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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



singled out for criticism in protestors' speeches. There are many politicians who could have raised the ire of the marchers. The Taoiseach,

The Rise of the Far Right in Ireland

Put into a pot the worst housing crisis in Ireland's history that has alienated a generation who are unable to buy a home. Add an illegal invasion of another European country of 44 million people that has forced 70,000 people to seek refuge in Ireland over the past year. Let simmer with a populist party that promises to solve all the working class's problems but spends a suspicious amount of time wining and dining Wall Street and Silicon Valley executives. Stir with a well-coordinated campaign of xenophobia on social media. Then serve on the streets of Ireland. Delicious with a side order of pit-bull terriers. Wash down with a glass of counter-protesters who allegedly drive a vehicle into a mob.

For a long time, a pretence persisted that Ireland, the land of a hundred thousand welcomes, was above the hard-right politics that has gained a foothold in most European countries over the past decade. Political parties, both in government and in opposition, resisted the rhetoric of hatred of immigrants that has become mainstream in France and Italy and that has helped to destroy democracy in Hungary and Poland. By contrast, the integration of foreign nationals in Ireland has been a success story. A prevailing narrative held that the Irish were somehow different. Yet the past month or so has proven that to be a fantasy. The deepening housing catastrophe and the rising number of homeless in Ireland pressurised an already disaffected segment of the population. The arrival of people fleeing the ravages of war in Ukraine was the breaking point. Now we have seen right-wing, anti-immigration demonstrations across dozens of Irish towns and cities.

The most prominent demonstration so far was held on February 6th when circa two thousand people marched through Dublin City Centre. A counter-protest also lined out that day on O'Connell Street to defy the message being promulgated, but the anti-immigration march was much bigger. The anti-immigration march stopped in front of three prominent media outlets in Dublin: Independent News and Media, the Irish Times and Today FM. (If RTE were based in central Dublin, it would surely have been a way station as well). It then marched to Government Buildings. Marchers expressed their disgust at being labelled 'racist' by these media outlets, revealing the ideological direction of the march's organisers.

One of the placards held by protestors featured Sinn Féin leader, Mary Lou McDonald, and the word 'traitor'. It was also notable that Sinn Féin was

for example, is from an immigrant background, and he has not, in his words or policies, succoured the working class. So, why did the protestors round upon McDonald and Sinn Féin?

The rise of Sinn Féin is the biggest shift in Irish party politics in the past two decades. In 2007, the party held only four seats in the Irish government whereas 3 general elections later, in 2020, it won 37 seats and also won the popular vote. Sinn Féin built its base initially from working-class voters, but then it needed to consolidate that with middle-class support. The housing crisis was a gift to the party, which it has assiduously used as it cultivated an image of being 'anti-establishment'. Since the 2020 election, its elected representatives can hardly get through a sentence without referring to the word 'change', and adding that Sinn Féin will soon be in government.

Now within striking distance of leading a government, although lacking the obvious coalition partner that it would need, Sinn Féin cannot afford to alienate young people born into Irish middle-class backgrounds who are now unable to buy their own home, as their parents' generation could. Sinn Féin's problem is that, while the party appeals to the disaffected 'generation rent', that grouping has espoused distinctly different social views to Sinn Féin's traditional source of support, some of whom gathered in front of public buildings and hotels used to house refugees. In a recent survey, Ireland Thinks, a consultancy firm, found that 61% of Sinn Féin voters believe that Ireland has 'taken in too many refugees' this year. That is more than any other constituency and almost double the number of Labour Party supporters who hold that belief.

Since Sinn Féin needs both constituencies, its response to the anti-immigration demonstration has been to prevaricate. Mary Lou McDonald has taken to the airwaves to lecture people on aiming their anger at the government parties. While this is faintly amusing, it is a clear sign of panic. It is also surely disconcerting for her that she was personally singled out by the demonstrators for abuse. The magic of populism is that it can provide all answers to all problems. Yet if those problems persist, the smug source of all the 'solutions' becomes a target. Sinn Féin has never before been confronted with such antagonism from this source.

Leo Varadkar recently sounded an unsympathetic note on immigration: 'Refugees are welcome in Ireland. People who need our protection should get it. We also need to be firm with people who come to Ireland with a false story or false pretences... We should decide who enters our country, not criminal gangs... [and asked] how we can better secure our external borders around Europe'. In contrast to Sinn Féin, Varadkar's base has not reacted at all to this position. The instigators of the far-right demos understand that if they can build sufficient momentum they may form a political movement that stands to dilute Sinn Féin's support in the next general election, which will be held in 2025, if not before.

The right-wing debate has firmly forced itself into Irish politics, as never before. The Irish political pot is stirred.



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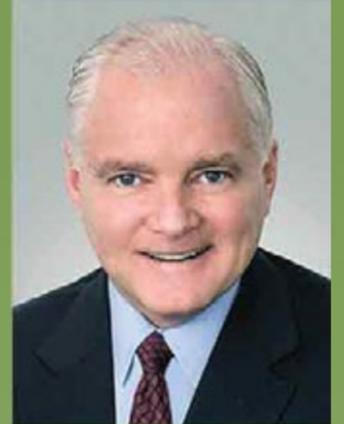
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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

Readers of *Irish American News* may not know, nor I imagine have little interest in Kyle Buchanan a man on staff at the New York Times. His job, important although seasonal, covers the film industry and as the newspaper's

projectionist is charged with predicting Oscar Nominees. In January his work entitled him to a Time's full page article as he transported readers through a maze of information from the Screen Actor's Guild. It's his job to publish a list of winners. I was chagrined and overwhelmed to read that Buchanan was in awe, actually a tad overwhelmed with the Irish Film *Banshees of Inisherin*, a film I watched in an early release and flittered it asunder on this very page of *Irish American News*. To me, an Irish immigrant, the film was damning, ugly and cruel. I even confessed

I bawled my eyes out from the film's beginning to end. Yes, two of Ireland's current great actors the elder Brendan Gleason and the endlessly praised younger Colin Farrell carried the film and have walked off with dozens of award winning citations. They may in fact be Oscar recipients. I have suffered bouts of *Mia Culpa* spasms following the lightening rod of awards both actors have received in the early months of the film's release. As the new year dawned I engaged in my annual examination listing the negative traits I may have exhibited in my work as a journalist. This annual soul searching is akin to admitting all mortal sins in a general confession. Readers who have lived through that tough ordeal are familiar with the soul cleansing the annual ritual provides. I was taken aback that

the NYTimes Projectionist praised the Irish film *Banshee* to the rooftops while I ripped it apart, tore it asunder never dreaming I'd be reading Buchanan's prediction it would be one of three film nominated for an Oscar by the Screen Actor's Guide. Should I apologize for rejecting the film especially as the actors Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleason continue to receive an abundance of impressive awards? So what if the gruffness of Gleason prompted him to cut off his fingers? Is it far fetched for an elder man, a violinist, a teacher of the fiddle, to crucify himself in such a way? Was he mad? It's hardly the end of the world especially on a remote Irish island to go to the pub with ten chopped fingers bleeding into a pint of Guinness. Maybe Gleason, a rogue of sorts, was on to something and mixing blood with porter enhanced the taste. Who knows! Gleason gave fair warning about doing the deed when he advised his young friend Farrell to leave him alone, he was no longer his friend and if Farrell continued to jaw about the cause of the breakup, he'd cut off his fingers. In my book, such an action places high on the list of mental insanity. Examining the film further, the young Farrell had to be a bit of a cunt. Even Kerry Condon the actress who played his feisty sister whom he lived with on that remote miserable island off the coast of Galway, fled to the mainland. She might have been fed-up with her brother's whinnying and his habit of bringing his pet donkey into the house every night for warmth and comfort. One also wonders who cleaned out the animal's droppings in the morning? As a journalist of course I researched donkeys and their personal habits and drew a blank. Clearly donkeys do not appear on the house pet lists! My mind wanders. Gleason lived alone on the island with no fingers in a nearby house with only a dog. Without fingers how could he hold the leash, or lift the boiling kettle off the stove for morning tea, never mind lift a glass of Guinness from the bar? I'm admitting here to readers, friends and family to sever my scalding absorption with this film *Banshee's* of *Inishfree*.



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Irish American Hall of Fame Announces 2023 Class of Inductees

The Irish American Hall of Fame announced its 2023 Class of Inductees - seven outstanding Irish Americans who have made significant contributions in their fields. The inductees and one "Hometown Hero" will be honored at the 11th Annual Irish American Hall of Fame Awards Gala on April 29, 2023 at The Irish American Heritage Center on Chicago's Northwest side.

Now in its 11th year, the Irish American Hall of Fame is national in scope and operated under the auspices of the Irish American Heritage Center. Over 200 nominations were considered from throughout the U.S. and a rigorous screening process applied to appoint the final 7 inductees.

Following are the 2023 Irish American Hall of Fame inductees and Hometown Hero. Full bios may be found at <http://iahof.org>.



Mark Howard

Arts & Humanities

Mark Howard (born April 3, 1962) is an Emmy Award winning choreographer and the Founding Artistic Director/Choreographer for Trinity Academy of Irish Dance and Trinity Irish Dance Company. A pioneer in dance, he created his own dance genre and significantly altered the landscape of Irish dance, re-introducing the art form as the phenomenon it is today.

Business & Industry

John Sexton (October 10, 1912-August 14, 1966) was a highly successful businessman in the sanitary landfill field. To honor his heritage, John would sponsor for Irish people immigrating to America. One of those people he sponsored was Tommy Ryan of Limerick, Ireland, who became the founder of the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band. John Sexton quietly provided the financial

About the Irish American Hall of Fame: The Irish American Hall of Fame (IAHOF) aspires to preserve and promote the stories of the Irish in America and the ongoing links between Ireland and the United States. The Hall of Fame was founded by members of the Chicago-based Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC). While the Hall of Fame is an organization born of and operated under the auspices of the IAHC, it is overseen by a separate governing committee and has a national focus.

Founded in 2010, the IAHOF inducted its first honorees in March 2011. On the occasion of this year's 2023 Hall of Fame celebration dinner, 101 Irish Americans will have been inducted. To see the full list of prior inductees and learn more, visit www.iahof.org

About the Irish American Heritage Center:

Founded in 1976, the Chicago-based organization is one of the premier Irish cultural organizations in the United States. It is a destination for people of Irish descent as well as those who wish to learn more about the Irish heritage. Learn more at www.irish-american.org.



John Sexton

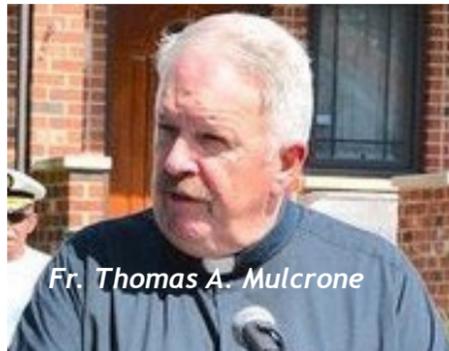
support that allowed The Rovers to persevere and become an integral part of the Irish American community.



Joanne Hayes-White

Public Service

Joanne Hayes-White (born February 1964) was sworn in as the 25th Chief of the San Francisco Fire Department on January 16, 2004. San Francisco was the largest urban fire department in the world with a female chief when Hayes-White took the job. She was the first ever woman to lead the department, the first openly gay chief and the longest-serving big-city fire chief in the country.



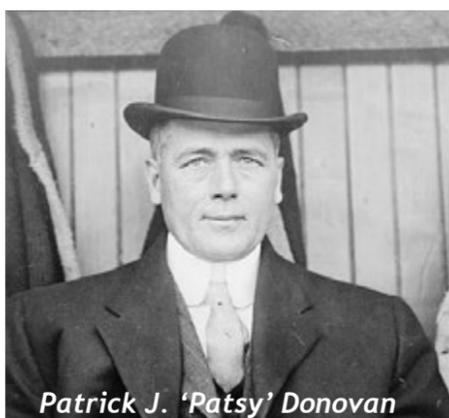
Fr. Thomas A. Mulcrone

Religion

Fr. Thomas A. Mulcrone (born 1951) served both the Chicago Fire Department and the International Association of Firefighters as their Chaplain. Over the course of 30 years, he responded to 1,480 extra-alarm fires and attended over 1,900 special-duty calls. He is a well-respected individual whom many from all religious denominations look to as a role model and leader.

Sports

Patrick J. "Patsy" Donovan (March 16, 1865 - December 25, 1953) was a native of County Cork, Ireland, and



Patrick J. 'Patsy' Donovan

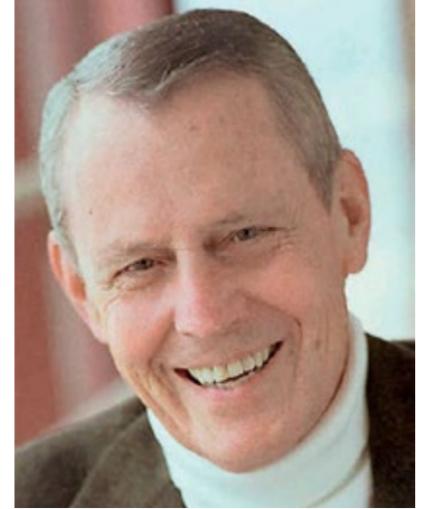
often referred as the most successful Irish-born baseball player in America. He spent seventeen years as a player and player coach in the big leagues, and boasted an impressive life time batting average of .313.



Education

John L. Lahey (born 1946) is an educator and administrator who served as President of Quinnipiac University for over 30 years, leading the University's unprecedented growth. He serves as Vice-Chairman of the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and has devoted much of his time to

educating the public about the historic implications of Ireland's Great Hunger, including the founding of the Ireland's Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University.



Science

Thomas Earl Starzl (March 11, 1926 - March 4, 2017) was an Irish American physician, researcher and an expert on organ transplants. Having performed the first human liver transplants, he is often referred to as "the father of modern transplantation." Dr. Starzl also performed the first transplant for an Irish citizen, Ireland's "miracle boy," two-year-old Colin McStay.

2023 Hometown Heroes

The Walsh family originates from County Armagh and County Mayo. In 1893, Matthew Myles Walsh came to Chicago looking for work at the World's Columbian Exposition.

Through four generations of Walshes in Chicago, the Walsh family went on to become leaders in architecture and construction, while also conquering the legal field as prominent attorneys for well-known law firms in Chicago.

Matthew P. Walsh Sr. passed away on December 22, 2023.

For more information visit www.iahof.org.



Dan Walsh



Matt Walsh



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Mary Sugrue Leads Irish American Partnership to New Heights, Drawing on Chicago Connection

Mary Sugrue remembers the day that she began working at the Irish American Partnership - March 13, 1989 - and over thirty years later, the organization's Chief Executive Officer is as energized as ever to continue its legacy, which continues to grow.

"It has been an honor," Sugrue shared during a recent interview ahead of the Partnership's annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration Breakfast, to be held on Friday, March 10 at Chicago's Union League Club. "I consider it a privilege to bridge Irish Americans back to Ireland through the Partnership. Their expression of love for Ireland has given me purpose."

Decades of Impact
That purpose has led to an impressive set of achievements

young people to adapt to unforeseen challenges, developing Outdoor Play and Learning programming to encourage people to get outside, play together safely and offline in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and supporting Ukrainian refugees after Russia's invasion last year.

Personal Story
The Partnership's Transatlantic success story mirrors that of Sugrue, whose mother and father hailed from Clare and Kerry, respectively, and emigrated to Chicago before moving back to Ireland to take over her father's family farm.

"I feel blessed to have two



Mary Sugrue

homelessness in Ireland that the Partnership modeled after his support of homelessness in Chicago. She also referenced that former Taoiseach Enda Kenny provided grants to 10 schools in Mayo after a visit to the Windy City.

From humble beginnings - the Partnership's inaugural breakfast in Chicago welcomed approximately 40 attendees - the organization's imprint on Chicago has only grown; to that end, Sugrue called out the Irish Fellowship Club, whose leaders and members were integral in welcoming the Partnership all the way back in 1990, and the Ireland Network Chicago among many organizations and individuals who have made it all possible.

Looking ahead, Sugrue hopes to only expand the Partnership's

"we're stronger together" to describe her team's culture, and this organization continues to connect supporters and beneficiaries, Irish and Irish Americans, united in the spirit of partnership.

How to Get Involved
The Irish American Partnership's St. Patrick's Day Celebration Breakfast is Friday,



Michael Clune

March 10 at 8:00 am at the Union League Club. Tickets can be purchased at www.irishap.org. In addition to attending the breakfast or annual golf outing



made possible through the Partnership, which began its activities in 1987, and seeks to connect Irish and Irish American communities directly with education and community programs in Ireland, North and South. To date, Irish American supporters have provided over \$33 million dollars in assistance to Ireland both in the North and South. Sugrue notes that more than 500 primary schools, higher educational institutions and hundreds of community organizations, North and South, have received assistance.

Sugrue and her small but growing team have maintained the organization's focus on supporting Irish young people, while adapting to an Ireland - and a world - that looks far different than it did in 1987.

"Ireland has changed dramatically," Sugrue acknowledged, "and the Partnership has seen that in the diversity of school populations that we serve, even in rural areas. We strive to keep our commitment to our core programs, which provide support for primary schools and disadvantaged students, and recognize the importance of topics like STEAM ("Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics")."

While keeping that focus, the Partnership has also helped

places to call home," she mentioned, noting that she splits her time between Boston, where the Partnership is headquartered, and XXXX. "This role helps me to understand emigration, and I hear frequently from our supporters, some of whom are third generation Irish Americans, that their heart is still in Ireland."

A former primary school teacher, Sugrue took on the role of Executive Secretary on that fateful March day in 1989 and has served as CEO since 2016. Ever one to credit others for the organization's success, she points to her dedicated team, which recently grew from two to five employees, including Nick Michael, who previously served as Vice Consul General of Ireland in Chicago, as well as the Board of Directors, which is currently chaired by Chicago's Michael Clune. Last but not least, she notes the countless supporters from across the United States as the driving forces behind all of the achievements of the past three decades.

Chicago is a "Strong Market" Clune's role as Chairman of the Board of Directors highlights the important impact that supporters from the Chicago area have made on the organization. Two other local leaders - Donal O'Brien and Michael Kilbane - serve on the board, and every year, hundreds

of people gather at the Union League Club for the St. Patrick's Day Celebration Breakfast, which has become a must-attend event for area business leaders, politicians, and community members who want to be a part of the Partnership's mission. The organization also holds an annual golf outing at Beverly Country Club each September.



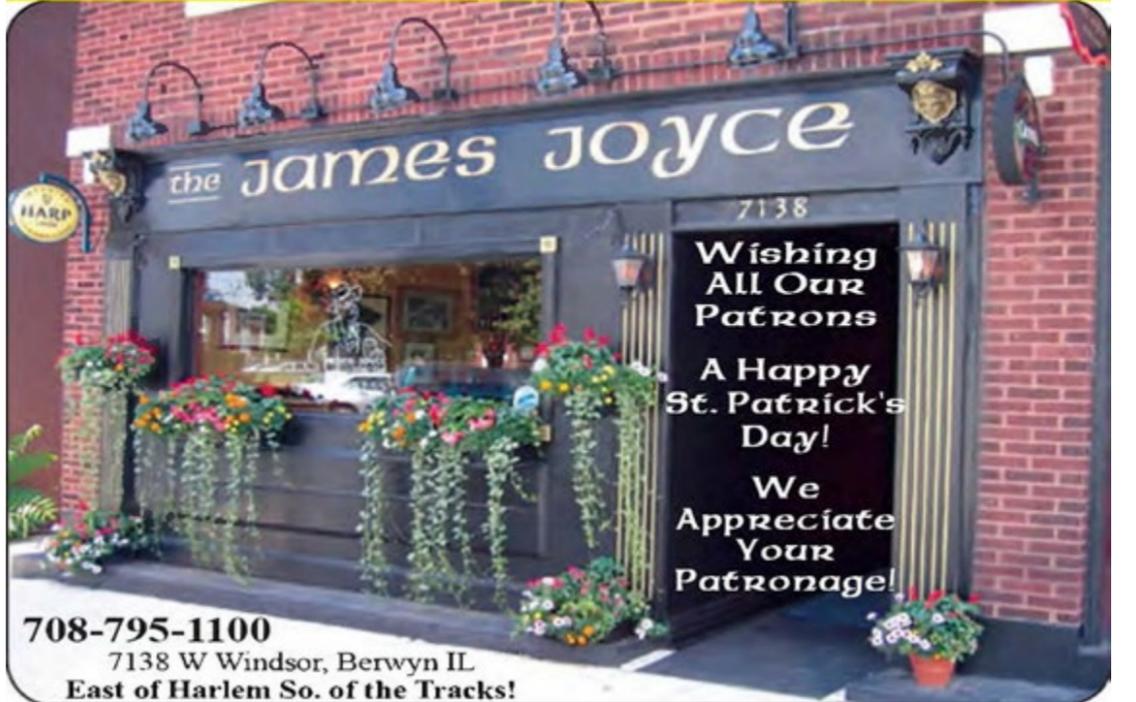
"Chicago is a strong market for the Partnership. We have so many generous supporters that make meaningful contributions to support our programming," Sugrue shared, citing as one example Clune's development of a program addressing

presence in Chicago, potentially launching a Young Partners Group, which has been established in Boston, and hosting a special women's event, which has been well received in Boston and Washington, DC.

Sugrue uses the phrase

in September, Sugrue also encourages people to reach out if they would like to give back in a targeted way to specific towns or counties that hold special meaning to them. Reach Mary and her staff at (617) 723-2707 or info@irishap.org.

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Will Harris, President

Benefit for Cameron Taft 4-16

On October 10th, 2021, Maureen & Chaz Taft experienced the most unimaginable tragedy. Their 22-month old son, Cameron, suffered a near fatal drowning. Due to the quick response from family, friends & first responders, Cameron was revived and began fighting for his life.

Maureen & Chaz were soon given news no parent wants to hear and needed to make a decision. Maureen was taught "Where there is life, there is hope." They knew Cameron had life in him. Cameron has a severe brain injury and the road to recovery will be long. With the high cost of care, the medical bills have become insurmountable.



On Sunday, April 16th, 2023, from 2PM-8PM, Cam's friends will host a "Super Cam" fundraiser at the Irish American Heritage Center (4626 N Knox Ave, Chicago, IL 60630) to celebrate Cam's recovery and help offset costs for Maureen & Chaz on this journey.

The event is free and open to all ages. Funds will be raised through donations and auction items. We are eagerly asking for your support to make this a success and are looking for donation items. No item is too big or small and will go a long way to aid Cam in his recovery. Every donation is welcome & appreciated! Some ideas include:

- Tickets to Sporting Events/Live Events
- Getaways, Trips, Vacation Homes, Airline & Hotel Points
- Signed paraphernalia • Electronics, Gadgets
- Children's items • Golf trips • Gift baskets
- Spas (Manicure, massages, etc.)
- Gift certificates (restaurants, Bars, etc.)
- Lessons (Cooking, Golfing, Dancing etc.)
- Fitness packages (Gym & Class memberships, Trainers, Work-out Gear)
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On October 10, 2021, Maureen and Chaz Taft experienced the most unimaginable tragedy. Their 22-month old son, Cameron, suffered a non-fatal drowning. Due to the quick response from family, friends and first responders, Cameron was revived and began fighting for his life. "Super Cam" has a severe brain injury and the road to recovery will be long. With the high cost of care, the medical bills have become insurmountable.

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GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

BY TINA BUTLER



This month let's get to know the "play-boy" (or as the younger generation says "player" of Ireland, Colin Farrell.

He is a multi-talented Irish actor from Dublin. We all have favorite actors and movies. We get great entertainment from movies. Films can be very entertaining, educational and call us to take action. Movies can boost our immune system by making us laugh, bring together families and couples, or escape from reality for a few hours.

Farrell is known for being a ladies man, an Irish Casanova. He was named Ireland's fifth greatest film actor in 2020. Other actors also from Dublin include Gabriel Byrne, Brendan Gleeson, Colm Meaney and the

late Fionnula Flanagan and Maureen O'Hara. Some highlights of the Irish capital include it boosts a lot of Georgian Architecture and it has the largest park in Europe, The Phoenix park. The park houses several important places, The Residence of the President, Aras an Uachtarain, various monuments, St Patrick's Cathedral, Ha'penny Bridge, galleries, Trinity college, Dublin Castle, etc..

Farrell has been in approximately 60 movies, impressive for his age. To name a few, The Lobster, In Bruges, Horrible Bosses, and Minority Report and his latest, Banshees of Inisherin. It's very common to find many stars had humble beginnings before they made it big, like Harrison Ford and Celine Dion. However, Farrell was from an affluent area in Dublin, I don't think his beginnings were terribly humble in that sense.

I wanted to write about Farrell because of his latest film Banshees of Inisherin (tragic comedy). I liked the movie however dark, because it was about friendship/relationship, At the end of the day that's all we really have is our relationships. They are a cornerstone of happiness and in leading a full life. A quote from the movie from Padraic played by Farrell, "Some things there's no moving on from. And I think that's a good thing".

Farrell says he suffers insomnia like many others do. They say insomnia is mostly from stress and about 50% of adults will suffer from it from time to time but severe

continuous insomnia is about 10%. And ways to help insomnia include stick to the same sleep schedule, avoid naps, limit alcohol and some type of exercise.

Farrell appeared in a documentary about homeless men from around the world and they attempt to qualify for the Homeless World Cup. Farrell appeared in the movie and provided the narration.

Farrell starred in "Horrible Bosses" I especially loved this movie, I thought it was very funny. And almost anyone who has ever worked has probably dealt with a horrible boss. Who knows the precise number, but I would guess 50% of people do not like their current boss or think their boss is toxic as it showed in this movie. Farrell played the toxic boss.

Farrell starred in the movie, Thirteen Lives, a true story about the rescue of the Thai boy's soccer team that was trapped in a cave for over two weeks. (sadly, two men died in the rescue)

We are very proud of Colin Farrell and wish him continued success for many movie years to come.

This Months Gaelic

- Smidin Gaelic
- Actor-aisteoir
- Park-phairc
- Relationships-caidrimh

"I will say that as I get older and calmer and quieter in my own self, the one quality in a woman that I find more and more attractive is kindness" Colin Farrell

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UPCOMING MARCH EVENTS



Monday, March 6 - Irish Mass in Honor of St. Patrick

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
(1500 Brookdale Rd, Naperville)
6:30p prelude, 7:00p Mass



Tuesday, March 7 - Quiz Night @ 7:00p

Quigley's Irish Pub (43 East Jefferson, Naperville)



Saturday, March 11 - Naperville St. Patrick's Day Parade

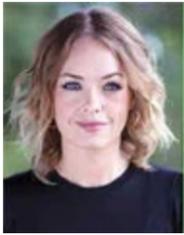
Downtown Naperville, IL
The parade steps off from Naperville North High School at 10:00a



Wednesday 15 - Irish Session @ 7:30p

Quigley's Irish Pub (43 East Jefferson, Naperville)

Learn more at WSIrish.org



Immigration Revelations By Fiona McEntee AND Natalia Blauvelt



All we Want for St. Patrick's Day is the Irish E-3 Visa

By Fiona McEntee, Managing Attorney, McEntee Law Group

As we approach the "wearing of the green" and the newly minted Irish American Heritage Month, my Irish eyes would be smiling even more if we secured the long-desired Irish E-3 visa.

Let's start with the basics - what is the E-3 visa? The E-3 visa program was originally introduced in 2005 as part of a trade deal between the U.S. and Australia. It allows Australians to come to the U.S. to work for U.S. employers in specialty/professional positions. There are 10,500 E-3 visas available each fiscal year for Australians. Typically, Australians only ever use approximately 5,000 of these per year, essentially leaving 5,000 left over E-3 visas each year. It's important to note that a few other countries also have their own specific allotment of working visas like Chile, Singapore, Canada, and Mexico.

