

American Celtic Radio Awards 2021

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FROM THE MOTHERLAND

By
SEAN FARRELL



Potpourri

Advice and a Reality Check! Don't make any plans for 2021. "Normality" is at least another year away, the Covid Virus so embedded and pernicious that ridding humanity of it will require a major global effort. I write in late January as the Corona Virus saga continues but now with vaccines emerging to combat it. One grisly way of viewing the situation, in Ireland, in Britain, in the USA and elsewhere is whether enough of the population can be vaccinated in time to achieve if not "herd immunity" then to keep the death toll below that from last Century's Spanish Flu (Ireland 22,000, Britain 220,000 and the USA 600,000). The sombre targets are not strictly comparable (given population growth, medical advances and better living standards) but nevertheless offer grim yardsticks. As I write the Virus' third wave is in full spate with at least twenty countries recording over 1000 deaths per million. As you read this the toll in the USA

is well beyond 400,000 deaths (President Biden has suggested 500,000 by the end of February), and Britain (where the Brexiteer clowns

now in government have rivaled Trump's ineptitude in combating Covid) will be nudging six figures.

Ireland, meanwhile, having long dodged the third wave bullet, is now awash, having moved in the space of a few weeks from the least infected per head to one with among the most rapid growth of new cases worldwide. With cases climbing towards 200,000 - a doubling since the New Year - and deaths now at 578 per million, we have a way still to go - we remain among the best in the EU, with only the Nordics (Sweden emphatically excepted) and Estonia doing better, but the public mood now is one tinged with anxiety. Deaths are still relatively low (below 3000), with our island status continuing to protect us, but with an open border to the North, no strict quarantine and visitors still arriving in considerable numbers, bringing with them newer, more infectious mutations of the virus, this could change. The sombre lesson since we "opened up" is that, as elsewhere, we are as vulnerable as elsewhere, with no sign of the self-discipline or political will

to hunker down and defeat the virus. And, as we blunder on, fixated on some vaccine saving us. It probably will eventually but it doesn't take rocket science to work out how long vaccinating a whole population will take. So - write off 2021.

If there is any collateral good news out of this it is that the Virus almost certainly cost Trump a second term - though a more accurate interpretation would be that even before the election, his total ineptness and unsuitability for political leadership was exposed by his record in failing to grapple with the Virus, a record that probably contributed significantly to the death toll. While it's difficult to assess what damage Trump could have inflicted domestically or worldwide with another four years, his behaviour since November suggests the USA and the world have had a narrow escape. America's democratic structures survived - just about - but have taken quite a battering. His term now seems just a seedy episode yet the events in the Capitol on 6 January - with repercussions ongoing - should be a wake-up call. And the spectacle of the determined assault on the election result has shredded the US' image around the world, to the manifest glee of the crew of motley dictators worldwide who would never have tolerated an unrigged election like last November's.

The question now is whether Trumpism, with its appeal to the "inner swine in human beings" and its success in "ceaselessly mobilising human stupidity"- to quote Kurt Schumacher's brilliant characterisation of Nazism, will prove an enduring national movement. We should not forget that last November over seventy four million Americans voted for Trump; not all were hillbillies or racists or people disposed to join lynch mobs. There is worry and alienation out there as well as sincerely held conservative views and Joe Biden will have quite a task in healing the country and in combating deliberate falsehoods in the era of Social Media. Some may see the whole period following Trump's defeat as a form, ceteris paribus, of the Trump equivalent of the Beer Hall Putsch, with his Arnie-style hints of a return hanging over the future. Yet bear in mind that Hitler was in his mid-thirties when he ran after his coup collapsed. Trump is now seventy four and four years on will be seventy eight. As for his pod-people family - they simply lack his caveman charisma (with apologies to our ancestors).

An ill wind also, arguably, for the Brexiteers. Virtually lost sight of has been another New Year "milestone" - Britain's final exit from the EU. Few anywhere are sounding trumpets though expect a growing fiction

emerging, albeit slowly, about how the Corona Virus did fatal damage to the Brave New World for Britannia (more accurately Albion) envisaged, promised, and lied about by Britain's Brave Brexiteers. Britain is now formally - and informally - a "third country" now removed (apart from the North east of Ireland) from the European Union. The divorce would have been accompanied by Brexiteer celebrations worthy of the Rapture and the Second Coming combined, had they not been muted by the reality of the rampant Virus, where Britain's inept handling has now seen more per capita deaths per million than in the USA.

Once the initial cock-a-hoop tabloid headlines and predictable inanities by the likes of Gove about negotiating the mothers of all trade deals with (other) third countries, like the USA, had subsided there was a hiatus. January is normally a quiet month financially and in trading terms and there was much speculation - and trepidation - about what the effects of Britain leaving would have short term on its trade in terms of ruptured supply lines, food and other shortages both in Britain and in Ireland - the country most at risk economically over Brexit. The Covid restrictions as hastily intensified in the UK provided a handy get-out-of-jail card for the Brexiteers, a card they will probably use until it disintegrates. Those delays and hiccups that did occur could be passed off as "teething troubles" or on Covid.

The counter-intuitive dimension of Brexit, involving as it did Britain removing itself from a solid, bedded-in, paperless free trade regime with its EU trading partners, accounting for 40% of its trade, to take its chance in future negotiations, was simply dodged. Indeed to read the British tabloid press the agreement negotiated at Christmas represented Britain putting one over on its former partners. It was not, of course - merely "Fake News" Brexit style. The agreement as negotiated represented a marriage of less-than true-minds aimed at minimizing disruption on both sides to important existing trade and laying some foundation for a future relationship, all made necessary by the contrary, illogical and irrational espousal of Brexit - for the UK a policy switch worthy of Jonathan Swift's imagination.

Finally, an anniversary. On 6 February 1971, in the course of rioting on Belfast's New Lodge Road, Gunner Robert Curtis (20) became the first British soldier shot dead in the North.

Sean Farrell is a retired Irish diplomat and former Irish Consul General in Chicago in 2006-2007.

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Happy new year to our IN Chicago members and friends. As Ireland Network President I am delighted to ring in what will be a much better twelve months than the one we just had. For those of you who are not aware of us, Ireland Network is a social, business networking group with the goal of introducing people of Irish and non Irish heritage to each other for social, business, networking and fundraising opportunities. We offer a wide range of cultural, business and social events throughout the year. I would ask you to stop by our website (chicago.irishnetwork-usa.org) and think about becoming a fully paid member. Membership offers a number of benefits, including discounts on all of our in-person and online events. Hopefully we will be getting back to in-person networking in 2021! The next initiative is an online speed business networking event taking place on Wednesday, January 27th. I'd like to extend best wishes to all IAN readers for a happy and healthy 2021.

Garret Diamond
Garret Diamond
INC President

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CelticMKE's At Home St. Patrick's Celebration

CelticMKE, home of Milwaukee Irish Fest, is producing a free virtual program to celebrate the upcoming St. Patrick's Day season. On Saturday, March 6, through both the CelticMKE Facebook page and YouTube channel, folks will be able to celebrate all things Irish at home with Irish music performances, cultural shows, and children's

entertainment.

In collaboration with TradFest, Ireland's renowned trad music festival and longtime partner of CelticMKE, the program will showcase emerging artists from Ireland to an international audience. You'll be able to enjoy Irish music performances from:

- BRÍDÍN -Cup O'Joe

- Diane Cannon -The Finns

-Grainne Hunt -Niall Hanna

- Nicole Ni Dhubhshlaine & Kyle Macaulay

- Seamus & Caoimhe Uí Fhlatharta

-Sharon Howley -Sive

The Celebrationl kicks off at 10:00 am Central Standard Time with family friendly entertainment. The program will be available to tune in for free on CelticMKE's Facebook page or YouTube channel. The program schedule will be available at celticmke.com.

In addition to CelticMKE's regular program, the organization will also premier TradFest's brand new Ireland in Music film. The film captures some of the country's top musicians performing at Ireland's most spectacular locations, including the Cliffs of Moher and the Burren. The film features performances from a star-studded line-up including *Clannad*, *Mundy*, *Lisa Hannigan*, *Sharon Shannon*, *Denise Chaila*, *Kila*, *The Hothouse Flowers*, *The Stunning*, *Wallis Bird*, and more.

The Ireland in Music film will be available with premier access. Access to exclusive premier of the film in the U.S. is only \$10 and can be purchased at celticmke.com.

The program is supported by Culture Ireland and in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board and funds from the State of Wisconsin and National Endowment for the Arts.

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Announcing the Launch of Global Irish Radio

24/7 Irish radio streaming service promoting Irish music, culture and heritage around the globe

Global Irish Radio today announced the launch of www.globalirishradio.com - a brand-new 24-hour streaming service featuring Irish radio programs from Ireland and around the globe. It seeks to be the leading streaming platform for independently produced radio programs serving Irish communities around the world alongside a feast of Irish music. The service is geared towards the diaspora but should also find favor at home. It is a single platform bringing together the global Irish radio community.



“There are countless Irish radio programs being aired on small local stations in areas of high concentrations of Irish people around the world and their very survival is now in question following the economic meltdown brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic” says founder Sean Ginnelly, a 15-year veteran of Irish radio in Chicago on the *Good Morning Ireland Radio Show*. “We want Global Irish Radio to be the leading platform for such programs - the ‘go-to’ place for all these programs augmented

by Irish music programs” says Ginnelly. “There’s a huge appetite for all genres of Irish music particularly in N. America and GIR will satisfy that need through its Irish music programming” according to Ginnelly, who is spearheading efforts.

Scheduled programs will include, Traditional Irish Hour, Folk & Ballads, Celtic Rock & Pop, Irish Jukebox (listener driven) and a selection of LIVE and recorded shows. Additionally, there will be emigrant support programs tackling issues of concern to Irish communities in different parts of the world for example immigration reform in the USA which is back on the agenda.

Global Irish Radio launches in March with a bed of Irish music and a small number of shows from Ireland and Chicago. Programs will be added gradually. The station will have apple and android apps, will stream on Amazon’s Alexa, other popular streaming services and on the Global Irish Radio website. Info at www.globalirishradio.com

Sean Ginnelly was the presenter of the popular “Good Morning Ireland Radio Show” on WCEV RADIO 1450 AM in Chicago from 2005 until January 2020

Mary Pat Flanagan Sr. VP North American Sales

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GOOD GRIEF



By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



Hello everyone. How are you all holding up? The Calvary is on their way. No I don't mean Joe Biden (but that was great news) the vaccines are finally here. Hurray!! I for one cannot wait but only when the medical and essential workers get there's. We are eternally grateful to all of them. God bless them all as they continue to put themselves at risk for our survival.

I guess its official now that our Chicago parades have been cancelled. I am sure the organizers are doing something digital with all our talented musicians and dancers. Keep checking in here this newspaper is loaded with all the upcoming events. I remember when I first came out here my sister would tell me to go to the Irish American heritage center as they had a newspaper with everything happening around the city and suburbs. Talking of the Irish American heritage center I was sad to hear that past President Tom Boyle had passed away in December. I first met Tom when I was hired reluctantly on my part by the manager Alan Duggan at the Irish American heritage center. I was over there with a few friends we jokingly complained to him that the service was slow and it was a long walk from the fireplace to the bar and he needed some cocktail waitresses. Alan response was yes we do. You're hired. I laughed and told him no thank you. I already was nursing during the day and had an evening job to help facilitate my travelling expenses to see this wonderful country before I made my exit back to London.

Hopefully to resume my Special Ed gym teacher position which I loved and Sorley missed my little students. Anyway to make a long story short I was talked into taking the position and ultimately became the first cocktail waitress. I made myself a uniform with a black waistcoat or vest as they say here. I added a white tuxedo blouse, black pencil skirt. Black Payton high heels. (Which I soon ditched a few hundred blisters later for flats)I actually enjoyed it. I was meeting lots of new people as I really had no social life at that time. On a few occasion I was asked to open up the bar for the presidents after Sunday Mass. I had no clue what I was doing so thankfully Tom Boyle would come behind the bar to show me how to pour a decent pint of Guinness. Listen, its sacrilege to mess up an Irishman's pint of Guinness. Trust me I was very grateful for my lessons with Tom. I didn't agree with his politics but I never forgot his kindness to save my bacon. I can't remember how long I stayed. I'm sure it was less than a year. Few years went by and a new tall, handsome manager was hired .Mr. O'Keefe. Very popular with the ladies. He loved to hear my stories when I was the first cocktail waitress. Right Conor. (kidding) You can tell by now if you follow my column. I did not return to London. I settled for a husband and two beautiful kids. So I would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to my daughter who just passed her driving test after just turning seventeen. I know she is young but trust me I was her only teacher back in March. She was determined to get her test by the end of the year. I was sewing masks seven days a week so taking her out driving for a few hours every day was a great interlude for me .I had her drive on the expressway into the city and all over the suburbs She was a great pupil because she listened and followed direction easily. She passed with

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flying colors in December. Truthfully I would rather sit in the car with her than some of my friends who shall remain nameless. (Hope they don't read this)

As you parents can guess she has taken over my car. She loves to get up at the crack of dawn and pick up coffee before she starts her virtual school. The novelty will soon wear off when I start asking her to pick up groceries. She cannot wait till school resumes so she can drive herself to school. I could never imagine driving myself to school in Ireland. First of all you were a girl so driving lessons were wasted on you. Upon saying that I used to drive a little A35 up and down our lane when I was fourteen years old. Luckily for my family our neighbors were few and far between. My brother Hugh was a year older than me. I remember helping him study for his driving test. I would cut up the cornflake box and draw the road symbols on the cardboard until he knew them off by heart. I also covered the answers in the Highway Code book and by the end I knew it off by heart. He passed with flying colors I was very proud of him. I was happy to help him too though he did promise to show me how to tune up my guitar to concert pitch. I miss him. He is probably playing his guitar in heaven having a sing song with Mum and Dad. Stay safe and healthy till next time.



Home is Where the Heart Is

By Aishling Kelly



Who Will Provide Much Needed Care?

As 2021 is officially here, I’m delighted to announce that I am the proud owner of the Aishling Care Academy- a Certified Nursing Assistant School (CNA) approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Aishling Care Academy offers the same nurse-aid training that is offered at many community colleges throughout Illinois. It was quite the journey to obtain this permit of approval, but it has been a personal mission of mine for a long time, and it was very much worth the wait! Why, some may ask? My mother suffered with dementia and it was soul destroying to watch her disease unfold over more than seven years. My family and I provided all the care my mother required and became the caregivers that many others just like her desperately need. It’s a beautiful duty and privilege to be able to provide quality one-on-one care for the elderly and make a difference in the lives of the sick or aging.

In the spirit of transparency, to date, I have invested slightly over ten thousand dollars to get this CNA school up and running. I had only two students apply into the course for January, and due to low enrollment, was required to cancel the first session. These numbers may have been short in part because of the program’s newness, it not being listed on the testing center website, or even because of the challenges associated with COVID-19. Nonetheless, I stand by the purpose of the school, including the recruitment and mentorship for students of all ages, backgrounds, etc., and to encourage others to consider a career in healthcare.

What you may not be aware of is the

shortage of health care professionals nationally. Becoming a CNA can be the first step to an amazing entry-level healthcare career where you will

never be out of work. There is undoubted job security in the field, bringing a sense of sureness for sure for you and your families.

Take a peek at the statistics below and perhaps they might encourage you to sign up! Care may be required for your parents, grandparents, and relatives! Please consider being a part of the change needed to shape the future of healthcare. There are 56 million Americans over age 65 as of 2020 and 85 million over age 85 predicted by 2050. In 2020, an average ratio of 8 caregivers to 1 adult 80+ years of age means that by 2050 the ration will decrease to 3 caregivers per adult 80+ years of age in 2050. In addition, the average distance between parents to any family member spans to 280 miles. Currently, there are 205 hospitals, 150 hospice companies, 390 memory care communities, 484 rehabilitations centers and over 820 home care agencies in Illinois that need trained and dedicated CNA’s.

As the nation’s elderly population surges the shortage of caretakers that is occurring is very troubling. We have over 5 million Americans with a form of dementia. Every 65 second a person is diagnosed in the US with this disease. It is predicted that over 70 % of Americans who reach the age of 65 will be unable to care for themselves at some point- but we can influence that statistic and make the change to help. Are you willing to be a part of the change needed for the future?

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On the Upbeat

By Maryann
McTeague Keifer

2021 American Celtic Radio Awards

It was exciting to have recently announced the 2021 American Celtic *Listener Supported* Radio Awards which acknowledge the exceptional talents, achievements, integrity, and unwavering determination of musicians whose focus and performance is Celtic

Traditional music and that music derived from its roots. Awards are tough choices since as one is chosen, others are not, and there were so many deserving of notice. These awards, now in their fourth year, are based on an expanding group of radio hosts' choices, their

listeners' requests and feedback, several consulting musicians, and a circle of well based listeners. Some were runaway choices, others were close calls, and all are well deserving and exemplify all that is great in Celtic music.

This year's ACLSR's Album of the Year goes to *Take A Look Around* by *One for the Foxes* who are Tadhg O'Meachair, Joanna Hyde, and David Curley. All are members, or former members, of bands the likes of Goitse, Slide, Runa, and The Hydies and bring together award winning instrumentals, vocals, inventive compositions, and creative arrangements. Highly requested since it was released in the spring, it is one to celebrate.

Traditional Album of the Year goes to two of the finest instrumentlists out there. Fiddle magician Fergal Scahill and master pianist Ryan Molloy got together and recorded *One Day: November Woods*, and left our mouths dropping in amazement as we listened to it. Immediately addicting, it is on constant repeat for many of us. It is full of energy, beauty, and inventive arrangements. A must have for Trad lovers, it is special.

Vocal Album of the Year goes to Aoife Scott's *HOME BIRD*, a collection of go to the heart stories which she uses her singing to tell. Whether a tear evoking ballad, a pull yourself up and go on song of hope, or the pump your fist in the air song written by she and Andy Meaney, "*Irish Born and Raised*," Aoife pulls you into each song. This album is a must have for sure.

