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crimes. But what of IRA

Legacies & Narratives

Seeking truth and justice for crimes committed by all sides in the North, including by the British Army deployed there for three decades, has been one of the most fraught aspects of post-Troubles Northern Ireland. The Stormont

House Agreement (2014) provided mechanisms to investigate and establish a record of what happened to enable families of victims to achieve a measure of justice. That

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick

in the North. It is a blatant example of the

UK government upholding the interests of

one group over the victims' families -British Army veterans, represented by

the Northern Ireland Veterans Movement.

perpetrators over victims. Consequently,

the UK government has met with

opprobrium from the international

organisations with oversight over human

rights abuses such the United Nations and

the Council of Europe (the UK is a member

of both). The Irish government may well

take an inter-state case against the UK

government at the European Court of

Human Rights to reverse the legislation.

Why would the British government

provoke such opposition to shield its

It is not amnesty itself that animates the veterans since they have always

effectively had it. In 2010, the then

leader of the UK government, David

Cameron, responded to the findings of

the Saville Inquiry into Bloody Sunday

by saying in the House of Commons

that the killings were 'unjustified and

unjustifiable' - yet, even then, the

prospect of prosecutions seemed very

remote. Notably, Cameron did not say

that the killings were crimes, or that

the perpetrators ought to be tried

in court. (A group of the bereaved

families in Derry split on the issue of

pursuing criminal charges after 2010).

The reason why the veterans are pushing

for amnesty is that they remain soldiers

in their outlook, and they do not want

their honour tarnished by any further

speculation that they may be brought

to court or forced to co-operate with

inquests or civil cases. The British

government is aligned with them. This

is a pity, not least because the ageing

veterans will go to their graves with

the truth about thousands of murders

veterans?

The legislation runs counter to the logic of human rights law by prioritising



Neither the Conservative Party in Britain nor Sinn Féin is willing to say that the Northern Ireland Legacy Bill suits a key element of their base and that, in effect, agreement is now severely threatened

crimes?

they have common cause in ensuring that there are no further trials or inquests for crimes committed during the Troubles.

The amnesty that the British are pushing through has a close relationship with the amnesia about the full dimensions of the Troubles that Sinn Féin has promulgated. Indeed, the words amnesty and amnesia both derive from the same Greek word, amnestia, meaning 'forgetfulness'. Both the UK government and Sinn Féin understand that the legacy of a conflict has an intimate relationship with the narrative of a conflict. The narrative that both the British and Sinn Féin are carefully curating depends upon their capacity to erase key parts of the historical record.

One instance of Sinn Féin's attempt to control the narrative of the Troubles came during an interview Michelle O'Neill gave to the BBC in August 2022, in which she claimed that there was 'no alternative' to violence during the Troubles. Sinn Féin's re-writing of history requires a delicate blend of vague vindicatory comments about the past, covered over quickly with benign statements about (especially its role in) the peace process and a topping of the wonderful future that Sinn Féin will deliver. By Sinn Féin's own standards, O'Neill's claim was amateurish because it was too easily contradicted by facts: electoral results throughout the Troubles, for example, show quite how many people, including nationalists, voted for

the alternative to violence. Sinn Féin's narrative about the past requires relativising the tactics of terror perpetuated by the IRA, which the party would no longer justify today. The core justification for IRA violence that the party adopts is to frame the IRA as representatives of the beleaguered minority forced to defend itself from attack by the empire (and its unionist representatives). However, the party is visibly squeamish about applying that framework to IRA crimes against civilians; to assassinations, especially of members of the nationalist community; and violence and/or sexual crimes against women.

One of the most infamous examples of IRA crimes during the Troubles was the murder of Jean McConville, the subject of Patrick Radden Keefe's riveting book, Say Nothing. A mother of ten children, many of whom were still in school when she was murdered, McConville was widowed in 1972. Later that year, the IRA abducted McConville in Belfast (they suspected her the moment it was tabled. Northern of informing) and buried her in a shallow grave across the border, which was not discovered until 2003. Her murder and disappearance harrowed her children's lives, and it was among the most horrific of the entire Troubles. Both her murder and disappearance constituted war crimes. Yet, for the IRA, which cannot admit that it perpetuated any crime, accountability before international organisations such as the International Criminal Court for war crimes does not arise.

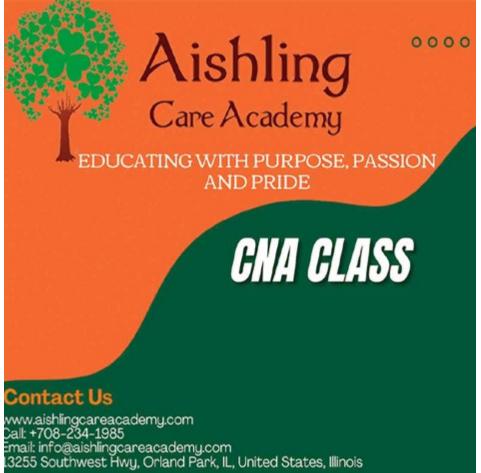
The UK government's Northern Ireland Legacy Bill is a violation of international human rights law, whereas the IRA's murder and secret burial of Jean McConville (and many others) is an example of its war crimes. The good news for upholders of the historical record is that several documentaries and books about the IRA's specific targeting of civilians and women are just about to be released.

by the actions of the UK Parliament. Law Offices of Thomas W. Lynch, P.C. A legislative bill, the Northern Ireland Legacy Bill, approved in September Thomas W. Lynch Noreen C. Lennon Robert W. Maucker in the House of Commons, will grant amnesty to perpetrators of crimes during Solving Debt Issues for Business and Individuals the Troubles. The Irish government is vigorously opposed to it, as are all parties

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and covert operations that could give succour to families of victims. Like all the other political parties in Northern Ireland, Sinn Féin has been critical of the amnesty legislation from leader of Sinn Féin, Michelle O'Neill, speaking in Stormont in July 2021 about the proposed British amnesty legislation, called it an 'insult to grieving families'. She was careful to circumscribe her comments to victims of 'state sponsored'



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Dear Reader: You may have Ireland during The Troubles. read or better yet watched on

NORTHERN IRELAND. I paused over the title "once upon a time" a statement that usually heralds a story about to be read or told but would have no bearing on the North of Ireland. None the less my anticipation was high and I watched the first airing of this five part journey

through the three-

decade political conflict known on the other. Too dangerous to in the fires of hell. as *The Troubles*. Meanwhile a climb over the wall. Neither one What was both amazing and dear dear friend who reads the would visit the other and this touching about the Northern morning newspaper forwarded a separation literally consumed Ireland PBS program was the lengthy article published in the three decades of an all out war inclusion of brave men and Los Angeles Times announcing between the Brits and Irish know courageous women on the screen that "Once upon a time" was a as the "Troubles". It was hell. And whose stories drew shudders brilliant five part journey airing on a personal note, I was there as from their struggles, describing on a PBS series focusing on the a journalist working for a daily the loss of family members, yet

I hesitate to praise this TV oral all sides of the story, Catholics PBS TV, the recent lengthy history program of this dirty war and Protestants, Republicans, five part historic series where Catholics lived on one side Loyalists, victims and victimizers. entitled: ONCE UPON A TIME IN of a walled road and Protestants In a word, it was akin to burning

area, keeping Irish readers survive the Troubles and spoke up to date on the politicalsectarian conflict. I often wrote into the night highlighting and witnessing the human cost, personal, psychological, physical several spoke who lost brothers, and philosophical.

There were speakers from

emotionally about their own experiences.

These were essentially ordinary folk who survived, and fathers and sons and wept telling tales of murder, death from dying in bombs and the disappearance of family members never heard from again. Were they buried I wondered? Maybe no need if

> they were sitting in a car and a bomb exploded.

Living under British rule, in the late sixties, Catholics in Derry and Belfast demonstrated for their civil rights. None of it easy since the 1921 partition on the island became the independent Republic of Ireland and six British counties in Northern Island. This maintained Protestant

loyalists in power in those six counties. Protests from both sides multiplied, violence became a way of life followed by death.

The British responded and the British Army was called into the North and never left. Terrorist fringes on both sides were at war and a spiral of intensifying violence was ongoing. An estimated 3,500 civilians died. According to PBS, despite the numbers of lives upended and obviously defined by hostility, people tried and by the grace of God worked hard to seek out a "normal" life. It was revealed that people fell in love, reached out to help others and in time developed a sense of a human spirit, got married, had kids who played in the streets despite the barbed wire and the constant presence of armed British young

There are stories galore, many too horrifying to report. When Irish men and women who survived spoke and wept on PBS, some whose fathers and brothers had been imprisoned in the British notoriouis Long Kesh prison where ten hunger striker's died one right after the other because Lady Thatcher, British Prime Minister, turned a deaf ear to pleas from Irish inmates who objected to wearing prison clothes when they considered themselves political prisoners.

moved on. Others struggled with in pain.

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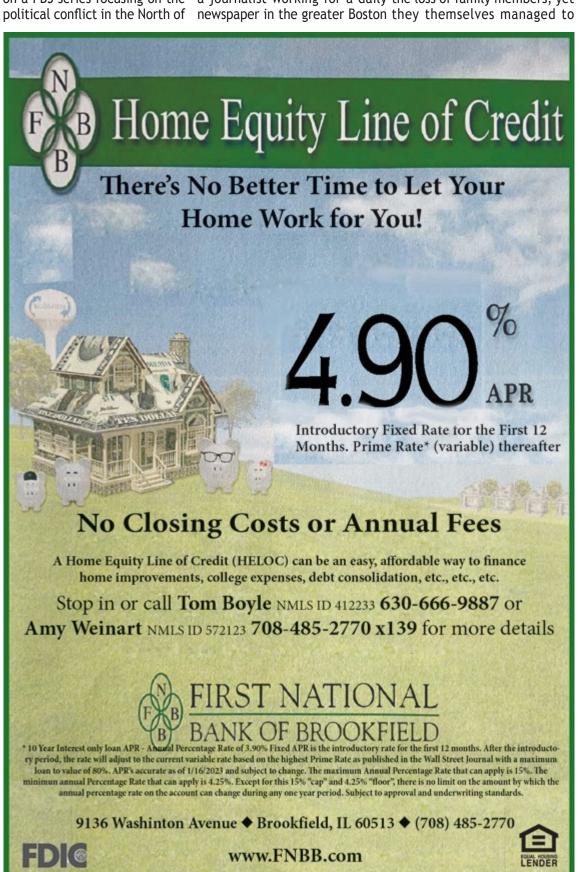
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questions and one man who lost his eyesight in an attack, his voice barely a whisper faced the camera announcing he had forgiven his transgressor and moved on with his life such as it is as a blind man. Others admitted their struggle continues but make attempts to reckon with their losses as they continue to live as best they can.

Another woman revealed her Too many men died young in life was a living lie for all she thought about was who was In the concluding session of going to kill her. When the bodies the five series program there of 3 IRA members were followed were Catholic and Protestant by mourners their coffins carried men and women who literally into the graveyard, bombs went talked about forgiveness and off and grandmothers screached



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COLDWELL BANKER II

Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

Maureen Kearney and the **Heavy Price Paid for Lifting** the Lid on Corporate Corruption

How do you think you'll begin?

then immediately erased it: 'I that possibly even mean? I can't beginning of the film. BEGIN to imagine how she felt. A

evidence or lack of, Brady? Or maybe someone made their shouldn't join them'. minds up for them. I mean, scene, there's no DNA, nothing; but THEN it turns out that DNA to the forensics lab but magically never made it out again. Funny, that. It just vanished completely.

---- You've been deep in Maureen got work teaching thought for a while there, Brady. English to employees of the company that would soon become ----- Well, I know how I won't Areva, and which specialized in begin, because I typed it and providing nuclear power. At a Questions and Answers session can only imagine how Maureen after the showing, she expanded Kearney felt as...'. Now what can on the sparse details at the

'I had been involved with the resembling the truth. woman who has been tortured, nuclear industry for ten years. raped and left tied up for hours...? And at some point, I became the 'assurances' she received What possible frame of reference aware that some of my students a photo taken months before, to that horror could I ever have? were being laid off without ----- How did you feel about the recourse to the redundancy laws, that those laws were not ---- Oh please. The French being applied. So, I went to see cops had their minds made up their union and they asked me from near-enough to the start. if - instead of just shouting - I

This seems to have been a according to this lot there are good fit for the Mayo woman. ballistic, calling for a meeting no fingerprints found at the From early years she was used to activism in her home. Her mother worked hard on the campaign to taken at the scene made its way have Nelson Mandela freed and South Africa's Apartheid Laws made a thing of the past. And her grandmother wrote, on what Right up there with 'The dog I am sure was an annoyingly ate my homework', that excuse regular basis, to the British Prime Minister concerning the political

owned Electricité de France and our good and selfless friends of the China General Nuclear Power Corporation. And leaving aside the fact that it would necessitate the passing of nuclear technology to China it meant devastating job losses in France.

Irish American News

When I learned that Ms. Kearney was ASSURED by French politicians (no doubt with hands on heart and promises on their blessed mothers' graves) that the deal had been stopped, I feared the worst - equating French politicians with our own home-grown ones. Namely, in the main, being self-serving rodents only distantly on nodding terms with anything remotely

And so, it proved. Shortly after proving that the deal had taken suppressed it. place and with happy French and Chinese CEOs signing away to their heart's content whilst a benign President Sarkozy - he of the 'hysterics in skirts' aversion - looks on.

This time Ms. Kearney went with the CEO of Areva and in retrospect realises that she was too direct, if understandably so. The word 'liar' was used. 'I have proof' was uttered.

Early one morning in 2012, whilst brushing her teeth, Maureen Kearney was attacked, brutalized and raped. She had the letter 'A' carved into her

before the screening, I asked her about this. She was adamant that having guts had nothing to do with it. 'No, it was not bravery; I simply would NOT accept that they had tarnished me as a liar who had faked this. I just would not. I had to see it through.' Later, at the Q & A she added: 'I don't feel that I am this thing, a whistle blower. I just did my job. But I never thought that trying to have truth and integrity could make me so many enemies worked out much as Maureen - and I find that sad.'

new lawyer and new evidence. For me, the most terrifying and unforgivable thing is that the six years prior to the one on

The wife of a man in the this material. energy sector had become a 'whistleblower' and had also been attacked, tortured and

Speaking briefly with her sure that's a coincidence. Oh yes, and her file went missing.

As with Ms. Kearney, no real investigation was ever done and no arrests ever made or - let's be honest - are ever likely to be.

This isn't the place for me to reiterate my own feelings on corporate corruption and its close links to our equally corrupt politicians. Anyone who reads this column regularly knows where I stand, anyway.

Suffice to say that things Kearney predicted all those years When she appealed, she had a back. The deal went ahead, some 5,000 jobs were lost and the company was dissolved.

'La Syndicaliste' is directed police all along had evidence by Jean-Paul Salomé, based of a practically identical attack on the book by investigative journalist Caroline Michel-Maureen Kearney. But they had Aguirre. Both have themselves been threatened in relation to

ADDENDUM: I meant to make clear the fact that as well as her family and friends, Maureen's raped, with a coffin and a Union stood by her through cross being engraved on her even the worst of the years. It's flesh. Sound familiar? Same something that should be said. prosecutor's office as well. I'm charleybrady@gmail.com



Maureen Kearney (far right) with Galway Mayor Eddie Hoare; and Galway Film Society board members (l-r) Louise Casey Conneally, Edith Piepperhoff and Bridie McMahon

Huppert, one of France's most well-known actresses. It kicks off a guest at this showing.

Castlebar, County Mayo in 1956. From an early age, however, she felt a deep affinity with French would change her life, the lives of culture and moved there in the her family and the lives of those mid-80s, falling in love with and around her. In 2011 she came marrying Gilles Hugo, who ran a into possession of extremely sound production company.

Along with their two children,

this? I'm at the opening of a new Long Kesh, insisting that they to a chair with a knife inserted French film that dramatically must be tried, not simply held retells the remarkable story of there indefinitely. It's clear Maureen Kearney. The film is then that she was obviously no 'La Syndicaliste' ('The Trade stranger to roughing it up with Unionist') and stars Isabelle the Establishment and settled in quickly to her role as a powerful trade unionist within the French the new season of films presented nuclear industry -- and one not by the Galway Film Society and afraid to be heard, leading then-Maureen Kearney is in Ireland and President Sarkozy to refer to her as 'a hysteric in a skirt', Ms. Kearney was born in something I can picture that little weasel saying all too well.

sensitive, top-secret material that concerned a very cozy deal they were based in Paris and in the offing between the State-

handle-first into her vagina. She was not found until her cleaner arrived later that morning.

The police concluded in their wisdom that Ms. Kearney had tied HERSELF up, having first mutilated her stomach by carving that initial into it and inserting the knife handle into herself. And, of course, there was no DNA to say otherwise.

With the victim suddenly becoming the accused, she was Then came the incident that fined 5,000 Euro and given a suspended five-month sentence. And with her family under real threat now, she had initially been pressured into signing a confession, but within a short time had decided to fight back to clear her name.







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Michael Darcy & The Atlantic Tramps to Perform in Chicago & Detroit Soon

folk band Michael Darcy & The flair." Irish Music Magazine raved Atlantic Tramps will make their return to the US in early October with shows planned in Detroit & Chicago. Michael, who hails from county Clare originally but now based in Toronto, is about to embark on his 3rd tour to the US this year where he will be joined by fellow Atlantic Tramps John Murphy from county Mayo on tenor banjo and Dan MacDonald from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia on fiddle.

After releasing his impressive solo debut Simple Drop of Rain in 2018, Michael returned to the studio with his new band 'The Atlantic Tramps' in tow for the eagerly-awaited follow-up album, for generations." The album Down to the Roots. Drawing from the well of rich Irish music that he grew up with and also being inspired by gritty American songwriters like John Prine & Guy Clark, he aimed to create a whirlwind of folk traditions where greengrass meets bluegrass. Released in July 2022 to critical acclaim, Down to the Roots was described by UK magazine Folk and Honey as "an excellent album; well-crafted songs with detailed arrangements

that "Darcy's originals sit so comfortably within the genre that you'd swear they've been around



also garnered a 2023 Canadian Folk Music Award nomination for 'Traditional Singer of the Year' while his original song "The Ballad of Uncle Frank", from the same album, has been nominated for Ontario Folk Music Awards.