Many years ago, based on the precedent of these other country-specific visas, and in recognition of the long-standing relationship between Ireland and the U.S., we - Ireland - began advocating for the "Irish E-3 visa." I personally have been involved in these efforts for years including advising many members of the Irish government on this option and being a regular media commentator on this. I, along with my brother and law partner, Ray McEntee, am originally from Dublin so the Irish E-3 visa is near and dear to my heart.

Over the years, we have come very close to the reality of an Irish E-3 visa. Those interested in this may recall that a previous effort had passed unanimously in the House but sadly, it ultimately failed as it was blocked by one lone objection from Senator Tom Cotton in December 2018. I was with then Senator Billy Lawless, a long-time champion of immigration reform and of the Irish E-3 visa, in the Seanad in Dublin in December 2018 when hopes of the Irish E-3 visa were dashed by Senator Cotton's objection. And while its demise was devastating at the time, we have not given up advocating for this.

I'm happy to say that last year efforts were renewed by both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to add Ireland to the E-3 visa program.

This new bipartisan effort is led in the House by Democratic Congressman Richard E. Neal, Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means, and Republican Congressman Mike Kelly. An identical companion bipartisan bill was filed in the Senate by (now retired) Republican Senator Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania and Democratic Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin of Illinois.

Senator Durbin spoke of the unique connection between the United States and Ireland:

"The United States and Ireland have long championed the ideals of liberty and freedom, which has allowed our nations to form an unshakeable bond that nurtures these ideals."

The proposed bill before the House and Senate would allow Irish citizens to use the surplus E-3 visas

from the prior year. This is important because it means that Ireland would never take away any E-3 visas from Australia - only the unused E-3 visas from the prior year would be available to Irish citizens.

If it goes ahead, the Irish E-3 visa will be an amazing opportunity for qualifying Irish citizens to move to the U.S. to work on a temporary basis. Spouses, and children under 21 years old, can apply for dependent E-3 visas. Another huge benefit to the E-3 visa is that E-3 spouses can work on entry and independently from the primary E-3 visa holder.

The Senate Bill is S.3869 and you can follow its progress here. The House Bill is H.R.8761 and you can follow its progress here. We haven't seen much action on these bills since they were introduced last year but with our national holiday approaching, we could think of no better time to see some movement on them!

To become law, the proposed Irish E-3 visa bill would need to pass in both the House and the Senate. It would then reach President Biden's desk for signature. Given President Biden's

connection to his ancestral home, we hope he would welcome the Irish E-3 visa with open arms.

As always, we remain cautiously optimistic that the Irish E-3 visa will become a reality but unfortunately, we don't know if or when that will happen. To keep up to date on the developments with the Irish E-3 visa, can you follow both McEntee Law and me (USVisaLawyer) on all social media platforms. You can also sign up for our newsletter on our website.

Maybe we will find our pot of 5,000 Irish E-3 visas at the end of the rainbow this year!

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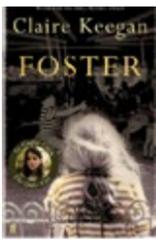
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BOOKS by Irish Authors or About Irish Subjects!



Books Under Review

By Sabina Clarke



greater part of the memory.” Saoirse is introspective, perceptive and a keen observer who watches the interactions between her mother and her grandmother and realizes that “her mother rarely spoke at all” and most of her speech was indirect- “flung around like fistfuls of confetti.”

The plot with its many twists and turns and surprises is full

of drama. The characters are well drawn and even when they are at times unlikeable they are sympathetic and full of humanity. This is a tale that left me wanting even more.

About the author: Donal Ryan is a novelist and short story writer from Nenagh, County Tipperary, Ireland. He has won several national and international awards for his fiction and has

twice been nominated for the Booker Prize. His work has been adapted for stage and screen and translated into more than twenty languages. He is a lecturer in creative writing at the University of Limerick and lives in Limerick with his wife Anne Marie and their two children. The Queen of Dirt Island is his seventh book and was an instant number one bestseller in Ireland.

The Queen of Dirt Island
By Donal Ryan Viking, New York, NY, 2023 \$27
Irish writer Donal Ryan’s latest novel The Queen of Dirt Island -his seventh --is an exquisitely wrought piece of fiction tracing the lives of four generations of women in one family --the wayward women of Nenagh, Tipperary.

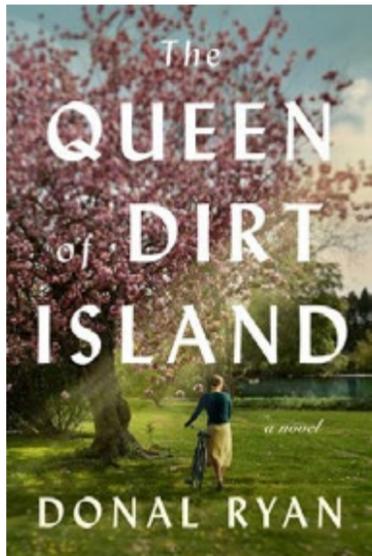
Ryan captures the soul of the Irish - their prejudices and hypocrisies, their petty jealousies and superstitions and their resilience. His characters are full of goodness and flawed. Their fears, their longings, their weaknesses and their strengths are laid bare enveloping us in their orbit until empathy for them is inevitable.

This panoramic tale sparkles with insight, poetry, emotional depth, raucous humor and profound truths.

Ryan style is lilting and visual and poetic - filled with symbolism and images--- a steady stream of consciousness. . Metaphors abound like “the cherry blossom blazing pink, the grass warm under her feet” and the ever

present yet comforting sense of resignation captured in daily chatter “ Haven’t people the same troubles no matter what?”

The central character is Saoirse, the narrator who was born under a cloud to a single mother—one of the greatest scandals in old



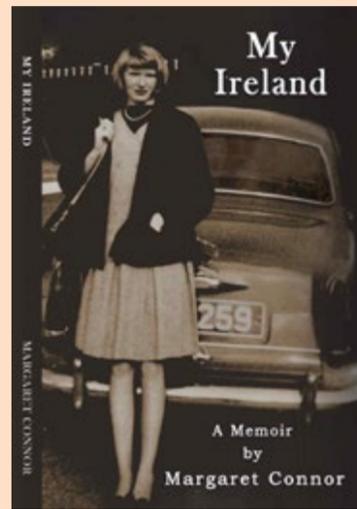
Ireland. Her earliest memory when she just turned five was of “ the cherry blossom tree heavily flowered at the edge of the small front garden; it was itself the

My Ireland by Margaret Connor

My Ireland presents a factual and descriptive account of Ireland in the 1950s from the perspective of the author looking back on her early life in the country of her birth. Margaret’s captivating and charming story renders a nostalgic picture of Ireland independent of the inequalities and poverty that existed there at that time. Her story concentrates, instead, on rural life with its wonderful sense of community meitheal (an Irish word that describes how neighbors came together to assist in a range of tasks such as the harvesting of crops). To a lesser extent, the author addresses the deep cultural divide of class and money as experienced in religion, education and professional opportunities. The book is structured chronologically, from Margaret’s childhood to adolescence and from leaving home for Dublin, Ireland’s capital city, and later to emigration. Beginning with

family, the description of her father’s passing is written from a child’s viewpoint.

This leads to a narrative on her mother, a unique and forthright woman for her day. The story increases in momentum as Margaret goes to work in Dublin. The newness and wonders of the city take her on an exploratory journey through theatres, shops and the banter of the street traders. Throughout the book are special moments in nature and



traditional Irish song and verse.

My Ireland is a historical and cultural walk down memory lane. It is more than a memoir. Rather, it is a loving and earnest conversation with Ireland’s rural past and its people. Available at Amazon and othe fine book stores.

About the Author:

Margaret Connor grew up on a small farm outside the town of Ballina in County Mayo. She left home as a teenager to work in Dublin in the hotel business. From there, she immigrated to the United States where she earned a B.A. from Harvard University followed by an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago. This led to a career in Silicon Valley as a finance officer in the technology industry. Margaret currently lives in Greenwich, CT with close proximity to New York City for her cultural interests. She remains involved in her profession by consulting with early-stage ventures. Her curiosity about travels to distant lands continues.

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I Called Her Mary: A Memoir

By Margaret M. O'Hagan & Thomas A. Gorman, Ed.D.

Available on [Amazon.com](https://amazon.com) in paperback or Kindle.
<https://icalledhermary.com>

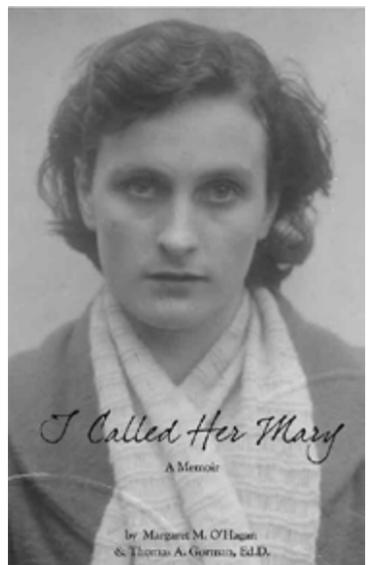
Peg Holland became pregnant as a teenager in a conservative village in 1950s Ireland. She knew her life would never be the same again. She was sent away in shame only to find courage and wisdom deep within her soul.

After her baby, Mary, is born, Peg and Mary are heckled and ridiculed by townspeople for nine months until Peg decides she must give Mary up for adoption so she can have a better life. This decision haunts Peg the rest of her life.

Having nothing left to keep her in Ireland, Peg leaves home to work in America. Mick O'Hagan is swept away by Peg and wants to marry her. She refuses due to the secret of her baby that no one knows about but eventually relents.

Fifty years after the birth of Mary, Peg receives a phone call from her daughter. They are reunited and the family only grows bigger and stronger because of their love. They share many stories of what each other missed out on but as the stories are told new details emerge. Fighting past the trauma of giving Mary up at such a young age, memories come flooding back and a new

truth of what actually happened comes to light.



Peg’s tales of hardship and unconditional love carry the reader through to the end. This heartbreaking tale shares the power of faith, hope, and love.

Reviews

SP - I loved this book. It is so heartfelt. I laughed, I cried, but most of all I came away so impressed by this amazing woman and her strength, determination and love for her family. What she lived through and how she survived it all is truly a story of grit! The fact that it is a true story makes it all the more amazing. Kudos for a wonderful book. I highly recommend it.

KK - This story made me feel so many emotions. I laughed and I cried. The story is so beautifully written that I really

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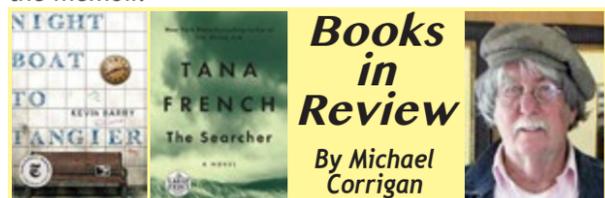
BOOKS by Irish Authors or About Irish Subjects!

feel like I know all of the people in the story. A must read for anyone who has made a big decision in life and gone on to live every day wondering if they made the right choice.

Authors

Peg O'Hagan grew up in Ireland before immigrating to America. She was married to Mick for over fifty years. They had four children together. After Mick's passing, she felt comfortable enough to share her story with others. She was interviewed for this memoir by her son-in-law, Tom.

Mary, Peg's daughter who was given up for adoption, was also interviewed and her story was captured in the memoir.

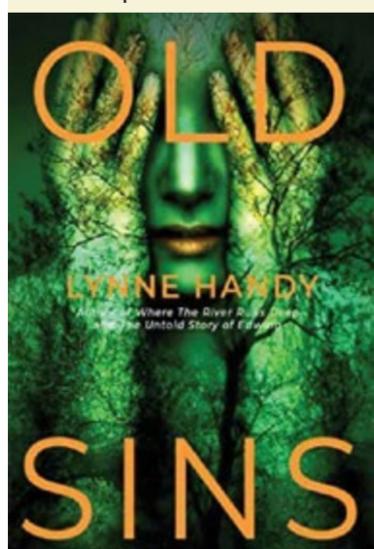


Old Sins by Lynn Handy

Independently published 8-17-22 Paperback: 295 pages

Old Sins by Lynn Handy is a murder mystery, the third in a series. It is set in Ireland, a country whose green grass has been stained by centuries of warfare and civil strife. What better locale exists for the discovery of the dead body of Bridget Vale, a young woman murdered by a garrote indicating it's personal? The murder is paralleled by the subplot of a sex trafficking ring kidnaping young women and terrifying the local village.

Every good mystery must have a murder victim and a sleuth—professional or amateur—who is colorful, often flawed, and able to survive the inevitable revenge attack by the killer.



If the protagonist has come from a broken love affair, it enriches the intrigue. A sidekick can be a useful foil, in this case, the police detective assigned to the case. Many genre writers will include a dramatic confession scene, and the killer's confession in Old Sins is unique. The eventual climax must deliver, and it is here where Maria Pell's fascination with Celtic warriors adds a twist I can't reveal—but the final confrontation is genuinely thrilling

The plot is straightforward. After a betrayal by her archeologist lover, Mathieu, poet Maria Pell travels to an Irish village to study ancient Celtic history, hoping old myths will inform her poetry. Her escape and plans to write are complicated by an eccentric moody cousin, Elizabeth, arriving with her own secret. Mathieu also appears to dig for artifacts, bringing an added, if somewhat erotic, tension. The discovery of Bridget's body on a shore revives Maria's devastating childhood memory of finding a dead baby floating in a stream. This memory haunts Maria's life and becomes significant as she closes in on the killer and sex traffickers. Here is the opening paragraph:

"In the summer of 1988 when I was ten, I found a baby girl caught in the cattails of a stream running through my parents' property. At first, I thought she was another baby Moses waiting to be discovered in the bulrushes. It was when I knelt to free her from the fronds that I saw her ashen face, her vacant eyes, and knew she was dead. I see it all in slow motion now: I, in a yellow sundress, scrambling to my feet, knowing something was horribly wrong that a baby had been thrown in the creek. I ran toward my house crying, 'There's a dead baby in the creek!'"

This childhood memory will run through the two plots of Old Sins and help tie the story lines together, the murder of Bridget and the villagers terrified by sex-traffickers. It is dangerous to have two plots in a mystery, but Lynn Handy skillfully unites them. My only criticism is that Handy often uses italics and exclamation points when Maria Pell makes a significant discovery. This can be unintentionally comic. This is a minor complaint, however. Old Sins is a more than satisfying read.

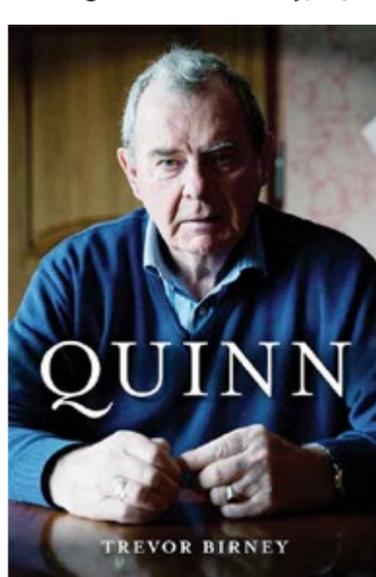
Quinn by Trevor Birney

The Irish #1 bestselling book Quinn, by Emmy-nominated journalist and film-maker Trevor Birney is coming to the US this month! The compelling rags to riches true story of Ireland's once richest man will be launched in Rosie O'Grady's, 7th Ave, New York, on 23 February.

Launching honours will be carried out by the acclaimed Irish actor, writer and director Adrian Dunbar, who hails from County Fermanagh, like Trevor Birney and Sean Quinn himself.

The book is sure to be of interest, particularly with Irish Americans, given its massive success in Ireland in December. Birney says, 'The book has been a bestseller in Ireland and has sold out in both the North and South in the run up to Christmas.'

In addition to the book, Birney spent four years making a documentary, Quinn Country, which



was broadcast on RTÉ over three nights prior to the book's release. It was one of the mostwatched TV programmes of the year in Ireland, with over 600,000 viewers, and teed up a

huge demand for the book.

When Quinn was released it went straight to the top of the non-fiction bestseller list, where

it stayed until Christmas. The book was featured extensively in the Irish broadcast and print media, and reviews were universally positive.

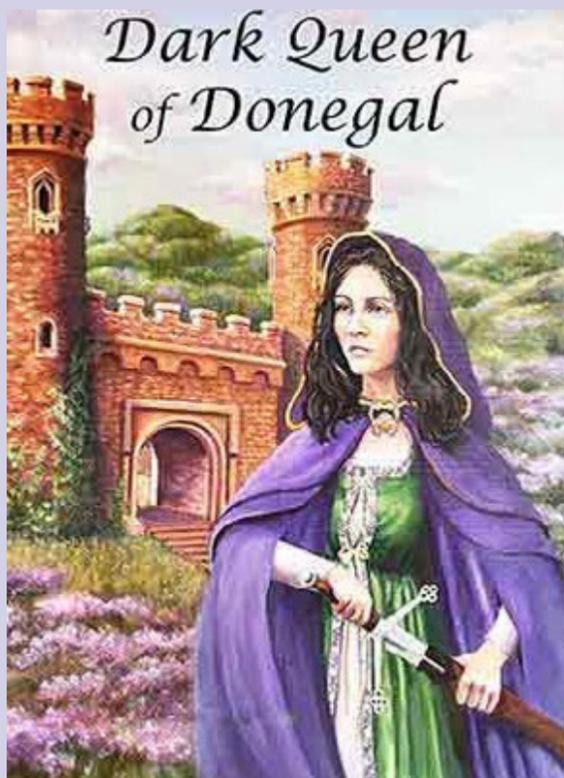
Birney adds, 'Now, we have the opportunity to launch the book in America, and we're delighted that Adrian is launching it. Everyone knows that Adrian is a very proud Fermanagh man, and is very proud of his roots, like myself. So for the two of us to come together in New York later in the month, it's going to be a very exciting evening.'
<https://www.irishacademicpress.ie/product/quinn>

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

Healy Scanlon Law Firm is comprised of eight trial attorneys and four "Of Counsel" attorneys, one of whom are from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 W. Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100) (overlooking Daley Center). www.HealyScanlon.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

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

Carjackings: Connection to Rideshare Companies

Most readers of this article have used ride-sharing services at one point or another. Ride-share providers, like Uber and Lyft, have been extremely successful in recent years with an estimated user base of 118 million people worldwide. The services that ride-share platforms offer are extremely convenient for their consumers. However, there are growing concerns about the use of fake or "phantom ride-share profiles" being used to commit violent crimes in the Chicago area.

Carjacking increase

In the summer of 2020, there were 75,000 registered ride-share drivers in the City of Chicago. Around this time,



Martin Healy Jr.

On the Law

John P. Scanlon



carjackings involving ride-share drivers began to escalate. In 2020, there were 1,415 carjackings in Chicago, a 135% year-over-year increase. From October 2020-March 2021, there were 40 carjackings of Chicago ride-share drivers according to a survey conducted by the Chicago branch of the Independent Drivers Guild. Ride-share drivers were being targeted because of how easy it was to make a fake ride-share account and use the fake account to commit violent crimes anonymously.

During this time period, all that was required to set up a ride-share account was a phone number, email address and payment method. While there is an option to add a photo to your profile, it is not compulsory for most users. When a ride-share driver accepted a ride request during this timeframe, they only saw the first name of the rider, the estimated ride length, and the pickup location.

The lack of security in signing up for the service left drivers vulnerable to people who use "phantom rideshare profiles" with fake names in order to lure the driver to their location to commit violent carjackings. Once inside the car, it is much easier for criminals to force the driver out of the car. In March 2021, ride-share driver Javier Ramos tragically lost his life in a carjacking incident on the city's West side. This incident sparked a movement to petition for more robust safety measures for ride-share drivers.

Ride-share drivers call for change

After the rapid increase in carjackings from 2020 onward, 1,700 local Chicago ride-share drivers signed a petition which asked ride-share companies to prohibit the use of fake names on the platform. Additionally, drivers wanted to be able to see the real first names of their passengers and wanted ride-share companies to require a state ID or license picture to be uploaded as a rider picture. On March 24, 2021,

there was a Resolution submitted to the Chicago City Council by the Independent Drivers Guild to call a hearing on ride-share companies' responses to driver safety. The Resolution asked for:

Expanded data requirements for their users, fraud verification, police zone warnings within ride-share applications, and panic buttons, among other safety demands.

Conclusion:

Ride-share companies need to be more proactive by expanding their rider verification process to require all riders to verify their identity with a state ID, driver's license, or passport. All riders should have a profile picture so that their driver can identify them when arriving at the pick-up location. Making these two simple steps would help to eliminate "phantom ride-sharing profiles". Ride-share companies could also work with the Chicago Police Department to integrate police zone warnings into the app to notify its drivers of any potentially dangerous areas where their safety might be at risk. Finally, ride-share companies can and should increase account screening processes to ensure more robust data verification processes are utilized to ensure account integrity. If ride-share companies implemented these changes, many of which are detailed in the Independent Drivers Guild Resolution, it could help prevent needless crime and protect its drivers and the public at large from the risk of violence associated with armed carjackings.

By: Martin J. Healy, Jr.
Caoimhín P. Drummond
Law Clerk,
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Hibernian Media/Global Irish Radio Join Forces With Website Streaming Content License Agreement



Mike Houlihan, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Hibernian Media (right), and Sean Ginnelly, founder of Global Irish Radio in Ireland (left), announced today that they have entered an Agreement to work together bringing the message of Irish and Irish American culture to every corner of the world with radio shows, podcasts, and broadcasts targeted to the Irish Diaspora.

winning screenwriter, director, actor/producer of independent films. Sean Ginnelly founded Global Irish Radio in January of 2021, saying "We want Global Irish Radio to be the leading platform for such programs, a brand-new 24-hour streaming service featuring Irish radio programs from Ireland and around the globe, the go-to platform for independently produced radio programs." Ginnelly was the presenter of the popular "Good Morning Ireland Radio Show" in Chicago from 2005 until January of 2020. He currently operates GIR from his home in Ireland.

people globally." says Houlihan. Ginnelly says "Global Irish Radio is a world-wide Internet streaming service dedicated to showcasing Irish programming, currently from Chicago, Boston, New York City, London, and soon Australia and other locations." Hibernian Media and Global Irish Radio are focused on the future of Irish and Irish American culture being delivered online, 24 hours a day, around the clock and around the world. Visit: Hibernianmedia.org Hibernianradio.org www.globalirishradio.com www.irishradionetwork.ie and www.GIR.ie. Mike Houlihan 312-431-8700

Houlihan founded Hibernian Media with his family back in 2013 as a not-for-profit public charity dedicated to Irish and Irish American culture. Hibernian produces a pair of weekly Irish radio programs, an annual film festival, an annual pilgrimage to Ireland, and a variety of one-off independent films, TV shows, and special events; all celebrating Irish culture. He's a former features columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times, The Irish American News, and currently writes the "Chicago Calling" column for The Irish Echo, as well as an award-

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'Wild Atlantic Way'

Written by Nathan Carter, Joe Cullen, Joe McShane

Verse 1

The folks are kind you'll stay and dine then leave from Malin Head
From the B & B with a flask of tea and homemade Irish bread
The heartbeat of the people, is the rhythm of the land
Come stay awhile spend some time along the golden strand

Verse 2

Along the coastal highway were the waves kiss Ireland's shore
The music of the ocean, sings your welcome home
You'll see the Untamed beauty, where nature came to play
The past will come to meet you on the Wild Atlantic Way

Chorus

And your heart feels the rhythm and sweet musical sounds
As the sun is setting beyond the western strand
You will dream ever after of the friendships you have made
Memories will linger of the Wild Atlantic Way

Verse 3

Over 15 hundred miles of winding coastal road
Some old ruined castles from a time so long ago
Mountains high that reach the sky where Eagles build their nests
Fishermen sail home as the sun sinks in the west

Chorus

And your heart feels the rhythm and sweet musical sounds
As the sun is setting beyond the western strand
You will dream ever after of the friendships you have made
Memories will linger of the Wild Atlantic Way

Verse 4

So come along and join us and feel the ocean spray
See the Dolphins feel the friendship let troubles drift away
We'll drive along the tide by rugged mountain peaks
Its beauty takes your breath away along the shining sea

Chorus

And your heart feels the rhythm and sweet musical sounds
As the sun is setting beyond the western strand
You will dream ever after of the friendships you have made
Memories will linger of the Wild Atlantic Way

Joe McShane

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



As usual lately, I'm in transit again. This time I'm just onboard my flight from Dublin to Chicago. Like always I forgot something and, this time it's the charger for my laptop. So, before my battery dies I want to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

I also want to thank Merv and Maria for doing such a great job organizing and just doing a wonderful job on the Nicky James Weekend at the end of February. It has been 3 years

since the 16th of February 2020 since my brother Nicky (Nicky James) passed away. So, it was a wonderful tribute to what Nick had started away back. There was great joy and we will be doing it the same times every year. The next one is on November 24th, 25th, and 26th. It's held at the Savoy Hotel, Blackpool UK. If anyone is interested in making it over there is a host of well known Irish Stars onboard. You can contact Merv and Maria from

their site mervandmaria.com.

I look forward to meeting everyone over the next few weeks in Chicago. So, before my battery goes, I'm going to put the words for this month's song down. It's one that was written by Nathan Carter, Joe Cullen, and Joe McShane. It's all about the 'The Wild Atlantic Way'. See you soon and also I'm really looking forward to playing with the Stephen Smyth Band on the Alaskan Cruise in May. I know a lot of Irish Chicagoans will be on that cruise. I'll talk to you next month, with a full battery and some tales from the road and ocean

[Joe's facebook songwrite page Website](#)

[Joe's ian monthly columns](#)

Colleen's Award-Winning Irish Soda Bread

What was once a fund raiser for Irish Dance has turned into a yearly ritual for Chicago native Colleen Callaghan Gallagher, (pictured).



For eighteen years, Colleen has been raising funds for Irish Dance by baking and selling her award-winning Irish soda bread. Her bread sales have helped to cover the cost of dresses, wigs, shoes, tuition, and competition fees.

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

1st place medals in multiple competitions. Her customer base has grown from her old neighborhood of Norwood and Edison Park to her hometown

now of Rolling Meadows through Palatine and Arlington Heights. In 2010 Colleen decided to take her baking to a commercial kitchen where she can bake up to 300 loaves each night. Family members and friends come to help Colleen bake wrap and decorate every loaf with shamrocks and ribbon. Her grandmother Bridget Therese O'Malley (Co. Mayo) lived over 96 years, and this was her treasured recipe.

You can find Colleen's Award-Winning Irish Soda Bread at many venues this season.

For the last ten years, during March you can pick up a loaf of her Award-Winning Irish Soda Bread at Peggy Kinnane's Irish Pub and Restaurant 8 N. Vail Arlington Heights, IL. 60004.

This delicious bread makes the perfect hostess gift for any St. Patrick's Day Party. It is a delicious complement to your Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner.

You can place orders for delivery to your company. Gift Baskets and sliced platters with Kerry Gold Butter are available upon request. Share with your employees and clients by calling (847)340-0894, or simply order by email from colleen@lifetimetreasures.net Look for selling dates and venues by visiting FACEBOOK / COLLEENS IRISH SODA BREAD

Colleen's Freshly Baked Irish Soda Bread can also be found at The Irish American Heritage Center, Zia's Social, Northwest Side Irish Parade, The Curragh & the Firewater Saloon in Edison Park, Durty Nellies, Elmhurst Parade, and many other venues around town.

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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



time. The Ireland he tried to capture in romantic verse crumbles and disintegrates, the 'centre cannot hold'. His disappointment and disillusionment lead him to write some of his more profound poems. The 'savage indignation' he assigned to Jonathan Swift was also a part of his own fragile psyche.

