irish american news
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For The Debut Of

65 Years, A Labor Of Love,
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of how the Plumbers Local 130 Brings Together the Parade
From the Crowning of the Queen, to the Selection of the Grand Marshal

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Get to Know Dan McLaughlin, Candidate for Orland Park Mayor

Dan McLaughlin is a familiar face around Orland Park. He's a businessman, a father, and he's been your neighbor in Orland Park for the last 40 years. Now, he's running for mayor again to continue serving the community that's been his home and passion for decades.

"I love Orland Park -- my wife jokingly calls it our fifth child -- so it's important to me that we get back on the right track," McLaughlin said. "I hope those who knew me when I served saw me as both a mayor and a neighbor, and as someone who brought positive changes to Orland Park like developing our roads and businesses, expanding and supporting our police department, and working to build trust with the community."

Dan has been a fixture in the community as a public servant for decades, and the citizens of Orland Park elected him as their mayor for six terms in a row. He's currently running to once again serve the people of Orland Park as their mayor and continue the work he started in his previous terms.

"My priority is to really hear residents' concerns and address them straight on. Right now, many people in Orland Park don't feel heard on issues that impact their daily lives and living situation, including how we can navigate and rebuild from this pandemic in a way that puts families and small businesses first," McLaughlin said.

Dan has assembled a team of dynamic fresh leaders to run alongside him on the One Orland Party slate. He hopes to bring his experience to this role and work with the parents, small business owners, school board members, young families, and union workers who not only make up the community, but also his own slate. Together, they aim to reunite Orland Park and provide leadership that listens to residents and gets to work.

"My team and I care about doing what's best for Orland Park in everything we do -- from ensuring we have the ability to support our local economy and schools, make Orland Park a safe and fun place to raise a family, and running the village with fairness and transparency at every step," McLaughlin said.

"Above all, we want to provide this community with united leadership that listens and responds to its residents, promotes transparency, and is focused on solving problems," he continued. "That means putting public safety first with strong support for our police, prioritizing our economic recovery with aiding our small businesses and restarting our development, and rooting out corruption and increasing transparency in Orland Park."

Learn more about Dan and the One Orland Party at their website, OneOrland.com

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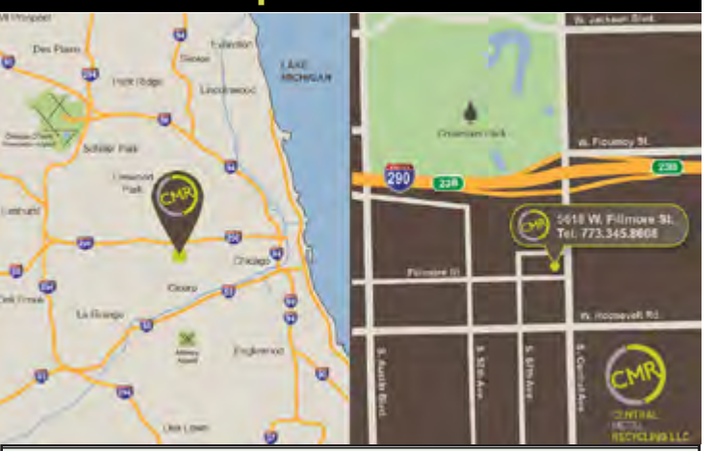

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CelticMKE's At Home St. Patrick's Celebration

CelticMKE, home of Milwaukee Irish Fest, has produced a free virtual program to celebrate the St. Patrick's Day season. On Saturday, 3-6, thru both the CelticMKE Facebook page and YouTube channel, you will be able to celebrate all

things Irish at home with Irish music performances, cultural shows, and children's entertainment.

In collaboration with TradFest, the program showcases 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 is available at celticmke.com.

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 is 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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Lá Fhéile Pádraig!

(Happy St. Patrick's Day!)

to All the readers of the IRISH AMERICAN NEWS

HS HEALY SCANLON
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The Soloheadbeg Moment?

FROM THE MOTHERLAND

BY SEAN FARRELL

Ireland's First Dail, meeting in Dublin's Mansion House on 21 January 1919, declared Irish Independence. It was a brave move. Those attending were twenty seven members of the sixty nine Sinn Fein MPs elected in the British General Election of November 1918; the rest were either in jail or on the run. The Northern Unionists did not attend. The way ahead was not clear.

