



Queen Kathleen
O'Malley McClowry 1947



Queen Sheila
McClowry Gallagher 1987

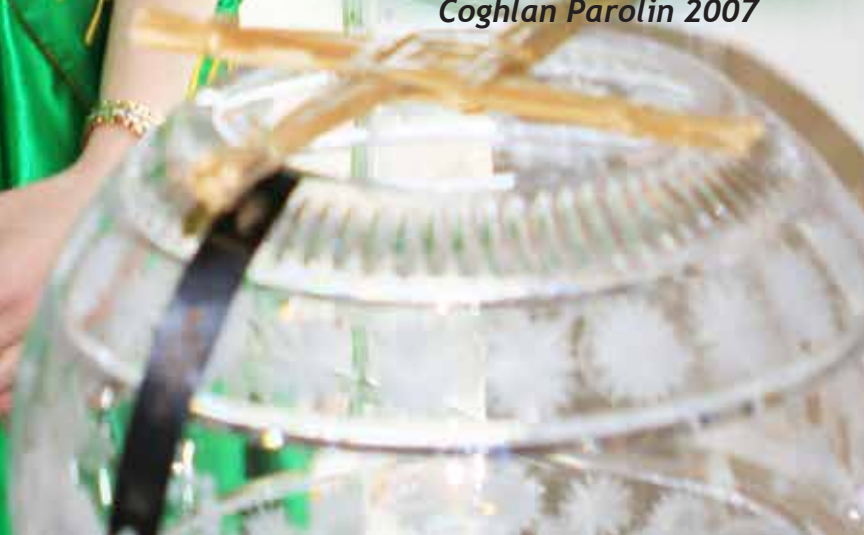


Queen's Court Maggie
Coghlan Parolin 2007

Kari McClowry,
St. Patrick's Day
Parade Queen 2020

Kari photo by
Cathy Curry Carlson

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- Flynn- experienced leader in local government
- Flynn- fiscally responsible, balanced budget every year
- Flynn- protecting the present, planning for the future of infrastructure today!
- Flynn- mom, consumer, taxpayer
- Flynn- daughter of Willie Joe and Patricia Casey, Ballyheigue, Co Kerry, married to Mark, Dundalk Co Louth for 29 years

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25TH ANNUAL ST. PAT’S PARTY

Please join the Mulliganeers on Saturday, March 7th as they host their 25th annual St. Pat’s Party. The event raises funds to help Chicagoland families and

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IUOE Local 150 Hall 6200 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525 6:30PM - preceded by a short mass at 5:45PM

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To purchase tickets or learn more, visit

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New Irish Poll Indicates Most Irish Support Extending Voting Rights to the Irish Abroad

By Billy Lawless, Senator for the Irish Diaspora

As you probably know, I have spent the last four years as Senator for the Global Irish advocating strongly for the rights of Irish people living overseas. There are very few Irish homes that haven’t been affected by emigration, so it’s a family issue for most of us.

I have been an ardent proponent from the outset for a referendum in Ireland to give the vote in Irish presidential elec-

tions to Irish nationals living overseas and in Northern Ireland. Check out this timely article below that details a new poll showing that a majority of Irish people now support extending voting rights to Irish nationals abroad. Whichever party assumes the reigns of power after the recent election should make this a priority for government. We owe it to our people, regardless of where they reside.

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The 2020 Election Ireland

Sinn Fein 24.5%; Fianna Fail 22.2%; Fine Gael 20.9%
Sinn Fein 37; Fianna Fail 38; Fine Gael 35; Greens 12.

A storm blew through the Irish political scene on February just as Atlantic storm Ciara was battering Ireland. In the General Election Sinn Fein polled more votes (535,595) than any other Irish political party. The final seat tally shows them one seat behind Fianna Fail. This as a result of the vagaries of Ireland's PR system, plus the tactical decision of Sinn Fein to run only one candidate in most constituencies. All but five of their forty two candidates were elected, with some of them racking up surpluses large enough to have delivered a second seat, surpluses that in some instances helped elect left wing candidates, giving the next Dail a distinctive left-of-centre hue, with for the first time the combined seats and votes for the traditional big two centre parties falling below 50%.

The country, politicians and pundits are drawing breath and wondering what happens next. Some commentators describe the results as seismic and as heralding the definitive end of the old two-party system based on civil war politics which has dominated Irish politics since the early days of the state. Maybe. That system's decline, which had been gradual, was given impetus by the 2008 Crash and has now been given a hefty shove. The people have spoken, hardly definitively, with no party garnering a 1/4 of the popular vote, but with a certain emphasis - change. The policies and politics of austerity, the steady-as-she-goes cautious approach, the official tolerance of the intolerable in terms of housing, homelessness and the health system have taken a battering. Now, the elected politicians must cobble together a government and an action program for that government; not easy tasks.

The polls got it close to right. Sinn Fein actually managed to better its high standing - just - while the dismal showings for Fine Gael



From the Motherland

By Sean Farrell



and Fianna Fail were replicated in the poll that mattered - the actual vote on Election Day. This less than 9 months after Sinn Fein was routed in Ireland's local elections, losing half its seats and seeing its vote share drop by a third to less than 10% and being badly mauled simultaneously in the European Parliamentary Elections. On 8 February several candidates who had polled a few 100 votes last May stormed home as poll toppers. Sinn Fein saw its share of the vote increase by 10.7%, while Fine Gael saw its vote drop by 4.7% and Fianna Fail by 2.1%.

It's clear that something dramatic happened to boost Sinn Fein. Its election manifesto was ambitious and populist, advocating inter alia cuts in personal and property taxes, a massive house-building program and increased taxes on companies and the rich in a program which was way above the potential available spending envelope adhered to by its rivals. This, combined with the fact that it was untainted by any of the blame for the 2008 Crash and the years of austerity presided over by Fine Gael (and Labour for 5 years) and shored up by Fianna Fail in the Confidence and Supply arrangement, was sufficient to convince enough voters to cause the swing. Promises from the other parties of jam tomorrow, amid cautionary tones about Brexit and economic uncertainty, signally failed to excite the electorate who saw only a worsening housing crisis, and a young generation unable to own their own property, the homeless sleeping in the streets and the scandalous condition of our health service.

Sinn Fein promised change and it worked. It ran a superb campaign focused on leader Mary Lou McDonald, who at fifty is short-odds to become Ireland's first female Taoiseach. It survived a potential hiccup in the campaign's final days over

reminders of its chequered past and links with the IRA, but here too an interesting development to note. The Good Friday Agreement was over 20 years ago and a generation has grown up with no memory of the violent decades that preceded it. For this generation there were the boom years of the Celtic Tiger, then the Crash, followed by a decade of austerity, with clear political scapegoats in the form of the



Mary Lou McDonald

main political parties, who now appear to threaten a future with little improvement and apparent inability to tackle the serious problems the country faces. Is this generation going to ponder over much on Sinn Fein's past, or indeed examine the small print in their election manifesto?

A caution lest Mary Lou's success be regarded akin to the Second Coming. There have been similar surges before in support for a political party, and the pendulum has always swung back with a vengeance. Fianna Fail bought the election in 1977 with a blatant populist program, which, after implementation, undermined the country's finances for decades; this to counter an austerity government as the country adjusted to EC membership. Fianna Fail gained 19 seats and won 50.6% of the vote; it subsequently never achieved an overall majority. In 1992, Labour saw its vote increase by 9.8% and gain 18 seats after a particularly injudicious performance by the Fianna Fail Taoiseach. Five years later, having aban-

doned Fianna Fail and installed a Fine Gael Taoiseach, Labour saw its vote decline by 8.9% and lose almost all those seats gained. In 2011, as Fianna Fail saw its vote drop by 24% and lose 51 seats, dropping to 20, Fine Gael saw its vote increase by 8.8% and gain 25 seats, while Labour achieved an increase of 9.3% and an extra 17 seats. Five years later those chickens came home to roost; in 2016 Fine Gael lost 16 seats and saw its vote drop by 10.6%, while for Labour the election was a catastrophe. Labour dropped from 19.4% to 6.6% of the vote and lost 26 of its 33 seats.

The Irish electorate does not respond well to promises made and not delivered. Sinn Fein now has its chance; but it had better perform. But first a government has got to be formed and a program agreed. No party can do it alone. The magic number is 80. Short of an unlikely left leaning coalition involving Sinn Fein (37), the Greens (12), Labour (6), the Social Democrats (6), SPBP (5) and 15 of the 21 Independents, the only other choices for government involve some coalition between Sinn Fein and either Fianna Fail or Fine Gael plus a minor party (the Greens?) or some form of Grand Coalition between Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, thus excluding Sinn Fein. There are other permutations involving a minority government shored up by some form of Confidence and Supply arrangement.

"Sean Farrell is a retired Irish diplomat and former Irish Consul General in Chicago in 2006-7. His previous posts included Irish Abroad Director in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Irish Ambassador to Estonia from 2001-4. He was also an EC Peace Monitor in Croatia and Bosnia in 1991-2 before serving in Belfast from 1992-95 as Deputy Head of the Anglo-Irish Secretariat in Maryland, a period that saw the first ceasefires and moves towards the settlement of the Good Friday Agreement. He keeps a close interest in Irish politics and society North and South. He has written a column in the IAN since 2009."

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SUN. MAR 15 - IRISH BRUNCH SPECIALS
NO COVER CHARGE **McNULTY IRISH DANCERS** (4:00 PM)




MON. MAR 16 - CLOSED & RESTING UP FOR ST. PADDY'S DAY

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Lá Fhéile Pádraig!

(Happy St. Patrick's Day!)

to All the readers of the IRISH AMERICAN NEWS



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Standing L to R: Terry Sullivan, Emilie McGuire, Patrick C. Anderson, Dennis M. Lynch,
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Seated left to right: David P. Huber, Martin Healy, Jr., John P. Scanlon, Kevin T. Veugeler
Not Pictured: Matthew Healy

Hope you enjoy reading the **On the Law** column in the Irish American News

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European Film Festival Highlighting Irish Films at Gene Siskel Film Center

Party at Clancy’s March 28th

Ireland Animals
 2019, Sophie Hyde, Ireland/UK, 109 min.
 With Holliday Grainger, Alia Shawkat Friday, March 20, 6:00 pm
 Saturday, March 21, 2:45 pm
 “Engaging and enjoyable... an exciting example of the



female-centered, female-made content that is making waves across the film industry.”—Siomha McQuinoa, Film Ireland
 “Wonderful...gloriously untamed study of friendship, one that refuses to play by the rules.”—Benjamin Lee, Guardian

The recurring image of a little urban fox running the night streets of Dublin is the perfect metaphor for this rowdy but affecting tale of the codependent party-girl friendship of Laura (Grainger) and roommate Tyler (Shawkat), based on the novel by Emma Jane Unsworth (praised by *The New York Times* as “go-for-broke-witty”). Wacky, wild, and untamed, the pair share frequent night-crawling adventures followed by massively hungover mornings, enjoying an adolescence that seems giddy endless, even as they approach thirty unattached. Laura calls herself a writer and carries a notebook, although her muse never seems to visit. A meet-cute encounter in a bar leads to serious romance for Laura, and a major rift in the ten-year friendship with Tyler, but the lure of copious quantities of white wine, cocaine, and erotic escapades yet to come still beckons.

DCP digital widescreen. Courtesy of Cornerstone Films. (BS)

The Last Right
 2019, Aoife Crehan, Ireland, 106 min. With Michiel Huisman, Niamh Algar, Colm Meaney
 Friday, March 27, 8 pm
 Monday, March 30, 6 pm
 “Gently heartwarming... odd surprises...pretty good gags.”—Mike McCahill, Guardian



“Impressive...full of heartbreak, humor,&human kindness.”—Liam Hanlon, Film Ireland

A self-admitted A-hole gets a lesson in life on a road trip that takes in a panorama of rural Ireland from Cork to Rathlin Island in the North, while hauling a body in a cardboard coffin. On his way home to Ireland for his mother’s funeral, New York-based lawyer Daniel (Huisman of GAME OF THRONES) is played a sly trick by the elderly passenger in the next seat, resulting in

his being identified as the next of kin when the old man dies en route. New complications about while Daniel juggles the future of his teenage autistic brother Louis (Samuel Bottomley) with efforts to extricate himself from a last-wish obligation to a total stranger. In the way of a tall tale, Daniel, Louis, and winsome mortuary assistant Mary (Algar) end up on the semi-sweet journey of a lifetime, with family secrets detonating like bombs, and a blustery police inspector (Meaney) in hot

pursuit. DCP digital. Courtesy of WaZabi Films. (BS)

Please join us immediately after the screening for Fresh Views, a panel discussion of *The Last Right* with film critics from a range of platforms.

Catherine O’Connell leads an all star lineup including Gerry Haughey, Katie Grennan, Sean O’Donnell, and dancers Avery and Riley Earner at Clancy’s, on Saturday, March 28th.

While the dining room is reserved for Gene Earner and friends, the bar area is open on a first come first serve basis.

Leave your caps, nose rings, ripped jeans and bib overalls at home and party with Gene Earner - while space is available!

Clancy’s is located at 4624 W 103rd St., Oak Lawn, IL 60453 and the party goes on from 6pm to 9pm. Wear green!!!!

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Aisling Gaels 10th Anniversary Dinner Dance April 25

The Aisling Gaels will hold their 10th Anniversary Dinner Dance at the Fountain Blue Banquet and Conference Center, 2300 Mannheim Road in Des Plaines IL 60018 on Saturday, April 25, 2020. Tickets are \$100 each.

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Arrivals & open bar: 7:00pm
Food served: 8:00pm
Beef slices & chicken
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Mashed potato
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Dessert: Vanilla gelato
Coffee, decaffeinated coffee
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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Murder on the Peninsula

By: David Pearson
The Book Folks

Police detective work usually does not involve high speed chases or dramatic arrests as seen on TV. Most of their time is spent on the undramatic work of interviewing suspects, checking alibies, and following leads. It is slow, methodical work.

Rarely do we see the excitement and quick-thinking of Inspector Maureen Lyons’ brush with death. After a long work day, she was asleep in her bedroom. Lyons “work with a start. The green glow of the alarm clock...showed 2:40. At first, she wondered what had woken her, but then she heard it- a muffled noise downstairs. Lyons had rehearsed what she would do...she set to work and did not turn on a light, but put the pillows under the blanket like she was still there.

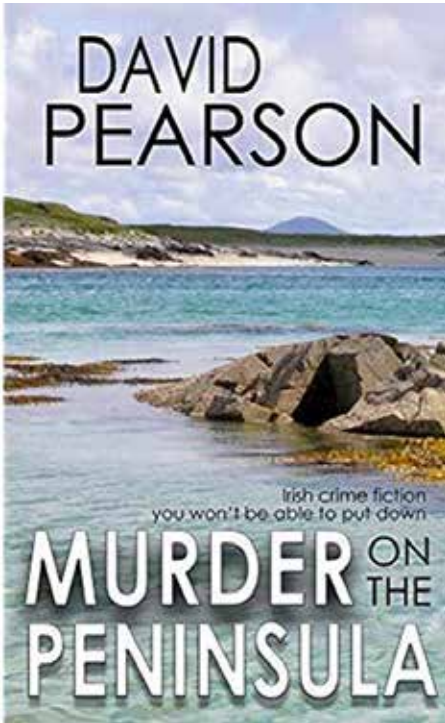
“The bedroom door opened silently, and a dark figure entered.” “Gotcha as the murderer said. He drove the long blade of the knife into the figure on the bed.”

“Lyons switched on the light. ‘Good morning.’ She was sitting

in the chair with her pistol aimed at the murdered.”

I have read two of the books written by David Pearson, and liked them a lot. I found them “comfortable” in that the Irish Guards are like people you might know.

Murder on the Peninsula be-



gins when a new Garda Inspector discovers the body of a murdered young woman in a car that had been driven onto the beach. But now, with the tide coming in, it is half buried in the sand and water. The inves-

tigation begins to find out what happened.

The two main characters in the investigation are, Senior Garda Inspector Maureen Lyons, and Garda Superintendent, Mike Hays. We follow them on the investigation and eventually learn that a recently released felon is bent on revenge. This killer wants to “punish” Maureen Lyons. She arrested him years ago and sent him to prison. She has completely forgotten him. But he hasn’t forgotten her and tries to kill her.

The author is a middle-aged Irishman who lives near Dublin. His mystery books are set in the beautiful Connemara area in the west of Ireland. He wants to bring the reader into the fabulous landscape with its rugged mountains and scenic coastline.

All of David Pearson’s mystery books “have achieved number one best seller status on Amazon.” This is a quote from Goodreads. When David Pearson was asked, “What’s the best thing about being a writer?” He said, “I enjoy crafting words. I like the physical act of writing longhand and I love it when the story starts to take its own form as the writing progresses.”

I think you’ll like these quotes.

What do the detectives think about the honesty of the man they’re going to interview after

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passing through the shabby outer office into his opulent office? “They entered through the door marked reception. They entered into a small vestibule...Evidently, the budget hadn’t stretched to new furniture...as the desk had clearly seen better days. Its green vinyl top had torn in two places and the modesty panel protecting the occupant’s legs from view was displaying raw chipboard where the thin veneer had broken off.”

The recently arrived Detective Sergeant, “was a young man from Cork.” The detectives who had to interview him “had to agree that what Galway folks said about Cork people appeared to be epitomized in the young man. He was smart-very smart-even his sing-song accent and youthful appearance belied the act.”

Detectives are intensely obser-

vant. They can learn a lot about a person by the clothes that person is wearing. The woman “who answered their knock was a small woman, with wiry gray hair, cut short. Her face was wrinkled and her hands showed signs of age, with dark brown liver spots clearly visible.” She wore a print dress that really didn’t fit her anywhere, dark brown thick nylon stockings protruded from its hem, leading to well-worn flat shoes.”

The beauty of Connemara: “the detective stood the search down for the night and headed back to Galway. The weather had eased a little, and as she drove back toward the city the clouds were scurrying across a big yellow moon high in the sky. The bog land was illuminated as the clouds passed over it with eerie light, which had a strange beauty all on its own.”



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More on the Irish Election Result

By Sean Farrell

Ireland is still coming to terms with the General Election outcome. Is it a sign that populism is alive and well and thriving in Ireland? After all results across Europe have shown a rise in support for populist parties, so why not in Ireland? Has populism here, honed on the Water Charge issue several years back, now found wider expression. Or is it a sign that Sinn Fein has definitely "arrived" as a political force, signalling, as well as the party coming in from the cold, a giant stride towards a left/right alignment in Irish politics? More prosaically is it just the latest example of a mood swing in Irish politics with yet another rejection of the government of

the day for failing to deliver at a time when the need for some form of radical action to tackle the housing and homeless situation and do something to improve the quality of delivery in the health area has rarely been greater. The answer probably is a mixture of all three with only one clearly evident conclusion so far - rejection of the outgoing government which ran on its record, and that record was found wanting.

Put simply it was the third post-Crash election and the third "Throw the Bums Out" election. In 2011 Fianna Fail were emphatically rejected. In 2016 a dissatisfied electorate took out its anger by savaging Labour, which was destroyed as a political force, and also less severely Fine Gael, which managed to cling on in power through an unprecedented

arrangement which saw it propped up by Fianna Fail. This time around both the main parties were rejected and Labour's vote declined still further. Between them the three parties mustered less than 50% of the votes cast, a far cry from the 79% secured in 2007. With the main Bums rejected, left were Sinn Fein, demanding to be given its chance, and promising goodies for which someone else would pay, the Greens who wittered on about Climate Change but had obviously only restricted appeal, the hard left, with even less, and a collection of favourite sons and daughters with strictly local appeal.

Sinn Fein launched "Giving Workers and Families a Break", an unashamedly populist (and dubiously costed) manifesto somewhat reminiscent of Fianna Fail's in 1977, advocating tax cuts, including abolition of property tax (deja vue anyone?) with miscellaneous other proposals on housing and health, to be financed by taxation hikes on the wealthy and companies. The party ran a brilliant campaign, targeting successfully sections of the public dissatisfied with the Housing and Health situations in particular. (Find one person who ISN'T dissatisfied with both though most not directly affected recognise there is no quick fix for either.) Check out pages three to six of their manifesto and compare it with the results of an exit poll asking voters why they voted as they did. That poll, incidentally should be writ in stone for the other parties' negotiating teams; the poll results should certainly concentrate minds.

Two issues dominated, with almost 60% citing health (32%) and housing (26%). Next (8%) was the pension age issue, followed at 6% by jobs (there is virtually full employment) and climate change, about which only the Greens seem concerned. 4% cited taxation, 3% crime and childcare, and one per cent (1%) Brexit and Immigration. So much for the various lobby and pressure groups and for the outgoing government's "achievement" on Brexit. So much also for Sinn Fein's "core political objective" of achieving Irish unity through a ref-

erendum. It may be buried among the "something else" cited by 6% but it certainly did not feature as a major issue for the voters. The Sinn Fein surge was down to domestic internal Irish issues.

The inept campaigns of the Big Two, both forced to defend the record of the outgoing government and promising only gradual improvement offered nothing new. There was obvious appeal in the notion that, after years of frustration and austerity, the party dangling change, action and improvement should be given a chance (again, deja vue?). This, rarely stated explicitly, is Sinn



Ireland's Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, resigned and is serving in a 'caretaker' position until a new government is formed.

Fein's strongest card for being part of the next government. The downside, as I pointed out last time, based on previous electoral history, is that parties who promise much and fail to deliver, get unceremoniously dumped next time around; not even the whinge that the party in coalition was not free to implement fully its policies on account of its partners cuts much mustard.

The result, an effective stalemate, means that, barring some sudden unexpected development, it will take some time - and negotiation - for the next Irish government to emerge. Even any two of the Big Three together will not hack it, hence the courting by all of the Greens (who should and could extract a heavy and cast-iron policy guarantee - last time up they were merely voting fodder for Fianna Fail and suffered accordingly). The alternatives are some patched up arrangement involving very minor parties and/or some Independents (of which there are 21), a Grand Coalition involving all the Big Three (which

nobody is talking about), some form of minority government propped up by a variant of the last "confidence and supply arrangement" or another general election which nobody wants.

Crucial to what is eventually hammered out as a programme for government are the priorities.

Compromise will be necessary all round and, therefore, there are no "red lines," however party spokesmen may huff and puff. While the result conveyed a demand for change from a section of the electorate, it was far from a majority, whatever Sinn Fein, and some loud voices on the left may assert. 70% of the votes cast (and over 70% of the seats) did not go to Sinn Fein and the hard left. Sinn Fein apologists have pointed to the fact that, with more candidates their surpluses could have racked up perhaps a dozen more seats. It can equally be argued that it was only the vagaries of the later counts of the PR system that hindered some of the 16 runner-up Fianna Fail candidates from being elected. The result is as it is -stalemate- and now the voters expect the politicians to sort something out.

Despite the clear evidence to the contrary there has been much speculation and comment that the Sinn Fein vote in some way brought Irish unity nearer, and indeed their manifesto calls for a referendum "North and South for a united Ireland". Good luck with that. Scrutiny of the many elections held in the North over the past decade show little evidence of shifts in tribal loyalties and even the prospect of a Catholic majority carries no guarantee that all would vote for unity. A recent very comprehensive poll in the North gave 52% opposed to unity and 29% in favour; equally tellingly 73% of those who declared themselves neither nationalist or unionist, would oppose unity.

There is just one imponderable: what happens to and in post-Brexit Britain. Already there are hints that the trade and future relationship negotiations between Brussels and English-Nationalist London will turn very nasty very quickly. And then: who knows?

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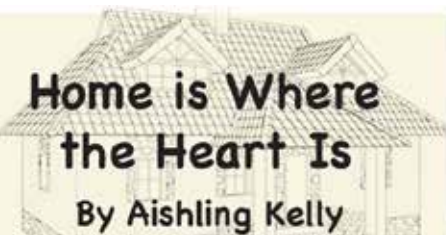
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**Home is Where
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By Aishling Kelly



simple thank you goes a long way, and people appreciate the recognition they receive for being dedicated to a thankless profession.

Healthcare is changing rapidly, and it is

To follow up on last month's column, I wanted to create more awareness about the type of world in which we live today. "Make me feel important for my flexibility." Every human being has this invisible sign on their backs, because appreciation is so very important. Last month's article was received greatly and heard by many readers who contacted me afterwards to say "thank you for thanking us, so many folks don't realize the sacrifices we make as nurses and health care professionals". A

imperative that we realize this and further educate ourselves. The way healthcare has changed revolves around the fact that care is no longer only given in hospitals or nursing homes, but the continuum consists of hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, skilled nursing facilities, independent/ assisted living/ memory care communities, hospice, home health agencies, and home care agencies. (to mention but a few) These establishments are all trying to provide the best of care for their consumers,

often times you- the patient or resident. Care needs in each of these service areas are continuous no matter where you start or end up. Care is provided, and most times, is needed every day of the week.

The next challenge becomes clear when you understand what is going on in the background in our healthcare system. Many folks, after an acute illness or operation, want to transition back to their home where they feel most comfortable and secure. Home care aides, otherwise known as caregivers, are the folks who deliver most of the care provided outside of an acute care facility. They oversee and assist with the activities of daily living-activities that are essential to feel human and help patients gauge their recovery. With this in mind, we need to remember that there is a massive caregiver shortage. Currently, based upon the low unemployment rates and the fact that we have ten thousand seniors who turn 65 daily, we are in the baby boomer saturation faze. To put it simply, there are more older folks requiring care than there are people to provide that care.

Now, one needs to understand that health care providers are made up of all different cultures, ethnicities, religious backgrounds, etc. When looking for a caregiver, it is important to understand that not only does demand outweighs the supply, but sometimes the supply we have

access too doesn't perfectly align with our own cultures or ethnicities. In addition to this, it is important to understand that for those needing care, weekends don't always mean a break from their disease or need for assistance the way a weekend may mean a break from work for most. Care is needed around the clock, because patients don't heal every Friday and require assistance again Monday. Every health care professional, from the top of the ladder down, has to work rotating weekends and a specific number of holidays a year. This is what health care is. Their dedication to provide the continuous care that is so badly needed often goes unrecognized, even without considering the barriers to care that exist like the short supply of caregivers and the preferences of the consumers.

To summarize, we all need to be flexible across the complete care continuum- employers, employees, and consumers alike. Understanding the immense need for care, the shortage in the workforce, and the thankless dedication required by those making up the workforce is imperative when considering what is really happening in our care continuum. Healthcare has changed dramatically and continues to change. I believe that we need to be at the front of the class and understand all that we can in order to achieve success within the field.

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Canada’s Natalie MacMaster Receives Her Eighth JUNO Award Nomination

With over 300,000 albums sold, Canada’s most endeared and revered fiddler Natalie MacMaster has received a 2020 JUNO Award nomination for her newest release – and first solo album in eight years – *Sketches*.

The number eight factors in further, as the nod for Traditional Roots Album of the Year at this March’s 2020 JUNO Awards counts as her eighth nomination. Previously, the Canadian ‘Queen of the Fiddle’ has received a GRAMMY Award win and nomination, two JUNO Award wins and seven previous nominations, 19 East Coast Music Association awards, and five Canadian Country Music Association’s “Fiddler of the Year” nods – as well as three



performances with Béla Fleck, Faith Hill, Carlos Santana, The Chieftains, Sharon, Lois & Bram, Buddy MacMaster and Jesse Cook, as well as award-winning collaborations with Yo-Yo Ma, and a blended line with award-winning collaborations with Donnell and their children. And speaking on the family-front, she’s distantly related to fiddler Ashley MacIsaac and rocker Jack White, and spends much of her time collaborating with Donnell as well as putting her teaching degree to use homeschooling their children.