Most recently, the band returned from a successful Irish Chicago area in early October. summer tour which included Fri Oct 6th: Fox's Orland Park a packed show at the historic Sat Oct 7 McNally's, St. Charles Cobblestone venue in Dublin as Sun Oct 8 Celtic Crossing, well as festival performances at Chicago.

the Fleadh Cheoil in Mullingar and Féile na Sionainne in Athlone. They also embarked on their first Irish-born, Canadian-based brought to life with virtuosic US tour in June 2023 playing at festivals and theatres in Ohio, New York, New Jersey & Pennsylvania. 2022 saw the band receive a scholarship to attend the Folk Alliance International Conference in Kansas City, Missouri where they performed multiple showcases at the world's largest gathering of the folk music industry and community. In March 2022, their single "Sweet St. John's" was featured on the popular St. John's Morning Show for CBC Radio One in Canada. In 2021, they were honoured to be the only Canadian artists presented at the international Robinson Emerging Artist Showcase at N. America's longest running pan-Celtic festival - Goderich Celtic Roots Festival. 2020 saw the band share the stage with multi-platinum Irish artist Mundy closing out the show together, performing the worldwide hit "Galway Girl" at Toronto's legendary Horseshoe 'Song of the Year' at the 2023 Tavern. The album was supported by a full Ontario solo tour.

Catch the band live in the

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Joe McKittrick, Paula Svadlena, Shay Clarke and David O'Flaherty at the opening of the new Open Gate Brewery, pictured on our cover this month, a Guinness Original.

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wide variety of clients. As an RN work- After 50 yrs in early childhood education ing in a primarily geriatric field, I have and owning several child care centers, I made many referrals to Destiny as I am decided to pass the baton. Our children very confident in the skills, knowledge, are the third generation in our family to and compassion their caregivers have to start schools and after seeing their success offer my patients. I have personally seen & passion I decided to venture into another and beyond any other private duty/com- area of caregiving, seniors! I thought, I'm not going to retire I'm going to RE-FIRE!

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internationally acclaimed group Celtic each singer adds their distinctive voice Thunder, is a fascinating exploration of Irish music and culture, firmly grounded in the ensemble's impressive history, while ambitiously forging new

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Celtic Thunder invites audiences on a sweeping voyage through the heartlands of traditional Irish music, the rhythmic pulse of contemporary Irish music, and the innovative original arrangements that are emblematic of the ensemble's unique sound.

The shared musical chemistry of Celtic Thunder's lead vocalists Ryan Kelly, Damian McGinty, Neil Byrne, and Emmet Cahill, gives

We Get Letters

We love the IAN and look forward to reading it monthly. It is filled with useful informative information. I was surprised you had no mention of Eamonn Vaughans sudden passing in May. It left the hospitality industry in shock not to mention part of a huge legacy gone. He meant so much to so many people in the Irish community because of his participation in Irish community events and his generosity to the Irish in general. Back in the day it was the Vaughan family that helped many Irish immigrants get through some tough times financially. As time has passed Eamonn and Kevin continued to help the Irish immigrants and remain involved with the Irish community. He was a great guy who deserves to have his legacy shared with the IAN readers.

Thank you, A Regular Reader

(Editor's Note: We hope to have a story on Eamonn in the November issue of Irish American News).

Letter to the Editor

Irish American News Dear Editor:

Britain's security forces collusion with loyalist killers in NI (Stack, 9/3) is relatively new to the Times editorial page and most welcome. The corruption of law and justice in N. I. was endemic to the creation of the colonial garrison in 1920 and was a major defeat for democracy. It has been sustained for 100 years with such tactics and policies. The assassination of a second attorney. Rosemary Nelson, ten years after the killing of Pat Finucane in 1989, was of a more consequential nature. British police, Army and MI-5 feared the U.S. Congress probing into police threats and collusion with loyalist's murder gangs by Congressman Chris Smith (R-NJ),

Chairman of the Helsinki Commission. They warned her not to attend and give testimony; she was murdered shortly after doing so. America is finally coming to grips with the depths of British evil in Ireland but for the Finucane and Nelson families and thousands of others it is too late.

Sincerely, John M. Corcoran Esq. 1919 Chestnut Street, Suite 1724 Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-280-3711 corcoranesq@aol.com and charm to this musical journey, creating a harmonious blend that appeals to a broad spectrum of tastes. The ODYSSEY songbook is steeped in

their Irish heritage and musical tones.

ODYSSEY is not simply a concert; it's a powerful theatrical experience that honors Celtic Thunder's rich musical legacy and simultaneously blazes new trails. An

Odyssey, the latest show from the the show its compelling power, while evocative journey through time, sound, Irish music in general. and culture, as educational as it is



Formed in Dublin in 2007, Celtic entertaining. The captivating blend of Thunder is a multi-dimensional musical powerful performances and a state-of-

> the-art production. Billboard magazine has named Celtic Thunder the Top World Album Artist 5 times (in 2008, 2009 2011 and 2015 and 2016) while the group has had LPs placed in the World Album Top 10 every release year since 2008.

Mary Pat Flanagan Sr. VP North American Sales

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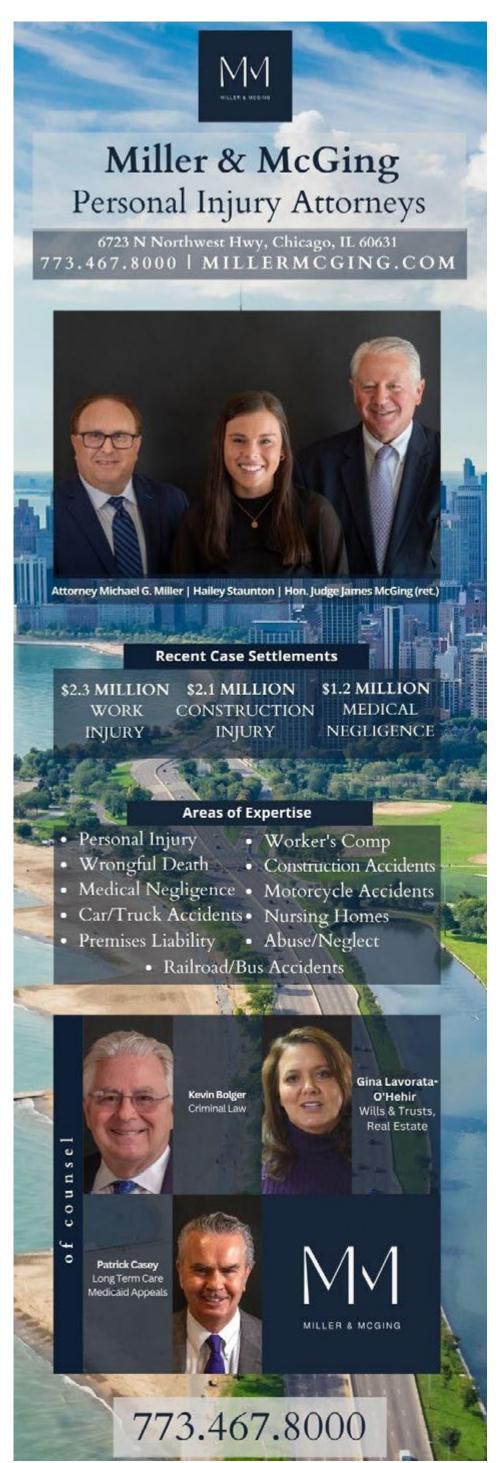






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3 Irish American News WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREEN! OCTOBER 2023



Long Time Volunteer at Gaelic Park, Mary Riordan Passes Unexpectedly

Remembering Mary Riordan

Chicagoland's Irish community in general, and several Irish organizations, including Gaelic Park, recently suffered a terrible loss with the passing of Mary Riordan. Mary Riordan (nee Cunningham) was born in Kilmihill, County Clare, Ireland and was a loyal employee of CNA Insurance for 47 years.

Mary was a long-time Director, Vice President, and Secretary of the Board of Directors of Chicago Gaelic Park. She was a co-host of the Gaelic Park radio program for more than 30 years. She was an active member of the Claremen's Association, and the beloved wife of Matt Riordan of Co. Kerry, Ireland.

At Gaelic Park, Mary was always present, always with the kind word and always with the ready smile. She was one of the sturdy foundation pillars that Gaelic Park was built on. Gaelic Park was quietly shepherded around many



rocks with Mary's gentle hand on the tiller.

Mary was a loving aunt to numerous nieces and nephews and an adored friend to many. In addition to the Claremen's Association, she was also an active member of the Kerry Association. At Gaelic Park, her various contributions are too numerous to state. As Board Secretary, she was

the main historian of Gaelic Park, she worked hours on the Gaelic Park radio show, and she was well known for arranging the Masses and setting up the altar at Gaelic Park. Someone said, "If there was a Mount Rushmore for Gaelic Park champions, she would certainly be on it". She was a kind woman with the heart of a volunteer. Mary set the example of what it means to give back to your community and others.

one of the sturdy foundation pillars that Gaelic Park was built on. Gaelic Park of kindness and generosity can never was quietly shepherded around many be replaced. She will be sorely missed.

Attend the iBAM! Gala 11-18

at the Irish Heritage Center

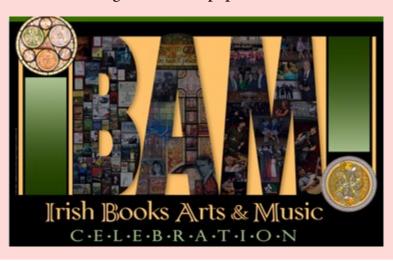
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Taoiseach and Minister Humphreys Officially Open the Redeveloped Foynes Flying Boat and Maritime Museum

have today (Thursday, 14th services.

Community Development, Estuary launched Ireland's Heather Humphreys TD, first commercial transatlantic

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar between 1937 and 1945 when by the museum, Limerick City and Minister for Rural and the waters of the Shannon and County Council and from sponsorship.

Visit the online website at www.flyingboatmuseum.com



The world's largest flying boat museum at Foynes, Co Limerick, has been reopened by Ireland's Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Leo Varadkar



Captain Liam Flaherty, Rescue 2 and Jim Maloney, Retired CPD Lieutenant at a 911 Memorial Service. NEVER FORGET

September 2023) officially opened a €5 million funding €1.75 million redevelopment of the under the Rural world's largest flying boat Regeneration and museum and the home Development Fund of Irish coffee in Foynes, (RRDF). An additional County Limerick.

& Maritime Museum, the provided by the largest of its kind in the Department of world, captures the story Tourism, Culture, Arts, of how Foynes became Gaeltacht, Sport and one of the world's great Media. A further €1.5 aviation hubs of the world million was provided

The project received investment totalling The Foynes Flying Boat €1.75 million was

New CD by Paddy Homan

By Paddy Homan

Since coming to the U.S. in 2007, I have always sought to be present in both my music and social work with a listening ear and attentive mind... sometimes it worked, sometimes.... Well, that's another story!

The vastness of this beautiful country, however, is not unmatched by the beauty of its diverse cultures and the legacy of its peoples.

What led to a chance encounter to sing at a local funeral evolved into a 15-year vocation of supporting those seeking to give their family members a good sendoff. In most of these instances, this has been an Irish send-off! The majority of the time this has been in the

form of a traditional Irish mass or service.



I have sought to understand the person before me; hear the story of the deceased person through the eyes of their spouse or family member; appreciate from them the deceased person's favorite song, in an

effort to craft a meaningful tribute to them, a musical sculpting you might say for their final farewell.

The majority of the time these songs have been of Irish origin. Behind each family's loss is also an immense pride for their deceased relative and a desire to connect to a deep Irish spirituality that reflects their Irish culture and identity.

To be present to families at this most sacred time, is akin to being part of that 'Srutháin' (river) of Irish life and the community of the Irish diaspora.

We musicians are but faithful servants to a rich traditional Irish music culture that facilitates families in telling their story through the gift of song, while honoring their loved ones in celebrating their proud Irish heritage.

These musical acts of service keep me connected to my own native land which is never far from my mind, and which causes me to reflect on my own legacy and journey from Ireland to America.

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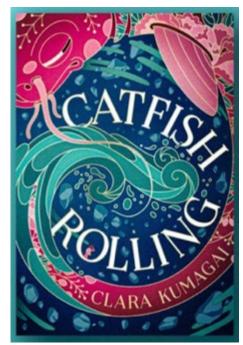
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her debut young adult novel 'Catfish Rolling', followed by a discussion around coming of age, identity, myth, legend, and folklore themes.

Born in Canada, Clara was raised in Cork and Galway by her Irish mother and Japanese father. She graduated from Trinity College, Dublin returned to Canada for a master's degree, and spent the past 5 years in Japan.

She has recently returned to live in Ireland and is celebrating the launch of her first novel.

The novel is set in Japan after the Fukushima quake. It blends magical realism with Japanese myth in an original story about grief and memory.

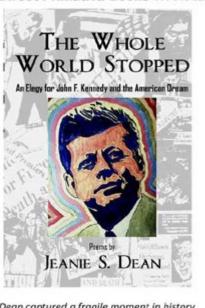
Clara is also developing an essay collection centered around multiracial identity, hybridity, and belonging.



Clara will talk about 'Catfish Rolling', and the influences of Ireland and Japan on her work, and how many threads woven through the story reflect the new modern Ireland.

This event is hosted by the Consulate General of Ireland, and we are delighted to welcome friends from Galway Sister Cities, the Chicago Cork Association, and the Consulate General of Japan. Saturday, October 28 from 4 - 5:30pm at the American Writers Museum 180 North Michigan Avenue Chicago, IL 60601





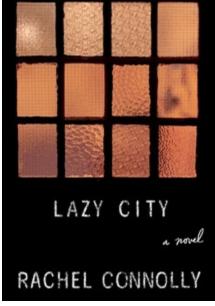
Dean captured a fragile moment in history, as poems, to expose the tragic JFK death. A unique book well worth reading! Amazon Reader Review

Lazy City

(Liveright/October 3, 2023), a debut novel of modern Belfast that sings a tender hymn to messy love, quiet sorrow, and the hangovers in between.

The press has been raving about the book: Marie Claire included it in their list of the Best Books of 2023, calling it a "soul-searching - and at times delightfully spiky - debut," and in the Telegraph, John Self lavishly praises the book, noting it is "a novel about trauma and its aftermath: again, a common theme today, but done sophisticatedly here, with a quality of thinking rare in a debut... I felt better after reading this book. Connolly is a writer in whom I have faith."

Back in Belfast after abruptly leaving graduate school, Lazy City's protagonist, Erin, numbly teeters through the aftermath of losing her best friend to an accident she won't talk about. She slips easily into a routine upon returning to her hometown, in part because Belfast is a city without "early mornings, late nights in the office, productivity, or burnout." A simple housekeeping job provides Erin refuge, as do evenings at a cocktail lounge where her friend tends bar, and



she drinks for free. In quick succession, she meets Matt, an American professor, and falls back in with Mikey, a local man from her past who comforts and confounds her in equal measure. Seeking solace from the various sources of tumult in her life, Erin wanders into churches, musing on these relationships—and her equally complicated relationship to faith—she gingerly confronts her grief. Written with mordant wit and startling sensitivity, LAZY CITY announces Rachel Connolly as an uncannily insightful new voice for a city that "shows all its history, all its personality, all the time."

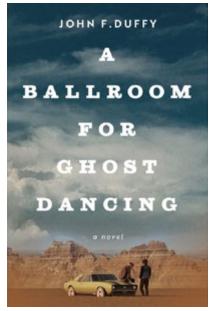
About the Author: Rachel is a Londonbased writer from Belfast. Her writing has appeared in the New York Times, New York Times Magazine, Vogue, Guardian, and GQ, among other publications. Book available at Target, Walmart and other stores, and thriftbooks.com.

C. I. I. A.

A Ballroom for Ghost Dancing

The Printer's Row Literary Festival happens every year in Chicago's South Loop, and two blocks of Dearborn street are closed to traffic so that authors, publishers, and booksellers can find new readers and customers.

This year, a Chicago native of Irish descent returned to promote his debut novel. John F. Duffy, who was born and raised in the Chicago suburbs, took the north stage and read to a crowd of people from his novel, A Ballroom for Ghost Dancing.



"I went to Columbia College and lived in the South Loop, which was one of the reasons I was so excited to participate in the literary fest," Duffy says. Though he currently lives in Bloomington Indiana with his wife and daughter, Duffy will always consider Chicago home and is happy to find reasons to return. He produces and edits podcasts as an occupation, but has ambitions to be a full time writer. His short fiction has been published in a variety of magazines and journals, and his novel won a gold medal for best midwest fiction from the Independent Publishers Book Awards this year. It was also a finalist for a National Indie Excellence award.

A Ballroom for Ghost Dancing, was based on real events and people from his life. The main character in the book, Adam, is suffering greatly a year after watching his older brother, Tommy, slowly die from ALS. Duffy says that Tommy was based on his real life friend from high school, Tim, who died from ALS several years ago. In the book, Adam



and his best friend, Mark, take a road trip to South Dakota so Mark can write a story about the decommissioned nuclear missiles that used to be hidden by the hundreds under the western landscape. As the men travel, secrets between them are slowly revealed, and as they navigate rising tensions, questions about living after loss and confronting our regrets come to

"It's a story about ghosts in a sense," Duffy says, "about the moments and events that haunt us, even those that

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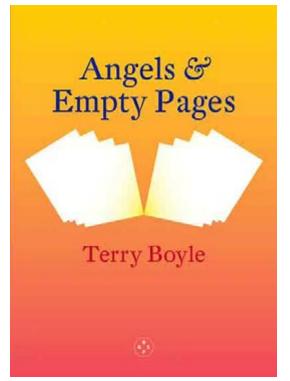
haven't happened yet." He goes on, "I hope it's a book against the turmoil of the times. This collection of that can help people who have gone through something really trying, but I also hope it's a book that can just make people laugh. My goal was to create something that was crisp in a literary sense, well written, but approachable. Something that would resonate with readers even after they put it down." In researching the novel, Duffy and a friend took the same road trip to Rapid City, SD that the characters in the book make. One thing he discovered on that journey was the Hotel Alex Johnson, where his main characters stay. "It's a beautiful old hotel that is supposedly haunted," Duffy says, adding, "but we didn't see any ghosts."