Runa gifted us right at Christmas time with the Holiday Album of the Year, *The Tide of Winter*. A dozen years in the making, this album will be one of the first we pull out each holiday season. Filled with hymns and carols showcasing Shannon Lambert Ryan's full vocal range, it is also rich with gifted instrumental arrangements. *The Tide of Winter* was definitely a gift to all.

The Byrne Brothers, from County Donegal now living in Florida via adventures in much of the United States in a camper, had started to be quite well known and

were ready to pop on the scene. That they did, this year taking two awards: Rising Stars of the Year, as well as, Album Cover of the Year for their *Living The Dream* album released several month ago. Each performance and fest they graced with their music, dancing and fun presence increased their reputation as a talented act you didn't want to miss. The lads have taken on additional instruments and have been composing much of their new material. Their *Living The Dream* cover pictorially displays the story of their adventures that their songs and tunes on the album bring to us. A collage of photos, most taken by master photographer, dancer, and



box player, Luca Byrne, takes you on their travels with them. If you do not know them, head to their Facebook and web pages and become one of their enlarging fan base. You'll be quickly hooked!

There were several unique videos this year making for a difficult choice, but one made many of our contributors cry. All said that "*Carousel*" by James Ring, Lee & Robbie Campion, Ross Hennessy, and Sean Kearney, the band *Drops of Green*, grabbed their emotions and hearts. Known for their deadly good vocal harmonies and first class instrumentals, they created and produced a video to tell the story of an old man living the heartache of aging and loss that is part of life. It is striking; it evokes feelings, and it is one you should experience.

Single Release of the Year goes to Ciara McCafferty for her stunning tribute to the late great Martin McGuinness, "*Where My Heart Will Always Be*." Composed by Paul McGilloway, Ciara's heartfelt singing on the finale

night of the tribute to McGuinness has flooded the Peace Foundation with requests for a copy of the touching ballad. Their lyrics are moving, but it is Ciara's delivery that make them evoke deep emotion.

Caroline Keane released her well received and tauted album *Shine* this spring and it catapulted her music and her gorgeous smile onto the music media outlets and award charts. An ace concertina player, composer, teacher, lecturer, and member of *Four Winds*, Caroline well represents the talent women bring to Irish, and all music.

Female Vocalist of the Year goes to Éllis Kennedy whose voice takes you on a peaceful ride as you listen. Her singing, whether in English or her native Irish, often tells the stories of those who made their living on the sea, and those who waited at home for them. You can call her singing delicate and elegant, yet is has a strength in its telling of the stories that supports us all as she takes us along on the journey.

Shane Hennessy and his extraordinary fingers have claimed the Male Musician of the Year Award. Spanning many genres, Shane's musical interests include some stunning arrangements of Traditional tunes. His is a talent which doesn't come around too often.

Male Vocalist of the Year goes to Pat Broaders, a favorite of every group of the selection members. A master of telling the story through a song, Pat shows us the importance of the lyrics as he pulls us into the song with his emotion and voice. "Pat owns that song" seems to be a comment being heard quite often and with good reason.

Colin Farrell saved many of us from utter despair this year with his brilliant daily tunes which have earned him Composer of the Year. Missing the music so desperately, we knew that each evening, we could count on a newly composed tune or a set, often presented with a slice of humor. Hopefully, some will appear on a soon to be recorded album...

Congratulations and a big thank you for sharing your talents go to all the awardees!

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Snow

By:

John Banville
Hanover
Square Press

The novel is set in 1957 in Ballyglass House in Ballyglass, Co. Wexford. The time is winter. And snow is everywhere.

The Osborne Family had controlled this area of Ireland for generations. Father Tom Lawless, a frequent visitor, is murdered in Ballyglass House. It is reported to the Guards, and a detective from Dublin is sent to investigate. The detective chosen is Detective Inspector St. John Strafford.

Strafford is chosen because he grew up in a "Big" House. His family were member of the Gentry. He is a Protestant in an almost all Catholic police force. Detective Strafford has risen to the position of Detective Inspector. He is "35 years old but looked much younger, tall and thin...with a sharp, narrow face, green eyes, and hair of no particular color." He often wears a soft black fedora.

He begins his investigation, and is surprised to learn that only five people live in the enormous house. They are: Colonel Osborne, his wife, his teenage daughter, and her teenage brother, and Mrs. Duffy. She is cook and manager of the house.

Strafford walked around in the home to get the "geography" of it. He discovers no sign of forced entry.

The priest was a frequent guest. Moreover, the five listed above were there when the priest was killed. They are all suspects and will need to be carefully investigated.

The priest was in a dark hallway in the middle of the night, when he was stabbed on the right side of the neck. The severed jugular produced a lot of blood and instant paralysis of the right arm. Despite that, he got from the second floor where the bedrooms were to the top of the stairs. He then got down the main staircase and crashed into the library. Where he collapsed and died.

The corpse was completely castrated, or as the country folks said: gelded. Why? That will be one of the major things for Strafford to investigate.

Strafford observes that "Life was a

Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



mystery." We accompany him on all the interviews of the people who were in the house, as well as the many people he meets during the investigation. Strafford doesn't have a family: he is completely devoted to his work. As he says: "His strongest drive was curiosity."

There are plenty of things in this powerful and dramatic novel for him to be curious about. They deepen our understanding and appreciation of life.

Snow was written by Irish novelist John Banville. He lives in Dublin with his wife and daughters. He was born in Wexford in 1945. He was the Man-Booker Prize. That prize is the leading award in the English speaking world. It is "awarded to the best novel of the year

written in English." He has written, and also writes crime fiction, using the pen name: Bartholomew Black.

As Detective Strafford walks the house, he observes that a light bulb is missing in the dark corridor where the priest was attacked. He realizes the murder was premeditated and thinks, "A person acting on impulse can be lucky. He'll still strike without thinking. But a plan always has something wrong with it. There's always a flaw. Our job is to find it."

Strafford, like many policemen, is a keen observer of how people dress. You can learn a lot about someone before they say a word.

"Colonel Osborne looked to be in his early fifties, lean and leathery, with a nail brush mustache and sharp blue eyes. He was of middle height and bow-legged—and he walked with a curious rolling gait, like an orangutan..."

"Father Tom had been a big man, with burly shoulders and a barrel chest. There were woolly clumps of hair in his ears—priests being wifeless tended to neglect that kind of thing."

"He got up at some point in the night—dressed himself, even put on his clerical collar, left the rooms, and didn't come back."

Strafford wonders: "Why would he have put on his collar if he was only going to the



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lavatory?" The detective is told the "WC is in the other direction. Then, what do you think he was doing?"

Human beings develop their sense of worth and confidence as babies and as young children. That is on Strafford's mind when he interviews Fonsy. He runs the stable for the Osbornes.

"His mother put him in an orphanage before leaving for England. But when he was old enough to use fists, he became obstreperous and was packed off to an Industrial school in the west of Ireland called Carricklea. When he came out years later, he became an apprentice. But late Fonsy left and was living in a caravan in Ballyglass Wood and taking care of the horses at Ballyglass House.

Carricklea was a harsh Industrial school. Despite being run by Catholic Clergy, discipline was brutal. The children were very badly treated and were often sexually abused.

As a young priest, Father Tom was sent there to be a part of the faculty. He became, or had been, what today would be called a "sexual predator." He gave affection, friendliness, and kindness, as a long as sexual favors were given to him.

The great mystery writer, Raymond Chandler said, "The only real mystery worth

investigating was morality."

Strafford meets Fonsy. The caravan door was flung open. "A figure loomed fear-like before him. Big shoulders, broad brow, red hair the color of bronze. Fonsy, the feral boy in dungarees, hobnailed boots, and a soiled woolen vest."

"His eyes were a shade of yellowish green, with incongruously long lashes, curving upward, like a girl's. On his forehead was an angry rash of pimples and there was a running sore at one side of his lower lip that he kept picking at."

Strafford "saw now that despite his shambling gait and hulking frame—he was built top-heavy, like a buffalo...he was deceptively alert." "Had Father Tom chatted to him?"

"No, he didn't chat to me." Strafford says, "You know he had a reputation for being very outgoing and friendly." Fonsy answers, "Ah, sure, they're all that way. The priests are all friendly" and he laughed.

The priest's body had been quickly shipped to Dublin. The announcement to the press, approved by the Archbishop of Dublin, John Charles McQuaid, said there was an accident and the priest had fallen down some stairs. The facts were quickly covered up. No one was punished. So much for morality.

Everything Isn't Just Black and White

Peter Townsend's Hobby Now A Colorful Part of His Irish Collection

Peter, from Derry, Northern Ireland, has long been passionate about Irish heritage and family research. He can usually be found vending at Irish festivals and events throughout the Midwest and beyond, selling Irish blessings, children's first name meaning prints, and family coat of arms and histories.

As a hobby, Peter began colorizing old black and white photos, and people asked him if he could do that for them. He was so successful at it, he added colorization to his business. Now you can take your black and white photo(s) and bring them to life in the 21st century at www.irishcollection.com.

Available as a digital download or a framed print, colorization breathes new life into the past and helps you feel a deeper connection to your ancestors.



Featured Photo: Hugh Joe (Joseph) Doherty (standing) and Bridget Elizabeth Doherty (nee McGowan of the Illies) (seated) of Inishowen, Co. Donegal. Pictured In 1936 with their 12 children at Columbus Avenue, Buncrana, Co. Donegal where they resided. Hugh Joe Doherty was given the nickname "The Waterman" for his years of service as the Sanitation Inspector at Buncrana's water company. Bridget was a seamstress for the locals in town and taught her daughters to sew their own clothing. She also knitted aran sweaters for her children and eventually, grandchildren. Sarah Townsend (nee Doherty) is seen (third from right) and is the mother of Peter Townsend, owner of Peter Townsend's Irish Collection. Sarah recalls making all her own clothing with the skills she learned from her mother. The first dress she ever purchased was her wedding dress. Hugh Joe and Bridget Doherty's family began with their 12 children, but their legacy is carried on by their 51 grandchildren, 92 great grandchildren and 27 great great grandchildren- and counting!

Do you have an interesting family story that goes along with your photograph? Send it along with your order and it may be featured here in the *Irish American News*!

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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

Two films about Ireland *Philomenia* and *The Magdalenes* sent shock waves and a glaring, punishing spotlight uncovering the abuse of women and children in Mother and Baby homes.

In May 2009 the New York Times publicized a column on its Opinion Pages by Irish novelist John Banville. He lifted the curtain of secrecy about the horrific cruelty, abuse and neglect in these homes for young pregnant girls as well as reform schools for boys. These facilities were run by nuns and priests with the cooperation of the Irish Government.

Banville’s first line was unforgettably powerful, short and bitter. “Everyone knew.” As youngsters growing up in Ireland in the 50’s we were threatened with reform schools for boys and Mother and Baby Homes for pregnant girls. All were controlled by government, the Catholic Church, nuns, priests and religious Brothers.

Ironically, while the church is silent, it is only now that an apology has been forthcoming from the Irish Government following a confidential Commission of Investigation of these homes. “The

profound generational wrong visited upon Irish mothers and their children who ended up in these places, provides a moment for us as a society to recognize a failure of empathy, understanding and basic humanity over a very lengthy period,” said Taoiseach Micheal Martin, referring to a long awaited report by the confidential Investigative Commission studying the issue. “The report provides survivors what they have been denied for so long: their voice, their individuality, their right to be acknowledged” Martin

added.

It is harrowing to realize that up until 1960 mother-baby homes appear to have significantly reduced the prospects of survival of children. In fact, the death rate among infants in these homes was almost twice that of the national average for children born outside of marriage. This tracks with the grim discovery several years ago by Catherine Corless, a relentless amateur historian investigating an abandoned mother-baby home in the small town of Tuam in County Galway. She discovered a cistern on the grounds of the facility operated by nuns and priests. It contained skeletons of infants and other body parts. The Commission reports a staggering number of 9,000 children died in institution, about 15% in their care.

Martin calls for the Republic of Ireland to hold itself to account, willing to confront hard truths and accept parts of Irish history deeply uncomfortable. He gives credit to Catherine Corless for bringing the Irish tragedy to the forefront.

The film *Philomenia* highlighted the ordeal of a young woman pregnant out of wedlock, shunted

out of sight, an embarrassment to her family, secretly launched into a mother-and-baby home operated by religious nuns. An actual prison environment, a hideaway to protect families from the scandal, shame and sinfulness of unmarried pregnant daughters. Prime Minister Martin emphasized the obvious: “We embraced a perverse religious morality and control, judgementalism and moral certainty, but shunned our daughters.” Once inside the walls, girls were overworked, their babies removed without consent, auctioned off to American families or to anyone desiring a baby. The word auction has never been mentioned, it’s my word, albeit a hard word, far more realistic than the gentility tone of adoption. Another film, the *Magdalenes* highlighted working conditions of post pubescent girls and women working long hours in laundries and other scullery work to pay for the upkeep of the facility.

The Commission gathered its historic information from women who resided and survived in these hell holes, and although no person or institution is identified in the report, the findings will be handed over to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Kudos to the Commission who shoveled up the dirt on this dastardly dark

period in Irish history. “The most striking thing about the report was the shame felt by women who became pregnant outside of marriage and the stigma so cruelly attached to their children,” noted Martin. He does not spare the Catholic Church for its support of these institutions. “The dominant role of the churches and the moral code lays bare the failure of the State,” he added, pointing a finger at Irish fathers who were willing to send pregnant daughters behind institutional walls. At the time, the culture protected families from supporting their daughters, the goal that no one in the locality would find out about the pregnancy. Pregnant girls who could stay at home, revealed to the Commission they were rejected from school because their pregnancy would bring shame to the school.

The Commission presents several profound questions including the deluded honoring of piety, failing to show even basic kindness to those who needed it most, including a warped attitude to sexuality and intimacy advocated by the church. As we know from films, books, the testimony from survivors of mother-child-homes, illustrate the torturous price women paid for that dysfunction.

Apology comes late. Is a nation’s remorse healing to lives destroyed by church and state? Can re-

pentance diminish the scars? No mention has been made about clerical abuse of children in Ireland and the nation’s distinction of logging more sexual abuse of boys and girls than other European country. Ironic, when Pope Francis visited Ireland several years ago he admitted he was unaware of its epic clerical sexual abuse. Meanwhile, Martin directed a healing statement to survivors of mother and child homes. “The State failed you, the churches, priests, doctors and nuns loom large in their responsibility.”

A large lump to swallow is the testimony of many women who suffered emotional abuse, subject to denigration by the religious, with little kindness shown, especially when giving birth. As the more recent discovery at Tuam demonstrated up to 1960 mother-and-baby homes appear to have significantly reduced the prospects of survival of children. In fact, the death rate among infants in these homes was almost twice that of the national average for children born outside of marriage. Another issue is the burial arrangements for deceased children and mothers. In most cases no records were obtained. In many cases the burial location also remains unknown. Survivor stories, including dealing with mental issues, physical and intellectual disabilities,

and if the women bore a lifelong stigma there was no accountability for the men responsible, despite accounts of rape and incest. Agencies of the state showed little or no interest in addressing these crimes.

The government also pledges continued investment in education, especially for those at the margins and the most vulnerable. “This is the surest way of making sure we do not repeat the past,” concluded An Taoiseach Micheal Martin who compliments Catherine Corless for her dedication in spawning the Commission of Investigation. Some things need a woman!
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Chicago Irish Film Festival 2021: Films From The Land Of Storytelling

by Jude Blackburn

Last summer when the festival's advisory board decided to hold the 2021 Chicago Irish Film Festival (CIFF) online, we really weren't worried about the technical challenges as online film screenings had already evolved internationally and here in the U.S., so all we needed was a virtual screening platform and we got one. What we couldn't be sure of was if there would be any films to screen. What were we thinking, this year's films are as amazing and diverse as any year in the festival's 22-year history! If there's one thing I've learned about Irish filmmakers over the years is that they are always working on a story and they would never let a pandemic get in the way, actually, they might do a film about it and that's exactly what happened. This year's festival will include eight short films that touch on Covid-19 from every direction including ridiculous responses to Ireland's lockdowns to looking at life in a whole new way with wonderful results. And we are particularly excited to share one special covid short titled How to Fall in Love During a Pandemic that all started at last year's festival in the Logan Theatre bar!

2020 also marked the 175th anniversary of the Great Famine and the festival is honored to be screening Ruan Magan's *The Hunger: The Story of the Irish Famine*, narrated by Liam Neeson. This fascinating documentary explores the famine not only from an Irish point of view with its unimaginable loss of life and devastating wave of immigration, but how the famine played out on the international stage where France and the United States were horrified by the extent of the famine in Ireland compared to other European countries at that time. At the complete other end of the documentary timeline is the film *What is Going To Happen Next?* by Matthew Nevin who traveled the world asking people across 203 sovereign nations to imagine

their futures and the answers more than surprise reflecting the extraordinary differences in cultures, geographic locations and economic opportunities; an eye-opening journey.

Over the last 22 years the festival has screened as diverse a group of feature films as any indie film festival goer could ask for and this year will be no different, because that's one of the festival's core missions, to screen films by up-and-coming filmmakers making their debut or sophomore films. Since the

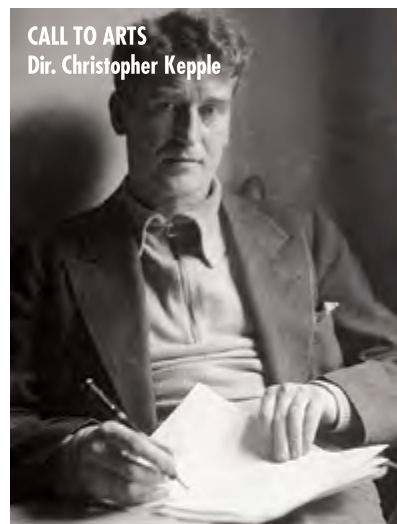
where nobody knows them, and the other long entrenched harboring a secret bleaker than the landscape. Both films will keep you riveted so pop your popcorn in advance and dim the lights.