Sketches is a return to a solo sound, and the result is a fiery, must-hear collection of traditional tunes and medleys mixed with new compositions. The album teems with retrospect and legacy as MacMaster reflects on her extraordinary journey in both life and career.

honorary doctorates, an induction into the Casino Nova Scotia Hall of Fame, and a member of the Order of Canada. This is a professional life that includes

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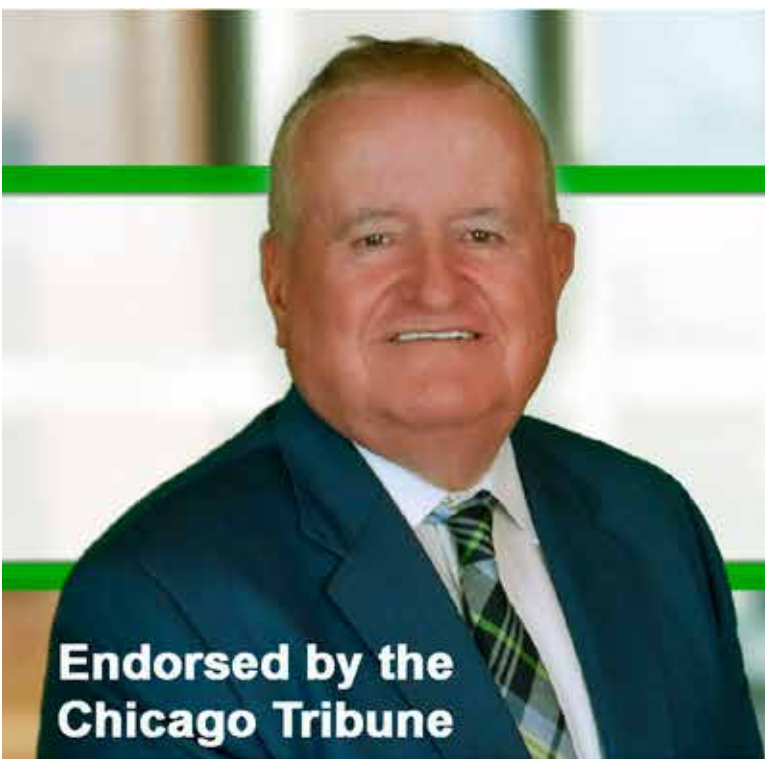


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'Horribly enjoyable, an outrageous orgasmic ending. A treat.'—Peter Bradshaw, *Guardian*

Smartly satirical and shamelessly hilarious, this Irish spoof on the mechanics of poltergeist-hunting features spousal abuse by a ghost and a side of mid-life romance, while sending up films including *THE EXORCIST* and *GHOSTBUSTERS*. Meek widower Martin (Ward of *MAZE* and *JIMMY'S HALL*) is haunted by the spirit of his chain-smoking, trash-talking dead wife, who aims to lay claim to him body and soul from beyond the grave. Meanwhile, a has-been American rock star and practicing Satanist (Forte), ensconced in a nearby rented castle, seeks to boost his career by snaring Martin's teen daughter for a virgin sacrifice. Enter Rose (Higgins), a mousy driving instructor who hides her talent as a psychic under a bushel, owing to a certain traumatic incident in her

youth. It's a sure formula for comic chaos, culminating in an over-the-top slapstick conjuring-gone-wrong, leading to hellish retribution galore. Check out the dark side of the St. Patrick's Day spirit! DCP digital widescreen. (BS)

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Caroleann Gallagher
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Growing up, Caroleann has directly experienced the devastating impact on a family when the primary breadwinner suffers an injury. She recently joined a nationally renowned law firm concentrating in all types of personal injury, medical malpractice, nursing home abuse and neglect, workers compensation law, and wrongful death litigation. Caroleann is committed to protecting and vindicating the rights of people who are injured by the negligence of others

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David Keenan’s New Release ‘Unholy Ghosts’

I wrote this song on a train from Amsterdam to Cologne, finished it as the train ceased to move, brought it in me to a Chapel in Cologne, sang it for the first time, left the Chapel with a



Photo by Nicholas O’Donnell

liberated German bible under my arm as a souvenir. Reconciling my act of theft with the thought that it would be a useful reference for a line or two at a later date, and that the greater good must prevail...” - David Keenan

Young Irish Singer-Sonneteer David Keenan stokes the flames and turns up the heat ahead of his debut album

“Unholy Ghosts.” The lyric video for the song is a stunning, unfolding animation by London-based Spanish film-maker Alejandra López Martín.

The release of “Unholy Ghosts” round off an exciting year for the Dundalk native, which has seen him tour Ireland, the UK and Europe with both Hozier and Rodrigo y Gabriela, host a sold-out, five-night residency at the Irish Arts Center in New York City, sign with Rubyworks and record and ready his debut album, A Beginner’s Guide To Bravery, which will be released on Friday, January 10, 2020.

David Keenan is spending the days of Advent on tour around Ireland with his live band.

“‘Unholy Ghosts’ is an independent state of its own reckoning that graciously allows me the liberty of hopping the wall from time to time. Once inside I am taken on a tour by a young man, living on the skids by his wits - or lack of - seeking solace amongst the forgotten few who still cling to the ankle of Beauty. Broken but proud down and out, yet retaining pride and hope, a sense of real desire, ideals and aspirations.”

- David Keenan



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Judy Collins

"Suite: Judy Blue Eyes" was a contemporary hit for Crosby Stills Nash and Young in 1969. Stephen Stills wrote it as a love ballad for Judy Collins as their love affair was coming to an end. The sixties were coming to an end and if there was ever a time in American history where music played a dominant role it would have to be the sixties. The folk music scene began in the fifties but it peaked in the early to mid-sixties. Judy Collins played a major role as probably the most recognizable female singer during this era.

Judy Collins was born in Seattle on May 1, 1939. Her mother claimed that she was born singing. Even as a

child singing was as natural to Judy as eating or getting up in the morning. Her father, Charles Collins, was Judy's hero and she adored him. A well known pioneer of the golden age of radio, he had a beautiful baritone voice, a great personality and a warm sense of humor which brought him notoriety and fame over the airwaves in the greater Seattle area. Charles truly loved being Irish-American. In her book "Singing Lessons" Judy talks about her father and grandfather; "Frank Collins was an Irishman and Daddy loved and admired him so much that he considered himself entirely Irish and named his firstborn son Michael Collins." Charles did have a handicap as he went blind at the age of four. Always an optimist he never let the handicap interfere with any of his goals.

Many of Judy's first songs were from her fathers rep-



ertoire of Irish ditties that Charles would sing around the house such as "Kathleen Mavourneen", "Danny Boy" and "I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen" all Irish standards of the day. Judy's mother, Marjorie, also had some Irish blood in her but they were mostly descended from the English Quakers who had settled in Tennessee prior to 1700. Her mother also had a beautiful voice and along with her husband always encouraged and supported Judy throughout her career in music. Recognizing her talent Judy began taking music lessons while she was only four years old.

Later she took piano lessons from Dr. Antonia Brico. Besides her parents Brico would prove to be a major influence in Judy's life. By the time Judy started studying piano with her, Brico was an internationally

renowned musician. Brico was demanding of Judy and her talents. Judy loved to play and the family purchased a grand piano for her to play and practice on. By fourteen Judy had memorized the famous Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto. She was now playing in Brico's symphony, giving recitals and through her father's radio show was meeting many of the great musician's of the day such as George Shearing and Arturo Toscanini. But something was missing. Judy loved to sing and classical piano wasn't as fulfilling to her as singing on her father's radio show which she had done a few times.

A defining moment in Judy's life came when she heard Jo Stafford singing the folk ballad "Barbara Allan" on the radio. She decided to study folk music and discovered that all the Irish songs that she loved from her father such as "The Kerry Dancer" and "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" were also folk songs. In her junior year of high school, 1955, Judy won a talent contest put on by the Kiwanis Club. It was the beginning of the folk-music boom with the radio playing The Kingston Trio, Harry Belafonte and the Weavers. Judy also became aware of her political conscience, working melodies into politics seemed natural to her. She married and had her only child, Clark in 1958. She began working the folk club circuit around Denver and the midwest.

There were more opportunities for gigs on the East Coast and Judy soon become a welcome favorite. She played with all the great folk artists of the time including Bob Dylan, Chad Mitchell Trio, Arlo Guthrie, Tom Paxton and Ramblin' Jack Elliot. She sang with The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem at an awards dinner for President Kennedy and also gave her first performance at Carnegie Hall. She began recording and on her first record she sang "The Rising of the Moon" and "The Bold Fenian Men". In 1964 she played on the big stage at the Newport Folk Festival and also joined the board of directors of this famous fest. She also hosted her own radio show where she brought singer-songwriters onto the show such as the McPeake family from Northern Ireland.

From 1967 to 1979 Collins made the top 100 eleven times. Her "Both Sides Now", written by Joni Mitchell reached the #8 spot in November 1968. By the 1970's she had come to be identified as much as an art song singer as a folksinger and had also made a mark as a composer. She's recorded 26 albums over a career that spans over 40 years. She has written several books. Her son's suicide was a great loss for Judy but she continues to sing and tour. Her renditions of "Send in the Clowns" and "Amazing Grace" remain classics. She was also nominated for an academy award in 1974 for her direction of Antonia: A Portrait of the Woman, a documentary on her mentor, Dr Antonia Brico

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On the Law

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On the Law

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

HealyScanlon, formerly The Healy Law Firm, is comprised of eight trial attorneys, one of whom practiced law in Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 West Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). www.HealyScanlon.com. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.

Consumer Product Dangers

In past articles, we have discussed the often-hidden dangers of certain consumer products. Most recently, we discussed claims against Monsanto alleging a link between certain cancers and exposure to the weed-killer Roundup. Farm workers and landscapers are most at risk for developing non-Hodgkin lymphoma, leukemia, or B-cell lymphoma due to exposure to the chemicals in Roundup.

The first bellwether trial involving an individual diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma resulted in a \$289 million jury verdict against Monsanto in August 2018. There have been at least three jury verdict totaling more than \$2 billion in damages.

There are a number of other consumer products that can cause severe injuries and illnesses that may not necessarily be readily apparent to the average consumer.

Valsartan

Valsartan is a prescription angiotensin II receptor blocker used to treat high blood pressure, recent heart attacks, and heart failure. Several drug companies have voluntarily recalled blood pressure and heart medications containing valsartan after it was discovered that certain batches have been contaminated with N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), a known carcinogen. Short-term exposure to NDMA can cause liver damage (such as liver fibrosis and scarring). Long term exposure can increase the risk of liver, kidney, and lung tumors.

You may have a claim if you took valsartan and have been diagnosed with liver, kidney, stomach, esophageal, pancreatic, prostate, or intestinal cancer, or non-Hodgkin lymphoma or other blood cancers.

Zantac

In September 2019, the FDA also reported the discovery of the carcinogenic contaminant N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) in Zantac, a common over-the-counter heartburn medication. Scientific research has demonstrated a clear link between ranitidine, the active ingredient in Zantac, and NDMA.

Specifically, when ranitidine comes in contact with water, it creates a chemical reaction that causes the formation of NDMA. NDMA can cause liver, intestine, esophageal, pancreatic, and prostate cancer, as well as non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Symptoms of NDMA overexposure include headaches, fever, nausea, jaundice, abdominal cramps, reduced liver, kidney, and lung function. If you have taken Zantac for a period of 30 days or more and developed any of these conditions or symptoms, you may have a claim against Zantac's manufacturer, Novartis.

Talcum Powder

Individuals who have been diagnosed with ovarian cancer or mesothelioma and who have had significant exposure to talcum powder, including Johnson's Baby Powder, may be entitled to compensation. Talcum powder lawsuits claim the manufacturers of talcum powder have known for more than 40 years that there is a link between using the product and ovarian cancer and mesothelioma, but intentionally made the decision not to warn consumers of these dangers. Women who use talcum powder on a frequent basis for personal hygiene have a 30% higher chance of getting cancer. The main talc products used for personal hygiene are: Johnson's Baby Powder by Johnson & Johnson, Shower to Shower by Valeant Pharmaceuticals, and Baby Magic Baby Powder.

Over the past several years, there have been numerous multi-million-dollar jury awards in talcum powder cases, including in July 2018 when a St. Louis jury awarded a group of 22 women \$4.6 billion. As of October 2019, more than 13,000 lawsuits

were pending in federal court against the manufacturers of talcum powder.

Juul

Juul products are the most common form of electronic cigarette being utilized. The FDA has received numerous reports of Juul users, primarily teenagers and young adults, who have become addicted to the devices and even some who have suffered seizures and convulsions as a result of nicotine poisoning and toxicity. The chemicals found in vape fluid can cause the development of bronchiolitis obliterans, a serious irreversible lung disease, commonly known as "popcorn lung." If you have become addicted to nicotine after using Juul, and suffered an addiction related injury, overdose, or poisoning, you may be entitled to compensation.

Hernia Mesh

Hernia mesh lawsuits claim that these medical devices are defectively designed and the manufacturers have failed to properly warn medical providers of serious adverse complications and device failures. Several types of hernia mesh have been recalled, or silently removed from the market.

Mesh used during abdominal surgery to repair hernias sometimes result in infection, pain, recurrence, intestinal obstruction, and additional surgeries, and may be the basis for compensation for these injuries. Some of the symptoms to watch for include constipation, fatigue, and severe pain.

If you or a family member or friend has been injured, as described above, kindly call our Consumer Products Call Center at (877) 354-9055.

By:
Martin
Healy, Jr.

Patrick
C. Anderson



TWO LINES ON LOVE
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**Appellate
Court Judge**

**John
Griffin**

**St. Rita High School
1969**

**University of Notre Dame
1973 (With Honors)**

**DePaul University Law School
1976 (Cum Laude)**

An early supporter of Gaelic Park, John served as volunteer attorney and was President for over 20 years, helping guide its growth from an Irish football field to the main center of Irish culture, entertainment and philanthropy in South Cook County — and the host of the annual Irish Festival each Memorial Day.

- Was President of Chicago Gaelic Park for over 20 years
- Longtime member of the Irish American Heritage Center
- Traveled to Washington DC to ease the path of legalization for Irish immigrants and obtain “Morrison” visas
- John evaluated as Highly Qualified or Recommended by 12 Bar Associations, including the Chicago and Illinois State Bar Associations
- Endorsed by the Illinois AFL-CIO
- Endorsed by the Chicago Federation of Labor
- Endorsed by the Cook County Democratic Party
- A founding member of the Young Irish Fellowship Club and served as Treasurer and President
- Chaired 3 Forever Green St. Patrick’s Day celebrations held at Navy Pier
- Served as Vice-Chairman of the first two World’s Largest Block Parties at Old St. Pat’s Church
- Over 30 Year Member of the Irish Fellowship Club serving as Treasurer and elected President in 2018
- Longtime member of Chicago St. Patrick’s Day Parade Committee serving as Treasurer from 1991 to 2011, and serving now

**PUNCH
#175**

Judge John Griffin is well known in Illinois because of his sterling reputation for honesty and fairness. The people of the Irish community know John well from his years of dedicated service to help maintain Irish culture, fellowship and civic engagement for the next generation. John remembers where he came from and is proud of his heritage.

Vote this Election Day, March 17, 2020 in the Democratic Primary to make sure John remains a strong voice for justice in Cook County.

Consider Vote By Mail now or Voting Early In Person in your community beginning March 2nd.

John has been there for us for over 40 years, and now it is our turn to be there for him.

The Committee To Elect John Griffin

For more information on John and his candidacy or to donate, visit www.JudgeJohnGriffin.com

or follow John’s travels on the campaign trail on his Facebook page [@JudgeJohnGriffin](https://www.facebook.com/JudgeJohnGriffin)

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Night Boat to Tangier: Review

Review by Michael Corrigan

The plot of *Night Boat to Tangier* by Kevin Barry is straightforward. In the dark waiting room of the dreary ferry terminal in the Spanish port of Algeciras, two aging Irish drug dealers—Maurice Hearne and Charlie Redmond—are waiting for Maurice's estranged daughter, Dilly, to either arrive on a boat coming from Tangier or depart on one heading to Tangier. As critics have pointed out, Maurice and Charlie are not unlike the tramps in Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*. (I find them also close to Pinter's gangsters in *The Birthday Party*.) This nocturnal vigil with many flashbacks will explore their shared history of violence, romance, mutual betrayals and their many exiles from Ireland. We discover that Maurice once stabbed Charlie in the knee giving him a permanent limp. Maurice has also blinded himself in one eye. As they wait, they tell stories and descend on arriving passengers demanding to know if they have seen Dilly. To the young passengers, the Irishmen are intimidating. To the Spanish police, they are eccentric amusing foreigners.

Night Boat to Tangier was long listed for the Booker Prize, which is a prestigious honor.

Through the entire novel, the reader stays with these two former

drug dealers now seeing their trade being replaced by human trafficking. How one reacts to them depends on how one enjoys the dark humor and the wasted lives they have led with incredible highs and lows. Here is what Dwight Garner of the *New York Times* said:

"The reason *Night Boat to Tangier* works is that Maurice and Charlie are vivid company on the page, a couple of battered and slightly sinister vaudevillians on a late-career mental walkabout."

I would agree with this assessment and also Garner's comment, "There's an over-emotional side to *Night Boat to Tangier*, and Barry sometimes lays it on fairly thick... But Barry is such a deft and generous writer that he gets the honey-to-acid blend almost exactly right. He also spackles his novel with poetic utterances that tend to land neatly."

The novel is an engrossing read but we have met characters like this before. There

is the Martin McDonagh film, *In Bruges*, also about two Irish gangsters. Barry's voice is lyrical, however, and he makes the material fresh with sparse but imagistic phrases:

"The roads after the rain were black, sliding tongues and gleamed." "The cold white moon speaks highly of the coming winter."

There is also the Irish penchant for spiritual presences that presage doom. It is never clear why it is so important for Maurice to see his daughter, Dilly, whom he abandoned along with a fatally ill wife. Dilly could also be Charlie's offspring. These dangerous but outdated men are waiting for Dilly, and will Dilly arrive? There is, of course, plenty of time spent at the ferry terminal bar.

I won't reveal the ending, but I can say that Barry does show us Dilly and snippets of her earlier life with her father, but whether or not she shows up and meets the two men may actually not matter. Johanna Thomas-Corr, a critic for the *UK Guardian*, is the one dissenting voice with mixed feelings about the novel:

"Barry writes with real exuberance ... But all the working-class Irish slang...and pickled wit can't hide the flimsiness of the story ... at times it reads like a pastiche of the Irish playwrights

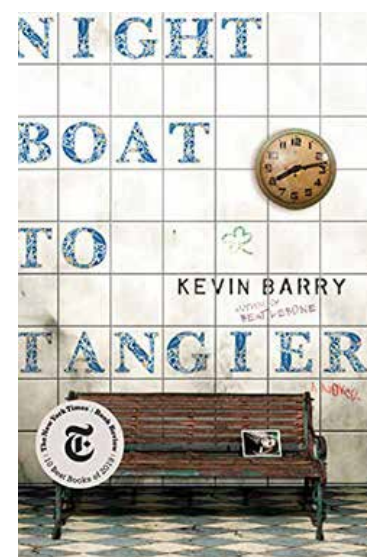
Samuel Beckett and Martin McDonagh, whose male double acts manage to be hilarious and threatening just by mooching about...Barry does the bare minimum."

I can see her point, though I feel Barry gives the reader more than a "bare minimum." The "pickled wit" can be enough. Here's an early exchange:

Personally speaking, Maurice? My arse isn't right since the octopus we ate in Malaga.

Is it saying hello to you, Charlie?

Critics have called the novel "haunting." I agree that a great production of *Waiting for Godot* will haunt an audience member. I was not "haunted" by Barry's hapless Irish gangsters, but I did feel the tragedy in their lives, marked by the very Irish thread of bitter humor. This dark theme of gloom and loss can be suffocating, but Barry's vivid prose elevates the material. It is a compelling book, but possibly not for everyone.



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Remembering my Grandfather, Tom Nicholson, (1895 - 1975) Part One of Two

-We will never see the likes of this great generation again.

In the sunshine of a late Autumn afternoon, an elderly man wearing a hat and contentedly puffing bluish-white smoke from his pipe, was about to start the climb up Ballinaha Hill to his home in Tircullen, in the parish of Kil-watermoy in the West Waterford Deise. The orange farm cart and donkey were laden down with bags of blue cross ration, recently procured from Mick Beecher in Barrack Street, Tallow. That man was my grandfather, Tom Nicholson, or Tom Nickley as he was known to everybody far and wide. I would like to recount and share some stories and anecdotes with you now in an effort to bring his memory back to life again, if only for a short while!

In the writing of this article I had to interrogate my ageing memory to go back over fifty years, and surprisingly I seem to remember a great deal, which means he was a very important man in the early stages of my

life. Whenever my mind dwells on him, I see the orange cart and Neddy the donkey. There were a few donkeys, but he named them all Neddy - for pure convenience and typical of the man!

I can remember accompanying



him down to Ned O'Connell's forge in Janeville, and after Ned had retired to Paddy Russell in Sapperton and later in Tallow. The iron wheel bands needed replacing now and then, and it was fascinating for me, as a young boy, to watch Ned and Paddy at work as they heated, flattened and bent the iron to fit over the wooden wheels. It was a lovely place to

be on a frosty morning as the mighty heat from the constantly bellowing fire permeated a great distance across the yard.

Tom worked for many years as a member of the outdoor staff on Waterford County Council, and now and then we would encounter his former friends and colleagues, men like Harry Willis, Joe Prendergast and Willie French. No matter how busy he was, he always had time for a chat and a laugh as

they gathered around the small open fire they had constructed, and poured fine strong tea from the Billycan into the mugs. People had a bit more time in those days to stop and stare.

I remember one night listening to Tom and my Dad discussing how they were going to get up during the night to listen to the fight on the radio. I didn't have a clue

what they were talking about, but I asked them to wake me up anyway - which they did. There we were on a dark night at about 3am, drinking tea and eating toast, and listening to the epic boxing match between Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) and Sonny Liston, which was coming to us live from the USA. They were both rooting for Cassius Clay, so I did the same, and it gave me a great love for boxing which I still have to this present day. I'm not sure if I went to school or not the next day, I probably did but yawned a great deal during proceedings!

He wasn't a big man, but he was strong, tough and wiry, and worked hard until his mid 70's. He took great pride in fattening and selling pigs, and he was a little miffed at John Parker, our local newspaper reporter, one time for mentioning in The Donavan Leader that he had achieved a record price for a batch of pigs at the mart. He was getting the pension at the time and wanted to keep his head below the radar in relation to extra streams of revenue!

He was also busy with the potatoes and vegetables and had a big selection on the go at any given time. This is part of another era and conjures up images of, rising to the potato drills, the big barrel of bluestone mix to prevent the blight, which was replaced by the

yellowish looking dithane in the latter years. Shaking the spuds out of the stalks and digging a trench in the ground, this was covered over with straw and clay to ward off the severe winter frosts. When he was setting the potatoes, he wore a canvas bag called a 'máilin', from which he took the seed potatoes. He also cut the seed potatoes in two and dipped the wet side in lime.

In days gone by, especially in country areas, the garden was a necessity. The wages were low and it helped the household budget enormously. If the family provider happened to lose their job, at least they could continue to eat in the interim. These gardens have rapidly disappeared over time as people became more affluent, had less time on their hands, and as the large stores and supermarkets started to spread their web across the landscape. He used a scythe to cut the hay, and built up haystacks with plastic bags on top, held into position with rocks on a rope to keep the rainwater out.

He regularly brought me to Ballyhamlet wood with him to cut timber, and only manual tools were used including axes, wedges and a bow-saw. I was there to help him, but I was probably more of a hindrance to his progress, and asked too many questions.

(Part Two Next Month!)

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cho has been serving up excellent food for almost as long as Mickey’s has been in Libertyville.

Mickey’s is family friendly, has outdoor seating weather permitting, a fine waitstaff, takeout, delivery catering, no reservations necessary.

This St. Patrick’s Day season, stop by Mickey Finn’s in Libertyville, and see why the first Irish/American inspired brewpub in Illinois is going strong! Tell them *Irish American News* sent you! mickeyfinnsbrewery.com 345 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville 847-362-6888#



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Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Dorothy Morley of River Forest, IL. have the pleasure of announcing the marriage of daughter, Katheryn Morley, to Patrick Coleman, son of Patrick and Sandra Coleman of Orland Park, Saturday, 3-21-2020 at St. Luke Church, River Forest, IL.



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Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



the Black Irish," and too often we are called the "Drunken Irish."

Remember to celebrate with dignity.

Democrats

Old Age Matters: Bernie Sanders, 79, Mike Bloomberg, 78, Joe Biden, 77, Elizabeth Warren, 70. President Trump was elected at age 70. If Bernie wins he would be 80 years old when inaugurated, and he's already had one heart attack.

With the exception of Buttigeg, the selection of a running mate for Vice-President becomes paramount.

Impeachment

The spectacle is finally over and President Trump has been acquitted.

The Democrats, believe it or not, got just what they wanted. They will ride the impeachment horse all the way to election day. The Republican Senators with the exception of Mitt Romney, who said he was a deeply religious man, made his decision to vote against President Trump because of his faith.

Pedophile Priest?

Close to home the former pastor of St. Zachary's Parish in Des Plaines, Fr. John Plotkowski, was found to have child pornography on his computer.

The Archdiocese referred the matter to the Des Plaines police and the Cook County States Attorney.

This parish has a very active congregation. The parking lots are always full.

St. Zachary Elementary School pre-kindergarten through eighth grade is located next to the church.

The Chicago Archdiocese

Downsizing! A consolidation plan has been announced that will affect 20 parishes. Reason being a shortage of priests and fewer students enrolling in schools. The Church is feeling the effect of the ongoing sex abuse crisis. Additionally, the extra expense for families to pay for Catholic education. Lower attendance at Mass has resulted in less money in the collection plate.

The program is called, "Renew my Church," that will soon become, "Revive my Church." They could bring in revival tents in the warm weather. There used to be bible tents that came to town every Summer.

The archdiocese of Harrisburg Pennsylvania has filed bankruptcy because of the settlements for sex abuse.

Marijuana

Recreational marijuana. Wow! 39 million in sales for January, 30.5 for residents, and 8.5 for non-residents. Think of all the good 39 million dollars could do.

Why the need to get high on pot? There's got to be more to life. The tax revenues are rolling in. Think of all the positive things that money could have been spent on.

County Cook

The question often asked is, what part of Ireland is your family from? First generation Irish-Americans generally know the answer but when we get to the third generation of Irish-Americans they often don't know. They know very little about the culture. When families get involved with places like Chicago Gaelic Park and the Irish American Heritage Center, the culture and traditions come alive.

Mater Dei High School

The Diocese of Orange - Lawsuits brought against Mater Dei, a prestigious private school in Santa Ana that was home to multiple child sexual assault offenders throughout the 1980's and 1990's, and the Diocese of Orange for the actions of known perpetrator Monsignor Michael Harris and its role in the institutional cover-up of child sexual assault.

The lawsuits are being brought under the new California Child Victims Act (AB 2180).

Mater Die was one of several reassignments in Msgr. Harris's trail of abuse during his two decade career in the Diocese of Orange and Archdiocese of Los Angeles. During this time at Mater Dei (1979 to 1983) he assaulted one plaintiff in this suit, and has since been accused of sexually abusing a number of other students. Msgr. Harris was laicized in 2001, and his current whereabouts are unknown.

Abuser Bernie Balsis, a lay counselor at Mater Dei in the mid 1990's, used his position to systematically target, groom, and assault numerous female students, including one plaintiff in this suit who will be speaking at this event.

Buffalo Bishop Richard Malone

An extensive article in the New York Times detailed the sordid mess in Buffalo, perhaps one of the worst on record. Bishops accountability is a farce.

Malone kept a secret binder with a list of Catholic priests accused of sexual abuse, 117 in all. In March of 2018 Bishop Malone published the list of 42 Buffalo priests who had been credibly accused of child sexual abuse over decades.

Lace Curtain Irish

Many Irish men and women, have never looked behind the lace curtain. Most of them don't know about other names given to the Irish like, "Pig in the parlor Irish." "Pig in the parlor" goes back to the Famine era when tenant farmers raised a pig each year and sell it to pay the rent to the landlord. The Pig was so valuable it was kept in the house at night to protect it.

Into the 1980's there were still cottages with no indoor plumbing, and dirt floors in the bedroom - life the way it was 150 years ago.

Poverty and degradation was waiting for the Irish who immigrated to the U.S. Some of the Irish made it big, you can read about them in Stephen Birmingham's book, "Real Lace," the Kennedy's the Cuddihy's and the Buckley's. Lace Curtain Irish have been defined as people "who have fruit in the house even when nobody is sick."

We are also known as the "Shanty Irish, the Bicycle Irish,

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In a recorded conversation he expressed more concern about his own reputation than about removing a priest whom he called dangerous and a "sick puppy." Bishops in his own archdiocese are circulating a letter of no-confidence in him. Some groups have canceled events he was to attend.

"Collections are drying up in parishes," said John J. Hurley, the president of Canisius College in Buffalo and a leader of a lay group that had been working with Bishop Malone, but is now calling for his resignation. "People are walking out of the parishes saying, 'I've had enough.'"

With the Buffalo Diocese assuring local Catholics that the pedophile scandals would never happen there, it came as a shock when Michael Whelan, 52, gave a news conference in 2018 accusing the Rev. Norbert Orsolits of molesting him on a ski trip in the 1980's when Whelan was a teenager. Bishop Malone resigned some time ago.

Cincinnati Irish

The Irish Ambassador to the



Maureen Kennedy and Kent Covey, Founders of the Irish Center of Greater Cincinnati, working at a meeting of centers in New York City recently.

United States, Dan Mulhall, attended the annual, "Green Tie Dinner," at the Irish Center of Greater Cincinnati where he was presented with the key to the city.

Entertainment at the dinner included a harpist, the glee club and a tenor.

Maureen Kennedy, and Kent Covey founded the Center 10 years ago using their retirement money to buy an old public school. They paid a visit to Chicago and the Irish American Heritage Center

where I first met them in the Erin Room. After they told me they had already bought the school, I said, "now you're in for it!"

In a letter the Irish Ambassador wrote, "The Center truly is one of the best homes of Irish culture that I have seen in my time as Ambassador to the U.S. It was great to experience some of the talent on offer in Cincinnati from the young singers and harpist, to the glee club and Irish tenor. I was delighted that we also had the

opportunity to meet with so many members of the Irish community in Cincinnati. It is clear that they have such pride, not only in their Irish heritage,, but also in being associated with your fine Center."

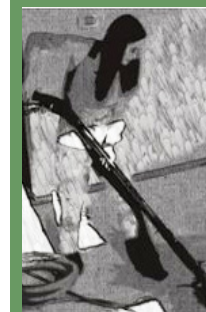
Ambassador Dan MulHall praised Maureen and Kent, "I want to pay special tribute to Maureen and Kent who have been driving forces behind this extraordinary place. Maureen is

truly a dynamic leader of the Irish community throughout the Midwest. For the rest of my time here in the United States I will be citing Maureen Kennedy at the epitome of what I cherish about Irish-America and Irish-Americans - their dedication, their love for Ireland and their commitment to passing on the precious gift of their Irish heritage. **HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!**

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Jack Lanigan and Sons: From Immigrant Roots to an Amazing American Success Story

By *Ryanne Gallagher Johnson*

The American Dream never looks more attainable than when you trace some of the greatest Chicago companies back to their immigrant roots and replay decades of hard work and determination until you reach what has now become a resounding success in the second decade of the twenty-first century.

