman* portfolio, and Managing Director of Walsh Whiskey, observed:

"Turtle has curated a wonderful cast, whose lives coincided with the original golden era of Irish whiskey from the 18th to early 20th centuries, for us to explore. They all lived extraordinary lives by the standards of any century, begging the question - were their exploits shaped by Irish spirit or the spirit of the Irish? We hope listeners of the podcasts will join us both in spirit and with spirit!"



Turtle Bunbury (Historian & Author) with Bernard Walsh, Creator of *The Irishman* and Co-Founder of Walsh Whiskey at Lisnavagh House in County Carlow

Turtle Bunbury is one of Ireland's most prolific historians, with over twenty published books, as well as an active podcaster and a frequent figure on Irish television and radio. His 2021 book, *The Irish Diaspora* was described by BBC History Magazine as 'a fascinating assortment of case histories ... impeccably researched.' The launch of Global Irish coincides with the installation of his 50th Past Tracks history panel in an Irish railway station, a collaboration with Irish Rail / Iarnród Éireann.

Turtle was awarded the Gilmartin Medal in 2021. Turtle is married to the novelist Ally Bunbury. They live in County Carlow, Ireland, with their two daughters.

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mentia and sleep deprivation? A bad night's sleep might harm your mental health the following day. A

How Sleep Deprivation Affects Dementia

Sleep deprivation, or sleep apnea, is a common disrupted sleep condition with significant health effects. Approximately a third of individuals in the United States sleep fewer than seven hours each night, less than the recommended minimum. A lack of sleep has immediate implications, such as an inability to think the next day if you don't get enough sleep the night before. However, what happens if you barely get enough sleep for days at a time?

This article discusses how chronic sleep deprivation is related to an increased risk of dementia, a loss of cognitive function that Aishling Care Academy targets to educate caregivers. We'll refer to dementia rather than Alzheimer's disease in this text for brevity. There are different types of dementia, but Alzheimer's is the most prevalent.

Chronic Sleep Deprivation

Everyone has the occasional night when they don't get that much rest. You may not be your best self afterwards if this continues for a few nights. Acute sleep deprivation is what you're experiencing. Consistent sleep deprivation can exacerbate the condition. It progresses to chronic after three months of not getting adequate sleep.

When you don't get enough shut-eye, what happens to your brain?

A well-rested brain is more efficient than one that is not. When you sleep, your brain gets a chance to recharge.

While sleeping, you become less conscious of what's happening around you, your motions slow down, and your metabolic rate slows down. Your brain relaxes and replenishes during this stage of sleep. Your brain has been rested in the morning, leading to clearer thoughts.

On the other hand, lack of sleep might compromise your brain's ability to work correctly. Eventually, you will feel the consequences of not getting enough sleep throughout your body since your brain is in charge of everything you do and everything you think. Depriving yourself of enough sleep regularly has been shown to negatively affect your mood, cognitive clarity, and physical stamina.

What is the relationship between de-

mentia and sleep deprivation? A bad night's sleep might harm your mental health the following day. A lack of sleep over a long period can cause significant and long-lasting difficulties with your mental health. Those who sleep fewer than 4 hours a night, for example, are at greater risk of memory loss and cognitive impairment.

Although further study is needed, a history of sleep problems appears to raise the chance of developing dementia in specific individuals. According to one research, sleep deprivation may increase your risk of dementia by 20%. Even obtaining less than the recommended amount of sleep each night in your middle years might boost your future risk of the said condition.

Additionally, according to recent find-


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ings, sleep deprivation can increase your risk of dementia. The study showed a single night of sleep deprivation to increase levels of beta-amyloid in the brain, which are proteins linked to the impaired ability to think. After missing a night's sleep, beta-amyloid levels in the subjects' brains rose in the brain regions including the thalamus and hippocampus. These brain regions are particularly sensitive to damage in the early stages of dementia.

Bottom Line

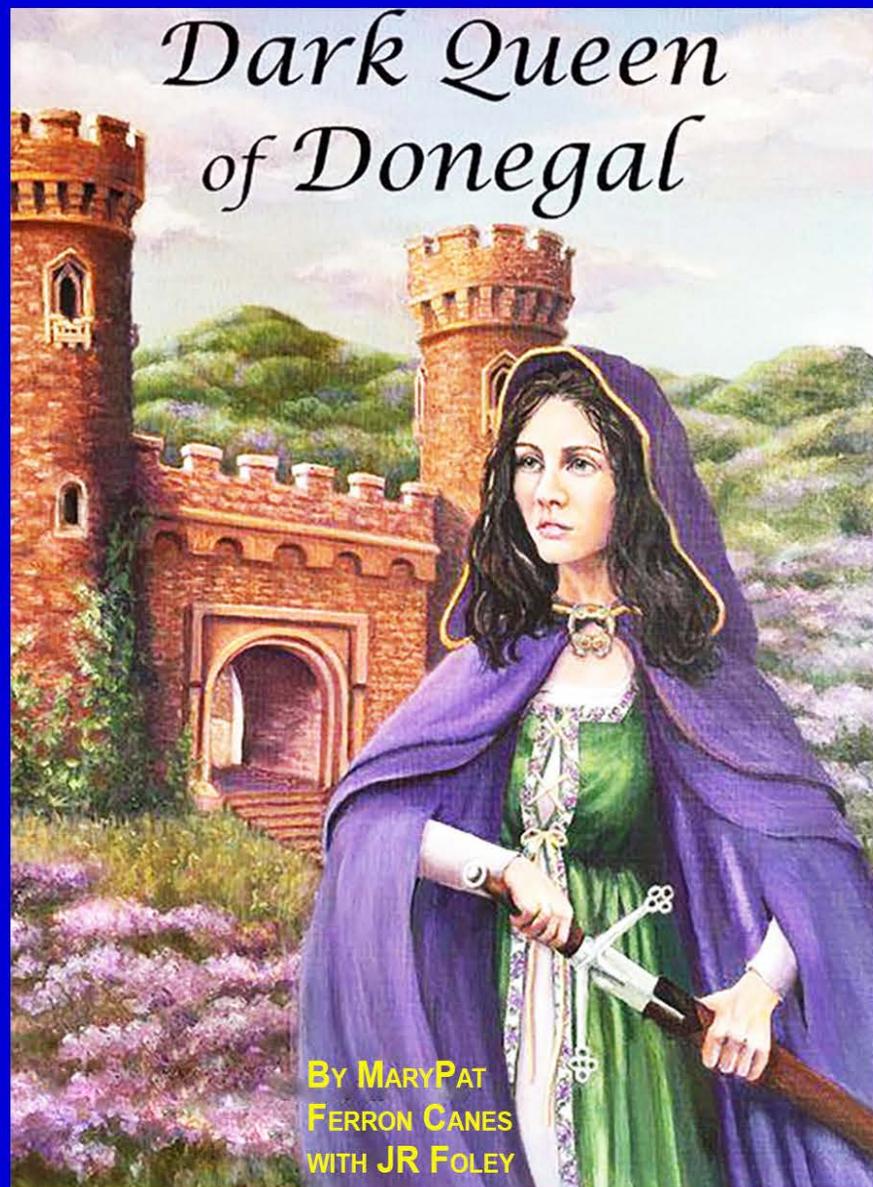
Getting enough sleep is much more critical than previously realized. Depriving yourself of sleep regularly can have significant repercussions, including an increased chance of developing dementia. Moreover, prioritizing a good night's sleep is essential to a healthy aging process.

Patients with dementia need a different type of care and approach. Aishling Care Academy, with its simulations and real-life informative demo, equips caregivers with the needed skill and manner of caring for the elderly with dementia. Contact us to know more about our courses.



PEN WOMEN PRESS PRESENTS

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BY MARYPAT FERRON CANES WITH JR FOLEY

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We Get Letters

Remembering Ireland the Way it Was!

My childhood recollections of St. Patrick's Day in the land of St. Patrick's Day was always a day off from School! Up at cock's crow, we dressed in our Sunday best. We dare not forget to leave the house, without wearing our shamrocks and badges. The badge was a green material that consisted of a gold harp and a picture of St. Pat himself.

The girls also wore green mirrors in their hair.

Our hasty breakfast included bacon, boiled eggs, soda bread with butter and marmalade.

A rushed exit handed us in Church where we received our endless sermon.

With a sip and a hop we were loading the carriages, lorries, private cars and trucks with provisions and passengers.

Our first stop was a mile away at the Parish sports field. There we did the 3-legged race, skip rope, tug-o-war and much more. There were no winners or losers that day, all were victorious.

After we tidied up, we were on our way to the nearest town. There in the Barrach's Square the parade begins.

The opening is "The Soldier's Song." All musicians are present and participating. The observers and the listeners notice and hear their favorite songs and join in the chorus.

As the parade comes to an end, the gentlemen decide to

wet their lips. As a rule the pubs are closed, so they gain entrance by the back door. Hours fade and by gum, you'll sei neither hide nor hair of them til hunger strikes!

In the meantime, the young ladies treat themselves to a matinee.

Now the drivers are prepared to head home after a long day. We are now counting heads as we enter the vehicles, that transported us to town.

With blistered heels, skinned knees, scraped elbows, we're seeking a comfortable spot to rest.

How elated we are to see our unloading zone!

The mothers usually remain home to prepare the exciting meal for supper. The table has been set with more than usual care. Our dishes had to be stain free, or it's not to be used. It annoyed us that such preparation was necessary on this day!

Our elaborate dinner consisted of mashed potatoes with lots of butter, cabbage, fried onions and roast Goos with dressing.

After a heavy meal we enjoyed records on the gramophone. We danced the jigs, reels, and hornpipes til we were motionless and still.

Grandpa enjoyed winding the record player which was a great help to us.

The young adults were allowed to attend "the Irish Ceile" in the nearby town.

They were expected home by midnight. Most of them returned in the wee hours of the morning

Depleted of all energy we call it a day.

Already we are looking forward to next year's festivities! Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Joan McDonough

Dear Cliff, I enjoy reading The Irish American News each month. I felt that **Conor O'Connor's** column, Generation Next, "Time for Ireland to Join NATO", on page 34 of the March issue, was excellent! Very concise and very well-written. Sincerely, Helene Hembreiker

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On the Upbeat

By Maryann
McTeague Keifer

We made it through the High Holy Month, and wasn't it exciting to be able to celebrate it again with friends and family, live music, and lots of good craic?! Concerts with Lunasa, Danu, Bohola, Goitse, Socks in the Frying Pan, We Banjo 3, Screaming Orphans, Dervish, and all of our great local bands and musicians, parades, activities at Gaelic Park and IAHC, and tipping a pint with friends at a pub gave us a feeling of normalcy after two years of Covid cancellations. It felt good! This month there are a few more concerts including The Martin Hayes Quartet at Old Town School of Folk Music, The Big Squeeze of Jimmy Keane and John Williams at Chief O'Neill's, and The Byrne Brothers at IAHC. Get your tickets, support these musicians who can finally be out playing, and enjoy yourselves. Hit a session at Chief O'Neill's, Galway Arms, The Grafton, Harp & Fiddle, Galway Bay, Gaelic Park, IAHC, or one of the many other pubs.

Summer festivals are returning in almost full force. Milwaukee and Dublin, Ohio have announced their headliners and you'll need to get your calendars marked for weekends of stellar music!

Another thing starting to return to normal is the release of new albums, and they are beginning to be produced and several released. We Banjo 3, Goitse, Runa, and Boxing Banjo all have albums in the final production stages to be released between now and the start of the summer festivals.

An album worked on during the pandemic and just released is *Le Chèile* by three of Scotland's most talented and prolific musicians, Charlie McKerron, Brian ÓhEadhra, and Sandy Brechin. A collection of dance tunes to get your toes tapping, slow airs that will wring your emotions, and gorgeous songs in Gaelic, this album will keep your interest throughout and definitely not disappoint!

Long standing member of Capercaillie, Session A9, The Big Sky, Celtic Fiddle Festival, and often playing with Tim Edey, Charlie McKerron is known for being a wizard with his fiddle. He produces for other musicians, composes and will enthrall you with his playing whether it be a beautiful air or a driving reel...

Dublin born, raised in Ireland and Newfoundland, musician, singer and songwriter based in Inverness for over 35 years now, Brian ÓhEadhra benefits from the varied musical genres he was exposed to and the fluent Irish and Irish folklore of his father in composing and performing his

songs and music. His vocals are like running velvet over your skin-smooth, soft and make you feel so good! Living in Inverness for over 35 years now, he often performs with his wife, Fionnag NicChoinnich and also Tim Edey.

Sandy Brechin holds the title of one of Scotland's most sought after accordionists.

Acknowledged for his amazing fast finger-work, his innovative style is known all over. He began playing when he was 8 years old in his town just outside of Edinburgh, and has been playing in bands and professionally since his teens.

Le Chèile gives you three huge names who have presented us with an album that will become a favorite in your collection with its beautiful Gaelic, Scots, and Irish songs and hand clapping toe tappin' tunes. Take a special listen to "Mo Nighean Donn Bhòidheach," a gorgeous song singing of a lost love. "Waiting for the Federals" set is a great introduction to the tunes. This album is a definite contender for Trad Album of the Year!

Another spectacular album out this year is from West Kerry born multi award winning singer and flute player Muireann Nic Amhlaóibh. Former longtime singer with Danu for the last 5 years, she has embarked on a successful solo career. Her new collection, *Róisín Reimagined* with the Irish Chamber Orchestra has taken the 'big songs' of the tradition, all examples of the native Irish Classical culture, and given them more depth and style. The producer Dónal O'Connor, the

Kilkenny Arts Festival and the Irish Chamber Orchestra commissioned six modern composers/arrangers Cormac McCarthy (who lived in Chicago for several years), Michael Keeney, Linda Buckley, Paul Campbell, Niamh Varian-Barry, and Sam Perkin to add

their creativity to the beauty of each song. All come from very different musical genres.