Shifting across the spectrum of indie film Colin Hickey's *The Evening of Redness in the South* is a dialogue free experimental film filled with breathtaking cinematography and accompanied by the natural sounds of life; breathing, walking, working. Hickey captures a group of workers at a building site, their lives, hopes

Kearney, Claire Byrne, Natasha Waugh and Deborah Grimes. Their films along with the other 40 plus short films screening at this year's festival, in 5 curated programs, cover topics as diverse as 70's punk rock to divorce, homelessness to a social media influencer, juggling life against the odds to a female pilot and her first mate. Award winning, creative, funny, heartfelt, soul searching, and lyrical this year's shorts once again underscore the amazing talents of Irish filmmakers working around the world and we are thrilled to

children including a chat with an award-winning animator for a behind the scenes look at how animation works. And then on the business side an industry event with Green Ray Film Agency, a recently founded film distribution company in Cork by Indie Cork Film Festival's Una Feeley and Mick Hannigan.

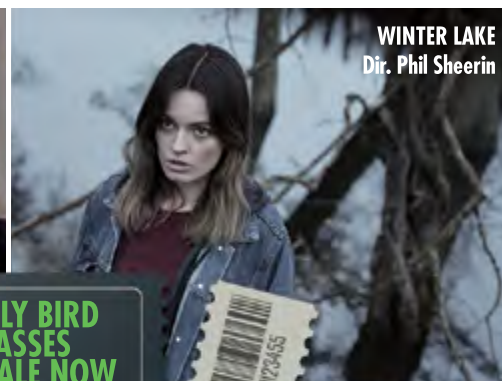
Details about these special events as well as the entire program will be on the festival sites in the coming weeks, but right now you can purchase Festival passes in various bundles: 3 Films,



CALL TO ARTS
Dir. Christopher Kepple



THE EVENING OF REDNESS
IN THE SOUTH
Dir. Colin Hickey



WINTER LAKE
Dir. Phil Sheerin



EDGE OF CHAOS
Dir. Sam Uhleman



THE HUNGER
Dir. Ruan Magan



WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT?
Dir. Matthew Nevin



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Irish are renowned for intense family dramas on stage, in literature, in music and certainly in film this year's films present two fascinating looks at dysfunctional families, from vastly different perspectives. The Keenan family, in Sam Uhlemann's *The Edge of Chaos*, has an Olympic level of dysfunctionality, harboring resentment, addiction and secrets from the past that keep the film quite literally on the edge of chaos, pun totally intended. The families in Phil Sheerin's *The Winter Lake* live in the isolated part of Sligo, one newly arrived looking for a new beginning

and dreams against vast blues skies and curls of black smoke that captures the art of filmmaking rarely created in today's digital Tik-Tok world. Winner of over 20 awards worldwide for experimentation and cinematography, watch this film curled up with a glass of wine and be amazed by this modern silent film.

The CIFF fell in love with shorts from the beginning and since then we've screened over a thousand to the delight of our audiences. This year we are especially honored to have a number of films by some of Ireland's best women filmmakers including Roisin

be a showcase for their work.

As much as films are the cornerstone of a film festival so are partnerships the festival has built over the years, many being in Ireland, and the CIFF is honored to bring three of those partnerships to our audiences with special events. Grainne Humphrey, director of the Dublin International Film Festival, has curated an amazing program of music and video with some of Ireland's up and coming artists. Fionnghuala Ní Néill, director of the Dublin Animation Film Festival, has created a wonderful program of animated films for

5 Films, an All Shorts Pass, and an All Access Pass currently with 20% early bird discounts available until the end of January and then 10% for February. Individual tickets will be available after February 10, 2021.

Over the years the festival has shifted from reels of films, to numerous digital formats, to this year's remarkable platform of virtual streaming, something we never could have imagined just a year ago. But a festival is what we make of it and we think this year's festival is outstanding and we hope you will join us and be amazed.

Mimi Meets the Tetragrammaton

In an ecumenical gesture June 29, 2008 the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments affirmed to U.S. bishops respect for Jewish teaching and sensibilities, in keeping with Christian tradition "that the sacred Tetragrammaton was never pronounced in the Christian context nor translated into any of the languages into which the Bible was translated." Pope Benedict XVI wrote "The Israelites were perfectly right in refusing to utter this self-designation of God, expressed in the word YHWH, so as to avoid degrading it to the level of names of pagan deities." Ancient Hebrews, as do devout Jews to this day, took that very seriously. It is the "ineffable and unutterable name". The Book of the Law says "whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall be put to death (by stoning)".

Yet another "ineffable word" derives from the Spanish word for black: negro, or the phonetic pronunciation of that word in American southern dialect. Like the tetragrammaton, that word has also been declared unutterable under pain of law- but with one caveat. The word is reserved for exclusive use by those of one race. Penalties are imposed on other races for speaking it. Thus, in a clever way, a disrespectful word is not only banned but also elevated to a special "cool" status in custom and law. Casual use of a heretofore infrequently used impolite and derogatory word has all but disappeared from general

conversation, but its use by blacks and black artists in music and entertainment media has exploded exponentially to be now ubiquitous in American culture. In that context, it is further driving races apart during America's ongoing political power struggle.

You've no doubt heard Democrat Ralph Northam recently kept his job as Virginia Governor despite evidence he posed in black-face (or KKK robe) in his Eastern Virginia Medical School yearbook. You may not have heard of another Virginia native, 19-year-old Mimi Groves from Leesburg, captain of Heritage High School's varsity cheerleading team. Mimi had been standing on the threshold of her dream: accepted to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, invited to join their reigning national champion cheer team, when she met the tetragrammaton.

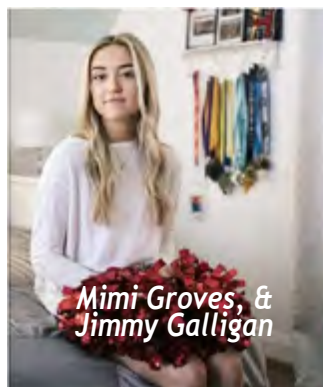
Mimi innocently made the mistake of posting to friends on Instagram's social media site, urging them to "protest, donate, sign a petition, rally, and do something" to support Black Lives Matter. Hours later she was shocked to see this response from a stranger: "You have the audacity to post this, after saying the N-word."

Another student at her high school had published a video clip Mimi posted years earlier as a 15-year-old freshman to her friends on Snapchat. The video is



just three seconds long, showing Mimi in sunglasses, sitting in traffic having just received her learner's permit. Looking cool, rap music playing on the radio, she tells her friends excitedly in the clip: "I can drive, niggas." That's it- a three-second message- to friends.

Jimmy Galligan, also a student at Heritage High, was informed of the clip a year earlier, but he decided to wait and use it when it would do maximum damage. That time came when Mimi was accepted to the university and its champion cheer team.



Photos online reveal that both Jimmy and Mimi appear to live in equally upscale homes. But Jimmy is bi-racial: his mother is black, and Jimmy disdains his father, a white policeman, for his "white privilege". Jimmy's photos show a kid fairly obsessed with his appearance, posing bedecked in earrings and bling, hands framing his face, lips parted seductively. The photo lists what appear to be social apps below, including "Pretty girl challenge". So, did Jimmy resent Mimi the high school cheerleader captain out of jealousy, or is he a racial activist hero?

Doesn't matter now. Within minutes of posting the clip, a mob of similar would-be crusaders from Twitter and TikTok (who somehow knew of Mimi's plans for the future) besieged the University of Tennessee with demands the administration revoke her admission!

In a sane society, that should have ended it. But the learned ad-

ministrators at the university with the motto Veritatem cognoscetis, et veritas vos liberabit (You will know the truth and the

truth shall set you free) astoundingly decided it best to set Mimi free. Despite her abject apologies for a youthful social faux pas, the deans and doctors at first banned her from their cheer team, then from the university entirely. One admissions official cited the nasty messages: "They're angry, and they want to see some action." The university gave her an ultimatum: withdraw, or the university will rescind her admission. Mimi's mother said: "We just needed it to stop, so we withdrew her," adding that the entire experience

had "vaporized" 12 years of her daughter's hard work. "They rushed to judgment, and unfortunately it's going to affect her for the rest of her life." Mimi Groves now remains at

online community college classes. She is fortunate, though, in having a strong, loving family. Another youngster treated in that manner

by powerful "adults" might easily have taken her own life. But the lunacy didn't end even there. America's newspaper of record, the once responsible New York Times, published a warm American Christmas tale December 26. Reporter Dan Levin ("I cover American youth and the issues they care about") interviewed Galligan and profiled Heritage High School in a wealthy, predominantly white county where "slave auctions were once held on the courthouse grounds." Galligan had no regrets, believing his actions were righteous, even heroic. He told the New York Times: "I'm going to remind myself, you started something. You taught someone a lesson... I wanted to get her where she would understand the severity of that word,"

Galligan now attends Vanguard "Top Christian University in Orange County, California". There's no further information about the young hero online, or whether he's applied to Vanguard's cheer team. And Mark Thompson remains president and chief executive officer of The New York Times, having parachuted into that job from a career as BBC Director General just as the huge scandal of BBC star entertainer Jimmy Savile was breaking, amid charges that children had been molested for years at BBC studios and charity hospital functions across the UK. Thompson claims ignorance.

The only other person with Mimi's surname I can recall is Emma Groves. Emma's story was not widely reported, and certainly not in the The U.S. It involved another racist a-hole, this one an armed British soldier patrolling Belfast, Northern Ireland, who became enraged when Emma, aged 51 and the mother of 11 children, dared drop a disk on her record player to sound Tommy Makem's "Four Green Fields" loud as she could from her front room window, as soldiers ransacked the homes of neighbors. As Emma stepped back to the window, this brave British trooper, at 8 yards, fired a rubber baton round through her window directly into her face, blinding her for life.

I remember the horrific video showing her distraught daughter screaming at the soldiers and leading Emma, blood streaming from her eye sockets, to her car to take her to hospital: "Look what your rotten British soldiers did!". <https://twitter.com/i/status/1179816853461508096>

But what that rotten British soldier (who of course was never charged) did in his government-sanctioned ethnic and religious rage against Irish and Catholics, was far more honest - far less cowardly and lame - than what phony Democrat saints like Galligan, progressive publicists like the New York Times, and leftist pedagogues like those in charge of the University of Tennessee did to Mimi. © 2021 Michael P Morley

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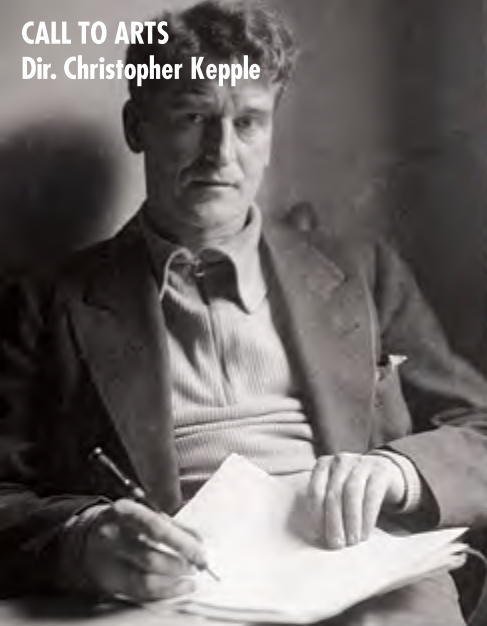
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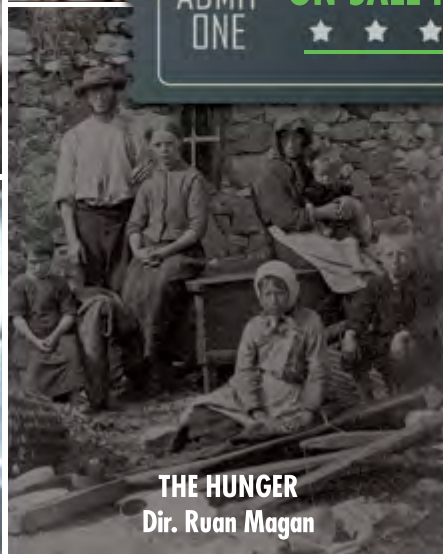
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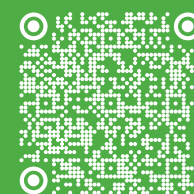
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Belfast's Phil Brown: Football Podcasts In A Pandemic

by James Bartlett

Football is back, but there have been plenty of match cancellations and postponements - and fielding under-strength sides - as players and staff have tested positive for Covid-19. The idea of a ground having big crowds back seems a way off too, but hopefully the vaccines offer some light at the end of the tunnel.

A little over three years ago, Belfast-born Phil Brown(R) had just signed a deal with US broadcaster NBC Sports to bring "Beyond The Pitch," a Man Utd-centric football (or as they call it, soccer) podcast he hosts with former player Danny Higginbotham, to a much bigger audience.

Brown, who started his podcast venture over a decade back when he saw a gap in the market, saw things go well after that link-up, especially as football was getting more mainstream in the States, especially after the national women's team were world champions. Then came the global shut-down.

So, as 2021 splutters and struggles into life, we decided to catch up with the life-long Man U fan for an update.

"Covid has most definitely impacted broadcasters like myself for the better - and for the worst."

The suspension of all sports - and the mental health effects of that - affected everyone, he says, but it also gave Brown time to upgrade software, and change how he delivered content (adding video, rather than just audio) from his home studio via ISDN lines and MP4 audio files.

Prior to the pandemic 90% of BTP's content was audio, but by June or July last year that had changed to about 65-70% video.

"That changed both my relationship with my guests and my listeners. It's a different interview, a different vibe when you're actually looking at someone, their facial expressions and body language, and I have to say, I've enjoyed it more. The listeners have too."

Brown, 43, has been in the USA for nearly 20 years, and initially

worked in air conditioning engineering company before following his dream - inspired in part by the trouble many ex-pats found trying to get football news from Europe.

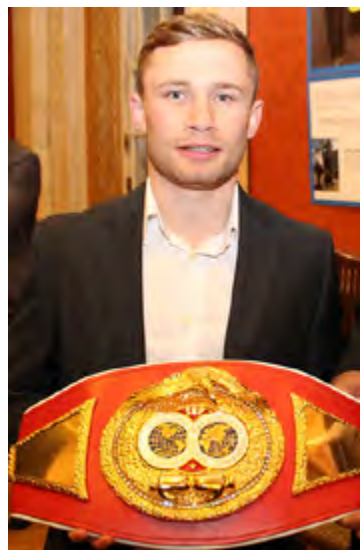
They cold-called many of the big clubs, and "bluffed" about having a studio in Hollywood. Brown says that his Irishness helped, and soon enough many of the teams, United especially, with an already-established link to North America and keen to get a toehold in that market, soon



supplied players like Rio Ferdinand for interviews.

Brown and his family live in Yorba Linda, in Orange County, California, and they unexpectedly got larger recently:

"We now have four children; two of each. My baby just turned two years old, and she was our little miracle. We were completely done after having our third child (my second with my current wife), and we had to get medical help to have both of my kids anyway. So, to have another, without help, wasn't something we were expecting at all!"



Boxer Carl Frampton

The daily challenges for the Browns have been great, too.

"Like so many others, our kids have had their school, sport and social life taken away, and we've done everything we can to make sure the vacuum in their lives isn't filled with video games. My wife has been truly unbelievable, and they're still doing great academically, they still get their exercise, but it's just been really difficult dealing with the loss of the things you can't replace. It has renewed my appreciation for the things I have in my life, a job, a healthy family and my own physical/mental wellbeing."

Phil and the family usually visit Belfast every year, but of course that couldn't happen in 2020:

"The last time we went in 2019, we all went for (boxer) Michael Conlan's fight at the Falls Park, and we stayed for a month. Despite my wife and children being born and raised in Los Angeles, they absolutely love Belfast, so much so that my 13-year-old son wants to live there - ha ha!"

As for the future, Brown sees soccer changing a great deal.

"It will be an à la carte menu. Comprehensive cable sports packages will go, and people only will want to pay for games and events as they go - with is not what the league want to offer, nor what the teams collectively want. The big, famous teams will be fine, but what about the smaller teams?"

For podcasting, if you're in to game analysis and reaction then live streaming will be fundamental, if your podcast is more about telling timeless stories then you'll be fine."

As for 2021, his perfect year would include Man Utd winning a major trophy, and more success for boxer Carl Frampton, another Belfast-born lad who is one of Brown's closest friends.

"I'd love to see him win a world title in a 3rd weight division, which would be up there as one of the greatest sporting accomplishments in our nation's history."

A local champion and plenty of football; something fans on both sides of the pond can really get behind.



Biddy's Good Luck Horse Shoes

Biddy's Good Luck Horse Shoes is an award winning family run business based in Kilkenny Ireland. For Anne Healy the owner it all started on her wedding day when her flower girl gave her the gift that represents Good Luck worldwide for centuries. Anne, reared her family and worked fulltime, but in her spare moments she started to create and design horse-shoes, initially sharing these beautiful creations with family and friends. Horses have been a big part of Anne's family life with her two sons Edward and Mike both avid riders. In January



2019 after almost 40 years Anne left her corporate job to follow her passion and make memories and magical moments full of good luck for everyone. The name Biddy is a pet name for a brilliant gray mare "Ruthstown Biddy" who Edward (Anne's son) rode for years and had great success on. Biddy gave the family plenty of joy, hours of fun, and lots of good luck for her riders. Biddy's Good Luck Horse Shoes bring an old tradition to life using a genuine Horseshoes and create a luxury handmade piece of traditional Irish Good Luck. What better gift can you possibly give then the one of pure Irish Good Luck! Crafters of Ireland are proud to have Biddy's Good Luck Horse Shoes on board.

Crafters of Ireland is a support system for crafters, artists and designers in Ireland or anywhere in the world with a connection to Ireland who are producing hand-crafted goods. They are a group of skilled people who operate micro ventures. Crafters of Ireland's mission is to create visibility for all who join us not only in Ireland but Europe the US and beyond," said Bernadette.