From major players in the city that include lawyers and law firms, international construction companies, and musicians, to the small-but-no-less-incredible ones that have run some of our local businesses prosperously for generations, Chicago is a veritable patchwork quilt made up of awe-inspiring ancestral “boot-strap” success stories that can’t help but make you feel like The Dream is just within reach for the hardest working, most dedicated, and business-minded people.

So goes the story for Mi-Jack, the multi-national corporation serving as the linchpin in the family of companies under The Lanco Group. Mi-Jack, which provides machinery and solutions for transportation and material handling industries worldwide, was the brainchild of Jack Lanigan Sr., who started the business in his basement in 1954.

Born in 1927 on Chicago’s South Side to Irish immigrant parents, Jack Sr. attended the now-defunct Our Lady of Solace school, followed by Tilden Tech High School. Enlisting in the Navy during WWII, he served on a minesweeper and became one of the first Americans to enter Hiroshima after the



atomic bomb was dropped. Upon returning home, he met his wife Patsy Lynch at a dance after the war, and they were married on Labor Day in 1949.

Jack got a job with the Chicago Surface Lines street railway system as a laborer before becoming the general superintendent for Commercial Light, as the overseer of all the electrical work for the

Congress Expressway (now Eisenhower Expy) construction.

It was during this time that Jack recognized an opportunity. While putting light poles up, a large recurring problem was getting car owners to move their parked vehicles so that the poles could be installed. Drivers needed to

be identified and located, which could waste a few minutes to a few hours before the work could continue. So, innovator Jack created a new kind of boom crane that allowed pole installation over parked vehicles.

“Installing the poles was easy,” explained Jack Sr. in his company’s video, *Mi-Jack: Following the Dream* from 2004. “Getting people to move their cars was difficult and wasted a lot of time.”

This crane became the Mi-Jack boom crane, which saved money, got the job done faster, and became the nucleus of what today is Lanco Group. Jack named the company after the two children he had at the time, sons Mike and Jack Jr., who were later followed by younger brothers Bill and Dan.

Although Mi-Jack had a few promising orders, Jack Sr. retained his job as a lineman to keep the steady paychecks rolling in for the family. This turned out to be a blessing during those lean times with the business.

“The early days were

rough,” he explains in his *Following the Dream* video.

A few unfortunate disasters, like a shipment of cranes going unpaid after it went missing on its way to Cuba during Castro’s rise to power, and another commission getting shipped out to a company that then went out of business, brought Jack Sr. and his fledgling company to the brink of bankruptcy, and the family in dire danger of losing their house.

Jack explains in his *Mi-Jack* video that he wasn’t sure how to break the news to his wife, Patsy. “This one night, I said ‘I’m gonna tell her at six o’clock’. So (at) about five to six, the phone rings, and this guy called from New York, from Broadway Maintenance, and said, ‘Are you Mr. Lanigan?’ I said ‘Yes, sir’. He said, ‘Well, you showed me your crane about a year and a half ago, and we just got approval for ten of them. We need delivery right away.’ And I said, ‘Can you give me an advance? Fifty percent?’ He sent me a check two days later.”

Broadway Maintenance requested that the cranes be hydraulic, which Jack knew nothing about. Ever the risk-taker, he accepted the order and went straight to the library to figure out how to make them hydraulic. He then built the cranes, shipped the cranes, and promptly closed his business.

He later got a job selling Drott Travel Lifts for Gleason Cranes, and in 1967, he resurrected Mi-Jack to form a company that distributed cranes, which was at first based out of his kitchen in Dolton, IL.

“Our first expansion was to turn the garage into our sales department,” Jack Sr. joked about their humble beginnings.

Jack O’Donnell Jr, who was a business partner of Jack Lanigan’s in the reboot of the business, tells a story in the *Dream* video about the early days being rough the second time around, as well.

“One year about 1970,” O’Donnell reflected, “I remember standing with John on the corner of Archer and Kedzie, and John had to call Drott, because we had or-

dered six travelers (rubber wheel cranes). We had two nickels to rub together, and we ordered six travelers, about \$300,000 worth of equipment, and we had no purchase orders. He had a lot of “almost” purchase orders, but no purchase orders!

“John was in the phone booth, and I’ll always remember it, I was standing outside, and for the first time in our association, he started stuttering. They said ‘we’re shipping it’, and he couldn’t ship. So eventually, I said ‘John, we started out digging holes, we can finish digging holes. Ship it.’

“So, we shipped the first crane down to CNI Railroad with no purchase order! We showed up there Monday morning. The guy who was running the yard was out of town, the guy who was second in command didn’t know any better, so we put it up, put it to work loading trailers, and they gave us a purchase order. It was very nerve-wracking at the time, but it’s kind of funny, in retrospect.”

Jack Lanigan then went on to clarify, “What happened was, the general manager wanted the travelers, (but) couldn’t get the approval from his vice president. I had this crane coming off the assembly line, and I had to put it somewhere. So, I called him, and I said ‘I’m gonna drop it off. Forget it, let’s see if it works. Once your boss sees it operating, he’ll buy it.’ And, that’s what happened. You’ve got to gamble if you’re going to be successful sometimes. But, it’s really not gambling if you know what you’re doing.”

Business, fortunately and eventually, began to pick up. Lanigan brothers Mike, Jack Jr., Bill, and Dan each came on board with the company in their own turn, and Mike has been president of the company for over thirty years.

Jack Sr.’s grandchildren are also taking part in the family business. Mike says that his kids started where he and his brothers did. “My two sons work here every day. All the same philosophies that my dad instilled in all of us, I instilled into my children. It was a huge advantage for all of us to have a

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The Carmania

Associated Passenger	Date of Arrival	Port of Departure
Lanigan, John	January 24, 1920	Liverpool

Built by John Brown & Company, Clyde Scotland, 1905. 19524 gross tons; 67 long; 72 feet wide. Steam turbine eng screw. Service speed 18 knots. 1351 (300 first class, 350 second class, 90 class).

Built for Cunard Line, British flag, in 1 named **Carmania**. Liverpool-New York. Served as an armed merchant cruiser troopship 1914-18. Scrapped in 1932.

Photo: Peabody Salem Museum

mentor like my dad. We took his guidance and took advantage of the opportunity to grow the company, and we've been very fortunate.

"We all started young. I started sweeping the floors when I was in high school, starting my freshman year. I started at the bottom. All the boys start at the bottom. (I) wound up being a mechanic, a parts guy, and eventually got into sales when I was eighteen. I didn't go to college...

The opportunity to work with my dad every day, to be able to learn from somebody like that was a huge advantage."

Early on, Mi-Jack distributed self-propelled rubber tired gantry cranes (RGT), and focused on the railroads and ports of the United States. As Mi-Jack pioneered new methods and technologies in inter-modal transportation, other industries soon found the RTG crane equally effective in increasing productivity. In the early 1980's, Mi-Jack purchased the manufacturing rights to the



Jack Lanigan Sr. and Patricia Lanigan

cranes it had been selling, which helped open up new national and international markets for the company. (mi-jack.com history page)

Once the business began to expand, Lanco Group became the parent company for all the different avenues and facets of the industry that Jack Sr. took on. Now spanning nearly two dozen separate but similar businesses, Lanco's companies presently include Mi-Jack, Technical Services International (TSI), Greenfield Products, APE Crane Sales & Leas-

ing, Howell Tractor and Equipment, and Walter Payton Power Equipment, just to name a few. (For a full list of affiliated companies, you can visit thelancogroup.com)

Perhaps one of the most significant signs that Mi-Jack in particular had become an industry leader, was when Jack Sr. was contacted by Lionel Model Train and Railroad Company about the use of their cranes in model designs.

"I was born during the Depression, and I always wanted an electric train, but my parents couldn't afford one. And here, I'm approaching 60, and Lionel contacts me, Jack Lanigan, to see if they can copy, on a royalty, a miniature crane for modeling. I said I didn't want a royalty, but I wanted them to tell the story about how (the company) started, and how we came up with the gantry crane. I think that's my proudest moment." (Mi-Jack video, 2004)

The expansion of Lanco continued in 1998 when the government

of Panama turned over control of the Panama Canal Railway to the private Panama Canal Railway Company (PCRC), a joint venture between Lanigan Holdings, LLC, and Kansas City Southern Lines. The project was reconstructed from the bones of the decrepit old railroad line, originally built in 1855, and was reopened in 2001. Less than fifty miles long, the PCRC spans a continent, connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans across the Isthmus of Panama, from Colón to Balboa. The line provides ocean to ocean inter-modal trans-shipment services, along with carrying commuters and tourists, passing through some of the most scenic track in the Americas.

"In most businesses," explains Mike, "if you work hard and work smart and give it everything you've got, your odds for success are... I mean, there's some things you can't control, but it's amazing how lucky you get the harder you work. It's amazing how that works. That was instilled in my brothers and I. But if you don't enjoy what you're doing, you're never going to excel at anything. And that's what me and my brothers were fortunate in, liking what we do."

Mike also says that one of the keys to the company's success was to put the profits back into the business, to always keep it growing and expanding. "The day you stop growing is the day you start dying."

Jack Sr. tried retirement once upon a time, but quickly decided that the pensioner life wasn't for him. He came out of retirement to start Q Sales and Leasing, another Lanco company, which offers a high tech line of thermal variation insulation products.

"I think most people feel compelled to retire, and the advantage that I have, as an entrepreneur, is that I can retire when I want to retire," says Jack in his Mi-Jack video.

Mike founded a division of Mi-Jack Construction Equipment in Indianapolis in 1973, then returned to Chicago to take over Lanco in 1989. In 1992, Mi-Jack began sponsoring cars competing

in CART and the Indy 500. Since that time, Mike has expanded the company's sponsorship into team ownership, joining forces with Eric Bachelart to co-own Conquest Racing, joining the group at Newman/Haas Racing with renowned actor and entrepreneur Paul Newman, and eventually joining the team of Rahal Letterman Racing, which was renamed Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing and races full time in the WeatherTech SportsCar Championship.

The great Walter Payton, described by Mike as "a gentleman's gentleman", and the Lanigans became friends when they went into business over Walter Payton Power Supplies shortly before the former football player's death in the late nineties from a rare form of cancer.

Matt Suhey, who was good friends with Payton, met Mike Lanigan during a race in Detroit that he attended with his footballer friend. Since then, Suhey has joined forces with the Lanigans on their company ventures, and sings the praises of Mike's business acuity.

"I was always very very impressed with (Mike). He's one of the smartest business guys I know. He's brilliant and he's super nice, as well... we've had a lot of fun hanging around each other all this time," says Suhey, who is now also a partner with Mike, in his crane division. "He's the smartest businessman I've ever been around. He's got a great intimate understanding of all these businesses he's been involved in. He's got it all."

Jack Sr. passed away in 2019, at the incredible age of 91 years old. He is succeeded by his four children, 11 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and a business legacy that spans four regional operations headquarters, five sales offices, and branches in 55 countries on six continents.

All of this, from an idea, from the son of immigrants. Jack Lanigan Sr. and the Lanigan family are the embodiment of the American Dream, right here in Chicago.

For information on Mi-Jack, you can visit the company's website at mi-jack.com



2nd generation owners, Dan, Mike, Jack and Bill Lanigan, have followed their father's example, by expanding and improving the Lanco Group of Companies.

Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Some Steps to A Brighter Future

In my many years in human resources, I have always been struck by how little thought that many of us give to our future. Perhaps it is more obvious these days when so many people feel a sense of entitlement. But just

getting a college degree or an advanced degree does NOT entitle you to the beautiful home in an upscale neighborhood. It seems to me that a lot of people work just hard enough not to get fired, but not hard enough to be a successful contributor to the organization. **Here Are Some Steps You Might Adapt to Your Employment**

Situation That Could Help You Become A Real Asset to Your Employer

STEP ONE: Once you start a job you should spend some serious time thinking about how you are going to be successful within the organization. Do you find that certain skills or traits are more highly valued by the organization than yours? Are there opportunities to expand your knowledge to mitigate your perceived deficiencies? Would your company be willing to pay for future education?

STEP TWO: Find a mentor, or even better two in the organization who can save you a great deal of grief with a minimum of pain. Select recruits who seem to be generally accepted by most people in the organization. Strive to learn how your mentor (s) deal with others whether fellow employees or outsiders. Having a mentor will give you another pair of eyes, ears or hands to conquer problems. Why do pro football teams hire highly experienced quarterbacks to back up the starter? Yes, to guard against their starter needing some relief, but the second string quarterback can help the starter see his weaknesses much quicker than other

players.

Many people would welcome the opportunity to be seen as a mentor. Frankly, a mentor might be flattered to be asked to fulfill such a role. Mentors serve a vital role in many organizations.

STEP THREE: Be sure to advise your superiors that you are deadly serious about being an excellent contributor in as short a time as possible. This is not accomplished by bragging about the smallest or most incidental of your achievements. Rather you should seek to tackle some tougher tasks, and when you succeed it is likely to be readily noticed and received. You don't want to be seen as a "show off", but rather a highly competent person who is willing to take on more difficult tasks. Create a private record of your suggestions. In truth, if you don't write them down you may very well forget about them in a short time. It's nice to have a number of different achievements to discuss rather than harping about the same achievement over and over. Review your achievements on a regular basis; it will reinforce your successes.

In our mobile world, be sure a written record of your successes is placed in your permanent file. Your current boss may be promoted, relocated, terminated or reassigned but inclusion of your achievements in your file preserves them.

STEP FOUR: Establish goals. Write them down. Read them over regularly. What's the old saying, if you are focusing a lot of time on a certain topic; it is likely that you will become quite knowledgeable about it?

STEP FIVE: Be sure that you

maintain an awareness of your commitment to the job. Having a balance between the hours spent at work and the time with family and friends is vitally important. One way of determining balance in your life is to write your own obituary. This will force you to realize your real priorities.

STEP SIX: Once you have acquired a grasp of your job, take the time to analyze how you can better execute it. Strong, confident bosses who have a good sense of balance are decidedly better than a flip flop boss who simply can't make up her/his mind. There are a lot of books that will help you to see the areas of your style that need toughening up.

STEP SEVEN: If you decide that your current employer is not where you want to be, that's okay. Discuss your concerns with your boss, if s/he is a person you trust to keep your confidence. You might solicit input regarding your future plans with your mentors. If something can't be worked out, move on.

BEYOND SEVEN: As I re-read this article, it sounds pretty obvious, and it is. But these are the rules of the roads you should know about. Here are just a few more "rules." Be approachable. Treat everyone with respect. Be willing to help.

Listen to those around you; they probably know more about the day to day operation than you. Don't be afraid to seek the counsel of more experienced individuals. And finally, trust your gut. CARPE DIEM.

Other Thoughts For Your Consideration: Far better it is to dare mighty things. To win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory or defeat. President Theodore Roosevelt

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Designer Clare Conway has created the Love Knot Cross as an extension to Claire Rowe's previous 2019 Edition Piece the Love Knot Trinket Box. The Love Knot Cross represents eternity - the featured knot has no start or finish and is symbolic of loyalty, faith, friendship and love. They generally consist of two interlocking knots made with parallel cords.

The Love Knot Cross is a classic yet simplistic design and is decorated with the iconic hand painted Belleek shamrock. One side features the Love Knot motif consisting of two interlocking hearts and the other side is decorated with subtle Celtic banding. The Love Knot Cross includes an exclusive back stamp and the signature of the designer. This piece will only be available during 2020.



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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Cháirde

Patrick's month is here again and we are ready! Our staff and volunteers will be putting in long hours to welcome all to Chicago Gaelic Park for Ireland on Parade, South Side Irish Sunday, and the great day itself. We hope to see you and your family and friends here, and at events throughout the city.

Speaking of the city, we are proud to be a member of Chicago's strong Irish community. Every day of the year, we promote and foster Irish culture,

and we are thrilled this year to have been named, along with the Irish American Heritage Center, as one of the Guests of Honor of the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. We thank the parade General Chairman James Coyne and the parade committee for this honor, and look forward to participating with Plumbers Local 130 as the Chicago Parade celebrates its 65th year.

Is mise le meas,
Bill O'Sullivan

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING HAPPENING AT GAELIC PARK...

MARCH

Sun	Mar. 1	Book Club - <i>The Devil You Know</i>
Wed	Mar. 4	Senior Luncheon - Joe Cullen
Sat	Mar. 7	St. Baldrick's
Sat	Mar. 7	Disabled Patriot Fundraiser
Sun	Mar. 8	Ireland on Parade
Sun	Mar. 15	South Side Sunday Celebration
Tue	Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

APRIL

Sat	Apr. 4	Easter Egg Hunt
Sun	Apr. 12	Easter Carvery

Every Monday
Every Tuesday

Set Dancing
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7:30pm
7:00 pm

WEBSITE CALENDAR SHOWS FULL MONTH

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Fri	Mar 6	Bernie Glim	7:30pm
Sat	Mar 7	Rico Quinn (St. Baldrick's)	8:00pm
Sun	Mar 8	Bill O'Donahue	4:00pm
Wed	Mar 11	Frank Rossi Rib Night	6:00pm
Fri	Mar 13	Kara & Jerry Eadie	7:30pm
Sat	Mar 14	Joe McShane	8:00pm
Fri	Mar 20	A Week Back	7:30pm
Sat	Mar 21	Chris James	8:00pm
Fri	Mar 27	Joe Cullen	7:30pm
Sat	Mar 28	Liam Durkin	8:00pm

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Irish Dance School Schedule at Gaelic Park

Doors open each evening at 5:30pm
And a hot food buffet starting at 5:30

FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH

IRELAND ON PARADE

6:30pm McCormack Fay Irish Dancers
7:00pm Mulhern School of Irish Dancing
7:30pm Trinity Irish Dancers
8:00pm Cross Keys School of Irish Dancing

CARRAIG PUB—Open 3:00pm
Pub Food 5:00pm—10:00pm
Bernie Glim On Stage 8:00pm

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11TH

IRELAND ON PARADE

7:00pm Weber School of Irish Dancing
7:30pm Maiden Street Irish Dancers
8:00pm Foy School of Irish Dancing

CARRAIG PUB - Open 3:00pm
Pub Food 5:00pm - 9:00pm
Frank Rossi On Stage 6:30pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH

IRELAND ON PARADE

6:30pm Gaelic Park Ceili Dancers
7:00pm McNamara School of Irish Dance
7:30pm Mullane Godley Academy of Irish Dance
8:00pm Blackbird Academy of Irish Dancing

CARRAIG PUB - Open 3:00pm
Pub Food 5:00pm - 9:00pm
Irish Music Session with Pat Finnegan & Friends 7:30pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH

IRELAND ON PARADE

7:00pm Eilish Sullivan School of Irish Dancing
7:30pm Devon Shepherd School of Music
8:00pm Lavin-Cassidy School of Irish Dancing

CARRAIG PUB - Open 3:00pm
Pub Food 5:00pm - 10:00pm
Jerry & Kara Eadie On Stage 7:30pm

St. Patrick's Week Events at Gaelic Park

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH

CARRAIG PUB - Open 12 noon
Pub Food 3:00pm - 10:00pm
Rico Quinn On Stage 8:00pm

CELTIC ROOM 12:00-6:00pm



St. Baldrick's

Head Shaving Event

Register to get shaved online at
www.stbaldricks.org/events/gaelicpark



SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH

Mass & Irish Breakfast 10:00am

Admission \$10.00

CARRAIG PUB - Opens 12 noon
Pub Food Served 2:00pm - 8:00pm
4:00pm Billy O'Donohue &
Larry Nugent On Stage



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Jim Hanley's 95th birthday!

*L-R: Tom Lally, John Murphy, Philip Quinlan, Paddy Murphy, Andrew Davey, and Travis Andrews
Jim is a native of Bere Island, Co. Cork (probably one of the smallest inhabited islands you will
find in Ireland.) He has spent over 70 years here in the States.*

*Jim is a great man for the story telling and is a big fan of Wisly Murphy!
Congratulations Jim!*

MARCH WITH US!

3/7 **Oak Forest** 11:00 AM 3/8 **Tinley Park** 12:00 PM
3/14 **Chicago** 12:00 PM 3/15 **South Side** 12:00 PM

SUNDAY

March 15th

South Side Irish Sunday!



Doors Open 1:00pm

Admission \$5.00 • Kids 12 & under \$3.00

Four Stages of Entertainment

Delicious Hot Food Buffet in Tara Room available from 11:00am

Emerald Room

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

The Carraig Pub

2:30pm Kieran Byrne
7pm Kara & Gerry Eadie

Children's Stage

CELTIC ROOM

1:30pm Dublin Deceptions
2:30pm Magic by Patrick
3:30pm The Juggler Show
3:30pm Shamrock Shenanigans

Tara Room

1:30pm Taylor Street Band
4:30pm St. James Gate



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Northwest Side Irish Parade a Celebration of Faith, Family and Heritage

Celebrating President and Founder Daniel Murray Sunday March 15

"It is a labor of love and it is a family affair" says 84 years young Daniel Murray, President and founder of the Northwest Side Irish St. Patrick's Day Parade. The thought of the North West Side Irish Parade came after the passing of Judith Arlene Cregan Murray April 12, 1936 - October 9, 2002.

Daniel and Judith were both long Sheet Metal Local 18007 worker. The Murray's moved to Norwood Park in 1963 to raise their five children.

The loss of Judith, wife of forty plus years and mother of five in 2002 was cathartic. Judith was the pillar of the family, the epitome of a strong "Irish Mom". Judith gave new meaning to the word strength and there was definitely a need to celebrate her larger than life spirit.

In March of 2004 Daniel and his daughter Elizabeth (Murray-Belcaster) founders and organizers were host to the first North West Side Irish (NWSI) St. Patrick's Day parade.

The Murray five, their children, grandchildren and now great grandchildren are all instrumental in the planning of the parade along with great support from the 16th District CPD and extended City of Chicago services, residents and businesses. This parade stands tall simply because of the efforts and support of the community.

On March 15, 2020 the NWSI celebrates it's 17th year as an

organization. It is a collaboration that exceeded the simplicity in which it was founded and has surpassed the love it was inspired from.

North West Side Irish was founded by the Murray family and is reflective of the heritage we embrace, a celebration of all of our ancestors and the strength and love they brought to our families and communities.

www.northwestsideirish.org for more information or contact Mike or Nicole Belcaster
northwestsideirishnws@gmail.com



raised on the west side as Daniel was a graduate of St. Mels High School in 1953 and Judith a graduate of Trinity High School in 1954. After serving two years in the United States Army, Daniel stepped into the trades as a life



Pictured from left, down, and right:
1). Daniel Murray, President and Founder of the Northwest Side Irish Parade. 2) Dan and Joel Murray; Grand Marshall 2014, 3) The Murray Clan; Daniel Murray Jr., Thomas Murray, Daniel Murray, Elizabeth Murray Belcaster, Mary Jo Murray-Raysby, and Brian Murray 4) Grand Marshall 2015 retired Army Sgt. 1st Class Sammy L. Davis who won the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Viet Nam War, 5) Dan, Chicago Bear; Otis Wilson, Elizabeth Murray Belcaster and Chicago Blackhawk; Bobby Hull Grand Marshall 2012.



NORTHWEST SIDE IRISH PARADE



Celebrating Irish Heritage in Chicago

SUNDAY MARCH 15TH 2020

On Sunday, March 15, 2020, the NorthWest Side Irish (NWSI) celebrates their 17th annual St. Patrick's Day celebration! The Parade is a celebration of faith, family, and heritage on the Northwest side of Chicago.

The NWSI Parade kick's off at 12:00pm from Onahan School 6634 W. Raven, south on Neola to Northwest Highway, north on Northwest Highway to Harlem. The NWSI review stand is at the corner of Northwest Highway and Raven.



The sole purpose of Northwest Side Irish is to promote our Irish Heritage, through organizing and managing the parade. NWSI takes great pride in raising awareness and funds for extended community efforts and charity organizations. We have raised funds and awareness for many charitable communities over the past 8 years. Misericordia, Muscular Dystrophy, Chicagoland Food Depository and Dixon Center for Veterans and Military Community Services are just a few. Veterans and Military Families have always had a special place with the parade as our founder Daniel Murray is an Army Veteran and co-Founder Elizabeth Murray Belcaster has been working with veterans and military families for the past ten years. For more information go to www.northwestsideirish.org

Daniel Murray NWSI President and Founder
Elizabeth Murray-Belcaster NWSI Parade Organizer and Founder



Shannon is a native North West Chicago resident. She is a graduate from St. Thecla School where she played basketball and softball as well as participated in cross country. She attended Christian Liberty High School where she continued cross country and played basketball for one year before joining the cheer team. For the past few years, Shannon has been back at St. Thecla School as a Teacher's Assistant on Pre-K. At Oakton Community College, Shannon completed general studies. Shannon enjoys outdoor activities such as snowmobiling, boating, and hiking with family and friends. She also enjoys traveling locally and abroad. Shannon is looking forward to going back to Ireland this July to visit both her Dad's family in Westport and her Mom's family in Castledermot. Shannon enjoyed her last trip to Ireland seeing the majestic landscapes and having a whole lot of craic with family!

CONGRATULATIONS NWSI 2020 QUEEN
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Starts at Onahan Elementary School: 6634 W. Raven St., Chicago * Parade Line-Up - 10am/Kick Off - 12pm

Official Northwest Side After Party - 1pm Start Time

TICKETS

Admission: \$15.00 per person
Drink Wristband (optional): \$5.00
21 years & older only (includes beer & wine)
Kids (10 and younger): \$10
Kids (3 and Younger): FREE
with Admission ticket

The cost for adults includes corned beef and cabbage dinner, Hooter's Wings, beer and wine (wristband holders only), soda and Eli's Cheesecake for dessert. Children will be provided hot dog, chips, beverage, and a raffle ticket.

Live entertainment including the Emerald Society Pipes and Drums, DJ, raffles and many Irish Dance groups. NWSI afterparty also provides face painting and balloon artists for the children.



pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



There is a beautiful old building on Canal Street in Blue Island. The building looks like it had been built to reflect the Old World of Europe and it is situated along the Cal-Sag just below the Western Avenue overpass. It is a wood frame structure that was once neighbor to the Maple Tree Inn, which had been Helen's Old Lantern. That delicious landmark was consumed in flames, never to be reborn.

The men who live in the surviving wooden building watched the Maple Tree Inn go up in flames as their home was spared by the grace of God and the combined fire departments of Blue Island, Robbins, Chicago and Midlothian.

It was a retired Chicago fireman, Jack King, who made the wooden building at 2413 Canal street a home for men to restore their souls with purpose, actives

engagement in the community and total abstinence from alcohol and drugs. Jack King knew that sobriety and serenity can only be achieved by some men in the community and he established a home for men who want to recover their dignity and their lives.

Since its founding 1987, Jack King's dream has become a reality for thousands of men. Through total abstinence from alcohol and drugs, 12-Step meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, professional behavior counseling and lectures and communal and personal accountability and time management, individuals once dependent upon booze and drugs shook off the shackles that made their lives unmanageable.

Sixteen to twenty Guildhaus residents and two score of Guildhaus alumni live in three commu-



nities close to Olde Western Avenue in Blue Island. The buildings are aging, but well-maintained and clean by the residents and staff, but most of all for Guildhaus alumni who have re-built their lives beyond the group homes. These men have built their armies beyond the walls of the homes in Blue Island.

The Guildhaus Alumni raise thousands of dollars in support of their alma mater on Canal Street. They have established Advisory Boards to help widen the pond of

giving. The new Guildhaus Advisory Board will celebrate the work at Mike Winston's Ashford House in Tinley Park, on March 5th at 6PM. The following patrons are 2020 Advisory Board Members.

1. Senator Bill Cunningham
2. Senator Emil Jones III
3. Senator Napoleon Harris III
4. Mayor James Sexton - Evergreen Park
5. Honorable Judge Sheila Murphy
6. State Representative Robert Rita
7. State Representative Fran

Hurley

8. State Representative Kelly Burke

9. Dan Krause - Business Owner

10. Mark Lavelle - Business Owner

Guildhaus is serious about recovery and recovery requires funding. *Irish American News* reaches many families that have been hurt by addiction. Make Guildhaus and important stop for your charitable dollars.

Maple Tree Inn will move away, but Guildhaus will continue to match mission and operations on Canal Street. The ashes of shame and shattered relationships are blown away, because of Guildhaus maintaining the dream of a Chicago fireman who understood the power of addiction. Guildhaus needs your help.

Contact Al Anderson, Executive Director of Guildhaus about you can get involved in helping men recover their lives.

Call Al Anderson 708-385-3228

E-mail: ala@guildhaus.com

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Are Varadkar and Martin Pining for the Days of Section 31?

Last week, to a background of the election coverage rolling on and endlessly on, I was chatting to Brian, a young friend of mine.

Now, I often get the impression that Brian thinks I'm winding him up or else that I'm entering my dotage and getting all confused; and this time out he was definitely giving me that out-of-the-corner-of-the-eye look that says: "Poor old sod, he's really lost the plot this time. Hope he has time to finish his pint before the guys with the butterfly nets arrive."

You see, I was using the extraordinary success of Sinn Féin in these elections (bloody hell, 37 out of the 42 candidates they fielded came through) as one of the many examples of how much Ireland has changed since I moved here permanently in 1979.

As I was telling the incredulous young Brian, back then you could switch on your telly and you could see Sinn Féin members like Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness right there on your screen as bold as brass. And you could even see their lips moving, just like real people. But what you couldn't do was actually hear their voices. Apparently, this would corrupt you so much that you would immediately be running around the gaff with an Armalite in one hand and a ballot box in the other.