Another event took place that day, just over 100 miles to the South. At Soloheadbeg in Tipperary the "first shots" in the Irish War of Independence were fired as two RIC men on escort duty were shot dead by local Republicans led by Sean Treacy and Dan Breen. The action was apparently not sanctioned by Volunteer Headquarters, with the Movement still agonising about attacking the RIC or other Crown forces. Years later, Dan Breen quoted Sean Treacy, killed in 1920 in a gun battle with British troops, as justifying the killings as the "only way to start a war," which was their intention. The deaths were not the first fatalities after 1916. Rioting and demonstrations became commonplace in 1917 and 1918, with at least one police inspector and several Volunteers killed in different incidents, but Soloheadbeg has become enshrined in popular lore as the beginning. Certainly it was downhill after that.

Fast forward to March 1971. The situation in the North was clearly escalating, indeed arguably careening out of control. When the North erupted in October 1968, with repression of the first Civil Rights marches, Irish Society was just beginning to emerge from the dark decades-long period of social and clerical conservatism. There was (some) economic growth at last, the very beginnings of some social reform, a process that was to take decades, but overall the country was still very much a backwater. My April 2018 column, "A Window on the Past" gives a partial snapshot of Ireland as it was then. There were hopeful signs of the beginnings of a thaw in the cold war on the island, with the first meetings between political leaders North and South and baby steps towards cooperation. What followed after October 1968 in the North was watched with horrified fascination in the Republic as a new darker reality was revealed in what had seemed the more prosperous North. Alongside the British welfare state and the substantial annual subvention from Westminster was revealed widespread discrimination against the Nationalist minority, in jobs, in housing, in political representation.

When the local administration, prodded by London, moved to introduce reforms, it was met with sheer bloody minded resistance. Paisley, regarded in the South as a religious Neanderthal and figure of fun, was revealed as representative of a large cohort of determined intransigent diehards. Prime Minister Terence O Neill, the Old Etonian and would be reformer, solemnly asked his TV audience "What kind of Ulster do you want?" Months later in early 1969 he was seen off by Paisley, who took his parliamentary seat, as events on the streets came to replace normal political dialogue. Frequent rioting and confrontations became increasingly violent until finally - and fatally -erupting during the 1969 Marching Season.

In August 1969 the overworked and overstretched RUC couldn't cope, and O Neill's successor, an Old Etonian buffoon, Chichester-Clark, sanctioned calling up the B Specials - a totally sectarian police reserve force. Loyalist mobs attacked Nationalist ghettos in Belfast, killing some and burning hundreds out, forcing the reluctant British to send in troops to protect Nationalist areas, where they were welcomed initially as saviours. Home Secretary James Callaghan's rhetorical question that, having put troops in, how was he going to get them out, proved a gloomy portent of the next decades.

Could the next 25 years have been headed off by decisive action early on? There are so many "perhaps", so many missed or failed steps that historians and political theorists have to pore over. Politically there was a vacuum - and "Nature abhors, etc." N. Ireland was far down Britain's political agenda and, with the troops "in" and welcomed, and the B Specials disbanded, London's temporary focus lapsed. Worse, the Labour government was defeated in 1970, replaced by a Tory one headed by Edward Heath, whose major consuming political goal was (ironically) to get an ailing Britain INTO the EU. Callaghan's replacement, Reggie Maudling, infamously remarked after his first visit to the North "What a bloody awful country" calling for a large Scotch. London's relations with Dublin were frosty. There were no political initiatives. The shift in emphasis was clear. "Law and Order," essentially control by the British Army, in the absence of any coherent government on the Unionist side, was the reluctant strategy, whatever might be said publicly.

In the North, the virtually defunct IRA (castigated by Nationalist wall slogans "I Ran Away), revived and split, with a new hard line "Provisional" wing emerging which rapidly displaced the older "Official IRA," and saw, in the British Army, a convenient target. Friction developed between the Army and Nationalist rioters, intensifying after the Tories took power. Nationalist moderates, epitomised by John Hume, were listened to - up to a point. It was difficult to find Unionist moderates, with the yo yo prime minister assailed from his own right and left and Paisley and his ilk castigating from the side.

Events in the South - the sum of all Unionist fears - were hardly encouraging. Several Government Ministers, including future Taoiseach Charlie Haughey , were fired in May 1970 and put on trial in connection with an attempt to smuggle arms to Northern nationalists. Fianna Fail was convulsed, but Taoiseach Jack Lynch held on - and held firm. The message was clear; the South was not going to get dragged into the developing Northern morass. I can recall the reports of steadily worsening confrontations between Nationalist rioters and the British Army almost nightly. Gunner Curtis was shot dead in February. Two more soldiers, several civilians, 2 off duty policemen and 5 BBC technicians (killed by a land mine intended for soldiers) died that month.