Life is Sweet

If you're like me you tend to get submerged in all sorts of things, and most of those things are enough to take you further under. For a while, I have been so engrossed in the news my vision was simply bleak. There was any number of what ifs, could it be, anything to make the news appealing. For some reason, news outlets love to drum up apocalyptic vibes to have us on the edge of our seats for nothing. It's not news if it doesn't leave you feeling as though something big is going to happen and it's taken me a long time, too long a time, to realize that the news isn't news so much as panic-mongering. Over the past years, I've been up and down on the media roller coaster so much that I'm beginning to wonder if it was any different now to when I was younger.

When I was younger I didn't care much for the news. I was too busy enjoying life and exploring new things. Life was sweeter then. I wasn't so much into the business of politics as much as I was in the midst of a swirl of life events that were more exciting than historical happenings that would define my future. It's strange how as I've got older how that way of thinking has reversed and now I'm preoccupied with historical occurrences and my life events have taken a back seat. The world has become a dangerous and unpredictable place as I've aged it was probably as hazardous when I was younger but wasn't conscious of it. Something had changed. My perspective grew increasingly gloomier and settled in amid an unsettling world. It was as if I became aware that we were living on a ball that rotates in a solar system that I hadn't noticed before.

Such a shift in focus is bound to happen as you grow older. The things that you rushed past begin to catch your attention as you slow down. I was never aware of nature in a particular way when I was younger. I saw nature as a wonderful beautiful global entity that was to be enjoyed in a universal sense. The details weren't important it was the overall feel of the natural world that affected me. I concentrated on the sensual effect of nature and wasn't much interested in the particulars. Decades pass and I find I'm seeing that those particulars are much more interesting and exciting than I ever thought. As a person whose interest is in literature, I see this shift of focus in the writings of well-known authors.

Yeats, in his youth, venerated the legends and myths of Ireland. The young poet enjoyed the sensuality and the beauty of the metaphysical. The older poet is forced to face the realities of his times. His spirit still wants to celebrate the mystical but the real world keeps intruding. He cannot escape the horrors of his

There's a definite baptism of fire when it comes to seeing the world as an ugly place to live in. It's easy to see how we can be depressed by the state of this planet. I've said enough in previous articles about how I feel about the politics of our nation and the role we've played in destroying the best things in life for future generations. I don't need to enumerate the many issues that are pushing us towards the edge of oblivion. No one wants to listen to the scientist, the experts, people want to hear politicians who know little or nothing about what they say. It makes me despair at how unquestioning our community is about those who say things they cannot back up with real hard evidence. Day after day, I read how easy it is to dupe people into thinking of some conspiracy because it's on Facebook, Instagram or social media. Professionals be damned, let's read a blog by a moron who knows nothing but tells a good story.

It's at times such as this I know it's important to take a step back and remind myself that nothing is any different to how it was when Yeats was alive. People, even Yeats, were duped by the fascists who promised to return us to a place where there was a stable sense of government and a hierarchy that would keep us all in our rightful station. The promise, much like 'make America great again', was an illusion, a false hope that desperate people were prepared to buy into to escape the sense of panic. When the curtain is drawn back and the wizard is revealed to be a short man with a funny moustache, it's easy to point the finger and wonder how could anyone be taken in by such a charade. But we're no different, and we'll never be any different.

So, given this state of affairs, how can I think that life is sweet? The title of this article is taken from a Natalie Merchant song in which she writes 'they told you life is long, Be thankful when it's done, Don't ask for more, You should be grateful, But I tell you life is short, Be thankful because you know, It will be over, Cause life is sweet, And life is also very short, Your life is sweet.' The song acknowledges the futility of life but also how we can decide how to respond to this sense of existential despair. Viktor Frankel tells us the same thing in his book 'Man's Search for Meaning'. When faced with his captors in a concentration camp, Frankel suggests that all we have of our own is choice. We can decide to choose how to respond to where our life is. We can choose to despair or we can choose to value things in life that are important to us. Life is short, and there are things we should be grateful for. I'm trying to change my way of thinking and concentrate on those people who make my life sweeter and I'm grateful.

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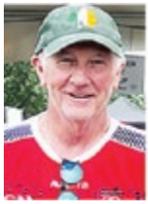
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Game On!
By Chris Wheaton



Like many of you, I watched the Super Bowl and actually found it completely enjoyable to view. The game was competitive, the super-hyped commercials were okay and the halftime show was entertaining to the people I was watching with so I guess that is a win.

At the end of the game, which was way past my bedtime by the way, I did a little research into this phenomenon known as the "big game". From what I can tell I was not the only person tuning in on Sunday. I learned that the game was broadcast in 180 countries, in 30 different languages to 113 million people. That's a lot of people to watch a sporting event! I wonder how many were actually football fans, or were just party goers looking for something to do on a Sunday afternoon in February.

With my interest piqued I looked into some other big sporting events to weigh their television popularity versus the Super Bowl. I am well aware that soccer is the most popular game in the world and found that 400 million tv's were tuned to the Champions League Final, not to

shabby but nowhere near the popularity of the World Cup Final. I was shocked to learn that 1.5 billion, yes BILLION soccer fans watched that exciting game featuring two soccer powers in Argentina and France. There are only 8 billion people on the face of the earth and 12.5% of them were watching a soccer match? That is amazing to me and left me wondering how many of those 8 billion even have access to a television. A question for another day but a staggering statistic none the less.

Being an Irish publication I figured I should investigate the viewership of GAA sports and see how we compare to the big American football game. I was pleasantly surprised to read that for the All-Ireland Hurling final last year 774,000 people watched and the number for the football final was even greater at 862,000. Do the math, that's not much less than watched the Super Bowl and I can guarantee you that the All-Ireland finals are not broadcast in 180 countries in 30 languages.

What does this all mean? One way to look at it is that GAA sports are alive and well, at least in Ireland. We here in the U.S.A. are doing our part to promote and grow the

Ceol & Craic Trasná na dTonnta to Showcase Irish Musicians Over St. Patrick's Week in Chicagoland

Ceol & Craic Trasná na dTonnta (Music and Fun Over The Waves) has been in the news over the last few months for sponsoring a very successful Irish Rebel Music Fest for the Benefit of Chicago Police Officer Danny Golden featuring Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe Tones; Kieran Byrne, The Chancers, and Chicago Garda Pipes and Drums.

"It was a great event and for a great cause, but it was a bit different than what our organization was originally set up to do" said Kieran Byrne one of the co-founders of the non-profit organization.

Kevin O Shea, Executive Director, explained, "the mission of our organization is to make it easier for Irish musicians to come to Chicago and showcase their music across Chicagoland. We have musicians scheduled to visit Chicago every 4 to 5 weeks for the rest of 2023. It's a great way to promote Irish culture and for the musicians to catch up with old friends and family within the diaspora."

St. Patrick's Week come and meet "Where's Paddy" (Suzie, Marian & Maeve) Suzie will be singing all the favorite Irish songs. She will treat us to a tune or two on the tin whistle. Accompanying Suzie at some gigs will be Marian, an extremely talented whistle and flautist and the other gigs Maeve who is a well-traveled, extremely talented Irish Fiddler, at the following venues:
Friday March 10 - Gaelic Park 7:30 - 9:30
Saturday March 11 - Chief O'Neill's 11am - 12:30
Irish American Heritage Center - 4:30 - 6
Celtic Crossing - Chicago - 8 - 10
Sunday March 12 - Fox Pub Orland Park 3 - 6
Wednesday March 15 - McNally's Pub St. Charles 7 - 10
Thursday March 16 - Reilly's Daughter 7 - 10
St. Patrick's Day - Foxes Pub Orland Park 3 - 6
Foxes Pub Orland Park - 7 - 10

In addition, on March 18th the ladies will be visiting Denise Hegarty on the Irish Hour at 10am and then The O'Connor Radio show at 11. You can find both shows on AM 1490.



sports, but as anyone affiliated with a GAA sport here in the states knows, it is a long and sometimes frustrating process. Getting the word out and recruiting are the most difficult tasks but many clubs here in Chicagoland have done a fantastic job of it. It is encouraging to see the number of viewers being close to those of the "big game".

All of this talk about the Super Bowl reminds me of a quote by Duane Thomas, a running back who played in the 2001 Super Bowl for the Dallas Cowboys; when asked how he felt about playing in the ultimate game, Thomas' classic response was "if it's the ultimate game, how come they're playing it again next year?" Truer words were never spoken. It's just a game and although it is "the thing to do" most of us never give it a second thought on the morning after. Sport is sport, not life and death. Let's keep things in perspective folks, concentrate on what really matters in our lives - that's called perspective and it is far more important than any football game.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 4 @ 5:30PM
Blarney Stone, Oak Forest, IL

SUNDAY, MARCH 5 @ 7:00PM
Firewater Saloon, Edison Park, IL

TUESDAY, MARCH 7 @ 8:00PM
City Winery, Chicago, IL

FRIDAY, MARCH 10 @ 6:00PM
Irish Fellowship Club
(Private Event), Chicago, IL

SATURDAY, MARCH 11 @ 2:30PM
Buddy Guys (Private Event), Chicago, IL

SATURDAY, MARCH 11 @ 5:00PM
Mickey Finns, Libertyville, IL

SATURDAY, MARCH 11 @ 8:30PM
Toadstool Pub, Highwood, IL

SUNDAY, MARCH 12 @ 6:00PM
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THURSDAY, MARCH 16 @ 7:00PM
Bally Doyle, Aurora, IL

FRIDAY, MARCH 17 @ 11:30AM
Foxes, Orland Park, IL

FRIDAY, MARCH 17 @ 3:00PM
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WYIN serves as one of three PBS member stations serving the Chicago television market, alongside Chicago-licensed WTTW and WYCC, and its programming consists of educational programs, sports and local news programming.

Check Your Local Listings



Brendan Byrne and Paul Dowling Honored as 40 Under 40 Leaders

By Emmett Fitzpatrick
Once again, the Chicago area was well represented at the Irish Echo's Top 40 Under 40 award celebration, held on February 24 in New York City. This year, two local leaders - Brendan Byrne and Paul Dowling - earned this prestigious honor, which recognizes Irish and Irish Americans who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields of work before reaching the age of forty.

Byrne and Dowling will be familiar names to readers of this paper, or indeed, any members of the Irish community in Chicago, and news of their achievement has spread all over the Irish Chicago community, reaching all the way to the office of the Consul General of Ireland in Chicago.

"We are delighted to see two members of the Chicago community named in the Irish Echo 40 Under 40 class of 2023," noted Sarah Keating, Acting Consul General of Chicago. "Congratulations to Paul and Brendan, whose much deserved inclusion on this list highlights their dedication and commitment to the Irish community here in Chicago."

Wearing Many Hats

Byrne has received significant accolades since opening his Avondale restaurant, the Wolfhound Bar and Kitchen, in 2021, but his contributions to this community started long before he entered the restaurant business. A Chicago native, he earned his Bachelor's degree

from the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC), has served as a firefighter and EMT with the Chicago Fire Department since 2008, actively manages properties in the Chicago area, and is an accomplished fiddler and member of the popular Chancey Brothers Irish band, which was recently featured on the cover of this paper in honor of its twentieth anniversary.

"Being recognized as one of the top 40 Under 40 Irish Americans is an incredible honor, especially considering the caliber of the recipients selected alongside me," said Byrne.

Dowling took on the role Executive Director of Irish Community Services (ICS) in January of 2022, after spending twelve years in various roles at the organization, which is housed in the Irish American Heritage Center and serves a vibrant, evolving, and proud Irish community. A native of County Wexford, he earned his Bachelor's degree from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth and a Master's of Social Work degree from the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Over the course of his years with ICS, Dowling has created and managed a series of programs to support the

older and more vulnerable members of the community, and more recently, he spearheaded outreach campaigns and wellness programs addressing mental wellness and memory loss. Like Byrne, he now wears several hats in his role as Executive Director; everything from budgeting to staff management to fundraising falls under his jurisdiction.

Byrne and Dowling have become well acquainted over the years.

Dowling remarked, "To be honored in New York alongside another member of our community here in Chicago makes this recognition even more special. Brendan is a very deserving honoree who is helping to keep our community vibrant and engaged."

Carrying on a Proud Tradition

This is not the first time that the Irish Echo has honored Chicago leaders with the 40 Under 40 designation. Past winners include Michael Collins, former Executive Director of ICS, Katie Fitzpatrick, Executive Director of Ireland Network Chicago and Founder of the Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance, and Fiona McEntee, Founding and Managing Attorney of McEntee Law Group, to name a few.

This connection is not lost on this year's award winners. Dowling mentioned, "I certainly consider myself to be in esteemed company when I think of the distinguished local honorees who have been selected for the Irish Echo's 40 Under 40 in the past. Chicago's Irish community lucky to have so many talented members contributing to their respective fields."

Byrne echoed that sentiment, sharing, "To be able to represent Chicago with Paul is simultaneously a humbling experience knowing the impact he has had here in Chicago



Brendan Byrne



Paul Dowling

"I'm thrilled that the Irish Echo emphasizes the importance of honoring those engaged in community service," Dowling shared upon hearing the news of his honor. "I believe the work that Irish Community Services does is of immense value, and I'm joyful that members of our local community believe my efforts for Chicago's Irish have been important."

Naturally, given their shared interests and contributions to the Irish community in Chicago,

and the importance of the work he does, but also one of great appreciation for getting to experience the awards ceremony and the vibrant Irish culture in New York with him as a representative of our city."

While the award recognized the previous accomplishments of Byrne and Dowling, neither gentleman expects to slow down any time soon, and for that, the Irish community in Chicago eagerly awaits their future contributions.

We Get Letters

Our Celtic Cousins

It's a cliché to say that all political careers end in failure. Like all clichés, there is a grain of truth. If you enter politics as a profession then you are bound to fail. If you set about trying to win high office to further a career, you will undoubtedly be found out.

I am lucky to work with activists. Some become political representatives. For them, it is a means to an end. For a bigger idea, the building of a new united Ireland. A better Ireland for all the people.

Personal ambition is secondary to advancing a big idea. We are all just cogs in that struggle for the common good.

I was reminded of this when Nicola Sturgeon, the leader of the Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP) announced her resignation. She is the First Minister of Scotland. Under her leadership, the SNP has grown and consolidated its position as the largest party in Scotland. The big idea of that party is Scottish independence.

Over the past number of years, there has been majority support for an independent Scotland. By those measurements, Nicola Sturgeon has been a remarkable success.

It will come as no surprise that I support the right of the people of Scotland to determine their own constitutional future. The right to national self-determination is fundamental to Irish Republicanism.

The Good Friday Agreement secured the right of the people of Ireland North and South to Irish Unity referendums. It obligates both the Irish and British Governments to legislate if the people vote in both jurisdictions for Irish unity.

Scotland has no such agreement. It is up to the British Government at Westminster to "allow" a referendum. A British government that has no mandate in Scotland and is made up of a majority of English MPs.

The British government, which fashions itself as the "United Kingdom", refuses the Scottish parliament's call for a referendum. What kind of union refuses the right of one party to leave? Could you imagine the outcry if the EU told the British that they could not leave?

The "union" is fundamentally undemocratic and unequal. Government by English interests in the interest of England.

This is a lesson well-known to Irish Republicans. It is now a lesson being learned by a new generation in Scotland. The right to self-determination cannot be denied.

Democracy cannot be denied. It is time to set the date for referendums in Scotland and Ireland. Nicola Sturgeon has been, and no doubt will continue to be, a passionate advocate for the right to self-determination of the Scottish people. I wish her well in the path ahead.

Is mise, Ciarán Quinn, Sinn Féin Representative to North America

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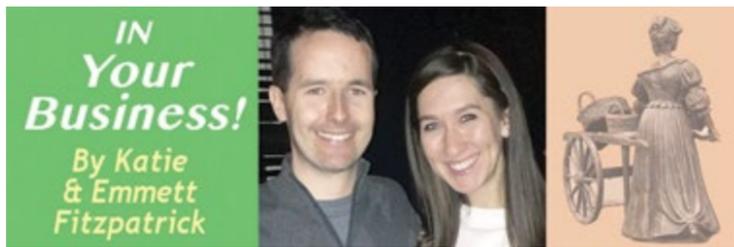
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Acclaimed Musical 'Once' Premieres at Writers Theatre in Glencoe

By Emmett Fitzpatrick
 "Once" is back on stage, and this time local audiences will have the chance to see the internationally acclaimed story at the Writers Theatre in north suburban Glencoe, where it runs through March 26.

For those who might need a refresh on the storyline, the 2007 Irish movie "Once" features the music of Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová, whose characters meet on the streets of Dublin and develop feelings for each other across the course of a week spent recording songs together.

Upon release, the movie became a spectacular hit with audiences and critics, earning an Independent Spirit Award for Best Foreign Film and Academy Award for Best Original Song. In 2012, the stage adaptation of the film, based on a play by Irish writer Enda Walsh, took Broadway by storm, winning eight Tony Awards and one Grammy Award for Best Musical Theatre Album, and was eventually staged in front of sold-out audiences around the world for the better part of a decade. Now, under the direction of director and choreographer Katie Spelman, the story comes to the intimate Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols Theatre at the nationally acclaimed Writers Theatre, and the buzz has been building since the 2022-2023 season was announced.

"Being asked to direct this play was like Christmas for me," said Spelman in a recent interview with the Irish American News. "It felt like home for me in a really nice way. I'm from Chicago, lived here for a long part of my adult life, and I am overjoyed that I get to work with my favorite actors from Chicago."

Spelman's ties to Chicago are not her only connection to this adaptation of the musical; she began her career working as an assistant choreographer for the Broadway version over a decade ago, and her Irish familial roots - her father is from Galway and mother from Mayo - have only added to the special nature of this production for her.

"It's lovely to work on a show by one of the best modern Irish playwrights (Walsh), on a play set in Ireland, by someone who grew up in Ireland. We've set the play on Grafton Street, and we've made sure that the cadence of the way that the actors speak is

authentically Irish. I'm familiar with the Irish, been around them all my life, so it's been fun to explain the Irish 'cultural-ism's' to the cast and crew."

Adapting the play from the Broadway musical, which regularly welcomed audiences



of between 2,000 and 4,000, to the Nichols Theatre, which seats 255 arranged in a three-quarter thrust stage, was not without its challenges.

"The production is unique," Spelman admitted, "but the space is so beautiful, it's big enough to feel like you're doing a musical, small enough so that people can actually hear you. There's no hiding, so it feels like real life."

Also unique is the fact that the production does not include an orchestra or band, so the play's actors also serve as musicians, often playing several instruments throughout the duration of the two hour-and-twenty-minute show. Naturally, this means that the actors not only need to get the dialogue right - which is no easy task given that the Irish mode of conversation often deals with what is unsaid as much as what is said - but they also need to be accomplished musicians in their own right, so they can credibly create the same musical experience in playing Hansard's songs that made the movie and Broadway play so memorable.

Fans of modern Irish music will recognize Hansard's style, which influenced other Irish bands like Snow Patrol and the Frames, and audience members will also recognize the Irish humor, oftentimes dark and dry, that cuts to the heart of what it means to be human. At the same time, Spelman believes that one of the reasons the story has been so well received is because of its subjective nature; that most audience members will be able to relate to the characters and the choices they face, whether they are familiar with Irish music and dialogue or not.

"This is a story about adult love, how two strangers happen to meet when they both need each other. They fill each other's lives with music and are changed. None of the decisions they make are black and white, and nothing feels cut and dry past a certain age."

Once runs from February 16 to March 26 at Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Court, in Glencoe. Tickets can be purchased online at www.writerstheatre.org or by phone at 847-242-6000.

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Easter Bunny Bingo: Jesus, Resurrection, & Peeps!

Returns to the Greenhouse Theater Center For the 2023 Lenten Season March 3 through April 8

Is it a sin to answer your cell phone during Mass? Can you text your confession to your priest? Is it a sin to eat meat on a Friday during Lent? You'll learn the answers to these and more as Vicki Quade's comedy: *Easter Bunny Bingo: Jesus, Resurrection, & Peeps!*, which returns on March 3, just in time for the Easter season, at the Greenhouse Theater Center, Chicago.

The premise is that Mrs. Mary Margaret O'Brien, a former nun, is here tonight to play bingo and talk about Easter traditions, why Easter is never on the same day, the history of no-meat Fridays,

sin! Add to that a box of wacky prizes, some Easter candy, fun bingo cards, and a lot of Catholic humor for a night of entertainment you'll never forget. And in this interactive bingo show, you'll actually play bingo. What could be more fun? You'll be laughing so hard, you'll have to be careful watching your bingo cards!

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

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

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

Easter Bunny Bingo runs six weeks only during the Lenten season, starting Friday, March 3, through Saturday, April 8. There is no show on Easter Sunday. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. All performances are at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago.

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

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

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



why we either love or hate Peeps, Easter movies, and much more!

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WINNER - Audience Favorite Award - Film Fest 919 2022

WINNER - Jury Award for BEST PICTURE - Newport Beach Film Festival 2022

WINNER - Best Film, Best Director, Best Lead Actress, Best Editing, Best Cinematography, Best Original Score, Best Production Design - Irish Film and Television Awards 2022

WINNER - Audience Award - Dallas International Film Festival 2022

WINNER - Best Irish Film - Dallas International Film Festival 2022

WINNER - Audience Award - Taipei Film Festival 2022

Cáit is a nine-year-old girl from an over-crowded, dysfunctional and impoverished family. Quietly struggling at school and at home, she has learnt to hide in plain sight from those around her.



As summer arrives and her pregnant mother's due date approaches, Cáit (Catherine Clinch) is sent to live with distant relatives. Without knowing when she will return home, she is left at the strangers' house with only the clothes she is wearing. The Kinsellas, a middle-aged couple she has never met, dress the girl in what clothes they have.

They are farming people, like her own, but hard-working and wanting for nothing, it seems. Despite a warm reception from the woman, Eibhlín (Carrie Crowley), the man of the house, Seán (Andrew Bennett), keeps his distance from Cáit and she from him, but over time, their strained relationship begins to deepen. Slowly, in the care of the Kinsellas, Cáit blossoms and discovers a new way of

living. But in this house where affection grows and there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one painful truth.
Director's Note From Colm Bairéad

"Thematically, it touched upon so many areas of concern for me, things that had been present in my short drama work up to that point – the complex bonds of family, the question of emotional and psychological growth and, crucially, the phenomenon of grief and its capacity to shape us.

From a formal perspective, the telling itself was immediately compelling – a first-person, present tense narrative told through the eyes of a young girl. It felt utterly immersive and empathetic and innately visual – so much of it, is what this girl is seeing and feeling moment to moment. The narrative tension of the story is completely derived from the girl's experience, rather than from any over-reliance on plot. And that felt like an appealing challenge from a film-making perspective. The idea of shaping this girl's experience and this being the overriding concern of the film, where the exploration of character and relationship dynamics was completely to the fore. But it was also the

"smallness" of the story that I believed in. There's a quote by Mark Cousins where he says that art shows us again and again that if we look closely and openly at a small thing, we can see a great deal in it.

I'm very much drawn to this notion, that something quite expansive and profound can be found in small places, in a kind of narrative humility. More than anything else, however, it was the emotional undertow of the story that convinced me of its potential as a film. Its restraint – and its eventual cathartic release – mesmerised me and I could envision a film adaptation that might produce that same response in its audience."

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'A Celtic Awakening with Faith Marion Robinson' a Musical Message of Hope & Unity Comes to Public TV

The musical, heartfelt tale transports viewers to the Emerald Isle through visuals and song

The Emmy™-award winning musical tale, "A Celtic Awakening," written by Faith Marion Robinson, is a musical message for all humanity that begins with struggle and ends with triumph. It brings together a cohesive message of love, peace and hope as Robinson and her ensemble journey through Ireland, mystically transporting viewers to the enchanting Emerald Isle through songs of the ages. The program, presented by Detroit Public Television, will air across public television stations beginning March 1, 2023 (check local listings) and will be distributed by APT Exchange.

At its core, the story reflects how human struggles are combatted and won through the spirit of faith and hope. With the spread of polarization and global unrest, the story depicts how through perseverance, the admirable goal of striving to live harmoniously together can be achieved by wisely and joyfully accepting our differences, expressed by her rendition of "Let Us Love in Peace."

The performance is filmed at Detroit's historic Masonic Temple Chapel, but the story is set in New York City. Onstage, songstress and stage performer, Robinson, creates a musical portal, transporting the audience

to Ireland and its breathtaking vistas through scenic visuals and song.

Each motif musically represents a theme including Irish emigration, the sorrowful famine and "the political troubles" with modern Ireland positioned as a world leader for peace.

"I'm so excited to be part of the PBS family and share this special performance," Robinson said. "This program was created with a sense of purpose in the hope of bringing people together—to acknowledge we each can do a bit more to heal the divisions in our ourselves, our families and the world. This powerful message is woven throughout the program by the songs chosen and the moving reenactments that accompany them, and I hope that the program touches all those who watch it."

Songs selections were thoughtfully selected and range in genre, connecting lyrics from cherished standards, pop & rock, and Broadway. Some songs from her repertoire she performs include "Something's Coming," "I Loved You Once in Silence/If Ever I Would Leave You" and "That's All," along with Irish ballads "Danny Boy," "Fields of Athenry," and the Irish lullaby

"Castle of Dromore" to create the "A Celtic Awakening" story.

Robinson is accompanied by her band of Irish musicians who play the traditional Irish Uilleann



Faith Marion Robinson;

Photo Courtesy of Richard Blinkoff

pipe along with the Bodrann, piano, guitar and strings before a live audience with a backdrop of inspiring visuals—from Irish ports and breathtaking countryside to mystical ancient ruins and captivating castles - these destinations magically transport the audience to the enchanting Emerald Isle.

One such destination is the small castle of Craggaunowen where Robinson performs "He Moved through the Fair." In an ethereal moment, she is enshrouded in the misty countryside of an ancient Celtic village to reflect on a love lost long ago.

It would not be an Irish tale without a respite of cheeky fun at "Lannigan's Ball" or a crossroads gathering at Killarney National Park where Robinson performs "The Kerry Dance" during a summer day in the company of a joyful ensemble of dancers. The performance conveys the audience to the Irish Burren,

one of Ireland's most wondrous landscapes where Robinson sings the inspirational song "I Believe" and to Baltimore Beacon in County Cork where she belts out an Irish rendition of "Somewhere/Somewhere Over the Rainbow." At the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge in Northern Ireland the audience experiences the

comforting and moving medley "Steal Away/Bridge Over Troubled Water" and the anthem "The Town I Loved So Well," an ode to the challenges of overcoming political adversity.

Faith Marion Robinson:

Singer/stage performer Faith Marion Robinson recorded her debut album, "A Journey Home," in 2005, produced by Ray McLaughlin and Robinson and engineered by Seamus Cullinane at Roseland Studios in Moate, County West Meathe, Ireland. Robinson had been singing all her life, but this was her first foray into recording and music production.

She credits her mother with encouraging her to study voice along with her teachers Andy Anselmo, and Phil Campanela of the Singers Forum. She then embarked upon a journey which harkened back to her youth and musical roots.

Finding the right chemistry for production and adding the artistry of her colleagues made the album a successful collaboration. In fleshing out the song selections, she says she found a deeper connection between herself and others that she wanted to share. This journey was a culmination and celebration of her personal experiences with her husband in Ireland, their family, friends and songs that were meaningful to her. Subsequently she felt compelled to express a deeper side of herself and let those feelings touch the imagination of those that wished to listen. To learn more about Robinson, visit: <http://faithmarionrobinson.com/>

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American Public Television (APT) is the leading syndicator of high-quality, top-rated programming to the nation's public television stations. Founded in 1961, APT distributes 250 new program titles per year and more than one-third of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles in the U.S. APT's diverse catalog includes prominent documentaries, performance, dramas, how-to programs, classic movies, children's series and news and current affairs programs. Midsomer Murders, America's Test Kitchen, AfroPoP, Rick Steves' Europe, Pacific Heartbeat, Christopher Kimball's Milk Street Television, The Indian Doctor, Legacy List with Matt Paxton, Lidia's Kitchen, Kevin Belton's New Orleans Kitchen, Simply Ming, The Best of the Joy of Painting with Bob Ross, Front & Center, James Patterson's Kid Stew and NHK Newline are a sampling of APT's programs, considered some of the most popular on public television. APT also licenses programs internationally through its APT Worldwide service and distributes Create@TV – featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming – and WORLD™ public television's premier news, science and documentary channel. To find out more about APT's programs and services, visit APTonline.org.