It seems like I'm remembering something out of a dream, and it was all rather odd even then; but essentially a form of censorship that had initially been introduced in 1971 by Gerry Collins of Fianna Fail (what a surprise!) was really tightened up in 1977 by Labour's Conor Cruise O'Brien, following British Tory minister Douglas Hurd's decision to put the Sinn Féin organization on the banned list. This was Section 31.

It truly was bizarre as it extend-

ed to them not even being able to make statements that were outside of politics. Such as "Pass us the sugar there, I'm gasping for a cup of tea."

By this time Brian is beginning to look around in the hope that someone of his own age will come in and rescue him from this old weirdo before he gets any worse.

Which, as a matter of fact, I'm about to; because I'm now telling him about the ingenious way that they got around this ban in the North, and what came to be the reports that we saw here in the Republic.

What they did was - and get a load of this - hire jobbing actors to dub the voices of Adams, McGuinness and the rest of the merry band. So now we could see them, and we could note that their lips were moving - yes, just like real people - but what we actually heard was the voice of someone else. Someone with a voice that wasn't so wicked and likely to bend us out of shape.

As it happened, the actor who generally did Adams was a guy by the name of Stephen Rea.

Now Brian is a movie buff, just like Yours Truly, so he perks up a bit at this. 'Really? Same name as the guy from 'Black 47' and 'The Butcher Boy?' he asks.

Nah, Brian; not just the same name - the same actor. Yes, back in the day, the man who was dubbing Gerry Adams in order to spare us from hearing his real voice was the very same who went on to star as the IRA man on the run in Neal Jordan's brilliant 'The Crying Game'. In fact, he was the same man who married convicted IRA bomber Dolours Price after she was released from jail in the 80s.

You couldn't make that up.

And, of course, Price (one of the hardliners who was opposed

to the Good Friday Agreement) would go on to have a very public falling-out with Gerry Adams himself after she named him as her Commanding Officer, a claim he has always denied. Well, he would kind of have to since he also denies ever having been in the IRA.

So when you put it all like that, it's no wonder that someone who wasn't even born at the time is looking at me as if I'm pulling his leg. But I'm not, Brian; I'm really not. As surreal as it all now sounds, it happened.

Well, Section 31 ended in 1994 and we were then able to listen to the real voices of Sinn Féin without - as far as I can tell - any of us turning into raving lunatics.

And here we are today, with the Party that was once banned from the airwaves having played a blinder and looking at the real possibility that we could one day see Mary Lou McDonald as Taoiseach.

Finally, people got so sick and tired of being lied to by what you could be forgiven for thinking are the only two parties in the country, Fianna Fail and Fine Gael (or two cheeks of the same arse, as they are commonly known) that

they have voted for real change.

And maybe Sinn Féin will be no different - I hold out little hope when it comes to politicians - but at least we've gone some way to breaking out of that insane tribal mindset that says you have to vote for the party that you've always voted for.

And whatever happens now, this election has been so full of little joys for me. There's the continuing decimation of the Labour party, who betrayed every principle they ever pretended to have; and of that preening, strutting little leader of theirs, Brendan Howlin - a guy filled to the brim with a sense of importance that was based on shag-all.

Joan Burton is gone and that makes every day feel like the beginning of springtime; so is the awful Regina Doherty. And so on. Ah yes, Lord, so much to be thankful for.

But surely most amusing of all was watching the increasingly arrogant Micheál Martin throughout the campaign becoming totally unhinged every time the Shinners were even mentioned. I'm not kidding, the apoplectic Fianna Fail leader looked as if he was going to have a fit at times as he

denied **EVEN THE POSSIBILITY OF EVER SHARING POWER WITH SF, I TELL YOU!!!** Not a hope in Hell! Never will we share power with the likes of them!

Nearly frothing at the mouth he was, God help us, with that scowling brow and the demented eyebrows on him hopping up and down like little black caterpillars on speed.

Then - and as soon as the extent of the swing to SF became clear - it was suddenly a case of "I will respect the decision of the people".

And when the dust had settled out he comes with: "For me, the country must come first". (The eyebrows were really carrying on like mad things at this stage.)

Translation: Maybe the people will forget that I said never, never, never and Mary Lou will throw me a lifebelt. A politician telling outright lies and then doing a U-turn. Who could have seen that coming?

And as I write this I haven't even touched on Varadkar and it's only the 12th of February. You who are reading this in March have two weeks on me.

But I'm looking forward to catching up.

chasbrady7@eircom.net

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On the Upbeat

By **Maryann
McTeague Keifer**

The High Holy Month has arrived, and with it, a tasty assortment of concerts to make everyone happy. Starting the month off is the award winning and get your toes tappin' band, JigJam. Quickly becoming known as one of the top

CeltGrass bands, they have been WOWing audiences with their new CD PHOENIX, winner of the ALSR Crossover Album of the Year. Mostly self-composed, their lyrics melt your heart, and dynamic playing will keep you on a high all night. If you haven't yet seen them live, get yourself over to Old Town School of Folk



Goitse

Music on the 1st.

Trad Album of the year winners, GOITSE, will be in South Bend at Notre Dame on March 5th and at Fermi Lab on the 7th. These will be do not miss concerts. I was so fortunate to be able to catch them at Trad Fest in Temple Bar in January where they were hosting a series of concerts for children-talk about a magical experience. Their communication with the wee ones

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and the music warmed all our hearts. It was inspiring to watch how the kids responded to the music and how Colm and Aine taught them the rhythm patterns for jigs and reels. The band

had them mesmerized, and they will do the same to you!

Liz Carroll will be celebrating the month at the Beverly Arts Center on March 6th for what I'm sure will be another sell out. Can't beat an evening with Liz! On the same night, the Chieftans are playing their last Chicago concert on their farewell tour at the Chicago Symphony Center. Hard decisions on this night!

March 7th is a nightmare for all Irish music fans as you will need to split yourself into at least fifths. As mentioned, GOITSE is at Fermi Lab. Paddy Homan will be in concert at the McCord Gallery & Cultural Center in Palos Park. Jimmy Keane and Johnny Williams are putting on another "Mighty Squeeze" at Chief O'Neill's, while Socks in the Frying Pan is at the Irish Culture & Heritage Center in Milwaukee with the Chieftans at Milwaukee's Riverside Theater. Paddy's concert is at 4PM, so you can catch that and then head to one of the others for the evening-impossible choices!

You can attend St. Catherine of Alexandria in OakLawn on the morning of March 8th for a Gaelic mass with Paddy Homan; then head down to Randolph Street to City Winery for a duo of concerts by We Banjo 3. The lads have taken the venue by storm and appear now at least twice a year with two sellouts a night. You'll see many of the attendees at both concerts, because once with WB3 is never enough!

The very next evening at City Winery, you can rock with the dynamo FIDDLER Eileen Ivers. With a mix of



Liz Carroll

genres which she easily moves in and out of, you'll be wide eyed and amazed. Joining her is the fabulous family band from Canada, Leahy, who had all at City Winery rocking last fall.

You can catch Gaelic Storm for their annual March weekend at House of Blues on the 13th and 14th. If you haven't yet heard, Pat Murphy took a bad landing at a recent concert and broke 10 bones in his

legs so you may be seeing him on a souped up wheel chair or who knows what he will devise. We all send out get well wishes, and reminders that he may be getting too old to be vaulting from balconies.... No matter how he maneuvers, though, you know Gaelic Storm is a great time! The locally loved Sullivan Brothers will also be performing at the IAHC on the 13th.

The 14th is another date which presents a conundrum for music fans. For those who want more WB3, they are performing at the gorgeous Pabst Theater in



We Banjo 3

Milwaukee. Sinead O'Connor will be at City Winery. This is a soldout concert, but there is a waiting list. The Dirty Wellies will be at Harrah's Joliet, and The Sullivan Brothers at The Theater on the Lake.

Both the IAHC and Gaelic Park have full schedules of local bands and dancing schools performing on the 13th-15th. Be sure to go to their websites to check out all they have put together for you to celebrate the weekend prior to St. Patrick's Day.

Back up in Milwaukee at the Pabst Theater on the 15th, you can catch Gaelic Storm if you missed them here, and The Dirty Wellies will be at Clancy's on 95th Street.

One of, if not the top Trad band in the world, Lunasa, will be at Old Town School of Folk Music on March 21st. If you have never seen them live, run, do not walk, to get a ticket. There aren't adjectives good enough to describe their music! Skerryvore fans will be happy to see them at the Metropolitan Performing Arts center in Arlington Heights for their bagpipe fix!

Female Vocalist of the Year Aoife Scott and her band will be at Old Town School of Folk Music on March 25th. If you want an evening to be entertained and delighted, get yourself there. She is a gem!

Last, on March 27th, and what a way to go out, is the Martin Hayes Quartet featuring Martin, Dennis Cahill, Liz Knowles, and Doug Wieselmann at Old Town School of Folk Music-a magic month for sure!

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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



I'd like to remember fallen police officer (Garda) in Ireland, Adrian Donohoe. (1972-2013) I was thinking, what are the toughest jobs? Landmine remover, communication tower climber, firefighter. Police officer. Adrian was a detective, he served 19 years in Dundalk, Co. Louth. He was from Co. Cavan. His parents were Peggy & Hugh Donohoe. Adrian grew up on the family farm with his three brothers and two sisters. He joined the Garda Siochanna (guardians of peace) in 1994. He was married to Caroline and they had two children, 6 and 7.

Donohoe was described as a father figure in his community & coached his local GAA club, St. Patrick's. Detective Donohoe and his partner Detective Joe Ryan were on a routine 2-person cash escort. Ryan was driving an unmarked police car, both detectives were wearing civilian clothing and carrying firearms. The gardai are primarily an unarmed police force, however detectives are armed. The men were en route to meet local credit union officials at Cooley Credit Union in Omeath, Co. Louth. They would travel to a bank in Dundalk to lodge revenues in a night safe. This was regular protocol. They entered the car park of the credit union, and parked. Another car was accompanying them from another credit union branch. There was a blue Volkswagen Passat waiting on the road, it drove across and blocked the entrance. Two men approached the detective's car from the rear. As Donohoe opened his door, he was shot in the back of the head with a long-barreled shotgun. The thieves threatened Ryan, and took a bag of 4K Euro, mistakenly leaving the other bag with 30,000. Detective Ryan was left physically uninjured, but he was robbed of his car keys.

The perpetrators escaped to N. Ireland before efforts to secure the border on both sides. The

border can be crossed by car in around ten minutes from the credit union. One hour later a car matching the description was found burnt in Co. Armagh.

In the early stages of this investigation, there were over 1,000 garda officers involved, making it one of the largest criminal investigations in the history of Ireland. They found that the prime suspect fled to the U.S. The NYPD and the FBI were given the details & identity, they were to track him until Garda landed in the U.S, to help trace his movements. U.S. immigration and Customs Enforcement in New York worked with Garda Siochana in relation to this international investigation. The suspect entered the U.S. under the Visa waiver program but failed to leave when it expired making him open for arrest and removal from the U.S. under immigration violations. The main suspect was arrested but the rest of the suspected gang members are currently living in the U.S or Australia. Gardai have vowed to pursue those involved "to the ends of the Earth".

I didn't mention the murderers name because I only want to mention, ADRIAN O'Donohoe, the hero in this story, the man who served his community. He was given a full state funeral. The president Michael D. Higgins & the Taoiseach Enda Kenny were in attendance. O'Donohoe's partner Joe Ryan was a pallbearer.

Donohoe was awarded, A People of the Year award, 8 months after his death, it was presented in Citywest Dublin by GAA personality/commentator, Michael O'Muircheartaigh. It was accepted by, Caroline, his widow. She said, "Adrian was the love of my life, the best father a child could have, I will miss him every minute of everyday as long as I live"

I want to thank all the police officers here & in Ireland for their service, keeping communities safe

& risking their lives for all of us.
POLICE OFFICER'S PRAYER
 O almighty God,
 please watch over all Law Enforcement Officers. Protect them from harm in the their duty to stop crime, robberies, riots and violence. We pray to help them keep our streets and homes safe day and night. We recommend them to your care because their

duty is dangerous. Grant them your unending strength and courage in their daily assignments. Dear God, protect these brave officers, unite them safely with their families after duty ends. Amen.
 Gaelic for the Month
 Serve-fonamh (foniv)
 Crime-coireacht (coreakt)
 Widow-baintrach (bantrok)
 Protect-cosaint
 Molanive@yahoo.com



My corner on this paper is about the counties of Ireland, but I'm writing about the roads of Ireland this month. We hardly think of them unless we move away from Ireland. When you walk along the same road long enough, you have an attachment to it, a sense of this road or path is my home. The block you live on means something special to you and the lane I left behind in Ireland meant the world to me. I didn't turn my back on it and miss it severely. Some animals you might encounter on a road in Ireland include donkeys, wolfhound, setter, sheep dog, cows, sheep, etc.... There is an Irish blessing, May the road rise up to meet you, is about nature & God taking care of us. That special road I left in Clopook will stay in my mind forever.

A new road was constructed in Ireland that includes Ireland's longest bridge, at 887m, crossing the River Barrow between counties Wexford and Kilkenny. When I heard that it brought me back to my home. It is named the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge in honor of the mother of President John F Kennedy.

Many of Irelands roads are narrow and winding and they aren't always in the best condition or paved. Also, roads in Ireland use the metric system of units, kilometers, not miles. Some road

signs might be in English and Irish language. Although roads have improved, and new motorways built between areas you will find once you leave the national primary roads standards can drop abruptly. The main road types in Ireland include motorways, national primary roads, national secondary roads, regional roads and lastly unclassified roads. Some roads are very beautiful, some roads are an adventure and some roads are meant to be driven with extreme caution. If you are not from Ireland and your traveling by car you may need to ask a native for directions. You might not get an answer if you ask for ex where is the m50 road. However, if you ask the way from Thomastown to Callan, they will be happy to direct you. A lot of roads are narrow and will not give you any warning that they are tight. so, when driving you will need to look out for oncoming cars, walkers, agricultural machinery and/or animals.

There are famous scenic roads in Galway, Cliftden to Westport Mayo, Inishowen to Donegal, Burren, sally gap to Wicklow. They say one of the dangerous roads in Ireland is called Connor's pass in Kerry. On local roads most drivers greet other drivers with a wave whether they know them or not. In Ireland it's said If you meet a funeral on the road you are meant to

walk three steps with the funeral and if you don't you will have bad luck. So, next time you're on your familiar roads be thankful, they are your roots. Many people are far from their familiar roads, far from their roots, and their block.

A Conversation with God

"Come in," God said. "So, you would like to interview me, what questions do you have in mind to ask me?" "What surprises you most about mankind?" God answered:

That people get bored of being children, are in a rush to grow up, and then long to be children again. That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health. That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live neither for the present nor the future. That they live as if they will never die, and they die as if they had never lived. God's hands took mine and we were silent for a while and then I asked: As a parent, what are some of life's lessons you want your children to learn? God replied with a smile: To learn that they cannot make anyone love them. To learn that what is most valuable is not what they have in their lives, but who they have in their lives. To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others. All will be judged individually on their own merits, not as a group on a comparison basis! To learn that a rich person is not the one who has the most but is one who needs the least. To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in persons we love, and that it takes many years to heal them. To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness. To learn that there are persons that love them dearly, but simply do not know how to express or show their feelings. As I listened intently, God said, to learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it totally different. To learn that it is not always enough that they forgive others, but that they must forgive themselves. I thanked God for His time and for all that He has done for me and my family. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hello Everyone, Happy Saint Patrick's Day! Let the music and dancing begin. I was watching with pride, as my son Declan, (who now drives himself) on one of the coldest days of the year in February, heading off to Gaelic Park, for his Saturday morning

Accordion lesson with Jimmy Keane. Declan is now, a regular at Irish sessions all over the city, with mentors like, Pauline Conneely (who picks him up for school also every morning) Gerry Carey, Larry Nugent, John Williams, and the list goes on. It takes me back to Ireland when I used to go to the sessions also. I was a member of the Carrickmacross, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. I also played a lot of the local Ceali's dances with the great Peter Murphy.

The Shamrock is a very loved and respected symbol of our faith, thanks to St Patrick, and a thing I really miss. I would always wear it with pride on St. Patrick's Day. Of course, like a lot of other things, it's not allowed into America anymore (unless you live in the White House of course). I'm thinking they probably have a photo with it, and then throw it out. And I'm not even a pessimist. I think a lot of people think the Shamrock is our national emblem, but, in fact, it is the Harp. A musical instrument, which to me, represents the nature of Ireland and the people (along with the Shamrock of course). No, it's not a sword or any kind of weapon, it's a peaceful musical instrument, in a country that never started any wars.

I was thinking about all the places in and around Chicago, that promote music and I started writing a song about the Irish sessions. Brendan McKinney came to mind, who is an outstanding musician along with his wife Siobhan. So, I incorporated O'Neil's Pub, 'Chief O'Neil's' that is, which is a landmark for traditional Irish music and is owned and run by Brendan and Siobhan. By the way, they serve a great pint of Guinness and the finest of food there also. So in the course of about ten minutes, I wrote this month's song. The song is titled 'At The Irish Session'

I hope you have a great month of celebrations! As always, be good to one another, Joe.

'At The Irish Session'

Written by Joe McShane

Verse 1

The sky is bright somewhere tonight
Somewhere across the ocean
In this old saloon, we'll play our tunes
So we won't feel so lonesome
There's a fiddler here from County Clare
And one from county Galway
A bosca ceoil from near Listowel
And a piper from Chicago

Chorus

Three or four come through the door
And sit around the table
Banjo's, fiddles penny Whistles
And anyone that's able
Before too long the place is thronged
And everyone is welcome
Its a piece of home from across the foam
At the Irish Session

Verse 2

We all meet up at O'Neil's pub
And share our tunes and story's
From hearts of gold come songs of old
And tales of old past glories
With a touch of pride in every eye
In this city, we're all neighbors
An outstretched hand from Ireland
No one here's a stranger

Chorus

As three or four come through the door
And sit around the table
Banjo's, fiddles penny Whistles
And anyone that's able
Before too long the place is thronged
And everyone is welcome
Its a piece of home from across the foam
At the Irish Session

Bridge

So if you want a bit of craic
and have the music take you back
When work is done come join the fun
At the Irish session

Chorus

As three or four come through the door
And sit around the table
Banjo's, fiddles penny Whistles
And anyone that's able
Before too long the place is thronged
And everyone is welcome
Its a piece of home from across the foam
At the Irish Session

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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

The end of this new decade in 2030 heralds the deadline for sustainable development goals in the United Nations, coupled with the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Meanwhile we tumble relentlessly at cement mixer speed encountering daily the death knell of civilized politics. We

cringe when fact checkers spoon feed us a litany of corrections in speeches delivered by those who hold power assuming no one will sift truth from lies as they rant in dishonest banter. Caught red handed these teleprompter czars rather than acknowledge their exaggerations have the hutzpah to blast the media for publishing

their untruths. Bravo to those public servants who fact check maintaining an honest path and educating voters.

Climate change is not a hoax. We already see the frightening forces unleashed globally by the changes. Meanwhile, US unstable politics is unable to meet the challenges. Can Democracy be saved in the light of a wealthy elite who possess an enormous influence on politics and public policy? Tough question, so let's lighten up.

Scribbled a note to self: To be Irish is not something that stops when you get on a plane! That, coupled with an Op-Ed in a recent edition of the *New York Times*, caught my eye. Co-penned by writer Elisa Albert and Jennifer Block, author of: *Everything Below The Waist: Why Health Care Needs a Feminist Revolution*, focused on Gwyneth Paltrow, actor, activist, health guru and creator of a Netflix series entitled "Goop Lab." Dire predictions from the usual sources immediately sprang into action and the show was deemed "dangerous pseudo-science,"

I did not watch the series but in researching learned it covered cold therapy, energy healing, longevity diets and therapeutic use of psychedelics. It also drifted into other areas unfit for publication. The writers' rightly slammed the "classic patriarchal devaluation" of women who engaged in mid-

wifery, which has made a resurgence in our society and is highly respected. They charged the medical profession with the slandering of women who practiced a form of healing and mindfulness that although welcomed and practiced by generations of females, such remedies confused the authorities and absolutely did not sit well with the church. Imagine, for example under the heading of science, in the early 20th century women were told to stop breast feeding and encouraged to utilize highly profitable formula and jars of baby food.

During my youth in Ireland babies were fortified, survived and thrived by breast milk, a practice I adopted when my first daughter was born in Massachusetts. I was criticized, shunned even by an otherwise loving mother-in-law who explained me away by pointing out I was born in Ireland. That translated as "peasantry" and described as "from the old country," to explain breast feeding. Our pediatrician did not mince words when I revealed my plan. Shaking his head he smirked and wished me good luck. Babies cry, night

and day they cry and phoning his office for advice his tone was sharp, as he explained my child was not receiving sufficient nourishment in breast milk. His advice, cease breastfeeding and give the child formula. In addition, the *Boston Sunday Pilot*, the Archdiocese newspaper, warned in an article that filled me with fear and trembling that if a woman engaging in breastfeeding, an activity alleged to curb ovulation, was committing mortal sin. It was the early sixties, I turned a deaf ear and continued to breast feed as well as two additional daughters. How times have changed. Breastfeeding is in vogue and yes in addition to feeding a child, it also has the advantage of family planning.

Growing up in Ireland mid-wives theories and extraordinary healing measures were heavily practiced. In my household if one of us developed a sore throat the cure was guaranteed. My father's white silk scarf fringed on both ends was steeped in ice cold water, wrung out by hand and wrapped around our throat. Yes, it was cold and shivering, but in the morning,

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scarf and pillow dried and soreness evaporated. An infected cut was treated by what was called a "poltice" a combination of white bread soaked in warm water, squeezed out, heaped on the cut then bandaged. Ugly as all hell, a kid wearing a poltice was house-bound! The theory worked every time, the concoction of bread and water drew out the infection. Vicks in small blue bottles was rubbed on a chest for congestion, the vapors immediately putting children blissfully to sleep. For scabby knees, a dousing of sharp

stinging iodine that only drew attention to the clumsy habit of children who fell.

My young sister was plagued by chronic eye sty's. On summer evenings or on a Sunday afternoon my family strolled to St. Brigid's Stream in Faughart, County Louth, according to folklore the birthplace of Saint Brigid. Irene's eyes were bathed in the stream, but alas she continued to be stricken. As a last ditch effort, our Aunt who read the cards, telling friends and neighbors their fortunes, held to the belief of what she called

"old wives" medicine. She elicited the eldest boy from a family on our street to give Irene the cure. Given permission by his parents who were elated their son was asked to perform the ritual, Patsy McGeogh came every morning for nine visits. He was provided a salt shaker, a rose thorn, and a small bottle of holy water. The ritual was quick, a sprinkle of blessed water on my sister as he pointed the thorn at her eye, made the sign of the cross and gave a shake of the salt shaker over his left shoulder. Due to his

devotion to the Blessed Mother, he beseeched Her to cure Irene's eye. I wondered often if that was a sort of witchcraft, maybe a tinge of paganism or belief in the power of the Virgin Mary. My sister never suffered from eye sty's again!

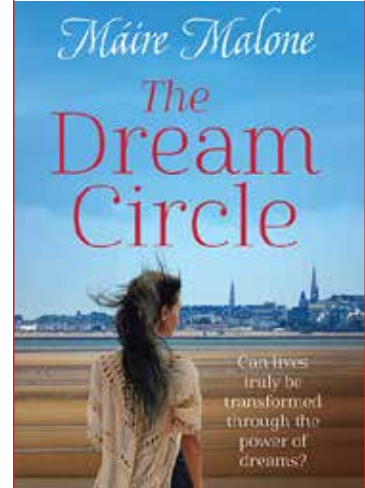
One last remedy, as a laxative a teaspoon of Epson Salts in a glass of warm water dislodged the problem. However, the drink itself was so distasteful as it descended past the throat it caused a small convulsion. Gwyneth Paltrow, eat your heart out!

Fit to Print

it's becoming difficult to log the changes in Ireland's political, religious and socialite lifestyle. For example, although the US Media's coverage of the Oscar's did not hail the best dressed woman to be Irish actress Satires Ronan, fair dues to the Irish Times opting to bestow the coveted title to the four times Oscar nominated actress. Not that many years ago when criticism was high on the personality list, the Irish population would strike out. Who does she think she it wearing that (Gucci) contraption? It's conceited she is, a sign of bad rearing, but sure what could you expect and her nibs off in that God forsaken place called Hollywood?

The above is a classic example of how Irish attitudes have changed. The harshness of language has softened considerably and pride in accomplishment, achievement and success is revered and praised. Also the monsoon of forgiveness in the monumental election of Sinn Fein was on display in the recent election. Make no mistake though the Irish have a way with madness a case in point the two chaps who are in the slammer for sailing drunk on the River Liffy. The two villains received a sentence of four months in prison, but in an act of extreme mercy one month was suspended. The two Dublin men, Captain Brian Stacey and Ronan Stephens slipped off course during a frigid six o'clock morning cruise heading directly into the shipping lane. The men were convicted of careless and drunk sailing and under Maritime Law cited for a

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breach of the peace. The captain and his companion put up a fight with the police, declaring it was their "God given right" to sail on the Liffy.

The morning cruise utilized a 26 foot pleasure raft and the lads refused to get out of the shipping lane when demanded by the Harbor Master. The refusal delayed the arrival of a 4,000 ton cruise ship into the river. Both sailors vehemently denied they were consuming alcohol, insisting there was drinking water in their foreign brand glass bottles.

Garda to the rescue, Paul Moody, without a life jacket was forced to jump from one boat to another to defuse the situation. Garda Moody commanded deckhand Ronan Stephens to moor the yacht which he refused. As a motorbike racer he never sailed a boat before! When the boat finally reached Sir John Roberson's Quay, Stephens required help to bring him ashore. He claimed this was due to his arthritis.

Once on dry land he stripped down removing all his clothing and stood on the quay butt naked because, as he noted there were armed gardi there and he did not want to get shot. He was arrested. The Judge cited them for their total disregard for the lawfulness of the Harbor Authority and described their lack of remorse for their action as reckless. The pair were ordered to complete an alcohol awareness program and charged with heavy fines to be paid within three months. Moral of story, stay out of the River Liffy.

Chicago Rose of Tralee to be Selected Bi-Annually

By Anne Marie McGarry McIntyre

The organizers of the Rose of Tralee International Festival revamped the selection process by removing the regional qualification aspect of the event.

This change will ensure that every Rose selected from their Centre will be featured on the televised Rose Selection nights broadcast from the Dome on RTÉ.

Beginning in 2020, most Centres, including the Chicago Centre, will select a Rose bi-annually, and others will select two out of three years, so that 32 Roses will be hosted in Tralee every year to enjoy all that Ireland's flagship family festival has to offer - parades, gala functions, entertainment, a Rose Tour and much more.

Roses representing Kerry, Cork and Dub-

lin will continue to be selected every year.

The Executive Chair of the Rose of Tralee International Festival, Anthony O'Gara, said: "Moving from the Regional Festival (staged from 2004 to 2015) to bringing all our Roses directly to the Rose of Tralee International Festival for the past three years has been generally very positively received." In previous years, only thirty two of the sixty six Roses were chosen for the televised selection. "Our focus is to celebrate and respect the passion and emotion, and indeed the time and financial investment that every Rose, her family and Centre invest with us."

The Rose of Tralee family has grown extensively since 2004 with 40 new Centres and a rejuvenated brand. Rose Centres are the core of the Festival. The commitment and passion from the Centre

Coordinators have helped to make it the great event, they help the organizers to achieve their mission to celebrate excep-



tional young Irish women, foster friendships and connect Irish communities.

The search for the 2021 Chicago Rose of Tralee will begin early next year. Meanwhile, the current Chicago Rose, Shana Pembroke, had an event packed year since her selection last April. The culmination of which was her participation in the Rose of Tralee International Festival in August. Stay tuned for next month to read all about Shana's yearlong experience as a Rose.

Shana will be busy representing the Chicago Centre for St Patrick's Day at several

Chicago venues, including the Young Irish Fellowship Club's 45th Annual Forever Green! Event on March 6th, the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 14th and the South Side Irish Parade on March 15th. For up to date news and information about Shana and the Chicago Rose Centre follow us on Instagram or like our Facebook Page. If you would like to host Shana at an event, please email the Centre at chicagoroseof-tralee@gmail.com.

Happy St Patrick's Day from the Chicago Rose Centre!

WTTW's 'Our Irish Pub TV Show' Featuring Cork and Kerry Premieres Sunday March 22

With Skinny & Houli Info Party for Ireland Trip

OUR IRISH PUB which was filmed at The Cork & Kerry Irish Pub, 10614 South Western Ave, in Chicago will debut on WTTW, Channel 11 Chicago on Sunday March 22 at 1:30PM. Coincidentally, the Cork & Kerry will also be the site of Skinny & Houli's Galway 2020 info party at 2PM that day.

All are welcome and encouraged to join

are "getting the band back together" for another trip to Ireland this July. The Galway 2020 tour takes place from July 7-17th, with five nights in Galway, two in Killarney, and two in Dublin. Skinny & Houli have coordinated several tours to Ireland in the past and stories of the craic are legendary.

This year they will be in Galway, the

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- March 7 Goldyburgers 8:00PM Forest Park, IL
- March 14 FitzGerald's "St. Patrick's Fest" 7:00PM Berwyn, IL
- March 17 IAHC "St. Patrick's Day" 2:00PM Chicago, IL
- April 18 Mount Prospect Irish Fest 3:00PM

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Mike Houlihan, Mike "Pickle" Joyce, Skinny Sheahan, Johnny "Vegas" Sheahan, and Mike Flannery.

in the craic in OUR IRISH PUB at The Cork & Kerry on Sunday March 22nd. Admission is free with a cash bar and an information presentation on the trip to Ireland. Get there early to watch the TV show and recognize friends from The Cork & Kerry in the show!