Then came March 9 and one of the grim milestones in the North's slide into chaos. The bodies of 3 Scottish soldiers, brothers John and Joseph McCaig, aged 17 & 18, and their friend Dougald McCaughey, 23, were found shot dead at Ligoniel near Belfast. They had been off duty, out for a drink, when it is presumed they were lured to their deaths. The circumstances are not known and nobody has ever been charged with the murders.

In both Northern communities and across Ireland there was shock, horror, outrage and disbelief at the cold blooded murders. Chichester Clark was gone within weeks, repressive security measures were intensified and relations between the North's communities further poisoned as the downward slide intensified. We did not know what lay ahead. But those 3 murders marked a disturbing escalation. Perhaps not Soloheadbeg, but after them achieving peace became even more difficult.

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Ireland Network Chicago

A social, professional and cultural network for Irish, Irish-Americans and friends of Ireland in Chicago

After a competitive evaluation and interview process, I am pleased to announce that the Committee has selected Katie Fitzpatrick to serve as the Executive Director of IN Chicago.

Katie is the first ever executive director in the 18-year history of the Chicago chapter and the first executive director of any Ireland Network chapter in the world, which reflects the strength of our network and ambitious vision for the future of IN Chicago and our members.

Katie has a long history with IN Chicago. During her five years on the Committee, she helped develop our first-ever strategic plan and member survey. For the past two years, she has served on our Advisory Board, working to craft long-term goals and governance. As Executive Director, Katie will lead communications, fundraising and membership engagement strategies to ensure our professional development and organizational growth.

Katie's career in public affairs includes leadership positions at the Irish Consulate in Chicago, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and FTI Consulting. She is a certified Irish Dance teacher (T.C.R.G.) and a 2020 Irish Echo 40 Under 40 Awardee. You can contact Katie directly here.

We look forward to this exciting new era that will enable us to better serve our members and the larger Irish community. Take this short survey to share your thoughts with Katie and our Committee.

Onward!

Garrett Diamond
INC President

Welcome!
Katie Fitzpatrick.
Executive Director,
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I'm placing a bet that Ireland's Prime Minister Micheal Martin will be the first International Head of State to travel to the Biden White House in March. During a recent CNN interview with journalist Christiane Amanpour she posed the question whether he'd travel to Washington on Saint Patrick's Day. "No decision has been made as yet," he replied, adding " I did invite President Biden to Ireland and he jokingly said, "try to keep me out!" The writing is on the wall and true to tradition Taoiseach Martin will be bringing a pot of Irish shamrock to the White House on March 17th. During the Amanpour interview Martin emphasized the source of enormous pride in Ireland that the great-grandson of Irish emigrants has become president of America. He further pledged "we are both very keen to cement that very historic relationship between the United States and Ireland."

Meanwhile while we double-mask to keep the pandemic at bay, movement restrictions in Ireland mount. Walking outdoors for the usual reason of fresh air and exercise is not only prohibited, its considered non-essential and subject to a fine. Ditto for unessential automobile travel. Law enforcement troops are on the highways, byways and airports staffing checkpoints to maintain adherence to the regulation of sheltering in the safety of homes. Motorists who drive from the North of Ireland down south will also be fined for non-essential travel. Meanwhile, the bigger fine is about to jump from 100 to a stiff 2000 Euros for unessential airline travel. Despite that, at Dublin Airport as recent as February 11, an estimated tally of 900 Irish residents left the country while close to a thousand travelers arrived. According to the usual reliable sources, majority travel was classified as essential. Contrasting with a year ago, passenger travel in Ireland is down ninety-five percent. Nonetheless, people are traveling in breach of Covid-19 guidelines. Airline travel for medical necessity is currently allowed as is a traveling companion. The Irish in the land of Saints and Scholars can be a crafty lot and illustrate a high degree of political acumen, demonstrating clever, if dishonest methods of ignoring laws bending them to their own means. A case in point is highlighted at Dublin Airport as hoards of Irish men and women accustomed to spending winters in the Canary Islands, particularly to the largest and most populous island Tenerife. Its blue flag beaches on the Atlantic, offers a sub-tropical climate, sunshine throughout the year, natural landscape and a popular weekend destination for Irish Tourists.