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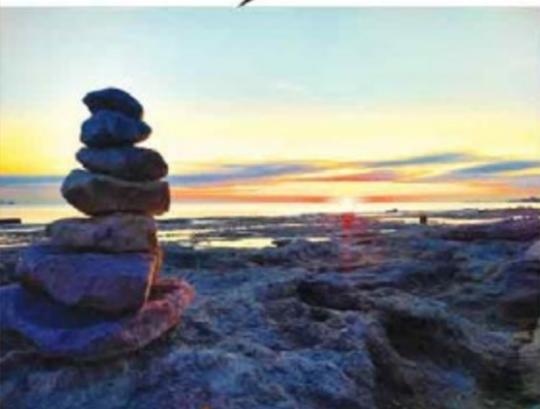
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A Cháirde:

Please repeat after me: "I will honor St. Patrick's Day in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons they teach." (The original author didn't write it exactly like that.)

How do we keep St. Patrick's Day well, you might ask. We start by honoring the past, remembering how Patrick himself went to Ireland and dedicated his life to the Irish. And honoring our parents and ancestors who were proud of their culture and have shared it with us. Moving into the present, there are countless ways to keep St. Patrick's Day well this month. There are many parades throughout the Chicagoland area you can watch, and you're welcome to march in four of them with us. There are books to read, religious celebrations to participate in, films and plays to see, and plumbers to watch as they dye the Chicago River that special shade of green. Some would even say that spray-tanning pale legs and drinking green beer are options.

Irish music and dance abounds in Chicagoland. A quick read of this newspaper lists only some of the many such local music and/or dance events and celebrations. Many of those opportunities are here at Gaelic Park. Our biggest day of entertainment is Sunday the 12th, on which we'll have music on all three main floor stages and entertainment upstairs for children. There's a modest cover charge that day, and there is a cost for the St. Patrick's luncheon, but there is no charge for our Ireland on Parade Nights or for the entertainment in The Corraig Pub.

As to what to do for the future, we can share those books, films and other experiences with family and friends. We can sing a song or tell a story to or dance with a child, or teach children how to make their own music or stories, and to dance and to dream. Our sense of family and community, our love of laughter and our hospitality can be shared, as can our spirit, our perseverance and our loyalty. Our legacy will be that we kept St. Patrick's Day well, and gave so much more than that.

Cheers!

Bill O'Sullivan, Gaelic Park President



MARCH WITH US THIS MARCH!

SUBURB PARADES

Oak Forest - Saturday, March 4th

Line-up 10am/ Step off 11am
Meet at 151st & Central avenue

Tinley Park- Sunday, March 5th

Line-up 11:30am/Step off at 1pm
Meet at Central Middle School

CHICAGO PARADES

Downtown - Saturday, March 11th

Bus departs Gaelic Park at 10:00am
Step off at 12:30pm

South Side - Sunday, March 12th

Bus departs Gaelic Park at 10:00am
Step off at 12:00pm

Call us at (708)687-9323 with questions and to reserve your seat on the bus.



Gaelic Park Queen



Rachel Hoban

Rachel Hoban was crowned Gaelic Park Queen in 2020 alongside Bridget McDermott, who served as the Queen's court. We are grateful to Bridget and Rachel for representing Gaelic Park the past few years. We look forward to having the community meet the 2023 Gaelic Park Queen at one of our events throughout the month of March.



Bridget McDermott and Rachel Hoban

"I would like to make a special thank you to Mr. O'Sullivan, Maureen Gill, Noreen Hegarty, and Gaelic Park. They have welcomed me as their queen year after year despite the effects of Covid. Regardless, my time spent as the queen has been so special. The opportunity to meet so many people that have the same appreciation for our Irish community has been so heartwarming. I cannot wait to share these experiences with the future queen." - Rachel Hoban

weddings

Gaelic Park is proud to share we have been selected as a 2023 winner in The Knot's Best of Weddings!



Interested in our venue?
Email: banquet@chicagogaelicpark.org
Call: (708)687-9323



Photo by This is Feeling Photography

CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

South Side **SUNDAY FUNDAY**



EMERALD ROOM

1:30 pm - Larkin & Moran Brothers
6:00 pm - Liam Durkin
7:30 pm - Dennehy School of Irish Dance

THE CARRAIG PUB

2:00 pm - St. James Gate
7:00 pm - Kieran Byrne

TARA ROOM

1:30 pm - O'Leary's Lantern
5:30 pm - Arranmore

CELTIC ROOM

1:30 - 4:30 pm -
Children's Entertainment

March 12th at 1pm
\$10 / adults, \$5 Kids 12+ under

#IOP23

IRELAND ON PARADE AT GAELIC PARK
MARCH 10 AND MARCH 14-17



live music, Irish dance, food and fun each night
visit chicagogaelpark.com for more info



Custom Pint Night March 9th at The Carraig



Save the Date
August 25, 26, and 27

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Visit our website for more information on our Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Luncheon, free live music in the Tara Room and The Carraig Pub!



Liam Durkin • Cross Keys • St. James Gate • Whiskey & Harmony • DJ.
Kieran Byrne • 3 Men in Kilts • Gerry Haughey

We have a full day of fun!

visit chicagogaelpark.com for more details



It was a wonderful night out for everyone to gather. The wine was delicious and the sommeliers from The Wine Thief were so nice and helpful with explanations!

Everyone had a blast with wine tasting, getting pints at the bar, visiting, and dancing. Hoping for another great turnout and fun night again this year!

-Siobhán and Margaret Mulvey, guests at Un-Wined 2022

Reserve your seat by March 24th by calling us at (708)687-9323



The Wine Thief

CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Carraig Pub Open for Lunch at 11:00am

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



EMERALD ROOM

**Our Annual
St. Patrick's Day
Luncheon**

Doors Open 12pm - Lunch at 1pm
Entertainment by Liam Durkin
& a Performance by
Cross Keys School of Irish Dancing

Reservations Only - Tickets \$35
708-687-9323

THE CARRAIG PUB

Open for Lunch 11am
ENTERTAINMENT
12:00pm Kieran Byrne
4:00pm 3 Men in Kilts
8:00pm Gerry Haughey

TARA ROOM

Hot food selections from 1:00pm
ENTERTAINMENT
2:00pm St. James Gate
6:00pm Whiskey & Harmony
9:00pm D.J.

**SUNDAY,
MARCH 12TH**
Mass & Irish Breakfast
9:30am-11am
Admission \$13.00 Adults / \$10 Kids

South Side Irish Sunday Fun-Day!

Doors open 1:00pm
Admission \$10.00 • Kids 12 & under \$5.00
Four Stages of Entertainment
Delicious Hot Food Selections in Tara Room
available from 1:00pm

EMERALD ROOM

1:30pm Larkin & Moran Brothers
6:00pm Liam Durkin
7:30pm The Dennehy School
of Irish Dance

THE CARRAIG PUB

2:00pm St. James Gate
7:00pm Kieran Byrne

CELTIC ROOM

Children's Entertainment
1:30-4:30pm

TARA ROOM

1:30pm O'Leary's Lantern
5:30pm Arranmore

Chicago
Gaelic Park

Ireland on Parade
&

St. Patrick's Day
Celebrations

March 1 - 17, 2023

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

www.chicagogaelicpark.com

Calendar of Events - 56 Years of Ireland on Parade Chicago Gaelic Park • March 1 - March 17, 2023

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST MONTHLY MUSICAL LUNCHEON

Reservations required
Doors open 12:00pm / Lunch served at 1:00pm
Entertainment by Gerry Haughey
Admission \$18
Call 708-687-9323 for reservations

FRIDAY, MARCH 3RD

CARRAIG PUB - Open 3:00pm
Pub Food 5:00pm - 10:00pm
Damien Patrick On Stage 7:30pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 4TH

Oak Forest Parade 11:00am
March with Gaelic Park!
Line up 10am - Step off 11am
Meet at 151st Street & Central Avenue

CELTIC ROOM

Gaelic Park's Queen Contest 7:00pm
Download Queen application on our website
www.chicagogaelicpark.com

CARRAIG PUB

Open 12:00pm
Pub Food 1:00pm - 10:00pm
Bernie Glim On Stage 8:00pm

March 4th EMERALD ROOM 11am

Head Shaving starts at 12pm

 **St. Baldrick's**
Head Shaving Event
Register to get shaved
and make donations online at
www.stbaldricks.org/events/gaelicpark
Food & Beverages available for purchase

SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH

Tinley Park Parade - March with Gaelic Park!
Line up 11:30am - Step off 1:00pm
Meet at Central Middle School 18146 S. Oak Park Ave.

CARRAIG PUB

Open 12:00pm
Pub Food 2:00pm - 7:00pm
Join us after the parade!
Gaelic Brew on Stage 3:00pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8TH

THURSDAY, MARCH 9TH
CARRAIG PUB - Open at 3:00pm
Pub Food Served 5:00pm - 9:00pm
Tuesday - TRINGO (trivia & bingo) 7:00pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH

IRELAND ON PARADE

Emerald Room
Doors open 5:30pm
6:30pm The Irish Musicians
7:30pm Trinity Academy of Irish Dance
8:00pm Lavin-Cassidy School of Irish Dance

CARRAIG PUB

Open 3:00pm
Pub Food 5:00pm - 10:00pm
Suzanne Twomey On Stage 7:30pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 11TH

CARRAIG PUB

Open 12 noon
Pub Food 2:00pm - 10:00pm
St. James Gate On Stage 8:00pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH

SOUTH SIDE IRISH SUNDAY

Schedule of events on other side

TUESDAY, MARCH 14TH

IRELAND ON PARADE

Emerald Room
Doors open 5:30pm
6:30pm The Irish Musicians
7:00pm Mulhern School of Irish Dance
7:30pm Foy School of Irish Dance

CARRAIG PUB

Open 3:00pm
Pub Food Served 5:00pm - 9:00pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15TH

IRELAND ON PARADE

Emerald Room
Doors open 5:30pm
6:30pm The Irish Musicians
7:00pm Weber Irish Dancers
7:30pm Mullane Godley Irish Dance Academy
8:00pm Blackbird Academy of Irish Dance

CARRAIG PUB

Open 3:00pm
Pub Food Served 5:00pm - 9:00pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 16TH

IRELAND ON PARADE

Emerald Room
Doors open 5:30pm
6:30pm The Irish Musicians
7:00pm Eilish Sullivan School of Irish Dance
7:30pm Bailey Murray Academy of Irish Dance
8:00pm Cross-Keys School of Irish Dancing

CARRAIG PUB

Open 3:00pm
Pub Food Served 5:00pm - 9:00pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH

ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

Schedule of events on other side

IRELAND ON PARADE

DANCE SCHOOL SCHEDULE

EMERALD ROOM

Doors Open Each Evening 5:30pm
No Cover Charge

Music by

The Irish Musicians
Hot Food Selections
Available in Tara Room

Friday, March 10th

6:30pm Music by The Irish Musicians
7:30pm Trinity Academy of Irish Dancing
8:00pm Lavin-Cassidy School of Irish Dancing

Sunday, March 12th

7:30pm Dennehy School of Irish Dance
(in conjunction with South Side Irish Sunday)

Tuesday March 14th

6:30pm Music by the Irish Musicians
7:00pm Mulhern School of Irish Dance
7:30pm Foy School of Irish Dance

Wednesday, March 15th

6:30pm The Irish Musicians
7:30pm Weber Irish Dancers
7:30pm Mullane Godley Irish Dance Academy
8:00pm Blackbird Academy of Irish Dance

Thursday, March 16th

6:30pm Music by The Irish Musicians
7:00pm Eilish Sullivan School of Irish Dance
7:30pm Bailey Murray Academy of Irish Dancing
8:00pm Cross Keys School of Irish Dancing

CHICAGO GAELIC PARK - 6119 W. 147TH STREET - OAK FOREST, IL 60452 - WWW.CHICAGOGAELICPARK.COM - FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 708-687-9323 *Schedule subject to change*

Gift Cards \$10 to \$1000!
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(Available online, fill out form
on these pages or call us!)

<https://chicagogaelicpark.org>
info or questions call 708-687-9323



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(if joining) last first initial

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phone: 708.687.9323 fax: 708.687.0120

www.chicagogaelicpark.org www.facebook.com/ChicagoGaelicPark

CHICAGO GAELIC PARK



Movies

Saturday, April 1, 2023

11:00am - 2:00pm

Admission - \$5 per child (max \$20 per family)

Children and Grandchildren of Gaelic Park Members are Free

BYOB (Bring your own BASKET)

Jelly Bean Count

Bouncy Castle

Easter Egg Hunt

Food Available for Purchase

Chicago Gaelic Park - 6119 W. 147th Street - Oak Forest, IL - (708) 687-9323

www.ChicagoGaelicPark.com

Join Gaelic Park & The Easter Bunny

Sunday, April 9, 2023 from 2-5pm



For A Delicious All You Care to Eat Easter Buffet

Soups, fresh salad bar, roast beef, chicken vesuvio, honey glazed ham, pasta primavera, seasonal vegetables, oven-browned and home-made mashed potatoes with toppings and a children's buffet station with chicken strips, mac 'n cheese, and French fries.

And for Dessert...

Build your own ice cream sundae, fresh baked cookies and sliced fresh fruit along with coffee & tea



Pre-paid Reservations are required

Adults \$39.95 Children 4 to 12 \$15.95 - Cash Bar

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

Gaelic Park's April Luncheon

Wednesday, April 05, 2023

Doors open at 12:00, Lunch is served at 1:00

\$18.00 per person - Reserve your table now!

What a wonderful way to spend the afternoon catching up with friends, enjoying a hearty meal of soup, salad, a delicious entrée, along with dessert, tea and coffee.

Chicago Gaelic Park

6119 W 147th Street Oak Forest, IL 60452

Reservations required 708-687-9323 | www.chicagogaelicpark.com

Described as 'The best Irish group so far in bluegrass' these sharp-dressed men deliver an energy-fueled, foot-stomping live performance.



All multi-instrumentalists, JigJam interchange between banjos, guitars, fiddles, mandolins and double bass onstage which creates an experience which is pleasing to both the eye and the ear.



Appearing at

CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

Friday April 21, 2021

Party 8-10pm / Doors open 7:30pm

Tickets \$25.00

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



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HAPPY PATRICK'S DAY CHICAGO!

Party After St. Patrick's Day Parade & Donation Campaign Celebrate Mercy Home's March For Kids

Mercy Home for Boys & Girls is celebrating St. Patrick's Day while raising the resources it needs to care for kids in crisis. Mercy Home's March for Kids will help young people heal from trauma and adversity while giving

Patrick's Day Parade. Anyone can make double the difference in the lives of children throughout the entire month of March. Contributions to mercyhome.org from now until March 31 will be matched

24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Mercy Home and friends will also gather for Mercy Home's annual March for Kids Post Parade Party, a casual, family friendly affair at Venue SIX10 on Michigan Avenue, a short walk from

Live Irish music performed by The Chicago Irish Band and Reilly Irish dancers from Trinity Academy of Irish Dance and Sheila Healy Academy of Irish Dance
Kid and adult beverages



them tools to build brighter futures. A highlight of the celebration is its family-friendly party at Venue SIX10 on March 11 after the Chicago St.

by a generous donor. Funds generated by its March for Kids effort help Mercy Home provide safety, healing, education and opportunity for children

the parade route, from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mercy Home's March for Kids Post-Parade Party will feature:

Irish-themed food buffet including a build-your-own mac-n-cheese bar for the kids
Special children's activity section featuring carnival and arcade games, great prizes, balloon artists
...and so much more – all from a spacious, modern venue with sweeping views of Chicago's Grant Park and Lake Michigan.

General admission for adults is \$75, and \$20 for ages 6-20. Kids ages 5 and under are free. Pre-sale tickets will be available online until midnight on March 11, then available at the door (adult tickets will increase to \$85). Proceeds benefit Mercy Home.

Can't wait for parade day? No problem. Mercy Home's Associates Board, which is made up of young professionals, will officially kick off Mercy Home's March for Kids on March 4 with a party and fundraiser at Butch McGuire's, 20 W. Division Street, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$35 (until noon on March 4th), or at the door for \$40. Tickets include beer, wine, and appetizers.

Mercy Home's March for Kids has been held annually under different names, since 1996 when it was known as A Touch O' Green. For years, it was known as Shamrocks for Kids before being renamed and expanded in 2014. Today, Mercy Home's March for Kids involves significant promotion from media and corporate partners, involvement in several area parades and events, and peer-to-peer fundraisers run by volunteers who donate their time and energy to help kids at Mercy Home.

To learn more how you can make this month a March for Kids, visit mercyhome.org/marchforkids.

About Mercy Home for Boys & Girls
Mercy Home for Boys & Girls (www.mercyhome.org) has been a solution for kids in crisis since 1887. It offers a safe home, emotional healing, education, and life-changing opportunities for young people and members of their families. It gives children who have suffered abuse, neglect, poverty and even abandonment the therapeutic, academic and vocational support they need to heal from the traumas of their pasts and build success for their futures. Mercy Home is almost entirely donor funded and operates at two locations in Chicago - a campus for boys in the West Loop and a campus for girls in Beverly-Morgan Park.



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Who's Ready for Another Messy Primary Season?

While it feels like the 2022 Midterm Election was only yesterday, America is bracing itself for another election season that will inevitably be chock-full of drama, gossip, heated debate, and political grandstanding. This time, however, it seems pretty likely that the 2024 presidential primaries will be a brutal slog confined mainly to the Republican Party.

As of this writing, President Biden has not committed to running for a second term. However, he is widely expected to run again. He has maintained that he had always planned to serve two terms, despite his advanced age. Despite not being my preferred candidate in 2020, I want President Biden to run again.

Biden entering the race will all but eliminate the threat of a divisive primary gripping the Democratic Party and give the base ample opportunity to rally around his candidacy. This will all occur in the midst of what is sure to be a fraught primary contest within the GOP.

Former President Trump threw his hat in the ring before America even knew who would control the U.S. House of Representatives in 2023. And on Valentine's Day of this year, former South Carolina Governor and UN Ambassador Nikki Haley announced her own candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination. In the coming weeks and months, more GOP candidates are sure to emerge.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has been floated as an alternative to Trump who holds similar ideological positions to disgraced former president, but his viability as a candidate remains to be seen. While DeSantis is certainly popular in Florida, running a national campaign requires posturing and electioneering well outside of his traditional wheelhouse.

Other, more moderate Republicans have also expressed interest in running. New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu, who is pro-choice with a bipartisan legislative track record, has voiced concern over the direction the GOP is going. Former Maryland Governor Larry Hogan has shared similar frustrations. But, to be honest, I don't think a moderate candidate has a shot in hell of winning the Republican nomination in 2024.

This isn't 2012 anymore. Back then, Democrats could laugh at the Tea Party and the reactionary freaks that were a constant thorn in the side of the

establishment, more moderate GOP leadership. Now, those freaks lead the party.

We're dealing with a radicalized and extreme Republican establishment. There is very little room for nuance or friendly competition. That became obvious when Trump began winning primary after primary in 2016 despite his hateful rhetoric and checkered past.

At this point, I don't know if or how that extremism will finally be quashed once and for all. We've had an awful presidency, a series of criminal investigations and indictments, and an attempted coup-yet none have had the effect of truly eliminating the insanity so pervasive in today's Republican Party.

If anything, the Republican Party has only gotten more insane as time has gone on. Over the past couple of years, we've seen anti-vaxxers, anti-Semites, and anti-Americans ascend to the upper echelons of the establishment. One need look no further than Jim Jordan (R-OH), an avowed Trump apologist and now chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. He's sworn to use his power to investigate Hunter Biden's laptop and launch other politically motivated House investigations rather than focus on the people's business of actually legislating.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy(R-CA) has also refused to commit to raising the debt ceiling, choosing to instead engage in political brinkmanship in the vague hope of securing some sort of budget cuts. As a reminder, the debt ceiling is not the federal budget-rather than engage in good faith negotiations with the White House to pass a fiscally sound budget,

McCarthy has chosen to hold the full faith and credit of the U.S. economy hostage. EVEN IF the United States doesn't default on its debt obligations, the stock market is poised to be thrown into chaos and our country's credit rating could get downgraded, meaning that the government will have to spend more to borrow money and pay off its debts.

All of this is to say that, while the 2024 Presidential Election season is only just getting warmed up, we're in for a wild ride. For my fellow Democrats, get the popcorn, sit back and relax. But when the time comes, we're going to have to fight like hell to make sure democracy and decency in America survive for another 4 years.

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Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler



Arbor day is the day dedicated to celebrating the importance of trees and this year it's on April 28th. Planting a tree would be the best thing we could do to celebrate Arbor Day. Some animals that live in trees include birds, squirrels, koala bears and pandas. I thought

I would write about trees because of all the talk about deforestation. The hurling stick is made from the Ash tree. (Hence the clash of the ash)

Modern Ireland has a lot less trees than it had in the past but everyone associates the country with being so green and it is, to be sure. You could say Ireland has many shades of green such as Emerald, moss, shamrock, juniper, sage, pine, mint, forest, etc. Someone could be green with envy about the variety...

Forests still cover about 30% of the Earth but they say, they are disappearing at an alarming rate. Most of the deforestation is happening in the tropics. One of the reasons they cut down trees is to grow crops or make roads. A problem with that is it creates habitat loss and increases carbon dioxide into the air. The opposite of deforestation is afforestation. Afforestation is when you want to make a forest and you plant trees in a barren area. Countries that are doing the most afforestation at the moment include, China, India and Australia.

known as Hawthorn fairy tree, they usually stand alone in a field and stones circle them at the trunk. They say the fairies live under the tree and you should not disturb them. (fairies are the Tuatha de Danann-wee folk & the Queen of the fairies is "Aine")

Trees have long played an important part in Ireland from their resources and their mythological connections to the Celts. In ancient Ireland forest covered 80% of the country, today it's about 10%.

For the Millennium Ireland had a tree project. Over a million trees were planted, one for each household across Ireland.

In America there is about 35% forestry. Unfortunately, there are no trees on the Aran Islands and if there are it's very few. (I haven't been there to check)

Common/native trees found in Ireland include Oak, Hazel, Birch, Rowan, Scots pine and Willow tree. There are 26 nature reserves in Ireland, and one is called Glengarriff. It resembles the Irish rainforest from it's species composition..

My favorite fact about trees is that the names of trees from wooded areas long ago can be still found in the place names of Ireland. Some cities named after trees include Adare in Co. Limerick, Ballagadereen in Co. Roscommon and Clonskeagh is in Dublin. It's like in France how they name their wine from the region or the grape variety.

It is said to be bad luck to bring the blossoms of a Hawthorn tree inside. And, if you cut down a fairy tree you would have misfortune the rest of your life.

Happy Spring

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

By Joyce Kilmer

Questions, please call (708) 425-7021

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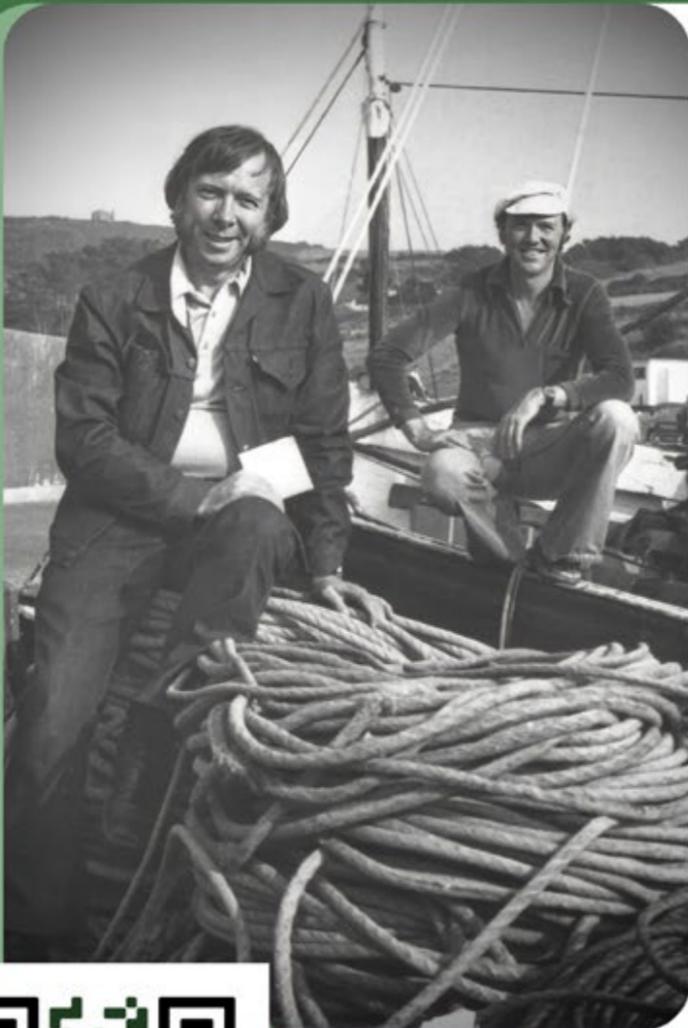
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presents

Makem & Clancy 1977

March 31 | CelticMKE Center
6:30pm Doors | 7:00pm Show

hosted by Rory Makem



Irish Folk songs and stories from Rory Makem & re-released clips from Tommy Makem & Liam Clancy's 1977 WENH television show!



Makem and Clancy Event Coming to CelticMKE Center in Milwaukee on March 31

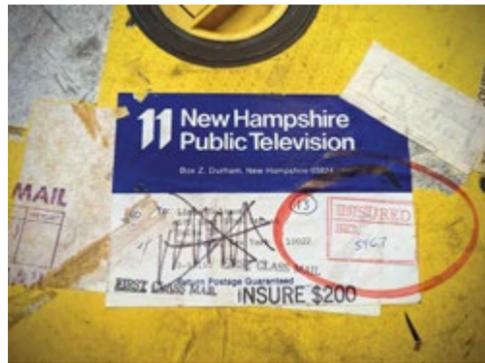
From the Ward Irish Music Archives Comes the Release of 1977 Makem & Clancy Footage that hasn't been seen in almost 50 Years!

Back in 1977, Tommy Makem and Liam Clancy had their own televised show that aired on WENH-TV in New Hampshire. It was simply called, "The Tommy Makem & Liam Clancy Show." The movie set had a colorful backdrop and included house musicians Jerry Holland and Allister Mac Gillivray. Other guests that occasionally appeared on the show were Gordon Bok and the Shaw Brothers.

Another interesting aspect of the show is that many scenes



Filming-In-Ireland photos courtesy of Rory Makem Tommy Makem



were filmed in Ireland, and the opening tune is "The Munster Cloak." Sometime in the 1990s Tommy called Barry Stapleton, director of the Ward Irish Music Archives and asked if they were interested in housing the two inch tapes of the shows. The shows were no longer in circulation on TV and Tommy was unsure of who owned the rights to them. The Archives agreed to accept

the tapes.

The next year Tommy brought the 11 tapes to the Archives. Due to the show's numbering system it's possible one is missing, and there's actually 12 episodes, or they never filmed. So that is a mystery to be resolved.

The two inch tapes had been sitting for over 20 years. It was important to get them assessed. The Ward Irish Music

Archives were fortunate to have a working TV station at UW-Milwaukee that had many old components to play the two inch tapes. While it was a timely process, the tapes were cleaned and given a wet cleaning or soaking, then baked. They were coated and finally ready for a go with viewing. While imperfect, the Archives were very satisfied with the result and had all of the tapes in viewable condition. UW-Milwaukee did a great job in helping the Archives through this process.