From the outset Bernadette ensured her service would be unique to what was already available "Because of the nature of their work they can become isolated I

often spoke to them about this well before Covid struck. Our crafters are not just a number with products on an online shop. We know each of them to talk to, we respect them and we are proud to have them on board. Crafters of Ireland's focus is on promoting people, who make a difference to the lives they touch through the positive intangible impact they have on the people who buy their products created by their hands. We are promoting their skills, resilience, dedication, and passion for what they do.

We want everyone to know they exist, and that they love what they do.

COI is growing, Bernadette said "We welcome anyone from this sector to join us if they are producers of handcrafted products and have a connection to Ireland".

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Vera Kelly Succumbs to COVID-19 at Age 52

The lovely and talented Vera Kelly, passed away after a short battle with COVID-19. Just before the hospital was to release her she tested positive and went into ICU. She died January 12, 2021.

Vera was well-known in the Irish acting community and won several acting awards.

Singer, Joe McShane on Vera
There's a lady who, most people will know in Chicago, that's Vera Kelly, who kept her chin up through her fight with cancer. She was a very special lady and I'll never forget her bravery through her struggle.

I had the great pleasure of meeting her at the airport in Dublin, as we were on the same flight back to Chicago. She had been home to Ireland to see her father, in case she might not get to see him again. It was a couple of years before the pandemic, but she had to wear a mask for fear of catching a cold or flu, as she was going through her treatment at the time.

With all her pain (which I noticed in her face) she was cracking jokes and making great conversation. I carried her carry-on bags, then she nudged me and said, "They are going to bring me on in a wheelchair, so you stick with me, and you'll get on first with me. I'll tell them you're my helper". So, we both got on first and were lucky enough to sit close together. She really made me count my blessings in life with her outlook.

Vera will be sorely missed in Chicago, especially for her roles in plays that she often acted in. Vera, I'm sure God opened up his arms to you when you left us in January. And, I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say we all send our condolences to her family back at home and her many friends and fans in Chicago. R.I.P. Vera Kelly.

Father Karl Langsdorf
This morning, Friday, January 22, 2021 Vera's family and friends gathered out in the cornfields at St Francis Xavier to pray for her and to celebrate her life. There were as many people

in the Church as we are allowed to have in these troubled times, a tribute in itself. I realized that I have been friends with Vera for close to 25 years.

I met Vera when St Patrick Fathers had a Fashion Show in Gaelic Park. Vera, probably at the instigation of her sister, Mary Kivelehan, was along with lots of friends as a volunteer model. At the dress rehearsal I remarked that Vera was modeling the mother-in-law or mother of the bride outfits. What a thing to say to a twenty something year old!

Only Mary was there and I escaped without a black eye or worse. For a long time I kept my distance but I soon discovered I was on the fried list. Many years later she told me I was right and how much of a laugh she had when I was avoiding her.

She was a proud Mayo woman and she could shout out the green and red of Mayo better than the Saw doctors, so when Mayo and Dublin played there were no calls or text messages till the game was over.

Vera was the baby of six and lost her mother at 13. She was never bitter and had a great relationship with her dad. The both loved to gad about and to be involved, and when she came back from Mayo she would tell you all the "mischief" she and dad got up to and where the had gone.

Acting was something she came to late and it became a great passion. Like her modeling I was always amazed at how she could transform herself into the character. Her face and body changed and she became the Person. If lines were missed Vera could take charge and not embarrass the other person.

Oftentimes she played a few pranks especially with drinks on stage.

During her illness I spent time with her in Northwestern and was on the receiving end of some of her pranks. Vera was a true and loyal friend the kind we all need in our lives. She was stubborn and determined. She had a purpose in life. She told you the truth and sometimes it hurt, but if you needed her she was there and would defend you and then tell you that you were an ass!

One last story, Mary and Maggie called when she was suffering from leukemia.. She was low and not expected to live. I drove to the hospital and after



some hassle got to see her. She was alone except for an aide. The family had been there for hours and at the advice of her doctor had gone for food. I waited sometime and then after talking to the aide decided to anoint her. She was like a corpse in the bed and I checked her pulse. I finished put away the oils, sat beside her, held her hand and talked. I shed a tear and behold her two big eyes opened and bored into me as she said "will you stop your caterwauling, I am not dead yet and I intend to be around for awhile!" Not another word. She closed her eyes and thankfully she fulfilled some things on her wish list. Rest In Peace my faith-

ful friend.

Obituary

Age 52 years, having resided in Chicago, Vera earned her eternal wings, suddenly and unexpectedly on January 12, 2021 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago. Vera was born on June 10, 1968.

Following a long and arduous battle with Leukemia since her original diagnosis in 2016, her subsequent Stem Cell Transplant in 2017, our beloved Vera eventually succumbed and Covid-19 won. She has joined her mom, who also was deceased at age 52

Vera was born on June 10, 1968, "the baby" of six children, born to Annie (nee O'Grady) and Patrick Kelly, in Castlebar, County Mayo, Ireland. Vera was a but-

terfly, well-travelled, landed in one place but did not always stay. However, one thing can be said, she always left an indelible mark. Like so many, she lived in Ireland after High School, then spent some time in London and later settled here in Chicago.

Vera attended Bofeenau National School, later the Convent of Jesus and Mary - Gortnor Abbey in County Mayo, Ireland and Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills. She was a loyal and committed employee as an Executive Administrative Assistant in Chicago.

Vera's overriding passion was her love for and natural talent as an actress. Her stage presence was nothing short of spectacular. She was so proud of her achievements on stage and blossomed every time a new play or challenge presented on the theatrical horizon. Her crowning glory was being presented at the Acting Irish International Theatre Festival in 2014 for "Outstanding performance by a female actor in a leading role" in the play

"The Butterfly of Killybegs". She loved being part of the different drama groups, Gaelic football, and always carved out time to immerse herself in her Irish culture and heritage.

Vera is survived by her father Patrick Kelly, (92) of Ireland. Her two brothers Joseph Kelly and Martin Kelly both of London and her three sisters Mary (Robert) Kivelehan-Peel of Hickory Hills, Illinois, Margaret (Michael) McDowell of Crest Hill, Illinois and Ann Kelly of Ireland.

Her nieces and nephews, Joseph Kelly of Ireland, Martin Kelly of London, Daena Kelly of Scotland, Sean Kivelehan of Washington, Brendan Kivelehan and Ciara Kivelehan both of Hickory Hills, Connor McDowell and Niamh McDowell both of Crest Hill.

The family wishes to extend grateful thanks to all the staff at Northwestern Memorial Hospital for the extraordinary care and attention rendered to her over the last, almost five years. Their care which has been second to none, delivered with dignity and respect, support, tireless efforts and overall kindness will never be forgotten. A special acknowledgement to Dr. Kehinde Adekola, transplant surgeon and all round miracle worker and wonderful human being.

A Memorial Mass and celebration was held at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 2500 Arbeiter Road, Joliet, IL 60431, Friday, January 22nd at 11:00 A.M.

Fr. Karl Langsdorf, a personal friend of Vera's was the officiant for services. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, www.donate.ills.org Vera's expressed wishes are to have her ashes scattered into the Atlantic Ocean from the Cliffs of Moher, County Clare, Ireland. **Margaret Murphy**

Vera's good friend, Margaret Murphy sums it up.

"While Vera triumphantly climbed to the top of Croagh Patrick a few years ago, she is once again in the holy mountains with her beloved family members who welcomed her home in heaven."

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Nora by Nuala O’Connor

In her novel NORA, acclaimed Irish novelist, Nuala O’Connor spins a tale that is at turns sexy, tragic and addictive, reimagining the life of author James Joyce’s beloved wife and muse Nora Barnacle, the model for Molly Bloom in Ulysses.

Dublin, 1904. Nora Barnacle is a twenty-year-old from Galway who left school at twelve, and became a chambermaid. On June 16th, Bloomsday, Nora meets James Joyce, a brilliant dreamer who changes her life forever. Full of passion and lust, the two leave Ireland for Europe, to chase James’ hopes of becoming a writer. Although James refuses to marry, much to Nora’s dismay, their union turns into a lifelong love.

James and Nora surround themselves with a buoyant group of friends that grows to include Samuel Beckett, Peggy Guggenheim, and Sylvia Beach. Nora

follows James throughout Europe as he doggedly pursues publication and literary notoriety. But their life is not without challenges. As the years unfold, Nora is torn between her intense desire for James and the constant strain of living in poverty. A selfish drunk, James spends

their money on nights out and a string of bad choices force them to move repeatedly.

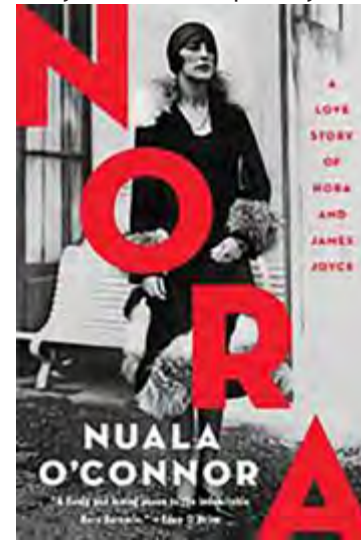
Nora wants nothing more than to see James attain the literary success he desires, but tragedy, poverty, and the constant fear of what tomorrow will bring follows the family to various homes in multiple countries.

With gorgeous and emotionally resonant prose, NORA is a true

portrayal of unconditional love and the quiet power of an ordinary woman who was, in fact, extraordinary.

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Introducing... Steven He O'Byrne

24, Biracial (He/him)
Brooklyn, NY



What do you like about being Irish?

What I love about my upbringing in Limerick are the great traits I was taught. I was raised equally in China and Ireland from birth to 18, it's clear to me that Ireland has taught me kindness, generosity and to not take myself too seriously. Goofiness is what drove millions of people to laugh at and enjoy my work.

What's one thing you hate being asked?

I hate being asked to "Do an Irish Accent". It's quite often that a stranger would learn that I'm Irish and ask me to do an Irish accent... a bouncer who sees my ID, when my friends introduce that I'm Irish.

Do you feel accepted in the Irish-American community?

To be honest, I struggle to fit into Irish American communities. When I attend Irish-American events in the arts, some people have a hard time accepting my identity. I've literally had one man at an Irish-American event ask me "Why are you here?" and upon hearing that I'm Irish, he laughed and thought I was joking. The funny thing is, he's never even been to Ireland.

How does being Irish affect your career?

My Irish identity hasn't had the chance to play a role in my professional career yet. A previous agent said to me: "When they call you in, they're expecting an Asian, so be Asian." I understand that there aren't roles written for Asian-Irish actors. In fact, it drives me to create and produce opportunities for people like me, who are less represented in TV, film and theatre.

What was it like growing up?

Growing up I was a very quiet child. Since 8 years old, I traveled constantly, moving back and forth between China and Ireland 4 times, staying for 3 years each time. As a result, I had a hard time fitting in. Once I learned a language, a culture and made friends, I would have to leave and be inserted into a drastically different culture with a different language and social norms. But those four "Sink or swim" experiences as a young child has taught me to adapt, a trait I value very much today. At 17, I moved to London alone not knowing a single Englishman. At 20, I moved to New York alone, not knowing a single American. While I experienced difficulty as a child, I am beyond grateful for the position I'm in today.

Here's a fun story about being Biracial:

Outside of acting, my Irish background has often made me stand out in a great way. Once after reading a scene for casting director Lauren Bass, she stared at me in awe for half a minute and gave me my favourite review to date: "You're a unicorn."

What was it like emigrating?

My experience coming to the states was **truly extraordinary**. I'll never forget the first day I landed in New York. I was in grand central trying to find my way, I was pointed to a ticket selling window that sold me a ticket and saying only 3 words: "One forty-four" I asked 5 times what "One forty-four" meant. "Is it a time? A train number? A terminal?" I was ignored all 5 times. After living here for 3 years New York has become a city I love and would like to stay in.

What hopes/wishes do you have for the Irish American community?

I would love to see the Irish American community collaborate more with Ireland, especially in theatre. There are many wonderful Irish American artists who deserve to be seen in Ireland, and Irish artists who deserve to be seen in the United States. I look forward to doing my part in creating opportunities both here and back home!



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- Interview Preparation



REGISTRATION:
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through an Irish Lens. Join us from your house.
Open to all across the world.

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CELTIC

AN IRISH JOURNAL FOR SENIORS



WELCOME

Although February days still carry the cold sting of winter, the already-longer evenings serve as the first welcome hint of spring. As we enter a new phase of Covid vaccinations, there may be some early signs of brighter times ahead on that front also. But while we

wait for that time when we can be together, we continue our work. In this month's **Poem Pick**, Ambassador Mulhall has selected a brief but powerful piece by the esteemed poet, William Butler Yeats. In the following pages we'll be introducing you to two community members – one a long-time friend of Irish Community

Services and the other who is just getting to know ICS and our work. In **The Celtic Kitchen** we learn how to make an Irish party classic so you'll be all set and ready to go as soon as we can have parties again! We hope you enjoy the February edition of Celtic Magazine!

Paul Dowling

THE AMBASSADOR'S POEM PICK

No Second Troy

by William Butler Yeats

Yeats was inspired by Maud Gonne (1866-1953). Yeats first met Gonne in January 1889 when she called at his family home in London, having been encouraged by the old Fenian, John O'Leary (1830-1907), to make Yeats's acquaintance. Yeats was immediately smitten and his enchantment with her lasted a lifetime. Although born in England and the daughter of an officer in the British Army, early in her life Gonne became a fervent Irish nationalist. In 1900, she organized protests against the visit to Ireland of Queen Victoria who she derided as "the Famine Queen." In the opening years of the 20th century, Maud Gonne took the lead role in *Kathleen ní Houlihan*, a strongly nationalistic play written by Yeats and his friend, Lady

Gregory. Yeats proposed to Gonne several times but she turned him down. Instead, she married John McBride, who had fought against the British during the Boer War, 1899-1902. He was executed in 1916 on account of his participation in the Easter Rising. While Yeats shared some of Gonne's political views during the 1890s, he was always more moderate in outlook and by the early 20th century his opinions began to diverge from hers. In 'No Second Troy', Yeats notes that Gonne had filled his days "with misery" and that she had taught "to ignorant men most violent ways." Yet his fascination with her continues to shine through as he compares her with Helen of Troy and asks "was there another Troy for her to burn?" This poem is full of fine phrases typical of Yeats, for example "with beauty like a tightened bow" and a wonderful description of

No Second Troy

Why should I blame her that she filled my days
With misery, or that she would of late
Have taught to ignorant men most violent ways,
Or hurled the little streets upon the great,
Had they but courage equal to desire?
What could have made her peaceful with a mind
That nobleness made simple as a fire,
With beauty like a tightened bow, a kind
That is not natural in an age like this,
Being high and solitary and most stern?
Why, what could she have done, being what she is?
Was there another Troy for her to burn?

political agitation – "hurled the little streets upon the great". He suggests that her political commitment was part of her nature. He asks: What could have made her peaceful with a mind That nobleness made simple as a fire ..". Although Yeats married Georgina Hyde-Lees in 1917, he continued to write about Gonne, including in 'Among School Children' where, he wrote that: "She stands before me like a living child"

Dan Mulhall

Ambassador of Ireland to the United States

The Celtic Kitchen

Angela's Sausage Rolls

In Ireland, if you're at a funeral, Christmas party or wedding reception, you're bound to see plates of heaped sausage rolls in circulation.

Humble as it might be, the sausage roll is quintessential fare at any Irish gathering.

Ingredients

- 7oz sausage meat
- 1 egg for glazing
- Store bought puff pastry or
- 250g plain flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 250g butter, at room temperature
- 150 ml cold water

Directions

If using store bought pastry turn oven on and skip to step 5.

1) Heat the oven to 200c or 400 f. Sieve Flour into a bowl, stir in salt, cut butter into

chunks and rub in to the flour loosely (you should still see bits of butter)

2) Make a well in the centre, slowly add cold water use a knife to mix till you have a firm dough.

3) Cover with cling film and let it relax in fridge (20 mins)

4) Knead lightly on a floured board. Roll out into rectangle shape. divide down centre.

5) Divide sausage meat in two using flour roll into two long sausages. (if using premade sausages remove skin and

place the length of the pastry)

6) roll pastry around sausage meat allowing it to overlap.

7) Beat the egg and use egg wash to seal shut.

8) Cut each roll to smaller sizes 3cm or 6cm for larger sausage rolls.

9) Bake for 10 minutes then lower heat a little and cook for 10-15 mins until pastry is puffed and crisp and meat is cooked through.

See www.youtube.com for more from the Celtic Kitchen

Front Porch Profiles

This month, we venture to the south side to visit Tess Mahoney who is a dear friend of ICS and a long-time attendee of our senior group meetings at Chicago Gaelic Park.

Tess Mahoney

Where are you originally from?
Louisburgh, County Mayo.

What neighborhood or town do you live in? Oak Lawn.

What are you most looking forward to doing once the pandemic is over?

Going to Gaelic Park for the Irish Community Services senior meetings, the Women's Club, and Céilí dancing.

What have you been missing most during social distancing and quarantining?

Spending time with friends and going to church.

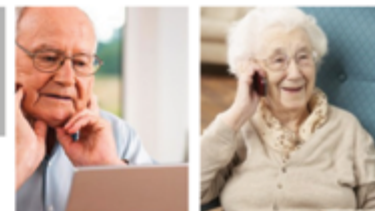
With March and St. Patrick's Day right around the corner, how will your celebrations be different this year?

I'll be drinking Baileys at home instead of in the pub!

If you're in the greater Chicago area and would like to be featured in **Front Porch Profiles**, give us a call. We'd love to drop by and snap a quick picture of you on your stoop, door step or front porch!

773-282-8445





FREE PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS WHERE YOU CAN DIAL-IN BY PHONE OR JOIN A VIDEO CALL USING YOUR COMPUTER FROM ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD!

FEBRUARY

Emigration & the Humble Potato

WEDNESDAY 10TH - 10 AM

Helena Byrne discusses Irish life in days gone by & the impact of the potato on Ireland's history.

Irish Tales & Fiddle Tunes

WEDNESDAY 24TH - 10 AM

Aindrias de Staic's rich and rare style of fiddle playing and his stories are sure to captivate you during this session.