Traveling there during Covid-19 connotes unessential travel. Yet, Irish men and women produce certificates or e-mails allowing them to travel to Tenerife or Istanbul for dental work, much like Californians travel to Mexico for excellent and inexpensive cosmetic and dental care. Have the crafty Irish discovered the imprimatur to enjoy the winter sojourn on one of the eight Canary Islands off the coast of Spain by showing airline inspectors copies of e-mails from Spanish dentists eager for the business as are restaurants and resorts?

The National Immigration Bureau has noticed that on some Irish flights to sunnier climes, between 30-to-40% of people have dental appointments. You dear reader, be the judge! Whether the 2000 Euro fire will curtail this surge of travel and serve as a deterrent is anyone's guess. The round-trip airline fare from Dublin to Tenerife is $174 and from Belfast $77.

Oscar Wilde once uttered: "We Irishmen have done nothing, but we are the greatest talkers since the Greeks"! Ireland is the land of Saints and Sages.

In other news, the Bon Secures Sisters plunged into the limelight over the horrific public scandal of abuse of young women and death of infants and children at their Mother-and-child home in Tuam, County Galway. The scandal has produced much Celtic brooding and global disgust. Historian Caroline Corless who discovered a sewer system full of infant remains on the grounds of the long shuttered home housing so-called wayward pregnant out-of-wedlock young girls. A few weeks ago, Corless met with politicians in Galway revealing the Sisters of Bon Secures issued an apology for what occurred in their facility. "Words are sweet and promises are sweet" she said, claiming the religious order was pressured to issue the apology. Corless worked tirelessly for years to break open the scandal testifying the Bon Secures Sisters for over six years put every obstacle in her way. She urged the County Council to band together so the remains of babies can be removed from the sewerage tank, "a dignified action showing respect for the families who had children there". Reminding the Galway Council they had more power than she possessed, she admitted.

She "was worn out," encouraging council members to push the religious order to demonstrate its profound sorrow in constructive ways. Her testimony included criticism of The Commission investigating the nationwide scandal claiming it was a disappointment, "Weak in areas, its testimony for example was not clearly illustrative of the national policy of children born in mother-child facilities changing hands through adoption. At press time rumors circulated that Catherine Corless be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. EstelleShanley@aol.com

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New RumJacks Album is Coming March 12th

NEW SINGLE – HESTIA – OUT NOW

"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 defense.

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 where the band stayed through August, September and October 2020.

For twelve 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) is out now - https://abcmusic.lnk.to/HestiaSingle

Hestia (album) will be released on Friday 12th March, 2021 - 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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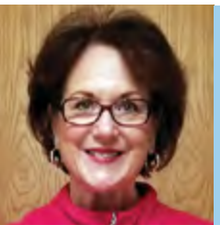

On the Upbeat

By Maryann McTeague Keifer

We are heading into our High Holy Month with only the memories of past celebrations and hope of ones next year that top all. We are having our corned beef, soda bread with Kerigold butter, and Irish coffee with thanksgiving grace and prayers for all not at our table, but no party of 40+ friends joining us. What we are having, though, is the music that sustains us through the happy and the more difficult times. Thank heavens for the musicians who share their talents with us.

When I put together playlists for IRELAND TONIGHT, I often pull from many of the great compilations albums out there that afford a smorgasbord of artists and songs. I have recently had

several new listeners ask about them and if they are still available as many are of some age now. I decided that this might be a good time to mention as many as I can so that you can look into adding them to your library and enjoying more of the music we love. This will be merely a sample of the many available.

Since we are based in Chicago, I'll begin with Irish Music in Chicago which is going on its 21st birthday. Featuring Chief O'Neill's Brendan McKinney's pipes on "Ode to the Irish," Liz Carroll's "Clarke's Favorite/Pigeon on the Gate," Pat Broader's & Jimmy Moore's "Foxhunters," along with cuts from John Williams, Laurence Nugent, Baal Tinne, Dennis Cahill, and others. It is a good smattering of Chicago artists. I keep hoping for a new edition in the near future!

World Music Network's Rough Guide to Irish Music from 1996 has always been a "go to" with music from Dolores Keane, Altan, Clannad, Eileen Ivers, Deanta, Patrick Street, Dervish, Ciaran Tourish, Cran... It is a varied selection of Trad tunes and musicians to have on your shelves.

Green Linnet, music publisher of many years, has several compilations that are all "must haves" as far as I'm concerned. My most used is Her Infinite Variety: Celtic Women in Music and Song. This 2 disk album put out in 1998 features Cherish the Ladies, Liz Carroll, Eileen Ivers, Niamh Parsons with a beautiful rendition of "The Briar and the Rose," Trian, Reeltime with my favorite "Siúil a Rún," Sharon Shannon, and several other great ladies of the music.