Long-time radio co-hosts Skinny & Houli may have retired their radio show, but they

2020 European Capital of Culture, for five nights during the Galway Film Fleadh, and then traveling to Killarney and Dublin.

Houli says, "Hoping to see all our old pals from the Southside at this multi-media Irish extravaganza at The Cork & Kerry. The craic will be mighty indeed!" Contact mikehoulihan7@gmail.com or call 312-431-8700.



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The Problem With Iowa

The 2020 election season (finally) kicked off this past month with the famous Iowa caucuses. People from all over the state gathered in their local high school gym, church basement or other public venue to make their voice heard. But what the heck is a caucus, anyway?

Caucuses have their roots in the early 19th century, when party leaders would meet and vote on their preferred nominee. These caucuses were closed off from the general public and were secretive affairs. Over time, the caucuses were opened slightly, but were still considered somewhat exclusive. Prior to 1972, a majority of states utilized the caucus method for their primary selection process. This changed after Hubert Humphrey lost in the general election to Richard Nixon in 1968. A commission recommended reform across the country to open participation to “rank-and-file” members. Over time, ballot voting replaced the traditional caucus method in most states. Iowa is a holdout from a largely bygone era.

Since Iowa is the first state to hold primary contests during the presidential election year, the caucuses are truly a sight to behold. Remember those cheesy pep rallies your high school used to hold before a big game? Think of the caucuses as a bunch of big, messy pep rallies. People from each candidate’s camp gather in

clusters in the space provided. Some groups even start cheering and chanting.

Precinct chairs from each camp walk around and count up the number of people in their respective cluster before reporting back to a central figure with all of the numbers in-hand. To achieve “viability,” a candidate must have a certain number of people gathered in their corner. If a candidate isn’t viable, then the people in that camp must either realign with another candidate or form a new group with other nonviable contenders. This process goes on for several rounds, and the number of delegates allocated to a candidate from each precinct is determined by a mathematical formula before being reported back to the state’s central party.

This year, the caucuses were a total disaster for the Democratic party. The Iowa Democratic Party decided to try and use an app for reporting rather than the traditional calling-in method using a phone. While that sounds good on paper, the party withheld the app from precincts until an hour before the caucuses were due to start to prevent any chances that the app could get hacked or compromised.

The rollout was a mess. Precinct chairs reported that they couldn’t even download the app, let alone report their numbers using it. Most resorted to the traditional method of phoning their results

into the central office. Despite utilizing a tried-and-true process to report the results after the initial hiccup, the Iowa Democratic Party withheld any results due to supposed “inconsistencies” in reporting. What these inconsistencies entailed isn’t exactly clear, but they kept the candidates and the general public from knowing the results the same night of the caucuses.

The chaos of this year’s Iowa caucuses reflects the inherent flaws of a process that should have been phased out years ago. Democracy is a messy process—there’s a ton of factors and information that go into a person’s choice of candidate. Given the publicity and prevalence of misleading media, the integrity of the United States’ democratic process is already in danger. The public way in which people are thrust into the caucuses allows for additional variables to be introduced to an already precarious method of collecting public opinion. Peer pressure, social isolation and general confusion can all play a monumental role in the way a person decides how to cast their vote.

In addition to the caucus system being inherently flawed, Iowa’s primary contest is often (mistakenly) seen as a valid testing ground for candidates to find their footing. While this also makes sense on paper, the fact of the matter is that the Iowa electorate is one of the least diverse in the country. At a population of just over three million, the state of Iowa ranks 31st in the union in terms of total population. Additionally, 90 percent of the population surveyed for the 2010 census identified as white. Only 3.4

percent of the population identified as black, while even smaller percentages identified themselves as Asian, Pacific Islander or any other racial minority. On top of all that demographic data, Iowa is the only state in the union that permanently disenfranchise people with felony convictions.

To sum up: the antiquated process the Iowa Democratic Party uses has inherent flaws and

ought to change sooner rather than later to avoid another catastrophe like this year’s primary contest. While this would likely mean Iowa surrendering its prized place as the first state in the union to hold a primary contest, it would also pave the way for more demographically representative states to set the momentum of primary season instead of Iowa.

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Wearing of the Green Dance

Kick off St. Patrick's MONTH with the annual dinner dance and enjoy an evening of food, dancing, prizes and music with Gerry Haughey and Friends.
Sunday, March 1, 5-10pm • \$45



Irish Genealogy Workshop with the Ulster Historical Foundation

Join experts from the Ulster Historical Foundation in a day-long workshop on Irish genealogy, covering such topics as church and land records and The Great Famine and Emigration to America.
Friday, March 6, 9am-5pm • Free



Friday Night Fish Fry

Bring your whole crew out on Fridays during Lent and enjoy a menu of fried cod, french fries, vegetable and coleslaw.
Through April 10, 6:30-9pm • Adults: \$14, Children: \$10



Fluid History of Irish Whiskey classes

Join whiskey educator and enthusiast Martin Duffy as you explore whiskey's history, production and legacy.
Saturday, March 7, 4-6pm • \$49.37



St. Patrick's Festival and St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Celebrate all things Irish with a full day of music, dance, food and drink, cultural offerings and family fun following the downtown parade. **Saturday, March 14 1pm-Midnight, \$15 (\$12 through 3/12), children 12 and under free**

The fun continues on the Feast of St. Patrick with music and dance in the Fifth Province. **Tuesday, March 17, Noon-11pm, \$10, children 12 and under free**



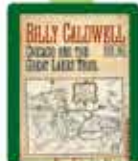
Spring Watercolor Classes

Learn to paint in watercolor in this class for all levels. With one-on-one guidance, students learn valuing relationships, paint color interpretation, composition and techniques. **Wednesdays, 6:45-8:45pm, March 18-April 22 or Thursdays, 10am-1:30pm, March 19-April 16**
IAHC members: \$130, Non-members: \$140



The National Archives of Ireland

The National Archives of Ireland houses many resources for your genealogy research. This workshop focuses on using the Archives to continue your research. This workshop was rescheduled from February. **Thursday, March 19, 7pm • \$20**



Susan Kelsey: Billy Caldwell Chicago and the Great Lakes Trail

Author Susan Kelsey discusses her book about Billy Caldwell: trader, treaty negotiator and tribal leader also known as Chief Sauganash.
Friday, March 20, 7pm • Free

Palm Sunday Mass and Breakfast

Celebrate Palm Sunday with Mass at 10:30am, followed by a full Irish breakfast.
Sunday, April 5, 10:30am • Adults: \$15, Children 12 and under: \$8

Spring Celtic Art Classes

Celtic Art by Hand and Eye • Sundays, 11am-1pm
 An introduction to Celtic Art teaching calligraphy, knotwork, spirals and patterns.
Celtic Art Portfolio • Sundays, 1:30-3:30pm
 An open studies class for artists.
April 5-June 28 • IAHC members: \$125, Non-members: \$140

Maura's Eyes: A Tale of Immigration

Maura's Eyes is the tale of a young girl's journey from Ireland through Ellis Island to America. Actress Megan Wells brings this story to life at another of our Saturday Morning Teas.
Saturday, April 11, 11am • Adults: \$25, Children 12 and under: \$8

Shane Hennessy in Concert

Hennessy is a virtuoso fingerstyle guitarist and songwriter from County Carlow. His energetic contemporary guitar style and cinematically vivid compositions tie in Irish and other ethnic influences.
Saturday, April 18, 8pm • IAHC members: \$18, General admission: \$20

Irish American Hall of Fame Gala

Celebrate the 2020 class in the fields of Arts & Humanities, Business & Industry, Public Service, Sports, Religion, Education and Science with dinner and an awards ceremony. **Saturday, April 25, 6:30pm • \$150-200**



St. Patrick's Festival

Saturday, March 14 • 1pm-Midnight
\$12-\$15 • children 12 and under free

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Tuesday, March 17 • Noon-11pm
\$10 • children 12 and under free



Shane Hennessy in Concert

Saturday, April 18, 8pm • \$18-\$20

Irish American Hall of Fame Gala

Saturday, April 25, 2020 • 6:30pm



For all upcoming IAHC events, visit www.irish-american.org



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President's Message

Happy St. Patrick's Day from all of us at the Irish American Heritage Center! There are those who say this about Christmas, but I am sure you will agree that St. Patrick's Day season is the most wonderful time of the year, and the IAHC is the perfect place to celebrate. Rest assured, there is no shortage of events and programming here, in honor of Ireland's patron saint.



Kilbubbin Brothers, The Shannon Rovers, The Chancey Brothers, Tim O'Shea with Patrick Quinn and many more. Also don't miss the best in Irish dance and traditional Irish music throughout the two days.

Save the date for a night of music from guitar virtuoso Shane Hennessy on Saturday, April 18. Hennessy

wowed the crowd as part of last year's Irish Fest and continues to travel the world playing his Chet-Atkins style guitar to large audiences.

Our 10th Annual Irish American Hall of Fame Gala is Saturday, April 25 and this is an event that is sure to sell out. Get your tickets now as we celebrate ten years of this fantastic event.

If you have not yet renewed your membership or you would like to become a new member, March is the perfect month to do it. With discounts on concert tickets, Center programs and other exciting benefits of membership, now's the time to MEMBER UP! for 2020. To join or renew, visit www.irish-american.org or visit us at the Center during one of our many events this month.

Enjoy the season and hope to see you around the Center!

Mike Shevlin, President

Whether it's attending St. Patrick's Day Mass, tracing your family back to the old country once roamed by Patrick himself, hanging out with family and friends, or enjoying the best in Irish music, the IAHC is the epicenter of the holiday season this March.

Our celebrations begin with the 13th Annual Wearing of the Green Dinner Dance on Sunday, March 1 with dinner, raffle prizes and music from Gerry Haughey and friends.

The IAHC is the place to be on Friday nights as the popular Lenten Fish Fry kicks off and runs through Good Friday.

The annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations take place on Saturday, March 14 and Tuesday, March 17. Entertainers over the two days include Mulligan Stew, Tadgh Hickey, Whiskey Mick, St. Stephen's Green, The

Annual Appeal

Below is the list of donors who have given to the 2019 Annual Appeal from January 21 through February 10. The campaign runs through April and donations will be published through May in *The Heritage Line*. Each year, Patrick and Peggy Burke generously pledge \$25,000 in matching funds for the Appeal. We thank them, and you, for your generous support.

To donate, visit www.irish-american.org or call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.

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MARCH ENTERTAINMENT
Music Starts at 8pm unless otherwise noted
Friday Night Music in March begins at 9pm

3/6 **Mulligan Stew**
3/7 **Eric Nyberg**
3/13 **Sullivan Brothers**
3/14 **St. Patrick's Festival 1pm-Midnight (ticketed event)**
3/20 **The Boils**
3/21 **St. Patrick Father's Dance**
3/27 **Joe McShane**
3/28 **Finbarr Fagan**



Thursday Night Irish Music Sessions: March 5, 12, 19, and 26

MARCH 2020			
3/1	Wearing of the Green Dance	Erin Room	5pm
3/4	Tara Club Senior Meeting	Room 304	10:30am
3/5	Genealogy Research Night for IAHC Members	Library	7pm
3/6	Irish Genealogy Workshop with the Ulster Historical Foundation	Erin Room	9am
	Francis O'Neill Ceili Mor	Room 309	8pm
	Friday Night Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
3/7	Fluid History of Irish Whiskey Class	Room 109	4pm
3/8	Great Irish Books Club, <i>Sally Rooney: Normal People</i>	Library	1pm
3/13	Friday Night Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham Am Room	8pm
3/14	St. Patrick's Festival	Whole Building	1pm
3/17	St. Patrick's Day Mass	Theatre	10:30am
	St. Patrick's Day Celebration	First Floor	Noon
3/18	Tara Club St. Patrick's Day Mass	Room 306	10:30am
3/19	The National Archives of Ireland	Library	7pm
3/20	Friday Night Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
	Author Susan Kelsey: Billy Caldwell: <i>Chicago and the Great Lakes Trail</i>	Library	7pm
	Shamrock American Club Meeting	Sham Am Room	8pm
3/27	Friday Night Fish Fry	Fifth Province	6:30pm
3/29	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm
Regularly Scheduled Events			
Mon-Fri	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	3pm-8pm
Tues	Nimble Thimbles	Room 208	9am-Noon
	Memoir and Creative Writing Class	Library	1pm
Wed	Genealogy Consultations	Library	10am
	Watercolor Class	Room 309	6:45pm
	Na Gaeil Language Class	Room 304 and Library	7pm
Thurs	Watercolor Class	Room 309	10am
	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal	Room 306	7pm
	The Thursday Shindig Music Session	Fifth Province	7pm
Sat	Gift Shop	First Floor Lobby	10am-8pm
	Na Gaeil Language Class	Library	11am
Sun	Celtic Art by Hand and Eye	Room 311	11am
	Celtic Art Portfolio	Room 311	1:30pm
Library Hours: Tues 10am-2pm; Wed 4pm-8pm; Sat 10am-2pm			

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**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
CELEBRATIONS**

**Music and Dance Schedule
SATURDAY, MARCH 14**

Fifth Province

- 1:15-2:30pm** Murphy Roche Irish Music Club
- 3-5pm** Tim O'Shea and Patrick Quinn
- 3:30pm** Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band
- 4:30-5:30pm** Kilgubbin Brothers
- 5:30-7pm** Tadhg Hickey
- 7:30-9pm** One of the Girls
- 9:30-11:30pm** The Chancey Brothers

Mayfair Theatre

- 1:30pm** Irish Heritage Singers
- 2:30pm** Rebecca McCarthy School of Dance
- 3:30pm** Mulhern School of Irish Dance
- 4:30pm** O'Hare School of Irish Dance
- 5:30pm** Trinity Irish Dancers
- 6:30pm** Mullane Godley Irish Dance Academy

Room 304

- 1-4pm** Trinity Irish Dance lessons

Room 309

- 3:30pm** Shepherd School of Irish Music
- 4:30pm** Irish Music School of Chicago
- 5:30pm** Mark Piekarz
- 6:30pm** The Gaels
- 7:30pm** Patrick Cannady and Friends

Erin Room

- 2-2:45pm** Wiggleworms
- 3:15-4pm** Wiggleworms
- 4:30-6pm** Kilgubbin Brothers
- 6-7:15pm** Mulligan Stew
- 7:45-9:15pm** The Joyce Boys
- 9:45-11pm** Whiskey Mick

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Mayfair Theatre

- 10:30am** Mass

Fifth Province Pub

- 12-1:30pm** Tim O'Shea and Devin Shepherd
- 1:45pm** O'Hara School of Irish Dance
- 2-3:30pm** Dooley Brothers
- 3:30pm** Shannon Rovers
- 3:45pm** Trinity Irish Dancers
- 4-6pm** The Chancey Brothers
- 6:15pm** O'Hare School of Irish Dance
- 6:30-8pm** Jim Sullivan and Friends
- 8:30-10pm** St. Stephen's Green

Wearing of the Green Dinner Dance

Kick off the St. Patrick's season with our 13th annual dinner dance with music, dancing, raffle prizes and dinner by Harrington's Catering and Deli. **Sunday, March 1, 5pm-10pm • \$45**

Friday Night Fish Fry

Bring the whole gang out for the Lenten Fish Fry and enjoy dinner, dance performances and kids' activities. **February 28-April 10, 6:30-9pm • Adults: \$14, Children: \$10**

**Irish Genealogy Workshop
with the Ulster Historical Foundation**

Trace your roots with experts from the Ulster Historical Society in a full day of workshops. **Friday, March 6, 9am-5pm • Free**

Fluid History of Irish Whiskey Class

Join whiskey educator and enthusiast Martin Duffy as you explore whiskey's history, production and legacy. **Saturday, March 7, 4pm • \$49.37**

St. Patrick's Festival

Saturday, March 14, 1pm-Midnight

\$12-15, children 12 and under free

Celebrate all thing Irish at one of Chicago's largest parties packed with music, dance, food and drink and family fun.

**St. Patrick's Day
Celebration**

Tuesday, March 17, Noon-11pm (Mass at 10:30)

\$10, children 12 and under free

The celebration continues with music and dance in the Fifth Province.

Susan Kelsey: Billy Caldwell Chicago and the Great Lakes Trail

Friday, March 20, 7pm • Free

Author Susan Kelsey discusses her book about Billy Caldwell; trader, treaty negotiator and tribal leader known as Chief Sauganash.



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—Nicole McDonagh, Board Member IAHC

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A Word With Kathleen Donahue



already put in countless hours of work for months ahead of time, working like mad during an event to make

sure every detail is just so.

I am overwhelmed by the generosity of so many people during our Celebration of Giving who make Christmas special for nearly 25,000 people each year—and I was even more overwhelmed once I learned that members of our Lake County Women's Board hand-deliver gifts to hundreds of seniors so they can enjoy the one-on-one attention of someone bringing a gift especially for them! I am inspired by our youth mentors who choose to spend their free time with teens and young adults in our mentoring programs, showing them that they matter and that people care about them and their futures.

I am grateful for hundreds of volunteers in our home-delivered meals programs that bring hot, nutritious meals and friendly visits to home-bound seniors. I am also grateful for the thousands of volunteers who daily help Catholic Charities with everything from stocking food pantry shelves, to serving dinners in our Evening Supper Programs, to caring for seniors at our adult day care sites, to stuffing envelopes for our annual appeals. Every single volunteer makes a difference and every single volunteer enables Catholic Charities to fulfill its mission of love and service to the poor.

If you are looking for a place to deepen your Lenten journey through volunteerism this year, please consider one of the many opportunities available at Catholic Charities (ccofchicagovolunteer.com). Volunteers truly are the hands of Christ held out to all—sharing His love and mercy and being a concrete sign of our solidarity with one another.

By Kathleen Donahue-Coia
Each year on Ash Wednesday, members of Catholic Charities Board of Advisors and Junior Board are invited to an "Evening of Reflection" in our St. Louise de Marillac Chapel at the St. Vincent Center on LaSalle Street. This year we collected socks and underwear for our Pope Francis Ministries, celebrated mass, distributed ashes, and shared a simple meal together. I am always amazed at how many of our busy board members make time to attend the event, and even more amazed at the number of young members of our Junior Board (typically age 25-40) who participate.

We started the "Evening of Reflection" to give Catholic Charities board members a special way to begin the Lenten journey of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It has been enthusiastically embraced with attendance growing each year. For me, the event has become another encouraging sign that even today, when we are constantly tempted by indifference, our desire for love and solidarity with one another still reigns.

Each day I am humbled by our hundreds of board members and thousands of volunteers who choose to put their faith into action at Catholic Charities. In the words of Pope Francis, volunteers "are among the most precious things the Church has, who every day, often silently and unassumingly, give shape and visibility to mercy. [Volunteers] express one of the most noble desires of the human heart: making a suffering person feel loved."

Indeed volunteers are the lifeblood of Catholic Charities, supplying the love and concern that fuel our services. There is truly a place for everyone who wants to lend a hand, and no act of kindness is too small.

We have volunteers who offer our guests a smile, warm welcome and a place to rest weary feet while waiting for services. We have scores of volunteers in our shower program who very literally remind me of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples when they lovingly scrub our showers after each and every guest. My heart swells at our various fundraising events when I watch our volunteer event committee members, who have



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DEMENTIA AND COMMUNICATION

As their disease progresses, the ability of a person living with dementia to communicate will decline. These changes are difficult for both the person with dementia and those caring from them.

The Alzheimer's Association has developed helpful information on understanding how a person's ability to communicate changes as their dementia progresses and provides tips on how you can better manage those changes in a loved one. In this article, we highlight just some of those helpful tips. Please visit alz.org/commtips for more assistance on communicating with a person with dementia.

Communication has a significant impact on our lives and relationships because it's how we let others know our feelings, needs, knowledge and affections.

The effects of dementia on a person's ability to communicate will vary between individuals, even if they have the same kind of dementia. Here, remembering that there will always be individual variations, we consider changes to communication across the 3 commonly defined stages of dementia - *early*, *middle* and *late*.

Common Changes in Communication

- Difficulty finding the right words.
- Using familiar words repeatedly.
- Easily losing a train of thought.
- Difficulty organizing words logically.
- Speaking less often.
- Relying on gestures more than speech.

Early Stage

Generally, people in this stage can still engage in meaningful conversation.

- Don't make assumptions about the person's ability to communicate.
- Don't exclude the person with the disease from conversations.
- Speak directly to the person and not

just their caregiver or companion.

- Give the person time to respond without interrupting.
- Take extra time to listen to the person as they work to express what they think and need.

Middle Stage

During this stage, the person will have greater difficulty with communication.

- Engage the person in conversation in quiet spaces with minimal distractions.
- Speak slowly and clearly.
- Ask one question at a time.
- Ask 'yes' and 'no' questions.
- Offer clear, step-by-step instructions for task.
- written notes can be helpful when spoken words seem confusing.

Late Stage

In this stage, the person may rely entirely on non-verbal communication such as facial expressions and vocal sounds.

- Approach the person from the front and identify yourself.
- If you don't understand, ask for non-verbal signs - ask the person to point or gesture.
- Treat the person with dignity and respect.
- It's okay if you don't know what to say - your presence and friendship are important.
- Use touch, sight, sounds, smells and tastes as a form of communication.
- Consider the feelings behind the words or sounds. Sometimes the emotions being expressed are more important than what's being said.



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SENIOR GROUPS

Irish American Heritage Center



Fraud Prevention Workshop

Cook County Sheriff's Office will be on hand to teach you how to protect yourself from fraud and financial scams.

This is a FREE event for Seniors

Wednesday 4th March

Doors : 10am - Workshop 10.30am

Irish American Heritage Center

Monthly Musical Gathering

We celebrate mass in honor of St. Patrick with musical accompaniment by classically trained tenor, Mark Piekarz.

Fr. Madigan of the St. Patrick's Fathers will officiate. All are welcome.

Wednesday 18th March

Doors : 10am - Mass : 10.30am

Irish American Heritage Center



SENIOR GROUPS

Chicago Gaelic Park

St. Patrick's Day mass

We celebrate this special time of year for our community with a mass in honor of St. Patrick.

Fr. Madigan of the St. Patrick's Fathers will officiate. All are welcome!

Wednesday 11th March

Doors: 10am - Mass 10.30am

Chicago Gaelic Park



Student Takeover

Our newest Irish intern, Brona Firman from Co. Wexford, has put together a morning of fun, interactive activities.

You're all invited to come out and welcome Brona to Chicago!

Wednesday 25th March

Doors : 10am - Program : 10.30am

Chicago Gaelic Park





U.S. Citizenship Classes- May 2020

Irish Community Services is offering **FREE** classes to help you through the U.S. Citizenship process.

What You'll Learn

- N-400 (Citizenship Application) Review
- Citizenship Interview Preparation & Practice
- US Civics Questions Review
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- Study Materials Available

Class Details

Irish American Heritage Center
May 2nd, 9th, 16th & 30th
10 AM - 12.30 PM

- 4 classes of 2.5 hours
- Classes are FREE. Fees apply for optional study material only.
- Limit 15 people per class



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March

Wednesday, March 11th

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Irish American Heritage Center
Hosted by Attorney Caroline Shoenberger

Wednesday, March 25th

3:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Irish American Heritage Center
Hosted by the McEntee Law Group

April & May

Wednesday, April 15th

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Irish American Heritage Center
Hosted by Attorney Caroline Shoenberger

Sunday, May 17th

10:00am - 12:00pm

HQ of Teamsters Local 705
Hosted by McEntee Law Group

Wednesday, May 20th

4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Irish American Heritage Center
Hosted by Attorney Caroline Shoenberger

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ANNUAL MARCH APPEAL

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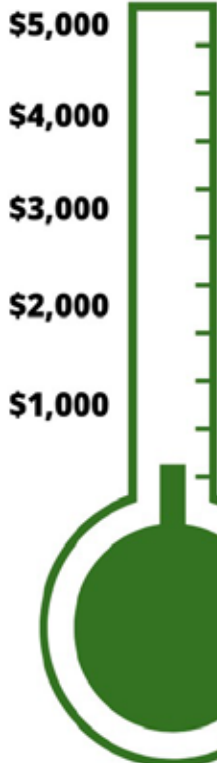
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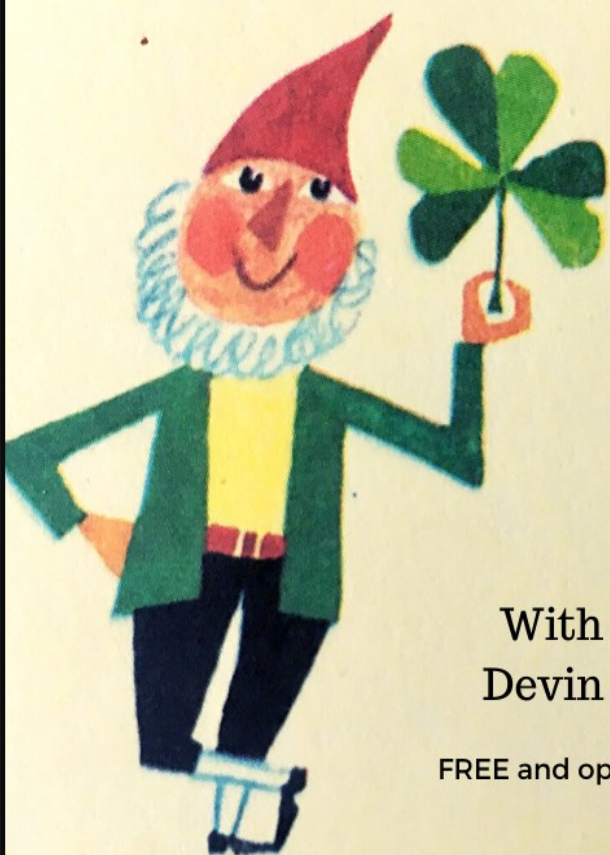
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10am - 12pm

March	April
Wednesday 4th	Wednesday 1st
Wednesday 11th	Wednesday 8th
Wednesday 18th	Wednesday 15th
Wednesday 25th	Wednesday 22nd
	Wednesday 29th



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Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



Welcome to March IAN readers. It's Spring finally in the air. As I write this - it's a balmy -1 degrees in Chicago, so not so much Spring days, but hopefully soon.

Many times I have calls from my clients and potential clients who desire a speedy resolution to an accident claim. It can be frustrating to wait on your insurance company's making decisions on a claim and often times the silence from an Insurance company is deafening. In this month's article, I'll cover why insurance companies may be taking longer than expected to respond to your claim and some things you can do if your insurance company is stalling.

In my experience, insurance

companies rarely if ever respond to claimants who are not represented by an attorney. For an insurance company to take you and your claim seriously my initial advice, is to hand your case over to an experienced personal injury attorney immediately.

If an insurance company does in fact engage with you as regards your claim or even goes so far as to make some sort of settlement offer, it is even more reason to engage an experienced personal injury attorney such as myself. You can be assured if an insurance company is offering you money, I can bet my house, it is not enough and is far from adequate or reasonable compensation for

your injuries.

All of my consultations are free and even when you do engage with me on a case, my fee is contingent on me being able to recover some monies for you, so the payment of a fee, a retainer or paying hourly rates, should never be a deterrent to you in making a call if you have been injured and need some advice.

When an insurance company puts off settling or responding to a claim, it typically does so for one of three reasons:

- It is waiting on additional documentation such as your medical records or the accident report;
- It suspects you filed a fraudulent claim and wants to investigate it more in depth;
- It is garnering more information to assist them to minimize the value of your claim, such as an opinion from a doctor that you are not injured to the extent you say you are;
- It is acting in bad faith.

Determine if the Company is, in Fact, Stalling

If insurance companies could decide all the rules, they would never be obligated to pay claims. Without the legal system, Insurers really have no incentive to ever settle a claim. Even under the law, they work hard to take years to pay out claims. Fortunately, there are state laws in place that require insurers to respond to injury claims. Most states require insurance companies to acknowledge a claim within 10 to 30 days and to either reject or deny it within 30 to 40 days. Bear in mind that state laws vary, and some states do not have time limitations in place. The best thing to do in this case would be to consult with a knowledgeable

attorney to determine if your insurance company is stalling—and if so, what you can do to speed up the settlement process.

Do Your Part

If your insurance company is stalling, there are a few things you can do on your own to help keep the ball moving. For one, you can organize all your records from the accident and keep them in one, easy to access location. Insurance adjusters are notorious for misplacing important documents or failing to request documentation in the first place. If the insurance adjuster then maintains they are missing any document, you will have it all in one place and can offer to send it over right away. Some documents you should hold onto include the following:

- Photos from the accident;
- Reports from the police;
- Medical records;
- Vehicle Repair estimates;
- Witnesses' contact information;
- Witness statements.

You should also keep minutes of all the telephone conversations you have with agents of the insurance company, along with the names of agents you spoke with and call times. Print any email communications for your own benefit and request copies of every document the agent has available or makes reference too.

Another thing you can do is, cooperate. If you have a claim against your own insurance company, you have a legal, contractual obligation to cooperate with them. You should supply them with information they request and do so in a timely fashion.

Things are treated somewhat differently, when your claim is against another party and you are

dealing with the insurer for the other party. As I have said before, remember they do not work for you and they are not your friend and so you should be very careful in how you deal with them and what you tell them. Always be vigilant that they can and will use information to take advantage of you if possible. In my opinion, your contact with the insurance company for a third party should be very minimal, which is another reason why you should engage an experienced personal injury attorney from the beginning.