Opening with a gorgeous version of "Róisín Dubh," the album invites you in to sit back, relax, and enjoy these sean-nós songs in a setting of stunning accompaniments. Muireann has always been known for her clear, enchanting voice, and this album positions her in a perfect setting. A brilliant alto, her voice here has almost a wooden flute or perhaps that of an oboe sound, full and rich. Raised as a native Irish speaker, Muireann navigates the lyrics with ease. It is nearly impossible to highlight one song over another as the quality throughout the album is extremely high so as to make that a difficult task. Muireann is able to take even the most difficult of songs, such as "An Chulfhionn, and pour it out with spirit.

Róisín Unimagined is high end, classy, and should be on your shelf for those evenings you want beauty and quiet. We can only keep our fingers crossed that a tour or at least a program video of this becomes available.

I should also not that the it comes with an extensive booklet with the lyrics of each song in Irish and English.

A quick mention before we run out of room here, local singer, Jim Sullivan, has just released an EP of three songs accompanied by some inimitable musicians, Jimmy Moore on guitar, bass, and whistle, John Williams on accordion and concertina, Matt O'Connor on harmonica, and Tim Mulvenna on percussion. Including "Isle of Innisfree," "The Glory of Love," and a beautiful rendition of "Over the Rainbow," this albumette well displays Jim's lovely baritone voice and ability to tell a story through song.

The music is back!



Outside
Al Fresco
Dining

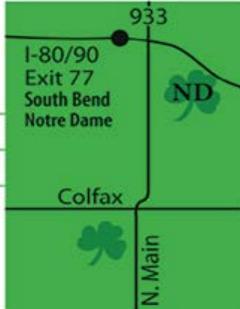
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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



Greetings from Gaelic Park!

March witnessed our St. Patrick's festivities back in full swing. Our annual "Ireland on Parade" hosted four nights of outstanding performances by 10 Irish dancing schools as well as traditional music by The Irish Musicians. "South Side Irish Sunday" drew a huge crowd of all ages happily resuming the traditional celebration following Mass and Irish Breakfast. And St. Patrick's Day sees the return of our Luncheon and all-day musical lineup.

Gaelic Park was well represented in four parades this year—our float even took first place in the professional category of the Tinley Park Irish Parade! Of special note, our past President, Judge John Griffin (Ret.), served as the Grand Marshall of the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. And long-time Gaelic Park supporters, the late Tom and Cathy (nee Bourke) Chambers, were the Chicago Parade's Special Guests of Honor, represented by their sons, T.J., Mike, and Kevin. We congratulate Judge Griffin as well as the Chambers and Bourke families.

The fine weather of "South Side Irish Sunday" surely is a signal that spring is around the corner! Gaelic Park will be partnering with St. Vincent de Paul for a clothing and household items donation drive on April 9th and 10th. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on April 9th, and Easter Dinner will be offered on April 17th.

We invite you to stop by and experience the warmth of good food, friends, and fun at Gaelic Park in April! In the meantime, the blessings of St. Patrick to you and your families.

Noreen Lennon Hegarty
Gaelic Park Board Member



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- > Books
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- > Office Supplies
- > Old Electronics***
- >Baby Items****
- >Household Items

Free items are provided through our emergency voucher program, which provides free clothing, furniture, and household items to those in need

Furniture – larger items can be brought to stores or call to schedule a pick up

Old Electronics – computers, lap tops, key boards, mice, flat screen monitors

****Baby Items - excluding baby cribs****

****We CANNOT accept the following items - mattresses, TVs, pianos, organs, broken/unusable furniture.****

Bring Your Donations!

We are hosting a pick up event at a location near you!

Chicago Gaelic Park

April 9 & 10 10am-2pm

Oak Forest, IL

Thank you!



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Saturday April 9, 2022

Gaelic Park's Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

11 a.m. Start Time

Chicago Gaelic Park - 6119 W. 147th Street
Oak Forest, IL 708-687-9323
www.chicagogaelicpark.com

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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



ENTERTAINMENT IN *the Carraig* Irish Pub

March - Live Music!

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- April 2nd St James Gate
- April 8th Kieran Byrne
- April 9th Bill O 'Donahue
- April 15th Bernie Glim
- April 16th Damien Patrick
- April 22nd The Rockets
- April 23rd Gerry Haughey
- April 29th TBA

Friday Entertainment 7.30pm Saturday starts 8pm

TRINGO IS EVERY TUESDAY 7PM!

Senior Luncheon
April 6th Joe Cullen



Gaelic Park's Easter Sunday Carvery Sunday, April 17, 2022

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And for Dessert...

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Served from 2:00pm to 5:00pm

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Who is Liam Neeson? He is an actor from Co. Antrim, N. Ireland. The famous Giant's causeway is found in Antrim. (40,000 basalt interlocking columns) I thought of Neeson because he just came out with a new movie titled, "Blacklight". It didn't get great reviews but Neeson's acting was outstanding. It's about a government agent caught in the crosshairs of conspiracies and agents covers being blown. Neeson took boxing lessons in his adolescents, he won several regional titles. He went to St. Patrick's college where he discovered a love of drama. He attended teacher training but left it for the theater. Basically, the rest is history. Neeson went on to star in "Schindler's list", "Michael Collins", and "The Chronicles of Narnia". He has been in over one hundred films. Some say Schindler's list was his biggest blockbuster, it is about the Holocaust.

Neeson married Natasha Richardson an English actress. But tragically she died in a skiing accident in Canada. They had two sons together. Neeson donated Richardson's organs. One person's organs can save up to eight lives with organ donation.

Liam Neeson and I have something in common besides being Irish and that is we are against the use of guns. Some say



GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

BY TINA BUTLER

he is a hypocrite because in most of his movies he is carrying a gun however that is only in the movies. Neeson is very much for controlling who owns a gun and very much in favor of gun safety and strong gun laws.

Neeson was awarded an honorary doctorate from Queens university in Belfast. He was appointed Goodwill ambassador to UNICEF. (United Nations Children's Fund 1946)

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Sadly, Neeson's mother Kitty died in 2020 he was unable to attend her funeral due to the pandemic travel restrictions. Neeson narrated the

and very dear. Death leaves a heartache no one can heal; love leaves a memory no one can steal." Headstone in Ireland Gaelic for the month Actor-aisteoir, Movie-scannan, Talent-ed-cumasach Widower-baintreach fir

I received a message from Fire Chief & Author Patrick Kenny. He wrote a book titled, "Taking the Cape off, How to lead through mental illness, Unimaginable grief & loss". I am eager to read Patrick's book as I have experienced some mental health issues myself.

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



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE APRIL 2022

What a FUN month we had in March! It was so, SO wonderful seeing the building buzzing with our members and guests, music flooding the Fifth Province or Mayfair Theater, dancing on St. Patrick's Day, and people flitting in and out of our Gift Shop! It makes my heart flutter knowing that we have many more wonderful events and evenings coming up in the future!

Last month we kicked off our Friday Fish Fries, along with our Irish Arts in Practice series and our Spring Inspirations: A Biennial Visual Art Exhibit. Our Mayfair Theater hosted Jig Jam, Cherish the Ladies, the Screaming Orphans, a screening of A Quiet Man, and we were joined by many of our local favorite artists in the Fifth Province, such as the John Williams Trio and the Sullivan Brothers. We celebrated our Irish Heritage at the Wearing of the Green, our St. Patrick's Fest, and on actual St. Patrick's Day! While March was filled with our Irish and Irish-American heritage, April proves to be just as abundant in Irish culture!

Join us on April 30th for our Irish American Hall of Fame gala as we induct our 2020 class (we're so excited to finally hold this awards ceremony now that Covid19 restrictions have eased). Please visit www.iahof.org to view the 2020 class of inductees! Join us for one of our Friday Fish Fries before Easter, and stay for music in the Fifth Province and a pint! On April 21st we'll host the session "Women's Work?" as the third part of our Irish Art in Practice series, and this lecture is available both online and in-person at the IAHC. Manchán Magan—Irish writer, performer, playwright, traveler and documentary

maker—joins us on April 27th to perform "Arán and Im." We also have an evening of Anam Cara Creative Writing storytelling on April 18th and another tea session, "The Trials of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln," on April 23rd. Visit us at www.irish-american.org for more information on upcoming events, and to purchase your tickets where necessary!

How exciting it is to see the Irish American Heritage Center bustling again with all of the wonderful things that bring us together as a community! It was delightful

seeing everyone back at our events in March, and we look forward to seeing you around the building in April! Until we meet again!



Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel, President
Irish American Heritage Center



Image by Rita Duffy from Anatomy of Hope 2021

Irish Art In Practice

Legacies of Justice (via Zoom March 3, 2022)

Demands of Hope (via Zoom March 31, 2022)

Women's Work? (In-Person & via Zoom April 21, 2022)

7PM Central/8PM EST

Join us for a three-part lecture series this Winter/Spring 2022, facilitated by Jennifer Keating, Ph.D. RSVP irish-american.org



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Arán

By Manchán Magan

& Im



Join the Irish American Heritage Center for a one of a kind opportunity.

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A celebration of Irish language

Arán & Im is a celebration of language, land and local Irish food, with freshly-baked traditional sourdough bread for the audience to slice and spread with butter they churn themselves from Irish cream.

Arán & Im is produced in association with New York's Irish Arts Center and is generously supported by Culture Ireland.

Local support is generously provided by Chicago and the Irish American Heritage Center's own partners, na Gaeil Chicago, sharing the Irish Language.

For more information on na Gaeil, visit <https://www.nagaeil.org/>

Only 100 participants will be able to view this one of a kind performance.

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Here's what happening in April at the Center!

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY

March 4 - April 15, 2022

6:30-9pm in the Fifth Province

Adults: \$17 • Children Under 12: \$12



Bring the whole family out during Lent for our traditional Irish Fish Fry.

The meal includes fish and chips, cole slaw and a vegetable.

Live music begins at 8pm.

Join us in the Fifth Province for a rare pub performance by troubadour Josh Okeefe.

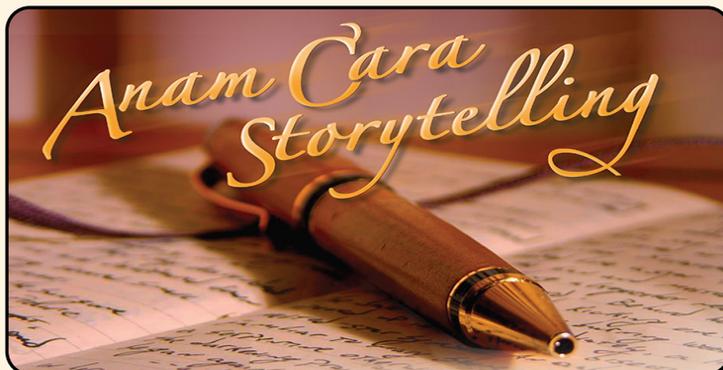
Josh has sold-out shows from California to New York, Nashville, London, Glasgow and everywhere in between. He has performed with Kris Kristofferson, Alison Krause, and Rufus Wainwright – among many others! The opportunity to see this gifted young singer song-writer should not be missed!



Josh's April 8th performance begins at 8:00pm. And as we like to do in the Fifth Province

Friday, April 8th, 2022
8:00—11:00pm

There is no cover charge!



Enjoy an evening of humorous, heartfelt and riveting storytelling by students of the IAHC Memoir and Creative Writing classes.

Join us in the Library at the Irish American Heritage Center, and enjoy the product of these workshops.

Monday, April 18, 2022 6:30pm-9pm

Tickets: \$5 at the door

2022 Tea Series

MARY TODD LINCOLN

Teacher and performer Lynn Rymarz will portray Mary Todd Lincoln in a one-woman performance at the Irish American Heritage Center as part of our 2022 Tea Series performances.

Saturday, April 23rd, 11am to 1pm
Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children under twelve.

To purchase tickets call 773-282-7035, x 10.

Join one of our most popular performers, Lynn Rymarz, as we explore the tragic and fascinating life of Mary Todd Lincoln!



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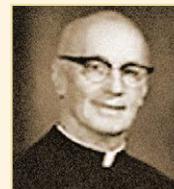
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Join us Saturday, April 30 in the Erin Room as we celebrate our 10th Year of the Irish American Hall of Fame!

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER  UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

Ireland Network Flourishes in Chicagoland

By Mike Danahey

Next year marks a significant milestone for Ireland Network Chicago, its 20th anniversary.

Heeding the oft-quoted advice from noted Chicago architect and urban designer Daniel Burnham, the nonprofit is making no little plans, but aiming high in hope and work.

"In preparation, we are currently working on a five-year strategic plan, one that aims to inform, entice and engage our members, partners and the wider Irish community," said INC Executive Director, Katie Fitzpatrick. "We will continue to deliver on our mission to strengthen a vibrant, diverse Irish community that is connected to Ireland and to each other."

Fitzpatrick is the organization's first paid employee. In 2021, Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs, through its Emigrant Support Programme, agreed to fund a part-time executive director role to oversee the organization's professional development and strategic direction.

That support comes because of the role INC plays in connecting the Irish, Chicago-Irish and beyond.

"While there are a number of well-established Irish organizations in Chicago, INC occupies a unique space by providing a direct bridge to the Chicago business and Irish communities for those who have recently arrived from Ireland and those who have a strong connection to contemporary Ireland," Fitzpatrick said.

Fitzpatrick also noted INC's concept - to serve as a business and social network of

Irish living and working in Chicago - has been so successful that other cities have adopted the idea.

"In 2010, the national umbrella organization, Irish Network USA, was established to integrate the various chapters that had popped up across the U.S.," Fitzpatrick said.

INC began in 2003 as a vision realized by a small group of expats, many of whom remain active in the organization today,

Fitzpatrick said. The group currently has 230 members, many of whom came on board in recent years.

"Since 2021, despite the pandemic, INC has more than tripled our membership," Fitzpatrick said. "We are proud that we provided valuable services that helped connect our members and the Irish community during this incredibly difficult time."