Flight of The Green Linnet includes Kevin Burke, Patrick Street's "Holy Ground," the late Johnny Cunningham, and "Inisheer" by Buttons and Bows. It's Green Linnet Records 25 Years of Celtic Music also includes Phil Cunningham, Capercaillie, Johnny Williams, the amazing Joe Derrane, the much loved "There Were Roses" by Mick Maloney, Jimmy Keane, and Robbie O'Connell, as well as trad music icons Reeltime. There are several other albums this label also put out.

Another of my favorites is A Woman's Heart with Elea-

nor McEvoy's sexy "I Hear You Breathing In," Dolores Keane's "Caledonia," Frances Black singing "After the Ball" and "Wall of Tears," her sister Mary Black's "Sonny," and Sharon Shannon's "Blackbird" as just some of its shining stars.

Thousands Are Sailing is a collection of songs telling of those who left Ireland's shores hoping for a better life. Featuring DeDanann's "Ramblin' Irishman," Arcady's unforgettable "Boys of Bar na Sraide," Liam Clancy, and The Voice Squad, among others, it is a heart breaking, but beautiful album.

Celtic Heartbeat includes a wide range of artists including Sean Keane singing "Home," Sinead O'Connor's "She Moved Through the Fair," Anuna's rendition of "Flower of Maherally," and tunes by Lunasa, Sky Road, Frances Black, Christy Moore, and Kila.

For some St. Patrick's Day fun, there is Irish Drinking Songs from which you can imagine you are at the pub with the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem and the Dubliners hoisting your Guinness belting out songs like "Whiskey in the Jar," "Mountain Dew'" "Galway Bay," "The Moonshiner," and at the end of the night, "The Parting Glass."

Those of you who love Canadian music can look for Failte: A Cape Breton Welcome and get some dancing in the kitchen going with Troy McGillivray, Andria Beaton, Wendy Mac Isaac, and of course, Natalie MacMaster who does a bring the tears version of Maurice Lennon's "If Ever You Were Mine."

The Ultimate Guide to Irish Folk, another 2 disk album, is rich with songs and tunes from great musicians such as Luke Kelly singing "Raglan Road," arguably the best version of "Lord Franklin" by Kevin Burke & Micheál O'Domhnaill, Andy Irvine & Paul Brady, Martin Hayes & Dennis Cahill, the Dubliners, John Spillane, Altan, Horslips, and quite a few noted others.

If you enjoy Frank Harte & Donal Lunny, Mairtin O'Connor, Cathal Hayden & Steve Cooney, Oisin MacDiarmada, Anna & Mairéad Ni Mhaonaigh, Nollaig Casey & Arty McGlynn, Seamie O'Dowd, Kevin Crawford, Sean Smyth, Jackie Daly, and more, then you'll want a copy of the Masters of Tradition.

There are so many more including Wooden Flute Obsession and Common Ground. Recently some new ones have appeared incuding a collection of songs from Derry singers titled Stories of the Land the Seeanchai Sessions which will introduce you to some mighty singers from the North whom we will be hearing more from in the near future. Jack Talty and Raelach Records have just released an album titled ROGHA RAELACH VOLUME 1 with the music of that label including The Martin Hayes Quartet, Sean & Michael Gavin, Geraldine Cotter, Jack himself and others.

This is a scratch the surface list that, hopefully, will get you started on expanding your music library.

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A Cháirde

We get questions from time to time about our free lending library, and I'm happy to provide some of our more Frequent Answers: 1. Yes, there is an elevator to take you up to the second floor (by the Celtic Room). 2. No, you don't need a library card or any identification. 3. No, we don't keep any record of what you borrow. 4. Yes, we hope you bring books back when you are finished, and so far this has worked very well. In fact, many people borrow one and bring back more than one. 5. Fiction and non-fiction. Mostly Irish authors, but some Irish Americans, too. 6. Yes, the books you see in the pub are from the library and can also be borrowed at any time. 7. Yes, our librarian has been vaccinated.

Happy St. Patrick's month to all! Please watch our email blasts and Facebook page to keep up with our curbside , pub and patio dining options, and entertainment to the extent possible.

Is mise le meas,
Bill O'Sullivan

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Wednesday March 17th - Food Served at 11am
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University of Limerick Irish World Academy of Music & Dance Presents A Virtual Concert 3-17

The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick, presents a special virtual performance of music, song and dance, performed at University Concert Hall. This unique concert will see performers from all over the world coming together, including very special guest, ***Grammy award winner Rhiannon Giddens***.