A Ballroom for Ghost Dancing is available at Quimby's Bookstore and Sandmeyer's Bookstore in Chicago, and can also be ordered at any bookseller online or in person. Duffy's short fiction can be found on his personal website, Johnfduffy.com

Angels and Empty Pages

By Terry Boyle

In times of uncertainty, we desperately crave something to bring comfort to our troubled hearts. Whether it's a song, art, a piece of music or an inspiring poem, we seek to find a temporary place of refuge



poetry is not a panacea for the ills of modern society. It's not an escape, rather it aims to reflect with candidness the complex, sometimes contradictory, emotions of the human experience. Feelings of despair, hope, love, and anger can assail the mind at times and sometimes it's almost impossible to put those feelings into words. It's my hope that those who read the myriad of emotional shades and colours of my own personal experiences will find comfort in knowing that we're not alone

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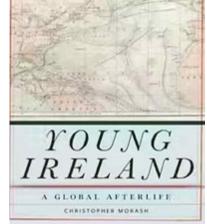
Young Ireland: A Global Afterlife

The Glucksman Irish Diaspora Series by Christopher Morash Published by: NYU Press, Imprint: NYU Press September 2023, 288 Pages, 6.00 x 9.00 in Buy Hardcover - 9781479822218 - \$35.00

9781479822232 Follows a group of people exiled from Ireland after a failed rebellion and the role they had in the building of new nations and states

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This book is about the Young Irelanders, a group of Irish nationalists in the mid-nineteenth century, who were responsible



for a failed rebellion in Ireland during the Great Famine, who once exiled from Ireland, came to play formative roles in the fledgling democracies of Australia, Canada, and the United States. Christopher Morash illustrates how the Young Ireland generation developed particular philosophies of nationalism, democracy, citizenship, and minority rights in Ireland, which became an integral part of how they engaged with their adopted nations, where they came to

Christopher Morash explores the stories and political trajectories of an acting-Governor of the Territory of Montana and Union Army General, a Confederate newspaper owner, a Premier of Victoria, and many other important figures. Despite their divergent trajectories, these individuals applied many of the same ideas that they had developed during their original Irish political project to their respective nations and movements. Young Ireland is a vital new perspective in the field of Irish diaspora studies, highlighting the impact the Young Ireland generation had on emerging democracies and international debates, both in spite of and because of their defeat and dispersion.

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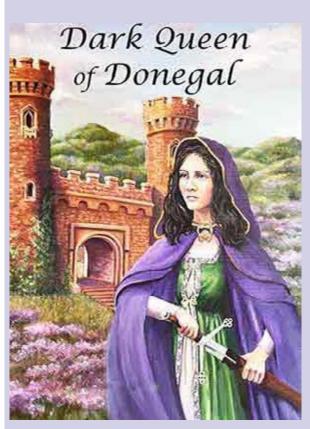
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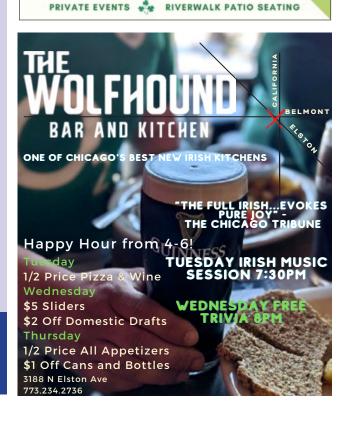
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- Mary Pat Kelly, bestselling author of Galway Bay



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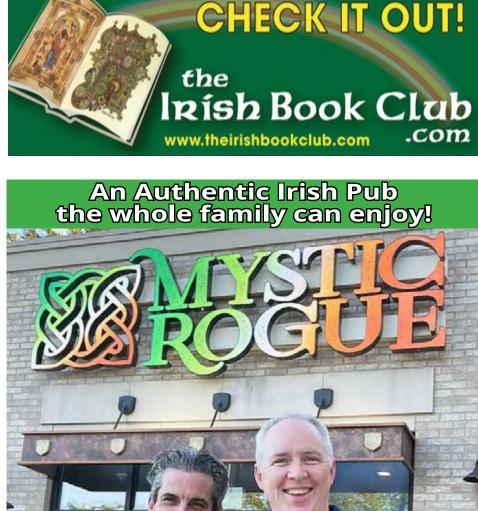
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Anne McKeown of Anne's Irish Knits is Retiring and Would Like to Sell Her Thriving Business!

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But, before she goes, she would love to pass on her shop to a person, or persons who would like to take over a ready-made business that is so popular with her clients that she wants to keep them happy, even after she moves on!

With grandchildren growing bigger, Anne would like to spend more time with them and let someone new take the reigns. And for you regular

If you think you or someone you know would like to take over this business, whether it is in Evanston, or moved to another location of your choice, Anne has the knowledge and the track record of success to make sure that you succeed! For more information you can send Anne an E-mail or stop in at her store at 502 Main Street, Evanston, IL, United States, Illinois

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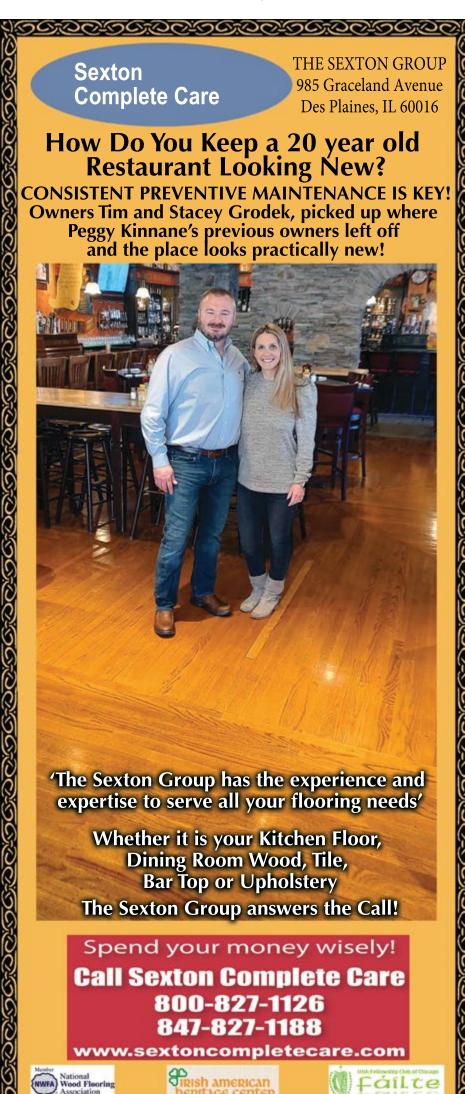
Anne McKeown







reception@stbrendansinn.com



NFL in Ireland is More Than a Possibility By David McDonnell

called the 'Fighting Irish.'

nickname became fortified within be injured or even killed." the football ranks of the famous Indiana University.

violent reaction from around of whom were of Irish descent.

Bend where they started breaking the windows of the building by hurling potatoes from a grocery ground floor.

exception of the very top bulb.

Enter the Notre Dame comrades.

The conflict garnered a lot of League soccer players. attention at the time and local newspaper headlines included: of Limerick hosted a European "Klan display in South Bend flag-football tournament, while proves failure" and "Notre Dame this year Daniel Whelan became Students Clash with Kluxers." There is even a report that make an NFL squad, when he was the county sheriff deputized named the starting punter for the 30 Klansmen to deal with the Green Bay Packers. "lawlessness."

as the violence threatened to There are a few different get out of control, matters were narratives as to why the calmed down by the arrival of University of Notre Dame are Fr Walsh, who stated: "I should dislike very much, to be obliged There was one incident that to make explanations to the is often referenced in how the parents of any student who might

During the rest of the decade as Coach Knute Rockne's Back in the 1920's there was a successful football teams were lot of anti-immigration sentiment characterized by a never-saythroughout the United States and die attitude, the 'Fighting Irish' in Indiana, anti-Catholic rhetoric moniker picked up traction. in a Big 10 thriller and next was entrenched at the time. Indeed it was Fr Walsh himself, When the Ku Klux Klan planned who authorized its use as Notre a rally in 1924, it provoked a Dame's official nickname in 1927.

TheNotre Dame football team 500 Notre Dame students, many has been on my mind due to their recent visit to Dublin where they The clashes were violent and started their college football included the students venturing season with a comfortable win over \$50 million into the Irish economy as Notre Dame brought a reported 39,000 supporters store located out front on the from the USA. All in all it was a very successful event and it has On the third floor of the been remarked to me that the building, there was a cross lit up Americans brought with them with red lights outside the Klan a lot of cheer and created a headquarters. After the initial great buzz around Dublin as they barrage all the lights on the warmed up for the match in the cross had been broken with the pubs around the city and in the fan zone downtown.

The sport of American Football quarterback Harry Stuhldreher, continues to gain in popularity who let fly with a potato and in Ireland especially amongst hit his target with his first effort the younger generations, who to the gushing support of his recognise the stars of the NFL just as easily as the top Premier

Last summer the University the first Irishman this century to

Last year the Northwestern



year's fixture sees Georgia Tech face off against Florida State in what should be an exciting matchup. With each college game continuing to sell out in Dublin, the prospect of Ireland hosting an NFL game is on the horizon.

The Steelers are the team to the local Klan office in South against Navy. The game brought that makes the most sense given the Rooney family long-fostered connections to Ireland. It was a little over 10 years ago when Dan Rooney was the American a working partnership with the every passing season.

book about his 75 years with the Steelers that came out in 2007 and I liked the story he wrote about the time he brought his dad, Art Rooney, to Ireland for the first time:

'In the summer of 1975 AFC North divisional game. following our Super Bowl victory, Tim and I brought Dad with us on his first visit to Ireland. The Rooneys originated in Newry, (Art) father was actually born in Wales, where his grandfather had gone to find work. "Doesn't that make you Welsh?" He would always say: "If a cat gave birth in an oven, would you call her kittens biscuits?" The Rooneys are Irish through and through. My father was proud of his Irish roots but he was even prouder to witness such a historic occasion. be an American.'

ambassador to Ireland. I read his Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) who are the largest sporting organization in Ireland. This November the GAA headquarters are hosting a Steelers Watch Party when Pittsburgh plays the Cleveland Browns in the return

The building of these ties is with the hope that the team will play an NFL game at Croke Park in the medium future and I believe County Down, a small town about the current expectation is that 35 miles south of Belfast. His the Pittsburgh Steelers will play a game in Dublin within the next five years.

> Such is the rising interest in American Football by the average sports fan in Ireland, a Pittsburgh Steelers game would sell out in minutes, while Steelers fans from all over Europe and the States would also be clamoring to bear

At this point in time, the NFL in Over the last year or so, the Dublin looks less of a possibility Pittsburgh Steelers have built up and more of a probability with



Publisher of IAN, Cliff Carlson (left); points out that those framed in the picture - Terry and Marjorie O'Dowd of Napervile, IL were picturing a successful, Naperville Irish Fest and they were right! Now in it's third year, the Fest was moved to downtown Naperville and to September, and was a huge success. They want to thank the powers that be at Milwaukee Fest for all their great advice.







2023: (I to r): David Giblin and Megan White of White Hotels, Enda Kenny, Jim Myers and Mary Pat Flanagan of Jem Tours and Jason Makar, answering questions and booking trips to Ireland for Milwaukee Fest attendees .











him!) to write a monthly column my charge was to cover the GAA sports with a focus on the Chicago area. Obviously, this was/is a wholly under-reported area of local sports. As the few nonfamily members of mine who read my column every month know, I sometimes veer off the sports path and delve into more philosophical rants. As I began thinking about this month's submission, I wholeheartedly expected to write about the end of the local GAA seasons, a bit about the Cubs and their precarious grip on a playoff spot and the misfortunes of the Bears after an embarrassing opener against the Packers. I veered off those topics when I received some news that hit me like a gut punch and made those now as you will not find a more worthy other topics seem pretty mundane.

of the Michael Cusack's Hurling Club or through other avenues in the Irish community. I have met Paul a few times through my association with Naperville Hurling. The strength of my relationship did not really matter when I received the news that Paul has recently been diagnosed with Astrocytoma Stage IV, in layman's terms, he has an incurable it is just keeping this family in your brain tumor. Paul is currently undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments to attempt to slow the cancer's progress.

When Paul came here from County Galway, he joined the Limerick Hurling Club and years later helped found the Michael Cusack's, which has been a mainstay on the Southside hurling scene for years. Paul and his wife Lizzie have been actively involved in the GAA community for 20+ years. When they are not dedicating countless volunteer hours to the St. Jarlath's Youth Club Paul is employed as a Chief for the Local 399 to work for the foreseeable future. Lizzie is a dedicated Chicago Public School teacher and suddenly has become

When Cliff "hired me" (ok, I begged the only source of income for the family.

Putting aside all the tremendous work the Reynolds family have done for many of us in the Irish community their greatest accomplishment may be the rearing of two sons, aged 12 and 3. One of the greatest things about the GAA community is how we rally around one another when help is needed. We need to rally for Paul and his family as they go through this latest challenge. I cannot fathom what they must be feeling but I do know that the good people who are reading this are ready and willing

A benefit fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday, October 4, 2024, at Gaelic Park. Get that date on your calendar cause. Raffle tickets are being sold and Many of you may know Paul Reynolds a Go Fund Me has been set up under the name Rally 4 Reynolds. You can find much more information on the Rally 4 Reynolds Facebook page or by following the Michael Cusack's Hurling Club. Any amount that you can donate would be helpful. If you are not able to help financially, I am sure there are many other ways you can help even if prayers. For those of you who know Colm Egan, he would be happy to provide any additional information that is not included here.

This has not been a fun column to write. Cancer sucks. Many of us have seen the path of destruction that cancer leaves in its wake, and it is not pretty. As I often say here, live every day like it is your last, don't take anything for granted and get on with LIVING. We never know when that will be taken from us. When you finish reading this and hopefully have donated to Paul's Stationary Engineer Union but is unable family, find your spouses, children and other loved ones and give them a hug and tell them how important they are in your life. We only have one.





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Grammy-Nominated Celtic Woman Announces 20th Anniversary Tour

Soprano Mairéad Carlin to Return

PBS To Air "20th Than 60 Markets Later This Year On the heels of the successful "Postcards From Ireland," Celtic Woman will carry on its legacy of uplifting performances packed with breath-taking harmonies and instrumental virtuosity. The group today announced it will bring an all-new live show to celebrate

delighting audiences with its ANNIVERSARY" Special in More fresh blend of traditional and echoes Ireland's rich musical and cultural heritage, while reflecting the vibrant spirit of modern Ireland.

In the 20 years since the global musical sensation's debut, Celtic Woman has emerged as both a formidable musical presence and a genuine cultural phenomenon.

multi-platinum best-sellers and stage. its concert tours continue to audience that spans the globe. Both an accomplished recording ensemble and a world-class

20th Anniversary Tour will be releases have been consistent and musicians to the world

contemporary Irish music that touch the hearts of a devoted air the accompanying "20th Anniversary" TV special in North America across 60+ local PBS stations. Filmed in performing collective, Celtic The Helix Theatre in Dublin, Woman introduces some of Ireland, it takes fans on a

journey back to where it all 90 cities. The Celtic Woman The group's albums and DVD Ireland's most talented singers began 20 years ago (and in the very same theatre). The TV special features appearances Later this year, PBS will from four very special guests including original members Lisa Kelly, Máiréad Nesbitt, Méav Ní Mhaolchatha and Chloë Agnew -- who join Celtic Woman for this wonderful TV special packed with emotional and heart stirring performances.

Following the PBS broadcasts, the "20th Anniversary" album and DVD will be released in January 2024 and features brand-new compositions and arrangements plus some fan favorites.

For tour schedule, tickets and information, visit www. celticwoman.com/tour-dates. Sign up for newsletters at <u>www.</u> <u>celticwoman.com</u> to learn about new tour dates, album releases and special offers.

6 years

3 years

2 years

photo by Kip Carroll



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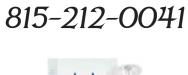
























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Strange Weather Indeed

Life these days is full of surprises, though some of them shouldn't be such a surprise to us. This year, the planet has endured the hottest summer on record. No surprise there since scientists have been warning us for decades of what to expect, and, for some reason, we've been ignoring it. In this year, we've experienced the first wave of troubling weather and witnessed the devastation it can bring. Maui, a relative paradise, is devastated by wildfire, and the city of Lahaina is destroyed. The loss of life by these consuming flames is still unknown. Reports of wildfires in Europe have also contributed to our transition into a new epoch of strange weather patterns. The world we used to know, no longer exists. It's beginning to crumble beneath us, despite what the naysayers think since they are as smart as those who believe in a flat earth.

Living, as I do, in a desert, I expect the summer to be as hot as hell. The temps are usually over 100 degrees most days. What I didn't expect to see in the desert though was a Hurricane. Hilary moved through the Coachella Valley in a way no one expected. Leading up to the landfall of Hilary, one of our neighbours had advised us to sandbag our home. The idea of sandbagging was foreign to me. It was August, hot as hell, and here we were preparing for an unusual amount of rain. While the neighbour's words sounded apocalyptic my other half was being the devil's advocate and downplaying the warnings. To stay on the side of safety, we drove with the neighbour to the local fire station to get our bags, and then onto the happen by voting for the right people. If a candidate sandpit to fill said bags.

What I remember of that day is that it was so incredibly hot. I was just over 5 weeks out of a total knee replacement surgery, and already I'm in the middle of a sandpit digging out sand! The whole thing seemed incredibly surreal. For some silly reason, it made me think of Noah building an ark and how ridiculous it must have seemed to everyone around. I'm sure it looked equally ridiculous to see a crowd of people huddled around a sandpit while the sun shone and the temperature was over 100 degrees. After digging and filling our sandbags, we went home to wait for the alarms to start. The blue sky gradually began to fill with ominous clouds.

When the rains started, I was struck by awe and wonder at how fast and furious the rain came down. There was no letting up on the downpour. We kept a watch for possible flooding but we were among the lucky ones who didn't need to use the sandbags. Our neighbour had some trouble with her atrium but other than that this area of Cathedral City was relatively unaffected. However, when we watched the news we saw that our area as a whole was one of the worst-hit places. Roads were flooded, some of them costing a fortune to repair. Houses were flooded. Mud and water made the main highway impassable. After the rain, the wind came up and trees were level to the ground. This was the first hurricane of its sort in over 80 years and I'm sure we'll see even more strange weather to come.



Word of the hurricane's devastation spread quickly. I had friends and family call or write to see if everything was alright with us. What struck me was that if we were to simply think about our neighbourhood, the impact was minimal but moving a little further out the real effects were plain to

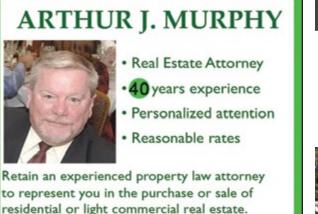
see. In some ways, it's a parable for how we see the effects of climate change. We might live in a space that remains relatively free from any serious effects, at least for the moment, and therefore don't see the larger picture. Just beyond the margins of our narrow worldview lies a greater reality, a true picture of what is in store for all of us. The paradise of Maui is struggling to recover. Its main industry, tourism, is severely damaged and it will take years for this small island to recover. Who knows if it can ever recover? Next year, what will our summer bring?