INC has also donated thousands of dollars to *Concern Worldwide*, *Irish Community Services*, *the Dolehide-Calderon family* and other Irish-related causes.

"Philanthropy to our own from our own is, and always will be, our major accomplishment," Fitzpatrick said.

As it prepares to enter its third decade, INC's goal is to grow and scale.

"We intend to do this by being more purposeful in how we promote Ireland's economic and trade priorities; by providing quality programming, thought leadership and networking opportunities at little to no cost to the Irish community; and by helping

our members and partners find success in Chicago," Fitzpatrick said.

A social and business hub, INC membership is open to anybody who is Irish, Irish-American or has an affinity for Ireland, Fitzpatrick said. Dues are \$80/year.

People are welcome to get a feel for INC by attending its First Fridays, social events held at a different Irish establishment on the first Friday of each month. Fitzpatrick said those gatherings usually draw veteran INC members, new arrivals from Ireland, J1 students, visa holders looking to connect with Irish companies and everyone in between.

The INC calendar also includes "IN Conversations," its speakers' series on diverse topics of relevance and interest to the Irish community, along with a summer boat cruise, a golf outing and a variety of partner events.

The group also will be choosing its next president in May, when Garrett Diamond's two-year term ends. Diamond has been involved with INC since its early days and will continue to do so.



Katie Fitzpatrick



Garrett Diamond

As an employee of the Fitzpatrick Hotels at the time, Diamond attended Ireland Network Chicago's initial galas in the early 2000s. Then, when he owned a small Irish pub in Wrigleyville, while not directly involved in the Network, Diamond's place hosted some First Fridays and other small events.

Finding himself in the job market, in 2016 Diamond wound up getting involved in the group by serving on its executive committee, where his friend, James Sheehan, was the president. Diamond now works as an account executive with Stuart Dean, a company that provides interior and exterior architectural restoration services.

Irish Theatre of Chicago Presents Molly Sweeney

Molly Sweeney, By Brian Friel

Directed by Ensemble Member Siiri Scott Thru May 8, 2022 at The Chopin Theatre

Irish Theatre of Chicago is pleased to

Gregory (costume design), Smooch Medina (lighting design), Agata Pacia (sound design) Evan Sposato (production design), Parick Starner (production manager) and Jen Bukovsky* (stage manager).



Matthew Isler, Robert Kauzlaric, Carolyn Kruse

return to the Chicago stage with Brian Friel's moving play *Molly Sweeney*, directed by Ensemble Member Siiri Scott, playing March 31 - May 8, 2022 at The Chopin Studio Theatre, 1543 W. Division Street in Chicago. Tickets go on sale shortly at www.irishtheatre.org. The press opening is Saturday, April 2 at 7 pm.

Molly Sweeney features ensemble members Matthew Isler*, Robert Kauzlaric* and Carolyn Kruse*.

Blind since birth, Molly knows the world through touch, sound, taste and smell. When her hopeful husband and ambitious doctor propose restoring her sight, everyone begins to understand things may not be as they appear. Brian Friel, Ireland's master storyteller, brings us a riveting contemporary drama about the unexpected consequences of a medical miracle.

The production team for includes Jessica Baldinger (scenic design), Louise

COVID protocols: To ensure the health and safety of artists, audiences and staff, proof of vaccination and masking is required at all performances. These protocols are subject to change based on evolving guidance from Actors' Equity Association, the City of Chicago, the State of Illinois and the CDC.



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By Jim August

Thought for Food

April is the month that we can finally bid winter goodbye. Granted we still may experience some cold weather and perhaps even snow but we know it isn't going to last. Everywhere you look spring bulbs are pushing their heads up and the trees are budding leaves. This long, awaited rebirth of the land also brings the first local vegetables to the marketplace and one of my favorites, asparagus.

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With Michigan being the self-proclaimed asparagus capital of the world, you don't have to look hard to find some really fresh spears in the market place. Nothing like the overcooked mushy stuff that came out of a can that I was subjected to when I was a kid.

So how do you buy asparagus, and then what do you do with it. First of all asparagus comes in an array of sizes and colors ranging from green to white to purple. I prefer buying asparagus that is slightly smaller than my little finger. If you get the really thin stuff you almost need to eat it raw in a salad or as a garnish. If it is really thick the stems will be very woody and definitely need to be peeled. I must say this is the best size to poach and serve with Hollandaise sauce. When buying asparagus make sure the tips are firm and not wilted or mushy. Avoid spears if the bottoms are wrinkled and look shriveled this is a sign of old asparagus that is dehydrated. In other words look for asparagus that has bright color and is firm.

Here's a simple way to determine the best part of the asparagus to use. Hold at both ends and bend. The asparagus spear will snap in two. I never like to waste anything so I save the bottom part to make soup. It's best to peel the bottoms then put them in a food processor with carrots, celery, and onion and pulse until finely chopped. Put this mixture in a stock pot with some butter and cook for about 10 minutes over medium heat until softened but not browned. Add the same amount of flour as you did butter and cook another 5 minutes

stirring constantly. If you are gluten free skip the flour. Add enough vegetable or chicken stock to cover by 1 inch and simmer for 30 minutes. Season with salt, pepper and a pinch of nutmeg. If you have a stick blender you can use it to puree the soup. Add corn starch mixed with water to thicken then add a little milk or cream. You can use this as a basic recipe and substitute the asparagus with broccoli,



cauliflower, spinach, potatoes, or any other vegetable you may have.

Grilled asparagus can be served hot or room temperature as a side dish or part of a vegetable platter. Just toss with salt, pepper and a little olive oil and place on a hot grill across the grates. Grill for a couple of minutes turning once and remove when spears start to char. This can happen very quickly so be careful not to burn your asparagus. Serve with a squeeze of lemon, salt and pepper, shaved parmesan, and a balsamic glaze. Perfect for any meat, poultry, or fish dish. I like to add grilled asparagus to salads, and white pizzas with mushrooms. We will talk about pizzas at another

time.

Try cutting asparagus into 1inch pieces and add to a sauté pan with some olive oil, sliced cremini mushrooms, spinach or zucchini, cherry or grape tomatoes cut in half, chopped onion and garlic, fresh thyme, and salt and pepper. Cover and cook over medium high heat for about 10 minutes. Remove lid and continue to cook until veg starts to caramelize. Add some peeled and deveined raw shrimp, and a splash of white wine and cook 2-3 minutes until shrimp are pink. Add a good knob of butter and a couple of tablespoons of pasta water. Serve over linguine or farfalle pasta with a little grated parmesan cheese and fresh parsley

Asparagus is also excellent blanched and served with a lemon butter, or Hollandaise sauce, and is perfect in a quiche and risotto. Just add the spears to salted boiling water and cook for about 2 minutes, drain and use as a side or add to your favorite recipe.

So the next time you see asparagus in the produce department don't be afraid to pick some up. Asparagus will transform any recipe into something special.

Basic Vegetable Soup

Ingredients Makes 8 Servings

- 2 lbs vegetable of choice rough chopped
 - 2 carrots rough chopped
 - 3 ribs celery rough chopped
 - 2 medium onions chopped
 - 3 tbs unsalted butter
 - 3 tbs flour
 - 6 cups c chicken or vegetable stock
 - 3 tbs corn starch mixed with water to make a slurry
 - ½ cup cream or milk
 - Salt and pepper to taste
 - Pinch of nutmeg
- See you next month with some Memorial Day BBQ ideas**



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Pat Barry does several shows:

LiR Confidential - Politics & Current Affairs

The Panel - A Panel show that deals with more light hearted subjects along with international political and current affairs of the day. This show includes award winning Irish journalist and broadcaster **Alison O'Reilly** (the woman who broke the Mother and Baby homes scandal along with Catherine Corless).

Pat also hosts a sports show panel with **Joe Waters** (former Irish international soccer player, Grimsby town and Leicester City hero. Joe has spent over 30 years in Seattle Washington as a coach with Tacoma. Also on the show is **Derwynne Honan**, one of the worlds best 3D golf coaches. Derwynne works often in the US and was Volvo Masters Amateur Golf coach.

Martin Lennon is their movie and tv expert and does a show called Mart's Movies Review and also one called Mart's TV Reviews.

Tony Browne is the founder of Limerick Historical Society and an advisor for the US version of Who Do You Think You Are. He did the research for the episode on Stephen Colbert, US chat show host. Tony's shows are The Limerick Historical Society Show and The Irish Politics Show. He has had politicians and historians from all corners of the country on his show and it's

hugely popular with the Irish American audience.

Dave Sheehan does a health, fitness and wellness show called Bringing Back the Smile

Siobhan Gannon does a Women's focused show called The Women's Empowerment Hour, also very popular internationally. Siobhan lives in the Gaeltacht area of Galway in Connamara.

John Prendergast has a current affairs and politics show called What Matters and he has a very large Irish American viewership for his show.

Dr. Mary Honan has two shows called Be My Guest and My Story

On Be My Guest she interviews people from all walks of life and each corner of the globe. The show deals with all topics of interest to the Irish and international

audiences.

Her show, My Story, focuses mainly on the lives and experiences of child survivors of the Holocaust and their children as well as survivors of all genocides. She has interviewed ambassadors such as Mr. Dan Mulhal, Adolf L, Irish Ambassador accredited to the US, Mr James Lamb, Honorary Consul for W. Virginia & Pennsylvania, USA and others. Mary has also interviewed Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger, a Florida MD whose is a convert to Judaism and whose father was a highly decorated Nazi (decorated personally by Adolf Hitler), Mariam Ibrahim originally from the Sudan who was sentenced to death in Somalia and was freed and now lives in the US, and Emily Reilly, Irish woman and former lawyer with the UN who whistled on Mary's show about

the UN high commissioner giving names of Uyghur Muslims to the Chinese ahead of their appearance at the UN putting their families lives in danger in China.

The shows can be accessed via the link below, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPkMDY5VasNSGC4T1Rpl-3wQ>

To see the interview with Ambassador Dan Mulhall go to

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

Mr. Dan McGovern, former cabinet member under Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bSOLTFwcBNw&t=470s>

You can subscribe to their youtube channel and give it a like and share the shows. You just might love these shows on the diaspora.

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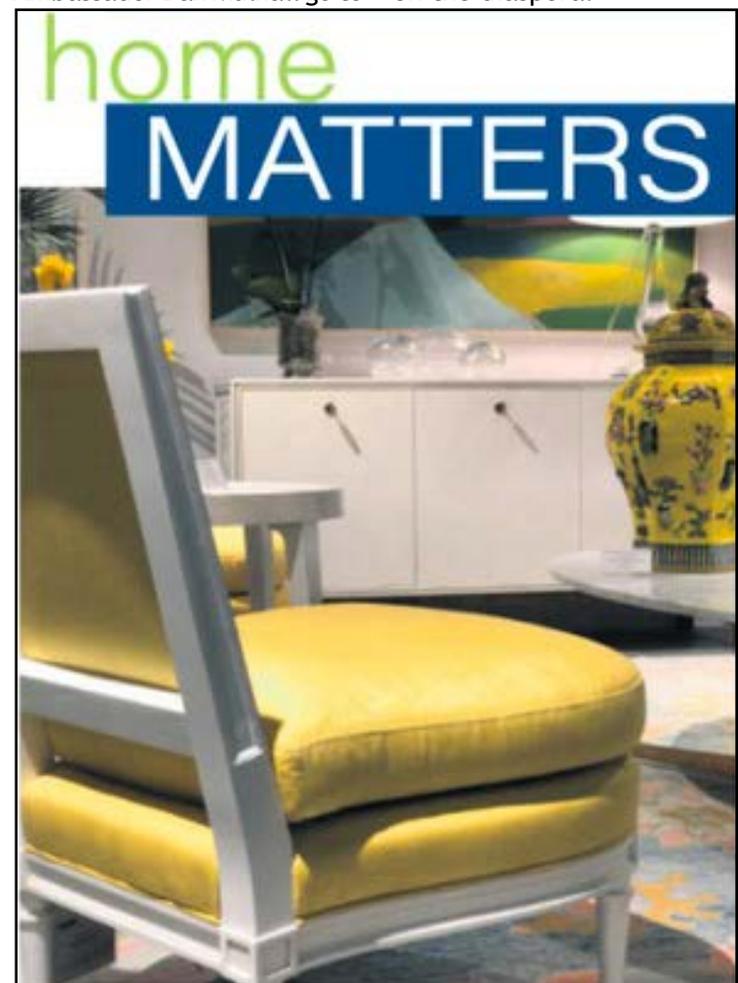
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Generation Next

By Conor O'Connor

President Putin Made a Serious Mistake

Last month, I implored Ireland to join NATO in the face of an imminent Russian invasion of Ukraine. Despite this unilateral aggression by Russia, I had hoped, like many of you, that an invasion would be avoided via diplomatic channels. Regrettably, on February 24th, 2022, Russia invaded the sovereign state of Ukraine.

Since then, 24/7 cable news channels have provided non-stop coverage of the invasion. Graphic footage of firefights

and missile strikes have circulated. Thousands of people have needlessly perished. War is cruel and horrific, and this one is no different.

The only bright spots in this entire saga are the bravery and resolve of the Ukrainian people to defend their homeland, as well as the unified front that most of the rest of the world has put up to directly condemn Russian President Vladimir Putin's actions. In this regard, I believe

that President Putin made a serious, serious miscalculation by invading Ukraine.

In a matter of weeks, we've seen the Russian ruble become virtually worthless. Dozens of Western-run businesses in the Russian Federation have been shuttered. At the time of this writing, the Kremlin is even on the verge of defaulting on its debt obligations, an event that would be the death knell for the country's entire domestic economy if it came to pass.