Giddens, an extraordinary American musician, who is a doyenne of the international folk scene, won 'Best Traditional Folk Album' as part of the ground-breaking ensemble, Carolina Chocolate Drops, at the 2011 Grammys. She continues to have huge success in her more recent solo endeavours winning 'Best Album of the Year' at the International Folk Music Festival in 2016 and 2018, while also winning BBC 2 Folk Singer of the Year in 2016.

The Virtual Concert will also feature the spectacular Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre who will premiere an innovative triple aerial hoop system with their new 'Handful of Dreams'. Internationally renowned aerialists Aisling Ní Cheallaigh, Jenny Tufts, and Dr Jennifer de Brún will perform, together with talented students from the Academy's BA Irish Music, BA World Music, BA Irish Dance, BA Contemporary Dance, MA Classical Strings Performance and MA Irish Traditional Dance Performance.

Celebrating all the creativity, talent and passion that the Irish World Academy has to offer, these world-renowned musicians, singers and dancers come together on the University Concert Hall stage, to create a performance full of joy, passion and festivity to celebrate a St. Patrick's Day like no other!

This special event is a partnership between UL Global, Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University Concert Hall and Limerick Culture and Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council

This **free concert** will be available to view from 7pm CST on the 17th of March 2021 and you will be able to get more information and link to the concert on the Irish World Academy website & social media platforms of all partners.

www.irishworldacademy.ie

The St Patrick's Day Virtual concert will also be launched in multiple time zones on March 17th as part of a UL Global initiative to connect with potential students, alumni and the wider diaspora in order to showcase all that the University of Limerick has to offer international students.

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West

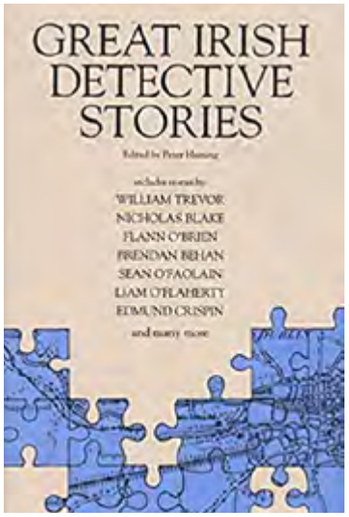
Great Irish Detective Stories

Edited by: Peter Haining

This is a vivid and comprehensive anthology of Irish detective writing. It shows the great impact Ireland has had and has on the Detective Story.

It is almost 2 centuries since Irishman Gerald Griffin wrote the first detective story. It was in Ireland's west coast in the area of Connemara. The detective story that follows is in this same area.

In 1827, Gerald Griffin wrote "The Hand and the Word." This was 14 years before Irish American Poe wrote "Murder in the Rue Morgue" which is often said to be the first detective story. "The Hand and the Word" is included in the anthology. It is marked by careful observation of character,



detailed descriptions of physical surroundings, and great drama.

It "is a classic tale of crime about a beautiful girl, her faithful lover, who has been away for five years in the army, and the black-hearted criminal determined to ruin their happiness. The criminal pushes the man off a cliff. The story is as dramatic as anything to be found in present-day detective writing."

It ends with the court scene, in which the people of the area come to the courthouse "to determine" the cause of death of the young man who has been away for years. Each in turn lays a hand on the corpse...in order to prove their innocence.

"The murderer is revealed in the courtroom by a sharp-eyed witness who spots a vital clue clutched in the dead man's hand." She pries it from the dead man's hand and that it is a piece of the collar and button torn off the murderer when the dead man tried to defend himself. The killer is wearing the jacket with the missing part of the collar. He runs from the courtroom. The people chase him. He runs to the ocean cliff near where he had pushed the young man to his death. And as the people close in, he jumps to his own death. Justice is dramatically served!

This wonderful anthology includes many Irish detective stories. William Trevor's "Events at Drimaghleen" is included. Trevor is a novelist and short story writer and is "widely regarded as one of the greatest contemporary writers of short stories in the English language."

The editor says of Trevor, "Few present-day Irish writers are more steeped in the lore of the detective story than William Trevor. His first recollection of being introduced to reading via the pages of Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians." The experience was to have a profound influence on his interest in crime and detection.

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The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, University of Limerick, presents a special performance of music, song and dance for St Patrick's Day. This unique concert has performers from all over the world coming together at University Concert Hall for an exciting virtual event, featuring special guests Rhiannon Giddens, Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre, and students and graduates of the Academy.