After years of talking to the family and the radio station, the Ward Irish Music Archives are now ready to digitally release these tapes. The shows that were recorded live in 1977 will be available to view on the Ward Irish Music Archive YouTube page starting on March 31, 2023. Most of these tapes have not been seen to the public for

over 50 years!

**From the Archives:
Makem and Clancy 1977 event,
hosted by Rory Makem**

March 31 at CelticMKE Center 7pm

To coincide with the release of this archival digital material, the Ward Irish Music Archives, which is a part of CelticMKE, is putting a special event together at the CelticMKE Center on Friday, March 31. The event will be hosted by Rory Makem. Four visually artistic scenes from the show will be shown, and Rory Makem will chat about some of the songs on the show and perform some songs as well.

Tickets available online for \$15, through March 11. Doors open at 6:30pm and the event begins at 7pm. Visit celticmke.com to learn more and purchase tickets. The earlier you buy the more you save! The CelticMKE Center is at 1532 N. Wauwatosa Ave, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53213.

Shamrock Shenanigans March 17 and 18

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Chicago's best Irish stand-up comedians at The Den Theatre's "Shamrock Shenanigans," playing three performances March 17 & 18, 2023 on The Heath Mainstage, 1331 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood. The Den Bar and Lounge will be serving up all your Irish favorites including Guinness on draft, Jameson, Bailey's, and of course, green beer! Tickets (\$25 general admission) are currently available at thedentheatre.com or by calling (773) 697-3830.

The line-up includes Adam Burke, Jeannie Doogan (March 17 only), Sean Flannery, Chelsea Hood (March 18 only), Joe Kilgallon and Kristen Toomey.

Performance Schedule:

Friday, March 17 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, March 18 at 7:15 pm & 9:30 pm

COVID safety: The Den Theatre no longer requires patrons to offer proof of vaccination for COVID-19 to gain entry into the facility. For the most up-to-date information on our venue's COVID precautions, please visit thedentheatre.com/covid19-policy.

Originally from Ireland (by way of Australia and England...long story), Adam Burke has been performing comedy in Chicago and the U.S. for over 15 years. He's a fixture on showcases and clubs throughout the Midwest. He is a regular panelist on NPR's popular comedy quiz show Wait Wait Don't Tell Me, and was a writer for WGN's Man of the People with Pat Tomasulo. He also hosts his own

topical comedy meets mixology show "The 5 O'clock Somewhere News" on Instagram and YouTube. Voted Best Standup by readers of the Chicago Reader in 2014, he was also the winner of Second City's Up Next Comedy Competition.

Jeanie Doogan started her career at five when she quickly learned that as the youngest of eight, she needed a hook if she ever wanted to be fed, bathed or have her existence acknowledged in any way. Failing miserably at tap dancing, Irish dancing, gymnastics and academics, she carved out her comedy niche with kick-ass knock-knock jokes and soon rose to fame at the family dinner table with such classics as: "knock-knock." "knock-knock." "knock-knock! Open the door! You left me outside again!" Since her kitchen table debut, Jeanie has entertained audiences at colleges, casinos and corporate events, and is a staple of Chicago Comedy. She was highlighted in Chicago Parents' Magazine's "Four of Chicago's Funniest: Stand Up Parents," and was featured on Team CoCo's House All Star Showcase and Nick Jr.'s Moms' Night Out debut stand up special.

The easiest way to describe Sean

Flannery is: he's attended the wrong wedding (twice). That mostly sums it up. Sean hosts and created The Blackout Diaries, a weekly Chicago comedy show that has run for over 10 straight years. He's appeared on Comedy Central, NPR, Sirius Radio and more. The Chicago Reader also named Sean the "Best Drunk in Chicago." Chelsea Hood is a stand-up comedian

at RIOT LA. Some clubs and venues she's performed at include The Comedy Store, Caroline's on Broadway, The House of Blues, The Improv, Zanie's, Thalia Hall Chicago, Upright Citizen's Brigade NY, the Lincoln Lodge and more.

Born and raised in Chicago, comedian Joe Kilgallon recently moved to Los Angeles, where he immediately found work as a stay-at-home dog dad. Kilgallon started his stand-up comedy career after reading that most presidential candidates had college degrees and came to the hard truth that a 2020 run for the White House was a long shot at best.

Described by the Chicago Tribune as having "a straight shooting, pull-no-punches style," Joe has performed at clubs and colleges all over America. He's been a personal opener for stars such as Hannibal Buress, Roy Wood Jr and Steve Byrne. With material ranging from alcohol to sex, Kilgallon is sure to rant about something the whole family can enjoy.

Kristen Toomey's stand-up career began in 2008. Since then, she has headlined comedy clubs all over North America. Her commanding stage presence and energetic expressive and truthful style of comedy are just a few reasons entertainment website The A.V. Club said "Kristen Toomey is a Chicago Original."

In 2019, her debut album "Mother. F**ker." reached #1 on iTunes.



The Den Theatre's Shamrock Shenanigans features (top, l to r) Adam Burke, Jeannie Doogan and Sean Flannery (bottom, l to r) Chelsea Hood, Joe Kilgallon and Kristen Toomey.

living in Chicago by way of the comedy scenes in both Dallas, TX and Brooklyn, NY. You may have seen her on WGN, The CW Network's Eye Opener or CW33's Nightcap.

Chelsea's style of humor is observational, feminist and pleasantly self-deprecating.

She was most frequently featured performer at Limestone Comedy Fest, one of eight chose as the Best of the Midwest at Gilda's LaughFest and a Comic to Watch

Irish Family Day Returns to CelticMKE for the Green Season

An Immersive Irish Experience for the Whole Family
Everyone's Irish during the month of March, and there's no better place to celebrate with the family than at CelticMKE's Irish Family Day, on Sunday, March 12. From 11a.m. to 2:30 p.m.,

experience with lively entertainment and interactive activities for the whole family to enjoy.
With an Irish passport, families will explore nine different counties of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Each county will feature an interactive

will learn about heraldry and family crests and create their own coat of arms. Children will get their passports stamped along the way, earning a prize at the end of their journey.
The Celtic Cafe will be serving lunch and snacks, five Irish dance schools



the CelticMKE Center in Wauwatosa, the headquarters for Milwaukee Irish Fest, will transform into an immersive Irish

activity which celebrates Irish culture, history, and traditions. For example, at the County Dublin station, children

will perform throughout the afternoon, Belfast native Ian Gould will perform an interactive music show, and roaming

Irish storytellers will fill the halls. Families can also enjoy students of all ages from the Milwaukee Irish Fest School of Music performing traditional Irish tunes.

Admission is \$15 per family, at the door, and includes all activities. Attendees can take advantage of a special Milwaukee Irish Fest ticket promotion. Buy one general admission ticket for the 2023 festival and get one free. Cash and credit accepted at all stations.

CelticMKE's Irish Family Day sponsors and partners are Breadsmith, Tosa Pool at Hoyt Park, Ruckus and Glee, Tralee Irish Imports, and Wisconsin Athletic Club.

About CelticMKE

CelticMKE is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Irish, Irish American and Celtic cultures. CelticMKE produces the annual Milwaukee Irish Fest, along with a variety of Celtic themed concerts, lectures, family programs, music classes and cultural heritage projects. The organization is also home to the Milwaukee Irish Fest Summer School, Milwaukee Irish Fest School of Music, the Ward Irish Music Archives, and the Milwaukee Irish Fest Foundation. For more information about CelticMKE, please [visit celticmke.com](http://celticmke.com).

Who will Headline the 17th Annual Iowa Irish Fest & Battle of the Bands Contest March Deadline



Scythian



The sign-up will close at midnight on St. Patrick's Day (March 17).



Gaelic Storm

WATERLOO, Iowa - Presented by Veridian Credit Union, the 17th annual Iowa Irish Fest is right around the corner. One of the most anticipated parts of the fest is the extensive list of Irish musicians and bands that entertain the guests all weekend long. Musicians from all over the world travel to Iowa to be a part of Iowa Irish Fest!

Sign up for the Battle of the Iowa Irish Bands!

Iowa Irish Fest is searching for Iowa-based musicians who enjoy entertaining with any genre of Irish music. Whether you're a solo artist, a duet group or a large group, your talent is wanted at the Battle of the Irish Bands contest. This event is great exposure for you or your group.

Contest entry is video based. Interested groups and individuals must record two of their best songs and send them to Iowa Irish Fest. In the video, be sure to introduce yourself or your group and why you have a passion for Irish music.

Option 1: Download your video entry onto a portable drive and send it to the following address:

Cedar Valley Irish Cultural Association, Battle of the Bands, 315 E. 5th Street, Waterloo, IA 50703.

Option 2: Submit an online video link via email at Entertainment@IowaIrishFest.com.

Video submissions will be judged by selected members of the Iowa Irish Fest committee. Entry scores will be based on musical ability and stage presence. The top four entries will be selected on April 3 for the final "battle" where the finalists will perform on stage on Thursday, August 3. The winner of the Battle of the Iowa Irish Bands

will be selected at that time, will receive a \$500 cash prize and will perform on one of the fest stages during the 2023 festivities!

If you have any questions, email entertainment@IowaIrishFest.com. Good luck!

To make your fest experience even better, Iowa Irish Fest is releasing an app VERY soon! The projected launch date for the app is early March and will be available for download in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. Through the app, you will be able to see the full schedule of events, a map of

the fest, manage your classes/workshops and so much more! Be sure to keep an eye out for the official launch date!

Make sure to follow Iowa Irish Fest on Facebook to stay up to date on everything fest related. Visit IowaIrishFest.com for more information!

Rain or shine, the fest must go on! The annual Iowa Irish Fest is organized by the Cedar Valley Irish Culture Association, an organization intended to foster and develop Irish fellowship and community outreach through Irish cultural events and programs. The 2023 fest will

take place August 4-6 in the Lincoln Park area of downtown Waterloo. The 17th annual Iowa Irish Fest is right around the corner. One of the most anticipated parts of the fest is the extensive list of Irish musicians and bands that entertain the guests all weekend long. Musicians from all over the world travel to Iowa to be a part of Iowa Irish Fest!

Who Will Headline on Friday?

Scythian!

Scythian is a group of college friends that 12 years ago, found they share a love for Celtic

Music. Since their beginning, they have headlined at multiple festivals including the U.S. Celtic Festival Circuit, Bluegrass/Americana Festival Circuit and of course, Iowa Irish Fest. Scythian is a crowd favorite because of their ability to engage with their audience no matter the venue, no matter the circumstance.

Who Will Headline on Saturday?

For the 17th annual Iowa Irish Fest, the committee has decided to switch things up! In order to build anticipation for Saturday night, there will be a special performance held during the headlining nighttime slot. Who do you think will headline on Saturday night?

Who Will Headline on Sunday? Gaelic Storm!

It's hard to imagine a band coming into their own after 20 years of great success, but that's exactly what makes Gaelic Storm a true anomaly. This multi-national, Celtic juggernaut grows stronger with each performance. After two decades and over 2,000 shows, Gaelic Storm is a true force to be reckoned with. With their latest release, Go Climb a Tree, the groups music has never sounded more representative of themselves as musicians and as live performers.

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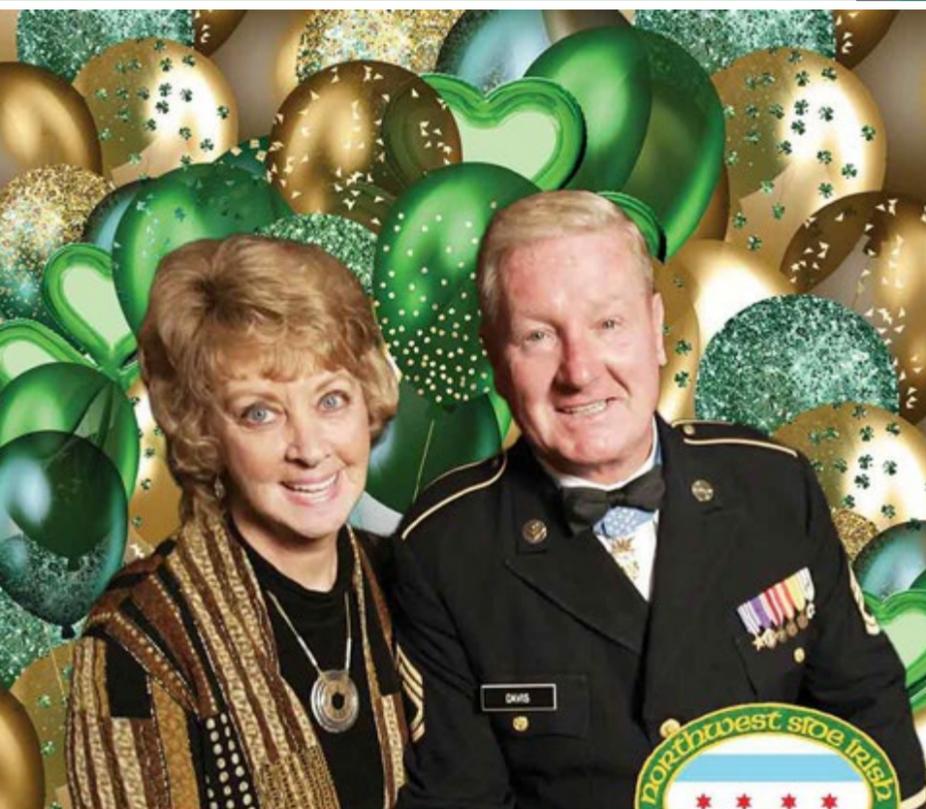
NWSI 20th ST. PATRICK'S PARADE



The Northwest Side Irish Parade was established in 2003 by (l to r): *Daniel Murray*, President of NWSI and his daughter, *Elizabeth Murray-Belcaster*.

The NWSI parade is celebrating their 20th Year with many thanks to the sponsors, residents and community businesses.

And a special thank you to *Joseph Mullarkey Distributors* and *St. Patrick's High School* who have supported NWSI since 2003.



CONGRATULATIONS NWSI 2023 GRANDMARSHALS **SAMMY & DIXIE DAVIS**

Sammy and Dixie Davis are a unique husband and wife team who exemplify the strength and resilience of the human spirit. After being wounded in action during the Vietnam War, Sammy was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism under fire. Despite this tremendous tragedy - and many others since - Sammy and Dixie have remained committed to each other, relying on the support of family and friends to overcome life's challenges. Their incredible story of love and courage has motivated countless individuals who have heard their captivating tales, inspiring others to never give up hope.

The NWSI Parade is proud to recognize Sammy and Dixie Davis for their unwavering commitment to helping others. They have devoted their lives to creating strong communities and providing a better future for the generations that follow. They are an inspiration to us all, showing us how much can be accomplished through hard work and dedication. We are honored to have them step into the spotlight as our First Grand Marshal Couple as partners that represent the very best of American values: service, sacrifice, resilience, and hope.

CONGRATULATIONS NWSI 2023 QUEEN **ALYSSA O'CONNELL**

Alyssa is a recent graduate of Vanderbilt University, where she studied Secondary Education, English, and Italian. Throughout college, she involved herself in numerous activities, including volunteering on and off campus, giving tours for prospective students, mentoring as a first-year orientation leader, and running Vanderbilt's student-led theater organization. After her stint in the south, Alyssa has come home to work as a campus ministry fellow with the Chicago Campus Initiative, an organization that aims to partner with local churches to serve, love, and share her faith with students on college campuses across Chicagoland.

When not working, she keeps herself busy singing along to the guitar, strolling around Chicago, trying new activities, and meeting new people, typically with a coffee in hand. Alyssa has a huge heart to travel and her love of languages has sparked a desire to learn to count to ten in every country she visits. (She hopes to make Ireland number cúig!) But no matter where she is, she just loves being surrounded by friends and family, especially if there's karaoke and a dance floor.

What Happens To Our Bodies As We Age?

When it comes to physical health, the control over how you perform declines as you get older. However, a

healthier body can still be achieved if you understand how the aging process works and how to slow or stop the inevitable changes that come with it.

A Trip to the Lavatory

Controlling your bladder may be more difficult. Urinary incontinence is the known medical term for this, and approximately 10% of adults 65 and older are affected by this condition.

Several of these folks sneeze or cough and some of them lose a significant volume of urine before they can make it to the restroom. For women, menopause may play a role, while men may be suffering from an enlarged prostate.

Also, you may have noticed that you haven't been as consistent as you were in the past. Diabetic diseases, for example, can cause a slowing of the bowels. Constipation can be a side effect of several medications. These include high blood pressure, depression, and Parkinson's disease medications.

Teeth Sensitivity is Reduced

Not only do you have fewer teeth, but they are also less sensitive. The hard inner tissue, dentin, grows between the tooth's exterior enamel and its core nerve over time. Because of the additional layer of protection, you're less sensitive. But the unfortunate thing is that your gums recede, making the roots more visible with time.

It's Harder to Hear and See

Objects that are close up may be complex for you to focus on. For the first time, you may require reading glasses. You may be more sensitive to glare or have trouble adjusting to sudden shifts in lighting.

Moreover, you may have trouble hearing in a noisy place or at high frequencies, depending on the volume of noise. Keep an eye on your eyesight and hearing health. Protect your eyes from the sun by donning a pair of sunglasses. Protect your ears from damaging noise by using earplugs.

Heart Rate Increases

Your blood vessels and arteries stiffen as you age. Pumping blood requires more effort from your heart. This can lead to hypertension and other cardiac issues.

Maintain a healthy and active lifestyle. Walking, running, or swimming a few minutes a day can help you maintain a healthy BMI and keep your blood pressure in check. You can also hire a caregiver at



home to help you monitor your vitals.

Heart-healthy foods include those that are high in fiber, such as leafy greens and whole grains. Reduce your level of tension and always get a good night's rest.

Sense of Taste Deteriorates

You will have less taste, maybe not in terms of apparel (although that too may be debatable), but rather in the realm of the actual. Most people lose half of their taste buds by the time they reach the age of 60, which may partly explain why the elderly tend to overcompensate by indulging in more sweet, salty, and fatty meals.

Conclusion

The aging process cannot be stopped, but there are lifestyle decisions you can make to enhance your capacity to remain active, to do the things that make you happy, and to spend quality time with friends and family. When the need for caregiving arises, trusted home care can provide excellent services to aid an aging family member.

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Thursdays, Mar 02 - Apr 27
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 A 9-week immersive journey into the heart and soul of Irish culture, heritage and language

Scoil Scairte is the Irish School you always dreamed of. Following the sell out success of our first 3 immersions, we are thrilled to announce our Semester 4 line up. We will be focusing on the inspirational people and places of the Galway region (Gaillimh) in the west of Ireland, and out to the Aran Islands home of some of Ireland's finest archaeology, heritage, culture and tradition.

On the other side of Lough Corrib is East Galway with lush farmland and a great collection of abbeys and other medieval ruins. Galway has the largest Irish speaking population of any county in Ireland.

We are guided by a host of inspiring bilingual multidisciplinary artists, activists, creatives, educators, culture makers and indigenous language keepers including Kathy Scott (Founder, Host, Creative Director of The Trailblazery), Manchán Magan (Writer, Presenter, Bee Keeper, Documentary-Maker), Mairéad Ní Chonghaile (Presenter, Actor, Múinteoir), Siobhán O'Kelly (Actor, Gaeilgeoir, Mama), James Riordan (Writer, Theater-Maker), Eithne Verling (Director of Galway City Museum), Seán Ó Coistealbha (Muintearas, Poet), Caitlin Ní

Chualáin (Journalist, Singer, Voice of Duolingo Irish), Domhnall Ó Braonáin (Singer, Oireachtas Winner), Anna Mullarkey (Composer, Performer, Musician), Aindrias de Staic (Actor, Musician, Storyteller), Darach Ó Tuairisg (Fibín, resident at An Taibhdhearc - the national Irish language theatre), Síle Nic Chonaonaigh (Actor, Artist, Broadcaster), Ronan Brown (Musician, Composer), Máire Ní Chonláin (TG4 Editor, Exec Producer An Cailín Ciúin), Pádraig Jack (Bilingual singer, composer, songwriter from the Aran islands), Bob Quinn (Filmmaker, writer, photographer), Dr. Mairead Hurley (Science Education & Public Engagement TCD), Dr. Liz Coleman

(Lecturer in Physics, Climate and Air Pollution NUIG) and Johnny Óg Connolly (Musician, Composer) with further announcements coming soon.

We are especially honoured to welcome Indigenous guests Delta Kay (Arakwal Bumberbin Bundjalung woman, Advocate) and Danny Teece-Johnson (Journalist, Writer, Director) to shine a light on country and culture from so-called Australia. They will be joined in conversation with Áine Tyrrell (Singer, Songwriter, Music Maker).

Created in 2021 by The Trailblazery in collaboration with

Manchán Magan and supported by Foras na Gaeilge with part funding by Galway City Council through its Creative Ireland Programme. Scoil Scairte is a dynamic Irish cultural experience that weaves creativity, language, heritage, folklore and indigenous wisdom with individual, social and ecological wellbeing. We were recently recognised with the 2022 European Language Label by Léargas and Best Arts and Cultural award with the Irish Sponsorship Awards.

Scoil Scairte is a 9-week voyage

environment to inspire people to connect with themselves, each other and the living world through the potency of this ancient living language.

Scoil Scairte provides a platform to engage in a soulful and structured way with the Irish language as a rich cultural treasure. It taps into a growing cultural desire for new ways of learning (and unlearning), connecting and sharing at this extraordinary time on our planet.

Join Scoil Scairte and explore how language can shape how we see the world and our place in it.

What's Involved:

9-week online course with 30+ hours of live & recorded content

- 21 inspirational gaeilgeoirí guides & guest contributors
- 9 live gatherings with cultural guides,

music & language teaching

- 9 care packages with slides, recordings & resources
- 3 months of tutorial sessions for beginners & intermediates
- 3 months free Meitheal community membership
- 3 months access to Language Lab of pronunciation recordings
- 1 guided meditation series by Kathy Scott & composer Brian Crosby

• 1 season of Focail agus Fís film series hosted by Mairéad Ní Chonghaile, Siobhán

- 1 interview special with

Manchán Magan & a very special guest

Each week a new guide will take us on a journey into the soul of the Irish language through a broad range of shared experiences from storytelling and music to dancing, folklore, hip hop, hurling, knitting, sean nós singing and other creative practices.

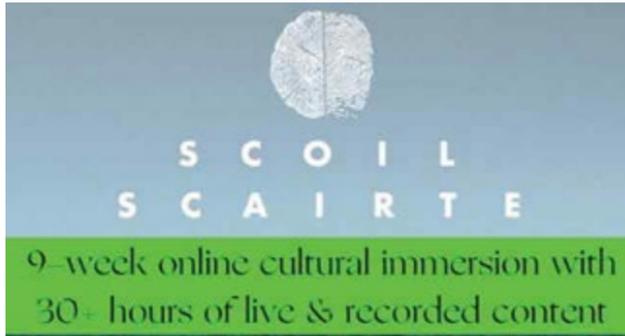
The creative syllabus features weekly 90 minute bilingual learning sessions with inspiring teachable moments, live music by internationally renowned artists and a language learning component led by our resident múinteoir. There are break-out sessions, homework, care packages, resources and special weekly bonus treats.

We are passionate about creating a methodology that provides a range of root pathways into the language (featuring visual, auditory and experiential practices) to include all kinds of learners. Offerings include our exclusive Focail agus Fís film teaching series shot in stunning locations around Galway as well as our resident múinteoir's Language Lab playlists to support pronunciation and blas and the new Immráma Immersions.

How To Join:

If you are curious about connecting to this rich language and culture in a participative way this is for you. Places are limited and the 9-week programme is priced at €225.

To sign up see: thetrailblazery.com/scoil-scairte-spiral-4



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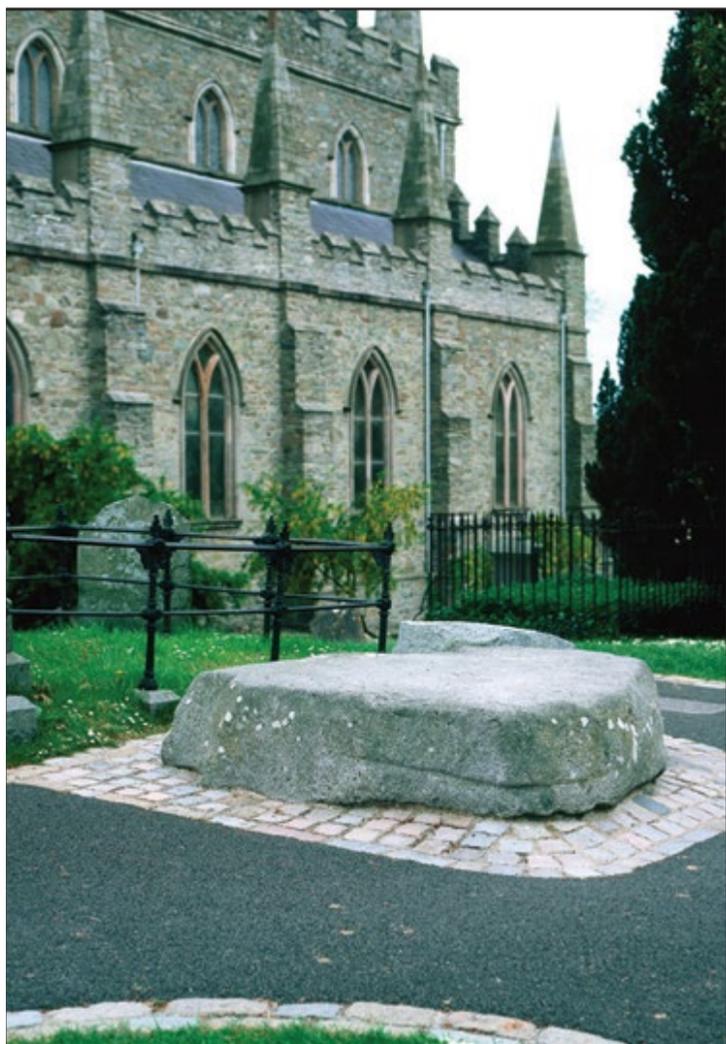
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St Patrick's Day, A Great Day To Be In Ireland



Left: Downpatrick, County Down, the last resting place of St Patrick. Right: St Patrick's Day festivities in Limerick (above) and Kilkenny (below).

THE DEEP HISTORIC AND present-day connections between America and the island of Ireland are showcased magnificently over the St Patrick's Season. Around mid-March parades and festivals—featuring legions of Irish dancers, community groups, marching bands, and units made up from the ranks of labor unions, law enforcement and fire departments—will grace the streets of virtually every large American City, and a host of smaller ones besides. It's a lovefest for the old country and perfectly encapsulates the pride that Irish Americans have in their heritage.

For good reason March is now Irish Heritage Month in this country. Our roots go back a long way; from the Presbyterians who came in the late 18th century in search of religious freedom, to the more than a million poor souls fleeing starvation during the Great Hunger of the mid-19th century; from the hordes who crossed the broad Atlantic in the early decades of the 20th century to escape poverty at home, to the more recent immigrants, skilled in business, construction, technology and other disciplines. All came in search of a better life and we, as their descendants, are both grateful for the opportunities afforded them and proud of the contributions they were able to make in their adopted homeland. St Patrick's Day gives us all a chance to express that gratitude and pride, with a healthy dose of the 'craic' thrown in, of course.

St Patrick

St Patrick came to Ireland as a boy in the 5th century. Originally from either Wales or Scotland, (histories differ), he was taken as a slave to the Slemish Mountain in County Antrim, where he was put to work tending sheep. After escaping back to mainland Britain Patrick had

a vision imploring him to return to Ireland and spread the gospel of Christianity. And so his work began. Patrick famously melded the Christian message with the ancient Celtic beliefs of the Irish people to reveal to them the mysteries of the faith. He used the humble shamrock, with its three leaves, to explain the Holy Trinity. The Celtic Cross is another example, where a circle, representing the sun, surrounds the Christian Cross.