On the military side of things, the fog of war has prevented any one person from knowing everything happening on front lines. That being said, since the invasion began there has been a cascade of irrefutable video evidence of staunch Ukrainian resistance to their invaders. This is despite Ukraine being vastly outnumbered and outgunned by the well-funded Russian armed forces. Russian armored columns brazenly proceeding during daylight hours in broad view of Ukrainian anti-tank squads reflects a sort of misguided belief in an easy victory by President Putin and his generals. This has come back to bite them as their casualty figures continue to mount and their army's morale plunges.

Several Western leaders have also taken to warning Putin that he is on the path towards making Russia a "pariah state," or a country that is almost universally condemned by the international community. While not a formal title that any one country can label another,

becoming a pariah state would be disastrous development for Russia and the Russian people. Even nations that have had historically good relations with the country would be disincentivized from striking deals or conducting business with it out of fear of international reprisal. In fact, President Biden has already taken to warning China not to assist Russia with its failing economy while the invasion continues. As China's largest trading partner, the United States has a lot of clout when it comes to influencing Chairman Xi Jinping's decision making.

God willing, this war will be over by the time this article comes out. I have a sinking feeling, however, that it will not be. If Putin wins, which is almost a certainty if he

throws his full military might at Ukraine, insurgencies and guerilla warfare will almost inevitably keep the country on unstable footing for months and years to come. If Ukraine is able to fend off the invaders and force an armistice, it will still have to rebuild dozens of its cities. And while infrastructure can be rebuilt, the lives of those who have already been lost will never be recovered.

At the end of the day, it seems that the war in Ukraine has been and will be a lose-lose situation for everyone involved, including Vladimir Putin. He is squarely responsible for the atrocities that we are witnessing on a daily basis in Ukraine. He must be held accountable. But first, he must stop this war.

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You can get away and wind down close by in Wisconsin at Irish Acres Farm E9657 Manske Road, New London, WI 54961

They are now be able to host up to 20 guests per night to experience firsthand the farm charm of Irish Acres. Individual guests or small group visitors will be able to stroll the greenhouses, gardens and orchard, troll the spring fed pond for catch and release fishing, meditate in



the sacred labyrinth or roam at will on 75 acres of rolling farm fields, woodlands, marsh and meadows that encompass the historic circa 1848 homestead.

These 'glampers' (glamorous campers) will be filled with the magic of wanderlust while getting "a good stretch of the legs" meandering all about in the cozy comfort of mutually minded company or the singular satisfaction of a jaunt alone.

In addition to the existing rustic FAIRY CABIN, 4 new 'Barndominiums' which are 400 sq. ft. that are totally turn key with all the modern luxuries of quality furnishings and comforting amenities.

Each private unit has heat, air conditioning, a well equipped kitchen, full size bathroom with plumbed toilet, shower & sink. There are 2 separate twin bunk niches, 1 private bedroom with a queen bed and a very nice outdoor observation patio with firepit.

A large screened Gazebo with indoor/outdoor table/chair seating for 20 guests, along with a roof covered communally shared firepit area.

A community Gourmet Kitchen and Dining Hall that seats 20 persons. Small groups can utilize this space for adjoined cooking, shared meals or catered dinners. You could host a field to fork locally sourced menu and cooking demonstrations. The opportunities for professional and/or aspiring chefs here is as abundant

as the produce in our gardens.

Check out the indoor Barn Gathering Space to facilitate parties, play board games, cards and/or hold arts & craft sessions. There is a large shelf rack for a Leave One - Take One library book exchange and game swap for guests to take part in. Paid guests can use the stacked washer and dryer set for a small fee.

The Barn Bathroom with plumbed toilet, wash sink and hot/cold shower will primarily be used by FAIRY CABIN guests as well as the occasional Gourmet Kitchen guests and intern residents.

Intern Studio Apartment /overflow Guest Suite located above the Laundry room with access up the staircase located in the indoor Barn Gathering space.

An upstairs living quarters with 2 twin beds, small furnished kitchenette, toilet and wash sink. They are seeking to house farm interns in exchange for room and board. Students will work approximately 20 hours per week and rotate between all their diversified operations. They can choose to stay and shadow the staff for as little as 1 week, up to a full 7 month stay! In between intern residency, this suite can be rented out for stays as well. The staff will have a private laundry facility.

Glampground Check-in Office, Farm Market Store and Gift Shop. This lovely space will house visitor contact and showcase locally produced farm goods (jams, pickles, cider, honey, syrup, etc.) and seasonal homegrown organic / biodynamic produce. Both refrigerated and frozen items and fresh fruits and vegetables are for sale.

Gifts are farm related and produced (where possible) being utilitarian in use. These gifts are eco-friendly and have a definitive purpose valuation.

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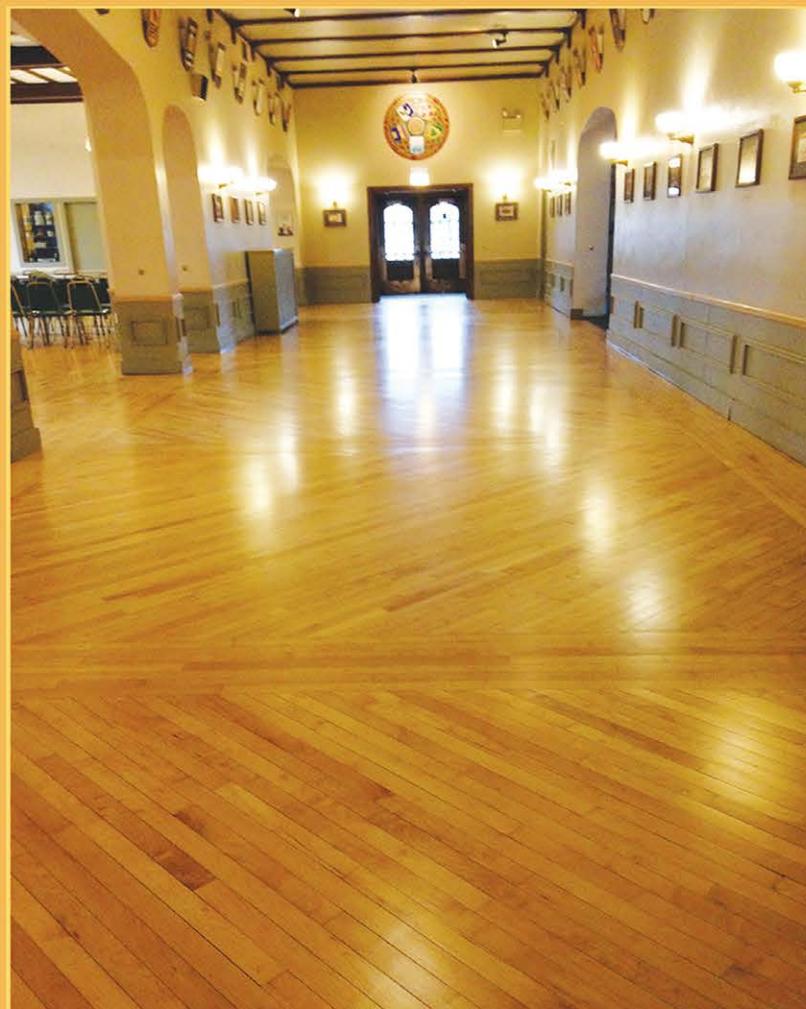
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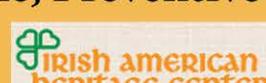
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From Armed Struggle to Academia: The Years of Living Dangerously

"When we first arrived in the Cages [British camp of Long Kesh, Northern Ireland; used to hold political prisoners] we were raw young teenagers caught up in something extraordinary. It's not natural to be involved in clandestine organisations, learning to use weapons, committing yourself to a life of struggle and danger, watching over your shoulder, hiding in secret billets, planning attacks on soldiers and police which could involve death, organizing bombing missions, gathering intelligence, or attending training camps in Donegal. The constant awareness that the next day could be your last, either of freedom or of life itself, that's not really the way life is meant to pan out for teenagers, but for a period in the early '70s it was for us. Thousands of us, all disaffected nationalist youths in the six counties who embraced armed struggle with open arms. It was neither exotic or exciting but it was for a long time our way of life."

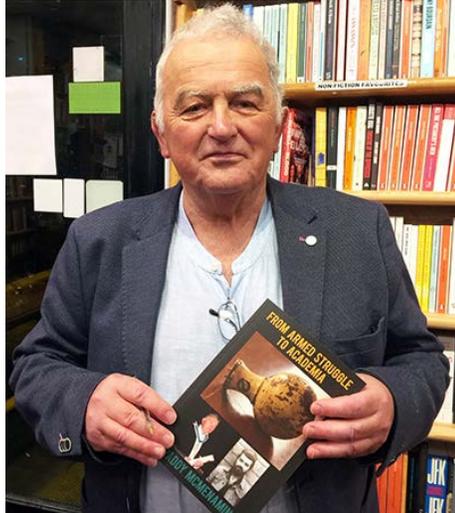
His years spent imprisoned - first on the prison ship 'Maidstone' and then in Long Kesh - are perhaps inevitably at the very heart of Paddy McMenamin's memoir 'From Armed Struggle to Academia'; but they are by no means the whole story.

Education whilst serving time is a long-standing tradition amongst Nationalist prisoners, as opposed to the activities of their opposite numbers in the Loyalist camp, who would be more inclined to lifting weights and getting inked; and so although already a member of the IRA it was in Long Kesh that the author received his political awakening as he and hundreds of working-class youngsters like him got their first real tastes of not only literature but various strands of global revolutionary theory - and crucially, of how the machine of British Imperialism had worked over the centuries and in so many countries.

But it is a story of much more

than that. It is the story of a whole life, leavened with the author's dry sense of humour and interspersed with his fondness for soccer (Celtic FC in particular), golf and - dare I say it - love of the ladies. And of his determination to get some letters after his name by becoming a mature student at the age of 52.

Yet it was in many ways a hard



Paddy McMenamin

read for me since I know Paddy personally and found it difficult to reconcile the decent neighbour -- with a ferocious love of books to rival my own -- with some of the events on these pages. But here's one memory: of 3 really hot days last year and of Paddy bringing over a cold bottle of cider and a quiz from some newspaper for us to do whilst I sunned the Body Beautiful.

Long Kesh must have seemed a long way away in that moment - but perhaps it wasn't. Perhaps for Paddy it never can be.

He's only older by six years than I am, but as I read his book, I couldn't help but look for some context: when Paddy was starting his first stint of incarceration, I was just leaving primary school; all that time he spent in the Cages, I was in secondary; and when he was being released in 1976 I was just finishing my exams and getting my thumb out in order to take a trip hitching around Europe. And yet give or take a hundred miles and an accident of geography I could have been the one in Belfast, resenting the sight



Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

of foreign troops on my streets. It's a sobering thought.

Paddy's memories are filled with countless snippets that jump from the page and surprise you:

"Writing is a therapeutic experience; I've always loved the written word. At that time, it was exciting and liberating trying to collect our thoughts on life, and our place in it, despite being behind the wire. Nowadays I word process as the sun sets over Galway Bay, with a glass of red wine to stimulate the grey matter. I still love writing, but I remember those far off days in the mid 70's, the boys who shared my life, many who are dead now. Some were killed in the conflict, many died too early of natural causes, and many more have suffered from the effects of CR gas

which was fired at us that day in October '74. [The burning of Long Kesh.] Apparently, research shows over 150 who were affected by the gas dropped from the helicopter have died prematurely. Was it because of the effects of the CR Gas? Is it coincidental? Was the use of CR gas legal? Were we used as guinea pigs? Will we ever get the truth? It's very unlikely; documents related to that day in 1974, as indeed to all controversial events in the conflict are locked away for another 50 years at which point everyone involved will be dead. The British Government refuses to release these documents, they refuse a Truth Commission, as it is they who have the most to lose, not republicans".

There are several themes that Paddy returns to again and again, such as sectarian hatred as opposed to those Nationalists such as himself who genuinely believed themselves to be engaged in a just war. Or his thoughts on various informers, by whom he seems to be genuinely baffled:

"It's difficult to understand the mentality of these people; on

the surface they are part of the community. They live among the people they grew up with, went to school with, played football with, went to their first disco with and met girls. They probably married locally, and their children born in the community and their parents and extended family would be living close by. Yet they give it all up for dubious financial reward and a constantly threatened existence. Trying to get into the mindset is fascinating, first of all the disloyalty to their community, friends and comrades if they were involved in the IRA. How they continue to live this double life is strange, passing

information, meeting with their handlers in some dingy hotel in the other side of town, their lives compromised by the Army or RUC. They live in a dirty seedy world..."

A small quibble I have with this fascinating story is the proof-reading. Question marks pop up in unexpected places and Paddy sometimes gets carried away with his love of exclamation marks. A life as dramatic as this one really doesn't need them for extra emphasis. This is a genuinely important social document of 'the Troubles' as seen through the eyes of a working-class young man and then adult; and it is an enormously important addition to conflict literature.

'From Armed Struggle to Academia' is published by Rivers Run Free Press.

charleybrady@gmail.com

A Night of Poetry in Galway, Ireland

(WARNING: If F Bombs Offend. do not read)

The Irish poets recite, tonight
From the small stage at the B&K wine bar
The first scrawny poet, a Cockney,
Warns us not to "bite the hand that feeds us,"
And proceeds to bite his hand
Growling with abandon
Next is a young anarchist
Who's got a problem with a guy named Jack,
"Freeloader Jack,
Who eats your food, drinks your drinks,
Smokes your fags, steals your girl,
Fooking Jack..."
A blonde broad-shouldered poet then laments:
Lesbians felt like lepers
Under Catholic Ireland
So bring back the pagans
An American with sapphire eyes holds her own
Dissing her Cannuck lover
Who could "fuck but not love."
The MC collects money for the poets
"Why don't you give us a poem, then?" someone says
"I have nothing prepared," I say
"Make something up, Yank," comes the answer,
"You had the balls to invade Iraq,
You can create a fecking poem."
I offer to recite Yeats
"We don't allow that classical shite here!"
The crowd is thirsty for drink and the blood of poets
"Recite or buy the house a round."
A guitar sits on the stage
"Today marks the birthday of America's greatest song writer."
I play 'It's All Over Now, Baby Blue.'
Some lines resonate with these Irish poets:
"All your sea sick sailors they are rowing home
Your empty-handed army is all going home..."
Patrons hoist their glasses in a birthday salute
To the Minnesota Bard
By Michael Corrigan

The Nightingale's Song

The little nightingale sang a song of freedom.
Its voice clear and the joyous sound echoed unceasingly.
Capturing the world with its tune,
People who had never heard it sing before
Stopped and listened to the enchanting melody.
Good people, cheered by the song,
Happily, welcomed the little bird into their hearts.