What you should absolutely not do is give the insurance company for a third party a recorded statement. This is a common request at the very beginning of a claim. Don't agree to it, you are not obliged to give it and don't let them convince you otherwise. Insurance agents will initially appear genuinely concerned for your wellbeing. They are not! What you say in a recorded statement in the days and weeks after a car accident will be forever written down. The insurance company will use your own words against you in the future. Insurance adjusters are highly skilled and trained to ask questions that will benefit them, not you. My best advice when you get that call, is to be polite, refrain from giving a statement and refer them to your lawyer. Once you have a lawyer, insurance companies are not allowed to contact you directly.

If you suspect your insurance company of stalling in bad faith, or if you are just tired of waiting for your claim to settle, it may be time to enlist the help of a knowledgeable attorney. Contact me at Dwyer & Coogan to discuss your options for a speedy recovery.

• Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney practicing all types of personal injury law - including medical malpractice law, nursing home litigation, wrongful death claims, transportation injuries, premises liability claims, defective produce claims, construction site injuries and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com or at 312-543-4642

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Governments North and South of the Border

The threat that forced the two biggest parties to return to the Northern Ireland Assembly in January was the prospect of an assembly election if they did not. Terrified by the pounding they would likely receive from the electorate, the DUP and Sinn Féin did a deal to restore the assembly after a three-year hiatus. Sinn Féin had recorded three consecutive electoral slippages in the preceding 18 months and it would have been delusional to expect to be rewarded by an angry public deprived of public services as a consequence of the moribund assembly. So Sinn Féin cowered from the electoral blowback and signed up. How, then, did the same party, in the Irish general election in February, notch up by far its greatest electoral success in living memory?

As the only party that operates in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland and whose *raison d'être* is to unite Ireland, Sinn Féin would be loath to admit the reason it stood to do so badly in the North in January and did so well in the South the following month is partition. If issues such as Brexit, Sinn Féin's violent past and its record of governing in Northern Ireland were game-changers in the minds of the Southern electorate there would have been no surge in support for the party. But those issues are alarmingly remote from the Southern electorate's priorities. That electorate is completely preoccupied with its own remediable crises in housing, cost of living (particularly child-care and insurance) as well as the dysfunctional health service and ever-longer commutes. For over a decade, government policy has deprived young people of the right to a decent standard of liv-

ing. So Sinn Féin's strategists put these concerns into the machine and found that the word tying them all together in the minds of voters is change; and campaigned on that platform.

Naturally, the two main parties that have formed governments since the foundation of the State, Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil, also understood that the people wanted change. But they were considerably disadvantaged from presenting themselves as credible agents of it: Fianna Fáil supported Fine Gael in a minority government arrangement since 2016 and the public was so thoroughly sick of it that it was willing to punt for Sinn Féin to clean the Augean stable.

What Sinn Féin's very long period in opposition has finally taught the party is to tailor its message to the dominant mood of the people rather than to fixate on its less popular (in the South) constitutional aspirations. The constitutional question always takes precedence in Sinn Féin's agenda and, while that garners votes in the North, it is not nearly as important in the South. Assuming Sinn Féin has properly absorbed that lesson it now stands to endure as the third force in Southern politics, representing the left of centre voter.

Paradoxically, though, Sinn Féin has consistently supported austerity measures in the North. So how can it position itself to the left in Southern politics? Either it has a left-wing identity or it has a cross-border identity, but maintaining both does not stand up to scrutiny. In truth, its pull to the left—the central reason it won the popular vote—is merely a vehicle to ride to power.

Ireland will now have a caretaker government (the same government) until another government can be formed. It is plausible that Fianna Fáil, the party that won the most seats, will maintain its stance of refusing to form a gov-

ernment with Sinn Féin. If it does, then a 'grand coalition' between Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael with support from the Greens could emerge. In that case, the parties that form the government of the 33rd Dáil must do two things, or face dire consequences in the next general election.

Firstly, they must position themselves significantly to the left of the outgoing government. If drastic economic change is what the public wants and voted for, it must now get it. Sinn Féin would make hay out of being thus marginalised, so only a major economic overhaul would enable the government to survive and to justify itself to the public for not incorporating the winners of the popular vote.

Secondly, there is a card they could play to out manoeuvre Sinn Féin on the constitutional question (and I acknowledge that there is no evidence that the parties have been discussing this idea). The most Machiavellian move for such a coalition would be to put Irish unification centrally on its agenda. Given Prime Minister Boris Johnson's decreasing commitment to unionism and the potential of the EU to help to finance the transition, they might just achieve that historic—and increasingly inevitable—feat during the five-year lifespan of a government. The All-Ireland agenda under any guise is anathema to unionists, but it is a diabolical prospect when it is sponsored by Sinn Féin, which continues to provide unionists with reasons to distrust them: on being elected in Waterford, a Sinn Féin candidate cheered for the IRA.

Sinn Féin, in opposition, would be both unable to oppose the motion they are in politics to realise and unable to claim it as their achievement if it happens. Doubtless, Sinn Féin would find a way to cavil about the form of unity negotiated while not opposing the motion in itself, but such objections would be small beer. Unification by this route would put Sinn Féin in a bind and force them to accept that accomplishing unity is more im-

portant to them than delivering it themselves. In this scenario, one of the paradoxical consequences for Sinn Féin of this earthquake election would be that, having finally won a compelling mandate

to participate in government, its ultimate agenda would be best advanced by remaining outside of it. It would also give the other parties an ambitious agenda that they badly need.



The lovely Suzanne Smith has passed after a very long battle with cancer. Suzanne, and her husband Jack went everywhere together, and proudly attended all things Irish. Our condolences to Jack and his family. She will be dearly missed.

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- Lloyd James BrooksPunch #212
- Lynn Weaver BoylePunch #214
- Jennifer Patricia Callahan . . .Punch #200
- Marcia O'Brien ConwayPunch #232
- Araceli Reyes De La Cruz . . .Punch #217
- Maire Aileen DempseyPunch #234
- James T Derico Jr.Punch #187
- Jamie Guerra DicklerPunch #231
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- Patricia Theresa FlynnPunch #129
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- John GarridoPunch #232
- Laura Ayala-GonzalezPunch #189
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- Chris StaceyPunch #201
- Pamela StratigakisPunch #231
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- Sean TennerPunch #251
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Colleen's Award- Winning Irish Soda Bread at Peggy Kinnane's

What once was a fund raiser for Irish Dance has turned into a yearly ritual for Chicago native Colleen Callaghan Gallagher. For the past 15 years Colleen has been raising funds for Irish Dance by baking and selling her award- winning Irish Soda Bread. Over the years Irish Soda Bread sales have helped to cover the cost of dresses, wigs, shoes, tuition and competition fees.

commercial kitchen where she can bake up to 300 loaves each night. Family, neighbors and friends come to help bake, wrap and decorate every loaf with green ribbon and shamrocks.

Her Grandmother Bridget Therese O'Malley's (Co. Mayo) lived over 96 years and this was her treasured recipe.

During the month of March, you can pick up a loaf of Colleen



In the early years Colleen sold here wares from her decorated wagon through the streets of Chicago during the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Her motto was "If they try it, they will buy it". Colleen's bread has received 1st place medals in multiple competitions through the years. Her customer base grew from Rolling Meadows through Palatine and Arlington Hts. In 2017 Colleen decided to take her baking to a

Gallagher's Award- Winning Irish Soda Bread at Peggy Kinnane's Irish Pub and Restaurant, 8 N. Vail, Arlington Hts. IL 60004.

Find Colleen's Irish Soda Bread at the Northwest Side Irish Parade the Palatine Parade and the Elmhurst Parade. Check out her Facebook Page...Colleen's Irish Soda Bread for more details.

Advanced orders from Colleen at colleen@lifetimetreasures.net or call (847)340-0894.



Martin Hayes Quartet in Concert March 27

Irish fiddler Martin Hayes draws together past and present for this special concert, with deep connections to Chicago. On Friday, March 27, he brings his modern Martin Hayes Quartet for an encore appearance at the Old Town School of Folk Music, featuring long-time Chicago musicians guitarist Dennis Cahill and violist Liz Knowles. And in a special opening performance, Hayes joins with Cahill in celebration of the duo's storied 25-year musical partnership.



Martin Hayes is recognized worldwide for his soulful interpretations of traditional Irish music. Born and raised in East County Clare, he learned to play the fiddle from his well-known father P. Joe Hayes. Now regarded as one of Ireland's most influential musicians, Hayes' lifelong exploration of traditional Irish music remains rooted in the music of East Clare.

Together, he and Cahill have been touring the world for the past 25 years, creating a new sound in Irish music as a duo and as founding members of the Gloaming, The Martin Hayes Quartet, and Masters of Tradition. Their performance at the Old Town School will reflect on their musical contribution, as they perform some favorite selections from their twenty five years of collaboration. Friday, March 27, 8:00 PM Old Town School of Folk Music · Gary & Laura Maurer Concert Hall · 4544 N Lincoln Ave · Chicago Tickets: \$35 Public · \$33 Members 773.728.6000 oldtownschool.org

Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



Scratch the Surface

At a time of uncertainty, the word faith tends to get overused. And, when this well-worn word is peddled so readily there’s always a caveat. Blind faith, suggesting that faith is something that transcends reason and requires us to suspend our critical judgment, is often the type of belief that gets us into trouble. This type of faith is not restricted to religion. Extreme nationalism, can sometimes require this sort of faith, which inevitably results in romanticizing the founding ideals of a nation and re-writes history.

Denis Johnston’s play, *The Old Lady* says “No!”, was seen as anti-nationalist when it was produced in Dublin in 1929 since it depicts the character of Robert Emmet as a crazed patriot. Johnston, in this work, is skeptical of romantic nationalism, especially when its heroes are venerated beyond the point of reality. Romantic rebels idolize the nationalist cause for the sake of propaganda and recruitment so that when you scratch the surface of any of these tall stories they crumble to dust.

Religious romanticism is an easy target for a cynic like myself, especially when you’ve grown up in a pious household. I remember devouring a book on the lives of saints (a topic known to theologians as hagiography). In particular, I salivated over the life of Saint Theresa of Avila. Most of these accounts of these haloed ones were written to inspire the weak of faith and make all Catholics feel privileged to belong to the ‘one true faith’. But, when you scratch the surface, you find this elitism is based on political wrangling, debauchery, and any number of unattractive human vices. The church used these saints to deflect attention from its wrongdoings.

For most ideologues, the mission to convince us relies on our goodwill and naivety. When the propagandist begins to simplify, they’re hiding something they don’t want you to see. When the bible believer tells you it’s ‘God breathed’ or ‘sacred’, they are asking you to abandon reason and believe implicitly in an interpretation of something they probably do not understand themselves but accept blindly. When you scratch the surface of these great books, they are the result of a society trying to organize itself by devising rules and regulations appropriate to its cultural understanding. Just how much of what they understand is the result of divine inspiration is a matter for debate. Paul (the apostle), for instance, seems to accept slavery as a social norm. He is misogynistic, and highly judgmental. When reading his letters, you need to do a lot of mental gymnastics to make what he says tolerable to the 21st Century, unless you live in a fundamentalist society.

In a world that has become reduced to sound bites it’s hard to have any meaningful debate. You simply cannot have a conversation with someone who has a placard mentality, especially if they reside in the White House or occupy the Senate. Democracy, as we’ve seen in our times, is not the

form of government most of us thought it would be. When you scratch the surface of our present democratic system, you find the rot underneath. Those who formerly espoused conservative morality will now validate the actions of a president who lies, cheats, and demonstrates no moral compass, simply because it’s politically expedient. To quote the 19th Century Irish politician, John Curran: “In this administration, a place can be found for every bad man.” The Republican Party has learned nothing from the actions of the Catholic Church and continues to deflect and distract us from seeing their cultish allegiance to a man who constantly usurps the rule of law at whim. If we scratch the surface of those who defend the actions of a man who claims to have faith, we find a self-serving agenda. The GOP’s love of Trump is not of him as a person. For them, he provides the GOP with a base that keeps them in office.

Liberalism is not without its own romantic illusions. The hippy era, for example, espoused ‘free love’, ‘make love not war’ and yet many of these people were incapable of translating this dream into a reality. Hippy communes were generally run by male chauvinists who didn’t treat women as equals but rather as objects of desire. The novelty of socialism soon wore off when some of them discovered the delights of financial enterprise. Soon, the jolly green giant of commercialism took them off to a better more prosperous place. We see this also when it comes to the great leaders of social progress, Kennedy, MLK, are less ideal human beings than we were led to believe. Scratching the surface can bring some surprising discoveries.

Does that mean we should simply reject it all? No, there is a case to be made for not throwing the baby out with the bathwater. Humanity is capable of incredible advances. Sometimes, when we scratch the surface, there is change. I was encouraged by the Evangelical singer, Daniel Dietrich and his new song 81 percent. In his lyrics, he points the finger at his Evangelical brethren for voting for a president who does not serve their lofty moral goals. Pope Francis, unlike his predecessors, is another example of radical change. He is

not attempting to deflect or ignore the the reality of clerical abuse and problems with celibacy. This kind of person advocates faith without blinding themselves to the truth.

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Make Brighter Futures for Kids by Supporting Mercy Home's March For Kids

Throughout March, friends of Mercy Home for Boys & Girls' will celebrate St. Patrick's Day while raising funds and awareness that help kids build brighter futures.

Anyone can make a difference in the lives of kids in Chicago with a donation to Mercy Home, either on-line or on the streets surrounding area St. Patrick's Day celebrations. **March for Kids** volunteers will be out in force near St. Patrick's Day parades and other events throughout March, collecting donations to help Mercy Home for Boys & Girls give at-risk children a safe place to live, therapy to heal from the trauma of abuse and neglect, and tools like education and job skills to help them build independence. Donations like those generated by its March for Kids effort supply Mercy Home with 99.6% of the funds it needs to care for children 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. March for Kids volunteers will collect donations at:

- Forest Park St. Patrick's Day Parade, Saturday March 7
 - Chicago's Loop, Friday, March 13
 - Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade, Saturday, March 14
 - South Side Irish Parade, Sunday, March 15
- Mercy Home will again march in the St. Patrick's Day and South Side Irish parades and joined by an on-air personality from

radio sponsor US99.

The Home will celebrate with supporters immediately following the St. Patrick's Day Parade with its inaugural, family friendly Post-Parade Party in the Chicago Cultural Center's Preston Bradley Hall. The event will feature live Irish music and step dancers, kid and adult beverages, Irish-themed food buffet including a build-your-own mac-n-cheese bar for the kids, Special children's activity section featuring carnival and arcade games, great prizes, balloon artists, a temporary tattoo station, and more. General admission for adults is \$75, and \$20 for ages 6-20. Kids ages 5 and under are free.

Mercy Home is calling on volunteers to help. Any individual, business, or group can help by signing up to be a Mercy Home March for Kids volunteer. It's a fun and unique way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, complete a Lenten, school, or family service project, or organize an office team-building initiative. Go to www.mercyhome.org/marchforkids to sign up.

Volunteers are organizing donation drives at area businesses, churches, schools, and community groups. including the Knights of Columbus.

Mercy Home's will accept contributions to the campaign on its website (www.mercyhome.org/marchforkids) that will be matched dollar-for-dollar by a generous donor.

Celebrity spokesman Bill Rancic is helping through media appearances while raising funds through his RPM Steak and RPM Italian restaurants in Chicago. A portion of proceeds from special menu items during the month will benefit Mercy Home's March for Kids. Similarly, a number of Chicago restaurants will raise donations, including Monteverde, Piccolo Sogno, and Nonnina.

A Mayoral proclamation will declare the month of March as Mercy Home for Boys & Girls March for Kids month in Chicago. And the Blue Cross Blue Shield Tower will light up its windows to spell a message of support in the night sky on the weekend of March 13-15. And Mercy Home March for Kids television partner ABC7 Chicago will spread the word through promotions this month.

Mercy Home's Associates Board, which is made up of young professionals, will officially kick off Mercy Home's March for Kids with a party and fundraiser at Butch McGuire's, 20 W. Division Street, Chicago on Saturday, March 7 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. visit mercyhome.org.

Shaynanigans in Spain



Sept. 22 - Oct. 3, 2020
\$3,485 per person

We'll begin our adventure in fabulous Barcelona and then travel the North Coast from San Sebastian to Santiago de Compostela. We'll visit Pamplona, Laguardia, Bilbao, Oviedo, and Girona where many scenes from the popular television series, Game of Thrones, were filmed.

Shay's Irish Adventure



October 2 - 11, 2020
\$3,310 per person

Explore Ireland at a leisurely pace and spoil yourself in some of Ireland's iconic destinations. We'll stay in Dublin, Killarney and Galway, as we visit cathedrals, castles, pubs, breweries and distilleries along the way. There will be lots of Shaynanigans and of course "Ói, Ceol agus Craic!"

Italian Shaynanigans



October 10 - 20, 2020
\$3,485 per person

From the Amalfi Coast to the vineyards of the Tuscan countryside. We visit Florence, Venice, Rome and Sorrento. Enjoy a fabulous and entertaining wine tasting and dinner. We'll visit St. Peter's and the Sistine Chapel. A classic Italian tour with just the right amount of Shaynanigans!

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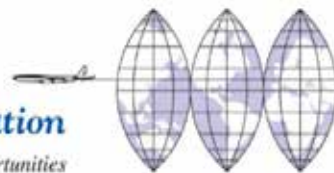
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A scenic landscape photograph of Powerscourt House and Gardens in County Wicklow, Ireland. The image shows a large, multi-story stone mansion with a central tower, situated on a green hillside. In the foreground, a large, ornate stone fountain with multiple tiers of water cascades into a pond. The pond's surface is calm, reflecting the house and the surrounding trees. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and majestic.

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Hello again everyone. Just when we thought we left all the sadness behind us in 2019. We were totally sidelined by the unexpected death of one of my best friends.

Let me tell you a little bit about Erika. We met sixteen years ago when our boys were five years old and we became immediate best friends. She has four boys, twenty one through seventeen. She was my partner in crime in all our school events. She didn't have any girls but she always helped me out with my twelve girl scouts for eight years.

This year she would have been celebrating her forty seventh birthday this year. We are not sure what happened. She had minor surgery, came home and was having problems breathing. By the time she got back to the hospital, she had passed away. We are devastated for her boys.

I was honored to host a luncheon at our house with all her family and friends. I asked them to jot down a few words to put in my column as a tribute to her.

"We love you with our whole heart"

- **McCarthy family**

"You always had a smile on your face. You had such a kind and sweet soul. You were such a good mother and friend" - **Brid McGarvey**

"Fond memories of you Erica and your sweet smile, smiling in heaven but you will be missed" - **Marion Collins**

"So many wonderful memories with beautiful Erica, We celebrated Christmas, St. Patricks days, and Graduations in the Coleman's sunroom. We danced, sang, laughed, we will miss you with all our hearts. We will miss your beautiful face and smile. R.I.P. My friend and watch over us, We will continue to celebrate your live." - **Paula and family**

"We have been friends forever, it's always been us three, the three musketeers. We will always remember



you and you will always be in our hearts, forever the three musketeers," **Yesenia, Evelia and Erika**

"A Erika le gustava visitor el Roncho era muy Feliz y sonriente cuando ella estaba alla cuando era una jouen to prima lilia y familia" - **Erikas cousin**

"Erika nunca olvidar lo bien quela la pasamos enel cumpleaños de abuelita cholita fue na noche inoludible, siempie viuilas en mi corazón, prima te quielo mucho" - **Letty**

"Beautiful inside and out, always smiling"

- **Your loving cousin**

" I love you Erika. You were a beautiful person to all those around you. You always knew how to brighten up a room" - **Andrea Cote**

"Erika we were so happy sharing so many moments together, we really had fun at Emily's XV when my sister fell and when you and I couldn't stop laughing. I will never forget those times! Love you so much" - **Elizabeth (chantal) Cote**

"How to tell god that I couldn't see her before everything happened and can not believe that I wouldn't be able to see her and say anything to her anymore. As a mother would never forget all your messages and every single detail to show me your love for me. Always on my mind and my heart. Love you so much - **Gloria Manzo** (Erika's mom)

"I have no words to express how I feel Erika. You will always our families heart" - Love **Seema James**

"I miss you Erika so much. I miss the times when we

drove the boys to school. I miss the times we cheered at our boys football games. I miss the times when our Street had no electric for three days it brought us closer together. I miss sitting on the bench by your front door. I will miss you forever" - love **Eva**.

"Ericka para mi foe y será mi amiga especial. ella una persona sencilla, amable que me abrió

su casa, atenta can migo un dia que llegue a su casa enferma, nuna olvidar. Te queremos quidg amiga seimore te recorda-remos como fuiste y nos esperas queen un rato etaremos con tigu" - **Love Racquel.Racardo**.

"Erika you and your family were always family to me. I love you and will miss you forever" - **Aj Coleman**.

"Erika was my second mom. Even though we weren't blood related she was still my family. I love her with all my heart. She was always there for me. Her hugs were so warm and her smile would light up the room. The party never started until she walked in. I will always remember her. I love you Erika." - **Love Maryjo Coleman**

"Erika. I know Heaven must be beautiful now because your in it. You were such an amazing person. Your Aura will stay with us forever because great souls never die." - **Margaret**.

"Jo introduce me to Erika 12 years ago! From the moment I met her, I loved her beautiful soul. She had a great contagious laugh and always talked about her four boys. We had great craic at the Coleman's Halloween, Christmas, New Years and St. Patrick's Day parties. The parties will never be the same without you Erika. Gone but not forgotten" - **Kathleen Bravos and family**.

Erika you will always be in our hearts. I promise to stay in touch with your boys and your beautiful mother, whose heart will never be the same and Karina your sister, her handsome son. Jaiver your brother and your childhood Friends, family from Mexico. We love you Erika- **Jo, Andrew, AJ, and MJ**.

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Tom Wolos Passes Suddenly

Thomas J. Wolos age 71 US Army Viet Nam Veteran. Beloved son of the late Walter Wolos and the late Jeanette, nee Stupek; loving brother of Susan (Bill) Farneth and Mary Wolos ; dearest uncle of William Farneth, Jennifer (Christopher Szoch) and Cesca Wolos-Fonteno; great-uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Tom was a member and active as a volunteer at the Irish American Heritage Center as well as many other organizations and clubs including the Chicago Friars Ski and Bike club, Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago, Nordic fox, Northwest Nordic ski club, Chicago mountaineering club, National Speleological Society, Forest trail hiking club and IBEW - Local 9.

He hiked the Appalachian Trail, the John Muir trail, the north rim of the Grand Canyon, & rode his bicycle from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Tom also had many diverse interests including skiing, hiking, scuba diving, scuba rescue and cave diving.



Tom was an All-around great guy and will be missed by many loving friends. Interment St. Joseph Cemetery. Donations to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/> appreciated. Info 773-685-4400 or www.tohlefuneralhome.com

Irish Fellowship Club St. Patrick's Day Dinner March 13



The Irish Fellowship Club will hold its annual St. Patrick's Day Gala on March 13, 2020. This year's dinner chair, Marcy O'Keeffe Twardak, of Corboy & Demetrio, has planned a great event, including Irish music of David Dunne and dance music by Rich Daniels City Lights Orchestra.

The Grand Marshall of the 2020 St. Patrick's Day Parade, Fr. Hurley and Old St. Patrick's Church will be honored. Fr. Hurley is the eighth of nine children and was born and raised on Chicago's South Side in the Beverly/Morgan Park neighborhood. In 2007, Fr. Hurley succeeded Fr. Jack Wall, becoming the 17th Pastor of the historic Old St. Patrick's Church. St. Pat's and Fr. Hurley were specially chosen to coincide with the 65th anniversary of Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The parade guests of honor Chicago Gaelic Park and the Irish American Heritage Center will also be represented at the dinner. Chicago is blessed with two world class Irish cultural centers and it is only appropriate that they are being honored by the parade. Parade Queen Kari McClowry and her court will also be present.

The dinner always sells out. <https://irishfellowshipclub.com>.

Club president, Rose Doherty, announced a couple of changes to upcoming annual events. The golf outing will take place at Ridge Country Club, 10522 S. California, on July 20, 2020. The annual Christmas party will be the second Friday of December, December 11, 2020. President Doherty promises that both of these events will be better than ever.

The St. Patrick's Day Season is a great time to celebrate your Irish roots by becoming a member of Chicago's oldest Irish organization. In addition, a gift of a membership to a friend or relative is always appreciated and never forgotten.



Join the Irish Fellowship Club! New Member Application

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Firm Name Email Address

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City State Zip Occupation or Title

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c/o Kathy Taylor
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Mail to: Business Home
Marital status: Single Married

It's a Triple Crowning of St. Patrick's Day Queens for the O'Malley's and McCloyry's!

When Pat and Mary Judith O'Malley learned that Pat's cousin, Kari Anne McCloyry had been chosen Queen of Chicago's downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade 2020, they recognized it as an opportunity to bring the family together to celebrate Kari's great achievement, being the third St. Patrick's Day Queen from a long line of O'Malley's and McCloyry's going back to the 1947 parade when Kathleen O'Malley, Kari's grandmother and Pat's great-aunt and godmother, was crowned Queen over 70 years ago!

Pat and Mary Judith invited the O'Malley's and the McCloyry's to a party at their Palos Country Club recently to celebrate this amazing "triple crown win," and to celebrate family. With short notice well over 150 family and friends attended.

(right) 2020 St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Kari McCloyry admires the Waterford Crystal in the Trinity Room. (below right) Piper Dave Johnston leads the Queen and her Court into the festivities.

(below) Patrick O'Malley, patriarch of the clan, hosted a party for the O'Malleys and McCloyrys at his Palos Country Club to celebrate the families history with the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Here he is addressing the 2020 Queen, her Court and several of her sisters and the rest in attendance. (lower right) Dave Johnston of Chicalba Bagpiping.

Kathleen O'Malley was an Irish immigrant from Claremorris, County Mayo and was Queen of the parade that was held on 79th St. in Chicago in 1947. She later married first generation Irishman, George McCloyry, and went on to have nine children.

Kari's aunt, and Kathleen and George's youngest child, Sheila McCloyry Gallagher, was crowned Queen of the downtown parade in 1987! And, in 2007, Maggie Coghlan Parolin, another granddaughter of Kathleen O'Malley, served in the Queen's Court.

According to James Coyne, Business Manager of Plumbers Local Union 130 and dynamic leader of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, Saturday, March 14, 2020 marks the 65th Anniversary of the Plumbers Union as the proud sponsor of the Chicago St

Patrick's Day Parade.

2020 winner, Kari McCloyry, is a Hospice Social Worker and the fourth of eight children of Brian and Sharon McCloyry of Naperville, Illinois.

Kari's father, Brian, encouraged Kari to enter the contest, but wasn't there to see her win. He passed away on August 20, 2019 at the young age of 61. He was a graduate of Queen of Martyrs Grammar School, Brother Rice High School and Illinois State University. According to his family "Brian adored all things Irish and is now dancing a jig in





**Sheila McClowry Gallagher; Queen 1987, Kari McClowry; Queen 2020
Kathleen O'Malley McClowry; Queen, 1947**



faith and family. Brian and Sharon's children inspire so many others to be stronger in their Catholic faith and Irish heritage. When Mom Sharon is complimented on her amazing family, she always says, "We are a very ordinary family. I admire others much more." Kari delivered her dad's eulogy, and said that their family motto is "hold the rope" which means to try hard and help one another. This attitude has carried them through life, through high school and college sports, and even running many marathons as a family.

With a twinkle in her eye, Kari told of her dad spending nights at the adoration chapel at St Elizabeth Seton Church praying for the safety of his teenage children.

The McClowry siblings live their faith through their careers as well. Molly is in the convent in Florida as a Sister of the Servants of the Pierced Heart of Jesus and Mary.

Erin and husband Matt Puzella teach at Catholic schools in St. Louis. Megan, an RN, is in the Nurse Practitioner Program at Johns Hopkins in

Baltimore. Megan has volunteered for years in Uganda, Africa at a health clinic affiliated with Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame. Kari and three sisters graduated from Saint Mary's and were members of the cross-country team. The team has dedicated a bench on campus, engraved with Brian's name. Anna teaches at a Catholic school in Cleveland, and the youngest sister, Maggie, is majoring in Special Education at the University of Illinois. Identical twins, brothers Ryan and Brian attended Illinois State like their dad. Mom, Sharon is a United Airlines Flight Attendant and Ryan works for Korean Airlines, allowing the family to stay in touch and travel to support one another.

Upon being chosen as Queen, Kari summed it all up saying, "It's an amazing feeling because I just feel so close to my dad."

Bring your family out to cheer for this Irish family and all the others participating on Saturday, March 14th as the 65th Anniversary edition of the downtown parade proudly marches down Columbus Avenue!

heaven about Queen Kari! Kari's aunt, Sissy McClowry, feels that her selection as Parade Queen represents the true meaning of Irish

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Book of Kells

Illumination of the Chi Rho Page

One of the most sublime examples of medieval painting ever seen, the Monogram Chi/Rho Page is the most important page in the late 8th-century Book of Kells, which is arguably the finest of all illuminated manuscripts of the Middle Ages and famous for the intricate swirling patterns of its Celtic art.

The Book of Kells was created circa 800 A.D. by Irish monks (not more than three) in the monastery of Iona, which was located off the western coast of Scotland. The Book of Kells contains the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, in Latin, as well as lists of Hebrew names, and the Eusebian canons (a method developed circa 300 A.D. by a scholar named Eusebius to harmonize the Gospels).

Iona was founded by Saint Columba in 563, and quickly became a center of Irish monastic art and culture. Following a particularly savage Viking attack in 806, the Iona monks, together with their collection of early Christian art, moved to the Abbey of Kells, County Meath, Ireland.