Patrick left his mark on the island of Ireland, from the iconic Rock of Cashel in County Tipperary to the breathtaking peak of County Mayo's Croagh Patrick (Patrick's Stack) from where, legend has it, he banished the snakes out of Ireland. The mountain is the destination of tens of thousands of pilgrims each year.

Patrick founded churches all over the island but it is in the counties of Armagh and Down in Northern Ireland where his legacy is strongest. The City of Armagh boasts not one, but two cathedrals dedicated to the great Saint. And then there is Down Cathedral, where he was finally laid to rest.

St Patrick's celebrations on the island of Ireland

Festivals and parades take place all over the island in March, from Belfast in the north to Cork in the south, from Sligo in the west to Waterford in the east. If you're lucky enough to be visiting at this time of year, here's a rundown of some of the highlights of the festivities.

What better place to start than in **Armagh**, where St Patrick's legacy is still felt today. The city's '**Home of St Patrick Festival**'—which runs from March 11-19—offers a lively and varied showcase of the best culture, music, song and dance in the place Saint Patrick called his "sweet little hill."

Highlights this year include

live music from the likes of Celtic Soul and The Fureys, comedy gigs by Jason Byrne and Northern Ireland's own Patrick Kielty, and a wide range of events about St Patrick himself—including walking tours, lectures, and a choral celebration. Add in some family fun days and arts and crafts, and you've got a jam-packed schedule to enjoy. Most of the festival activities are based in city center venues.

The iconic **National St Patrick's Day Parade**—the biggest of Ireland's St Patrick's parades—will take place in **Dublin** on March 17, and it will be bigger and better than ever before. With half a million spectators expected to line this year's route, the parade will feature seven creative pageants, 10 transitional showpiece performances and 15 marching bands from across Ireland, North America and Canada. This year's theme is "One," and the festival is reaching out to "those across the world to come together on March 17 to collectively celebrate, share, laugh, perform, participate and remember that 'Mar a chéile sinn' (We are one)."

The parade is the centerpiece of the **St Patrick's Festival** which features contemporary and traditional Irish arts, culture and heritage. The festival runs from March 16-19, and includes an extensive program of events at Festival Quarter located in the iconic National Museum of Ireland Collins Barracks, highlighting the very best in music, dance, circus, conversation, spectacle, food and drink and so much more.

Other highlights from around the island include the **Cork St Patrick's Festival** (March 16-19), the centerpiece of which is a uniquely Corkonian parade. This year's parade theme is 'A Century of Stories,' which reflects on the huge changes in Ireland over the

last 100 years. This wonderful, vibrant and colorful pageant features members of communities from all walks of life across the city—sporting groups to dance schools, new communities, long-established brass bands, and special guests from around the world.

The **Limerick St Patrick's Festival** (March 17-19) includes a traditional St Patrick's Day parade among its many family friendly events. The festival closes this year with the much-heralded Limerick International Band Championship on March 19.

The **St Patrick's Festival Killarney**, County Kerry, takes as its theme: 'Killarney Experience More,' and promises to showcase all that Killarney has to offer to visitors and locals alike. Killarney National Park is a place of boundless natural beauty, its lakes and the surrounding mountains are stunning. It has also become somewhat of a foodie's destination in recent decades.

The **St Patrick's Day Festival** in the city of **Waterford** (March 17-19) will celebrate the very best of what Waterford has to offer. Waterford has long been recognised for its strong cultural scene and this year's extended festival will make for a fun-filled and exciting weekend.

The **St Patrick's Festival in Kilkenny**, (March 15-19) is becoming more popular each passing year, and little wonder as the 'Marble City' pulls out all the stops to mark the occasion. The festival here will feature a Vintage Carousel, a Big Wheel, a Festival Market, a pop-up Gaeltacht (Irish speaking area), and some of the best American Marching Bands around, including Marist from Chicago and Purdue from Indiana. Music, traditional and many other genres, play a major role in this festival.

Belfast puts its front foot well and truly forward this year with '**Trad Trail**,' featuring some of the city's finest musicians as well as some of the biggest names in Irish traditional music from all across the island. Produced by Féile an Phobail, Trad Trail takes place in venues all across Belfast from March 10-19. The city's St Patrick's Day parade theme is 'Voices of Belfast' and celebrates Belfast's vibrant musical heritage from pop to punk and traditional to disco.

One thing that will be central to all the St Patrick's festivities on the island of Ireland is the love affair the Irish have with music. In so many ways music is the bridge between us and the rest of the world. Everywhere the Irish went, as Ireland's bard Christy Moore sang: "They brought their songs and music, to ease their lonely hearts." And strains of the music they brought to America so many years ago can be heard today in modern country and rock 'n' roll. Country music is an evolution, in many ways, of the bluegrass found in the Appalachian mountains, brought there by Irish settlers in the eighteenth century. It's no surprise really then that Garth Brooks was able to sell out multiple dates in Croke Park in Dublin (one of Europe's biggest stadiums), or that Dolly Parton once sang a rendition of her hit 'Coat of Many Colors' in a pub in Kerry owned by GAA legend Páidí Ó Sé, or, for that matter, that Johnny Cash penned his hit 'Forty Shades of Green' while in a light aircraft flying low over the Irish countryside, and wondering at the beautiful patchwork of fields below him.

March is a great time to visit Ireland, especially if you are an American. What better way to celebrate "the ties that bind." Plan your trip on

A couple is seen from behind, embracing on a grassy hill. The woman is wearing a green jacket and a grey beanie, while the man is wearing a black vest over a red shirt and blue jeans. They are looking out over a vast landscape that includes a large bay or fjord, rolling hills, and a distant coastline. A faint rainbow is visible in the sky over the water. The sky is filled with large, white clouds, and the overall lighting suggests a late afternoon or early morning setting.

Fill your heart with **Ireland** 

What fills your heart?

Speak to anyone who has been to Ireland and they'll always have something special to say. That's because these lands have a unique way of leaving your heart feeling truly full. It could be the warmth of the locals, often said to be the friendliest in the world. It could be the fun of an impromptu music session in a cozy Irish pub. Or it could be the heart-stopping drama of our coastline, with its jagged headlands and soaring sea cliffs. Whatever it might be, isn't it time you found out?

Fill your heart with Ireland.

[Ireland.com](https://ireland.com)

St. Patrick Celebration



Friday, March 17th, 2023

Music by Cirrus Falcon



The District
at Memorial Hall
10308 N Main St
Richmond, IL 60071

4PM - 9PM

FREE ADMISSION!

Local Vendor Market - Live Irish Music & Dance Performances - Kids Crafts - Open Air Photobooth - Two Gift Basket Drawings* Valued at \$100 Each - Roaming Leprechaun - Cash Bar - Food!

* Must be 21+ to enter, one winner per household.

McNulty Irish Dancers



Colleen Gallagher's
Award Winning
Irish Soda Bread



Full Schedule & Event Details:
www.richmond-il.com
facebook.com/richmondil



Hosted by the Village of Richmond

Bagpiper
Shawn McDonald



Thank you to our local
Richmond business partners!

THE DISTRICT
AT HISTORIC MEMORIAL HALL

THE MIDWEST EQUESTRIAN



WICKED
WOODS & GOODS



**THE
GLASS
SMITH**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - MARCH 2023

Friends, Members of the Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC), founders, supporters, neighbors, and partners.

Anois teacht an Earraigh (Now Cometh the Spring)

Now with the springtime
The days will grow longer
And after St. Bride's day'
My sail I'll let go
I put my mind to it,
And I never will linger
Till I find myself back
In the County Mayo.

-Antaine Ó Raifteirí 1784-1835

We never know when spring will begin in Chicago, but best guess it will be sometime after St. Brigid's Day on February 1st, but it is that time of year here at the Irish American Heritage Center. Every week is busier than the last.

We are well into our Friday all-you-can-eat Fish Fries. Stop in for a great fish dinner, live music and movies and coloring for the kids until April 7th, excluding March 17th. We're serving from 6:30pm to 9:00pm.

St. Patrick's Fest - The fun starts at 1:00pm on March 11th! Music from Aidan O'Toole, to the Academy of Irish Music, the Chancey Brothers, Whiskey Mick, to the Joyce Boys. Fun for the little ones in the Erin Room, with entertainment from the Wiggle Worms and the Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance, and crafts and fun presented by Irish Community Services. Irish Dance Schools will perform in the Mayfair Theatre all day long. A vendor's mall and the Irish American Heritage Center Gift Shop will take care of all of your retail needs! Tickets are \$15 for Adults purchased online before the event, \$20 at the door. Kids under 12 are free.

Don't forget that St. Patrick's Day is a Friday this year. Let your boss know that you need to take a ½ day and join us again - doors open at 3:00pm for another day of fun, food, and music! Tickets are \$10 at the door for the best place to celebrate in Chicago, with a big finish by Fifth Province Pub favorites In Spite of Ourselves!

March is the month for music at the IAHC, starting with the return of favorites Byrne and Kelly on March 16th, guitar virtuoso Shane Hennessy on March 19th, and trad music superstar Aoife Scott on March 22nd. Tickets and information can be found at irish-american.org

If you're looking for the best place to celebrate in March, it's at your Irish American Heritage Center! Your Center for music. Your Center for dance. Your Center to gather with friends and family. We're looking forward to seeing you there!



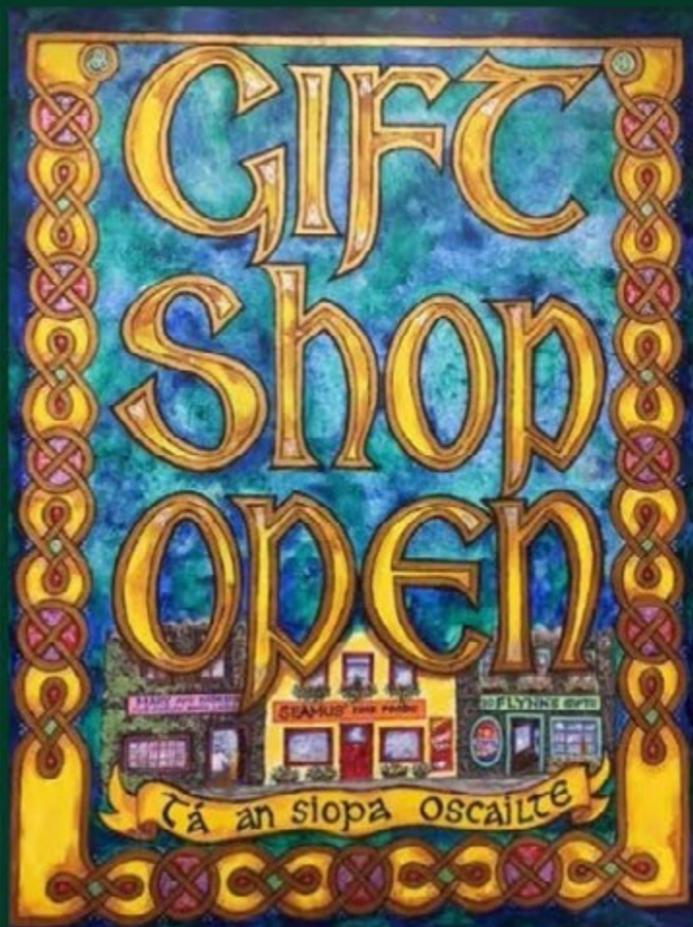
Tony McHale
President of the IAHC. Board of Directors




**IRISH AMERICAN
HERITAGE CENTER**

irish-american.org • (773) 282-7035, extension 14

4626 North Knox Avenue
Chicago, IL, 60630



The Gift Shop at the Irish American Heritage Center is open extended hours for the month of March. Everything you need to celebrate the St. Patrick's Day Holiday!



Tuesday through Friday: 3:00pm to 8:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am to 8:00pm

Byrne and Kelly



Thursday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Heritage Center Favorites Byrne and Kelly return - just in time for St. Patrick's Day - on Thursday, March 16th.

Two of the principal singers in the international touring group Celtic Thunder, Neil Byrne and Ryan Kelly are navigating their own path into the history of Irish music with the creation of Byrne and Kelly.

Tickets are \$100 for first rows and pre-show meet and greet with Byrne and Kelly
\$45 for main floor assigned seating | \$35 for balcony

Shane Hennessy



Sunday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for an all ages show starring international touring sensation Shane Hennessy in concert in the Mayfair Theatre Sunday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$30, \$25 for members.

Tickets for groups of ten or more are \$22.

Aoife Scott



Wednesday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Award winning folk singer Aoife Scott is a songwriter based in Dublin, Ireland. Born into the legendary Black Family (Aoife's mother is Frances Black and her Aunt is Mary Black). Join us for an evening of the best Irish traditional and folk music.

Tickets are \$25-\$30.

4626 North Knox Avenue
Chicago, IL, 60630

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Celebrate all things St. Patrick!



The tradition continues! Join us at the Irish American Heritage Center on Saturday, March 11th after the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and again on Friday March 17th to celebrate the day!



Music, including Aiden O'Toole, the Chancey Brothers, the Joyce Boys, Whiskey Mick, the Academy of Irish Music, In Spite of Ourselves, the Dooley Band, and many more!

Join us in the Erin Room on the 11th for music, entertainment and crafts for the kids, with activities presented by our partners ICS (Irish Community Services), and for performances by local Irish Dance schools in the Mayfair Theatre.

All this, plus shopping, food and drink!

Tickets for St. Patrick's Fest on March 11th are \$15 in advance at www.irish-american.org, and \$20 at the door. Children under 12 years old are free, and must be accompanied by an adult. Doors open at 1:00pm. Last call at 11:00pm. Admission for March 17th is \$10 at the door for Adults. Children under 12 are free. Doors open at 3:00pm. Last Call at 11:00 pm.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL
AT THE IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

IRISH COMMUNITY SERVICES

FAMILY FUN IN THE ERIN ROOM
1:00PM - 5:00PM
MARCH 11TH, 2023

BRING YOUR LITTLE ONES UP TO THE ERIN ROOM FOR FESTIVE ST. PATRICKS DAY CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES!

That's the Spirit! - Titanic Distillers First to Open in Belfast in Almost 90 Years!



New immersive tours at Titanic Distillers bring the stories and heritage of Belfast's historic Titanic Pump-house and dry dock to life.

Following a multi-million-pound investment, the Titanic Pump-house in Belfast has been transformed into a whiskey distillery and visitor centre.

The Pump-house was built in 1911 as part of the infrastructure needed to build the massive White Star transatlantic liners Olympic, Titanic and Britannic and is a significant part of Belfast's maritime history.

From 31 March 2023 the new Titanic

Distillers, is offering visitors four immersive tours: the Signature Tour; the Premium Tour; the Dock Tour and the Legacy Tour.

The Signature Tour is a fully guided experience of the distillery and Pump-house. It explores the sights and sounds of the historic building, which retains all the original pump equipment and internal features, followed by a sensory experience and tasting of Titanic Distillers' award-winning Irish spirits.

The Titanic Distillers Premium Tour brings the rich heritage of Thompson Dock's to life, while showcasing the

ongoing innovations in the working distillery. The two-hour tour visits the historic Thompson Graving Dock, which was the largest in the world at the time it was built, and tours the Pump-house. As well sampling the premium whiskey and vodka, visitors get to take home a collector's glass.

The Dock Tour is the opportunity to fully explore Thompson Dock in a 60-minute experience that walks in the footsteps of the dock workers and reveals the incredible history of the site and the scale of the engineering project. Whiskey and vodka tastings are

included in the experience.

For an in-depth experience, the Legacy Tour offers an extended tour of Titanic Distillers to gain a deeper insight into the history and stories of this unique site. It includes Pump-house, distillery, Thompson Graving Dock and the floating mezzanine distillery floor.

The tour ends with a visit to the original Gwynne Pumps, located three levels beneath the distillery. Tastings of the distillery's premium spirits are included throughout the tour, and guests will receive exclusive Titanic Distillers gifts to take home.

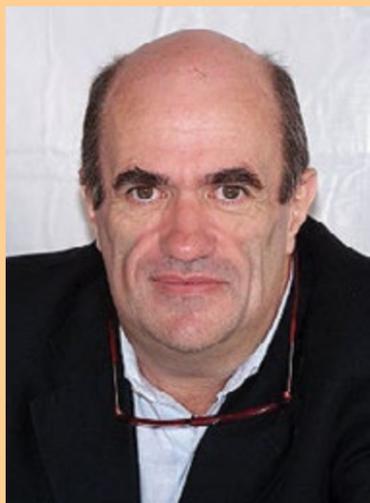
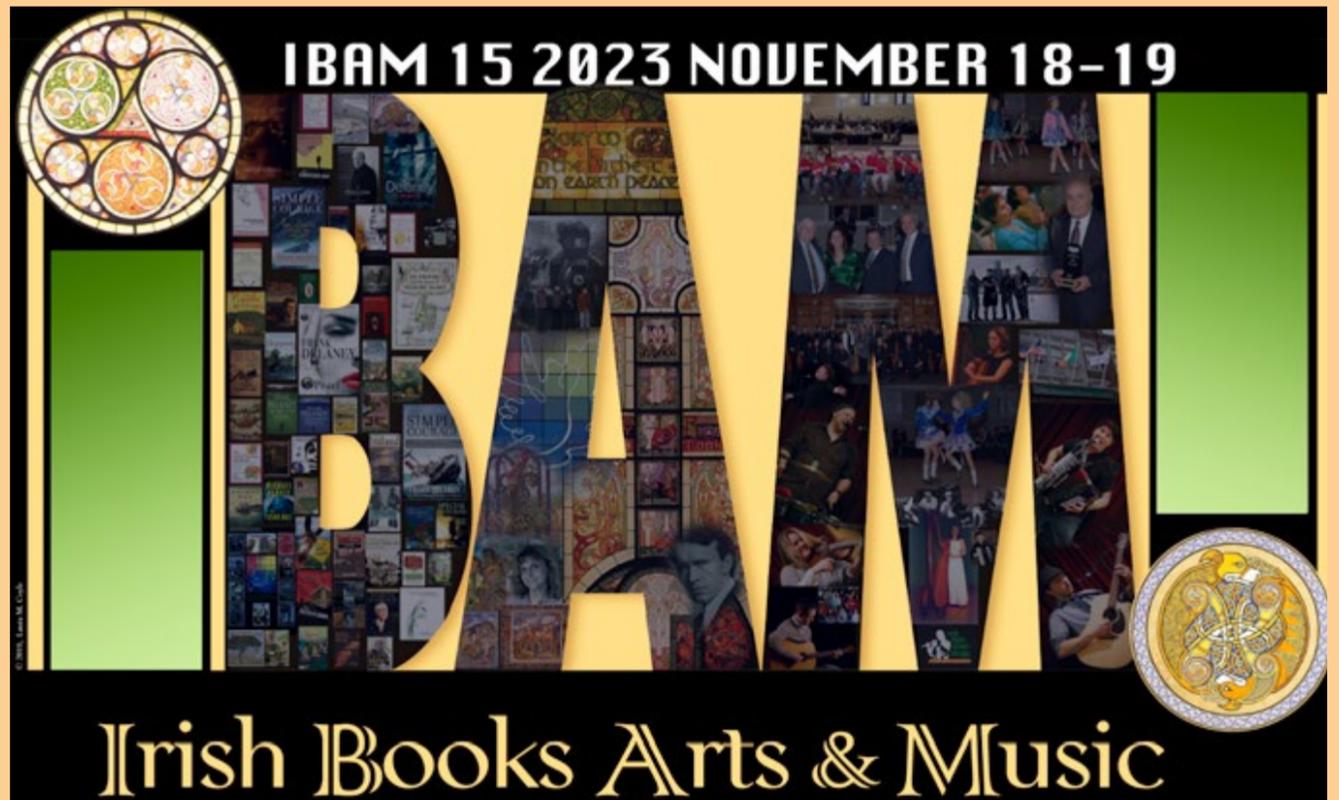
iBAM! 15 November 18-19

Celebrate the best in Irish Heritage and Culture at iBAM! 15, November 18, 19 2023 as we honor our *Person of the Year*; *Mary Pat Kelly*, *Colm Toibin for Literature*, *Eileen Dunne for Media/Journalism*, and *Jimmy Keane for Music*.

Additional Awardees will be announced in Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Culinary Arts, and Volunteer of the Year.

The weekend program is being filled now with authors, artists, musicians, craftspersons, storytellers, and all things Irish. If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful celebration of Irish heritage taking place at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N Knox Ave., Chicago IL 60630, you can email cliff@irishamericannews.com for more information! iBAM! is a 501 (C) (3) whose mission is to honor and present to the public the best in everything Irish.

Proceeds benefit the Irish American Heritage Center, and other non-profit Irish organizations, and individuals who contribute their skills to the event.



Colm Toibin, Literature



Mary Pat Kelly
Person of the Year



Eileen Dunne, Journalism



Jimmy Keane, Music

Senior Living That Complements Your Lifestyle - Your New Castle Awaits

"We Irish always say 'our home is our castle'," said Paddy Homan, renowned Irish Tenor and Senior Director at Plymouth Place, one of Chicagoland's most prestigious, non-profit retirement communities. "But over time, our castle can sometimes become our foe, to the detriment of our lifestyle."

Fortunately, there's a downsizing option that can completely upsize your life. Opening in late 2023, The Arboretum Villas at Plymouth Place in La Grange Park, IL, is an exciting new community for adults 62+ who are ready to put home maintenance in the rear-view mirror and start enjoying a resort lifestyle.

Here, residents have access to everything from aquatics and exercise...to premium dining and travel opportunities...to world-class performances by accomplished jazz musicians, Lyric Opera members and, of course, Irish music. In fact, on the first Friday of the month, The Pub at Plymouth Place is home to a traditional Irish session hosted by Clodagh Ryan on the fiddle and concertina. In celebration of St. Patrick's Day this year, residents will gather together for Irish fare and a command performance by Paddy Homan and The Noble Call.

"For 79 years, Plymouth Place has catered to our clients, delivering unique life experiences and five-star rated health services that go above and beyond the ordinary," said Jay Biere, CEO of Plymouth Place. "With this new development, we're really pushing the envelope and delivering a retirement experience unlike any other."

Go green! Stay active

Nestled in a private 17-acre arboretum, The Arboretum Villas will consist of 59 gorgeous Villas dispersed among four beautiful low-rise buildings. The Villas feature a "biophilic" design that brings a sense of nature into each space...from an abundance of sunshine to stunning views of the expansive grounds.

The enormous amount of green space is one of the many features that attracted Bob and Barb Denny to The Arboretum Villas. "One of the hardest parts of giving up our single-family home is our yard, our garden, sitting on our deck," said Bob Denny, a retired chemical engineer and future resident. "We really look forward to the landscape here...the walking paths, gardens and the large pond stocked with fish. I'm a fisherman and I can't wait to throw out a line."

Other highlights of the expansive campus include pickleball, bocce ball, a fire pit, raised garden beds and a four-season green house. The roof of the parking garage will be transformed into a beautifully landscaped central parkway complete with trails, sitting areas, shaded pergolas, grilling stations and even a professional putting green. As an added bonus, the adjacent Club House features a golf simulator where residents can relax with family and friends to play some of the world's top courses.

Unmatched dining and destinations

This truly is retired living without limits...where every detail is considered. While on campus, residents can choose from over nine dining experiences including casual and upscale restaurants, private dining and even room service. Every morning, residents can partake in a complimentary continental breakfast.

When it's time to explore, The Arboretum Villas is just steps from the train and downtown La Grange, home to 20+ restaurants, quaint shops, a movie theater and more. According to Paddy

Homan, "It's also centrally located between the Irish American Heritage Center and Chicago Gaelic Park...each just 30 minutes away on I-294."

Focused on your well-being

The Arboretum Villas is truly health centric. Each Villa is a short stroll to the brand-new Center for Healthy Living, an expansive, state-of-the-art fitness and aquatics retreat. Here, residents can participate in water aerobics, Yoga, Tai Chi, weight training and more.

For health concerns, Plymouth Place offers concierge medical practitioners who can perform house calls and write prescriptions. Residents have priority access to Plymouth Place's full continuum of care including rehab specialists, assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing. Life Care – a robust plan that secures long-term healthcare needs at discounted rates – adds an additional layer of security.

"I wasn't ready to go into a retirement community per se," said future resident David Grimes. "But when I saw that the Villas allowed me to live independently yet have the high-level support of Plymouth Place, I thought 'this is exactly what I'm looking for.'" In fact, when Grimes first heard about The Arboretum Villas, he immediately brought two of his sons to an appointment at the Design Center located at 26 S. La Grange Road in downtown La Grange. "I pulled out my checkbook and put down a deposit right then and there," he said. "I was so impressed."

A safety net in a fluctuating economy

"The Arboretum Villas really is a solid investment in your future," said Jay Biere. "At a time when people want to downsize and are worried about their portfolio, we offer financial stability and peace of mind."

That's because one predictable monthly fee covers virtually all living expenses including home maintenance, weekly housekeeping, cable, high-speed internet and membership to all that the Center for Healthy Living offers. The entrance fee (price of the Villa) is up to 90% refundable. Plus, residents do not pay any real estate taxes, and their monthly fee may be tax deductible.

"I'm an engineer," said Denny. "I run the numbers, I do the analysis – my wife would say to an extreme," he laughed. "When you look at the overall costs of living in your single-family home and compare it to the costs here at The Arboretum Villas, I think you will find the numbers are very similar."

Financially flexible.

Completely customizable

"With this new community, we've thrown away the template," said Jay Biere. "We are completely customizing the living experience. Here, you are in the driver's seat."

Most notably, at The Arboretum Villas, Life Care is optional, as is the dining plan. If residents choose the dining plan, they can use their dining dollars at local La Grange restaurants like The Elm and Marco's Kitchen... which is truly unique.

Bob Denny agrees. He and his wife explored four other communities before whole-heartedly choosing The Arboretum Villas. "They did not offer the flexibility provided here," said Denny.

In terms of customization, David Grimes was impressed. "The standard selections for cabinetry, countertops and flooring for my Villa were such a



high level, I didn't have to say 'Oh, I have to get an upgrade.' I thought the selections were terrific."

85% sold

With a premium location, beautiful floor plan selection and first-rate amenities, The Arboretum Villas is in high demand. In fact, 85% are already sold and a waiting list has begun. As a special incentive to the Irish American community, The Arboretum Villas is offering \$25,000 off the entrance fee of select two-bedroom + den Villas until the end of March. They are also

locking in the monthly fees until 2025. To assure prime floor plan selection and customization – and to take advantage of this special incentive, it's important to act quickly.

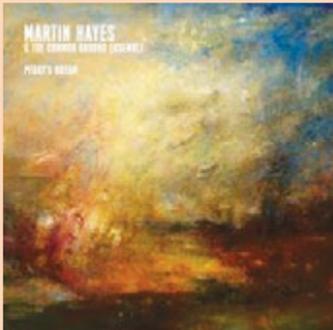
Attend an exclusive Irish American event

Discover what the excitement is all about by attending an exclusive Irish American event hosted by Paddy Homan on Wednesday, March 22 at 4 pm at Plymouth Place in La Grange Park. To register, call (708) 554-4140. For information, visit arboretumvillas.org.

Martin Hayes New CD is Peggy's Dream

Martin Hayes and The Common Ground Ensemble release their debut album Peggy's Dream on March 24. A master of the Irish fiddle, Hayes is regarded as one of Ireland's leading musicians. He's also known for his wide-ranging collaborations, and for this project he brought together artists from differing backgrounds who also had connections to Irish music—the 'common ground' of their name.

A line-up emerged of cellist Kate Ellis (Artistic Director of Crash Ensemble), jazz pianist Cormac McCarthy, Irish traditional musician Brian Donnellan (bouzouki, concertina, and like Hayes an alumnus of the Tulla Céilí Band), and New York guitarist Kyle Sanna (Bela Fleck, Chris Thile). In the Common Ground Ensemble they forge these elements with the tradition in a way that also gives each



musician's talents the space to shine. The Gloaming, his experimental Irish-American group, was followed by recordings with Yo-Yo Ma and The Silk Road Ensemble (on the Grammy-winning Sing Me Home), string quartet Brooklyn Rider, and the Martin Hayes Quartet. He's performed with artists from Cassandra Wilson to Phoebe Bridgers, and published a memoir in 2021.