Remember how as kids we used to look forward to summertime. Summer was always equated with fun. Now, as the climate patterns of the world change, we have no idea what each summer will hold. The exotic places we once thought of as great travel destinations might well become subject to extreme weather. There's no knowing what we have unleashed in our refusal to cut back on fossil emissions. I wish that I could say that we still have time but we ignored that warning some time ago, thinking that had more time than was predicted. If we thought the scientists were merely scaremongering us into change, we are sadly wrong. Time is not on our side.

We need to pressure those in power to wake up and act. It's not enough to believe that politicians will act to correct the wrongs we've done to the planet. Politicians, if left to their own devices, will follow their own agenda. They will only listen to the electorate if they feel their position is at risk. We need to remind them of what we want and that can only misrepresents the subject of climate change as leftist, or liberal, they should be forced to spend some time in Maui, Greece, or Portugal. They should spend some time in Africa during a time of drought.

By voting in people who make climate change an important issue, we have people who see the whole picture and not their own neighbourhood. We want to have people in power who have our best interests as a global community and not those whose narrow response ignores the world around them.





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Who Was Percy French?

(William Percy French) He poet, painter & comedian, a birthday, May 1st. renaissance man. He was multi-

violence of any kind.

was a songwriter, author, Roscommon, we share the same written extensively about her

French married Ettie Moore talented. Some say the most from Co Cavan. Tragically Ettie and a lot of them have the is a sculpture in Co Down near of Gortnamona, creative writer & songwriter and their daughter died in of his time. James Joyce used childbirth. French remarried several of French's songs in his a woman from England named

work. French was a pacifist, Helen Sheldon. They had three deeply opposed of war and children. They have a daughter named Ettie in honor of his first French was born in wife. She is a writer and has father.

> French wrote several poems theme of emigration. He was a brilliant painter of watercolor landscapes. Few of the painting are called: Evening light across the bog, west of Ireland, turf stacks, & wherever I go my heart turns back to Mayo.

Some of his most famous there Michael, (song criticizing the rail system), Mountains of mourne (his signature tune), Come back home Paddy Reilly, Abdul Abdulbul Amir, slatterys bringing, oh my love, to me mounted foot, Eileen Oge & Long, long ago in the woods of McBreens Heifer. Unfortunately, some of his songs therefore he round the blackthorn tree; work.

French died of pneumonia at And I knew my love was dying the age of 65.

In memory of French there Now if you go through the woods email: Molanive@yahoo.com



GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

BY TINA BUTLER



the mountains of mourne, to mark the centenary (100th anniversary) of his death. There is also a bronze bench in Dublin dedicated to French.

Gortnamona~

"Long, long ago in the woods of Gortnamona,

songs include Are you right I thought the birds were singing in the blackthorn tree; But oh, it was my heart that was

ringing, ringing, ringing, With the joy that you were

Gortnamona, French overlooked to copyright *I thought the wind was sighing* lost the income on some of his But oh, it was the banshee that was crying, crying, crying,

far across the sea.

You hear the raindrops creeping through the blackthorn tree; But oh, it is the tears I am weeping, weeping, weeping, For the loved one that is sleeping far away from me."

Smidin Gaeilge~ Watercolor-uiscedhath Writer---scribhneoir

Poet-file Songwriter—cumadoir

Comedian—fuirseoir I hope everyone has an Oiche Shamhna shona duit! Happy Halloween!

I won't be watching scary movies like Tales of Halloween, Pet Cemetery or Cabin in the woods.

I prefer Haunted Mansion, Charlie Brown (1966) & Hocus Pocus.

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Celtic Thunder: Odyssey is Coming to The Genesee Theatre in Waukegan on Sunday, October 8, 2023 7:30pm

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(I to r): Peg Buckley, Cliff Carlson, John McMahon, and Marge McMahon enjoying the Travel Section of the Milwaukee Irish Fest

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Ireland Funds to Honor Abbott and Matt Moore at its Chicago Dinner on November 7, 2023

Over 450 guests are expected to gather on Tuesday, November 7 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Chicago to raise support for the work of The Ireland Funds while honoring Abbott with The Ireland Funds Corporate Responsibility Award. Robert B. Ford, Chairman and CEO of Abbott, will accept the award on behalf of Abbott. Matt Moore of Leadership Award.

The Chicago Dinner is one of the largest of The Ireland Funds' numerous international events. The 2023 Chicago Dinner will be co-chaired by Michael D. O'Halleran of Ryan Specialty Group; Thomas F. Meagher, Jr. of GCM Grosvenor; and Devon C. Bruce of Power Rogers, LLP. The evening will be a gathering of The Ireland Funds supporters from around the country in addition to notable Chicago leaders from the areas of business, politics, philanthropy and the arts.

Since 1946, Abbott in Ireland has been dedicated to helping people live healthier lives through a diverse range

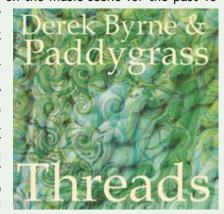


of science-based nutritional products, diagnostic tools and medical devices. Abbott advances health and wellness in Ireland by developing the highest-quality products and finding lasting solutions to the unique health challenges across the region. It is committed to developing locally manufactured healthcare solutions designed specifically for this market—from manufacturing nutritional products that give babies a strong start to creating diagnostic tools to help physicians guide treatment decisions for their patients. Most recently, Abbott broke ground on a new global manufacturing center in Kilkenny to produce its life-changing FreeStyle Libre 3 continuous glucose monitoring portfolio. Abbott was one of the first multinational companies to establish in Ireland and is the only one with operations in all four provinces. This new investment in Kilkenny will bring Abbott's total employment in the country to approximately 6,000 people across 10 sites, including seven manufacturing operations.

Derek Byrne & Paddygrass Release New Album 'Threads'

Derek Byrne & Paddygrass are known for their musical style of a combination of Celtic, Bluegrass and Gospel. They have been on the music scene for the past 15

years and have assembled a collective of Wisconsin's best folk musicians. On their new album THREADS the band set out to make their sound bigger and feature all of the players who have recorded



or played with the group. The name of the album comes from the idea that every gig the band does has a thread for their set list, with ideas from all the players. After working new songs at live shows for most of 2022, they took January 2023 off to record the new album. So many great musicians are woven together in the fabric of Paddygrass - Irish, Bluegrass, Gospel and so much more - it's hard to know where one style ends and another begins. Paddygrass is a tightly knit family growing closer with every note.

Band leader Derek Byrne says, "Sara Kilpatrick wrote some amazing horn parts. We've featured Saxophone, Tuba and Clarinet before, but only as solos, never together as a complete horn section. So, we added, Trombone, Trumpet and French Horn. Go big or go

Matt Moore has more than 25 years of experience in the restaurant and hospitality industry in his native Ireland as well as England and the United States. Significantly he has helped to helm some of the most established steakhouses in Chicago including Smith & Wollensky and Rosebud Prime. More recently Matt established Chicago Cut Steakhouse with his business partner David Flom. Chicago Cut is now the premier steakhouse in Chicago and a valuable employer in the hospitality sector, including a large number of J1 Irish students every summer. For Matt, hospitality is in his DNA, for more than a century his family has owned and operated Mannions Bar in Balla, Chicago Cut Steakhouse will receive The Ireland Funds County Mayo. Matt is a long standing and committed supporter of The Ireland Funds, as well as other many other charitable organizations in Chicago and Ireland.

> Aine Mallaghan, The Ireland Funds Vice President of Development, Midwest, said, "For almost 40 years The Ireland Funds Chicago Dinner has gathered our friends and supporters together to give back and celebrate the special bond between Chicago and Ireland. This year, it is an opportunity to recognize those who have made an impact for Ireland on both corporate and personal levels. Abbott and Matt Moore are great examples of what care and strategic investment can accomplish for those in need. We are delighted to honor them, their deep ties to Ireland, and to highlight The Ireland Funds' support of hundreds of nonprofit organizations working in communities across the island of Ireland."

> Guests at this year's dinner will also be treated to a very special performance by Tolü Makay. Tol Makay's musical career has gone from strength to strength since she first emerged onto the Irish music scene, and she was named in the Irish Times list of "50 People To Watch For" in 2022. Born in Nigeria and raised in Ireland, Tolü cut her teeth singing in church groups - and winning a national gospel competition - and has steadily grown into an artist with her own vision, selling out gigs all over Ireland, performing in Washington DC and New York and racking up hundreds of thousands of streams on music platforms and YouTube.

> The Ireland Funds is one of the largest private grant makers to the nonprofit sector in Ireland. Recent initiatives have ensured that critical and timely funding to a wide range of not-for-profit organizations across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland is delivered. Most recently, the organization's Heart of the Community Fund delivered \$1 million to 94 nonprofit groups in 24 counties on the island. This year, in keeping with the event's tradition of supporting work not only across the island of Ireland but in the local community, a grant from the event's proceeds will also be made to support the work of the Mother Jones project in Chicago.

> For information on The Ireland Funds' work and the 2023 Chicago Dinner, contact Aine Mallaghan, VP of Development Midwest at 312-659-1995 or amallaghan@ irelandfunds.org

> home. All our soloists came in and put their talents to the music. Harmonica, Mandolin, Viola, Bodhran, Piano, Drumset, bass and banjo, then we added backing vocals. This is our most ambitious recording ever. Close to 20 musicians are on this album! Peter Carlson had to edit and mix all the layers of sound on each track. It's a testament to his skill and patience as a producer. He's been with the band 15 years, so he knows us better than anyone.'

> Derek Byrne & Paddygrass shows are spontaneous, special guests arrive and become part of the magic. No matter how many times you see us there is always something new to discover, including Irish Step Dancers! Whatever happens, their music will move you to sing, dance, drink and forget all else.

https://derekbyrnemusic.com/music











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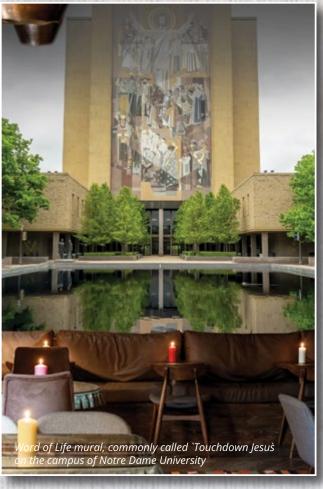
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I've been asked to speak at a gathering of folk who live at Foster Avenue and Marine Drive. A classic Chicago retirement community on the very edges of the lake front. Just across the street from the Saddle and Cycle Club. Elegant building. Refined residents. Many enjoyed exciting lives in Chicago commerce and finance. Some residents have been diplomats. Others had places of political responsibility. That's a colorful A-list of interesting Chicagoans. They've asked me to speak about the Irish in Chicago. A topic I am delighted to delve into. I think as I collect my thoughts I may have found fresh material for a new book.

There's nothing I enjoy as much as dispelling old myths about the Irish. Dislodging folk from shallow observations. Or presenting more substantive perspectives to rival past prejudices or false understandings. No city in America has quite the same engagement of the Irish as Chicago. During the years of greatest immigration from 1880 to 1920, the numbers of Irish looking for a new life was dramatic. And skilled achievements. I believe that the Irish found what they were looking for on the streets and laneways of Chicago.

I think it is important to trace two histories whenever we talk about the Irish in Chicago. First the very number of immigrants and the pattern of their immigration. Where did they go? Where did they live? At what work did they succeed? What was the quality of the life they used her body as a human bridge, so children could pass built here?

But then I think it is equally important to ask what was unfolding in Chicago during this time? Did the city blossom and bloom? Did commercial life advance? Did politics evolve? What was education like? Were the basics of life available for the immigrant to achieve? Watching and analyzing both the immigrant and the city is equalling important. It gives a powerful understanding of both.

Do you have any personal favorites among the vast numbers of immigrant Irish families who made Chicago their home. I have more than a few. But here are five.

Two of them are the Comiskey's, a family from Crosser Lough, County Cavan. John Comiskey, the dad, was a man of talent, educational understanding, conscientious commitment to tasks and a powerful sense of political self



understanding. A Democrat all the way. Born in 1826, he came to New Haven CT in 1848, the Era of the Great Famine. By 1853 he had moved to Chicago and was in charge of freight for the Rock Island Railroad and the Pacific Railroad. By 1875 he was appointed Clerk of the Board of Cook County Commissioners.

He worked in the City Treasurer's Office and then was elected a City Alderman of the 7th, 8th, and 9 Wards as the number of constituencies increased. He was made for the job. Erudite. Friendly. And a great reformer.

He was also the father of young Charles Comiskey, a rising star in the growing fascination of baseball. Charlie had a lot of his dad in him. He was acquired by the St. Louis Brown

Stockings in 1882. Within a year he was managing the team at 23. He would go on to reinvent baseball. Building Comiskey Park and carrying the Chicago White Sox close to his heart. Even inventing his own version of a six game world series.

Both men created a dynamic cultural transfiguration of the immigrant's world. These two not only succeeded in America, they changed it. Without green beer. Shamrocks on their cheeks. Or loosing the ancient roots of their

If you grew up in Chicago in 1958 it means you courageous Irish nun. When trying to help her students escape they were stopped by a flaming stairway. So she over the flaming stairwell. She was critically injured.

Mary Gorham was born in the remote Gaeltacht, the rolling Atlantic countryside of Cornamona, County Galway, the seaside near Clifden, geography on which the ancient language of the Irish has always been spoken.

She was my best friend, Johnny Gorham's, mom. She was also the mother of my Aunt Peg O'Connor, her oldest daughter of seven girls and one son. Mr. Gorham was an Irish wonder. a native of Skinnive, Co. Galway,

he worked for Peoples Gas. And was a huge White Sox fan. I often thought him the toughest man I'd ever knew. I always wondered if this was what having seven daughters did to you. He had a voice fit for the Abbey Theater stage in Dublin. A pure West of Ireland country character actor, he commanded attention. What W.B. Yeats, the poet/

playwright, could only dreamed of. Straight from the imagination of writer Jonathan Millington Synge.

I really liked "Pops," as Mr. Gorham was known. He liked me. I often wondered if it was because my grandfather was a commandant in the IRA. On our block of Peoria Street, on Chicago's Southside, in the 16th Ward, Mr. Gorham kept the finest lawn in the neighborhood. Manicured. As smooth as the 7th hole at Beverly Country Club. A work of art as spectacular as a painting.

Mrs. Gorham was a fabulous cook. I never refused an invitation to her huge dinners there. She made the richest Irish Soda Bread I ever ate. With caraway seeds in abundance. And her turkey with sage and onion stuffing was from heaven.

I look back now on such immigrant folk from Galway, today Chicago's Sister City, as the Gorhams, now, and still remember what I knew in my heart as true back 60 years ago. Everything they did, they did with love. And Mrs. Gorham spoke softly with love, and mystery, on the phone in her native Irish language with her sister, Bea Casey, in a code that Ian Fleming would have cherished. No wonder America is great.

All these Irish souls were people unafraid to be pragmatic and generous. People who value the humanity of others and cherish their ability to reach out to others in need. A sense of neediness that could not be measured on Ellis Island. A sense of common experience and remember the terrible fire at Our Lady of the Angels shared heartache leaving the land of their family and School. 92 children and three nuns died in the disaster. I friends forever. But like the English they spoke, the Irish think Sister Hillarie O'Neill, BVM, may be Chicago's most sensitivity for others opened many doors. Permitting the heartbroken Irish a reasoned and intelligent opportunity to heal and hope. Irish hope sustained America through Prohibition, World War, Depression, political failures, and in the process lifted the Irish themselves.

The story of Irish immigration in America is a story of healing conversion. And the opportunity to use the wit, wisdom and gifts each immigrant carried with them in abundance beyond Great Famine, the inability to own property, the life-threatening practice of our faith, or speak our native language freely, and rule ourselves and determine the quality of our own lives.

The cold smell of potato mould, the squelch and slap.mould, the squelch and slap Of soggy peat, the curt cuts of an edge Through living roots awaken in my head. But I've no spade to follow men like them. Seamus Heaney "Digging"





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Wallpapers of *Ireland*



I love this time of the year! I can finally shut off the air and open the windows. The temperature is perfect not a lot of humidity and cool at night, great weather for sleeping. The trees are taking on their fall colors. Hues of red, orange, gold and brown are everywhere. This is also harvest time. Pears and apples are in abundance, as are apple cider and cider donuts. Squash of every shape and size including pumpkins. The last of the summer veg are in the Farmer's markets as we transition to heartier more robust meals. What to do with all those tomatoes from the garden. It's also Halloween time. Everything pumpkin from lattes to potato chips, scarecrows, hay bales, taffy apples, skeletons, witches, ghosts, candy for trick or treaters, the perfect costume for the kids and if you're from Ireland barmbrack.

Barmbrack (Irish: barin breac) originally a yeast loaf with raisins and sultanas translates to a speckled loaf due to the raisins. Other origins

of barm could relate to the froth from fermented ale, which is a form of yeast. This was used in place of baking powder and baking soda which was not widely available in Ireland until the early 19th century.

Baking barmbrack is a Halloween custom. Bracks traditionally contained various items baked in the bread that would foretell the future. Baked in the brack were a pea, a stick, a piece of cloth, a six pence, a ring, and a bean. Each slice containing an item held a special meaning. The pea meant the person

would not marry in the year. The stick meant an unhappy marriage with many disputes. The cloth signified bad luck or poverty. The coin, good fortune and wealth. The ring meant a wedding within the year, and the bean meant a future with no money.

Today most bracks contain a ring or coin and not the other traditional items. In many area of Ireland bracks are baked on New Year's Eve and used to ward off poverty and starvation.

Barmbrack is usually served toasted with a cup of tea.

Here is an easy recipe that is perfect for this time of the year.

BARMBRACK

Ingredients:

2 cups flour

2 teaspoons baking powder

½ tsp baking soda

5 oz brown sugar

 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon mixed spice, or pumpkin spice

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon nutmeg 6oz raisins

6oz golden raisins



1 oz candied peel

1 cup strong Irish tea (cold)

1 egg

2 oz Irish whiskey

In a bowl soak raisins and mixed peel in tea and

whiskey for 6 hours. In another bowl combine dry ingredients. Add beaten egg and enough liquid from the raisins to the dry ingredients. If necessary add a little water to form a wet sticky dough. Add raisins and mix. Pour batter into a greased prepared 9in loaf pan and bake 60 minutes at 350 degrees. Cover loaf with foil if top browns too soon.

Let loaf stand for 15 minutes then remove loaf from pan and cool on a wire rack. You can brush the top of the loaf with a glaze made from 1oz of sugar dissolved in 1oz of

hot water. Happy Halloween!