The Book of Kells remained at the Abbey until 1007, when it was stolen. Its ornamentation - a typical example of Celtic metalwork art - included a gold cover encrusted with precious stones. But these were torn off when the book was stolen and the rest thrown in a ditch, from where it was recovered and returned to the Abbey. It remained



A Local artist carrying on the tradition of Celtic Art, Michael Carroll, teaches classes in this wonderful artform. www.michaelcarroll.com

at the Abbey of Kells until 1541, when it was taken away for safekeeping (during Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries) by the Roman Catholic Church. Repatriated to Ireland in 1661, it was donated to the Trinity College Dublin, where it is now conserved.

"McGillicuddy's Reeks"

by Edmund
Sullivan (1941-2013)

Edmund Sullivan was the first American painter in history to focus his life's work on Ireland. A former Marine, to explain how he came to turn his landscape skills to "Mother Ireland", Sullivan wrote: "I live in the best of times. And in that knowledge, I feel deeply obliged to be one with those who went before me but are me. To be refreshment to their heavenly souls and in a forgotten hint of song ... hear

their kindly words 'Well done, Edmund, well done.' "

Sullivan's "McGillicuddy's Reeks" is considered among his finest works. The subject of this work is the MacGillicuddy's Reeks, a mountain range in County Kerry, Ireland. Stretching 19 kilometers (12 miles), from the Gap of Dunloe in the east, to Glencar in the west, the Reeks is Ireland's highest mountain range, and includes most of the highest peaks and sharpest ridges in Ireland, and the only peaks on the island that are over 1,000 meters (3,300 feet) in height. The name of the range in Irish: Cruacha Dubha Mhic Giolla Mo Chuda, which is shortened in the Irish form to: Na Cruacha Dubha, meaning "The Black Stacks". In the English form, the name is translated as "MacGillicuddy's Reeks".

The MacGillicuddy were a sept, or branch, of the O'Sullivan Moore clan. The MacGillicuddy was one of the few Gaelic chieftains to have his lands restored after the Cromwellian confiscations, which helps explain why the name has survived to this day. The entire range is held in private ownership, both in individually owned freehold parcels in the lower reaches and in commonly owned, open upland zones.

The O'Malley Family's special interest in this work is from the maternal side of the family. Eileen O'Malley's father, Patrick Shea, was raised outside Sneem, County Kerry along the Kenmare River shoreline at the foot of MacGillicuddy's Reeks.



A low resolution image of an Edmund O'Sullivan painting of Ireland.



Mick

Mike Morley



Self Righteous Dishonesty

Is merit now merely privilege? Are race, religion and sex better measures of success. Is virtual reality king? Is freedom really just another word for ‘nothing left to lose’? In a virtual world, freedom now means enacting laws that define reality as that which each individual believes it to be.

Aside from lawsuits and scandals, the two physical sexes appear to be outmoded. To satisfy a personal yen or for status in sports or other fields, one can, like clownfish and gobies, change sex to adapt. But, unlike those aquatic creatures, the transition may require expensive surgery to create the illusion. Changing race is often much easier. It’s often been done with the stroke of a pen.

Last month I was shopping at a Chicago Aldi and stepped in to use the restroom. Often there are three doors located down a store’s utility corridor: A men’s, a ladies and a utility room labeled “employees only”. But, this store had only two doors labeled. I found a “ladies” room, but no “men’s room”. Doubling back, I saw what I first thought was the utility room was labeled as “all gender restroom”. That got me wondering about the management logic that led to this solution: appeasing multiple legal sexes without adding more restrooms than the building had floor space. (Last I read, there had been 63 genders discovered and verified by experts; but that figure may have risen since.) Was Aldi saying only actual women with all traditional parts attached were allowed in the women’s room? Or were they thinking “traditional” men would be better able to handle a Noah’s Ark of sexes?

And Noah. How could he have managed to accommodate even one species in all the permutations of 63x63, rather than 2x2?

America, still a young “New World” is changing rapidly.

One man who clearly recognized growing threats to the American Republic shared his thoughts with the Americans on national TV in a speech from the White House. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, retired five-star Army general, a man who commanded 17 allied nations in war and led the D-Day invasion of Europe, gave his farewell speech as President to a grateful nation, not yet 200 years old, on January 17, 1961. ‘Ike’ warned viewers: “In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists, and will persist.” He warned of the domination of Federal funding for science and science-based public policy: “we must ... be alert to the ... danger that public policy could itself become the captive of a scientific technological elite.” ... the free university, historically the fountainhead of free ideas and scientific discovery, has experienced a revolution... a government contract becomes virtually a substitute for intellectual curiosity.” In other words, government cash and political agendas can influence the direction and results of “scientific” study. Three days later, John F. Kennedy took the oath of office as 35th President of the U.S.

Our current political disarray broke forth fully in November 1963. America’s first and only Irish Catholic President was assassinated on national TV. Six weeks earlier, on October 11, JFK signed a classified policy document, National Security Memorandum 263, stating his decision to withdraw all US military forces from Vietnam by the

end of 1965 –the withdrawal to begin after his (then inevitable) 1964 election.

The withdrawal of almost 1,000 U.S. military personnel from South Vietnam did take place. Then on August 2, the destroyer USS Maddox, steaming in North Vietnamese waters, reported being ambushed by enemy torpedo boats. Maddox received “a single bullet hole from a Vietnamese machine gun round”. President Johnson ordered air strikes and requested Congress pass the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. Maddox and another vessel, the Turner Joy, claimed a second ‘attack’ 2 days later. It’s thought Maddox crew members mistook their own sonar’s pings off the rudder for torpedoes. But when U.S. intelligence officials presented evidence, they omitted most of the vital information.

The war resolution passed unanimously in the House August 7, and with only two dissenting votes in the Senate. Johnson was free to wage war in Southeast Asia.

Johnson reportedly told a State Department official: “those dumb, stupid sailors were just shooting at flying fish!” And on March 6, 1965. Johnson recorded a phone conversation with Sen.

Richard Russell of Georgia, who felt there may be no way out of Vietnam. Johnson: “That is exactly right and we’re losing more every day. We’re getting in worse. A man can fight if he can see daylight down the road somewhere, but there ain’t no daylight in Vietnam. There’s not a bit.” Yet, went ahead, committing the first ground combat units and started a massive



bombing campaign. Congress only repealed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in 1973 when the US withdrew from Vietnam after 50,000 Americans had been killed.

But before that we endured 1968, another year of assassi-

nation: Martin Luther King on April 4, and heir to the throne Robert Kennedy on June 5. The Democratic Convention in Chicago followed. The left turned protest into theater, broadcast in full bloody color by the networks. They chanted: “The whole world is watching.” Mayor Richard J. Daley, angered by the destruction brought down on his city after the King assassination, vowed “never again”. When Senator Abraham Ribicoff got on stage and declared Daley’s handling of the street protests “Gestapo tactics”, Daley, along with his son and future mayor Richard M. tried to scream him down from the floor. The growing rifts in the Democratic party and the country at large, along with identity politics was in full bloom.

President Trump appears to be appeasing the military-industrial complex by keeping the military budget healthy. But he’s upended hawks like John “Surrender Is Not an Option” Bolton and skillfully avoids war- the periodic frenzy that creates fortunes by instant obsolescence as the mad pace of death escalates. America is at another crossroads. The months ahead will be “interesting times”.



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Fiona McEntee, Immigration Rights Activist Reads at American Writers Museum to Benefit Youth Education

The American Writers Museum in Chicago welcomed internationally renowned immigrant rights activist, jurist, and author Fiona McEntee to read her new children's book, *Our American Dream*, for a fundraising event to benefit the Museum's Write In Youth Education Program. Families, parents, and children, attended the program on Sunday February 23.

Ms. McEntee, originally from Dublin and now a naturalized US citizen residing in Chicago, read stories inspired by her personal experiences as an immigrant and as a leading immigration attorney. As a mother of two small children, she wrote *Our American Dream* to help other children understand the importance of a diverse and welcoming America.

"Introducing our children to diversity increases cultural competence and sensitivity which allows them to be empathetic to the



experiences of others," said McEntee. "My hope for Our American Dream is to help families have conversations about the importance of immigrants and their contributions to America's society and culture."

Ms. McEntee's program was sponsored by the Chicago Council for the museum, a group of young professionals who plan fundraising events in an effort to support the nonprofit. The council also works to raise awareness for the museum and its many programs and exhibits, such as *My America: Immigrant & Refugee Writers Today*. The interactive exhibit is a

deeply personal experience that brings visitors face-to-face with more than 30 contemporary authors who are immigrants, refugees, and second-generation immigrants from all over the world. Irish novelist Joseph O'Neill and his book *Good Trouble* is featured in *My America*, along with authors from those who emigrated



from countries in Africa, Central and South America, Central and Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, and the Middle East.

"The importance of immigrant and refugee writers in the last two decades is illustrated by the level of recognition their works continue to achieve," said American Writers Museum president Carey Cranston. "The American Writers Museum is honored to present this essential and relevant subject in an experiential way, which lets the writers tell their own unique yet universal stories."

My America: Immigrant and Refugee Writers Today runs through May 2021 at American Writers Museum. Learn more at My-America.org. *Our American Dream* by Fiona McEntee is available online and at select booksellers now. Learn more about at OurAmericanDreamBooks.com.



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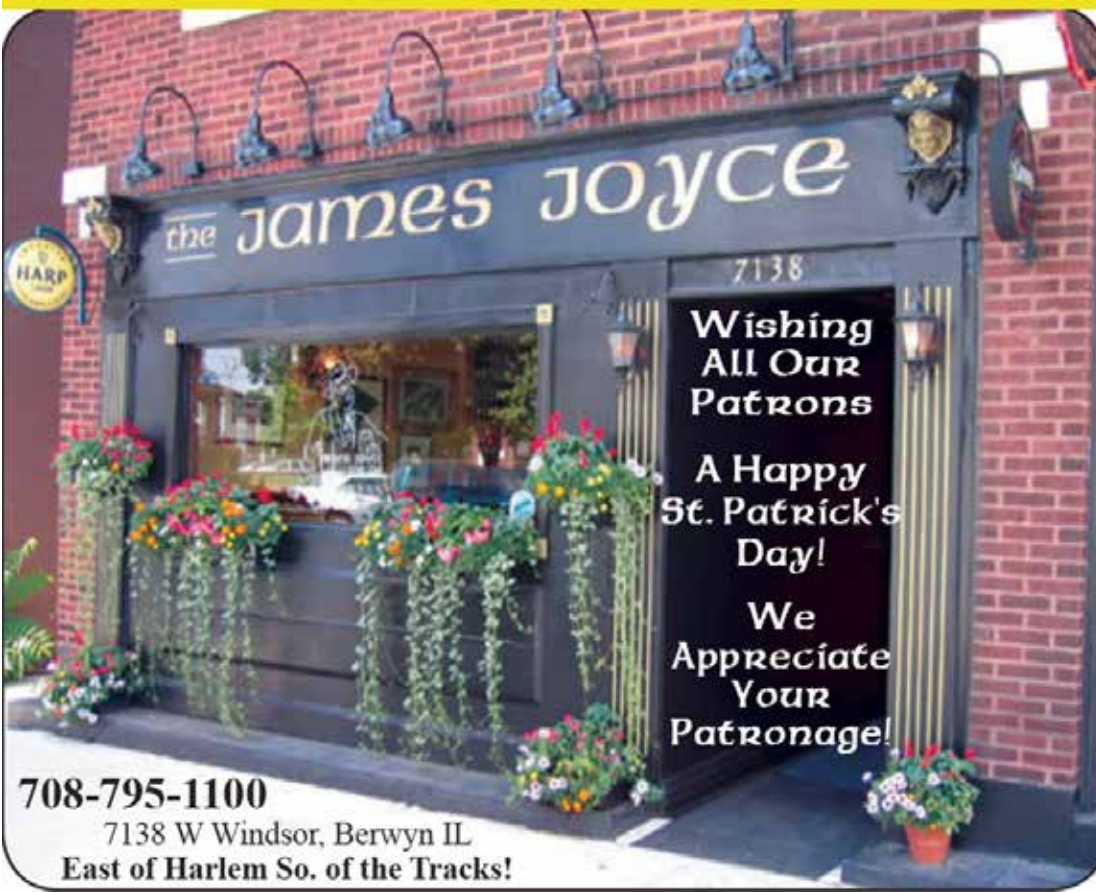


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Celebrating World Down Syndrome Day March 21

According to the CDC website, each year about 1 in 700 babies is born with Down syndrome, and, in 2008, about 250,700 individuals - or one in 1,200 people - were living with Down syndrome in the United States. The CDC reports that longevity of individuals with Down syndrome nearly quintupled between 1960 and 2007, and that Down syndrome persists as the most common chromosomal alteration today. Given its prevalence, almost everyone knows someone - an acquaintance, a school mate, a friend, neighbor, or family member - with Down syndrome.

In 2011, the United Nations declared March 21 to be World Down Syndrome Day, a global day of Down syndrome awareness.

The significance of the date, March 21, lies in the genetics. Typical human cells have 46 chromosomes organized into 23 pairs. In persons with Down syndrome, the 21st chromosomal pair carries an extra, or third, partial or full chromosome. March 21 or "3/21" stands for three chromosomes at pair 21.

The presence of the third chromosome at pair 21 can result in a variety of physical and developmental manifestations, the severity of which is different in each individual.

Since the first United Nations celebration in 2012, the administration invites "all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe World Down Syndrome Day in an appropriate manner."

In recognition of March 21, World Down Syndrome Day, Irish American News is privileged to feature three exceptionally talented, proud Irish Americans.

To say **Aisling McAndrew**, 15, comes from a musical Irish family is an understatement. Her father, Marty, and brother, Deaglan, 18,

are both bagpipers. Her grandfather, Tom, played the bagpipes, the accordion, and the fiddle.

"Aisling's household was much like my own growing up - music in the air constantly. Aisling learned to dance the jig ... and reel in our basement with me playing the chanter," Marty says, "following in the footsteps both literally and figuratively of my sisters."

"Aisling can 'move it' when it comes to dancing," her mother, Mary, says. "She's got music in her soul!"



Aisling McAndrew

Not surprisingly, St. Patrick's Day is one of Aisling's favorite holidays.

"She loves going to the parade and listening to her Da and brother, Deaglan, play the bagpipes," says her mom, Mary. "She's hoping, one day, to be a drummer in the Shannon Rovers."

And, as a Roosevelt High School freshman learning to play both drums and xylophone in the band, she seems to be well on her way.



Aisling McAndrew and her brother, Deaglan

Beyond music, her academic interests are broad and ambitious. "I love math and science ... and art," Aisling says.

"She absolutely LOVES school," says Mary. "Learning and socializing are really her cup of tea."

That must be true. With only one semester of high school under her belt, Aisling's academic performance has already earned her a spot on the honor roll.

Aisling is also a well-rounded athlete who embraces the chance to take on a challenging sport.

"She LOVES football, basketball, volleyball," Mary says. "In summer it's next to impossible to get her out of the lake. She swims like a fish!"

Despite her many accomplishments, her parents and brother are most proud of the person she is inside.

Aisling "is a kind, compassionate and spiritual child," Mary says. "If you're having a bad day, she can put a smile on your face with, literally, a wink of her eye!"

"My sister is the most loving and caring person that I know," says Deaglan. "She always makes sure to give a big hug with a smile to those she loves."

When Aisling was born, Mary and Marty received advice on parenting a child with Down syndrome that they came to cherish.

The doctor told them "to treat (Aisling) as our child - our baby - first," Mary explains. "We've done that and, to be honest, everything else falls into place."

When asked what advice, after many years of parenting, he would offer to new parents, Marty echoes the doctor's sage counsel. "Take a breath and know that your child is just that ... a child like any other child. You need to feed them, diaper them, put Band-Aids on their skinned knees, hold them when they're scared, giggle with them when they're silly, discipline them when they misbehave, and applaud them when they reach milestones."

And similarly, in educating the general public, Mary promotes a simple philosophy: persons with Down syndrome are people first.

"People should look at Down syndrome not as a disability but, rather, an ability," Mary says. "They have the ability, as babies, to crawl, stand, walk, talk/babble, play. They have the ability to go to school, learn, meet new friends. They have the ability, as young adults, to like, love, play, cook. The possibilities are endless - just like they are for any individual."

It's no surprise that 11-year-old **Olivia McCann** wants to play hockey. After all, she's practically grown up in an ice rink.

Her brother Andy, 14, has played for almost ten years, and she's watched him every step of the way.

"(From early on) she said when she was older, she wanted to play too," her mother, Beata, says.

On the way to making the dream a reality, Olivia is learning to ice-skate, and she drills forward strokes around the ice while



Olivia McCann

leaning on a chair for support. As she is building the balance and strength to skate without the chair, her hope is to one day play for the Chicago Blackhawks Special Hockey team.

Beata explains that Olivia learned to walk at 17 months, which is considered early for an individual with Down syndrome.

As a young child, she took Irish dancing lessons with Trinity Academy. Today she is an all-around athlete, and, in addition to skating, excels in baseball, soccer, and basketball.

"I like shooting and passing," Olivia says with a huge smile.

"She's more competitive about soccer," Beata says. But, as happens for many individuals with Down syndrome, Olivia's athletic experience is sometimes stifled due to a lack of teams in the middle-ground skill levels.

"(Some teams) are too slow, (some) are too advanced," Beata says. "It's a touchy subject within the Down syndrome community. It's like, where do we fit in here?"

The problem Beata describes - limited opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome within society's organized activities - is not exclusive to sports. It is an issue that organizations like GiGi's Playhouse tackle with progressive programming "tailored for individuals with Down syndrome" on a daily basis.

And society is, indeed, changing to be more inclusive, in no small part because of parents like Beata and Terry, Olivia's father, who advocate for the Down syndrome community.

"I want people to understand (individuals with Down syndrome) can learn," Beata says. "With the right interventions and the right kind of teaching ... they can get jobs and be productive members of society."

A sixth grader in the Western Springs, Ill., Olivia is fully included on the mainstream track for most classes and receives one-on-one teaching for reading and math. She is already demonstrating academic excellence and says her favorite subject is social studies. "I like to listen to my teachers," she says. "We are studying the White House and Congress."

In after school band, Olivia plays the xylophone, the snare drum, and once played a Chinese gong. "She's also very good at math," Beata adds. "Her vocabulary is incredible, and she knows how to read pretty well. I already

Continued to page 70

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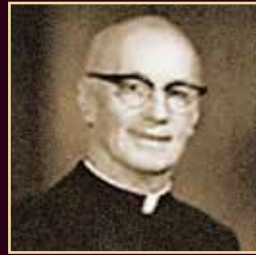
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Continued from page 68

told her when she goes to high school, she's not going to take just life-skills classes. I understand she needs that, but she is also going to have math, English, and as many academic classes as she can handle."

Additionally, Beata notes that many colleges have opened up



postsecondary education programs for individuals with Down syndrome, something that was unheard of years ago.

"I want her to go to college, and I would like her to be able to drive so that she has independence from us. That would be my dream for her."

Toward that end, Beata and Terry say they treat her like any other child.

"We have the same expectations of her as we do our other kids: order for herself at a restaurant, pick up after herself, make her own food, listen at school, do her homework, charge her laptop. We don't coddle her."

In fact, Olivia is responsible for caring for the family's 130-pound yellow Labrador, Seamus, who "looks like a horse," she says. "I lay with him, walk him, and I feed him."

Olivia and her siblings, Andy and Ella, 12, get along well. "Andy is very kind and caring and takes care of her. He'll be the first one to say, 'I got this' and (help her)," Beata says. "Ella has been curling

Olivia's hair every day," and the sisters have been experimenting with makeup together.

"Most of the time, I forget Olivia has Down syndrome," Beata says. "When the health problems come, and she has to have surgeries, it hits me again that ... she does have Down syndrome. Otherwise, day to day ... she is who she is, just like (our) two other kids. She is incredibly funny. She makes a lot of people laugh. She has self-confidence, and she is very good at telling people what to do. And she is just herself. She is not Down syndrome. She is just Olivia."

If you want to keep pace with **Ryan Jennings**, you better eat your Wheaties.

Three times a week, Ryan, a Misericordia Home resident, washes dishes at the Greenhouse Inn Restaurant. On Mondays, he folds towels and sheets in the laundry room. On Wednesdays, he stocks shelves at the Sweet Shoppe in Glenview. Once a week he grinds and packages coffee beans for distribution, and he helps plan meals for his entire building. "I love to work," he tells me by FaceTime.

Sitting next to him, his mother, Holly, asks if he's happy at Misericordia. His eyes widen, he grins broadly, and he leans toward the camera, nearly out of his chair.

"Oh, yeah."

It's not hard to understand why. Misericordia Home, under the direction of Sr. Rosemary Connelly, RSM, provides residents with limitless opportunities. Ryan, 26, embraces the lifestyle wholeheartedly.

In addition to holding multiple jobs, Ryan is a versatile sportsman. Two weeks ago, his basketball team won silver in a tournament at Northeastern Illinois University. In the spring, he competes in track and field. He does Zumba every Saturday. On Wednesday, he bowls. "I like bowling the best," he says.

When Ryan completed his education at 22, he worked in house-keeping at a hotel. But it wasn't enough.

"Jobs for people in the special needs community are difficult to get," Holly says. "(Employers say) I

can't afford to hire someone who's not going to work at the typical pace. They only hired him for the morning, two days a week. He would come home and have lunch and wouldn't have much to do."

One day, Ryan came home and told his mom he wanted to live at Misericordia.

"He's always been really excited about it. It's just a really great community of friends for him. There's so much for him to do."

Ryan resides in an independent-living apartment, Holly explains.

"He gets to come and go," she says. "Staff checks in (on him), but ... he sets his alarm, gets up, takes a shower, makes breakfast, packs his own lunch, and goes to work."

In the art studio, Ryan has developed exceptional acrylic- and oil-painting skills. Once a year, he donates a piece to "The Artist in All" fundraiser at the Art Institute of Chicago. Last year, his "Old Irish Horses" auctioned for \$825.

His subject material is often Irish, like his heritage.

"It's very interesting, Ryan's connection with the Irish," Holly says. "He did that all on his own. He's really into Ireland."

For three years, Ryan has marched in the color guard with the Shannon Rovers Irish Bagpipe and Drum Band.

"I looked up (the former band



Ryan Jennings auctions his painting "Old Irish Horses."

manager) Bill Mc Tighe's phone number," he says. "I called him every day and said, 'I want to march with the Shannon Rovers in the downtown St. Patrick's Day Parade.' I called him every day until he said yes!"

Ryan carries a flag with the Rovers at events all over the city.



Grace Glenny and her brother, Charlie.

He encouraged his mom to join, and she did.

"Ryan told me to play the bagpipes," Holly says. "I started (lessons) in April, and I got my bagpipes in November."

Holly says Ryan brings a great deal of joy to their family.

"He's a wonderful person. He loves people, especially people that love him back. He's a very social person. He loves life."

When I ask what they want people to know about Down syndrome, Holly turns to Ryan and asks, "What do you like about people with Down syndrome?"

For a moment, they smile at each other, and then she says, "People with Down syndrome are just like everybody else - except maybe they're nicer, right?"

They both laugh.

"Oh, yeah," he says.

GiGi's Playhouse Chicago, 3948 N. Lincoln Ave., will host its annual World Down Syndrome Day party on Saturday, March 21 from 2-5 p.m. Open to the public and free (\$21 donations accepted at the door), the event will include performances by GiGi's own dance team and an Elvis tribute singer as well as games and refreshments.

Site coordinator Grace Glenny emphasizes that the event is a celebration and is also a day for education.

"World Down Syndrome Day is an opportunity for everyone to come together," she says. "It's also the perfect opportunity to come in and ask questions and learn what we're all about."

GiGi's Playhouse was founded in 2008 "to change the way the

world views Down syndrome and to send a global message of acceptance for all." Today, with 48 "Down Syndrome Achievement Centers" across the United States, the website explains, "programs at GiGi's Playhouse offer foundational learning opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome."

"We offer free therapeutic and educational programming for individuals with Down syndrome, their families, and the community," Glenny says. Their programs include skill-building activities, social clubs, dance and yoga teams, academic tutoring, educational sessions, and group-support programs across a spectrum of developmental stages and family needs.

For adults with Down syndrome, finding career opportunities in the community can be challenging, Glenny says. To answer that issue, GiGi's Playhouse Chicago is currently rolling out a new initiative focused on career development skills for individuals 18 and older.

"Our EPIC program provides opportunities for socialization and community involvement that emphasize communication, interview skills, job training, and confidence building," she says.

Glenny, 25, hails from an Irish American family in Michigan. She and her 22-year-old brother, Charlie, are very close. Charlie has Down syndrome.

"He is my best friend," she says.

For Glenny, working at GiGi's Playhouse is a labor of love. "I wanted to help other people going through exactly what I went through. Every day is meeting new families and making those connections ... making a difference in someone's life. It truly makes my day."

Glenny encourages people to visit GiGi's Playhouse Chicago and explore their facility's many offerings.

"For new families, taking that first step can be a difficult one," Glenny says. "We are always here and welcome everyone with open arms."

For more information about GiGi's Playhouse, go to gigisplayhouse.org.



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MARCH 6TH & 7TH

Irish Fest Entertainment:

Friday, March 6
Tent opens 5:30PM

High Wine 6:00- 8:00
Reilly 8:30-10:30

Saturday, March 7
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Emerald Society 12:30-1:00
Race Announcements 1:00-1:15
Sullivan School of Irish Dance 1:30-2:00
Hatfield Sisters 2:15-3:15

Inaugural Beard Bout 3:15-3:30
Hughes Academy of Irish Dance 3:45-4:15
King and Queen, Grand Marshall 4:15-4:30
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Larkin & Moran Brothers 8:00-10:00



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\$10 at door



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<http://www.manhattanirishfest.com>

Hibernian Transmedia Brings New Irish TV Show Back to Chicago Public Television

After a very successful premiere in 2019, OUR IRISH PUB returns for Chapter Two, featuring Irish fiddler Katie Grennan as host, showcasing some of her favorite Irish pubs in Chicago. Chicago Public Television, WTTW Channel 11, will broadcast OUR IRISH PUB on Sunday March 22, 2020 at 1:30PM and 10:30PM in Chicagoland. This will be the second broadcast of OUR IRISH

oped by Hibernian Transmedia starring international Irish fiddler Katie Grennan, as she invites the audience to join her for a visit to three of her favorite Irish pubs in Chicago; Mrs. Murphy & Sons Irish Bistro on Lincoln Avenue, The Cork & Kerry Irish Pub in Beverly, and The Curragh Irish Pub in Edison Park.

Katie Grennan has performed all over the

all the musicians in a series of very lively Irish tunes.

The show features plenty of traditional Irish tunes from some of Chicago's most prominent Irish musicians and performers; including Frank Quinn, Laurence Nugent, James Conway, Billy O'Donoghue, Pauline Conneely, Ger Carey, Gavin Coyle, Peter Brady, Pete Purvis, Amy Richter, Lexia

and want to especially thank our pub owners James Murphy, Bill Guide, and Paul Leongas. Also big thanks to Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust, The Consulate General of Ireland and all our friends in the Irish community of Chicago and Ireland who helped make this possible. We look forward to more episodes of OUR IRISH PUB in the future in Chicago and down



PUB on WTTW, the first episode aired in March of 2019.

OUR IRISH PUB, Chapter 2 is a television program created, produced, and devel-

oped by Hibernian Transmedia starring international Irish fiddler, step dancer, and most recently as a member of the electrifying Irish band Gaelic Storm. She tells the history of each pub along the way and joins



Kennedy, John Williams, Dennis Cahill, Liam Godley, Jonathon Whittall, Leandra Baker, Evelyn Thom, and Irish dancer Tadgh Spillane, as well as, direct from County Clare, Irish fiddler and singer Eimear Arkins, as she teaches the audience how to Lilt!

Our Irish Pub is a musical feast for the ears and eyes as these local masters play some of their favorite, rousing, heart-pounding Irish tunes. Tune in on Sunday March 22nd and you will find your toes tapping to the delightful music in OUR IRISH PUB.

The show was created, produced, and directed by Hibernian Media Chairman Mike Houlihan. Houlihan said, "We're very excited to bring another episode of this show to all our friends in Chicagoland

the line in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Ireland! Support your local Irish pubs all over the world!"

Hibernian Transmedia is not for profit public charity dedicated to Irish and Irish American culture locally and globally. Hibernian currently produces a pair of Irish radio programs in Chicagoland, (The Hibernian Radio Hour and The Houli's Hooley on WSBC 1240AM), the Annual Irish American Movie Hooley film festival each September at the Gene Siskel Film Center, the annual "Houli Craic Tour of Ireland", and a variety of other cultural projects dedicated to the Irish Diaspora. For more information please visit <https://hiberniantransmedia.org> All donations are tax-deductible, welcomed, and encouraged!

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Rockford's Irish Marching Society St. Patrick's Day Parade March 14

The Irish Marching Society of Rockford parade event will take place at the Prairie Street Brewing Company, 200 Prairie St. Rockford, IL, on Saturday March 14 from 4-8pm. Admission is \$10, and children under 12 are free.

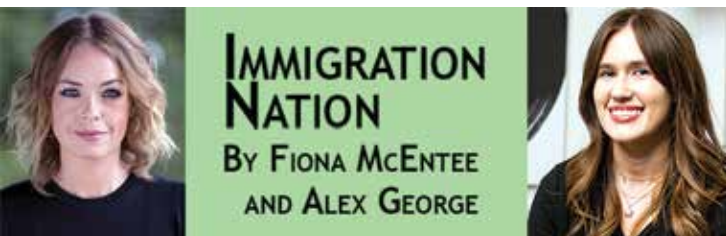
This is the event you don't want to miss if you love Irish and Celtic culture and you live in or visit the Greater Rockford area. 4 stages of continuous entertainment featuring Irish and Celtic music, pipers and dancers.