A bear passing, its ears twitching, was not pleased,
Caught the song in a passing breeze.
Though he could not decipher nor comprehend the meaning,
It was the strength of the song that irked him most.
Roaring brusquely, brandishing his immense bulk, he cursed air.

&, while other animals and birds hid for fear of the bear's wrath,
The unperturbed nightingale sang louder and longer.

Incensed by the bird's defiance and lack of respect,
The bear determined to put an end to its song,
besieged the beautifully feathered bird in its nest,
Muscled its brute form onwards to the tower of song,
Ruthlessly, tearing at everything that got in his way.
No one was safe from his bullying tactics.

Eyes watched as the bear came dangerously close,
Innocent blood dripping from the massive black paws.

Still, the little heart would not surrender to the beast,
Refusing silence, continuing at the peril of its existence,
Its soulful pathos resounded in the hearts of all who heard it.
The Goliath bear began to terrorize the little bird's sanctuary,
And, for a moment the world was silent, Angels wept.
Nothing could be heard but the bearish growl of antipathy.

Thinking himself victorious, the bear's snarl boomed out.
The earth shuddering beneath the animal's bloody trail.

Strained by its resistance, the little bird chirped once more.
And, thinking he'd heard the death rattle of the vanquished,
The bear laughed,
Until the air around him was suddenly full of joyous singing,
Angels & people everywhere began to echo the nightingale's song.

By Terry Boyle

The River For Hannah, my Friend

My friend is a Traveller and I am a Country-Buffer -
she has left an imprint on me like a fossil,
zig zag incisions that mould the hardest rock,
planting themselves - living forever.
The delicate sprig of friendship has blossomed
became a mountain with flowing spring waters.

The shared moments caught for us a time of no divide,
a silver net catching the Salmon Boyne -
- like a sparkling clear river - our friendship swelled
- each flow equal to the next -
our laughter shattered the thin veil that hovers -
between prejudice and unity -
between the - I'll accept you - on my terms, fallacy

Prejudice acts as a lever to elevate our inferior selves
to heights of dizzy disillusion -
Society feeding the layered segmentation segregation -
like ladders - steps of insanity to clouds of fanaticism -
no one wants the bottom rung!

Instead we cling foolishly to the middle ground,
shouting -I'm good today - I'm better than you!
Refusing to be fossils in Rivers of friendship.

By Anne Mulcahy 3/14/22

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



As the opening credits roll on Kenneth Branagh's new film, **Belfast**, viewers are treated to aerial shots of the contemporary city that inspired the film. The images of this sequence might have stepped from a Tourism Ireland promotional video. It features vibrant colours whereas the film is monochrome; it is alluring in contrast to the entrapped and confined atmosphere depicted in the film; it is welcoming whereas the film is often violent, vicious

and suspicious. A touristic brand of Belfast gets its spake in first, and that sounds an alarm of what is to follow.

Belfast is autobiographical inasmuch as Branagh's family left Belfast for England in 1969, when he was nine years old, in response to the outbreak of the Troubles. Many people from a Protestant background, such as the Branagh family, gravitated to England whereas Catholics who left Belfast that year often went

William J. Kelly's Irish Radio Hour Debuts on WPNA 1490 AM

Celebrated Irish journalist and Emmy award-winning producer William J. Kelly has launched a new program for Chicago's Irish community on WPNA 1490 AM. "William J. Kelly's Irish Hour" airs Sundays from 8-10 a.m. and features news, music performances, civil and business leaders and tourism.

Kelly says the show was inspired by his dear friend and Chicago Irish matriarch, Maureen O'Looney, who hosted the American Irish Radio Network on WSBC-AM for nearly forty years. "Maureen loved Chicago's Irish community and she was dedicated to the Irish American Heritage Center," says Kelly. "Maureen was my inspiration."

Kelly is also a proud member



and Fifth Province.

The program is more than an Irish music show. Last week's show featured a Polish choir singing the Ukrainian national anthem, the song, "Prayer for Peace" and interviews with charities raising money for the innocent people of Ukraine.

A life-long Chicagoan, Kelly graduated from Christ the King grammar school and Quigley Preparatory Seminary. While attending Loyola's Rome Center, he had the good fortune of meeting Saint John Paul II on three occasions. He says meeting Saint John Paul II inspired him to a life of service.

Kelly is the former President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Chicago Division #1, and the founder of the Mother Cabrini Chapter of the Knights of Columbus at Assumption Church in Chicago - both Catholic fraternal organizations organized to serve others. He has been involved in fundraising efforts for Natasha McShane, the Chicago Police Memorial Fund, and veterans' charities.

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South. Notably, though, many Catholics did not have a choice in the matter: when loyalists burned the people of Bombay Street in West Belfast out of their homes in August 1969 they forced them to seek refuge.

Branagh intersperses movies and news reports in the film and they have markedly different functions. In one case in this film, the travails of Liberty Vance symbolise the dilemmas felt by denizens of Belfast. News reports provide context for the unfolding conflict in Northern Ireland. Tellingly, one scene features the mother turning off a television interview with the then Prime Minister of the UK, Harold Wilson, as he outlines the reasons behind Britain's intervention in Northern Ireland. There is scant little room in this film for the challenge to the unionist system that the Civil Rights Movement presented.

Caitríona Balfe, as the mother, gives a deep and authentic performance in the film. She manages to style out a set of costumes that would fill a catwalk. Balfe is always scintillating and poised. Her performance is nearly matched by that of the young boy, the film's protagonist representing Branagh, played by Jude Hill. Jamie Doran, as the father, is given less than plausible lines in his enlightened counsel to his son about the need for pluralism. Úna Ní Dhonghaíle's editing is flawless and Van Morrison provides the mood music from his classic repertoire. His song suite chimes well with the film. This is Morrison doing what he does best—a refreshing break from the persistent duff notes he sounded about Covid-19 vaccine conspiracies and the Northern

Ireland Department of Ireland.

The release of Belfast coincides with the outbreak of war in Europe and the parents' dilemma—whether to leave Belfast or to stay despite the mounting and unpredictable threat—reflects the experience of millions of families from Kyiv to Kharkiv today.

While the parents discuss several countries as possible destinations (Canada, Australia), the family goes to England, 'the mainland'. There was a particular shock for Protestants who left Northern Ireland for England and found themselves received there as 'Paddies' and Paddies only. Writer Nick Laird, reviewing this film in The Times wrote: 'the idea that Protestants in working-class Belfast might casually refer to themselves as Irish requires a certain amount of wish fulfilment, or ignorance, and elides one of the fundamental sticking points of the Ulster question'. That is debatable. Some people from that background were (and are) comfortable with the designation as long as it can exist side-by-side with a UK identity.

Since sentimentalism is the dominant mode of attachment to place in the film, Belfast is sealed off from the future and what happens in Belfast after the family's departure. Imagine how jarring the emotion expressed by Belfast man Derek Mahon in his poem 'Afterlives' would be in this film. On his return to Belfast, after the Troubles had begun, Mahon wrote:

*'But the hills are still the same
Grey-blue above Belfast.
Perhaps if I'd stayed behind
And lived it bomb by bomb
I might have grown up at last
& learnt what is meant by home'*

That is precisely the feeling that is absent in this film. The past is frozen in a frame. Departure is not only a life-defining decision Branagh's parents make, it is a shield for the director's own decision not to interrogate the causes of the Troubles and to refract those realities in the lives of his characters. Nostalgia is the keynote of the film and that perspective does not permit a close inspection of the political reality that established Belfast's reputation internationally, from 1969 onwards, as a city synonymous with violent conflict. Hence the absurd sequence at the start of the film. That sequence is a prebutter to a perception that the city depicted in his film is irredeemably divided. It is also a convenient positioning of the film's point of departure in a future that postdates the Troubles. Such a leapfrogging through time is a political position in a film that disavows the significance of the political causes of the Troubles. That deflection mars the film and limits its scope.

By contrast, other film representations of Belfast, particularly by Hollywood, cannot exhibit the violence graphically enough. Carol Reed's *Odd Man Out* and the first half hour of Jim Sheridan's *In the Name of the Father* are much better: the inchoate breakdown of order in the city in the former and the chaos that resulted from it in the latter ring true. More recently, '71 takes the brave and innovative step of representing violence in Belfast from the perspective of a British soldier deployed in the city at the start of the Troubles.

Belfast has filled cinemas, not least in Belfast itself, but much of its narrative could be transposed to another setting in which a family leaves its home in search of something better. It fails to capture the culture and politics of the city. The title inevitably lays claim to a definitive representation of an aspect of Belfast. That is a tall order for any film and it is an aim this film falls dramatically short of achieving.



of the Irish American Heritage Center and counts as the happiest day of his life the celebration of his wedding to his wife, Laura Kelly at the Center's Erin Room



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We've Always Been Green!

By Anne Marie McIntyre

In April of 2019, Shana Pembroke of Oak Lawn, IL, was selected as the 2019 Chicago Rose of Tralee. Shana holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a master’s in speech-language pathology from Saint Mary’s College of Notre Dame. Shana currently works as a speech-language pathologist at an elementary school. Throughout the pandemic, she has continued to sing at a variety of events including weddings and outdoor concerts, in addition to joining a weekly running club.

In August of 2019, Shana traveled to Tralee, Co. Kerry proudly wearing her “Chicago Rose” sash at all of the many events she attended during the International Rose of Tralee Festival. She was interviewed on RTE television, which broadcasts the Rose Selection, live from the International Rose of Tralee Festival. Shana displayed the musical skills she garnered during her time spent as a member of the UIUC No Comment A Cappella group by beatboxing and singing a rendition of “Make

You Feel My Love” by Bob Dylan. During her time in Tralee, Shana visited many sites around Ireland, meeting the welcoming locals and connecting with her family from Co. Kerry and Co. Mayo.

With the decision by the International Rose of Tralee Festival to postpone the International Rose of Tralee festival in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the past two years, Shana and her 2019 Rose of Tralee class has made the most of these unprecedented times. They have kept in regular contact through zoom meet ups and FaceTime calls.

Shana reunited with her Rose of Tralee class in March, when a group of the 2019 Roses and Rose Escorts participated in St. Patrick’s Day festivities in Chicago and New York City. The Chicago Rose Centre welcomed the following Roses and Escorts: Nicole Loughlin Mayo Rose, Marie Brady Longford Rose and Elena Evangelou New York Roses and visiting International Rose of Tralee Escorts: Jamie Flannery Co. Kerry (Escort of the Year); Paul McNamee, Belfast; Chris Kelly Co. Kerry; Ciaran Shaughnessy Co

Galway; David Brosnan, Co Limerick; Joe Standish, Co Offaly; Liam O’Mahony, Co. Cork; Michael Hyde, Co. Cork.

After a two year hiatus, the 2019 Rose Class attended the Chicago St Patrick’s Day Parade and the South Side Irish Parade. The Chicago Rose Centre would like to thank the following establishments for the generous hospitality and overall great craic by hosting the Roses and Escorts: The Emerald Loop, Lizzie McNeill’s Irish Pub, and FadÓ in Chicago and on the South Side of Chicago, Swanson’s Deli and their famous cheese balls, and Open Outcry Brewery.

Shana will spend the rest of her time as the Chicago Rose of Tralee connecting with the Irish community here in Chicago and abroad. The mission of the Chicago Rose of Tralee is to provide enrichment opportunities that will encourage young women of Irish descent to be exemplary role models for tomorrow’s youth and to make a positive difference in the world.

The next Chicago Rose selection will be held in 2023, due to the increase in Centres around the world, many Centres now send a Rose every other year. The winner of the 2023 Chicago



2019 Chicago Rose of Tralee, Shana Pembroke, and the Emerald Loop’s Conor O’Keefe

all expense paid trip to Ireland for an experience of a lifetime to represent Chicago in Tralee and beyond. For an application for Chicago Rose of Tralee and more information on the International Rose of Tralee Festival visit www.roseoftralee.ie and follow Chicago Rose of Tralee Centre, social media Instagram and Facebook for more information on the 2023 Rose Selection, Rosebud Application or Sponsorship information

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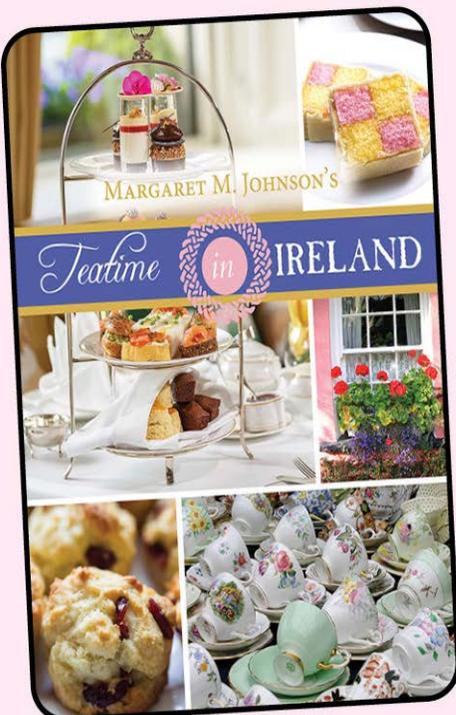
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The Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

By Hilda Bahena, Legal Assistance Department Director

Catholic Charities Legal Assistance (CCLA) department began nearly two decades ago to help address the shortage of legal aid services for low-income individuals. Given the great complexities of the legal system, those who cannot afford legal help are prevented from having equal access to justice—a problem that can significantly affect the entire trajectory of their lives.