For more information on & link to this **free** concert please visit
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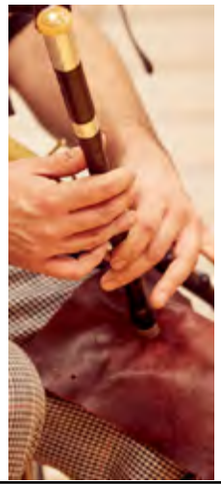
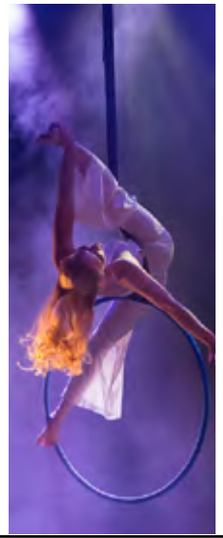

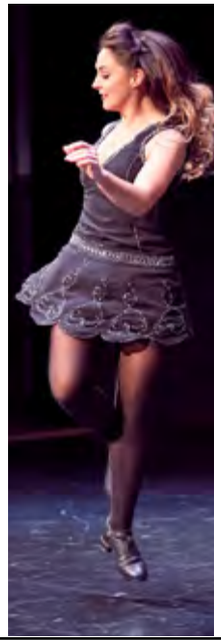

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Proud Chicago Irish Policeman and Emerald Society Pipes and Drums Founder, Daniel Burke, Leaves A Lasting Legacy

Good leaders are the catalysts that drive ideas into reality by taking action. Dan Burke Sr. was a leader like that.

He was born on September 21, 1944 to Ed & Marie (Doyle) Burke.

His son, Dan Burke Jr., tells us about his father. "My Dad loved his family and his friends. He loved being a policeman, he loved Ireland and the Irish, he loved Chicago and all this city had to offer. He was a great man, Dad, Papa, Uncle Danny and friend to many. He was a natural, fearless leader and a visionary.

My dad was born and raised on the West side, living at Van Buren Street and Cicero. He attended Resurrection Elementary and St. Mel's High School. The West side of the city was the home of many Irish immigrants and rich with Irish culture and pride. Dan was a rookie police officer working in the 15th District when he met my mother, Catherine "Caìt" Canavan.

My mom had recently migrated to Chicago from Ireland, raised in Kilkieran, Connemara, County Galway. Her relatives, the Healys, were neighbors of the Burkes living down the street on Van Buren. Her cousin, Johnny Healy, and my dad were friends, and Johnny introduced my parents to each other.

The Westside Irish were plentiful and regularly gathered for social events including dances, ceilis, pub get togethers and fundraisers.

My parents enjoyed an active social life and passionately involved in the Irish Community.

They visited Ireland together many times over the years after my dad's first visit in 1968. His love for Ireland, his new bride, and his Irish Heritage were the motivation to share the culture and promote Irish Heritage involving police officers of Irish descent.

Dan's pride in his occupation and love of his heritage inspired the creation of the Emerald Society of Illinois in 1975. The first meeting of the Emerald Society was held at the Milk Drivers Union Hall at 220 S. Ashland in Chicago. As a six-year-old boy, into my early teens, my Dad would take me along to run the errands necessary to provide members with food and beverages. Another objective was to provide officers working in the area a place to come for a meal, nothing fancy, usually hot dogs or corned beef sandwiches with chips. I have very fond memories of riding with my dad to the vendors and food purveyors that provided the refreshments. We made stops at Vienna Beef for hot dogs; Mary Ann Bakery for buns, rolls or bread; the Jay's Potato Chip plant; the Lake Street, Fulton Street and Randolph Street Markets for condiments and fresh pickles; Chicago Beverage for pop and adult refreshments. He dedicated so much time and effort into making the Emerald Society a warm and welcoming community and to ensuring the events were successful.

His mission neither begins nor ends at a bunch of Irish cops eating corned beef sandwiches and drinking beer. The real mission was promoting Irish heritage, connecting officers with their roots, and generating the pride he learned growing up on the Westside. The camaraderie, food and the beer brought in a captive audience for sharing and learning.

My dad recruited Irish musicians and entertainers to perform for the members. He formed friendships with the young Irish entertainer, Michael Flatley; up and coming Irish step dancers, Mark Howard and Jim McGing; Tommy Moran and the Moran Family Band in addition to countless other Irish musicians willing to perform at Emerald Society meetings and functions. The mission did not end here… music and "the craic" were important, but there needed to be more. He reached out to his friend and fellow Westsider, Dan Lydon, to enter the Emerald Society into the St. Patrick's Day Parade and collaborate with the Irish Fellowship Club.