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By: David Dempsey, LCSW Program Director, St. Leo's Residence for Veterans

No one who served our country should be without a home and yet, according to the most recent point-in-time count by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which assesses the number of homeless people on a given night, veterans comprised

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homeless adults in the country. As the director of Catholic Charities St. Leo's Residence for Veterans since 2014, it has been my privilege to help homeless veterans find stability with our unique, multi-faceted approach.

The St. Leo's Residence is part of Catholic Charities St. Leo's Campus for Veterans, the first and only completed project of its kind in the nation. Located in Chicago's Auburn Gresham neighborhood, the campus includes the

St. Leo's Residence, the Pope John Paul II Residence for persons with physical disabilities, the VA-operated Outpatient Clinic and Resource Center, and the St. Leo's Veterans Memorial

Garden. In addition to subsidized rent, residents also receive comprehensive case management and supportive approximately seven percent of all services, which are critical for helping



them achieve and maintain stable housing and self-sufficiency.

Most people don't fully understand the challenges that the population we serve face. It is common to assume that PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) is the driving factor for their unhoused state, but the reality is that veterans experiencing homelessness often faced numerous challenges before their military service, such as generational poverty, unemployment, limited education, family violence, mental illness, or substance use.

Many of the residents at St. Leo's served our country heroically and gained valuable skills during their military service. However, the combination of trauma from live combat together with unresolved past issues can make their transition to civilian life more difficult. This is why our approach to providing both housing and other supportive services is critical for their success.

The St. Leo's Residence consists of 141 fully furnished studio apartments, expansive common recreational space, a computer lab, a fitness room, and multipurpose rooms for community meetings, including Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. In addition, each resident is assigned a master's-level case manager who helps them design an individualized plan to maintain stable housing, increase income through benefits and/ or employment, and address other barriers to self-sufficiency such as substance use, mental health issues, trauma, level of education, and needs

Published 12 Times Yearly

for social or familial supports.

We advocate every day for our veteran residents, connecting them to other Catholic Charities programs or services

from one of our communitybased partners. Case managers work closely with the on-site VA clinic to help residents achieve the greatest possible level of health and self-sufficiency.

Sometimes it's hard for vets to accept help-they've been trained as soldiers, as protectors. Being vulnerable and accepting something for themselves doesn't come naturally. But when they take advantage of services such as those we offer at St. Leo's, they can truly soar. One of my most inspiring client relationships was a female resident, Debbie, who came to us from a domestic violence

shelter and was suffering from a variety of issues including depression and anxiety. She was using a walker to get around due to her injuries. In her own words, she had a "very dim view of life."



In the beginning, she isolated herself in her room, but we didn't give up on her. Slowly she began participating in our programming. She kept on engaging and challenging herself. She went to her medical appointments and took advantage of the other services. She worked on paying her bills and cleaning up her credit issues. Through her own tenacity and a little help from us, she had a complete turnaround. By the time she left St. Leo's, she was able to buy her own home through a Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) program and was walking entirely on her own!

Witnessing the success of individuals like Debbie, and the dedication of my incredible staff who serve them, inspires me each day. It is tough work, but my team and I are continually amazed by the extraordinary resilience and fortitude of our residents. They keep moving forward, and keep striving, even with everything they've confronted and continue to confront. It is truly a privilege to assist our brave veterans on their journey to find peace, stability, and a permanent home.





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Fall Breaks: Festival Fun, Fine Food & Cozy Stays









Clockwise from top left: The Derry/Londonderry Halloween Parade; Goats Path Farm and Pod Park, Sheep's Head, County Cork; Shopping at George's Street Arcade, Belfast; a traditional Irish music session at Rouse's Bar in Ballina, County Mayo.

or a variety reasons the Fall is a great season to visit the island of Ireland. The weather is usually at its most element and reliable, flights and accomnodations tend to be a bit more economical, and all the things you can see or do luring the busy summer months are still there, usually easier to book and without the peak season throngs.

Festivals

Over the last several years, the Fall has also become a season when Ireland relebrates it's culture and the arts. Ireand's cities are buzzing as festival season cicks off. From now through late November, food, music, film, theatre, comedy and literature are all given pride of place at festivals, large and small, throughout the island. Here are some of the high-ights:

The *Cork Jazz Festival* (October 26 - 30) is a mainstay of the city's cultural calender, now celebrating it's 45th year. This rear's line-up is a real treat for connoisseurs of jazz. Headliners include Macy Gray, Corienne Bailey Rae, Morcheeba, Matthew Halsall and Grammy award winning Kurt Elling. There will also be lozens of other artists performing at renues all over Cork City.

The 61st *Belfast International Arts*Festival (October 12 - November 5)
returns with a new season of contemporary arts and culture in over 30 venues across the city and featuring the very best nternational and homegrown artists in heatre, dance, music, visual arts, literature and film.

The *Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival*, also in Belfast, (October 26-29), relebrates the city's thriving arts and rulture scene. It bills itself, with some jusification, as "one of the sassiest, brassiest and classiest acts on the island's cultural ralendar."

Wexford Festival Opera (October 24 - November 5) has chosen 'Women & War' as its theme for 2023. With events aking place on 12 consecutive nights in the National Opera House in the city of Wexford (about an hour and a half drive rom Dublin), this festival will feature nany of the top operatic performers in

the world.

Halloween—not surprisingly as it is a tradition that was born in Ireland—plays a major role in festivities in the coming weeks.

Derry Halloween (October 28 - 31) is the grand-daddy of all Halloween Festivals, and is easily the largest in Europe. Voted the world's best Halloween spot in a poll by USA Today's 10 Best online poll, Derry Halloween regulary attracts 40,000 visitors. Essentially the whole city dresses up for the ghoulish fun.

The *Púca Festival* (October 27-31) takes place in venues in counties Meath and Louth and is full to the brim with paranormal activity including haunting performances, costumed creatures and hair-raising ghost stories. Púca is the Irish word for goblin.

Rounding things out on the supernatural front is the *Bram Stoker Festival* 2023 in Dublin (October 27 - 30), which honors the Dublin-born creator of Count Dracula. Activities include literary events, walks, screenings and a Gothic ball.

Food

The annual harvest is a major factor of Irish life in the Fall. There are festivals celebrating the island's bounty in many towns and cities. Two favorites are the *Kinsale Gourmet Festival* (October 14) in Kinsale, County Cork, often referred to as the culinary capital of Ireland; and the *Savour Kilkenny Festival of Food* (October 27 - 30), held each year in the stunning setting of Kilkenny's Medieval city, in the heart of Ireland's Ancient East.

Besides festivals the Fall is a great time to visit a farmers market and savor local produce at its finest. There's nothing quite as tasty as food freshly harvested from the farm! These markets are part of the way of life in Ireland and two standout examples are St George's Market in Belfast and the English Market in Cork, which have both been serving organic food for centuries.

And of course, the freshly picked fruit and vegetables make their way on to the menus of restaurants and pubs. The Irish pub is an experience unto itself, serving up affordable and delicious traditional meals, often enjoyed in front of a warming open fire and accompanied by a creamy pint of stout or ale. If you pick the right pub you'll also get to enjoy a traditional Irish music session, where the best of local musicians trade ancient and more modern melodies and songs. It's a uniquely Irish thing.

The harvest is important all over the island of Ireland but perhaps nowhere more so than in the 'Orchard County' of Armagh, so-called because of its 6,000 acres of Bramley Apple trees which produce 40,000 tonnes of the fruit annually. The venerable Bramley has Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) status from the European Commission and is used in baking, apple sauce, juices and ciders.

There is something very special about biting into a slice of warm barmbrack, a traditional sweetened bread, flavored with sultanas or raisins and a drop of whiskey. Barmbrack is enjoyed year round in Ireland but is especially associated with Halloween. At this time of year you have to be careful what you find in your slice! Wrapped in muslin or grease-proof paper are tokens indicating your future in life. If you find a ring, you'll be married within the year; a thimble (a spinster forever); a button (a bachelor forever); a coin (a lifetime of wealth); and a piece of cloth (a lifetime of poverty).

A great recipe for barmbrack can be found at www.ireland.com .

Self-Catering Opportunities

When it comes to places to stay the island of Ireland offers a huge range of options. Visitors can enjoy nextlevel luxury at a number of converted castles and stately homes. Dromoland Castle (County Clare), Lough Eske Castle (County Donegal), and Ashford Castle (County Mayo), among others, offer five star hotel accommodation, gourmet dining and award-winning spas. There are hundreds of hotels to choose from, ranging from boutique to large. There are also almost 10,000 'Bed and Breakfast' locations on the island.

Nowadays many visitors are choosing the self-catering route, which offers a great deal of variety and freedom and

allows them to really personalize their vacation.

There are many options in the self-catering space, including non-traditional and innovative accommodations, such as the Goats path Farm and Pod park, in Sheep's Head, County Cork, which features six self-contained pods set into the high landscape, offering unrivalled views of the beautiful Wild Atlantic Way and Bantry Bay.

Here are a few more examples, just to give you a flavor. (A more comprehensive list can be found at www.ireland.com.)

The Cottages in Bettystown, County Meath, were once the homes of fishermen. Now these 300-year-old buildings have been converted into gorgeous self-catering beach homes.

Batty Langley Lodge, in Leixlip, County Kildare, replete with stone turrets and gothic arched windows, is the setting for a truly romantic trip. So is the snug and secretive Barbican tower in County Antrim, with its portcullis poised on a bridge above the Glenarm River. The lakeside lodges and villas at Fermanagh's Finn Lough allow you to take things really easy as you enjoy the onsite spa and natural, untouched surroundings.

The Clare Island Lighthouse in County Mayo is one of the most exclusive spots in Ireland and is one of the island's great escapes. It's impossible to hold on to your cares when the salt-slicked wind sweeps in from the Atlantic Ocean.

Built in 1804, the Martello Tower in County Dublin boasts unparalleled views of Dublin Bay. This quirky, round tower offers a truly unique self-catering experience for those who want to experience a more "rounded" accommodation option.

Wherever you plan your vacation on the island of Ireland, the next couple of months will allow you to see the place in a different light than at other times of year. The extensive programs of festivals, especially, make for a party atmosphere. All you have to do is show up!





Ireland's heart and soul are shaped by the sea. These crystal clear waters have sculpted the coast of the lunar-like Burren, the stepping stones of the Giant's Causeway and the quiet coves of Connemara. Its shores are framed by a clifftop temple, lighthouses and the balmy beauty of coastal villages.

Discover captivating tales at Titanic Belfast in the city that built the Ship of Dreams, or dive into the adventures of a pirate queen in County Mayo. But most of all, leave the world behind as the wind greets your face, your lips taste of salt from the sea and you realize you're home.

So come on, fill your heart with Ireland...





Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



Navigating Bicyclist Injury Claims From Potholes in Illinois

What You Need To Know:

ahead as you pedal your bicycle you may have a valid personal through the streets of Chicago. Just as you're lost in the joy of the ride, an unexpected jolt due to a treacherous pothole. municipality for your bicyclist records. Bicycle accidents caused by potholes are unfortunately more common than you might statute of limitations. In Illinois, think., and understanding your there's a limited window of rights and the legal framework time during which you can file surrounding such incidents is a lawsuit. Generally, you have crucial. As a personal injury lawyer, I'm here to shed light on accident to initiate a lawsuit Illinois laws regarding bicyclist against the municipality. This injuries caused by potholes, and to provide guidance on taking prompt action if you're what steps you can take if you injured. Missing the statute of find yourself in this unfortunate limitations could bar you from situation.

The Importance of Road Maintenance

Potholes are a menace to both drivers and cyclists. They more complex than filing a claim can cause serious accidents against an individual. There are and injuries. In Illinois, municipalities are responsible that must be followed. In for maintaining safe road Illinois, the Local Government conditions, and this duty extends to repairing potholes Tort Immunity Act governs the promptly to ensure the safety of all road users, including for personal injuries. This Act

Understanding Negligence

a pothole while cycling, the are actionable. concept of negligence comes into care, leading to foreseeable prove that: harm. In the context of bicyclist injuries caused by potholes, of the dangerous condition (the negligence could involve a pothole); municipality's failure to repair a dangerous road condition (or lack thereof) were the direct within a reasonable timeframe. cause of your injuries; and

If you can demonstrate that Picture this: a sunny day, the municipality's negligence essential when pursuing zone in Chicago or gentle breeze, and the open road directly caused your injuries, injury claim.

State of Limitations

injury caused by a pothole, it's essential to be aware of the one year from the date of the emphasizes the importance of seeking compensation for your injuries altogether.

Suing a Municipality

Suing a municipality can be Conditions: specific rules and procedures show that the municipality knew and Governmental Employees process of suing a municipality municipalities, which means compensation; When you're injured due to that not all claims against them

To sue a municipality play. Negligence refers to the successfully for a bicyclist injury failure to exercise reasonable from a pothole, you need to

1. The municipality had notice

2. The municipalities actions

nstons

3. Your use of the road was foreseeable by the municipality.

Additionally, it's important to note that certain procedural requirements must be met, such as providing the municipality with notice of your intent to file a claim within a specified time frame.

Gathering Evidence

Building a strong case is to a dangerous work compensation for your injuries. To bolster your claim, consider the following steps:

1.Seek medical attention If you're considering immediately after the accident sends you flying off your bike pursuing a legal claim against a and keep all relevant medical

> accident, including photographs of the pothole, road conditions, and your injuries, preferably immediately after the accident or as soon as practical thereafter.

> 3. Obtain any available witness information, as their statements can support your account of the incident.

4. Report the pothole to the relevant municipality, as this demonstrates your efforts to six months. If the pothole is the mitigate the danger.

Showing the Municipality knew about the Hazardous Road

If you're certain that a pothole repair it. caused the accident, you must about the hazard and failed to repair it. In most cases, governments discover hazardous road conditions in one of two your claim.

grants limited immunity to individuals who qualify for into a dangerous ordeal.

By surveying the roadways regularly.

Road construction may occasionally be the government's attempt to repair a road, leading to accidents and vehicle damage. You might have a right to compensation if your car is subjected elsewhere in Illinois.

To win a claim against the government for

demonstrate:

dangerous road conditions

them within a reasonable time

Say, for example, a large pothole forms on a busy street in Chicago. The local paper floods with letters to the editor, and people have brought it up during recent city council meetings. Unfortunately, the pothole is left unaddressed for cause of your accident, you can claim compensation from the city if city officials were aware requirements, and negotiate

Understanding the cause of your accident and determining

Understanding your rights as

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damage to your car due to a cyclist and the legal avenues poor road conditions, you must available to you in the event of a pothole-related injury is vital. Your claim that the If you find yourself a victim of Document the scene of the government was aware of the a bicycle accident caused by a pothole in Illinois, remember to And that it failed to correct act promptly, gather evidence, and consider seeking legal counsel to ensure your rights are protected and you have the best chance of obtaining the compensation you deserve.

> Navigating the legal process, especially when it involves suing a municipality, can be complex and overwhelming. An attorney can help you understand your rights, assess the strength of your case, navigate the legal of it and had sufficient time to with the municipality's representatives on your behalf.

*Caroleann Gallagher whether the city knew about is an Irish born Attorney the road conditions will help you now licensed in Illinois figure out how to proceed with and practicing all types of Personal Injury Law and The presence of potholes Workers Compensation. They're reported by can turn a leisurely ride She can be contacted at cgallagher@dwyercoogan. com or at (312) 782-7482.

> didn't expect or unable to alter circumstances for the better.

> In any case, there are things you can do not to feel helpless, and this is through changing your mindset. The extra time, finances, or physical support you desire may not always be within your reach, but you can always find greater joy and optimism.

Participate in a Caregivers' Peer-to-Peer Support Group

A caregiver support group is a terrific place to talk to others going through the same things you are. If you can't get out of the home, there are several

There are a lot of support Taking care of oneself is among Your ability to cope. The groups out there where you'll not just receive guidance, but you can also help others. And maybe most significantly, you'll realize you're not the only one experiencing everything. There is comfort in knowing that you are not alone, and the information you may gain from others who are dealing with the same condition as your loved one is priceless.

Take a Breather

If you're a full-time caretaker, Whether there is readily spare time may feel like a luxury you can't afford. It's essential, but you owe it to yourself and the individual you're taking care of to make time for it. Allowing yourself to breathe and do activities you like regularly is integral to self-care. You'll be a better caretaker as a result.

Home is Where the Heart Is By Aishling Kelly

Caregiver Stress: Tips on Taking Care of Yourself

In case of emergencies when flying, an oxygen mask is lowered in front of your face. What's the first thing to do? The primary rule is to put an oxygen mask help ourselves.

the most crucial things you can way you've dealt with stress in do as a caregiver-and one of the most frequently overlooked. Taking care of your own needs will also help the person you care about.

Personal Stress Reduction

adapting and dealing with the incident in question. The amount of stress you're experiencing isn't only because you're caring for a loved one; it's also how you view the situation. It's crucial to remember that you're not the only one going through what you're experiencing.

Whether or not you're doing feel confined in a position you

it for free. You are more likely to experience tension, anguish, and resentment if you believe you have no option but to accept the duties.

The nature of your connection to the person receiving care. It's not uncommon for someone to care for another in the hopes of improving a relationship. on yourself first. We can only You may experience sorrow and online organizations you may greatly assist others if we first discouragement if mending does join. not develop.

the past is a good indicator of how you'll deal with it today. Recognize and enhance your present coping mechanisms.

Your circumstances as a caregiver. Stressful caregiving This can considerably impact settings might vary widely. For instance, dementia-related care is often more difficult than providing for somebody with a physical disability.

available support.

Feeling in Control Will Help **Avoid Caregiver Burnout**

Feelings of inadequacy Several aspects, such as the exacerbate burnout and despair. following, impact your degree As a caretaker, it's easy to slip into this trap, especially if you



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The Sinead O'Connor Song We Should Play to Remember Her!

so many reasons why "Feel So Different," a vocal masterpiece is the definitive Sinead O'Connor song and the ultimate treasure in her repertoire.

This song is overlooked like many magnificent works for reasons

genuine tour-de-force.

I believe "Nothing Compares" certainly enriches his estate. public should respect her claim. Even with reservations, out of thing?