There is no shortage of stories that illustrate the importance of legal assistance: the mother and her children struggling to pay for rent and other necessities without child support; the senior who is facing the loss of savings because he was the victim of consumer fraud; the domestic violence survivor who needs an order of protection to keep her family safe; the family on the brink of homelessness because

they are being unfairly evicted.

In each of these situations and countless others, having access to legal aid often means the difference between people being able to maintain stable lives or being devastated by situations that could have been avoided or made better.

After learning about the challenges faced by many who do not have the resources to hire an attorney to address legal issues, two dedicated Catholic Charities Board members, Jeanne Casey and Mary Fitzpatrick, were inspired to create CCLA. They recognized that access to legal assistance could dramatically change lives, and while there was a network of excellent legal aid organizations in the Chicago area, there was not enough assistance to meet the overwhelming need.

Initially, Jeanne and Mary launched the program as attorney

ney volunteer initiative. They recruited a group of incredibly dedicated volunteer attorneys who offered their expertise to support self-represented litigants. In 2005, CCLA opened its doors for the first time after hiring its first staff member. Today, CCLA is a multi-service legal department with two office locations and eight staff members, including six staff attorneys, who represent clients in court in the counties of Cook and Lake. Our devoted group of volunteer attorneys remain essential in our efforts to assist self-represented litigants. Each year we help thousands of clients and their families thanks to the commitment of our staff and the very generous gifts of time, skill and financial support from local attorneys and law firms.

It has been a privilege to guide CCLA's vision and growth since December 2013. Just as Catholic Charities recognizes that legal issues stymie economic progress and stability for many families, I recognize that clients frequently have many other needs. It has been rewarding to develop the legal assistance department's programs and services within Catholic Charities where people have access to a broad range of services that can address multiple needs simultaneously. Our holistic approach uses an empowerment-based legal services model that builds on the individual's strengths, presents legal and social service options that apply to their unique circumstances, and empowers them to choose a path that works best for themselves and their families.

We are deeply grateful to our supporters and volunteers that have made it possible for CCLA to improve access to justice for those who would otherwise go without. Legal assistance has become a core part of Catholic Charities' mission to help people live with dignity— walking with them on their journey to stability and well-being... one person, one heart at a time.

For more information on CCLA, please call 312-948-6821.

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Trouble and Strife

In one slight shift between a global pandemic, we find ourselves faced with the threat of war. It seems that we're beyond learning anything from our history. We seem doomed to push ourselves over the precipice and into our annihilation. Given our record of warmongering as a species, it's a miracle that we've survived as long as we have. Of course, that could all change at the flip of a switch. There is little to assure us that commonsense will prevail. For those who would like to believe in the best of humankind, the past decade has certainly tested our faith in humanity.

Ukraine has become the focus of our thoughts. Our hearts go out to those who are facing down a bully who is committed to

getting what he wants regardless of man suffering. Russia bears down on the nation of Ukraine baiting the west to intervene and risk another world war.

The man Trump called a genius is a monster who used the former president's stupidity to weaken the U.S. Trump was an effective fifth columnist for Putin and his cohorts. For years they played Trump for the fool he is and it's paid off.

The U.S. has become increasingly divided. Any hope of collaboration has fallen foul of divisive and petty point-scoring. Trump's need to be liked and egocentric politics has weakened democracy. He has unwittingly played into Putin's hands and continues to do so with his terminal selfishness. It is even speculated that had Trump been given a second term, he would've withdrawn the U.S. from NATO. Of course, this decision would've pleased his followers. After all, it's someone else's problem and not ours. I'm sure that as oil prices go up and we have to pay more at the pumps, there will be the usual whiners complaining about interfering in global politics

The inconvenience of paying more at the pump will no doubt be seen as a greater hardship than watching the sick, elderly,

and children being bombed. The isolationism that Trump hoped he would garner would let us all off the hook from feeling any obligation to help anyone else out. And, what is even more alarming is that this sort of thinking would be sanctioned by some Christian churches. There are those bible believing individuals who twist the words of Christ to justify their second amendment rights to bear arms, abandon the need (if they're not American) and essentially allow them to remain preoccupied with selfish desires. I'm sure Heaven for such people is simply another piece of real estate.

When it comes to people of faith, I'm not impressed by those who protest their self-serving agendas. If that's what they want then Trump is their saviour and role model. However, those who really take their faith seriously are less concerned with their own welfare and extend themselves to serve others. Those are the people who rarely get recognized for their altruism. They work tirelessly for the good of others. And, those people are not simply believers. Many of those who feel moved to serve others don't believe in God. They are not working to either get themselves into heaven or earn Brownie points with a deity.

Faith is not exclusive to those who believe in a God. There are those who simply do good because they believe in the goodness of humankind. Even in the face of global atrocities they put their lives at risk to help those who cannot help themselves. They are not stuck in making America great again at the expense of others. We need to get over our myopic nationalism and see that we're part of a global community. What happens in Ukraine will affect us. If we allow the bully to wreak devastation outside our borders and do nothing, we're no better than those who did nothing when Hitler started exterminating the Jews. We cannot look to God, like Cain, and say 'am I my brother's keeper'.

We can be like Bob Geldof who, tired of watching people die of starvation, did something about it. Or we can be like those Catholic priests who died opposing fascist governments in South America, some of which were being financed by the U.S. Archbishop Romero, not a liberation theologian,

who was murdered while saying mass for speaking out against injustice. These are people who have made the world a better place, not a bitter place. There are a number of exemplary examples of people who, out of the goodness of their own hearts, have extended themselves in the

service of others. In times of darkness, it's the light of their souls and their deeds that inspire us to believe in goodness.

Ukraine is facing an apocalypse of its own. Putin is ruthlessly killing its citizens while the world watches on. Our governments are cautiously taking measures to show their disdain. These sanctions come at a cost to us. We may have to tighten our belts. Our lifestyles may have to adjust to accommodate fewer luxuries but we're doing it for a reason. What is happening in Ukraine could happen to us. If we don't act against the bullies of this world we will suffer the consequences of our inaction. We run the risk of blinding ourselves to the sufferings of others.

Ukraine needs our help. Can we sit back and watch innocent people suffer and die without doing suffering. I, for one, am quite proud of what President Biden has done. He has led the way in demonstrating our distaste for Russia's invasion. I am confident that he and world leaders will continue to put pressure on Russia to stop the bombing and killing of Ukrainians.

It's only when we see world leaders come together to fight against tyranny that we can begin to believe again in the goodness of humankind. We need to vote in people who are not isolationists, bigots, and who work to make the world a better place and not a bitter one. **Terry**



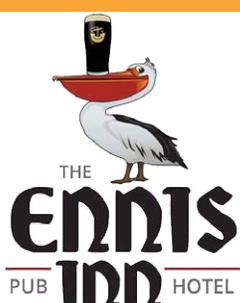
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by Terry Boyle



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The West Waterford Word Weavers

This is a nostalgic tribute to Willie Neville and John Parker - our great local Reporters for The Dungarvan Leader, a regional newspaper in County Waterford since 1938. Both Willie and John have gone to their eternal reward, and I would like to remember them in this article for their great contributions in keeping the people of the parishes updated through news items that were sometimes serious and at other times humorous. At all times they were very professional writers and we should be proud to have known them, and also because they lived amongst us during good and bad times in our recent history.

I didn't know Willie very well as he was beginning to become elderly and his eyesight was

failing when I was a young boy. I remember him as a kind looking man whom we used to meet on our walk to Kilwatermoy Mass each Sunday. He was also the Hon. Secretary for the Shamrocks Club when it was formed in 1953. I came to know John quite well and he lived just a little bit up the road from us, and he got me interested in writing at an early age.

Both Willie and John were extremely intelligent and brilliant local Correspondents and if grants for Secondary and Third Level education had been available in their time, I have no doubt but they would have had very successful careers and different lives.

The following extracts are just a small selection of their reports taken from the archives of The

Dungarvan Leader from 1943 to 1968, and they are really just the tip of the iceberg. Willie would mostly have reported in the 1940's and 1950's and John in the 1960's and 1970's.

27th October 1956

Rural Electrification

An ESB representative visited the Knockanore - Kilwatermoy district during the past week for the purpose of ascertaining the number of residents willing to avail of the rural electrification in the districts above mentioned. An earlier canvass carried out was reported as satisfactory. As previously pointed out, it is in the interests of all to avail of this chance to have electricity installed in their homes and farm buildings. The opportunity may not occur again.

30th May 1964

Postman Indisposed

Mr. Patrick Tierney, Lismore, who is on the outdoor staff of Tallow Post Office is at present indisposed and is in Ardkeen Hospital, Waterford. We wish Paddy, who is a general favourite, a speedy recovery.

30th January 1943

Presentation to ex - NT

Mr. Con Cronin, Ballinvella, was recently the recipient of a lovely presentation from the past and present pupils of the Knockanore Parish on the occasion of his recent retirement from Knockanore School. The presentation included a chiming clock and a set of cutlery. Mr. Cronin has been the Principal Teacher for over thirty years and during that long period he had endeared himself to young and old alike. Courteous, efficient and painstaking, he was beloved by his pupils, and the news of his retirement was received with feelings of deep regret, not in Knockanore alone, but all over the Decies, as well as far across the ocean wide. Where ever a pupil of former days resides - they have this opportunity of wishing him many years of health and happiness in his well - merited retirement.

6th January 1962

Post Office Staff did a Great Job

We wish to congratulate the officials and outdoor staff of Tallow Post Office for their expeditious handling of a very heavy mail over the Christmas season. Whilst this is so, we wonder why the Department of Posts & Telegraphs does not employ extra outdoor staff for the pre - Christmas delivery of letters and parcels. It is a sad reflection on a Government Department in this day and age to see their employees endeavouring to push a heavy tyre cycle, laden with a cart load of mail and parcels, for a distance of eleven miles over rough country roads and boreens. Surely the Department is not so woe bygone that they could not afford a van delivery of at least parcels for the week before Christmas and thereby ease the lot of the unhappy postman.

4th June 1955

Ballymote Pump

About two years ago a pump was erected at Ballymote to supply the water needs of the residents of that area. The water from the pump never proved satisfactory. Time and time again reports have been made on the matter. The procedure adopted is that a County Council employee is sent to pump the water for five to six hours, then a sample of the water is taken for testing - and invariably the report concludes that the water is fit for use.

When the people of the area go for the water the next day it is just as bad as ever. And can anybody with any business to do remain pumping water for five to six hours every day? Granted the pump may be corroded and therefore the water may have to be pumped for a few minutes, this may happen to any pump.

The water from the Ballymote Pump is red with iron rust. Let us hope something will be done before the streams that the residents are using water from start drying up. After all, it is a pump that is needed at Ballymote - not a monument.

30th January 1943

1st January 1944

A Kilwatermoy Christmas

Christmas Masses were celebrated at Kilwatermoy commencing at 9 o'clock and were attended by large congregations, many of whom approached the altar rails to receive Holy Communion. In this parish, as elsewhere all over the country, people were mindful of the sufferings that are being endured by millions in other lands, and so from every altar on Christmas morning, prayers were offered to the Prince of Peace for the safe deliverance of our Emerald Isle, and for the blessings of peace to a war-torn world. The weather on Christmas Day was beautifully mild and spring-like.

10th September 1960

This Week's Story

Doctor: I've examined you quite thoroughly Jim and I can't find any case for your illness. However, it might be due to drinking.

Jim: Well I can understand that all right Doctor, I'll come back some other time when you're sober.

I hope you enjoyed the trip down memory lane, and it has certainly brought back memories for me also. Paddy Tierney was a very intelligent Postman who also spoke fluent Irish, and will we ever forget how he would have to be driven around on Christmas Eve after partaking of one too many 'drops' on his bicycle round. We take electricity for granted now and people of my generation have never known what it was like to be fuelled by candles and oil lamps. I remember drawing water from the Ballymote Pump when I was a young boy and the water quality seemed fine, pressure from Willie Neville's words may have got them to fix it eventually.

Both John and Willie would have liked to be around now, and how they would have loved to weave their words once more by way of contribution. They would also be delighted that the writing tradition is being kept very much alive in the parishes and will continue for many years to come.

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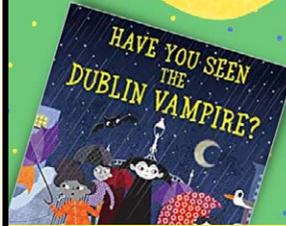
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A New Schedule of Senior Events for Spring

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. 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. Each month—usually on the **third** Wednesday—we meet to share our Irish heritage and love of Ireland. There is no charge to attend. **ALL** are welcome and refreshments are served free of charge.

Monthly Musical Gathering

April

Wednesday 6th April

Doors: 10 a.m. Music: 10.30 a.m.

Live Music with Ray Gavin

Join us for a morning of good cheer, great live music and refreshments with our friend Ray Gavin.

May

Wednesday 4th May

Doors: 10 a.m. Music: 10.30 a.m.

Live Music with Terry Byrne

Another morning of friendship and great live music provided by Terry Byrne.

June

Wednesday 1st June

Doors: 10 a.m. Music: 10.30 a.m.

Music with the Dulcimer Ensemble

A warm Irish welcome, great music and wonderful company.

The Front Parlor

Wednesday 20th April

Doors: 10 a.m. Program: 10.30 a.m.

Conservation to Preservation

Celebrate Earth Day with a fascinating presentation on some of the forerunners of the environmental movement.

Wednesday 18th May

Doors: 10 a.m. Program: 10.30 a.m.

Annual Fraud Update

This seminar hosted by the Cook County Sheriff's Office will teach us about common scams and dealing with fraud when it occurs.