Hayes's mother Peggy passed in late 2019, and last year he lost his longtime musical partner and Gloaming bandmate, American guitarist Dennis Cahill. The new album is dedicated to them both.

The new album remains rooted in Hayes's native music, and all nine tracks are traditional Irish. 'Toss the Feathers' he had previously recorded with his late father PJ Hayes, a renowned fiddler from East County Clare. 'Peggy's Dream' was sent to Hayes after his mother's passing by Irish guitarist Steve Cooney, who'd found it in the Goodman collection of 19th century Irish tunes. And yet the tune's title reflected the spirit of the album, notes Hayes.

"I like to gather a group together and just see what begins to emerge," he continues. "I'll make a rough sketch of the mood, harmonies and arrangement which we then all fill out. The larger picture is to create space for all the different musical personalities to be expressed. And I wanted this to be the most fun I can have while I'm on stage," adds Hayes.

Subtext Theater Co World Premieres Chicago Immigrants Biographical Story

A Bump On The Leg By Chicago Playwright Leigh Johnson

Subtext Theater Company (STC) will stage this spring a new play by Leigh Johnson entitled A Bump on the Leg. This play is the biographical retelling of an event from the life of Chicago resident and Irish immigrant James Mallon. Raised in Northern Ireland, the young Jimmy Mallon was diagnosed with bone cancer in his leg. Doctors, who initially were going to proceed with amputation of the limb, opted instead for radiation treatment, which seemed to be ineffective. Facing a grim prognosis, money was raised to send young Jimmy to Our Lady of Lourdes in France, where he was bathed in the healing waters of the divine sanctuary. Returning home to Ireland, the tumor disappeared in a matter of weeks. Was it divine intercession? A delayed reaction from the cobalt treatment? A misdiagnosis? Or simply a testament to the powers of a mother's love and faith? All of these—and more—are lovingly examined in this whimsical, thought-provoking, and heartwarming new work.

Jim Mallon himself will be on hand along with the playwright after each performance to answer questions and

talk about his experiences This truly Irish tale opens on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th and continues through April 16, 2023. Performances will not be held on April 7, 8 & 9th. If you wish to interview either or both Mr. Mallon or Leigh Johnson, please email info@subtextnfp.org or call 312-767-1393.

Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. at St. Bonaventure Theater, 1625 W. Diversey, at Marshfield just west of Ashland, in Chicago. Free parking is



available in two lots. There are stairs but no elevator in the building. Full-priced single tickets are \$30, group rates are \$20.00 for a group of ten or more. Ticketing at <http://www.subtextnfp.org/box-office.html>

All programming is subject to change. For information, call 312-767-1393 or visit subtextnfp.org.

Irish & Celtic Music Mondays on WDCB!

The Thistle & Shamrock with Fiona Ritchie

Ireland Tonight with Sharon Iberle

The Thistle & Shamrock Monday Nights from 8 to 9pm

Ireland Tonight Monday Nights from 9 to 10pm

The Shaughraun by Dion Boucicault at Athenaeum Center March 9 thru April 2

The Storm Theatre and Athenaeum Center for Thought & Culture proudly present The Shaughraun by Dion Boucicault, directed by Peter Dobbins. This limited engagement will play Thursday, March 9th - April 2nd at The Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture.

Set against the Fenian uprising of 1866, Robert Ffolliott, a young Irish Gentleman framed as a Fenian

rebel, escaping from an Australian penal colony, has returned home to the west of Ireland. British Officer, Captain Molineux has landed in Suil-a-beg to find and capture the fugitive. Upon his arrival he meets Claire Ffolliott, Robert's patriotic sister, and falls instantly in love. Claire though outwardly disdainful is equally smitten.

Conn, the village Shaughraun, "the

soul of every fair, the life of every funeral" who planned and executed Robert's daring escape, now conspires with Claire, and others, to keep Robert away from the pursuit of Molineux and his men.

Romance, adventure, and uproarious comedy ensues with chase scenes, secret meetings, faked deaths, double-crosses, brawls and a hilarious Irish wake. And through it all, there's

forbidden Irish/English love.

One of the most popular plays of the 19th century, The Shaughraun (Gaelic for "wanderer" "vagabond") is the third (and most popular) of a trilogy (Colleen Bawn and Arrah Na Pogue) that essentially gave birth to Irish Theatre.

Boucicault's work influenced George Bernard Shaw, John Millington Synge, Sean O'Casey and even Anton Chekhov.

In The Shaughraun, Boucicault transforms the then stock "Stage Irishman" as a drunken layabout into a charming, unforgettably irrepressible, romantic hero.

The Shaughraun had its World Premiere in 1874 at Wallack's Theatre in New York. The play was a smashing success, with long runs in New York and the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane on the West End. During the 20th century, The Shaughraun was forgotten, a victim of shifting theatrical tastes.

In 1998, as part of its inaugural season, The Storm Theatre brought Boucicault's lost classic back to the New York stage, the city's first glimpse of the play in nearly 80 years.

The Shaughraun will play as follows at The Athenaeum Center: Thursday - Saturday @ 7:30 PM & Saturday @ 2:00 PM. PLEASE NOTE: Two additional performances are scheduled for Sunday, March 26 @ 2:00 PM and Sunday April 2 @ 2:00 PM.

Tickets are \$30. For tickets and info call (312) 820-6250 or visit athenaeumcenter.org/events.

Storm Theatre and Athenaeum Center for Thought & Culture present

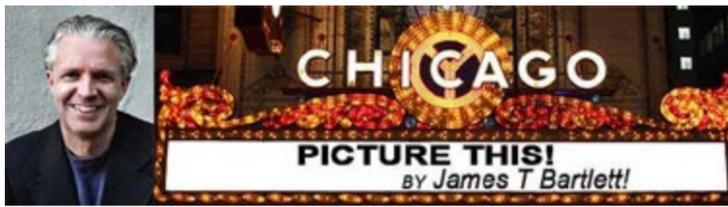
Dion Boucicault's THE SHAUGHRAUN

Directed by **Peter Dobbins**

Starring **COOPER BOHN** as Conn (The Shaughraun) **AUSTIN TYLER HEEMSTRA** as Captain Molineux **ANDREW LACHLAN CAWLEY** as Robert Ffolliott **SARAH SEIDLER** as Claire Ffolliott. Assistant Director **FLEUR PHILLIPS DOBBINS** Lighting Design by **MICHAEL ABRAMS** Costume Design by **GRACE ONOFREY** Sound Design by **AVERI PAULSEN** Scenic Design by **GREY SMITH.**

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First things first: a very Happy St Patrick's Day to everyone! Whether you're celebrating with a quiet whiskey or Guinness by yourself, attending a parade, or joining the fun in a local bar, I hope you have a great time! By now we'll know the results

Niall Williams' international bestselling novel. Brosnan, Bonham Carter and legendary Irish actor Gabriel Byrne star as parents of fated lovers played by up-and-coming actors Fionn O'Shea and Ann Skelly. Filming in the North and



of the Oscars too, so hopefully there will be a few extra cheers for *The Banshees of Inisherin* and its Irish nominees, Colin Farrell, Brendan Gleeson, Barry Keoghan and Kerry Condon. Here's hoping the Irish language international film *An Cailín Ciúin* (*The Quiet Girl*) and short *An Irish Goodbye* triumphed as well.

After my deadline this month were the SAG (Screen Actors Guild) Awards, which are seen as a very good indicator for the Oscars, as they're voted for just by actors - like specific categories are at the Oscars, too.

All the *Banshees* actors are nominated at the SAGs, and at the BAFTA Awards in London, which took place on February 19, *An Cailín Ciúin* and *An Irish Goodbye* also have another shot. At the BAFTAs Farrell is going up against County Kildare's Paul Mescal in *Aftersun* and Tipperary-born Daryl McCormack in *Good Luck To You*, Leo Grande, which gives the category a 75% chance of an Irish victory!

Things are a little quiet in Hollywood at the moment - all eyes are on the Oscars - but there is news across the Atlantic, including that former 007 Pierce Brosnan is in the North of Ireland shooting a new romantic blockbuster with Helena Bonham Carter.

Polly Steele will direct the magical and romantic Irish story *Four Letters of Love*, which is based on

Republic, the novel was first published in 1997 and was translated into more than 30 languages before Williams has now adapted it for the screen.

The story begins one sunny winter morning when Nicholas' father, William (Brosnan), believes he's spoken to by God. He quits his job and throws himself into his painting, leaving his dependent wife, Bette, and son Nicholas (O'Shea) to fend for themselves.

Elsewhere, Isabel (Skelly) lives a charmed, simple existence with her father (Byrne), the poet and master of the local school, and her wise, intuitive mother (Bonham Carter), until the tragic death of her younger brother. Weighed down by guilt, she opts to leave to leave their island and go to school - and a new start - on the mainland.

Moving to Germany, where the 73rd Berlin Film Festival has just wrapped up, there's hopefully great news for the Irish animation company Jam Media, whose first feature-length animation *A Greyhound Of A Girl* received its premiere as part of the Berlinale Generation Kplus 2023 competition.

Adapted from the novel by internationally acclaimed writer Roddy Doyle, *A Greyhound Of A Girl* features the voices of Oscar-nominee Brendan Gleeson, BAFTA winner Sharon Horgan (*Bad*

Sisters), renowned theatre and film actor Rosaleen Linehan, Charlene McKenna (*Peaky Blinders*), and the young voice of Mia O'Connor.

The film is directed by Enzo d'Alò, who wrote the script with Dave Inghaw, and work on the feature was carried out in JAM Media's Dublin and Belfast studios, and is a co-production involving several European countries and organizations.

A Greyhound Of A Girl is a coming-of-age tale that follows a young 11 year old named Mary (O'Connor) who dreams of becoming a great chef. Her beloved grandmother Emer encourages her to make this dream come true, but, of course, this turns into quite an adventure. In this case, Mary has to take a journey across the barriers of time, in which four generations of women come together and get to know each other.

Oscar & Austin Cedric Gibbons The Irishman

The 95th Academy Awards are going to be held at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood in a few weeks, and Irish movies including *Banshees of Inisherin*, *An Cailín Ciúin* (*The Quiet Girl*), and *An Irish Goodbye* have been nominated for an Oscar.

Whether any of them win or not, the Irish have always been front and center at every single ceremony, because that very famous statue was designed by an Irishman named Cedric Gibbons.

An art director and designer for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for 32 years, he designed over 2,000 films and was himself a winner of no less than 11 Oscars and dozens of nominations (still the record in that category).

The story behind the statue begins shortly after the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) came into being in 1927.

A picture in the Los Angeles Times on May 5 showed Cedric alongside Louis B. Mayer, Douglas Fairbanks, Mary Pickford and others, all of whom were determined to honor outstanding achievements in the industry, and encourage higher levels of quality throughout the business.

A lavish dinner was held in the Crystal Ballroom of the

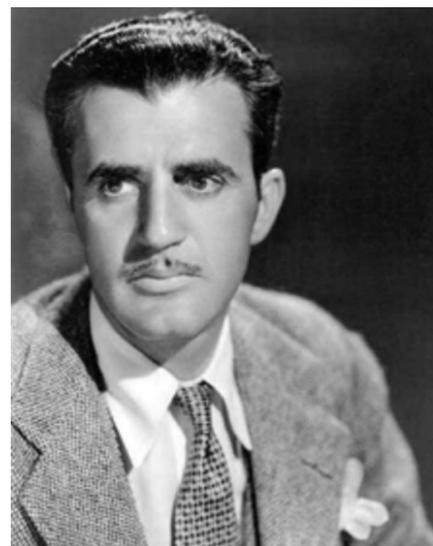
Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles to discuss the goals of the new organization, and legend says that over coffee and cigars, Gibbons sketched the now-legendary figure of a knight gripping a sword and standing in front of a reel of film as a potential design for their awards-to-be.

The five spokes of the reel stood for the original branches of the Academy - actors, directors, producers, technicians and writers - and the sword symbolized protection for the welfare and advancement of the industry.

Whether it really was sketched late-night on a hotel napkin or not, the design was immediately adopted by the Board of Directors, and in early 1928 Gibbons chose local sculptor George Stanley to realize his design for what was called the "Award of Merit".

Amazingly, no live models or sketches were used, and Stanley worked up several versions of the statue before Gibbons selected one: the final version had more of a streamlined knight, and at the time the film reel moved beneath its feet.

The very first Academy Awards ceremony was held on May 16, 1929, in the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, and was very much an insider's banquet - the 15 winners were known in advance, it wasn't broadcast on



Austin Cedric Gibbons (March 23-1890 July 26, 1960)

television or radio, and was over in less than half an hour.

Despite many sources saying Gibbons was born in Dublin, the official records show that he was in fact born in Brooklyn, New York, though he was certainly of Irish heritage. His grandparents were Irish, and as the eldest of three children of a first-generation immigrant (his father, Patrick), Cedric always referred to himself as Irish.

Since Gibbons scribbled that

first design, more than 3,000 statuettes have been presented. Hand-cast in bronze, they receive a 24-karat gold finish, stand 13½ inches tall and weigh 8½ pounds (many people are surprised at how heavy they are).

The design of the statuette has been modified little, though for a time they were made of Britannia metal, a pewter-like alloy, and during the time of shortages in WWII, they were painted plaster (though winners could exchange them for gold ones when hostilities ended). The size of the base has varied though, until the present standard was adopted in 1945.

As for the nickname "Oscar", the origins of it are rather a mystery. One story says that the then-Academy librarian thought it resembled her Uncle Oscar, and staff began using the name, but it wasn't until the sixth ceremony in 1934 that it was first used in the press, and not officially by the Academy until 1939.

The next year, 1940, Gibbons won his third "Oscar", this time for *Pride and Prejudice*, and his other memorable wins include *Gaslight* (1944), *The Yearling* (1948), *Little Women* (1949), *An American in Paris* (1951) and *The Bad and the Beautiful* (1952).

Just as astounding are a small sample of some of the other movies he worked on: *Seven Brides of Seven Brothers*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *On The Town*, *Anchors Aweigh*, *National Velvet* and *The Wizard of Oz*. It's a credit list many could only dream of.

Gibbons was married three times, including to Mexican actress Dolores del Rio, the first Latin American crossover star in Hollywood, and who was seen as the female version of Rudolph Valentino.

They were married in Santa Barbara, California, in August 1930, and were an "it" couple of Hollywood in the decade they were married. They organized lunch Sunday lunch parties at their home in Pacific Palisades, and celebrities like Marlene Dietrich, Greta Garbo and Cary Grant would be there playing tennis, or lounging by the swimming pool.

Today you can see a display of Oscar statuettes throughout the decades at the Academy Museum in Los Angeles, and though Gibbons, who died in 1960, might be somewhat forgotten now, his works lives on in the movies he designed - and in his most famous creation, a golden statuette that millions wish they could win.

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A Bit of Levity in These Toxic Times

By Robert F. Lyons

St. Patrick's Day in Chicago showcases the overflowing cornucopia of Irish stories and songs. A 12th century Irish letter celebrates the sharing of these treasures:

*Be sure of this, keen-witted friend,
 Rich in the holy wealth of story & song,
 Be you long time or short away,
 I always for your coming long.*

Verbal talent has been one of the greatest of Irish natural resources. Ireland's chief literary mission has been to minister not so much to our reason as to our imagination.

Abbot Aed Ua Crimthainn of Co. Tipperary appraised an early Irish fable: "I place no credence in this story or fable, for in part it contains the deceptions of demons, in part the inventions of poetry, in part the appearance of truth and in part not, and in part delectation for fools." (Book of Leinster, 1160).

Brendan Behan, Irish satirist once remarked: "Others have a nationality. The Irish and the Jews have a psychosis." These two ancient peoples are destined to wander the world as outsider-aliens in their own lands, experiencing suspicion and derision wherever they went.

Rory Fitzgerald, journalist/lawyer frames Irish and Jewish identity thusly: "Scratch the surface and they begin to look like twins separated at birth. The stories of these two wandering tribes share many extraordinary parallels. Both have homelands that are small, sacred and contested and very ancient. Ireland and Israel both boast monuments far older than the pyramids of Egypt. Some even dare to speculate that the Irish may be connected to one of the 'lost tribes' of Israel." (Jerusalem Post, St. Patrick's Day, 2010).

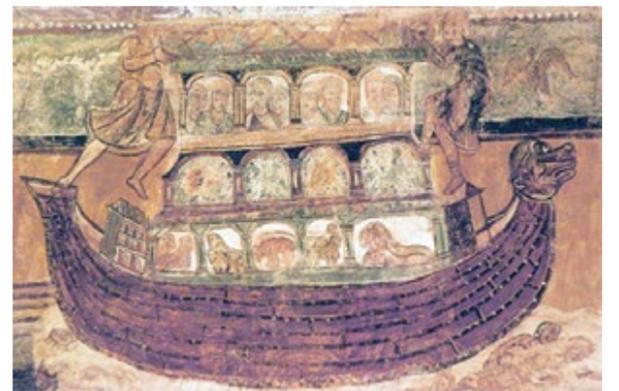
An Irish origin myth recorded in Lebor Gabála Érenn recounts: "None of the seed of Adam took Ireland before the Flood but those" who were led by Caesara, granddaughter of Noah who had refused her entry onto the ark at the time of the Great Flood. (Book of Invasions, 11th century).

Historian Gerald of Wales incorporated this medieval pseudo-history myth into his report on the Conquest of Ireland to King Henry II who invaded Ireland in 1169: "According to the most ancient histories of the Irish, Caesara, the granddaughter of Noah, hearing that the Flood was about to take place, decided to flee in a boat with her companions to the farthest islands of the West, where no man had yet ever lived. She hoped that the vengeance of the Flood would not reach to a place where sin had never been committed. All the ships of her

company were wrecked. Her ship alone, carrying three men and fifty women, survived. It put in at the Irish coast one year before the Flood." (Topographia Hiberniae, 1185 A.D.)

However, an alternative account of Caesara's pre-Flood flight to a point of landing on Bantry Bay, County Cork, Ireland has been unearthed. A vellum scroll made from cowhide was discovered tucked inside a giant oak mead tankard in a cave beneath the jaw-droppingly picturesque Cliffs of Moher, County Clare. It described an apocryphal medieval account of Irish origins, compiled by monk-scribe Roibeárd Ó Liatháin of Clonmacnoise Abbey.

The Book of Genesis records that Sarah who could bear no children gave her Egyptian slave girl Hagar to her husband Abraham as his wife. God had promised Abraham he would be father of many nations. Hagar gave birth to a robust son named Ishmael. Afterwards, as often happens in surrogate mother cases, Sarah "looked with contempt" on Hagar so Abraham expelled both mother and son into the desert of Beersheba where Ishmael made his home as "a wild-ass of a man in the wilderness" (Gen. 16.12). Ishmael later became a stowaway on



Caesara's ship. After docking at Dún na mBárc on Bantry Bay, he sprang forth from the ship's hold and fell instantly in love with ship captain Caesara, a formidable lady of great beauty and wisdom.

Love-stricken, Ishmael and Caesara married without delay as music floated down and the tender sound of song and merry dancing stole softly over Bantry Bay. Thus, they became the Adam and Eve of the Irish people. And, that is why it is said, many Irish are a people of great beauty and wisdom, and some are wild-asses!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert F. Lyons has taught Irish studies at the OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute University of Southern Maine, Dartmouth College, Tufts and while living in Ireland at University College Cork. The Caesara origin myth is sourced in Ireland's medieval manuscripts - a product of Irish scribes. The alternative Ishmael account is the product of the author's imagination. He resides in a senior living community near Chicago.



Blending the Irish Bloodline

Remnants of a Viking settlement were discovered in Cork City a few years ago in line with development work that was being carried out in this area. This settlement and artefacts are over 1000 years old and once again reinforces the City of Cork as an original centre of Viking settlement and investment.

In the late 1970's there were many protests in Dublin in order to preserve the very important Viking settlement at Wood Quay. It was the largest settlement of its type ever unearthed and considered a very significant archaeological find for this country. In the height of the Wood Quay controversy a comment was made that if this site had been discovered as a Celtic settlement rather than a Viking one, it would have been much easier to get support and funding in relation to its preservation.

In the study of Irish history, the Vikings have always been considered as outsiders and have received a pretty 'bad press' overall. They are primarily remembered for plundering and pillaging, but we must also remember that at this time the centres of wealth were the Monastic settlements. The Monastic scribes were also the journalists of their day who wrote about and chronicled these events, and which subsequently were to pass into our historical studies for this period. The writings are biased against them, unbalanced, and

the overall Viking contribution needs to be viewed in a much broader context.

These early seafaring multinationals, Vikings or Danes, were beginning to come in large numbers to Ireland from the 8th to the 10th centuries and founded the now important cities of Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Waterford. They introduced the first system of coinage to Ireland,



replacing the old traditional barter economy. Apart from the early raiding and plundering of Monasteries they were primarily involved in fishing, shipping and commerce. Viking words which have passed to the Irish language include 'pingin', 'margadh' and 'bad'.

I have heard recently about our sometimes unwelcome attitude to refugees who are seeking asylum in this country. As a race, we are not as pure as we think we are. From the beginnings of habitation on this Island we were populated in turn by the great Celtic tribes of the Fir Bolg, Tuatha De Danann and Milesian peoples. Each of these would

replace and intertwine with each other. In subsequent periods we were forcibly settled by Vikings, Normans and English Colonists. We are, in effect, a hybrid nation of people, conditioned by centuries of intermarriage.

We were certainly restrained during the colonial period but if we journey upstream a in time we will find an Irish people with a great economic and cultural tradition that has helped the advance of civilisation in a global context. In the Monastic period we travelled extensively throughout Europe, providing the people in these areas with learning and religion. Newgrange was constructed over 5000 years ago, at the same time as the Egyptian pyramids, by an Irish race that had a knowledge of trigonometry. We also produced intricate and priceless works such as the Book of Kells, the Ardagh Chalice and knowledge of navigation may have seen St. Brendan reach Newfoundland as early as the 6th century. We have also produced literary giants such as Swift, Yeats, Shaw, Wilde, Joyce and Heaney that are now globally respected.

The west coast of Ireland was also very much influenced by seafaring contact from North Africa over 5,000 years ago, in particular from Morocco and Algeria. Our 'shamrock' plant is now believed to be Moroccan in origin. To live anywhere in the world today and be against equality because of colour or race is like living in Alaska and being against snow. In recognising the humanity of our fellow beings, we will ultimately pay ourselves the highest tribute.

'I'm very aware of my own background. I'm Irish, French, and then a little bit of everything else thrown in, ranging from German to Native American. We're talking about tiny drops of blood'-Anne Hathaway

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Master Your Money

By Mike Corrigan



the future when you retire? Will rates be higher in the future? Do you trust the government to lower rates?

a 20% tax bracket. Fast forward to retirement and now that \$6000 grew to \$12,000 and you take it out. You still could be in a 20% bracket because of other retirement income you receive in that same year (social security, etc.). Now the income tax on that \$12,000 from your retirement plan is \$2400. Not \$1200. It's twice as much.

in the past? I am not sure. I hope not. But what if they go to 40%-50% during our lifetime. During our Retirement??? When we are taking money out of our 401-k's and IRA's. So, going back to my earlier example of deferring or postponing the tax calculation on my 401-k contribution potentially going from what I thought was 20% and now discovering it could be at 40%-50% when I withdraw my funds in retirement. I thought I was deferring \$1200 in taxes to find out it could cost me \$4800 to \$6000.

Tax FREE Retirement

Taxes! That's a biggie for most people. We don't like paying them. Every time you turn around you are getting taxed for something. Look at the tax deductions that come out of your paycheck. If you don't like paying taxes now...how are you going to feel in

Many people don't know that social security income is taxable when you begin to receive it in retirement. It was a tax to begin with when you were working and coming out of your check. Now, in retirement you get TAXED again on that money. That really bothers most people once they discover this fact.

The other fact that upsets people is when they begin taking withdrawals from their IRA or 401-k.

They get taxed on 100% of that they withdraw. Not just the growth of the money but you get taxed on what you put in. There really wasn't a tax savings when you contributed the money while you were working. It was a Tax Deferral or a Tax Postponement! It's also a postponement of the Tax Calculation.

In other words, when you contributed \$6K one year to your employer's 401-k, you thought you were "deferring" \$1200 that year because you were in

Raise your hand if you think income tax rates will be higher in the future. I am a fan of history. It tends to repeat itself. If we look at the history of taxation for our country you will see a direct correlation to the federal income tax rates as it relates to the US Debt to GDP (gross domestic product).

During World War 2 in 1942 our debt was \$72 Billion. Our Debt to GDP Ratio was 43% meaning for every dollar coming in from taxes 43 cents was going out to service debt. The highest marginal tax rate that year was 94%. In 1973 we had the Oil Embargo. Debt was \$458 billion. The Debt / GDP ratio was 32%. The highest marginal tax rate was 70%. In 2001, we had 9/11 & Bush tax cuts. Debt was \$5.8 trillion. The Debt / GDP ratio was 55%. The highest marginal tax rate was 35%. Then in 2008 we had the great recession we spiked to \$10 trillion in debt with a debt / GDP ratio of 68% and highest marginal tax rate of 35%. Today, in 2023 due to COVID & the CARES Act we are \$31 trillion in debt with a debt / GDP ratio of 129%. The highest marginal tax rate is 37%!

Something has to give. You can't take in a dollar and payout \$1.29 to service debt and have it be sustainable. It's just math. It won't work. You have to generate more revenue. How does our government generate more revenue? MORE TAXES!

So, can tax rates go to 70% like they did

That will suck and it could happen. Are you ready for that? You will run out of money quicker. You might ask yourself, why would I ever put money in a 401-k when I could end up paying 3 to 5 times more in taxes? The government decides what you will pay in the future. They won't tell you until you get there.

That takes me to the title of this article. Tax Free Retirement! How do you set yourself up to minimize or not pay taxes in retirement. Is it possible? The answer is "it depends". It depends on when you start educating yourself on how to do it. What you need to do and what vehicles and programs are available that will provide you Tax Free Income in retirement.

Well, I have a book called Tax Free Retirement I am happy to send to you at No Cost. This book goes into great detail on how to set yourself up. It's Free if you send me an e-mail at mike@corriganfs.com or call me at 708-215-5100. I need your name and address and I will send you this 180 page book by Patrick Kelly. This is the 10th addition of this book.

I would love your thoughts after you read it.

Mike Corrigan

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George Mitchell, native of Co. Limerick, Ireland, moved to Chicago in 2017. On a very windy day in April of 2022, he lost control of his motorcycle and was involved in a life-threatening accident. This accident left George with a life-changing spinal cord injury and he is now paralyzed from the chest down. He spent months in the hospital fighting to live, had several surgeries, and afterwards was transferred for a short period of time to Shirley Ryan Ability Lab (formerly RIC) for rehabilitation and physical therapy. The Committee is raising funds to assist in dealing



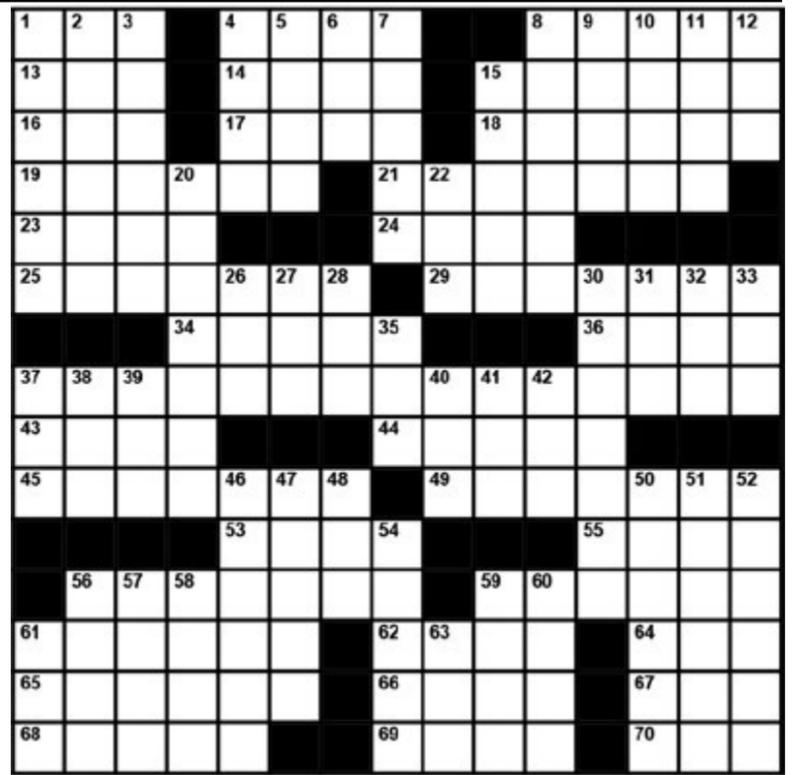
with the financial costs of his injury. The funds raised will be George's sole source of income.