Different," when she was an upsung at the crest of her career Prince. Yes, no means no. as an emerging-artist, and the behold," to quote Sinead. I concert to experience the actual

By Jeanie Poet Dancer Dean, tour, when Sinead cut her hair The true song to remember and emerged like a butterfly Sinead O'Connor is her incredible into her artist persona. From anthem and overlooked gem, this humble reviewer, Brazil is "Feel So Different." There are the best live performance of

her career. Not only that, Sinead's 1990 Brazil rendition of "Feel So Different" is the best live great; even better than Pavarotti,



"Feel So Different" certainly high point of her vocal talents. may express any number of For excellence in performance circumstances in Sinead's life and vocal prowess, "Feel So story: from poverty to wealth, Different" is something "to girl to artist, nobody to superstar, from abuse to power. invite youto play the album or Perhaps she sings of flowering YouTube of her 1990 live Brazil femininity or sexual awakening amidst that Catholic guiltiness. it, "the Baldish," in 1973, when power and perfection of Sinead's Might her song tell of the Sinead was a wee lass and is a incomparable voice. This is the changing times of Ireland and cousin-in-spirit of sorts.

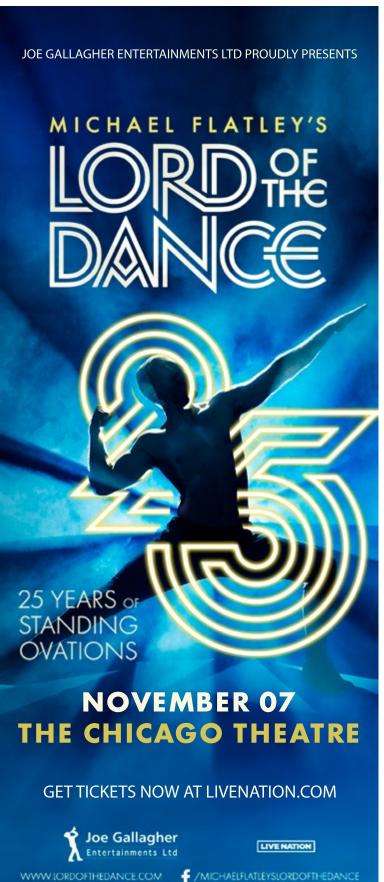
the world at the end of the 20th century. "Feel So Different" also speaks of that unique and almost incomprehensible world-view of the artist and the daunting gift of genius. Sinead, the artist, herself, feels so different and she gives us that difference; that unique unusual quality inside the artist that we can only just merely glimpse through her incredible performance.

These are remarkable reasons solo recording by why, "Feel So Different" is the any singer of all defining song, we should play to recorded time. Yes, remember Sinead O'Connor. In it's a GOAT, that fact, for shear vocal perfection, "Feel So Different" is the most compelling of all her songs. It Peggy Lee or shush- is her premier statement of knees and kiss the earth with sincere gratitude and awe for the opportunity to hear such beauty and musical perfection in your life time without digital correction. Sinead has given the world a recording of her remarkable voice and a fleeting moment of human perfection, that is almost too much to bear, and no one can take that away from her. All one can do is feel gratitude to have witnessed that consummate beauty once. This rare beauty may be the burden, the artist, herself carries for us all. So, let's get it right and remember Sinead for her magnificent songs, and the near perfection of her rendition artistry.

Jeanie Poet Dancer Dean is Stopped: Elegy for John F Kennedy and the American Dream, A New Alphabet, Poetry Collage and Text and other books plays, essays, film and photographs. She hosts an annual JFK Tribute in Wisconsin since 1988 and produces art events. She is a spoken-word artist, dancer, playwright, designer, computer coder, and more.

Jeanie cut her hair off, calling





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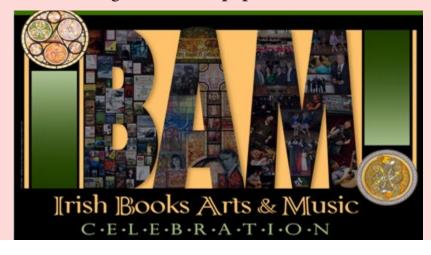
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A friend of mine from County Antrim told me about this guy Jay from Belfast. I added him to my summer reading. I talked to him to congratulate him on his publication and got his permission to share a bit about himself.

Jay is an award winning barber and founder of Jays Barber Academy. Life was not always easy for Jay and his younger brother Wayne.

Back in the eighties their mum had health problems, money was short as was food. They would find themselves shuffled from foster home to foster home. It was while they were in one of the foster homes they were told their mother had died.

I cannot imagine how these two little boys could even digest or comprehend this devastating loss. They were not even ten years old at that time. They were allowed to go to their mum's funeral but later sent to Carnview children's home Newtownabbey

Apparently this was a place where children stayed in between foster homes while waiting for a family, always praying for nice warm hearted people to share birthdays and Christmas with.

Unfortunately for Jay and little brother Wayne, that day never came. They decided to run away. As they climbed over the gates and ran across the road little Wayne was struck by a car. He died upon arrival at the



hospital. He was buried beside his mother (rip).

This was so much tragedy for young Jay. He spent another year in Carnview Children's Home until an uncle welcomed him into his family's home. Jay joined the army where he learned discipline and made many friends who would become like family.

Later he would hear more sad news that one of his comrades took his own life. Jay did a course as a barber which he found he loved and was very good at. He finally got an apprenticeship at a top barbers but wasn't paid so it was a very lean time for him, but he was determined with the help of his friends.

He had to work his way up from washing towels to making the tea, and coffee.

Jay always chatted to customers. No matter how bad or hungry he felt, he took advantage of any courses including business classes to help run a barber shop.

Finally he was able to get his own chair and started to build up his own clientele. Very soon he would become one of the top guys and was offered a managerial position.

After a while he decided to open

up his own premises giving people a high end treatment from modern haircuts to eyebrows, hot towels, facials, neck massages - services that weren't available at that time in low cost

His shop was called Jays Male Grooming. Jays became so popular he had professional rugby and hockey teams stop by for Jays one of a kind grooming. He was at the top of his field.

Everyone loved his staff uniforms so he started his own clothing range. Life couldn't be better. There were cocktail parties and sniffing lines of

Things slowly spiraled out of hand. The addiction was taking over his life, the people he was hanging out with were users. He lost everything. His shop and everything that went with it. He needed money so he went back working for another barber. He got news that the children's home where he had lived with his little brother Wayne was being demolished so he decided to visit it. While there he had flashbacks climbing over the rusty gates escaping with little Wayne and the other kids. He could feel his little brother's presence and yanked the gates of their hinges and tossed them in his van.

He had just secured a place to restart his own barbershop again and like a phoenix he was rising up from

the ashes. Later he would use the iron gates in his shop as frames for his mirrors. Jay was still struggling with his addictions and ended up in hospital with a few broken bones. With the help of his girlfriend he recovered but not before he attended a course that would put him in touch with himself and God so his healing would begin. Needless to say, Jay today has overcome a lot and is back on top with his barber shops and giving back to his community by sponsoring sports teams and lots of others. Christmas Day you'll find him out giving free haircuts to the homeless.

Jay is a giver so he started his own Barber Academy helping people learn skills that may make a difference in their lives. Maybe one day owning their own business.

What a wonderful inspirational story. I was living in London in the eighties going back and forth home to Omagh, and eventually ended up in Chicago adopting our kids so this story really tugged at my heart as these boys were so young and just wanted a loving family.

You just never know what people are going through.

If you're going home or visiting Ireland be sure to stop in to say hello at Jays Barber Club. Newtownabbey, Belfast.

Til next time. Happy Halloween, you know it's my favourite! I love our little neighbourhood kids coming to our door all dressed up and excited for who gets the most candy! bless them.

ROTH Conversions - Must Read!

Maximizing your retirement savings and minimizing your income taxes during retirement is critical to a successful long enjoyable retirement. I teach a class on The Principles of Retirement Planning and I talk about the RISK people will face in retirement and one of the Major Risk is TAXES (among others).

There are 2 types of income in retirement. Income for the things you NEED. Which are the necessities like a place to live, food, clothing, insurance, etc. Then there is Income for the things you WANT, such as travel, 2nd home, hobbies, volunteer, see children and grandchildren, etc. In other words, do the thing you were unable to do because you were working 40 plus hours a week.

For many people, social security is about 30% of their retirement income and that typically provides the income you NEED to cover the basics. So, to maximize the income for the things you WANT you have to be conscience of the risk in retirement with one of them being taxes.

Taxes are going to be a constant no matter what your income is. The National Debt is out of control and sits at \$32 Trillion (with a T) and growing. Our government can't sustain that debt without raising taxes. They need to generate more revenue because I don't believe they will be cutting spending. So, raising taxes, unfortunately, will most likely be the consequence of dealing with our high national debt. Plan on higher tax rates even if your income is lower in retirement than while you are working.

If you are fortunate to have any significant amount of money in a ROTH IRA or ROTH 401-k you are to be congratulated because you have neutralized the government on ever being taxed on that money again. The problem is that most people either don't or can't get enough money into a ROTH type plan due to certain limitations. Most people

have their retirement money in Pretax retirement plans (IRA's or 401-k's) which are just TAX DEFFERED plans. The government is waiting with great anticipation to tax that money when you take it out during retirement. And with the high probability that tax rates will be going up in the future the government will get a bigger share of those dollars. The tax amount will be 5 to 10 times more than the little saving you obtained when you were contributing to those plans when you were in a low bracket.

So, ROTH Conversions have become very popular for the well informed and people "in the know". People who are aware of the strategies that are preparing themselves to Maximize their Retirement Savings by minimizing their taxes.

The catch on ROTH Conversions is that when you convert your traditional IRA or 401-k you need to pay the taxes on the amount you convert. There are strategies people use called "Tax Bracket" management, meaning they convert certain amounts over several years to keep themselves in the same tax bracket they are currently in while they are still working. Or start converting right after they retire when their income is lower. So, they pay the taxes at a much lower rate today and thus reduce their tax burden by saving thousands of dollars over the long term.

The above is a very common strategy, however I have another strategy where we can get the taxes paid with "other people's money" (OPM). We have a method using a

Master **Your Money**

By Mike Corrigan

CASH Bonus Annuity where we can get the insurance company to pay some or all of the income taxes on funds that you convert from a Traditional IRA to a ROTH IRA.

By using a Fixed Indexed Annuity that has a cash bonus on your initial deposit it will allow you to use the bonus to pay the tax when you convert some of the funds in the annuity.

The strategy is doing Internal PARTIAL ROTH conversions over the course of a few years in a Fixed Index Annuity that has a cash bonus feature. Here is how it works. Let's say you have \$200,000 in a traditional IRA, and you want to convert \$50,000 of it to a ROTH IRA. By transferring the \$200,000 into Fixed Index Annuity IRA with a 7% bonus you would receive a \$14,000 cash bonus. If your tax \$50,000 of those funds you would be required to pay \$10,000 in taxes. So, you have the insurance company pay the \$10,000 in taxes from the \$14,000 bonus and your account value is still \$204,000. Brillant Idea!

If you are familiar with Fixed Index Mike Corrigan Annuities (which I wrote about last month) you would be aware that they have options to link your interest earnings to your funds based on only the positive increase in one or more indexes. So, you can't lose your funds on deposit even in a down market. If the index is down from one year to the next your principle is protected, and you would just get 0% for that year. No loss.

One of the other unique features with Fixed Index Annuities is they have index options that have

multiplier participation rates (you need to learn about how these work). The way a multiplier works is whatever the growth is on the index you would then receive a multiple of

that growth. So, if your index growth from one year to the next is 10% and your multiplier was 150%, then your account would be credited with 15%.

You now can convert another \$50,000 in year 2 and use the growth on your account to pay the taxes. Then you just rinse and repeat each year you have positive growth on your account and continue to covert year after year. Pretty soon your ROTH account will have grown and be all tax free. Any growth or distributions from that account over time will never subject to taxation again.

This is a very efficient strategy to have your taxes paid by "other people's money" when you convert IRA or 410-k account to a ROTH, particularly if you are 55 to 68 years bracket is 20%, and you converted of age and have enough time before you actually need to take distributions to support your retirement lifestyle.

> If you would like to evaluate to see if this is a good fit for you, please call or e-mail our office. I would be happy to send you information.

Corrigan Financial Services, Inc. 708-215-5100 Mike@corriganfs.com

KITCHEN PARTY CEILI RADIO

9pm Central WICR FM 88.7 www.wicronline.org. Monday 4pm Central on **WXTF 97.9 FM** in Harrisville, Michigan, Fri. 6:30 am Central on Blues & Roots Radio, bluesandrootsradio.com



Celebrate Samhain With Kathy Cowan

worlds of fairy and mortal; the living and the dead; spirit and body; the sacred and Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 730 pm in the profane; magic and the mundane on the Recital Hall at NEIU. Enter at 3701 W the Celtic New Year. Come hear Kathy Bryn Mawr, or 3600 W Foster. Park in lot Cowan's Celebrate Samhain concert - F, Fine Arts building on east side of the

The Veil is very thin between the ghosts, changlings and so much more with a fairy host of guest artists - at NEIU on eerie songs, poems and stories of fairies, lot. Free and open to the public.



Nimble Thimbles Help Santa

For the fourth year in a row, the Christmas stockings for overseas military Nimble Thimbles sewing group is making personnel. They will be donated to



Operation Support Our Troops out of and skills, they meet Tuesday and/ Naperville, Illinois. The stockings will be filled with small items, like personal for quilting, sewing, knitting, crochet, needs and snacks.

Thimbles and contribute with your time a message for Nimble Thimbles.

or Saturday mornings at the Center,, needlepoint and tatting. Call the If you would like to join Nimble Center at 773-282-7035, x10, and leave

29



The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago

SAVE THE DATE – DECEMBER 1, 2023 FOR THE IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB **ANNUAL LUNCHEON**

The Irish Fellowship Club will host the annual President's Christmas Luncheon on Friday, December 1 at the Chicago Hilton on Michigan Avenue. As President Bob Flood states, "The Christmas Luncheon is a wonderful opportunity for our members and guests to celebrate their Irish heritage and begin the Christmas season. I look forward to an afternoon of great fellowship!"

The Luncheon traditionally honors the outgoing President. Says Executive Director Kathy Taylor, "Bob Flood has been a wonderful President for the Irish Fellowship. It is our pleasure to recognize him for his years of dedication and service to the Club and Foundation." As all Irish Fellowship events, the Luncheon provides important funding for the IFC Foundation which makes grants to Catholic high schools in the Chicagoland area and Irish cultural organizations.

The Luncheon is the kick-off of the Christmas season in Chicago as the Irish Fellowship Club welcomes its members and guests for cocktails at 11:15am and luncheon at 12:15pm. The afternoon will continue with Irish and Christmas music in the Normandie Lounge. Tables of 10 will be \$1250 and individual tickets \$125. Reservations will be available on the Irish Fellowship Club website beginning October 15, www.irishfellowshipclub.com.



2023 Irish Fellowship Club President, Bob Flood

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SEPTEMBER 2023 ANSWERS Crosswords by Myles Mellon

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⁶⁴ D	I	S	S	Е	С	Т		⁶⁵ R	Е	М	Υ			

ACROSS

- 1. Caribbean music genre
- 4. Iconic one-named Irish singer
- 8. Marsh plant
- 13. Spigot
- 14. Patron saint of Norway
- 15. Ankle injury
- 16. "...__ quit!"- 2 words 17. Arm bone
- 18. High King of Ireland, goes with 47 across- 3 words

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- 21. Hawaiian feasts
- 23. Tree with pods
- 24. Without (French)
- 25. Suffix for percent 28. Graduation candidate
- 31. Without end
- 33. Secret meeting
- 35. Sagittarius and Virgo, e.g.
- 36. Mamma Mia singers
- 39. Bunsen burners' kin
- 19.Mrs. Marcos of the Philippines 42. Guitarist and founder of Led Zeppelin, Jimmy
 - 43. "Million Dollar Baby"
 - director, first name 45. Entertainment center
 - component, 2 words
 - 47. See 18 across
 - 50. More inexplicable
 - 53. Slalom maneuver
 - 54. Truncheon
 - 56. Did the math
 - 58. African antelope
 - 59. Sham
 - 60. Truck
 - 63. _ and proper
 - 65. Cows chew this
 - 66. Angers
 - 67. Kind of appetizer platter
 - 68. Electrocardiograph, abbr.
 - 69. Flagrant
 - 70. Dollar bills
 - 71. Bad grade

DOWN

- 1. Stiff-upper-lip type
- 2. Destinies
- 3. Per person
- 4. Lady's bedroom
- 5. Mexican pot
- 6. Art photographer Goldin
- 7. Racecourses
- 8. Mr. and Mrs.
- 9. Slips
- 10. Farm mother
- 11. Angelina's title role in a
- 1998 biopic
- 12. Letter abbreviation
- 15. Skimpy
- 20. Tropical shrub
- 22. Emirates, for short
- 25. 'Young Frankenstein' woman
- 26. Singer k. d.
- 27. "... or ___!" 29. "___ Como Va" (1971
- Santana hit)
- 30. Letters after Q
- 32. Scary beach current
- 34. Letters that explode
- 36. Peak
- 37. Lesage hero Gil _
- 38. Popular pens
- 40. Relative of blvd., abbr.
- 41. Compass point
- 44. Box-office buys
- 46. Dutch philosopher who wrote "The Praise of Folly"
- 48. Engine sounds
- 49. Kitchen measure, abbr.
- 51. Brought forth
- 52. Bring down
- 55. Mud bather
- 57. Duck 58. Arena shouts
- 59. Organ tube
- 60. Express love for
- 61. Repayment rate, abbr. 62. Active duty entertainers,
- in short 64. Vie for office









PARK RIDGE OFFICE IN @

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | CHICAGO

Safety Net Hospital CEO and Godfather of Chicago's Mobile Healthcare Programs Adds To His Family... and This One is Pink!!

By Nikia McGee

On Chicago's far Southside, the person some call an "Unapologetic Hospital where Egan developed Irish American" is trading in his favorite green for "passion pink" this October to expand his mission- White, so many years ago, we

and Founder of the Chicago Irish and it changed my healthcare Brotherhood, established in 1996, and President and CEO of The we would alter the lives of many New Roseland Community Hospital kids with what we achieved. This since 2013, will unveil a Mobile achievement created a feeling in Mammography Unit in October in an my heart that there was so much

effort to combat the rising breast cancer morbidity rates for African-American women on the Southside of Chicago.

The New Roseland Community Hospital made local, national, and international headlines during the height of the COVID Pandemic due to Egan's dynamic leadership and the creation of the first drive-through and walk-up COVID testing programs on the Southside. Overcoming the tremendous obstacles of a lack of funding and staffing, the Safety Net Hospital was able to test over 80,000 people.

"We were the tip of the sword in the battle against COVID in the communities we lovingly serve," Egan said. "Now we are ready to bring the fight to breast cancer by creating one of the most aggressive and coordinated early detection and treatment programs in Chicago."

During his decade of service, Egan faced the

challenge of inheriting \$35,000,000 more to be done." in debt, a political stalemate that almost ceased funding to all hospitals in Illinois, a cyberattack, and an ever-changing healthcare in the form a full-service dental funding landscape.