Wednesday 15th June

Doors: 10 a.m. Program: 10.30 a.m.

Wellness Update

We host Swedish Covenant to learn more about keeping healthy.

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.

April

Wednesday 13th April

Doors: 10 a.m. Program: 10.30 a.m.

Train Your Age

Personal Trainer Joni Grant will teach us how to 'train your age'. As we age we experience a loss of mobility; Joni will tell us how to combat this kind of issue!

Wednesday 27th April

Doors: 10 a.m. Program: 10.30 a.m.

Live Irish Music

Join us for a morning of good music and good craic! This week we will be joined by the talented Ray Gavin on vocals and guitar.

May

Wednesday 11th May

Doors: 10 a.m. Program: 10.30 a.m.

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Today we welcome author Honore Nolting who will share how they choose laughter and blind hope in the face of her husband's cancer diagnosis.

Wednesday 25th May

Doors: 10 a.m. Program: 10.30 a.m.

Annual Fraud Update

This seminar hosted by the Cook County Sheriff's Office will teach us about common scams and dealing with fraud when it occurs.

June

Wednesday 8th June

Doors: 10 a.m. Program: 10.30 a.m.

Live Irish Music

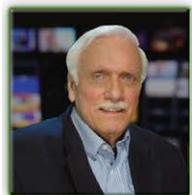
All are welcome to join us for another morning of traditional Irish Music. Today we are excited to have Joe McShane back to perform all your favorite tunes!

Wednesday 22nd June

Doors: 10 a.m. Program: 10.30 a.m.

Understanding Memory Loss

Learn positive and effective approaches to coping with Alzheimer's and Dementia that focus on what those with the condition CAN do!



Mick

Mike Morley

irishtv.us 🍀 irisheye.us

St. Patrick's activities and designing upcoming additions to my TV program, **IrishTV.US** has precluded an April column.

But last month's article, "Root & Branch" ended with a mention of Joe Biden's slave-owning ancestors, and an admission that there might be slave roots in my own immediate family!

However, the full article would have continued to almost two pages in print, so I provided a link (irisheye.us/new.html) to the full online article. Unfortunately, the true link ended simply .htm

Readers clicking the link would not have found the rest of the story. So, until my next article is published, you can find the 'Root & Branch' article (and all new articles in the future) here- <http://irisheye.us/new.html> Later, when a new column is published, the previous article will be archived here- <http://irisheye.us/articles.htm>

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Hearing the Latest

By Mel Dermody Having taken the chance to leave a comfortable job in 2016, I am happy to say that my leap of faith has been a success. Hearing World has expanded to three offices and has been able to help hundreds of people lead better, more engaging lives. While it's nice to celebrate business success, seeing people come back and allowing me to continue to work on their hearing aids to help them achieve the best hearing possible has given me unexplainable joy. I want to thank every customer that has given me the opportunity to help them hear better and allowed me to be a vital part of their lives.

Having had the South Loop and Schererville offices open for five years, I recognized that people who had purchased hearing aids on the Chicago North Side were struggling to make the journey down to the South Loop, and therefore were not receiving the hearing care they deserved. In January 2021, I took the step of opening an office in Park Ridge. Hearing World Park Ridge was slow to get going at first, but in recent months it has become very busy. Initially, staff were able to help with scheduling and billing,



Mel Dermody & Hannah Galvin

which allowed me more time with customers. However, as the business grew, and more people came through our doors, we needed additional help. I took the decision to hire someone who could give customers the required attention to detail in order to help them achieve the best hearing possible. After months of searching, we were fortunate to find someone all the way from Donegal, Ireland. Hannah Galvin. Hannah obtained her master's degree in audiology through University College Cork and she brings many years of clinical audiology experience to the team. She also brings a passion for hearing and shares Hearing World's values of care. Her attention to detail ensures that the standard of care she provides is of the very highest. Hannah was born in Chicago; her parents owned Galvin's bar in the north-west side of the city, and she is happy to be back amongst family and friends where the Galvin name has been held in such high regard.

Having worn hearing aids for 30 years, I continually strive to identify ways to hear more speech sounds. I encourage all people to reach out to Hearing World to see what extra hearing gains we can help them with. The more problems you can bring to us, the more we can help you with.

Pádraig Harrington States Patronage of Irish American Partnership



Pádraig Harrington, IAP Chief Executive Mary Sugrue, and Minister for Education, Norma Foley, TD

The Irish American Partnership announced that renowned Irish champion golfer, Pádraig Harrington, has been named its Patron

The patronage honors Harrington's roots and reflects his belief in using sport to bring people from different backgrounds and communities together; bolstering support of Irish schools and community organizations.

The Partnership, in collaboration with Ireland's Department of Education, will launch the Outdoor Play & Learning program providing \$250,000 funding for primary schools to purchase resources that enhance outdoor play and learning. Outdoor Play & Learning has been developed in response to the great need identified by principals and teachers to encourage young people to get outside.

For over 35 years the Partnership's mission has been to invest in Ireland's future—its youth. The Partnership has targeted its funding - more than \$50 million raised - where it has the greatest impact, so that every child

can have the resources they need to learn, and to grow.

Chicago-based and Dublin-born Michael Clune, Chair of the Partnership's Board of Directors, said: "We are delighted to welcome Pádraig aboard as Patron. His passion for Ireland combined with his commitment to children and young people will be hugely instrumental in helping raise awareness of our organization's work. Having worked with the Partnership team myself for over twenty-five years, I have seen firsthand the benefits of the educational programs that we have supported in Ireland."

Mary Sugrue, Chief Executive of the Partnership, welcomed Harrington: "It is incredibly exciting to have such a fantastic Irish sportsman joining us as Patron. Pádraig will be a tremendous asset in our mission to inspire the next generation. As a Dublin native, he knows the impact the Partnership's work has on the ground in schools and communities up and down the country."

Learn more: www.irishap.org



There is a stage play version of The Shawshank Redemption? Who knew?

And the best part is I get to be in it.

25 years after the debut of the iconic prison film, now regarded as one of the best motion pictures of all time, the stage adaptation had its own debut in Dublin in 2009 at the Gaiety Theatre.

The Shawshank Redemption was adapted for the stage by a two man team headed by Owen O'Neill, who in addition to being a writer is an actor of stage and screen as well as a stand-up comedian. His film credits include an appearance in Michael Collins about the Irish revolutionary leader.

O'Neill and his British co-playwright Dave Johns based their stage version on the Stephen King novella Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption. The play is closer to the original story than the film starring Tim Robbins as falsely convicted of murder Andy DuFresne and Morgan Freeman as the seasoned prisoner nicknamed Red in the Shawshank State Penitentiary in Maine.

Red is known as the "guy who can get you things" in Shawshank, but his skill in acquiring desired outside sundries for his fellow inmates is surpassed by Andy's ability to maintain hope of eventual freedom despite several decades of serving a life sentence with little chance of parole.

In the film African American Freeman is asked how he got the nickname "Red." His reply is "maybe it's because I'm Irish."

I will be appearing as captain of the guards Byron Hadley. It will indeed take a certain degree of acting to play a villainous character who is cruel, foul-mouthed and sadistic! You best leave the kids and more sensitive theatergoers at home

for this one, the playwrights pulled no punches with their R-rated script.

In the stage version Hadley is seen and heard throughout the performance, even moreso than the corrupt warden and second only to Andy and Red, to whom he's not shy about doling out rifle butts, headlocks and throat grabs.

The performances will be at the Burlington, Wisconsin Malt House Theater from April 21st to May 1st. The Haylofters are one of the oldest community theater groups in southeast Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, having put on plays continually since 1932.

It's a unique production in that it has an all-male cast and a dramatic dark tone. As a rule males are very hard to come by in community theater, so much so that the last show I was in had difficulty finding a third male so I was recruited just a few weeks before the opening. But faith in the public popularity of the Shawshank story led to a high turnout for auditions in February and all 12 speaking roles were easily cast.

It's also a relative rarity in community theater to have a play that is strictly a drama. Most theater groups like to play it safe with comedies and musicals which usually garner larger and more consistent audiences. That's a major factor for volunteer organizations that rely on a healthy turnout to pay the mortgage and cover the expenses. It's even more desired in the wake of nearly two years of canceled or curtailed community theater seasons thanks to the pandemic.

I hope you have the chance to come see the play and as the persevering Andy tells his "Irish" friend Red, "Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies."

E-mail Jim at IrishRoverJim@gmail.com

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hello everyone,

I hope you had a wonderful St. Patrick's celebration. I enjoyed it all even though I was meeting myself coming back but that's the way I like it. St. Joseph's Day was pretty good also.

In the middle of March, I heard the sad news that one of Ireland's finest, and phenomenal songwriters, Pete St. John, had passed away on March 12th at the age of 90 years. I think every singer in the Irish scene and beyond will have sang or recorded his songs at some point in their career. I think it is very rare that I wouldn't sing at least one of his songs at my gigs. It seemed that every time this multi-talented songsmith put pen to paper it was an instant evergreen. Songs like 'The Ferryman', Dublin In The Rare Ould Times', and of course 'The Fields Of Athenry' were among the many songs that he wrote. Another favorite of mine is 'Dreamers And Believers' a song about musicians, and the beautiful ballad 'Ringsend Rose'.

'Liverpool'

Written by Nathan Carter, Nicky James, and Joe McShane

Verse 1

Dirty knees, young boys' dreams, music everywhere
Friendly ghosts, an old signpost, voices fill the air
A smiling Nan, a babies pram come strolling down the street
It's in my heart, I feel a part, of the Merseybeat

Verse 2

A soccer ball, an old brick wall, where children love to play
Sad times, back in 89, at that football game
Young and old, hearts of gold, on a marble stone
Hear our song, it echoes on, through "You'll Never Walk Alone"

Chorus

Oh town of pride, upon the tide, beneath the Liverbirds
Witty rhymes, and church bell chimes, through deep & loving words
Oh the memories, so tenderly, running through my mind
Liverpool, my shining jewel upon the Merseyside

Verse 3

Cavern nights, old street lights, guitars that gently weep
Yesterday, seems far away, from Penny Lane and Lime Street
George and John although you're gone, your melodies will stay
Imagine, oh I imagine, if you were here today

Chorus

Oh town of pride, upon the tide, beneath the Liverbirds
Witty rhymes, & church bell chimes, through deep & loving words
Oh the memories, so tenderly, running through my mind
Liverpool, my shining jewel upon the Merseyside

Ireland was surely blessed to have a son like Pete St. John. R.I.P. Pete...

I am so happy to announce that the weekend in Blackpool that my brother Nicky James R.I.P. ran every year is now going to start up again. I spoke with Merv Futter and his daughter Maria about it, and I am so glad that they are going to take the reins, along with some help from myself. Merv and Maria did a lot of promoting with my brother, along with their own shows in Pontin's, etc. They are wonderful people.

So, the "Nicky James Country and Irish Weekend" is planned for February, 24th, 25th, and 26th 2023. I will have more about the lineup and booking information in next month's write-up. There have been so many people inquiring if it will happen again so, the answer is a big YES! The pandemic stopped us from even contemplating it for the last two years. It is a wonderful way of honoring Nick's memory, and all

the years of hard work that he put into these weekends. Plus all the friends he made along the way, who loved and supported him so much. Here is some information including websites, phone number, etc if you want to inquire or receive a booking form. Contact website <https://mervandmaria.com>. Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/349827162108756/> and phone number - 01553 61746 if you're calling from the USA it would be 01144 1553 61746. Email - info@mervandmaria.com. We are excited about it, and I'm sure Nick would be happy to know that he is still in our hearts in a big way. He was one of a kind.

This month's song is one that was written by Nathan Carter, my Brother Nick, and me. We wrote it just before the final inquiry into the tragic case of the Liverpool fans who lost their lives at a football game, Hillsborough, which happened this month on the 15th of April 1989. It resulted in 97 deaths and 766 nonfatal injuries. The people were crushed including children and older people. The chief constable at the time withheld relevant information. Later on, they decided to take responsibility for their actions, and it was ruled as unlawful killing. Of course, no one was charged. The song was my brother's idea. He said "a song about Liverpool should be written" and I said "we already wrote one called "Boat To Liverpool". I did think it was a good idea though, so, the three of us put our heads together and wrote one of my favorite songs. It's called 'Liverpool'

As always be good to one another, and I wish you a very happy and blessed Easter, Joe

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

[Joe's ian Monthly Columns](#)

Cliff Notes:

Throw yourself into the deep end in life.

You will figure it out and swim with the dolphins, OR you will move on to your next big adventure!

Movie News April 2022

by James Bartlett

We have to go straight to the big news story out of Hollywood: Will Smith slapping Chris Rock live on the Oscars after Rock made a joke about Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett. Unless you've been underground, you'll have seen the footage by now - both of the slap, and of his tearful speech very soon after, when he accepted the Oscar for Best Actor in King Richard.

Talk about contrast: he went from a career-killing moment to a career highlight in just minutes (and in front of millions of people). The repercussions and debates about this will go on for days, if not weeks, but I'm not going to talk about that endlessly here.

Instead, I'm going to focus on the other news from the Oscars - the highlight of which, at least for our readers, was the Best Original Screenplay win for Kenneth Branagh and his semi-autobiographical film Belfast.

Accepting the award, he paid tribute to an "amazing city and a fantastic people," and said the movie was a "search for joy and hope in the face of violence and loss... We will never forget all of those lost in the heart-breaking, heart-warming human story of that amazing city of Belfast on the fabulous island of Ireland."

Belfast lost in the other categories it was nominated in: Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor (for Belfast native Ciaran Hinds), Best Supporting Actress (Judi Dench), Best Song (Van Morrison's "Down to Joy") and Best Sound (Denise Yarde, Simon Chase, James Mather and Niv Adiri).

It also failed to win Best Director, an honor that went to New Zealander Jane Campion for Power of The Dog. She was only the third woman to win that particular gong in the Oscars' 94-year history, but it must have been bittersweet for her: the movie lost out in all the other 11 categories it had a shot at, which equaled the record for least wins vs. nominations.