MARCH

St. Patrick's Day Mass

WEDNESDAY 17TH - 10AM

Join Fr Martin Smith celebrating mass live from County Carlow in honor of Saint Patrick's Day. We'll also have music from harpist, Geraldine Carrigg.

If You Had a Stroke, Would You Know?

WEDNESDAY 31ST - 10AM

Our friends from Swedish Covenant Hospital join us for another educational program - this time teaching us how to identify strokes.

HOW TO JOIN OUR REMOTE SENIOR PROGRAMS

DIAL-IN BY PHONE

A few minutes before the program is scheduled to begin, call;

From the US 312 626 6799	From Ireland 01 653 3895	From the UK 131 460 1196
------------------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------------------------

From Australia 02 8015 6011	From Canada 438 809 7799
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You will be asked to enter the **'Meeting ID'** below and then press the **# key**

Meeting ID : 884 0991 8529

After you've done this, you will be asked to enter your participant ID **OR** press the **# key**. Just press the **# key** and you will be joined into the call!

USE A COMPUTER OR TABLET

For online meetings, we use a platform called **Zoom**. When you join our programs using a computer, laptop, tablet or smart phone you can hear and see other participants. Remember, even if you don't want others to see you, you can still join using your device and choose to switch off your camera.

A few minutes before the program is scheduled to begin, use your internet browser to go to the website listed below.

www.zoom.us

Click on **'join meeting'** at the top right side of your screen.

Enter the Meeting ID listed below in the box titled **'Meeting ID or Personal Link Name'**

Meeting ID : 884 0991 8529

Click on the **'Join'** button and you'll be joined into the meeting!

What do you call a cat that gets anything it wants?
Purrr-suasive!

Why was the math book sad?
Because it had so many problems!

'I regret becoming a vegetarian – it was a huge missed steak'

Watch our Comedy Club videos online : go to www.youtube.com and search for 'Irish Community Services'

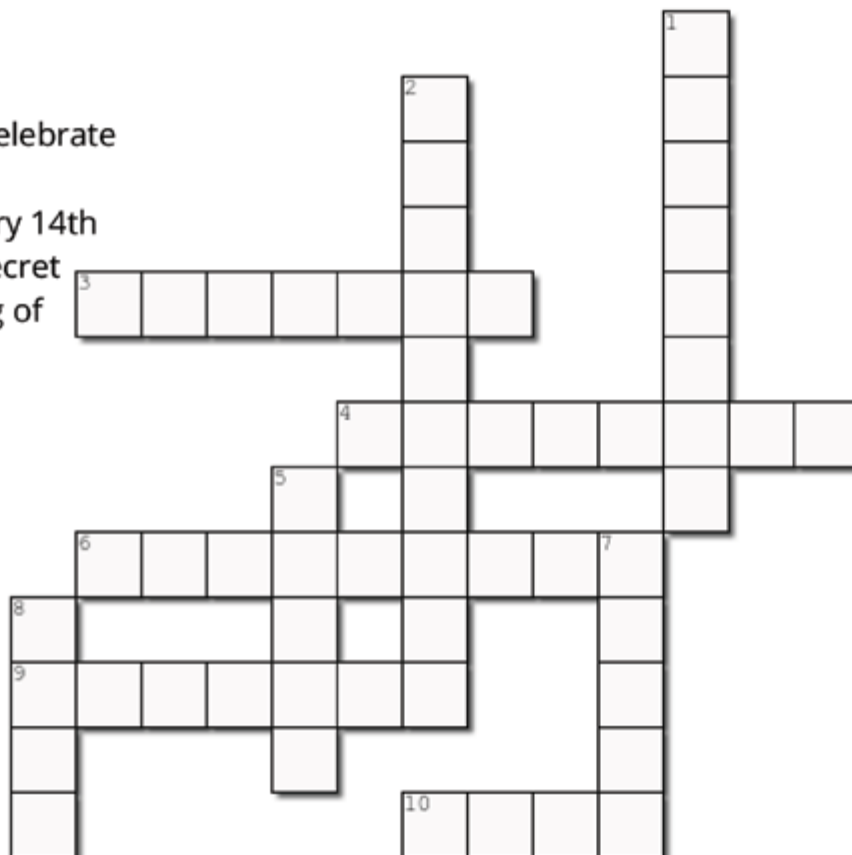
Think it Over

ACROSS

- 3. Large posy
- 4. The month to celebrate love
- 6. Saint of February 14th
- 9. A fan, maybe secret
- 10. Intense feeling of affection

DOWN

- 1. Candy queen
- 2. A note between lovers
- 3. A muscle that can break
- 7. Run away to wed
- 8. A romantic appointment



Be My Valentine

C	P	B	Q	D	L	G	K	L	Y
E	A	O	S	N	J	E	I	I	E
K	N	N	S	W	L	V	U	G	N
Q	C	E	W	A	E	M	V	A	D
G	R	S	C	R	D	N	H	M	I
S	E	L	C	S	U	M	M	E	K
C	A	I	D	H	Y	A	S	N	U
S	S	N	X	A	G	B	S	T	R
I	N	T	R	A	E	H	A	F	R
Q	N	X	Z	S	G	N	U	L	Q
ROMANCE	CUPID	HEART							
PASSION	VALENTINE	COURTSHIP							
LOVE	CHOCOLATES	ROSES							

LETTERS FROM IRELAND

Last summer, Irish Community Services teamed up with Ireland-based charity *Friends of the Elderly* to start a pen pal program called **Letters from Ireland**. We paired seniors in Chicago with older people in the Dublin area to exchange letters. *Friends of the Elderly* provides a variety of services to keep older people engaged and socially active. Not only

does our pen pal program provide participants with an opportunity to brush up on, the lost art of letter writing, it's also a chance to make new friends and build stronger connections to Ireland. We're recruiting more seniors to take part in the program so if you're interested in corresponding with new friends in Ireland, give ICS a call on 773-282-8445. You can find out more about *Friends of the Elderly* on their website: friendsoftheelderly.ie

ICS Welcomes New Irish Intern



For many years, Irish Community Services (ICS) has acted as a field placement site for students studying social services and community work at Irish colleges. Usually, these students pack their bags and spend up to 14 weeks in Chicago working with us. Right now, things are a little different and our newest student – Leah Comiskey who is participating in the Masters of Social Work program at University College Cork – will be working with us this winter but from her home in Cork City! We're glad to have you on board, Leah!

I'm grateful for the opportunity to do my student placement with ICS, especially during these uncertain times and I look forward to getting to know everyone in the months ahead

Crossword Solutions:

DOWN: 1. Fanny May, 2. Love letter, 3. Heart, 7. Elope, 8. Date.
ACROSS: 3. Bouquet, 4. February, 6. Valentine, 9. Admirer, 10. Love.



Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



Sexual Assault in Civil Cases

Sexual assault is a sensitive topic that we all hope no one that we know or love ever has to experience. The unfortunate reality is that it happens everyday whether we realize it or not. Mental Health America has reported a shocking statistic which revealed that 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men report experiencing an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime. Sexual assault is the fondling or unwanted sexual touching of another person without that person's consent. Victims of sexual assault often experience a range of emotions that leave a person feeling uncomfortable, scared, or threatened. It is important to know that there are legal services that can help anyone that has been through such a traumatizing experience.

Types of Damages You might be more familiar with the criminal prosecution of those who have been accused of sexual assault, often resulting in jail time. This involves a process in which the victim has no say or control over the case other than assisting prosecutors, which usually involves being a witness in the case. A civil lawsuit, however, is another source of justice in which a victim may seek monetary damages for the physical and mental abuse that he or she has experienced and will continue

to experience. This includes economic damages that are simple to calculate such as

lost wages, loss of earning potential, and medical expenses.

Also included are noneconomic damages. This includes the emotional harm and mental trauma that a victim has experienced and may continue to experience for the rest of his or her life. This includes compensation for loss of enjoyment of life, humiliation, reputational damage, pain and suffering, anxiety, and PTSD. Although these types of damages may not have a specific dollar amount, that does not make it any less important or necessary. It takes an attorney with the tools and experience necessary to calculate them for you on a case-by-case basis.

Road to Recovery As a personal injury attorney an extremely important aspect of every case is the client's treatment. The type of treatment sought for physical injuries is, for the most part, clear. An x-ray will show fractures, MRI's show damages to the tissues in our body, physical therapy helps improve physical ability, and surgeries are performed to detect, repair, or remove body tissues, bones and organs. Although treatment for victims who suffer from mental trauma may not be as invasive or clear cut, it is important to know that there is treatment that has been proven to help.

I have assisted on cases involving sexual assault and witnessed firsthand the mental

trauma that victims are forced to live with. It is extremely difficult for clients seeking help to even open up and talk about the event as it usually triggers an image or sound of the event in their head. Here at Dwyer & Coogan P.C., the first step we take is to make sure that our clients are seeking the right form of treatment. This is done by scheduling an appointment with a qualified and experienced psychologist and/or therapist who are trained in assisting victims of sexual assault. They focus on increasing the client's confidence, increasing positive views of self and the ability to seek support from individuals who can provide it, and focusing on coping skills to help them process their experiences differently. We want our clients main focus to be on treatment while we do our job as attorneys and focus on the case and ultimately lead the way to financial recovery.

Who To Sue? Civil cases may be brought against the perpetrator as well as a person or entity responsible for supervising or controlling the perpetrator. This is crucial because not every perpetrator will have the funds necessary to fully satisfy the judgment awarded to the victim. Courts have increasingly recognized third-party duties to use reasonable precaution not only to prevent negligent harms, but also to prevent intentional acts.

Institutions may be held liable for the acts of their employees. Many sexual assault and abuse claims could have been avoided had there been some form of a background check and proper screening of an employee. Schools, Hospitals, Religious Organizations,

and Nursing Homes may all be held liable for the sexual assault or abuse committed by one of their employees.

The owner of a building in which you reside in may also be held liable in the event that you are attacked in your own home. Tenants, for example, are entitled to security and safety. Property owners are required to comply with state and local security laws such as the requirement of deadbolt locks on the front and rear apartment doors. If a perpetrator was to break into your home and attack you, the property owner may be held liable if it was found that his or her noncompliance with the law lead to the attack. The circumstances may provide for homeowner's insurance coverage.

If you are a victim of sexual assault or abuse you may feel scared, helpless, and alone. Know that you are not. An experienced and hard-working sexual assault lawyer such as my colleagues and I can help you get through this complicated process by helping you seek the right treatment and get you the compensation that is just and right for you.

**Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of personal injury law - including sexual assault and abuse, nursing home litigation, medical malpractice law, wrongful death claims, transportation injuries, premises liability claims, defective product claims, construction site injuries and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at cgallagher@dwyercoogan.com or at (312) 782-7482.*

Who is Lenny White? He is a dementia friendly barber from Co. Down, Northern Ireland. I communicated with Lenny via email. He lives in a seaside village called Millisle & Lenny states that the picturesque town has the only working windmill in the world! This pandemic has had us focused on such topics as haircuts, bread making, toilet paper and mental health. Some of us were compelled to cut our own hair. When I was able to go to the salon my last haircut wasn't the greatest. I do have naturally curly, coarse and thick hair. But this haircut that I was really looking forward to was a disappointment. It looked like I had two hair styles at the same time, the layers just didn't layer up. Enough about my hair. But I'm sure you have some hair stories too! Our hair is a great expres-

sion of our identity. In some women's salons, champagne and sweets are offered. In the hair department, women are the luckier gender for sure.

In most nursing homes hair care & grooming is also dedicated & geared towards women. However, White wanted to change that & give men a barber experience in the nursing home. White has dedicated his life to cutting men's hair specifically men with dementia. He travels (pop-up style) to different nursing homes in Northern Ireland and he makes a yearly trip in December-January to New Jersey.

Dementia is not a specific disease but a general term that includes these behaviors: decline in memory, interferes with doing

Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



everyday activities, changes in language and communication skills, decreased focus and attention and it is not a part of normal aging. The factors that increase dementia: family history, poor heart health and traumatic brain injuries. Alzheimer's is a type of dementia and the most common form of dementia.

White is a mobile barber for nursing homes and hospitals. He brings the barbershop experience with him, the jukebox, Irish music, barber pole, and even sprays the room with cologne. He goes out to the men who can't get to him.

He cuts the hair, eyebrows and beards of men with dementia. White treats his clients with re-

spect, gives them attention and makes conversation as if they are just like anyone else. White's doing a great service for these men, he is lifting their spirits, and giving them a fresh look. White is addressing a group of the population that at times get ignored. He is giving them the attention they deserve and need. Sadly, we all probably know someone suffering from dementia. I thought, what are the qualities of a good hair stylist? Maybe someone with good listening skills & a passion for hair. Or more importantly someone to care about you for those few min-

utes, someone to say a kind word or hold your hand. If you know anyone living in Northern Ireland or New Jersey maybe they should meet this barber.

lennythemobilebarber@gmail.com

Gaelic for the Month

Hair-gruaig Music-ceol
Dementia-nealtru

"Hairdressers are a wonderful breed you work one-on-one with another human being and the object is to make them feel so much better and to look at themselves with a twinkle in their eye." Vidal Sassoon

I would like to say Happy Birthday to my dad, Tom. May you continue to touch the lives around you. Thank you for always being in our corner no matter what! We love you!

Questions or comments, please email: Molanive@yahoo.com

Member Up!

The Irish American Heritage Center is excited to present our 2021 membership renewal campaign, MEMBER UP! Whether joining, renewing or purchasing a gift membership, take advantage of exciting benefits at no price increase.

Enhanced membership benefits include:

Individual and Family

1 Year: \$30 Individual / \$50 Family
2 Years: \$50 Individual / \$75 Family

- 10% off in the IAHC Gift Shop on non-sale and non-food items, and food in the Fifth Province
- 10% off of a room rental, subject to availability, beginning 12 months from new or renewed membership
- Advanced notice of concerts and shows and the right to pre-purchase tickets
- The right to vote for IAHC Board of Directors
- Candidacy to run for the Board of Directors, after three years of consecutive membership
- Irish American News subscription
- Free Movies for Members

High King — \$2500: 25 Years

- All benefits listed for Family and Individual Members for 25 years, and...
- Private Tour of the IAHC
- 2 Tickets to the Irish American Hall of Fame Gala
- 10 Tickets to Irish Fest
- 10 Tickets per year to the St. Patrick's Festival
- 2 Exclusive Member T-Shirts*
- A private genealogy session
- One 4"x8" Brick in the Walk of
- Names Reserved table at the 2021 and 2022 Christmas Bazaar Breakfast

Saint — \$5000: Lifetime

- All benefits listed for Family and Individual Members for the rest of your life, and...
- Private Tour of the IAHC
- 4 Tickets to the Irish American Hall of Fame Gala
- 20 Tickets to Irish Fest
- 20 Tickets per year to the St. Patrick's Festival
- 4 Exclusive Member T-Shirts*
- A private genealogy session
- One 4"x8" Brick in the Walk of Names
- Reserved table at the 2021 and 2022 Christmas Bazaar Breakfast
- A private event at the Center, based on availability

* T-shirt order, check one:

M __ **F** __ **Size:** **S** __ **M** __ **L** __ **XL** __

Order extra tee shirts at \$15 each

Shirts will be available for pick up for members in the Chicagoland area and mailed otherwise.

I would like to volunteer for:

- Events and programs
- Festivals
- Building projects

Harper — 3 Years: \$250

- All benefits listed for Family and Individual Members for three years, and...
- One Exclusive IAHC Member T-Shirt*

Bard — 5 Years: \$500

- All benefits listed for Family and Individual Members for five years, and...
- Private Tour of the IAHC
- 2 Tickets to an IAHC Breakfast, choose one:
____ Christmas Bazaar
____ Palm Sunday ____ Irish Fest
- One Exclusive IAHC Member T-Shirt*

Date: _____

New Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Gift Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chieftain — 10 Years: \$1000

- All benefits listed for Family and Individual Members for 10 years, and...
- Private Tour of the IAHC
- 4 St. Patrick's Festival tickets for 5 years
- 2 Exclusive Member T-Shirts*

Credit Card Number (VISA, MC or Discover)

3 Digit Code on back: _____ Exp: _____

Cash Check Amount \$ _____



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FEBRUARY 2021

It's time for the annual Member Up! membership renewal campaign at the Irish American Heritage Center! As we invite current members to renew, and new members to join in support of the Center, we reflect on 2020 and how the last year has impacted our beloved Center, and our friends, neighbors, members and community.



As we continue to reflect on 2020 and look forward to and celebrate the many exciting cultural offerings and events held at the IAHC, we thank you for being an integral part of our success, and look forward to your continued support and partnership.

If your membership has expired, please take the time to renew your membership with the Irish American Heritage Center today! Renew your membership or enroll as a first-time member now – or give the gift of an IAHC membership – to be part of the exciting events, cultural offerings, fests and classes at the IAHC, and enjoy new benefits of IAHC membership, which include (in person and virtual offerings):

- 10% off of food purchases in the Fifth Province Pub
- Member discounts on concerts and shows
- Members-only presale opportunity for concerts, festivals and events
- 10% off gift shop merchandise (except food)
- Members-only ticket giveaways
- Entry in members-only contests
- The right to vote for Irish American Heritage Center Board of Directors
- Candidacy to run for the Board of Directors, after three years of consecutive membership
- A subscription to Irish American News (IAN)
- Access to exclusive IAHC news, and exclusive early notice of shows and events

This year an added benefit of your membership is your all-important support of the Irish American Heritage Center during the most challenging year most of us can remember. Without you we couldn't do it and we would not be here! Please consider renewing your membership, or join today!

Best regards,

Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel, President

All donations are fully tax-deductible as we are a 501 (C) (3) organization. Your gift will promptly be acknowledged



I MEMBERED UP BECAUSE...

I've been a member of the Irish American Heritage Center for most of my life. My parents are founding members, so the Center has always played a big role in my life, and continues to do so to this day. It's so important to support an organization that has given so much to our Community – even more so in times like these. This is not just the Irish American Heritage Center. It's OUR Irish American Heritage Center!