"Never give up is our mantra," Egan said. "Some Englishman had a version of that saying, but we've day of the dental van ribbon cutting perfected it."

The New Roseland Community Hospital is a 134-bed Safety Net were there to see the unveiling of Hospital that was founded in 1924. the dental van and I introduced the Egan was tapped by then Illinois program as my fifth child." Governor Pat Quinn to restructure This month, Egan leaked the the debt-saddled hospital that was news that his "sixth child" was on on the verge of closing in 2013.

"There will never be an easy day at a Safety Net Hospital," Egan said. "When the alarm clock goes off it's the sound of another round in a fight that will never end. You either believe in the mission or you simply will not last another round."

As a servant leader, Egan received the Neighborhood Hero Award from Roseland's most respected leader and CNN Hero, Diane Latiker, and her Kids Off The Block organization in June, 2023. Egan has also received the Far South Community Action Council Humanitarian Award (2018), Chicago State University's Leaders In one person. We make sacrifices and Motion Award (2023) and during his fight battles so we can help future time as Vice President at Norwegian American Hospital, was awarded the Youth Service Project Community

Service Award (2013).

It was at Norwegian American his passion for mobile medicine. "Standing with my mentor, Jesse cut the ribbon on the Care-A-Tim Egan (pictured), Chairman Van program in Humboldt Park career," Egan said. "We knew

life - service to others. He links parents and loved listening to their that passion to his Irish heritage musical Irish brogues. They sang and longtime dedication to sports. After a 4-year college basketball career, Egan began a rugby journey that didn't please the nuns at Mary that took him all over the world, including two tours across Ireland. Although he grew up on the West create the Chicago Irish Brotherhood Side of Chicago and Cicero playing and during its tenure, the organization 16-inch softball during his summers away from basketball, rugby took Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Illinois him to Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Figi, France, Spain and New Zealand.

Ireland, however, is where Egan's Mercy Home for Boys and Girls,

me songs, taught me poems and I learned some jokes and limericks Queen of Heaven School."

Pride in his Irish roots led Egan to has raised charitable funds for the Fire Safety Alliance Youth Burn Camp, Father Flanagan's Boys Town,



In 2014, as President and CEO of Roseland that "so much more" came rolling into the Southside mobile with two operatories that has served thousands of kids, seniors, and veterans. "On the Mr. White was standing by my side again," Egan said. "My four sons

the way and this one would be pink. Grants awarded by the Washington Square Healthcare Foundation and the Michael Reese Research & Education Foundation (MRREF) have funded Fuji 3D mammography units for inside the hospital and on the newly created Mammo Mobile. "A life without passion is a slow way to freeze to death," Egan said. "If we can save one woman's life with a mammogram, that woman may turn around and make the difference in someone else's life. In my healthcare career and in my life, it's never about just helping generations."

Egan has steadfastly relied upon passion to power his mission in

heart lies outside of the Southside Misericordia and many other well of Chicago. While Egan has several titles including 2nd Ward Democratic Medical District Commissioner and and Residents' Association, one title means the most: Father. Egan's sons' Wedge Donovan (20), Tadgh Liam (19) and twins Chance Connor (12)

Wedge is a sophomore at University Hunger Striker Remembrance. College Dublin making Egan's travels of 2023.

hailed from Leighlinbridge, County Carlow. His grandfather, Thomas were executed." Conran, was a member of the Irish Republican Army. Thomas' discharge be hosting a fundraiser for the orders are a family heirloom. His new Mammo Van on Thursday, grandparents emigrated to Chicago through Canada and set up residence on Chicago's Westside. A framed 10 p.m. For sponsorship and ticket picture of the 1933 Chicago Gaelic information, please email nglenn@ Athletic Association Champions featuring Egan's grandfather hangs above a fireplace in Egan's home.

"I loved Ireland before I ever knew where it was on a map," Egan said. "My parents both worked very hard to take care of our family. So, I spent a lot of time with my mother's laughter."

deserving institutions.

Egan and the C.I.B. have hosted Committee person, Roseland tours to Ireland and organized events in Chicago for the first Commission Secretary, and Board female President of Ireland, member of the Old Town Merchants Mary Robinson, as well as helping promote a docudrama about the 1916 Uprising: A Terrible Beauty. In September, Egan represented Irish Patriot Kieran Doherty at an event and Cormac Conran (12) are his life hosted at Chicago's Gaelic Park during the 42nd Anniversary 1981

Said Egan, "I am a student of to Ireland more than cultural but Irish History. I am driven by my paternal, and easier now that Egan Grandfather's service and the obtained his Irish Citizenship in May sacrifices of Irish patriots throughout history. I get the chills every time Egan's maternal grandparents I'm in Kilmainham walking into the 'yard' where the leaders of 1916

> The New Roseland Hospital will October 26th at the Tinley Park Convention Center from 6 p.m. to roselandhospital.org.

> "Irish hero Bobby Sands said; "Our revenge will be the laughter of our children", and I believe our Safety Net Hospital will help generations to come," Egan said. "I hope my children's children get to hear that

CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

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

A Chairde - Greetings from Gaelic Park

When we created our pages for the September issue of this paper, we had no idea how Irish Fest 2023 would turn out. We had three years with no festival, and after 30+ years of successful Memorial Weekend festivals, we moved our event to August. I'm very pleased to say that Irish Fest 2023 exceeded expectations. Thank you!! Many thanks to all our brilliant entertainers, our valuable sponsors, our festival music/culture/theatre/logistics organizers, our wonderful volunteers, our engaged vendors, our diligent security team, and our devoted staff. And a special thanks to all of you who came out and had a great time. Your enthusiasm was infectious, and it inspired all of us who were involved in presenting the festival. For those of you who couldn't join us for Irish Fest 2023, I encourage you to check out the videos and photos on social media, and speak to your friends that did attend.

On a personal note, it hasn't been long, but I already miss Mary Riordan. Mary was an officer on our board for over 30 years, an Irish radio legend, a key county association volunteer, and a wonderful friend to so many of us. I join my fellow board members and our staff in remembering Mary and the legacy she left behind, and send best wishes to her husband Matt and all of Mary's family and friends.

Is mise le meas, Bill O'Sullivan













Save the date! IRISH FEST 2024 AUGUST 23-25

Upcoming Events

Visit chicagoggelicaark com and follow us on social media for more information on uncoming events

October 1st - GAELIC PARK BOOK CLUB

October 4th - MONTHLY MUSICAL LUNCHEON

October 5th · MAGGIE SPEAKS

October 11th - THE GOLDEN GAELICS

IRISH COMMUNITY SERVICES' GATHERING
October 18th - IRISH COUNTRY JIVE LESSONS BEGIN

October 27th - FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY

October 27th - MYLES MCVEIGH & THE HOYLE BROTHERS BARN DANCE

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

The Carraig Beer Garden Live Music

October 5th - JIMMY KEANE & FRIENDS - IRISH TRAD MUSIC SESSION

October 6th - RAY GAVIN

October 7th - THREE MEN IN KILTS

October 13th - LIAM DURKIN

October 14th - WHISKEY & HARMONY

October 19th - JIMMY KEANE & FRIENDS - IRISH TRAD MUSSIC SESSION

October 20th - BERNIE GLIM October 21st - KIERAN BYRNE October 27th - GERRY HAUGHEY





Aly and Jack by Holmes Photo and Film

Get Married at Gaelic Park

Our property offers many excellent locations for indoor and outdoor wedding ceremonies and celebrations. We have beautiful surroundings for portraits with your new spouse and photos with your nearest and dearest!

End the best day ever dancing the night away on the dance floor or stopping in The Carraig for your afterparty!



Interested in having your perfect day at Chicago Gaelic Park?
Email banquet@chicagogaelicpark.org or call (708)860-3023 to inquire.

WIN A CHICAGO HOME RAFFLE

Support Gaelic Park Charities

We hope to ensure future generations can share in Ireland's cultural heritage at Chicago Gaelic Park, including its national games—through an upgrade of the sports fields and adjacent parking facilities—while also strengthening other charitable endeavors.

Our annual Super Fundraiser is on hiatus in 2023, so we hope you will support this special Raffle!





GAELIC PARK CHARITIES WIN A CHICAGO HOME RAFFLE 6119 W. 147th St. · Oak Forest, Illinois 60452 · (708) 687-9323

6119 W. 147th St. · Oak Forest, Illinois 60452 · (708) 687-9323

Drawing: March 24, 2024 · Winner need not be present Donation: \$100.00 per ticket



ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN:

A NEW CONSTRUCTION, SINGLE-FAMILY HOME IN THE MOUNT GREENWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD OF CHICAGO (\$650,000.00 EST. VALUE)

OR

\$450,000.00

Ticket purchase benefits Gaelic Park Charities, a registered 50l(c)(3) non-profit, and constitute acceptance of the Raffle's Terms 5 Conditions found at chicagogaelicparkhouseraffle.com. Either prize selected by the winner subject to all taxes and fees.

Cut out this raffle ticket and mail it in for your chance to win!

CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

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

Planned Giving Seminar

The Irish immigrant story of poverty, lack of opportunity, forced emigration has been well documented and for most emigrants to the great United States of America, the story has a happy ending. Irish men and women have been coming to America since the founding of this country, the Irish emigrant assimilated very well and they have become leaders in all areas of life. It is a challenge for all emigrants to hold onto their national music, dance, national games and every aspect of their heritage while immersing themselves in the potpourri of American culture.

In the late 1970s, many men and women were very passionate about preserving our games and culture, they were tired of renting park district fields and renting rooms for dances and meetings in different locations. Those men and women inspired others and together they purchased 9 acres in Oak Forest and constructed a hall and a playing field with voluntary labor. Many Irish men and women are rightfully proud of the Gaelic Park they have created, it is now a beautiful sprawling 55 acre complex with spaces for all men, women and children to celebrate their heritage. Most Irish Americans in Chicagoland will have a photo of a wedding, banquet, a birthday party, a meeting, a game of football, hurling or a Festival in their home. We are passionate about ensuring that the generations to come will have the same opportunity to meet people of Irish Heritage.

Recently, a current member and past director approached the Gaelic Park Executive Board with a commitment that Chicago Gaelic Park is a part of his family's estate and frankly it inspired us to believe that there may be other men and women with a lifetime of happy memories and association with Gaelic Park or who believe in our mission of preserving our games, music, dance and drama who could benefit from such a relationship.

Gaelic Park is hosting an educational seminar on **Thursday**, **November 16th at 11am** with three speakers with knowledge and experience in planned giving. Lunch will be served to registered attendees after the planned 45 minute presentation. There will be no selling or solicitations at this seminar which is designed to be educational. You can pre register by clicking the link at chicagogaelicpark.com or by calling the front office at 708-687-9323. The planned speakers are Paddy Homan, Eileen Kerlin Walsh and Ed Hagerty, who are all well known in the Irish Community and are experienced in all matters pertaining to planned giving.









UPCOMING CONCERTS & EVENTS



Maggie Speaks THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5TH



Myles McVeigh and The Hoyle Brothers Barn Dance + Costume Party FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27TH



Libido Funk Circus SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH



Murder Mystery Dinner SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH



One of These Nights SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD



A Very Very Cassie and Maggie Christmas SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD



Celtic Angels Christmas
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

SCAN HERE FOR TICKETS

We have an unbelievable concert lineup this fall and winter. Visit our website for more information about each artist and to purchase tickets! You can also call us at (708)687-9323 to purchase tickets.



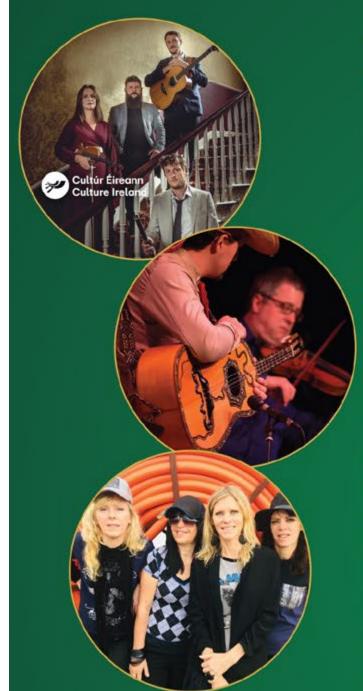
IRISH american heritage center

4626 N. Knox Ave. Chicago, IL 60630 773-282-7035 x10 irish-american.org ⊕⊚□

Enjoy a show - or more than one - at the Irish American Heritage Center! GO TO IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION.

IAHC members always save money on tickets! Call 773-282-7035, extension 10 for the member discount code.

Prices do not include Eventbrite fees.



THE JEREMIAHS OCTOBER 28 | 7:00PM

Welcome The Jeremiahs on their first visit to the Irish American Heritage Center. The Jeremiahs combine traditional and contemporary sounds to create their own brand of Urban Folk music.

Tickets are \$20 for IAHC members | General Admission \$25.

LOS SAN PATRICIOS: THE IRISH SOLDIERS OF MEXICO

NOVEMBER 17 7:00PM

Los San Patricios: The Irish Soldiers of Mexico is back for another triumphant performance in the Mayfair Theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center! Join Sones de Mexico and the Irish Music School of Chicago for a celebration of the St. Patrick's Brigade and their place in history set to music!

Tickets are \$30 for IAHC members | General Admission \$35.

SAVE THE DATE! ST. PATRICK'S DAY 2024 WITH THE SCREAMING ORPHANS! MARCH 17 | 7:00PM

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with this unbelievable show! Chicago favorites The Screaming Orphans will be in the Mayfair Theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center on Sunday, March 17th! Don't miss the opportunity to see these superstars! The pub will be open and the craic will be on!

DISCOUNTED TICKETS \$25 BEFORE DECEMBER 1ST with promo code ORPHANSPRE | \$35 after December 1.

QUILT RAFFLE It's the perfect Christmas gift for someone special!



2023's exquisite work of art "Diamonds in the Rough" is ready for the annual raffle. Don't miss your chance to win this beautiful 82" square, all-cotton, washable quilt. No need to look for them in person at the IAHC. You can purchase your tickets right here!

This beautiful quilt was custom-quilted, block by block. A quilt like this, hand-made by our very own Nimble Thimbles, would cost at least \$500 if purchased outright!

The drawing is on December 4th.

Cut t	his or	der fo	rm out	and	check	the	box	that	shows
how	many	ticket	ts you v	voul	d like:				

☐ 2 tickets \$10 ☐ 3 tickets \$15 ☐ 5 tickets \$20

Checks payable to the IAHC and mail to:

Total number of tickets purchased: _

4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, IL 60630 Or visitirish-american.org, to purchase tickets or donate online

NAME
NAME

PHONE

EMAIL

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members and Friends of the Irish American Heritage Center,

Thank you to everyone who attended and volunteered at our Halfway to St. Patrick's Festival and annual golf outing fundraisers in September. As we enter the Fall season, please

plan to visit the Center and enjoy the variety of classes and events that we host here.

The Jeremiahs take the stage on October 28th at 7:00 PM. The have won numerous awards including Album of the Year and Best Male Vocalist by LiveIreland for their second Album, "The Femme Fatale of Maine." The band continues the tradition of great songs and great tunes that hearken to an older time, but sound thoroughly modern. The band's tour is supported by Culture Ireland, which helps bring the best of Irish culture to the world and to our Center! Larry Groce, host of NPR Music's "Mountain Stage" wrote, "Great songs, poignant, emotional vocals, masterful guitar and fiddle/flute conversations that work like fine embroidery – no wonder critics love them. You will too!"

I want to introduce you to a new member of our team, Lauren McTigue Nerad, our new Volunteer coordinator. As many of you know, volunteers are the cornerstone of our center. They purchased the building and spent countless hours making it into a uniquely beautiful Irish cultural center. As I introduced visitors from Ireland or other parts of the US to our center, they are consistently amazed at this place, which is a gift from these founders and volunteers to future generations. We need new volunteers to keep the Irish American Heritage Center thriving and growing. Next year, our building will be 100 years old. Unsurprisingly, we have many needs for capital improvement and maintenance. In addition to our building needs, volunteers are also critical to the success of our events. Finally, volunteers are the heart of the center and make it a fun place to be! Please reach out to Lauren at volunteers@irishahc.org if you or your company is interested in volunteering so that she can help match your talents and time to the needs of our center.

Best Regards,

Tom Chambers

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE OUR 2nd annual halfway to st. patrick's day celebration A SUCCESS! SEE YOU IN SIX MONTHS!









IRELAND 2024 RAFFLE

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Irish American News WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREEN! OCTOBER 2023



Reflections Through Time

Over the years I have written entries in Diaries of stuff that comes into my head, and also what I see and observe as I walk around the wonderful Connemara landscape. The following are a few of these entries, and I hope you enjoy them.

24th May 2015

in the back garden for the birds. A male blackbird came along and started to eat. Some smaller birds, mostly sparrows and finches, flew in and began to eat also. After the blackbird has eaten some of the flakes, he flew off. The blackbird could have eaten all of the flakes and leave nothing for the smaller birds. But he didn't, he only ate what he needed. No more. The frog does not drink all the water in the pond in which he lives.

1st June 2015

It was a very windy and stormy day, coming back from a walk with our Golden Retriever, Alfie. There were sheep and lambs in a field at the end of the boreen. Most of them were getting lashed by the incessant wind and rain that is so prevalent in these Western

lands. I noticed that one little lamb had moved away from the rest and taken shelter under a ledge near a holly tree. Why did this particular lamb do that, and not the others? In life, we have Innovators who think differently to the rest of us. Not everybody can innovate, but those that can have the gift to implement great changes for our civilization.

23rd July 2015

When Tommy from Inverin I put out some oatmeal flakes was painting the house a few years ago, a neighbour's dog called Sheeba wandered into the garden. Sheeba was a border collie and a frequent visitor to the house. I threw a small stone into the adjoining field for Sheeba to retrieve. The grass at this time of the year was quite high in the field and she spent a long time searching. She was unsuccessful on this occasion, but did not come back empty-handed. She brought me back a stick instead of the stone! It taught me a little lesson that I used afterwards in my consultancy business. There is wisdom for us here. If the customer doesn't have an interest in what you are selling them, try offering them something else. Never give up.

8th August 2015

were in the Hodson Bay Hotel out, but as he got near to the in Athlone to celebrate Fr. slave, he backed off sheepishly Sean Cunneys 60th year in the priesthood. When the meal was over, his brother Ab stood up to say a few words and started off with the following anecdote...