Authentic Irish cuisine will be served including Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner,

Winston's Bangers and Mash, Colcannon, Irish Soda Bread, Irish Stew, Reuben sandwiches and Eggrolls.

Entertainment: Danny's Gone Rogue, Trinadora's Celtic Frolic, City of Rockford Pipe Band, Emerald Wind, McNulty School of Irish Dance, Scottish dancers, The Toole's and Rare Privilege playing of 4 stages. **This year the Rock River will be dyed Green!**

Contact: Danny 815-218-8449 or visit the Irish Marching Society at www.irishmarchingsociety.com or visit us on Facebook.



Love is in the Air: Marriage-Based Immigration:

Following the holiday season and Valentine's Day, wedding bells are ringing for many. Love knows no borders, so at McEntee Law Group, we get countless calls asking about immigration options for fiancé(e)s and spouses. Some members of our team also have personal experience with the process, and we are passionate about bringing people together!

U.S. immigration is very complex, so we recommend consulting a licensed U.S. immigration attorney. Minor missteps can have major consequences, so immigration counsel is a worthwhile investment.

Here are some options we regularly discuss with our newlywed or soon-to-be newlywed clients.

The K-1 Visa

If you have heard of the TLC reality show 90 Day Fiancé(e), then you have heard of the K-1 visa. It allows U.S. citizens to bring their foreign national (FN) fiancé(e) to the U.S. to get married.

First, the couple files a K-1 application with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). USCIS reviews the application and, if approved, forwards it to the National Visa Center (NVC) for additional processing. Ultimately, the case arrives at the local Embassy/Consulate for interview scheduling. The FN fiancé(e) attends the interview alone and, assuming all goes well, they receive a K-1 visa stamp to enter the U.S. The couple must marry within 90 days of entry to the U.S., hence the name of the show! After marriage, they can apply for a marriage-based green card for the FN spouse.

It is important to note that the K-1 visa is only an option for engaged couples where one fiancé(e) is a U.S. citizen. Green card holders cannot sponsor a K-1 visa. Additionally, if you are already legally married the K-1

visa is not an option for you and you will likely be looking at the next option.

The I-130 Immigrant Visa

The I-130 immigrant visa is for couples who are legally married. It allows U.S. citizens and green card holders to sponsor a marriage-based green card application for their FN spouse who is generally residing outside the U.S.

First, the couple files an I-130 immigrant petition with the USCIS. USCIS reviews the case and, if approved, forwards it to the NVC. At the NVC stage, additional processing is required such as further forms, evidence, and documents. When the NVC processing is complete, the case is sent to the appropriate Embassy/Consulate for interview scheduling. As with the K-1 visa, the FN spouse attends the interview alone. If all goes well, the FN spouse receives an immigrant visa stamp in their passport. They use this visa stamp to enter the U.S. as a conditional/permanent resident and receive their actual "green card" after entry.

The I-130 and Adjustment of Status (AOS)

If your FN spouse is in the U.S., they may be able to file for a green card here and complete the processing of this Stateside. This process is known as the I-130 and adjustment of status, but there are many caveats and pre-requisites, so it might not work for every couple. Such factors are entirely variable so, as always, we strongly recommend consulting with a licensed U.S. immigration attorney if you are considering this process.

Considerations

The K-1 visa and the I-130 process have some overlap in eligibility requirements, so they require similar evidence. Both require background checks, evi-

dence of the U.S. citizen's finances, and a medical exam for the FN. However, procedurally they work differently. Another major difference is timing. Processing times can vary - for better or worse - depending on the government's workload. Additionally, K-1 visa holders have to apply for work authorization after they get married, so they may need to plan for 4-6 months where they will not be able to work in the U.S. In contrast, an immigrant visa holder is authorized to work on entry and an AOS applicant can generally apply for work authorization while the process is pending. There are also some major differences with regards to international travel post-entry and these should be discussed with an experienced immigration attorney.

In any event, these options can take at least a full year from start to finish, perhaps longer, so it really pays to plan ahead.

Other factors couples may wish to consider include:

- How flexible is the timing and location of your wedding?
- If you have your hearts set on a specific location, do you meet the local requirements for applying for a marriage license? Requirements vary by country.
- Does the FN have any criminal history? Have they ever been arrested or received a caution? All past offenses and any immigration missteps should be discussed and evaluated.
- Is the U.S. citizen able to travel to visit the FN?
- Is the U.S. citizen able to support the FN while they wait for work authorization?

Every case is as unique as the couple themselves. With the help of experienced counsel, you can navigate the sometimes choppy waters of the marriage-based immigration process. If you would like to explore these options with a member of the McEntee Law team, we would be happy to chat.

Fiona McEntee is the Founding & Managing Attorney of McEntee Law Group an immigration law firm, located in Chicago with a national client base. Fiona and her team of advocates work with multinational corpora-

tions, tech and healthcare startups, international rock stars, professional sports teams, human resource and management companies and many more.

Alex George is an Associate at McEntee Law Group. While earning her Juris Doctor at Chicago-Kent College of Law, Alex

Kevin Deery of Galway Chamber Visits Ireland Network Chicago

By Ryanne Gallagher Johnson

In the wake of Brexit, Ireland has seized the opportunity to step up its game as the European Union's only remaining English-speaking country. New initiatives for technology and innovation in a wide array of fields have been set into motion, decades-long plans to help the country keep pace with the rapidly changing economy have been initiated, and an impressive emphasis has been placed on the international relationships that Ireland shares with its neighbors.

Ireland's western harbor city of Galway has been named Europe's City of Culture for 2020. The honor, appointed by the EU, will feature seasonal cultural events, and encourages people to come visit the city this year. Kenny Deery, from the Galway Chamber of Commerce, has been working with Chicago with the goal of creating a smooth flow of export and exchange between our city and his.

"I've been involved in a twinning project here between County Mayo and Cleveland, Ohio for 10 years. We've managed to achieve a lot in terms of educational exchanges and in growing business for Irish businesses that want to export into the US market," he explains. "The US market is a huge potential for many, but the challenge is that routes of entry are expensive, and you can burn through a lot of cash quickly if you don't do it the right way. I want to emulate what we've achieved between Mayo and Cleveland, for Galway and Chicago, and grow business together."

was honored to volunteer with the Cara Family Detention Pro Bono Project, where she helped women and children seek asylum near the U.S.-Mexico border. She started working in immigration law as a Law Clerk in 2017 and has been a member of the McEntee Law team ever since.

In Ireland, the strongest counties for exporting, or exporting potential, are Mayo, Galway, and Sligo. At the moment, Mayo is the largest county represented in Chicago. It's important to Deery, that an expansion happens, to strengthen Chicago's ties with Galway as well.

"One event I'm hosting, with SelectUSA and U. S. Ambassador to Ireland, Edward Crawford and the US Embassy, is an event where we're collating the Irish businesses on the Western seaboard with interest in the U.S. We're hosting it in Galway, and we're working with partners in Shannon Airport, and others, to actually do a Fool's Guide to what's involved.

"Some of it will be panel discussions from businesses who've come and set up in the U.S. Some will be practical discussions with a bank and an attorney, in terms of how to structure, how to incorporate, how you open the bank account, what the practical applications are in that it can be a minefield, so we want to help guide people through it."

SelectUSA is a U.S. government-wide program led by the U.S. Department of Commerce. It's mission is to facilitate job-creating business investment into the U. S. and raise awareness of the critical role that economic development plays in the U.S. economy.

Deery continues, "We'll have U.S. Immigration present, in terms of what are the right types of Visas (you will need). Unfortunately, people still go out and make mistakes. They

Continued to page 78

Chicago's Southside St. Patrick's Day Parade March 15

By *Ryanne Gallagher Johnson*

**Bailey O'Connell,
2020 Southside Irish
St. Patrick's Day
Parade Queen**
photo by Mike Fleming



Chicago's Southside tradition of hosting the St. Patrick's Day Parade will return once again this year on Sunday March 15th, kicking off at noon and running along Western Avenue from 103rd to 115th. The forty-two year custom, which took a brief break from 2009-2012 in order to increase security and keep the parade safe and family friendly, returns once again in full flair with bagpipes, dancing, music, and more than 100 floats.

"Thankful for Catholic Elementary School Teachers" is the official title for this year's Grand Marshal. The Southside Irish Parade committee is thankful for all of the hardworking individuals who dedicate their lives to educating Chicago's Catholic school children, and has invited 16 local area schools to participate as the Grand Marshal unit. It will be represented by principals, teachers, administrators, and staff as they lead the annual march. (southsideirishparade.org)

The Special Honoree for the 2020 parade will be the Tom Hopkins Foundation, "Papa Hops", which was started by Tom's children after his early passing from cancer. The group keeps his spirit

alive by hosting a softball tournament at Kennedy Park on a Friday night in the summer, and raises money to support local families affected by cancer.

"These are two great local groups, who do great things in our neighborhood," explains Jim Smith, co-chair for the parade.

Supporters of the parade this year include Paddy's Irish Whiskey, Lakeshore Beverage, and South Side Irish Imports, to name a few. But the true contributors to the event every year are community members and our local unions.

"We've got several unions that help us out. We're a big union, fire, police community. So, the FOP, the Police Memorial Foundation, are supporters of the parade. But truly, it's a community parade. We don't have anybody on salary that puts this together. It's strictly all volunteer."

The parade, which has been an annual event in Chicago since 1979, was cancelled a decade ago when it became too large for the community to accommodate and for the police to keep safe.

"We had over 200 charter buses that came to the parade. Thousands of people got on the el from the North Side. We had

bars and universities sending kids to this parade in droves. It just got too big," Smith says. "When we brought it back, it wasn't that easy. It was a difficult lift."

Back to its family and community-friendly roots, the parade has a zero tolerance policy for alcohol along its route. It is strictly enforced in accordance with a City of Chicago ordinance, and includes fines for open containers in public. In other words, hold off on the green beer until later.

Accompanying the main event will be the fifth annual Emerald Mile, a one mile run along the parade route in the morning, sponsored by Running Excels, beginning at 11:30am.

While the parade is a long-standing tradition, and offers free admission, the event is not free to put on. Although most who assist in the parade are volunteers, there are still costs to consider, and the parade is always looking for sponsors. "We do still pay considerable city services to put this on."

To offset these costs, annual events are hosted for fundraising. The "Halfway to Parade Day Golf Outing" happens in September every year for the following year's parade. This year's Outing is slated for September 21st, and will raise funds for the 2021 parade.

The South Side Irish Parade Fundraiser also happens annually, a few weeks before the parade, and includes raffles with prizes, a silent auction, and the South Side Irish Parade Queen selection.

The South Side Irish Parade Film Festival is up for offering to celebrate the holiday as well, on March 2nd, at the Beverly Arts Center. This is the 4th year for the event, and includes a Children's Matinee at 3pm, before the pre-movie reception and feature film are shown.

"Come out and enjoy," invites Jim Smith.

To sponsor or donate to the parade, or for information on the event, you can visit southsideirishparade.org, or make contact through facebook.

St. Patrick Celebration in Downtown Yorkville Saturday 3-14

By *Timothy Gleason*

Downtown Yorkville businesses, in coordination with Yorkville Parks & Recreation, will be hosting the 4th annual St. Patrick's Celebration on Saturday, March 14th. The event features a 5K race, Irish parade, and live music throughout the day. The 5k race begins at 9am at Southbank BBQ. The Gleason Irish Trio plays at Riverfront Park at 10:30am. The parade follows at 11am down E. Hydraulic St.

Live music, along with food & drink specials at downtown bars & restaurants will continue throughout the day. Participating

Michigan Irish Music Festival 2020 St. Patrick's Party and Fundraiser

The Michigan Irish Music Festival is excited to announce its annual St. Patrick's Party March 13 and 14 at Bella Maria's Ristorante & Event Center, 513 West Pontaluna Road, Norton Shores, MI.

The party will feature live entertainment both nights. The Kreellers, an energetic Celtic Rock group hailing from Detroit, is an unstoppable powerhouse steeped in traditional Irish sound. The band's mix of rock, funk, and punk elements has created a sound that is sure to keep patrons rocking all night!

Other highlights of the event include performances by local favorites the Oat Bran Boys, an acoustic trio of bluegrass and Irish music, and traditional Irish dance performances from the Ardan Academy of

Dance. Additionally, the silent auction returns both nights with several new exciting formats and ways to bid on the variety of items.

Back by popular demand is McGovern's Corned Beef and Irish fare, plus Irish soda bread and soft pretzels from the Village Baker. Pigeon Hill Brewing Company's MI Irish Stout, Magner's Irish Cider,

Irish cream, Jameson Irish Whiskey, and Budweiser prod-

establishments include The Law Office Pub & Music Hall, Southbank BBQ, Rowdys, Butcher Block 360, Paradise Cove, Parma Pizza, Suzys Bar & Grill, and Roadhouse Rte 47.

All proceeds from the 5k race benefit CASA of Kendall County. Sponsors for the event include Kelly Michelson Realty, Terrapin Aquatics Management, Bud Light and Pesola Media Group. For more information, a schedule of music and details about signing up for the 5K race, visit

www.facebook.com/stpatricksyorkville

ucts will also be served. Doors open at 5:30pm both nights with music starting at 6pm. Tickets are available at the door for \$8, and kids 12 and under get in for free.

The mission of the Michigan Irish Music Festival is to produce a quality Midwest Irish Music Festival that promotes Irish culture and heritage while enhancing the community through entertainment, tourism, education and philanthropy. The festival is proud to support Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry and Kids' Foot Basket with gifts of non-perishable food items and cash donations. Since 2008, due to the success of the St. Pat's Party and the Festival, the Michigan Irish Music Festival has donated over \$266,000 in cash and 21,000 pounds of food back to the community.

The Michigan Irish Music Festival will return this fall, September 17-20, 2019, at Heritage Landing in downtown Muskegon. The festival kicks off with a Pub Party on Thursday, September 17th. The festival and St. Patrick's Day Party are sponsored by G&L, Budweiser, Van's Car Wash & Quick

Lube, and Family Financial Credit Union. For complete festival information, visit www.michiganirish.org.

ShamROCK Party and Parade in Milwaukee March 13-14

Get ready for the 54th Annual Shamrock Club of Wisconsin St. Patrick’s Parade by attending the ShamROCK Kick Off Party 3-13.

This FREE event will have live entertainment and a variety of raffle prizes available. You won’t want to miss out on the fun!

Frogwater kicks things off at 5:30 p.m. At 7:30 p.m. we’ll take a quick break to announce our grand prize winner! Pat McCurdy will close out the night with two sets starting at 8:00 p.m.

The 35th Annual Special Mass To Honor St. Patrick takes place on Saturday, March 14, 2020, at Historic St. Patrick’s Church, 723 West Washington Street, Milwaukee at 8.30 am.

The Shamrock Club Choir sings the liturgy. the Milwaukee Fire and Police Band will pipe in the

colors, The Shamrock Club Color Guard will stand as honor guard for the Mass. There will be a sign reader for hearing impaired. There are readings and songs in Irish and English.

If your group is interested in being a part of the Mass, contact Chuck McLaughlin at 414-771-0458 to reserve a pew for you.

The Shamrock Club will again have its Full Irish Breakfast on March 14, at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee. The breakfast will start at 8 am until 11 am, during and after the Mass in Honor of St Patrick.

Irish breakfast in Upper Parlor. Breakfast includes eggs, rashers, banger sausages, black and white, and more. Bloody Marys and Bloody Mollys will also be

available. Cost is \$15 at the door. Contact us at breakfast@shamrockclubwis.com or 414-315-0631.

54th Annual St Patrick’s Parade Noon March 14

The 54th Annual Shamrock Club of Wisconsin St. Patrick’s Day Parade returns stepping off on Wisconsin Avenue at Old World Third Street, the parade will feature 100+ units including Irish dance groups, pipe & drum corps, local celebrities and dignitaries.

The event dates back to 1843, predating the incorporation of the State of Wisconsin and the City of Milwaukee. Milwaukee’s parade is the 6th oldest in the nation.

Post Parade Party

Post Parade Party is Saturday, March 14, 2020 at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center from 1 pm until 6 pm. There are 4 stages, 6musical groups, a children’s area, and 4 dance schools. The cost is \$8 per adult, and \$20 for a family of four or above.

In addition, the Shamrock Club Cafe in the Upper Ballroom will be serving food all day. Beer, wine, spirits and soda will also be sold throughout the building,

The Shamrock Club’s annual Scholarship Raffle and Silent Auc-

tion will be held.

- 2:00 Glencastle Irish Dancers
- 2:45 Trinity Academy Irish Dance
- 3:45 Pay the Devil
- 5:15 Kinsella Irish Dancers
- Shamrock Club Parlour**
- 1:00-2:15 Ceol Cairde
- 2:30-3:45 Blackthorn Folly

- 4:00-5:45 Derek Byrne Upper Ballroom
- 1:30 - 2:45 Jeff Ward
- 3:00 - 4:15 Ian Gould
- 4:30 Caledonian Scottish Dancers
- Children’s Area (Parlour C)**
- 3:00 and 4:15, Eileen O’Rourke: Leprechaun Stories



Peter Fleming, Irishman of the Year, who also portrays St. Patrick at Milwaukee Irish Fest, Maureen McGarry Konkol - Irish Rose, Parade Marshals Bob Donovan, a Milwaukee Alderman, and his wife, past Shamrock Club president, Kathy Donovan.



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Matt Walsh II of Hinshaw and Culbertson LLP with former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, Kevin F. O'Malley, attending a Biden for President fundraiser held February 20 at the Hinshaw offices.



Mike Reilly, Pres. of the West Suburban Irish, & Celtic Service Award winner of \$1000, Lucia Wileman, 2-29 wsirish.org



Jim Boyle, Charles Brewick, Phil Andrew listening to Richard Moore at the Women's Athletic Club.



Josephine and Tom Boyle, Mary Funchion, with Richard Moore and Ursula Moore (no relation) at the Women's Athletic Club Feb 25. Richard, blinded by a rubber bullet 3 months after Bloody Sunday at the age of 10, has dedicated his life to peace and forgiveness. He spoke about his Children in Crossfire Program which helps children in 12 countries. childrenincrossfire.org.



Irish Consul General Brian O'Brien holds a thank you gift for his service the last 4 years in the Midwest, given to him by The Ireland Network President, Ferdia Doherty.



(l to r): Cliff Carlson, Maureen Cahill, Dr. Edward Manno; Northwestern Memorial, Geraldine Healy; Mercy Home for Boys & Girls, and Amanda Healy, Marketing Consultant at the Ireland Network Ball.



Mike Reilly, President of the West Suburban Irish with 2020 Special Guest, Senator Billy Lawless, and attorney, Kevin Coyne.



The McNulty Irish Dancers performed for the West Suburban Irish Emerald Dinner

Movement Takes Aim at Downtown Spot for Rare Statue to Honor A Woman: Mother Jones

Chicago has few if any outdoor statues of real women to honor their contributions to history, but the Mother Jones Foundation wants to change that by erecting a statue of Mother Jones in Chicago.

Mary Harris Jones (1837-1930) came to the U.S. from County Cork, Ireland as a child. She worked as a teacher and married an iron worker and had 4 children. Her husband and all of her children died in a yellow fever epidemic. After losing her family she opened a dressmaking shop in Chicago and became acutely aware of the inequality between the rich and the poor. Her shop and her home were destroyed in the 1871 Great Chicago Fire. She was homeless and sought shelter at Old St. Mary's Church. Having nothing more to lose, she became interested in the plight of the miners and other workers. She attended meetings of the Knights of Labor and became a strike organizer. Her goal was to bring a living wage

great-grandmother of all agitators.

The Mother Jones Foundation commissioned Kathleen Farrell (kathleenfarrell.org) to create the statue of Mother Jones. Farrell has received numerous awards for her work and in 2019 was given the Joe Hill Lifetime Achievement Award from the Labor Heritage Foundation.

The Mother Jones Statue Committee has chosen Wacker Drive near Michigan Avenue, overlooking the river and across from the Trump tower, as the preferred site for the statue. After a meeting with Ald. Brendan Reilly who is providing support, Rosemary Feurer, Director of the Mother Jones Heritage Project, submitted an application to the city for installation. It is estimated that the statue and its installation will cost \$200,000. The Government of Ireland has provided seed money of \$36,000. The Chicago Federation of Labor, Illinois Labor History Society, United Mine Workers, Chicago

Support the campaign for a Mother Jones Statue in Chicago



- The Government of Ireland has seeded the project with a \$36,000 grant. Please help us match that amount.
- Chicago Alderman Brendan Reilly (42nd ward, downtown) is lending his support for a prominent site.
- Award-winning Irish-American sculptor Kathleen Farrell will create it.
- The estimated final cost will be \$180,000.
- Ask your organization consider a donation.
- Donate online through link at motherjonesmuseum.org/statue.
- Send checks: *Mother Jones Statue Fund, Wintrust Bank, 4343 W. Peterson Avenue, Chicago IL 60646*

and decent living conditions to working families. She met with Presidents, captains of industry and union leaders, and became a great orator. She led a children's crusade against child labor. In 1917 she received a standing ovation for speaking on behalf of Chicago teachers who were fired after the Loeb decision which prohibited teachers from joining a union. Mother Jones endured numerous arrests, and at one point she was called "the most dangerous woman in America." By 1900 she was known as "Mother Jones," the fighting matriarch of workers everywhere. She wanted to be known as the

Teachers Union, Working Women's History Project, and numerous other organizations have endorsed this project.

Donations are needed to complete this statue and make it a lasting monument in Chicago. You can donate online at motherjonesmuseum.org/statue. Checks should be made out to the Mother Jones Statue Fund and mailed to the Mother Jones Statue Fund, 630 Joanne Lane, DeKalb, Illinois, 60115, or mail them directly to the bank at Mother Jones Statue Fund, Wintrust Bank, 4343 W. Peterson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60646.

Larkin and Moran Brothers March Madness and Trippin' on A Visit to Ireland This Summer

Chicago's popular Larkin and Moran Brothers are out and about this March so stop in somewhere below and check them out.!

Friday the 6th Providence HS St Patrick's Day Party, 1800 W Lincoln Hwy New Lenox, IL 8:30 PM

Saturday the 7th **Manhattan Irish Fest**, North of Manhattan Fire Station 81 Manhattan, IL 8 PM

Saturday the 14th Hyatt Regency Chicago 151 E Wacker Dr Chicago, IL 11:00 AM

Saturday the 14th The Original Mothers 26 W Division St Chicago, IL 4:00 PM

Sunday the 15th **Gaelic Park** Emerald Room, 6119 West 147th Street Oak Forest, IL 1 PM

Sunday the 15th McNicholas Garage Party 6 or 7 PM

Tuesday the 17th 115 Bourbon Street 3359 W 115 St Merrionette Park, IL 7pm

Join Their

Ireland Summer Trip

July 16 - 24 - A Great Time to Visit! Ireland 2020 - Second Coach Filling Fast - Sign Up Deadline is Approaching

It is getting close to the **first Sign Up deadline** which is Early April so be sure to get yourself booked .

The band has gigs lined up and will post them shortly!

Demand is still very active and this tour is filling in quickly so book your spot today. If there is space past the first deadline they can probably still accommodate you but it will be on a case by case basis as this promises to be their biggest tour!!

The tour is July 16 -24, 2020.

For more information or to book, contact: Call Cathy 847.542.1539 or Susan 630.595.7170 triseasonsgroups@gmail.com

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Galway Ireland is A City of Culture in Europe for 2020

By **Ryanne Gallagher Johnson**

This year, Galway, Ireland, has been awarded the distinct honor of being appointed a European Capital of Culture for 2020.

The position, appointed by the European Union (EU), lasts for a period of one calendar year, and affords the cities the opportunity to organize a series of cultural events with a strong pan-European slant. At the heart of Galway is the National University of Ireland (NUI), which is using this honor as a way to bring attention to the largest city in the province of Connacht, and it's plans to move Ireland into the future.

In a land where one in four inhabitants were born outside Ireland, migration joins landscape and language as one of 3 themes for Galway 2020, the designation used to describe the planned events for the year (europarl.europa.eu). Ireland's Diaspora has the opportunity to be represented by the **first Senator of the Diaspora, Galway native Billy Lawless**, who brings a new innovation of government by representing the Irish around the world.

John Concannon, Vice President at NUI Galway, visited Chicago recently to spread the word about the exciting events set to take place in our sister city overseas. As Galway has a long tradition of friendship and partnership with Chicago, and NUI is the center of the Irish city, Mr. Concannon was encouraged by Senator Lawless to speak about this year's great honor, and future plans for Galway and Ireland as

a whole.

"There's 6 million people (that) live on the island, there's 70 million people around the world that Billy is the senator for, our Diaspora," explains Concannon. "In addition to my role at the University, I'm director of Special Projects for the government internationally, with focus on the security council campaign. Once I was appointed, Billy said, 'You've got to come to Chicago, we've got to get these things moving.' Sister Cities has been really strong, (and) we want to build on that.

"Linked in, there's about 450 people in the Chicago region that are alumni of NUI Galway. (The University) is a big beacon of energy for the west of Ireland, for Ireland, and now we're leading internationally in areas like Med Tech and culture and data."

Celebrating 175 years in 2020, NUI Galway is a traditional and comprehensive university that started as a famine project, to give work to the people of Galway.

"It's a big year for the University, with the anniversary, and for Galway, as the European Capital of Culture. The University is the beating heart of Galway city, and Galway is the engine of the region of the west of Ireland. So there's a really exciting program of activity happening in research, in innovation, in culture, and we're very ambitious to grow that further. We'll do that through working with people, collaborating, and we encourage everybody, when they're in Ireland, to come for a visit, come into the campus,

drop us a line. This is our year," Concannon expounds.

This is the first City of Culture appointment post-Brexit, and Galway is taking the opportunity to shine brightly in the void left by Britain's separation from the EU. "The question is, how is the European Union now, with the United Kingdom leaving? (We really want to) demonstrate that culture is a language that can help build bridges and bonds. It's really putting Galway on the map."

Beginning last February, which ties in with the ancient Celtic calendar, the Galway 2020 program is built around the four Celtic festivals of Imbolc, Bealtaine, Lughnasa, and Samhain.

Imbolc, which runs from February to April, is rooted in the Irish imbolg (in the belly). The budding season of Imbolc "gives taste to all that is to come". Bealtaine, from May through July, will encompass "May Day, bonfires, flowers, and feasts with friends and family." August to October will be "abundant" Lughnasa, during which all will be invited to celebrate Galway as a diverse and vibrant community on the edge of Europe. And the year of honor will close out with Samhain from November to January, ushering in the darkness of winter, when "the border between life and the Otherworld is faint, and we can reflect on our past and place faith in an unknown future." (galway2020.ie)

The country has also charted a plan, entitled Project Ireland 2040, which looks to the next twenty years for big changes.

Once the year as Cultural Capital has ended, Ireland will jump headlong into its new endeavor.

"The big, overarching point," explains Concannon, "is that Dublin is very successful, but it's creaking at the seams. There's huge challenges now with keeping pace with housing, with infrastructure. So, we've got to put centers of energy and more focus on the regional cities, Galway,

Kevin Deery, Galway Chamber of Commerce

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come out and end up overstaying and get themselves into trouble. This will be a very practical event.

Deery's job is to get to know the people he'll be working with. Chicago's well-developed cultural exchange, and the Sister Cities network with Galway, go a long way to helping the relationships he's trying to grow.

"My objective is to see if we can develop and build on by helping the business space both ways," he says. "It's also about how we can be of benefit to U.S. companies looking at Ireland as a base for Europe. We're unashamedly turning Brexit into an opportunity. We've attracted quite a number of businesses from London particularly.

"In our Chamber, we have two subsidiaries; the PorterShed and Galway Technology Centre. Both of them are co-working spaces. One is for scaling tech companies. The other is an enterprise development center. And we're using those facilities as hosting spots for some Brexit refugees

Limerick, and Cork in particular. And within that, we need to develop high density developments with good jobs. So, at the University, part of that program, part of that government policy, is to develop a new innovation district right in the middle of the city, as a driver of activity for the University, for the business community, and the new Riverside campus. So, it's very exciting." galway2020.ie

at this stage. They are using the west of Ireland, because they looked at Dublin, and Dublin is too expensive on a commercial property basis, and it's too expensive for them to be able to buy homes in. What they see in the quality of life, and the economics of Galway, work out for our better.

"I think there's an opportunity to do something in the next 12 months. One of my colleagues in Kildare Chamber started a process with Boston going back about two years ago. Boston doesn't have a natural Kildare community, so they were starting from a very low base, and they're at the point now where they had fifteen businesses from Kildare out in Boston last October beginning to build business, and that's a five year commitment. I see no reason why we shouldn't be able to do the same in Galway, and actually try and bring product and bring Galway businesses out and use Chicago as the base to get their foothold into this state, and other states around the U.S. I'm optimistic."



Gathering at the Dearborn Restaurant; downtown Chicago, in February to discuss Galway 2020 with Ireland Network Chicago and others are (l to r): Kevin Deery, John Concannon of Galway, Nuala Kavanagh, Amy Lawless, Joseph McKittrick, Clodagh Lawless, Brian O'Brien, Tomas Kavanagh, Sarah Keating, John Wrenn, Maggie Wrenn, and Ferdia Doherty; President of Ireland Network Chicago.

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