–Dominick Mulcrone, IAHC Board of Directors

Be a part of the Irish American Heritage Center Member Up! campaign and take advantage of benefits at the same great price.

To Member Up!,
visit www.irish-american.org
or call 773-282-7025, ext 10

Membered Up!

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER  UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

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The Road Ahead - Our Immigration Predictions Under the Biden Administration

It is no secret that immigration has been a hot topic consistently for the last four years. In this political climate, staying at



the top of the headlines is no small thing. While there have been major legal victories for immigrants, like the reinstatement of DACA, most of the news has not been good. Fortunately, the Biden administration has given us reason to believe that good news is actually on the horizon.

The Biden-Harris campaign website, "The Biden Plan for Securing Our Values as a Nation of Immigrants" makes their position very clear. They state that, unless your ancestors were native to this land or enslaved and forcibly brought here, you can trace your family tree back to an immigrant. You will likely find someone who chose to leave everything they knew behind to seek a better life, and the bravery required to make that choice is "an irrefutable source" of America's strength.

This statement also echoes what we know all too well, that the Trump administration's policies have put unprecedented strain on the immigration system. The policies that were allegedly designed to "protect American jobs" are driving businesses to friendlier shores. The policies purportedly designed to "keep America safe" are wasting billions in taxpayer dollars. The Biden administration unequivocally states its commitment to policies that undo the damage, modernize the U.S. immigration system, and welcome immigrants to the U.S.

In its first 100 days, the Biden administration has committed to the following and more:

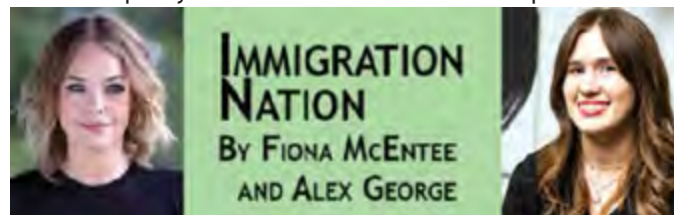
- Ending inhumane asylum policies, starting with the ill-named "Migrant Protection Protocols"
- Reinvesting in case management systems to end prolonged detention of children
- Ending for-profit immigration detention centers
- Rescinding the Muslim Ban and other constitutionally-suspect executive orders
- Protecting and expanding immigration options for military service members and their families
- Restoring the naturalization process to make citizenship more accessible
- Modernizing America's

immigration system to address the record backlogs

- Eliminating the limits on employment-based visas by country in order to eliminate decades-long backlogs for high-skilled visa-holders seeking permanent residency, and retain the talent that keeps America competitive

- Expanding protections for undocumented immigrants who report labor violations
- Expanding long overdue rights to agricultural and domestic workers

We are also hopeful that President-elect Biden will consider the comprehensive recommendations made by the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), 15,000 immigration lawyers strong. AILA's policy recommendations were developed



in consultation with AILA's national policy committees and our network of volunteer lawyers.

AILA's key recommendations for President-elect Biden include:

- Issue a presidential proclamation that sets a new vision for America as a welcoming nation and renounces anti-immigrant policies.
- Ensure fairness, efficiency, and accountability in all immigration agencies that process family, employment and other immigration applications.
- Restore integrity and due process to the immigration courts and guarantee legal counsel.
- Restore U.S. asylum law and humanitarian protections. End inhumane detention.

- Set a vision for immigration enforcement that is fair, humane, and effective.

- Fully reinstate DACA and protect undocumented people and others with deep ties to America.

- Promote immigrant entrepreneurship, business growth, investment, and job creation to revive the U.S. economy.

At this time, the future of the much-desired "Irish E-3 visa" is unknown. Many of us in the Irish immigration community in the U.S., especially former Irish Senator Billy Lawless and former Special Envoy to U.S. Congress John Deasy, have long advocated both for the undocumented Irish and to create an option for future flow of work-related visas to the U.S. The result of years of future flow roundtable discussions and lobby-

ing was the possibility of the "Irish E-3 visa." We have seen variations of this option make its way through Congress over the years and as recently two years ago it came very close to passing. If passed, it would have

allowed eligible Irish citizens to apply for the approximately 5,000 E-3 visas unused by Australian citizens each year. It offered a suitable, long-term option for qualifying Irish citizens to live and work in the U.S. We hope that there will be a renewed effort on that front with a new administration and a new Senate.

We remain hopeful, but also realistic. We know that it may take years to undo the damage the Trump administration's policies have done. While we are hopeful, we are also heartbroken for those who have been separated from or lost their loved ones as a result of these policies. We are haunted by the memory of those who were utterly failed by the system. We are committed to honoring

their memory by holding the Biden administration to their word, even if it takes longer than we hope.

While the exact timeline for change is unclear, the Biden administration has clearly stated its commitment to restoring America's legacy as a welcoming nation to immigrants from all walks of life. It's up to us as a country to hold President Biden accountable to his promises and to do our part to solidify America's legacy as a nation of immigrants. We are very excited to get to work, and we hope you will join us.

GIBBONS FUNERAL HOME

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 134 South York Road Elmhurst (630) 832-0018
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Kitty's Final Day

"Kitty, what's wrong? What's wrong, Honey?! Are you okay? KITTY!"

It was one year ago. She hadn't greeted me enthusiastically meowing as she did every night for 7 years. And she looked stunned as I asked what was wrong.

I had just found her on the edge of the bed. Frozen, crouched in a sitting up position. Looking shocked and afraid. Cats are ex-

perts at masking when they are sick. It's a survival instinct that tells them they are in great danger if a predator learns they're vulnerable. Normally a cat hides out of sight. She was bravely sitting at an angle where she could see me come home. A game I always played with her since I visited her at my Dad's was moving my hand back and forth to watch her track her left, right, up, and down. She was in too much pain, I would find out later, to even move her head. I

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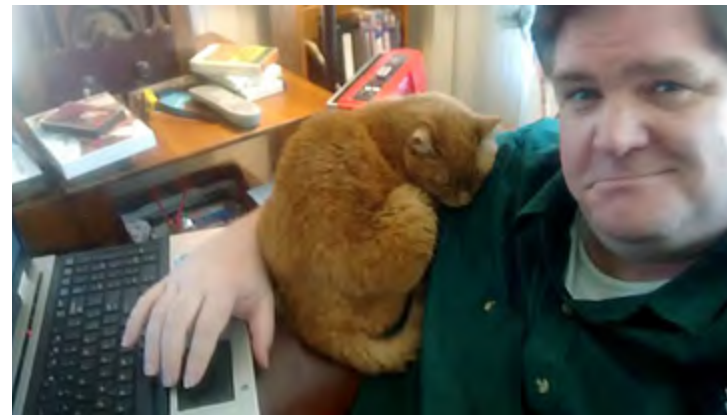
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moved my fingers closer and closer waving and she stared ahead. She purred and snuggled close when I stroked her back. Then fell asleep. She seemed back to her old self.

Usually she would meow to ask to get under the covers, especially in January, and I would wake up with her curled in the crook of my arm, as she also did during the day. This time, I woke up on Saturday at 2 after a long overnight shift and she was down at the end of the bed looking frail. Something



was very wrong with this 11-year old bundle of energy. No vets office would stay open when I called them just before closing time. The last one had a receptionist who apologized but agreed Kitty was in trouble. She referred me to a 24 hour Pet Hospital. I called them and they said to get there as soon as I could. It was 45 minutes away and they said they would be ready for me.

On the way I stopped to get her a can of food and she started eating it like there was no tomorrow. I would soon find out that her kidneys had stopped to function and she was severely dehydrated and desperately trying to get some moisture.

The Dr. later told me that things were so bad that all Kitty could do was drink large amounts as if she were drowning, and then experience the same agonizing thirst right away. She was near death in a matter of days and I didn't know it. I've learned there was nothing I could have done to prevent this or save her...just prolong the pain for a time.

Fellow cat parents will tell you that Cats talk to you and you can understand them. They're right. In fact, cats only meow to speak

to humans. Normally howling the whole time in the car, this time she just looked at me and whimpered with two pitiful quiet meows "Help me. Please help me I'm scared." I reached through the carrier and kept four fingers stroking her cheek as I drove one-handed.

The hospital was like the opening helicopter patient landing scene in MASH. A vet tech came running in just scrubs even though it was 20 degrees outside. "I'll

take her" she said and rushed inside. Others opened the door and led me into a treatment room. The doctor came back out 20 minutes later by herself and explained that Kitty was suffering kidney damage so severe that she was growling and angry when they touched her belly. I agreed to a blood test...when the results were in an hour later the doctor told me they were still stabilizing her in the treatment area. "I'm glad we did the blood test," Dr. Weidmeyer, a specially trained emergency medicine vet at Wisconsin Veterinarians Referral Clinic showed me the levels, and every marker was off the chart for critical, fatal, kidney failure.

The perhaps obvious choice was so painful that even now most of what followed I can only remember in black and white, not the gorgeous orange red of her fluffy long hair. She fought me on the table, trying to jump off, part from adrenaline and part from fear. I tried to keep her safe and held her as she growled with pain. She had an injection catheter in her leg and she didn't know why. They gave me as long as I wanted then I pushed a button for Doctor to come in.

The first injection stops the pain and sends them into a deep sleep. She nestled slowly in to lie her head on her paws like she always did at night. She was peaceful. It was a relief. "Goodbye Sweetheart, we'll see each other again...I know it." Doctor and I looked each other in the eyes for a moment, mine welling up, and nodded to go ahead with the second dose, and she said "Now I am flushing that with water to make it go evenly." About 15 seconds later she took out her stethoscope and gently listened to Kitty's heart and checked the pulse. She pulled the stethoscope back and kindly whispered "She's gone."

I wrapped my arms around my darling like so many times before. I kissed her once on her warm back and once on the velvety top of her head. I didn't linger. She wasn't there anymore, but Somewhere Else.

I just never believed a heart so full of love would ever stop. How true for all of us. The staff all gently and sincerely said they were sorry and I made it out to the car. I put her blanket inside, put my forehead against the roof, exhausted, and to my surprise started sobbing with my shoulders heaving as the sun disappeared below a salmon pink sky.

Now it's a year later and I know all too well what one writer said: "The price of loving our pets is outliving them and helping them at the end." My pain is gone for the most part. As a friend predicted, the black and white memory of her dying has been replaced by memories of all the wonderful time we had together. She was the best gift my Dad ever gave me right after I lost him 8 years ago.

I can tell Dad made it to Heaven, Someday I'll tell you why. I can tell they are together, and I can tell you that right now. Love is eternal. It never dies. And if Love is forever, and the One who gave us His Creation to care for is always with us, then she is back with Dad and I'll see them both one day in God's good timing. And I'll smile. She was on loan from two fathers who love me still. Email Jim at IrishRoverJim@gmail.com

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Lincoln Park's Best Neighbor and Famous J-1 Visa Helper, Dan O'Donnell, Dies At 80

By Patrick Butler
Courtesy of
Inside Publications

He was the best neighbor anyone could have.

Not every neighborhood has a Dan O'Donnell, but every neighborhood needs a Dan O'Donnell.

Whether it was loaning you that special tool you needed to fix the furnace, finding you - and vouching for - a laborer, looking after a lonely senior citizen, or buying a sandwich and coffee for a stranger, kindness defined the man.

He was the guy who drove your mom to the doctor in a pinch, slipped some nun a handful of cash on the sly, showed up with a bag full of groceries when the pay checks ended, or a handful of kids Christmas gifts for families with less, as he did just this Christmas.

He was the guy who would make arrangements to help get a young man back home to his own family in Ireland after an accidental death on Chicago's lakefront, as he did in 2009. That was Dan.

O'Donnell died Jan. 19 in Florida after suffering a severe brain hemorrhage. He had just taken a power boat ride with his son on the Gulf Coast, and died back on shore with the salt spray on his face and sea water in his veins. He loved being on the water more than anywhere else.

Dan had many boats in his life, and frequently took those who didn't have the resources to own a boat out for joy rides.

"There are tears - lots of them - on both sides of the Atlantic as word gets out around town," said North Sider Kathy Hills last week on learning of his death.

At one time or another, the Lincoln Park hardware store owner, church-goer, world traveler, community activist and member of dozens of community organizations helped just about anyone who crossed his path in need of help, said Leah Steele, retired head of the Sulzer Library, and board member of the Ravenswood Lakeview Historical Assoc., and volunteer at the Irish American Heritage Center.

"My memories of Dan always

include him helping others," Steele said. "I remember when a young girl developed a flesh eating-disease and the next thing I knew he had filled up the Sulzer Library with the press and others who wanted to help," she said. "Boy did she get help, and quick!"

Or when he helped a young Keith O'Reilly who's carefree summer in Chicago ended in tragedy when he decided to dive in for a swim while watching the sunrise over Lake Michigan after a night out. He died after severely injuring his head and spine diving off the North Avenue pier.

"He negotiated the medical cost down [for O'Reilly and the young girl] to practically nothing and provided other support for the families," Steele said. That young girl has grown up to be a healthy young adult today.

When the Katrina hurricane struck, O'Donnell rallied his neighbors and friends to send semi-truck loads of food, supplies and clothing to the stricken. That done, he turned to other needs, raising up to \$15,000 for local food pantries, Steele said.

"If Dan found someone who needed help, he provided what he could - or found someone who could do it better," Steele said.

In an earlier day he and his friend Rev. George Rice also found time to get the city to create the Archbishop Sheil Community Park on Southport, and later get run-in by the police for holding fundraising Bingo games for St. Andrew's Church. (Don't worry, a nun snuck all the cash out a back door during the raid.)

Years later, after Rev. Rice died, O'Donnell pulled a work crew together and rehabbed his dear friend's home for his wife Marilyn.

Dan was a founding member of the Friends of Lake View High School, and helped to raise tens of thousands of dollars for the school. He personally helped to rehab the large stained glass

window above the building's south side entrance.

He was a founding member of the Friends of The Sulzer Regional Library, and he and a few others raised funds for many concerts, author readings, children's readings and services to the hard-of-hearing. The Friend's group paid for the grand piano that is still in use at Sulzer.

In 1967 O'Donnell took a part-interest in Armitage Hardware, 925 W. Armitage Ave., eventually buying out his partner. Founded as a general store in 1896, it became a hardware store in 1922. In it's hey day before the advent of Home Depot and Menards, it was what a real hardware store



was suppose to be, look and smell like. Prices were fair and 'fix-it' advice safe, solid and abundant. The O'Donnell family have pretty much gotten out of the hardware business now, but they still have a small retail storefront and do a healthy online business selling Weber Grills and smokers, as well as other dry goods.

Back in the 1960's, when Dan and his wife invested in the community, Lincoln Park was the furthest thing from its current incarnation of million-dollar homes and pricey stores and restaurants. "You could buy anything on the block for \$4,000," O'Donnell recalled in a 2003 Chicago Tribune story. "It was just a gang-torn neighborhood." The O'Donnell clan helped renew

and rebuild Lincoln Park, and later in life he and his wife moved into a suite on the top floor of their landmark building.

A 50-year member of the Kiwanis Club of Lakeview, every year he helped to raise money on Peanut Day that was dispersed to dozens of North Side charities.

He did dozens of favors for schools, churches, and charitable organizations in his community, mostly behind the scenes, never expecting praise or honors. It's just what good neighbors do.

Some of his favorite projects were caring for his historic Lincoln Park-area properties, always working on them with an eye toward architectural preservation.

bad memories," he told the Chicago Tribune in 2009.

The program grew to the point where by 2013, nearly 1,500 Irish students, ages 19 to 21, were turning up at Armitage Hardware every year seeking help. And help he did, finding them apartments and work, getting CTA passes and phones, arranging for use of the internet facilities at DePaul Univ., directing them to the Social Security office, providing maps, purchasing household items on the cheap at Target, and suggesting where to go for fun (and where to avoid danger) in Chicago... anything they may need to get set up for the summer.

On 3-13-2013, O'Donnell was honored by the Irish Immigrant Support Group and 300 well-wishers at Gaelic Park on the South Side, and again in Feb. 2020 he was awarded by the The Ireland Network of Chicago for his work with Irish students.

Some of his neighbors may not have met him, but in Ireland he was a legend. If not for the pandemic travel ban, Aer Lingus may have had to add extra flights to Chicago to get the mourners to his funeral.

As early as five years ago, friends were suggesting the program would only grow larger and that he

needed more help. The program still needs a helping hand. Dan won't be there to help out this summer, but his son Brian will be taking over that duty. Volunteers are welcome, any takers?

He is survived by his wife Kathleen, daughter Erin, sons Kevin and Brian, their spouses and bunches of grandkids and neighbors whose lives were all enhanced by their proximity to the best neighbor in the 'hood. They will all miss him dearly. Services were Jan. 21.

Contributions may be made to the Kiwanis Club of Lakeview, and sent care of Armitage Hardware Direct, 925 W. Armitage, Chicago, IL 60614. All donations will be given to local charities and organizations that Dan held dear.

But in recent years, he was probably best known for his work with Irish J-1 students visiting Chicago during the summers. What started as an effort to find summer housing and jobs for two girls and six boys found sitting on their luggage in front of a drug store on Armitage Ave. in the 1990s turned into helping thousands of kids manage a summer in Chicago, since many showed up in town with little money, no job lined up, nor a place to stay. At times the emergency housing was in his hardware store's own basement, or a church basement up the street.

"I just want the kids to leave with a good taste of America. I don't want them to go home with



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Our planning continues and we are busy booking future events. We look forward to hearing from you.

Is mise le meas,
Bill O'Sullivan



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—John Boyle O'Reilly



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IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

In December 2020, the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago elected **John Wrenn** as the new President of the Club. John has served as a board member and officer of the Club. He is a lifelong Chicagoan with deep Irish roots and a commitment to the business and civic of our city. Wrenn's grandparents came from Ireland and built a sense of pride in him and his brother and four sisters for their roots in Ireland and the future in Chicago.