It was an afternoon in the heady days of the Roman Empire. The Coliseum was packed, the Emperor was in attendance, and the Christian slave was about to be thrown to the lions. The lion came out of the pen to devour the slave, came close to him, but then backed away with his tail between his legs. A bigger lion was then rolled out and the same thing happened, he backed away. Finally, a ferocious lion who had been

One Saturday afternoon we starved for over a week bounded



again like the other two lions. When it happened, for the third time, the Emperor had no choice but to set the man free. As the slave started to walk to freedom, a Standard Bearer who had been in attendance for the duration of the extraordinary event noticed that the slave had whispered something to each of the lions.

'What did you say to them?' inquired the Standard Bearer.

'Very simple, said the Christian slave. I told them if they eat me, they are going to have to make an after dinner speech' Works every time.

'Until you value yourself, you won't value your time. Until you value your time, you will not do anything with it' - M. Scott Peck.

Naperville Irish Fest's New Location a Big Success Now in its third year, Center, a facility designed O'Dowd, Naperville Irish Fest

Naperville Irish Fest once to house and showcase the again brought the spirit of Naperville Municipal Band, Ireland to the heart of the and the lush, tree-covered western suburbs of Chicago. surroundings created an

With a lineup that blended enchanting setting, immersing traditional and contemporary attendees in the essence of Irish

Naperville Mayor Scott Wehrli; Marjorie O'Dowd, Fest Co-chair; Finnegan Ginalski; Terry O'Dowd, Fest co-chair; Tim Johnson, St. Patrick

Co-chair. "In the philanthropic spirit of the West Suburban Irish, some of the proceeds from the Fest will be donated to local charitable organizations, further helping our community."

The festival's grand commencement was marked by an opening ceremony graced by Pádraig Manning, Vice Consul, Consulate General of Ireland in Chicago; Naperville Mayor Scott Wehrli, members of the Naperville City Council, and representatives from the Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce. The Firefighters Highland Guard of Naperville, a staple at the Naperville St. Patrick's Day Parade, kicked off the ceremonial gathering and helped set the tone for the weekend's festivities. Notably, Terry O'Dowd was named the 2023 Naperville Irish Fest Grand Marshal.



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Opening Ceremonies: Pádraig Manning, Vice Consul, Consulate General of Ireland in Chicago; Marjorie O'Dowd, Fest Co-chair; Terry O'Dowd, Fest cochair; Naperville Mayor Scott Wehrli; Tim Johnson; Finnegan Ginalski

performances, and an intimate of downtown shopping and several local Irish and Celtic atmosphere, the family- dining, and easy access via musical acts, including The friendly festival proved to the BNSF train, sealed the be an exceptional cultural deal on the new location and experience for all attendees.

of Irish culture took place picturesque Central Park, Naperville's vibrant downtown. since its inception. After two years at the Frontier Sports Complex in south Irish Fest not only continued to Fest also featured Emeralds Naperville, the Naperville Irish celebrate the rich tapestry of GAA Ladies Gaelic Football Fest's new location in Central Irish culture, but also nurtured hurling demos and two whiskey Park was a strategic move a sense of togetherness and tastings at Quigley's Irish that added to its charm. The cultural exchange within Pub, which is adjacent to the Naperville Community Concert the community," said Terry festival grounds.

Irish music, captivating dance traditions. The convenience helped to drive more than The two-day celebration 2,500 attendees over two days.

The brainchild of Terry and September 22-23 in the Marjorie O'Dowd, together, Three area Irish dance schools the O'Dowds have served as (Bentley Academy of Irish nestled in the heart of Naperville Irish Fest's co-chairs Dance, McNulty School of

Naperville Irish Fest featured Joyce Boys, The Boils, The Chicago Irish Band, Small Batch, The Chancers, Dirty Wellies, Whiskey Mick, and Larkin and Moran Brothers. Irish, and Hogan Irish Dance "In its third year, Naperville Academy) performed. The



Leaves are falling, Autumn Cavan is unique in that it is is calling it's that time of year the only town established again where we need to get by a native Irish family, The

the candy ready. As most of you know us Irish invented Vikings or the Normans. Halloween about 2,000 years ago! Halloween is fun, tasty existed on Earth, it would be cage, and the other in the and the ritual of holidays in Cavan. As you know I'm keeps us together.

worked over 50 years ago with the Bahamas or Switzerland a man from Cavan, we worked you could discuss this all day. in Kilkenny. His name was John O'Reilly, he told me stories by drumlin countryside about how his family grew flax scattered with many lakes & loneliness. on their farm. I don't think hills. Cavan is the source of today flax is as prominent in many rivers. Shannon Pot on often not satisfied with our Ireland as it was years ago. the slopes of Cuilcagh is the own situation, and envy others The population of Cavan is source of the River Shannon. just over 80,000, very similar Cavan is a lake land County to Bloomington or Cicero, IL. and meant to contain 365 It is in the province of Ulster. Cavan means the hollow and the year) Some famous rivers give me a call at its nickname is Breffni. Co. in Ireland include: Shannon,

For the young festivalgoers, there was an array of children's activities, including a bounce house and playground, face painting, wood-working crafts courtesy of Home Depot, shamrock crafts, traditional Irish storytelling, and a kids' parade around the festival grounds. Fest attendees could also take a stroll through the Irish Village to explore a variety of Irish offerings.

"It was important that the Naperville Irish Fest promote Irish heritage and culture to remind people about where they came from, said Marjorie O'Dowd, Naperville Irish Fest Co-chair. "We worked hard to ensure that Naperville Irish Fest would not only in be entertaining, but would also educate visitors about the rich heritage of Ireland."

West Suburban Irish (www. WSIrish.org) is a nonprofit organization that's dedicated to bringing the rich Irish culture and tradition to thousands of people in the Western suburbs of Chicago through parades, charitable giving, and cultural events.



O'Reilly's, meaning not by the

I heard once that if heaven from Kilkenny so I might think that its own plight was bad, This month it's Co. Cavan. I differently. Some might say

> The county is characterized lakes. (one for each day of if you're from Cavan, please

Foyle, Boyne, Erne, Moy, Liffey, Slaney, Lee and the three sister rivers are Nore (Kilkenny), Barrow and Suir.

A notable person from Cavan was Archbishop of Dublin John McQuaid. Canan's GAA colors are blue and white. If you like music, there is a famous song called, Cavan girl.

I will end with this story, "Don't Envy Others."

Two tigers - one was in a wilderness. Both thought that and each admired the other's situation and finally decided to swap positions. Not long after, both tigers died, one of hunger, and another died of

Morale of the story: We are when other people are actually envious of your situation.

If you have any questions or

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news, obits, comedy, houli-town, life!

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It is the month of Halloween, and things are still pretty dark here in Hollywood.

Almost all movies and television shows are still not filming, save for the ones that have waivers or are not included in the strike, such as reality television and soap operas. The Drew Barrymore Show seemed to ignore all that however, and started filming again recently, but we will have to see what effect that has (if any).

There may be some light at the end of the tunnel, as the studios are about to go back to the negotiating table with SAG-AFTRA, the actors' union, but I think it will be a while before everything is resolved, and the WGA (the writers) come to an agreement. No matter what happens, make no mistake: Al is not going away.

There are still plenty of opportunity to see Irish stars on the big screen however.

There's Cillian Murphy still smashing box office records in Oppenheimer, while more recently you can see Belfast-born Kenneth Branagh directing (and playing Hercule Poirot) alongside County Down's Jamie Dornan in *A Haunting in Venice*, which is an adaptation of a short story by Agatha Christie.

The always-working Ballymena hardman Liam Neeson is on screens and streaming in his latest actioner *Retribution*, and if you are sharp-eyed you can catch Galway's own Nicola

Coughlan from "Derry Girls" in the opening minutes of monster hit Barbie, playing one of the many Barbies.

Talking of "Derry Girls," its creator Lisa McGee has had a new eight-part series commissioned for Channel 4. Titled "How to Get to Heaven From Belfast," the comedy-thriller will follow three women - Saoirse, Robyn, and Dara - who meet

up at the wake of an old friend and soon "find themselves embroiled in a dark and twisted mystery" that will take them to the mythic wildness of rural Donegal and right across Ireland as they attempt to solve a puzzle.

McGee said she "cannot wait to share these flawed funny women with everyone," but there's no word yet on shooting dates, nor who will be cast in the lead roles.

Elsewhere, despite American talent not being allowed to promote their movies due to the strike, film festivals are happening around the world at the moment, and West Belfast actress Geraldine Hughes recently premiered her latest work at the Venice International Film Festival in Italy.

"It's been a real dream come true," said the Divis woman, one of the producers of *In The Land of Saints and Sinners*, which stars Irish talent including Neeson, Ciarán Hinds, Jack Gleeson and Kerry Condon, who is back on the big screen after winning critical acclaim for her role in *The Banshees of Inisherin* last year.

Directed by Robert Lorenz and written by Mark Michael McNally and Terry Loane, the movie is set against the backdrop of "The Troubles" in 1974, and was filmed mostly in County Donegal and Dublin. Neeson plays the role of a newly-retired assassin who has, of course, been drawn into a deadly game of cat and mouse. It is due to be released in the fall.

This month also sees the BFI London

Film Festival in England, where *That They May Face The Rising Sun* will receive its World Premiere as part of the Journey strand.

Adapted from John McGahern's final novel, *That They May Face The Rising Sun* follows Joe (Barry Ward) and Kate Ruttledge (Anna Bederke), who have returned from London to live and work in the rural community near

where Joe grew up and find themselves mixed up in the life, loves and drama of the passing seasons.

Written by Éamon Little and Pat Collins, the film is produced by Tina O'Reilly for South Wind Blows and Brendan J. Byrne for Cyprus Avenue Films.

Also receiving its European premiere at London is *Baltimore*, a psychological thriller based around an actual armed raid in 1974, in which 19 masterpieces of art were stolen from one of Ireland's great houses - Russborough in Co. Wicklow.

The raid was masterminded by English Heiress Rose Dugdale in her efforts to

support the IRA, and the story follows her journey from privileged aristocrat to committed rebel, playing out over two days when she is hiding in a remote cottage with her two accomplices.

It is written and directed by Joe Lawlor and Christine Molloy, who noted that:

"(Baltimore's story) started to exert a powerful draw on us in how it embodied larger ideas to do with class, social inequality, and radicalization, as well as questions about identity, who we are, and how we find a place to belong."

Seniors: A Chance to Meet One Another at IAHC



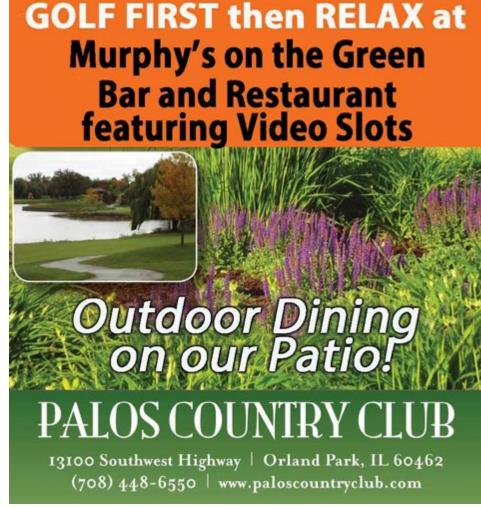
A strong community is all about connection! To help more community members get to know one another better, we're creating new opportunities for us all to gather!

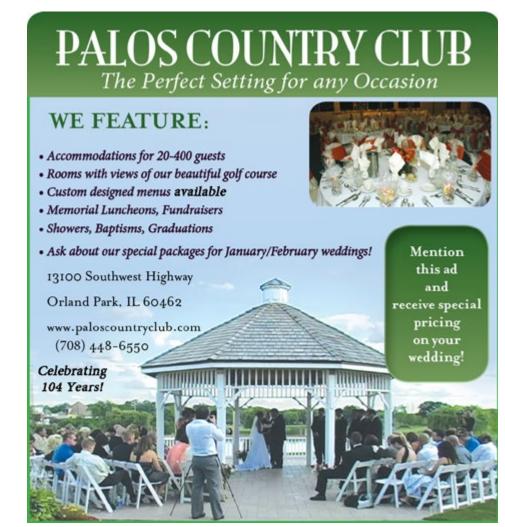
If you are a senior, on the second Saturday of each month, you're invited to our Saturday Socials at the Irish American Heritage Center (4626 N Knox Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630).

Maybe you're stopping by the gift shop to pick up some tea and sausage, maybe you're dropping off a family member at a cultural class, or maybe you've been looking for an excuse to come to the IAHC to connect with other community members. Whatever brings you to the Center, stop by and have a cup of tea and a chat while you're here!

The kettle will be brewing on the first floor between 11am and 1pm! We're looking forward to seeing you there!

SAT, October 14, SAT, November 11, and SAT December 16.





Imogen Poots

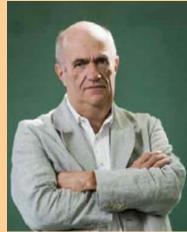


Irish Books, Arts, and Music Celebration!

Saturday November 18 iBAM! GALA AWARDS DINNER Honoring the best in Irish Culture and Heritage!

Colm Toibin was born on 30 May 1955. He is an Irish novelist, and short story writer, essayist, journalist, critic, playwright and poet.

Colm's first novel, The South, was published in 1990. The Blackwater Lightship was shortlisted for the Booker Prize.



Colm Tóibín, Literature

The Master (a was also shortlisted for the Manchester. He was Bay (2009), called Person of the Year fictionalized version Booker Prize and won the 2006 appointed Chancellor *Pure Magic* by Frank McCourt, and Proudly We Served: of the inner life International Dublin Literary of the University of is based on the history of her The Men of the USS Mason of Henry James) Award, securing for Toibin a Liverpool in 2017.

awards in the world. life.

His fellow artists elected him to 1944, became a nun Ireland Nobel"David Saturday Night Live! Cohen Prize in 2021.

bounty of thousands Our iBAM! Person of euro as it is one of of the Year has led a the richest literary varied and interesting

She was born in Aosdána and he won for 6 years, and then the biennial "UK and went on to write for

As an author and He also succeeded filmmaker, Mary Pat Martin Amis as Kelly has told various professor of stories connected to creative writing at Ireland. Her bestthe University of selling novel Galway Dr. Mary Pat Kelly

Irish-American family. Of Irish (1995), a portrayal of the Blood (2015) continues the saga. only African-American Irish Above All, the story of the sailors to take a World War Hollywood as a screenwriter rise of Ed Kelly to Mayor of II warship into combat, for Paramount and Columbia Chicago(1933-1947) and power nationally. She produced and was Belfast which won associate producer with Good directed award-winning PBS the CINE Golden Eagle. documentaries: To Live for Ireland (1986) a portrait of Nobel Peace title was published by She wrote the book and lyrics Prize winner John Hume and the Naval Institute Press in for the musical Abbys Song. political party he led; Home Away 1995. She wrote and from Home: The Yanks in Ireland directed the dramatic shelives on Manhattan's Upper (1992), a history of U.S. forces feature film Proud (2004), West Side with her husband, in N. Ireland during World War starring Ossie Davis in his app developer Martin Sheerin

nominee Stephen Rea, based on the USS Mason story. The film was selected by Tribeca and many other film festivals.

She wrote Martin Scorsese: The First Decade (1978) and Martin Scorsese: A Journey (1990); Good to Go: The Rescue of Scott O'Grady from Bosnia (1996); and a novel, Special Intentions (1997) based on her experiences as a nun on the West Side of Chicago. She is a frequent contributor to Irish America Magazine and has twice been named one of the Top 100 Irish Americans and one of the Top 100 Global Irish.

Mary Pat worked in whose first foreign port Pictures and in NYC as an Morning America (1976) and Her book of the same Saturday Night Live (1980-82).

Born and raised in Chicago, II with an accompanying book; last film role and Oscar from County Tyrone.



Eileen Dunne, Journalism

Eileen Dunne (born 28 April 1958 in Dublin) is a respected and recently retired Irish journalist, newsreader and presenter for Raidió Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ), Ireland's national radio and television station, where she presented the main TV news programs Six One News, Nine O'Clock News and One O'Clock News including all other news bulletins on both radio and television from 1980 to 2022.

She was the co-anchorwith Sharon Ní Bheoláin of RTÉ's flagship Nine O'Clock News and presented afternoon bulletins for RTÉ Radio 1.[1]

Dunne regularly featured on RTÉ coverage of major state occasions. In 2016, she was co-anchor with Bryan Dobson for the official state commemoration of the centenary of the 1916 Rising.

She is married to the actor Macdara Ó Fátharta with one son, Cormac.



Jimmy Keane, Music

Jimmy Keane was born to Irishspeaking parents from Connemara and Kerry. His father Jimmy Keane and emotionally was an old style sean-nós singer.

Playing the piano accordion, he capture the essence of won five consecutive All-Ireland titles. In the 1970s, he started his professional career with fellow All-Ireland fiddle champion Liz Carroll painting and inspiring and the duo was named All-Ireland women to live bigger, Senior Duet Champion in 1975.

In the 1980s, Robbie O'Connell and Mick Moloney releasing the first recording of the iconic Irish song "There Were Roses" penned by Irish folk singer-songwriter Tommy Sands.

In the '80s, Keane collaborated with guitar great Dennis Cahill, and founded the group Bohola with Pat Broaders and Seán Cleland. Keane vibrantly colourful won "Male Musician of the Year" (2010), and "Male Musician of the buttery oils with a Decade" by Live Ireland & Irish contemporary finish. American News (2011).

Róisín O'Farrell has emerged as one of Ireland's most successful artists who is known for her vibrant resonant works that home, family, and the human spirit. She is all about two things: more meaningful, creative lives.

Born on the east coast of Ireland, Róisín O'Farrell's been nothing short of remarkable. Best known for her bright, paintings in textured, Her pieces often



Roisin O'Farrell, Visual Arts

artistic journey has feature light-filled period interiors, whimsical gatherings of Wellington (rain) boots, and charming china teacups, each painting telling a She believes that creativity unique story and inviting viewers should be nurtured, and to immerse themselves in a world she does that at her artist of vivid colours and captivating

Since her discovery in 2009, Róisín

O'Farrell's work has been exhibited in galleries across Ireland and the UK, with numerous sellout exhibitions and events in London, Edinburgh, Amsterdam, Barcelona, and the U.S. Her bold use of jewel-like colours and her ability to suggest rather than describe invites us to engage with her art on a deeply emotional level.

Róisín O'Farrell resides in Co. Wicklow, Ireland. Róisín is deeply committed to the art of teaching and nurturing creativity in others. She has many years of experience in giving workshops and teaching. retreats in Ireland, the USA.& Malta.

roisinofarrell.com

Gala Awards Dinner Tickets at <u>www.ibamchicago.com</u>









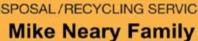




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