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Answers next month & online 1st week APRIL

- Across**
- Thin Lizzy singer whose statue sits in Temple Bar, goes with 25 across
 - Dickens's Uriah
 - Offshore sight
 - Sizable pork cut
 - The magic dragon in the Peter, Paul and Mary song
 - Reds Hall of Famer Tony
 - ___ reflection
 - Experienced
 - Blacken
 - Burmese, for example
 - Fable maker
 - Navigational aid
 - Fencing equipment
 - "Sister Act" costume
 - Angel's overhead ring
 - Stray cat milieu
 - Salsa singer Cruz
 - Caviar batches
 - Tootsie, for one
 - Make up
 - Fit
 - Pet shop fish
 - Prisons
 - Prophesy
 - Pince-___ glasses
 - Deficit
 - Eccentric
 - Gym site
 - See 1 across
 - Leavened bread of India
 - "Andy Capp" cartoonist
 - French river
 - Smythe
 - Sign on for another tour
 - Actor Sharif
 - Some chorus members
 - Latest thing
 - Indian state
 - Overturn
 - Knitting method
 - Reputation ruiner
 - "___ and the Detectives" (Disney film)
 - More reasonable
 - Schnozzola
 - Athletic trainer's aid
 - Emancipated Scott
 - Levitate
 - First part
 - "Try ___ might ..."
 - Cheated
 - "Love Story" novelist
 - Ashley's country-singing mother
 - Military actions
 - Butter portion
 - Phillies slugger Chase
 - Revolutionary hero
 - "So You Think You Can Dance" judge Lythgoe
 - Mogul empire capital
 50. Lots of land
 - "The Ballad of Reading ___": Wilde
 - Chicago airport
 - Thrill to death
 52. Frigid
 - ___ - do-well
 53. Place for a comb
 - Poet Pound
 54. Relax
 - Column of boxes on a questionnaire
 55. Mrs. Dithers
 - Additional
 56. "Why should ___ you?" - 2 words
 - Burn
 57. Texas space center
 - Spherical shooters
 58. Brood
 - Down
 62. Switchback shape
 1. ___-Man (arcade game)

FEBRUARY ANSWERS



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 There is no fee. Even if you haven't read the book, all are welcome. Contact me with questions. Tina Butler-Leonard, email: Molanive@yahoo.com
 3-5 Irish-Amer Autobiographies, James Rogers
 4-2 Boy in the Striped Pajamas, John Boyne
 May 7 The Titanic Sisters, Patricia Falvey

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Máirtín Ó Muilleoir
Publisher,
Irish Echo



“There is only one Mike Houlihan and though he has artfully and energetically and successfully tackled many artistic endeavors--actor, producer, filmmaker--it is as a writer that he achieves what is not only the top of his game but also gives joy to readers. This latest gathering of stories is firmly focused on people and through this wild and wonderful crowd he manages to get to the heart of our shared humanity.”

Rick Kogan,
Chicago Tribune



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Tues: Ceili Lessons Back at IAHC

Many thanks to Kate Cooley, Mary Beem and Caryn Cross for making it happen! Starting in January, we'll have Tuesday lessons again!!! Note that we'll be alternating weeks with the Ceili Fridays - so we'll have Tuesday lessons twice per month rather than weekly. Same as with the Friday Ceilis, proof of covid vaccination is required.

TUESDAY LESSON DATES - 7:30 - 9:00p

MAR 14 & 28 APR 11 & 25 **Beginners welcome!**

The Irish American Heritage Center is at 4626 N Knox Ave, Chicago IL 60630

Ceili Dance at Gaelic Park Tues

6119 W. 147th St., Oak Forest IL
 Tara Room (usually) - 7:30-9:30p - \$2

Dust off your dancing shoes & join us on Tuesday nights for Ceili Dancing. All are welcome! We dance from 7:30-9:30. Instruction is available at 7:00 if anyone wants to work on footwork or parts of a dance.

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Questions? Contact Mary Carmody at 708-372-6227

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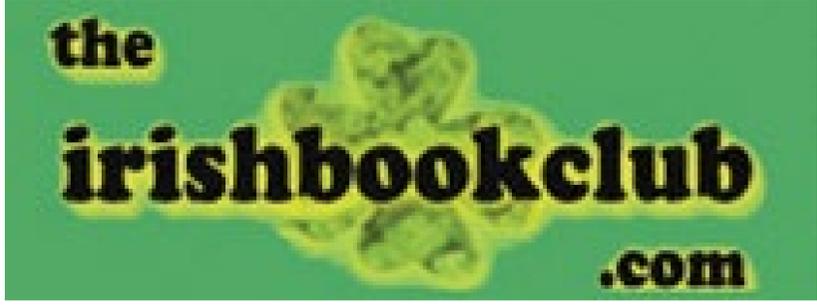
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Senior Events for March

<p>Irish American Heritage Center</p> <p>LIVE IRISH MUSIC: RAY GAVIN PLAYS YOUR FAVORITES! <i>Wednesday 1st March</i> Doors: 10 a.m. Music: 10.30 a.m. Ray provides a morning of live Irish music and fun with friends! This is a free event and ALL are welcome. Complementary refreshments are included.</p>	<p>Chicago Gaelic Park</p> <p>LEARN ABOUT IRISH SUPER FOODS <i>Wednesday 8th March</i> Doors: 10 a.m. Music: 10.30 a.m. We'll learn about healthy Irish Foods and even get some recipes to try! This is a free event and ALL are welcome. Refreshments are included at no cost.</p>
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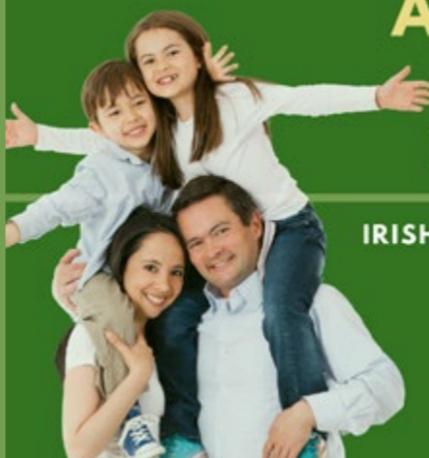
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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Crossing the Reach: A Farewell to Tommy Church

A few days ago, I finished reading a Stephen King short story called 'The Reach', written back in the early eighties. I had either never read it before or - much more likely - was too young when I did read it to get the subtleties in it.

Because of his reputation as a horror writer, people often forget that King has over the years perfected his craft in telling really beautiful short stories, often dealing with the coming of age or the closing of life, those two different, but inevitable, ends of the spectrum.

'The Last Rung on the Ladder,' 'The Woman in the Room' or 'The Body' (filmed by Rob Reiner as the majestic 'Stand by Me') come immediately to mind.

With 'The Reach' King tells the tale of an old lady who has never left her island home, just off the coast of Maine. And it's not even that remote - it's only a mile and a half to cross 'the Reach' to the mainland. When she finally does - in her nineties - decide to go across the Reach, her passage becomes a beautiful metaphor for her own death.

After I had finished this exquisite short story, I did what I would often do and turned on the laptop, preparing to send an email to my old English teacher Tommy Church, asking what he had thought of it. It had become a habit to do such a thing; but I had in this instance forgotten that Tommy was no longer on the other end of that email address and hadn't been since January.

Tommy Church of Troon, Ayrshire in Scotland, was my secondary school English teacher from the early 70s through to 1976, when I left to hitchhike around Europe.

Although he hated me saying this, he changed my life.

He was a naturally modest man, but the truth is that I don't think he ever realised just how troubled I was when he took me under his wing.

I still become angry when I hear some people voicing their opinion on teachers: they get too many holidays, they don't do enough work for what they're paid for, and on and on-and blah blah blah. Yet, along with nurses, you could not pay them enough in my opinion. We ask them to help shape society and in return we shackle them in what they can and can't do. I just don't get this animosity towards our teachers; I never have, I never will.

In 1973, I was attending Queen Margaret Academy in Ayr, Scotland. I was the stereotypical surly teenager, ready to lash out at anyone who bugged me. My own aunt Mary was an English

teacher at the same school and she had me transferred from her class to Mr. Church's. I don't think she was sorry to see me go.

But Tommy was different from the beginning. I was always good at English and even back then I was keen on books and movies, so much in fact that I had long since read everything on the curriculum. Not that I was ever going to tell anyone that, of



course. So, one day I was holding up what we were SUPPOSED to be reading, but behind it I held what I was REALLY reading. And that was a cheap science fiction novel (my real love) called 'Night of the Saucers'.

Of course, Tommy caught me.

Now here I'm going to digress for a moment: back in those 'less-enlightened' days teachers could use what was called 'the strap'. This was a long strip of very hard leather that was brought down across your hands with such force that on one occasion I actually had blood blisters raised. Six of the best, we called it.

Yet if you think that I'm going to go off on one of my usual demented raves about the evils of corporal punishment, you'll be disappointed; because I'll be damned if I can understand how any modern teacher is able to keep control in their class without at least the threat, the suggestion, of the strap.

Does that make me a primitive? I suppose it does. And yet, nowadays as I would caution teachers to wear body cameras, I wonder were we as primitive back then as is now thought.

I still can't remember a single instance when Tommy used the strap. In fact, I've contacted my brothers and they can't recall one either. I suppose he must have; but if so it must have been as a last resort.

Anyway, as I was caught with 'Night of the Saucers' behind whatever I was supposed to be reading, and told to wait behind after class, I figured I was in for another good belting. Big deal.

Instead, Tommy hunkered down at the desk next to me and asked WHY I was more interested in reading S-F than what was assigned. He went on to tell me that his own enthusiasm was for fantasy/horror/science fiction literature and that he hoped to get over the elitism of the school system that ruled such things as being for the sub-literate.

As you can imagine, I couldn't believe that a teacher was talking to me like this.

Later, Tommy would make topical subjects such as the power of advertising relevant to us by playing David Bowie's 'Space Oddity' with those great lines about the newspapers quizzing Major Tom and wanting 'to know what shirts you wear'.

Or when we finally came to the section that we pupils were all dreading - William Shakespeare -- he took us to see Roman Polanski's blood drenched and highly provocative version of 'Macbeth'. I've been - like Tommy Church was - a lover of Shakespeare ever since. Indeed, there's few days go by when I don't look at something from the Bard.

And yet years later I learned that he could have lost his job over that. Then as now the Powers that Be didn't and don't have the foggiest notion about how to get teenagers interested in learning. Tommy did. It was his gift.

So his unorthodox form of teaching worked, I guess.

But he was no literary snob. And like myself he believed Stephen King to be one of the greatest living writers. Not a popular view, of course. But like Tommy, I could care less about what is popular. And his sense of humour!

On hearing that I had to go into hospital for an operation he suggested a few movies I should watch: 'Dr. Gore'; 'Corridors of Blood', 'Rupture', 'Body Parts', 'Coma'.

Yeah, that was his sense of humour.

It occurs to me that I have no idea of how old he was. I've a feeling that when I was 14 he was 26; if that is so then he passed far too young.

I have no doubt that his wife and family were aware of what a special man he was, although I had left Scotland far too early to know them.

We kept in touch off and on for 47 years after I left school. Think of it. Nearly half a century. That was more than a teacher. And as it says in King's 'Stand by Me', although I hadn't physically seen him in some years, I'll miss him forever. He was a great man for travelling and had an inquisitive mind that made conversation with him something to be treasured. I'm only sorry now that in later years so much was done through email.

I wish I could have discussed 'The Reach' with you, Tommy. But you've crossed your own Reach now. And as you would have said, that's in the nature of things.

Rest in peace, Tommy. Rest in peace. charleybrady@gmail.com

A Harbor in the Storm for Survivors of Domestic Violence

By Aida Segura

I did not plan on a career supporting survivors of domestic violence when I completed my degree in pastoral counseling, but now I could not imagine a more spiritually fulfilling role than the one I have as program director at House of Peace in Waukegan.

House of Peace is one of Catholic Charities' two transitional homes for those recovering from domestic violence, but it is not a shelter. It is a home that welcomes six families every six months and offers them the space and the resources to heal, empower and sustain themselves.

My colleague, Deborah Hammond says, "It's a magical place," and it is.

We opened in 2011 in a building which had been the rectory for Most Blessed Trinity parish. It was born from an idea that Fr. Dan Harnett, who was then the parish's pastor, presented to me.

I started out as a counselor at St. Pius in Pilsen where I soon discovered an unmet need for domestic violence services and ultimately provided them. I left that role to perform mission work in my native Peru, returning to Chicagoland in 2011. It was then that Fr. Harnett approached me.

He also had spent time in Peru and saw a need in the Waukegan parish, which includes many poor and immigrant families. He knew my background and called on me to help him build a supportive community for the abused. Community members helped renovate the old rectory into a home for these women and children. A local grocery store allows them to shop for free, a local dentist provides dental care, and many other community members support the House of Peace families.

The women who live there also support each other. House of Peace has a staff of six (mostly women who once lived there), but it is community-run. This means the women organize themselves and take turns with

cooking, cleaning, childcare and other tasks. This helps restore their decision-making ability. They have access to counseling, art therapy and other trauma-informed care, as do their children, who also are deeply affected by living in homes that



include violence.

Women who live at House of Peace receive assistance in finding jobs, apartments, service providers and rental assistance (another Catholic Charities program). I'm proud to report that not one woman who has come through the program has returned to a relationship with domestic violence.

In addition to the six-month transitional living program, House of Peace offers a support group called Phoenix—open to residents, former residents and women who are seeking resources but remain in their relationships. Hammond noted that many domestic violence programs only offer services to women who have left the home. The Catholic Charities mission is to meet people where they are.

When women decide to attend Phoenix and discover the supportive community that accepts them, they keep coming. Many eventually find the strength to leave their abusers.

What is beautiful about this program is it reminds us that when we focus on the agency of women, that women can really flourish and turn their lives around. I hope the House of Peace approach is replicated in as many places as possible.

Learn more about this and other Catholic Charities services on our website, www.catholiccharities.net. If you are a domestic violence survivor looking for resources, please call our hotline (877) 863-6338.

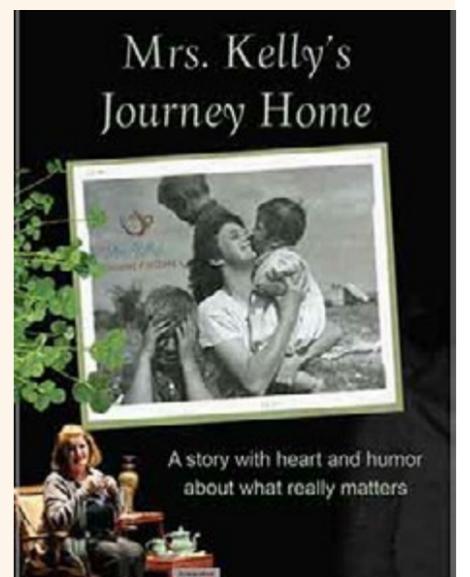
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<https://thebeverlyartscenter.com>



Good Grief Tales and Craic
I have a little friend Violet who has been helping me with household chores during my recovery from knee hip surgeries. I met her grandmother Janet and her mum Heather during Covid They donated material and elastic to help me sew masks for our health community, neighbors, friends and the homeless. Now they're also my homeless sponsors and very dear friends.

So something good came out of that nasty Covid. Violet also volunteers helping me with my other charitable projects. Sewing little pillows for breast cancer and heart patients (when they're chest hurts after surgeries use the pillow between the seatbelt) sewing catnip toys to raise money to buy supplies for the homeless. Recently she asked me to be her sponsor for her confirmation. I told her I'd be honored and

even more honored when she said she had chosen my name for her confirmation. Josephine (I'm also named after my mum). So I thought I would share with you our beautiful name sake, Saint Josephine.

Growing up in Ireland the nuns told me I was named after Saint Joseph - not a mention of this wonderful human being who suffered so much!

Saint Josephine Margaret Bakhita



St. Josephine Margaret Bakhita

She was born 1869 in Darfur. Her father was the brother of the village chief. She was surrounded by a loving family. She had three brothers and three sisters. In 1877 at seven years old she was abducted by Arab slave traders and sold at least five times before she was 12 years old.

Bakhita was not her family name but the slave owner's

name. In Arabic it meant lucky or fortunate but read on as this poor soul was neither. These rich Arab families used her as a maid for their young children. Her fourth owner was a Turkish general.

She had to serve his wife and mother-in-law, who were very cruel to all their slaves. She would later write in her biography how much they whipped her and just when the wounds were healing they'd whip her again. She also wrote that the most terrifying of all the beatings and cruelty was the process of tattooing. It was traditional practice throughout Sudan. She had 114 patterns cut into her body and the wound filled with salt to ensure permanent scarring. In 1883 she was again bought by an Italian vice consul Callistohe who was returning to Italy. She begged him to take her with him. He did so she lived in Venice with his family caring for his children and wife. Callisto and his wife were returning to Sudan on business; their friend suggested it would be safer for their slave and children to stay with the sisters at the convent. Later, she wrote 'Those holy sacred mothers instructed me with heroic patience, and introduced me to God' When the family returned to pick them up from the convent, she refused to go. The priest and nuns got involved and ended up in court. The judge ruled that since slavery was illegal in Italy she had already been free since 1885. So she was actually free from the moment she set foot in Italy. For the first time in her life, she was in control of her destiny. She chose to stay at the convent and became a nun. She was baptized and confirmed with the names Josephine, Margaret, by the Archbishop, who later would become pope Pius the fifth. She dedicated her life to God and talked about her experiences while preparing the young sisters for their missionary work in Africa. Her last years were painful. She was bound to a wheelchair, but was always cheerful and smiling. She died February 8, 1847 loved by all. Someone once asked her 'what would you do if you met your capturers', she said ' If I met my kidnapper and those who

tortured me I would kneel and kiss their hands for had these things not happened to me I would not have been a Christian so now I dedicate my life to God.' On December 1978 Pope John Paul declared the first steps towards canonizing her. By 1992 she was declared blessed and given February 8 as her Feast day. She was canonized in 2000 as Saint Josephine Bakhila. She has since been adopted as patron saint of human trafficking survivors at the Carita Vaquita house in London, which provides safety and support for women escaping human trafficking.

In 1993 Pope John Paul visited Saint Josephine's country and told her people 'The daughter of Sudan who was kidnapped and sold into slavery as a living piece of merchandise is free with the freedom of all the saints 'Saint Josephine wanted us to take strength from her legacy in her words.' You can transform any type of suffering' I am very proud to be named after her and to share this with my little friend Violet. We will celebrate her every year on her Feast day, February eighth. My younger sister Angela and I made our confirmation together as back then it only happened every 3 years. I still remember we wore cute little orange crimplene suits and white furry Tammy hats with white gloves, and black patent shoes. Mother asked me to take Saint Bernadette for my confirmation name. She said the Blessed Virgin Mary had appeared to Bernadette as a sick child, later she joined the convent and suffered a lot with cancer as a ten year old. I felt so sad for her so I took her name. When I came to live in Chicago every year I used to go to Blockbusters to rent the movie 'The song of Bernadette' and make my nieces, nephews watch it with me. They loved the part where Our lady appeared to Bernadette. It's still one of my favorites today and yes I've made my kids watch it too ..

So here's wishing my little friend Violet well on her confirmation day knowing she has the beautiful strong resilient Saint Josephine shining down on her from above . So til next time Happy Saint Patrick's day wherever you may be x

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It feasted on nine hazel nuts that contained all the knowledge of the world and whoever was the first to eat this fish would gain all this knowledge.

A wise old man Finnegas lived on the banks of the Boyne and attempted to catch the salmon and gain its wisdom. After several years Finnegas finally succeeded in catching the Salmon of Knowledge and gave the fish to young Fionn, who had been living with him to

March is finally here, and spring is just around the corner as well as St. Patrick's Day. This is the time of the year when we celebrate St. Patrick, Ireland's patron saint with parades, parties, and get together with family and friends. This is the time when we get our Irish up and show our colors. A time when we consume copious amounts of corned beef and cabbage, Irish whiskey and beer, including some that is green. A time when every bar or pub with an Irish name is packed to the rafters, and The Wild Rover is sung a thousand times. Believe me as an Irish entertainer I have witnessed it firsthand.

This year St. Patrick's Day falls on a Friday. Chicago's annual parade is held on the Saturday before or on March 17 if it is a Saturday as it will be next year. The South Side Irish Parade is held on the Sunday that precedes St. Patrick's Day or on St. Patrick's Day as it will be in 2025. No parades are held after St. Patrick's Day, and not to step on any toes, parades like Forest Park's and the The North Side Irish Parade hold theirs on the Saturday before the Chicago parade which is March 4th. So this year we have three weekends to party. No wonder they refer to this time as the High Holy Days.

If you've had your fill of all the traditional dishes associated with Saint Patrick's Day why not try one of the oldest foods from the Emerald Isle, I'm talking about salmon. This fish is recorded in a story that dates back to when Finn McCool was a boy and his name was Fionn. The Salmon of Knowledge lived in a pool on the river Boyne.



cook. He instructed him not to eat any of the fish. While turning the fish in the pan young Fionn burnt his thumb. He instinctively put his thumb in his mouth to ease the pain.

When Fionn returned with the cooked salmon Finnegas noticed a change in Fionn's eyes. He asked him if he had eaten any of the fish and Fionn told him about burning his thumb and putting it in his mouth to ease the pain. Finnegas knew that Fionn had gained the all the knowledge and told him to eat the salmon. Fionn grew to become the great warrior Finn McCool leader of the Fianna.

Maybe that's why they say fish is good for the brain. I definitely know it's good for the stomach

Salmon is readily available in the market. It has a higher fat content and is great on the grill. It can be poached, pan seared; cured like gravlax, and the recipe I have for you, roasted salmon with a honey, whiskey glaze.

Roasted Salmon with a Honey/Whiskey Glaze

- 4 6oz steaks or fillets of salmon
- 4oz Irish whiskey (you can substitute Bourbon for the whiskey)
- 2 tbs honey

- Juice from 1 lemon
- 1 tbs soy sauce
- 1 tbs brown sugar
- 2oz orange juice
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 2 oz olive
- 1 tsp Tarragon
- 2 tbs Unsalted butter
- Salt & pepper
- Heat oven to 350 degrees

In a bowl large enough to hold the salmon mix together whiskey, honey, lemon juice, soy sauce, brown sugar, orange juice, ginger, olive oil, and tarragon. You may need to warm this to incorporate the sugar and honey. Place salmon in the marinade and refrigerate for 1 hour turning the fish after 30 minutes. Heat a cast iron skillet and add 1 tbs of butter. Season the salmon with salt and pepper and sear skin side until browned about 5 minutes. Turn salmon over and place pan in the oven for another 5 minutes. While salmon is cooking place marinade in a sauce pan and reduce over high heat until thickened. Whisk in the remaining butter. Remove salmon from the oven and plate. Glaze the salmon with the thickened marinade. Serve with sautéed spinach and buttery mashed potatoes with chopped green onions.

This is a simple but elegant dish that your friends and family will absolutely love!

Patrick Michael Redmond, M.A. Included in National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Centennial Timeline

Especially around Saint Patrick's Day with a name like Patrick Michael Redmond, M.A., as an Irish American graphic designer, artist, author, and retired educator, formerly from Milwaukee and West Allis, Wisconsin, and, since 1968, a longtime Minnesota resident, of Patrick Redmond Design PatrickRedmondDesign.com, Saint Paul.



Patrick M. Redmond photo - Deborah L Redmond

I am humbly honored to be included in the national Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Centennial Timeline. Readers can go to Scholastic Art and Writing Awards > History > then click on "View Our Timeline" and scroll through it to get an idea of the relative significance of my inclusion when seeing some of the other names in the timeline.

Readers may also find others of Irish descent in the timeline. One of my key, influential, high school art teachers, the late Sister Mary Irenita, SSSF, was quick to remind me that "everything you do is not great." I would be among the first to admit that.

According to artandwriting.org the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition is "... the longest-running, most prestigious recognition program

for creative teens in the U.S., and the largest source of scholarships for young artists and writers." A Scholastic Art Awards alumnus myself, who received a Strathmore Award for Graphic Design in the competition while a teenager, I was also honored to be a keynote speaker for two 2016 Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards ceremonies at the Weisman Art Museum, at one of my alma maters, the University of Minnesota.

I am a 1968 alumnus of Pius XI Catholic High School, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where I had also been a member of the National Honor Society. See info about the school and its art department at <https://www.piusxi.org/art.html>. I had attended Children's Art Program classes at the Milwaukee Art Center (Milwaukee Art Museum) and, after high school, attended MCAD,

Minneapolis College of Art and Design, then known as the Minneapolis School of Art. Although not an award, per se, inclusion in the timeline is an honor in itself, for which I am grateful. I am also sincerely grateful for all of my many great teachers and the love and support of my family, friends, and others.

My Irish American grandmother helped to fund my attending some of my first art classes. Also of note, I am of Italian (Sicilian) descent on the maternal side of the family tree. The national Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Centennial Gala is scheduled for June 8, 2023, in New York City.



Just Announced: Nora Doyle is the 2023 Southside Irish Parade Queen! The parade takes place Sunday, 3-12

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Congratulations to the new President of the West Suburban Irish, Matthew M. Jones! The Club has a lot going on for St Patrick's Day



**IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB
CELEBRATES ST. PATRICK DAY
FRIDAY MARCH 10**

Join the Irish Fellowship Club to kick off Chicago's 2023 St. Patrick's Day celebrations at our Annual Dinner on Friday, March 10, 2023. Chaired by Mark E. McNabola, founder of the McNabola Law Group, the Dinner will take place at the Hilton Chicago with cocktails at 6pm, dinner at 7:30pm followed by music and dancing. Tickets can be purchased online at www.irishfellowshipclub.com or by calling Kathy Taylor at (312) 858-0628. The Dinner benefits the Irish Fellowship Club Education and Cultural Foundation which provides scholarship funds to Catholic high schools

across the Chicagoland area and Irish cultural organizations.

The Irish Fellowship Club Dinner will honor the Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Tim Drea, President of the Illinois AFL-CIO, and the Honored Guest of the Parade, CLLR Jimmy Collins, Mayor of the County of Cork. In addition, the St. Patrick's Day Queen and her court will attend. Says Mark McNabola, "The Irish Fellowship Club is delighted to welcome these honored guests and begin the St. Patrick's Day festivities. Sponsors are an important part of our success along with ticket purchases. I invite all of our members and guests to join us for a great celebration. The funds we raise impact the lives of many young men and women".

Executive Director, Kathy Taylor, comments "We are excited to welcome our board members and guests to a festive evening celebrating our Irish heritage with special Irish entertainment and music."



(l to r): John Wrenn, Gillian Coughlan, Kevin Flood, Rose Doherty, Kevin Byrne, and James Coyne



(l to r): Bridget Gainer, John Wrenn, John Griffin and Jim Tracy

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