Says Wrenn, "I am proud to continue the legacy of Irish leadership with the Irish Fellowship Club. It has been a privilege to serve the Club in various roles over the year and I am excited to partner with the officers, the board, the membership and Executive Director **Kathy Taylor** on our future events and grant-making." 2021's events may be disrupted, as 2020's were, but Wrenn is committed to maintaining strong connections to the membership and providing financial support to Catholic High Schools and Irish cultural institutions in the Chicago area. Annually, the Club's Education and Cultural Foundation provides scholarship grants to each of the Catholic high schools in the

Archdiocese of Chicago as well as grants to support Irish culture throughout the community. That will be harder, he says, if the events need to be postponed again, but he adds, "Our members are incredibly generous and understand the needs of the community, especially during this pandemic." The Club was able to meet its charitable commitments in 2020 and anticipates being able to do so in 2021.

The new President's other priority is increasing the membership of the Club. He has launched a special initiative, described on this page, providing the first 50 new members of 2021 with a DVD of the **I AM IRELAND PBS Special**. Created by Tenor **Paddy Homan** and Orchestra Leader **Rich Daniels**, this outstanding

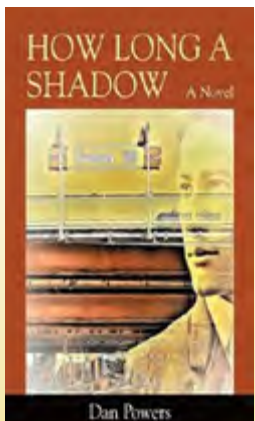
performance was a history of Ireland through song and story. Comments Wrenn, "The sense of comradere of our membership is a key part of the Irish Fellowship Club's success. We invite all to come join us."

As an entrepreneur, John has specialized in the hospitality industry in Chicago as the owner of Lizzie McNeil's and as President of the Lakefront Hospitality Group. He oversaw the renovation of Theater on the Lake as a dining, theater and event space. On the civic front, he is actively engaged with Misericordia, the Danny Did Foundation, Catholic Charities and St. Ignatius College Prep. He and his wife Maggie live on the north side in St. Ignatius Parish with their four children, Johnny, Brendan, Declan and Norene.



The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago





Listening Skills

'I like to listen. I have learned a great deal from listening carefully. Most people never listen. -Ernest Hemingway.

Some years ago, a survey was conducted among Buyers in the USA to determine what these professionals perceived to be the major shortcomings in today's salespeople. In terms of selling skills, the number one shortcoming was listening. Listening skills are very often ignored, or just forgotten in sales training.

While businesses may be willing to spend the money to send executives to sales courses, they rarely direct their employees to courses designed to improve listening habits, even though effective salespeople spend the majority of their sales time listening. The reason for this may be due to the misconception, held by many, that listening is the same as hearing and that everybody does it. This is not the case.

A person listens with about a 50% efficiency and information loss is compounded as the message is passed from person



to person. It is a bit like the old Army joke when the General issues the command, 'send reinforcements we're going to advance', by the time it had reached HQ the message was convoluted to 'send three and four pence we're going to a dance'.

I remember, many years ago, working in an electronics manufacturing plant in Cork, and we were starting to run out of components for a particular product line. We were due to have a conference call with the American operations centre in the afternoon to get things sorted out.

The Operations Manager, a man of strong character, indicated during the day that he was going to join us on this call. When the appointed time came, the American guys picked up the phone, and before they even had a chance to exchange the usual pleasantries, our Operations Manager launched into them with a tirade of abuse.

After a minute or so of this, one of the American guys calmly said 'time out' into the conference phone, and then in a very authoritative voice said, 'Frank, you can't listen if your mouth is moving'

Effective listening can be very hard work. It not only involves consider-

able concentration, it even causes noticeable physical changes. During 'active listening', heart action increases, body temperature rises slightly, and the circulation of blood is faster. You can actually learn to sense these changes in yourself just by being aware that they occur when you are actively listening to someone. When you listen intently to someone, that person tends to work harder at listening to what you have to say too. When people talk, listen completely. Listen with curiosity. Most people do not listen with the intent to understand, they are already formulating the next question as you are speaking. Interestingly, the word 'listen' contains the same letters as the word 'silent'.

"When you are speaking with someone who is actually a good listener, they don't jump in on your sentences, saving you from actually finishing them, or talk over you, allowing what you do manage to get out to be lost or altered in transit. Instead, they wait, so you have to keep going." – Sarah Dessen

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Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler

Many of you may know I'm a die hard Kilkenny hurling fan. I remember every All Ireland match where Kilkenny was in it and several other matches where Kilkenny wasn't in it.

I haven't heard anything lately about the legendary Michael O'Hehir (Michael O'Hehir) so I thought

I would shine a light on his memory. He was a hurling, football & horse racing commentator and journalist.

He was the voice of Irish games, he was entertaining, down to earth, witty & original. He was Ireland's man, he was an ambassador in many ways. He was born in Dublin in 1920. His father was a hurler he won an All Ireland championship in hurling.

When O'Hehir was young he wrote a letter to Radio Eireann asking to do a test commentary. They let him and were so impressed a few months later he made his first broadcast. The All Ireland football semi final between Monaghan and Galway.



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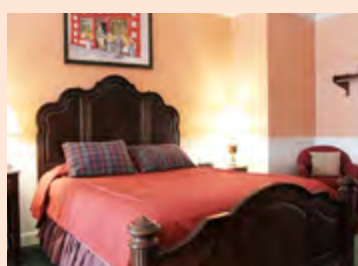
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The following year he covered his first hurling final between Cork & Kilkenny. O'Hehir's Sunday afternoon reports became a way of life for rural listeners.

For the one & only time an All Ireland game was played outside of Ireland. O'Hehir was the commentator. The 1947 all Ireland football final between Cavan vs. Kerry was played in New York. Present that day were about 30,000 people but in Ireland there were over a million people anxiously listening. The Cavan team flew to the States and the Kerry team took a boat which naturally took a lot longer and some say maybe some of their energy therefore led them to losing the game. Cavan won the all Ireland that year. O'Hehir was also a commentator for horse racing. He delivered commentary for the Cheltenham Gold cup (horse race England) He also did commentary for NBC races at Arlington Heights, IL.

In 1963 JFK was assassinated

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O'Hehir was coincidentally in the States at that time. He was asked by Irish TV to do the commentary on JFK's funeral Mass. In 1985 O'Hehir was preparing to commentate on the All Ireland hurling final between Offaly and Galway. Sadly he suffered a stroke and couldn't report on the game. In 1987 the centenary all Ireland football final (Galway and Kilkenny) (Galway won) took place and a special series of events in Croke park. They had a parade of the 1947 finalists. But the biggest excitement was the standing ovation & applause for O'Hehir.

In 1984 O'Hehir was awarded with "People of the Year Awards".

O'Hehir was famous for his quick wit and humor. A few memorable quotes by O'Hehir: "And the bare-footed wonder with the ball now" his description of Babs Keating who played part of the 1971 All Ireland Hurling final in his bare feet. "And there he is,

ow/widowers is a group of people caring, sharing and reaching out to one another in friendship.

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Alan Lotty. He may be bootless, he may be sockless, he may be stickless, but he is certainly not ball less." Description of Cork's Alan Lotty after he removed his boots, socks and hurl in a clash with another hurler.

I found a story I hope you enjoy it: "In the middle of a beautiful city, there was a museum laid with beautiful marble tiles and with a huge marble statue as a part of the display. Many people from all over the world visited the museum every day and admired the beautifully crafted statue. One night, the marble tiles started talking to the marble statue. Marble Tiles: Hey statue, Don't you think that it is just not fair that everybody from all over the world come all the way here to admire you while ignoring and stepping on me. Marble Statue: My dear brother, marble tile, Don't you remember we are actually from the same cave. Marble Tile: Yes! I do, that is why i feel it is even more unfair. Both of us were born from the same cave and yet the world treats us so differently now. This is so unfair!

Marble Statue: Yes you are right my brother. But, do you still remember the day when the sculptor tried to work on you but you resisted his tools. Marble Tiles: Yes, I despise that guy. How could he use those nasty tools on me.

Marble Statue: Well, Since you resisted his tools he couldn't work on you. When he decided to give up on you, he started working on me instead. I knew at once that i would be something different and unique after his efforts. I bore all the painful tools he used on me and allowed him craft me as he wanted! Marble Tiles: But those tools were so painful. Marble Statue: My brother, there is a price for everything in life. Since, you decided to resist and gave up half way, you can't blame anybody who steps on you now! The marble tiles silently listened to his brothers words. and started to reflect on it! Do not be discouraged by setbacks and failures! Keep trying to be better."

If you have any questions, please call me. (708) 425-7021

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Erasmus

In the dying stages of the UK-EU trade deal negotiations before Christmas, the British side opted to jettison its participation in Erasmus, a system of exchange for university students run by the European Commission. That was not a concession forced out of the British negotiators. Instead, they spontaneously removed British universities from the programme, which British Prime Minister Boris Johnson referred to as 'extremely expensive'. In doing so, Johnson reneged on a pledge he made in the UK Parliament in January 2019 to continue with Erasmus.

Erasmus has been hugely successful since its inception in 1987. It has had, and continues to have, an enormous impact on the lives of the students who avail of the year-long placement in another European university that it offers. Its popularity has consistently grown as has the range of opportunities available in its programme. Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon condemned the decision to withdraw from Erasmus as 'cultural vandalism'. The contrastive values of the leaders on either side of the River Tweed could hardly be any clearer.

Students who participate in Erasmus reproduce cultural practices that they witness and live while aboard. They bring back with them everything from proficiency in languages to a proliferation of French cravats to vodka parties hosted by students who have built up their resistance in Moscow. Then there is the biological reproduction: the European Commission estimates that more than 1 million babies have been born as a result of relationships started during Erasmus (the figures are not yet in for the number of attempts).

Cutting Erasmus will drastically thin the stream of foreign student inflow to England and, in short

order, diminish the lifeblood of English universities. An alternative to Erasmus to enable UK students to study abroad, the Turing scheme, has been tabled by Johnson. But then many things have been discussed since the Brexit referendum in June 2016 and the putative replacement could not possibly rival the continental-wide network of exchanges that Erasmus has built in the four decades of its existence. Neither will the Turing scheme facilitate inward student exchange into the UK and it takes a philistine not to see that as a loss. It is true that the UK exchequer was a net contributor to the Erasmus scheme's annual budget, but that contribution represented a tiny cost for the State and about a quarter of the revenue that international students generated for the UK economy.

Besides, this is a dangerous move as studying in British universities is already much less financially viable than in universities elsewhere in Europe. Scottish undergraduate students are charged £1,820 (\$2,480) in tuition per year, but the Student Awards Agency Scotland covers that cost. So effectively the Scots study for free. By contrast, students can pay up to £9,250 (\$12,600) in tuition fees in England. That makes English university education by far the most expensive in Europe—about 20 times the price, say, of German university education. Non-UK students will now also need to apply for a visa. The prestige of Oxford and Cambridge may be considerable, but for most students England is now a place to avoid for full-term university degrees. Without Erasmus, far fewer EU students will consider studying in England even for a year either. A Study.eu survey found that 84% of EU students would definitely not study in the UK if tuition increases by 100% (it will increase by much more than that).

The deepening cleavage be-

tween the offering at Scottish and Northern Irish universities and English universities will also have political consequences. It is clear that stakeholders in the university system throughout the UK hate Johnson's decision to leave Erasmus, but there are differences in how they can respond. The Irish government will underwrite students in Northern Irish universities who wish to avail of the Erasmus scheme. Scottish universities sought a loophole to remain part of it. To take one example in Scotland, Anton Muscatelli, the Principal (president) of the University of Glasgow, is Italian and a vocal supporter of the EU and many in senior management positions in the Scottish university system are of like mind. However, the European Commission refused Scotland's bid to continue with Erasmus. Whether wittingly or unwittingly, in so doing the European Commission aided the already strong momentum behind Scottish Independence.

The voting age in Scotland is 16. Since a large swathe of Scotland's 16 and 17 year-olds have their eyes trained on entry into a university, the growing divergence between Scottish and English national policies on higher education will augment the disaffection that Scotland's electorate expresses in the next Scottish Parliament election on May 6th.

Moreover, Scotland's franchise is allocated on a liberal definition of residence as well as on a citizenship basis. Back in September 2014, when Scotland held its first independence referendum, non-Scottish university students who were studying in Scotland exercised their right to vote and their vote aided the independence cause. It is almost certain that a big crop of visiting students who vote this May will endorse a second Scottish referendum, a

mandate that the First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon has built into her party's re-election campaign.

Naturally, fundamental constitutional changes will not turn on abandoning or retaining Erasmus, but the programme does play an important role in forming meaningful cross-cultural connections that help to create alliances downstream. Students in Northern Ireland can now avail of this cultural exchange whereas students in the rest of the UK cannot.

Northern Ireland is seldom accused of being outward-looking, but in years to come the effects of this may contribute to attitudes in Northern Ireland that are more modern and tolerant than in Britain.

The eschewal of Erasmus neatly symbolises quite how narrow-minded, self-defeating and insular the Brexit project is. Only Brexiteers could have managed such an own goal. The next generation of voters will know how to thank them for it.

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The Haunting of White House

There were signs in the sky above Washington, four years ago on that fateful evening of January 20th, 2017. Dark signs. Signs of ill-omen.

In the heavily populated city areas people shut and barred their doors as gangs of feral youths roamed the streets - normally good kids, but now warped and twisted as they walked in the dark shadow that was spreading across the land and the globe.

In rural areas reports began to come in from farmers who were - horrifyingly - delivering two-headed calves and whose crops were withering in the fields.

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Up in Maine, in the long-deserted village of Jerusalem's Lot, an ancient wickedness was coming to life after decades of slumber, almost as if in response to the chilling events that were taking place in Washington. Once again fanged children could be seen floating like spectral apparitions outside the windows of second story buildings, on the walls of which some mad and pitifully cackling creature had spray painted PENNYWISE LIVES!

For this was the evening of the inauguration as United States President of one Donald J. Trump, the most evil man since Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin.

Spiritualists and mediums from around the planet reported anguished calls from the shade of Atilla the Hun that he become once more corporeal so that he could learn new tricks at the feet of the Master.

And yet... and yet...
...no sooner had the inaugu-

ration crowd began to disperse than calls were being made to impeach/ burn on a pyre/ bury at a crossroads with a stake through the heart/ all of the above, the most evil man since Saddam Hussein, Colonel Gaddafi and Pol Pot.

And a new illness fell on the land; a 21st Century mental illness that in far off County Galway I at first believed to be fake news but soon came to recognize as all too real: TRUMP DERANGEMENT SYNDROME.

It seemed to at first manifest itself mainly amongst celebrities of the Hollyweird variety; and - indeed - wherever President Trump went there was a noticeable confusion between what was happening in movies and what was happening in reality, almost as if his very presence was warping the gravity around him.

One-time thespian, before going on to 'act' in such duds as Bad Grandpa, Robert De Niro was first out of the traps, declaring that he would 'like to punch' the President in the face. In his dotage Robert was obviously channeling his inner Jake La Motta or perhaps thinking that he was a real-life gangster like the ones he endlessly plays.

Madonna was next - what a surprise! - declaring that she would like to blow the President up. Mostly forgotten these days, Ms. Ciccone was once - long ago - a



Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

well-known singer; but those days are past and she is now generally regarded as the female equivalent of the terrifying Child Catcher in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, adopting any screaming children who cross her path but aren't able to escape fast enough.

Most disappointing for me was Johnny Depp, a brilliant actor whose work I've admired since Edward Scissorhands; but even Depp wasn't immune from the awful Trump Derangement Syndrome, musing as to when was the last time an actor assassinated a President.

So, a random example of TDS: we have a guy who wants to punch the President, a woman who wants to blow him up and another fella that wants to assassinate him.

Incitement to violence? No, apparently it was free speech. And anyway, it was only against Donald Trump, so no one cares.

One of the most repeated views I hear is from people hoping that Trump will soon be locked up with some big hairy bikers called Bubba. How charming. Hoping by implication for prison sexual assault against a man in his middle seventies; but it was only against Donald Trump, so no one cares.

You see, it's the double standards that get me. It's the way that - just like in Wonderland -

words begin to mean only what you say they mean. Some people will be designated as 'domestic terrorists' whilst others - oh, for example the ones who looted and rampaged through American cities for much of last year - are 'protesters'. And people get confused.

Alex Baldwin, a man who has spent twenty years confused and unable to differentiate between Spain and Boston, thinks that Trump is so much of a Nazi that he should be buried with a swastika on his tombstone.

Would this be the same Trump that did his level best to get a peace agreement going between Israel and Palestine (and there's a thankless job if ever there was one)? The same Trump who welcomed a Jewish son-in-law? He's not a very good anti-Semite, I guess. But it's speaking against Donald Trump, so no one cares. Inauguration Day, four years ago... a tale now only told as a ghost story around the midnight campfire.

The irony in writing this is that I don't like him much either; but it makes my skin crawl to see the amount of people turning on him now that he has fallen. Had he won a second term - and he could have - they would be the same ones that would have sucked up to him. Instead, they've found

the conscience that's been in hiding for the last four years. How could you ever again trust people like that?

What happened on January the 6th was appalling beyond words. That one person should die over bloody politics is hor-

rific enough; it is stomach churning; but five people?

And yet with that continuing warping of reality that follows Trump around, even that wasn't dramatic enough. On this side of the Atlantic the joke of a BBC compared it to the attack on Pearl Harbour, where 2,400 died.

As for the photogenic crowd of imbeciles who strolled into the Capitol, I thought initially that I was looking at a group from Hill-billy Central Casting. Especially the fool with the horns who - no surprise here - lives with his mummy and can only eat organic food. Jesus wept.

Trump made them do it? Listen, there have been people I have admired in my life; but if they had suggested I storm a building I would have told them to bog off in terms just a wee bit stronger than that. What the hell ever happened to taking responsibility for your own actions?

Trump is beaten and his day is over; but in order to 'heal the nation' it apparently is also necessary that he be utterly humiliated and made an example of. They even want his brief scene in Home Alone 2 removed, at which I don't know whether to laugh or cry. You genuinely couldn't make this stuff up. How is completely destroying him and removing him from history going to work for the ordinary decent folk who voted for him in good faith?