Another disappointed person was Killarney-born Jessie Buckley, who was nominated as Best Supporting Actress for The Lost Daughter. A dark drama about motherhood, it had also been nominated for Best Actress (Olivia Coleman) and Adapted Screenplay (writer/director Maggie Gyllenhaal). However, like Dench, Buckley went home empty-handed (they lost out to Ariana DeBose for Steven Spielberg's remake of West Side Story). The Lost Daughter was 0 for 3 too.

In a night of many upsets - and not just Smith's violent outburst - the science fiction epic Dune actually scooped the biggest haul, taking home six Oscars, though none

of them were in the more glamorous "major" categories (i.e., acting, screenplay, director, picture).

Winning big too was the family drama CODA, which won the huge prize of Best Picture, as well as Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Supporting Actor for Troy Kotsur, the first deaf actor to win the award. CODA was also the first movie from a streaming service (Apple+, and so not available to see in cinemas), to win Best Picture.

Kotsur's ASL signed/instantaneously-translated speech was one of several moving ones during the ceremony, which had very clearly taken a step towards trying to attract a younger, more diverse audience after years of falling ratings. But sadly, that all got pushed to the side the moment Smith angrily took to the stage (at least for the first time).

Elsewhere in America, another Irish actor in the news recently was Reece Thompson, who revealed how much money he still makes from his role as the "Irish little boy" in James Cameron's legendary movie Titanic. As many of you will know, this month is the 25th anniversary of the Kate Winslet/Leonardo DiCaprio movie, and the 110th anniversary of the sinking of the legendary ocean liner.

Thompson appeared in the fictionalized movie version when he was just five years old, playing a third-class passenger who tragically dies alongside his mother and sister. He was in three scenes and, crucially in terms of salary and future royalties, said one actual line of dialogue.

Now aged 30 and the digital marketing director at a skiing and snowboarding facility in Utah, he still gets a couple of checks a year in royalties, though the former child model admits that he doesn't remember much from the movie shoot.

At this time, his mother had a choice for her son: being in a television commercial, or the high-budget movie, which was set to star Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet:

"(She said) Let's just do it. It'll be cool. Even if the movie sucks, we'll see it."

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Wise words indeed, as the movie ultimately grossed close to \$2bn, and is the second-biggest grossing hit of all time. Thompson was paid well for his work - about \$29,000 - and this helped cover his education and vehicle expenses over the following decades. In the years after the

movie came out, he received checks in the "low thousands" every three months, but these days it's around £150 to £250 a year (about \$200-\$300).

"When one arrives on the mat, I always think: this movie's 25 years old! That's pretty bizarre."



L to R Meghan Conery, Katie Lenihan, Pat Sullivan, Tom Russell, Pat Leyden, relax after their performance for the Celtic Legal Society of Chicago's annual luncheon with over 950 in attendance. Looks like we are back in full force!

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You might ask what does the West Suburban Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade and the sport of hurling have to do with each other? Is it that they are both performed in warm weather? Nope, it was a wind chill of -5 when the parade stepped off in Naperville on Saturday morning. Is it that they both draw huge followings? Nope, much like

a hurling match, many people stayed home. The easy answer is that the two of them are proud testaments to the will and the comradery of the Irish.

I recently read an article naming the ten most Irish cities in America and shockingly Naperville was ranked 4th with 15.9% of the population claiming Irish roots. Lead-



Game On!

By Chris Wheaton



ing the way was Manchester, New Hampshire with 19.4% and Lowell, Massachusetts was second at 17%. The high Irish concentration was evident on Saturday as we and many others braved the cold and marched through the streets of Naperville.

The parade reminded some of our Irish players of back home where people gather to support each other whether it is at a GAA sporting event, a parade, wedding or funeral. Community is everything to the Irish and I am proud to be a member of both the Naperville Hurling community as well as Naperville in general. John Haran from County Sligo and all around great guy compared the parade to game days in his hometown. "Everyone from the parish would come out and watch the games. Young or old, rain or shine, it didn't matter. When you are part of a sporting club your social

life revolves around that." If work needed to be done at the clubhouse, if a member needed some repairs done to their home, or if somebody needed a ride across town, the club would step up and help." That commitment to each other is what separates the great amateur games of hurling and Gaelic football from the multi-millionaire athletes playing professional sports in the United States.

The parade had the usual marching bands, Shriners in their little cars as well as a fair amount of people running for elected office since we are in an even numbered year. My buddy Mike Reidy who is running for Circuit Judge in DuPage County had a huge contingent of friends and family sharing candy with little kids and kissing every baby in sight.

Everyone was Irish at least for the day of the parade and presumably through the week leading up to March 17. Our club started the day as we do every Saturday morning with our hurling Pub League squaring off at 6:00 a.m. The games finished with a quick breakfast, shower, and a quick nip of Teelings and then it was out to trek the 1 1/2 mile route. We chose to use the parade as a recruiting tool. We passed out flyers, let people handle the hurley and sliotar and invited them to come to a training session to give the game a go. Hopefully, the spring weather will bring some new faces to the pitch.

The parade ended with a beeline to Quigley's Irish Pub where we spent the afternoon enjoying a few pints and regaling each other with fictional stories from days gone by because after all; that's what the Irish do!

I welcome all of you who are reading this to mark your calendars for August 19-21 when Gaelic Park will host the USGAA National Tournament for hurling and Gaelic football. Teams from all across North America will compete in the three day tournament and it promises to be great fun for the rabid fan or the casual observer who wants to see a sport played at the highest level with little to no investment.

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I want to highlight and thank our Irish grocery stores this month. Such as Jack & Pat's in Chicago Ridge, Touch of Ireland in Oak Lawn, S.S Irish Imports on 111th Street in Chicago and Winston's in Tinley Park. With rising prices at the grocery store and everywhere else it's a concern if and what will close next. We might have to start using bikes to get around if gas prices keep going up. It got me thinking of small grocery stores and how hard it has been on them through this pandemic. Unfortunately, so many businesses closed and closed forever because of this virus. You name it, pre-schools, bowling alleys, restaurants, clothing stores, etc....

Grocery stores serve as a reflection of what's going on in a society. Grocery stores mimicked the strategy that department stores used to lure customers in with colorful window displays. Some people go to a few grocery stores to get everything they need. Some might get vegetables at a different store than where they buy their paper products. When I was young you would give your list of items to the shop keeper, and he would take up your items for you. They would keep a ledger recording each households weekly purchases. They would wrap some things in paper most times you would not get a bag.

Some grocery stores have an ethnic isle but for some imported foods we have to go to a special/ethnic grocery.

There are several ethnic groceries from Indian, Polish, Mexican etc.... Ethnic groceries are a precious place because they carry items from that person's home country. Luckily, we have some Irish stores near us. We have been going to Jack & Pat's since we landed

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Ethnic and mainstream foods have increasingly joined as consumers of all backgrounds become more exposed to the cuisines of the world through cooking shows, social media and the growing presence of globally influenced foodservice offerings. So, expand your horizons and visit some Indian, Chinese, Mexican, Polish, Greek, and of course Irish grocery stores!

I will leave you with this story about not giving up. Whatever it is that you love to do, keep doing it because you never know what can happen. "When Stephen King was writing his first novel Carrie in the 1970s, he was living in a trailer, driving a broken-down Buick and putting in hours as a gas-pump attendant. His wife, Tabby, worked at Dunkin' Donuts. When he finished the novel, he sent it to 30 publishers. They all turned it down.

"There is a time in the lives of most writers when they are vulnerable, when the vivid dreams and ambitions of childhood seem to pale in the harsh sunlight of what we call the real world," King said in 2003 at the National Book Award ceremony. "If my wife had suggested to me put my dreams away and support my family, I would have done that with no complaint. "But she didn't, and King has since published more than 50 novels. Oh, and he's the 19th best-selling author of all time." Happy Easter to all. If you have any questions please call, (708) 425-7021

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CORK & KERRY

GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN

This is a funny story about my husband's ancestors.

A widely publicized eviction took place on 10 June 1887 near Bodyke in east Clare. The farm in question was held by John O'Halloran. Women played an important defensive role in evictions during the Land Wars, and the O'Halloran sisters - Honoria, Annie and Sarah - and their mother, Harriet, were by no means unique in their fierce resistance during the siege on their homestead. The family held out for hours against an armed invading force, which according to the



Freeman's Journal (11 June 1887) numbered 400 men. The O'Halloran holding in the townland of Lisba-

reen, southwest of Bodyke village, consisted of about 18 acres rented from Colonel O'Callaghan at an annual cost of £23 10s, with an additional drainage charge of £2 10s. Some years previous, the rent had been raised to £33 but was subsequently reduced when the tenants took the case to the Land Court. Despite this reduction, the O'Halloran's owed two years' rent in large part due to the construction of a new two-storey slated house and outhouses; reports differ but the building work seemed to have cost between £176 and £220, which the O'Halloran family had in part borrowed from the Board of Works (Irish Times, 15 June 1887; Cork Examiner, 11 June 1887). On the day of the eviction, present in the house were the three O'Halloran sisters, two of their brothers - Frank and Patrick - and their mother Harriet, while the Freeman's Journal (21 June 1887) reported that a young girl of only eight or nine years was also present and took part in the resistance, but whether or not she was another of Harriet's daughters is unclear. Outside the farmhouse, Michael Davitt - founder of the Irish National Land League - Also in

attendance in support of the family were a number of local clergymen and MP Joseph Richard Cox. Armed with rifles, bayonets, picks, axes, huge iron crowbars and shields, the bailiffs, RIC and soldiers led by Colonel Turner arrived at the farmstead at about 10.30 am, as a large crowd of tenants were gathering. Also present were the agents for the property (Hosford and Delmege) and Sheriff Croker. The family busied themselves boiling a mixture of dirty water and meal, and when the bailiffs cautiously approached the house, the O'Halloran sisters threw the boiling substance at them through the loopholes. The police threatened to shoot but the family remained defiant to the enthusiasm of the spectators. The magistrate present, a Mr. Crotty, instructed the women that if they continued to break the law, they would be sent to jail but they took no notice of such threats. Subsequently, the 'Emergency men' advanced under the protection of shields and umbrellas, and began to use crowbars on the gable wall. In response, Frank started firing slates down upon them, to a chorus of 'Don't, don't', while one of the O'Halloran girls courageously challenged the troops shouting, 'Come now, if you dare' Eventually, the police managed to prop a scaling ladder against the house. About half a dozen policemen attempted to climb the ladder but were forcibly pushed off it by Frank using a long wooden pole, including District Inspector Hill who hurt his arm in the fall. After several attempts Constable Naughton (reported as Norton in some newspapers), managed to enter through an upstairs window. Once the policeman was inside, Honoria caught the long blade of his bayonet with her bare hands, at which point Frank overpowered Naughton to prevent any injury to her hands. Honoria - then armed with the bayonet - ran to the window and dispersed the gathering policeman using her newly acquired weapon. Immediately, Fr Hannon entered the building via the ladder. While the family intended to throw Naughton out the window, the priest convinced them to

reconsider knowing that the police would surely fire on them if they did so. By this time, more policemen had managed to enter the house. As Fr Hannon held Frank to prevent further conflict, one of the policemen confronted Harriet who had been showering sand and stones from a back window on the authorities below. The priest let go of Frank so he could go to his mother's aid but by this time the O'Halloran family could hold out no longer. All of the O'Halloran family members were taken into custody having been charged with assaulting District Inspector Hill and Constable Naughton, and while most of them were immediately released, some were brought to Limerick Jail to await the trial. As events unfolded inside the O'Halloran family home, a number of shocking incidents took place outside. The Cork Examiner (11 June 1887) reported that members of the Constabulary knocked a man of seventy years to the ground, and every time he attempted to stand, he was pushed over again and again until Fr Glynn interceded on his behalf, while a young man was also brutally attacked by the policemen, after the eviction had come to an end, for jeering at the authorities as they left the scene.. The pluckiness, daring and defiance shown that day was commented upon in many publications, with the Cork Examiner (11 June 1887) referring to the resisting party as 'the indomitable O'Halloran family'. In the aftermath of the eviction, a public meeting was held locally by Davitt and Cox where they commended the strength of the O'Halloran family, and in particular Harriet's heroic defence of her home. The case was heard in Ennis Courthouse on 20 June 1887. The presiding magistrates were Cecil Roche and J. M. Kilkelly. Following statements by the plaintiffs and witnesses, Frank and Patrick were sentenced to three months imprisonment and hard labour, while Honoria and Annie received a sentence of one-month imprisonment with hard labour; Sarah and Harriet were not sentenced. In a lengthy speech, Judge Roche declared the sentence a miscarriage of justice and that he wholly disagreed with his colleague Kilkelly believing he was far too lenient on the O'Halloran family. He stated that the attack on Naughton was 'brutal and savage' and described the conduct of the sisters as 'extremely violent' (Cork Examiner, 21 June 1887). After a recess, Kilkelly addressed the court saying that he did not deserve the observations made by Roche and that he was trying to do his duty impartially and fairly. Hope you enjoyed this til next time stay safe.

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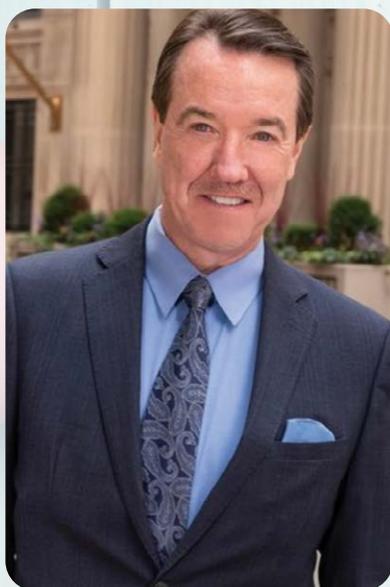
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