And - horror of horrors - what are Gaga and Brooks and Lopez and the rest of them going to do when they find that President Biden-Harris has no intention of conferring with them on anything now that they've warbled a few tunes? _____

Within, its walls continued upright, bricks met neatly, floors were firm, and doors were sensibly shut; silence lay steadily against the wood and stone of White House; and whatever once walked there now walks alone.

Ladies and gentlemen, Donald Trump has left the building.

With thanks to Stephen King and apologies to Shirley Jackson for mutilating her masterpiece The Haunting of Hill House.

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SWAG: adjective. Slang. cool; cute; looking great: She looks so swag in her new jacket. Check out my swag boyfriend. -

One of my students at a Northwest Indiana middle school told me the other day, “Mr. Hickey, your glasses are so swag.” Blushing manfully, I inquired, “Is that a good thing?”

“Oh, yah . . .swags the best.” I have that going for me.

I returned to teaching as substitute teacher in three different school districts, after the better part of a year doing ware-



pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



The students are like Stepford Kids. They are on-task, courteous, thoughtful, and delightful.

I did a stint as a kindergarten teacher and was called “Mr. Grandpa,” by the wee bairns.

Kindergarten is exhausting. Teaching high school was and is a breeze. The little guys (both genders mind you) want immediate feed-back, input and reassurance and they snitch up a storm. That was the most onerous of my tasks, getting the five-year-old scholars to see that they are not the only persons on the planet and that you should always stick up for your pals. By 1:30 PM, this sextigenarian and change this is wiped out.

I have really enjoyed working at the high schools and middle schools. Depending upon the district, I teach affluent Illinois exiles’ children, three and four generation farmers and current FFA members, tough and well-behaved factory workers children with an eye toward the trades and the military. Black, Mexican, or white the youngsters are focused and ready to learn. The halls are empty and quiet when class hours begin and during lunch shifts, the massive cafeterias are orderly, neat, and filled with the delightful music of adolescent voices exercising their understanding of the world around them.

The faculty are present and available. In between classes teachers monitor the traffic and salute their charges with happy greetings and the occasional COVID remonstrance to ‘maintain social distancing.’

When schools operate this well, parents, administration and staff have a genuine partnership. It is a joy to behold.

This week while teaching the short story “Raymond’s Run “ by Toni Cade Bambara, an eighth grader wearing the mandated \$60 jeans that went through a tree chipper operated by Steve Buschemi, blue and purple hair tints, and Doc Martens boots, informed me that my Meijer Pharmacy red/brown rimmed reading glasses were, in fact, SWAG.

Swag, to my uninitiated knowledge,

meant loot, ill-gotten gains, trump, valuables, dough, the long green difference, moolah, and the free gifts bestowed upon people recognized as important. Gift bags and goody bags loaded with trinkets for louts, bounders, slatterns, and bawds of any gender for being allowed into an event by sycophants and knaves.

In Australia, the verb, To Swag, means to travel about carrying one’s bundle of personal belongings.

I had yet to hear the term used as an adjective and was delighted to learn, not only its use, but also that my choice of glasses hit the mark.

We live in culture that insists upon defining people, thoughts, and things according to the oxygen breathed within one’s social bubble.

Human beings are so much more than what the John Dewey indoctrinated sheep demand. We have free will and often the most libertarian of us will do something that makes no sense whatsoever.

Simply put, I am more deplorable (in the modern application), than WOKE. I

was born in 1952. Harry S. Truman was President. Americans fought Communism and worked to make the greatest standard of living in human history. In 2021, some stupid people who claim to stand for my values, attacked police officers, stormed Congress, looted, and handed the worst of the neo-Marxists a Reichstag moment.

Watch how things get defined and who will be defined after the Inauguration. More so, watch how Harry Truman’s America shall endure. I will be watching with swag glasses maintaining view.



Pat Hickey

house ‘humping pain’ and pallets of vitamin gummi bears for the great John Dolan (CPD ret.) and a wildly satisfying stretch for the United State Census Bureau, under the direction of Bill Smith (Leo HS Class of 1969).

Factory work is rewarding and healthful. I enjoyed my work in Port of Indiana. Report for work; do just that; go home after the straight eight and sleep nights without distraction. However, the money for the hours and energy expended were being bested by the United States Census Bureau. I worked as an enumerator (counting people in households, as well as the homeless) and was paid a hefty \$ 25 per hour with time and a half for overtime.

I walked ten to twelve miles per day and counted thousands of lovely people and two Meth Head monsters who threatened this G Man with dire consequences. Both reside in a Federal facility as I post this account.

I had a ball working the 2020-21, but after being named to the LaPorte County All-Star Enumerator Team and collecting almost a Grand in bonus dough, we were ordered to disband.

I decided to substitute teach. I am no Spring chicken.

I chose three local school districts within easy access to my home. This is the job I was born to do: teach, if required, monitor behavior, and go home with pay!

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When Was The Last Time You Actually Earned Your Pay Check?

Have you been working remote for months? Hopefully this article will help you re-adjust to the return to working in the office. Can you recall the last significant achievement that you had in your job? When did you last have a meaningful conversation with your boss about your successes?

The famous multi billionaire, Sam Zell, was quoted as saying "I don't think people really give enough thought to who and what they want to be." When was the last time you spend any time by

yourself trying to decide who and what you are, because if you don't address these questions, no one will? In short, if you are not in charge of your career, NO ONE is.

Christians may take solace in the Lord taking care of the birds of the air. Surely, they think that He will take care of them. But perhaps the Lord gave us our marvelous brains so we could use them to help take care of ourselves. You need to use your brain and become part of the process.

Do you have a real handle on

Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



the ESSENCE of your job? What does your job really entail? Were you given a detailed job description as part of the interviewing process? It could be essential to understanding your job. If you are tired of simply going through the motions at work and really want to make a contribution, you need to consider these four steps.

STEP ONE

Obtain a copy of your job description and modify it to reflect the reality of your job. Develop a job description if none currently exists. Discuss your understanding of the job with others in similar roles. See if you can determine the real crunch points of the job. What actions are going to evoke positive reinforcement or negative criticism? How will you know if you are being perceived as doing a good/great job? What are the expectations of your superiors?

STEP TWO

Make an appointment with your boss. Insist upon it, regardless

of how busy s/he is. Get your boss's input as to what are the important elements of your job. How will it be determined if you are being successful? Ignoring for a moment the specifics of the job description, how does your boss see the job? What training or experience are you going to need during the next year? What should you be doing that you are not currently doing?

This process can be scary. Now you have a lot of responsibility for the composition of your job. Do you have some thoughts about how your job could be expanded, and/or re-focused? What duties could you add to your job description that would make you significantly more valuable to your company? This process of job analysis is not a one time happening. You should review the content of your job every six months.

Work at performing your job at the highest level. If you have been in the same position for a number of months or years, it is very easy to get complacent and lazy. Many of us start coasting very early in our careers. We do the least amount of work necessary to get by. We do not challenge ourselves nearly enough.

STEP THREE

Make a decision to excel at your "new" job. Begin to think of yourself in a new role. As the Army says, be all that you can be. Are you living up to that motto?

Alternatively, do you simply want to be in the middle of the pack? In the middle sounds OK. "Mediocre" sounds demeaning. Remember, mediocrity is self-inflicted.

STEP FOUR

You will need to communicate the "new" you to your boss and colleagues. They have all gotten used to you in your former life. Be sure to communicate with your boss as to how your performance is improving. You have set a new and higher standard for yourself.

What's the worst that could happen if you strive to reinvent yourself? Well, you could work your butt off and your boss may not give you proper credit for a superior job. However, all your work will not go unrewarded; others will notice your performance and welcome you into their environment.

Or your boss may pay you no mind; to him you are part of the furniture. Then maybe you need to decide whether or not this is an acceptable situation for you. Consider all the factors: such as pay, location, comfort level, challenge of the work itself, office buddies, and familiar surroundings. Do you really want to seriously consider leaving the womb of good old XZY?

You still need to do the best possible job for as long as you are with your current employer. It is good for them and it is good for you. It gives you more positive achievements to discuss with a potential new employer. Sit back and mentally list the last three significant achievements that you have had with your firm. How can you state these accomplishments on your resume? If you decide that your current situation is unacceptable, you are going to need a resume that reflects your successes.

Give your employer a chance to understand the growth process you are going through. But always remember that you are in charge of your career. You need to make decisions, not simply wait for your employer to decide your future.

In summary, review these four steps. Changing jobs can be scary but it can also be quite rewarding. Don't be afraid to consider it. CARPE DIEM.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead, famed cultural anthropologist

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc.; a Naperville, IL-based senior executive career transition and executive coaching firm. Phone #630-420-0362 email:jamesffitz@hotmail.com

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Proud grandpa, Gene Earner, reports his granddaughter, Riley Earner, age 8, performed recently at Clancy's on Oct. 10, 2020 with Gerry Haughey performing the music.

Gene put on a Family Hooley at Clancy's Pub featuring Irish talent which included; Catherine O'Connell, Katie Brennan, and Sean O'Donnell.

Riley is a student with the Cross-Keys School of Irish Dance.

Stay tuned as Riley will be performing at Gene's last "Family Hooley" on June 4, 2022 to mark his 90th birthday celebration at Clancy's Pub of course!

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Hello Everyone!

I hope you are all staying safe, we're still living in hope of a return to the good times that we miss so much. I guess we don't realize how good times are until we don't have them. There's a lady who, most people will know in Chicago, that's Vera Kelly, who kept her chin up through her fight with cancer. She was a very special lady and I'll never forget her bravery through her struggle.

I had the great pleasure of meeting her at the airport in Dublin, as we were on the same flight back to Chicago. She had been home to Ireland to see her father, in case she might not get to see him again. It was a couple of years before the pandemic, but she had to wear a mask for fear of catching a cold or flu, as she was going through her treatment at the time. With all her pain (which I noticed in her face) she was cracking jokes and making great conversation. I carried her carry-on bags, then she nudged

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



me and said, "They are going to bring me on in a wheelchair, so you stick with me, and you'll get on first with me. I'll tell them you're my helper". So, we both got on first and were lucky enough to sit close together. She really made me count my blessings in life with her outlook. Vera will be sorely missed in Chicago, especially for her roles in plays that she often acted in. Vera, I'm sure God opened up his arms to you when you left us in January. And, I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say we all send our condolences to her family back at home and her many friends and fans in Chicago. R.I.P. Vera Kelly.

I wasn't sure what song to put in the paper this month, then I was looking through some of the songs I had co-written with my brother. It's hard to realize, it's one year

without him. I thank God for my children, they keep me where I need to be. The song for this month started out as a tribute to a well-known country singer from Liverpool called Kenny Johnson, who was a dear friend of my brother. He was known for years as 'Kenny Johnson and Northwind', Kenny was also part of a very successful band called 'The Hillsiders'. Suddenly, Nick said I will know what the song is about but we'll take a slightly different approach. So, we got together with our buddy Jordan Mogeey and the song was born 'The Northwind Blows No More'.

Before I finish off, I want to wish your friend and mine a very Happy Birthday, Margo O'Donnell, on the 6th of February.

As always till next time, be good to one another, Joe

on the 16th of this month, that I lost my dearest friend. I think about him every day, and life is just not the same

'The Northwind Blows No More'

© Nicky James © Joe McShane © Jordan Mogeey

Chorus

The city lights don't shine as bright and the Northwind blows no more

Just echoes of the past and some pictures from a billboard
Memories to cherish, that shook us to the core

The city lights don't shine as bright and the Northwind blows no more

V1

In the 50s it was rock and roll that filled the radio
Elvis, Carl, and Jerry Lee stirred the music in our soul
Melodies flowed from the heart and lit the country flame
Johnny Cash came along just like an old freight train

V2

In the 60s came the Beatles who took the world by storm
When the ferry crossed the Mersey a brand new beat
Was born

But the world was fast a changing and no one could ignore

The music shaped the future like never before

V3

Down on Union Avenue in Memphis Tennessee
Rock n Roll and country songs made perfect harmony
And paved the way forever where the rhythm had to go
Now the microphones are silent at Sun Records Studio
Joe McShane

Bill Haley

Bill Haley and his Comets had the first rock 'n' roll song to hit number one with "Rock Around the Clock." It stayed for 8 weeks in the number one spot. The song first hit the charts in 1954 and reached number

23. A year later it was re-released and then climbed to its long hold at #1. Twenty years later in 1974 it would go into the charts for a third time reaching #39 on the charts. This was due to its use as the original opening theme of TV's Happy Days.

William John Clifton Haley Jr. was born in Highland Park, Michigan on July 6, 1925. He grew up in an Irish-American musical family - specifically a country and western family. His father played banjo and he was introduced to the guitar at an early age.

When he was quite young, Haley's family moved to the Philadelphia area. In his early teens Haley started playing guitar with local country and western groups. At 15 he left home to travel with the New England Country band called the Down Homers. Several years later, he formed his own group, first called the Four Aces of Swing, later the Saddlemen and finally the Comets. For the first few years, when he wasn't performing he worked at radio stations.

Haley's group started out playing western swing, basically upbeat country music with a dance beat. But it wasn't long before Haley began including features drawn from other styles of music, especially the "back



beat" of black dance music. "Around the early 1950's, the musical world was starved for something new," Haley said, "The days of the solo vocalist and the big bands had gone. About the only thing, in fact, that was making noise was progressive jazz, but this was just above the heads of the average listener. I felt then that if I could take, say, a Dixieland tune and drop the first and third beats, and accentuate the second and forth, and add a beat the listeners could clap as well as dance to, this would be what they were after. From there the rest was easy."

From 1953 to 1974 Bill Haley had 31 charted hits, most of them in the middle 1950's. "Shake, Rattle and Roll" (1954) was his first major hit followed by "Rock Around the Clock" (1955), "Burn That Candle" (1955), and "See You Later, Alligator" (1956).

Unfortunately Haley wasn't the image of a rock star. A fact that un-

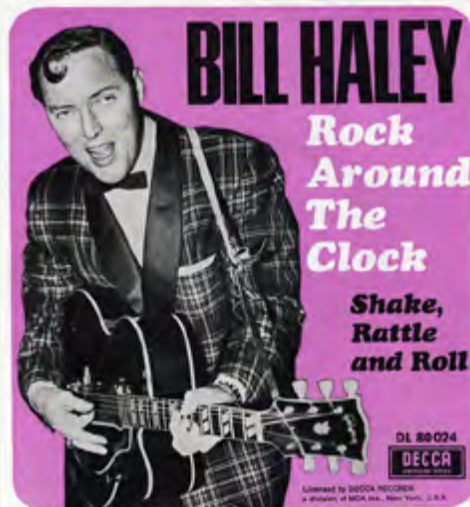
doubtedly led to his fall from popularity in the U.S. His only visual trademark was his spit curl tumbling onto his forehead. Once others figured out the music, it wasn't long before he was replaced in the eyes of the public by

handsome singers like Elvis and Pat Boone. While his popularity faded in the States he remained a huge celebrity in Europe and in Mexico. His album Twist is the biggest selling album of all time in Mexico. When the Mexican audience discovered him, Haley responded by moving to that country, where he met and married his wife, Martha. Mexico remained a home base for Haley up until his death.

Haley regularly toured Europe and South America during the 1960's and 1970's.

The lineup of the Comets constantly changed with the exception of the sax player Rudy Pompilli. In March 1979 he toured Britain for a month and was very successful. He cut a new album and then toured Europe before returning to Britain for a performance before the Queen at the Royal Variety Show.

He died on February 9, 1981 of a heart attack. Right to the end, Haley continued to play his own style of rock 'n' roll. Even though he had long been passed over by American audiences, he was still a star in many places. He may not have been the "Father of Rock 'n' Roll," but he was most certainly the messenger who brought it to the world.



The Rumjacks

NEW SINGLE - HESTIA - OUT NOW
NEW ALBUM - HESTIA - COMING 12TH MARCH, 2021
"Into the mouth of the wolf, you're never gonna take me down there's still a beating heart beneath the ground."
 Hestia is the title track and second single from The Rumjacks forthcoming album, out March 12th.

It is a song of vengeance delivered with the force of a hurricane. In short, it's folktale about a girl who shoots down a personified wolf in an act of defence.

Draped in several levels of symbolism and metaphor, Hestia (named after the goddess of the home and the hearth), is a firecracker of a song, and an absolute earworm.

Hestia, the fifth studio album from The Rumjacks, marks a new era for the band. The album introduces new lead singer Mike Rivkees, whose songwriting skills have rejuvenated The Rumjacks collaborative spirit.

Hestia takes the energy of traditional folk music, lights it on fire, then sprinkles it with ash. Dark, gritty, and historically aware, this is music grounded in the character of the Rebel.

When writing Hestia (named after the Greek goddess of home and hearth), bandmembers Mike Rivkees (vocals), Johnny McKelvey (bass), Gabe Whitbourne (guitar), Adam Kenny (bouzouki/mandolin), and Pietro Della Sala (drums)

apply their diverse American, Australian, Italian, and Irish perspectives to create a new, globalized iteration of the Celtic punk legacy dating back to The Pogues, with the punk, ska, and hard rock sounds pulsing through their veins.

The album was recorded under strict Covid-conditions in Milan, Italy.

For 12 years, The Rumjacks have written songs that you cannot help but start singing by the second chorus, even if you have never heard them before. In this short career, they have released four acclaimed studio albums and two live albums that capture their most renowned asset: their electric energy onstage. That organic energy has garnered them a far-reaching fanbase.



Watch Official Music Video here.
 Hestia (single) <https://abcmusic.lnk.to/HestiaSingle>
Pre-Order here: <https://abcmusic.lnk.to/hestia>

TRACKLIST:
 01 Naysayers 02 Bullhead 03 Hestia
 04 Through These Iron Sights 05 Sainted Millions
 06 Tell Me What Happened 07 Rhythm of Her Name
 08 Golden Death 09 Lizzie Borden
 10 Light in My Shadow 11 Wonderust
 12 Athens to the North 13 Motion
 14 Goodnight & Make Mends
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