My father met and became friends with the Irish Consulate in Chicago, and convinced the Consulate to attend a meeting and speak to the membership about Ireland. It was important to my dad that members learned about Ireland and Irish citizenship. Thus, the first Emerald Society trip to Ireland was in the works. My Dad reached out to his friend Tommy Ryan of the Shannon Rovers. Tommy was the owner of Ryan's Regent Travel, and in 1977, hundreds of members of the Emerald Society were on their way to Ireland on two planes chartered through Aer Lingus. While in Ireland, they met members of the Garda Siochana. They became friends with many members of the Garda and welcomed Garda members to Chicago. Those friendships continue today as members of the Garda Siochana and Chicago Police Department regularly travel between Chicago and Ireland, extending courtesy and hospitality to each other.

Family involvement in the Emerald Society was important. Dad organized family events and outings to include Emerald Society member's families. There were annual picnics, sports nights, Christmas parties for us kids to join our parents in the strong pride of law enforcement and the promotion of our heritage. I remember my dad reaching out to police officers who worked at professional Chicago sporting events. He recruited professional athletes to attend the Sports Night for the kids to meet, get autographs and memorabilia. I remember meeting players from the Bears, Bulls, Blackhawks, White Sox and Cubs. I remember meeting Doug Buffone and thinking "wow, my dad does know everybody." More importantly, the friendships that were made between the kids remain today. Many of the children of members became my friends who I still see and communicate with today. We grew up on the Northwest side of the city, and our neighbors and school friends were always invited to participate in Emerald Society events. It was not uncommon to see kids around the neighborhood with green Emerald Society shirts, hats and jackets.

For my dad, Sports Night wasn't enough. "Let's introduce the kids to Irish sports" he said. He partnered with friends from the Chicago GAA, to afford the kids access to Gaelic Football and Hurling. My Dad supported and helped fundraisers for Gaelic Park on the Southside, and the Irish American Heritage Center on the Northside. He forged many friendships within the Irish Community, and those friendships included a dedication to fundraising and participation in countless benefits for causes close to Chicago's Irish Community. He shared the sponsors of the Emerald Society to organize benefits and events, we often collected food, beverages and raffle prizes…lots of trips down to Lake Street, Fulton Street, Vienna Beef, Jay's Potato Chips, Chicago Beverage and Mullarkey Distributors where my dad always "knew a guy".

In February 1982, after the tragic back-to-back deaths of three (3) Chicago Police Officers, Dan Burke expanded the Emerald Society significantly, founding the Bagpipes and Drums of the Emerald Society. He had friends in the New York Police Department Emerald Society, he contacted the NYPD band leaders and asked their band to come to Chicago to honor the fallen with a pipe and drum tribute, known as an "Inspector's Funeral". It was this tragedy that motivated the start of the Bagpipes and Drums of the Emerald Society Chicago.

I was 12 years old, it was Sunday morning and the phone rang. I answered and a woman's voice asked to speak to Officer Dan Burke. My dad was sleeping in and as the son of a police officer who worked nights and weekends, I knew better than to wake him. I informed the caller that he was asleep and asked to take a message. The caller said "No, I need to speak to Officer Dan Burke please". I immediately thought that it must be another tragedy. I woke my dad and informed him that he had a call. He said "Danny, take a message". I informed the caller that my dad was sleeping and asked again if I could take a message. The caller replied, "My name is Jane Byrne, I'm the

(L to R): Chester Milan (RIP) of the Illinois State Police and Dan Burke in the beginning of the Pipes and Drums of the Emerald Society Band.

Mayor of the City of Chicago. Can I please speak with your father?" I woke my dad again and said "Dad, a lady on the phone says that she is Mayor Byrne". He got out of bed and answered the phone, he didn't believe it was the Mayor, and was visibly annoyed.

It was Mayor Byrne! She informed my dad that she never wanted another police funeral in Chicago to require bagpipers from another city. Mayor Byrne told him that he was the founder and President of the Emerald Society; she told him that he was capable and that she trusted he was the right person to get the job done. Mayor Byrne promised to support the endeavor and donated $5,000 of her own money to purchase uniforms, instruments and lessons. My dad and a group of dedicated members came together to form this band of law enforcement officers/amateur musicians. These pioneers dedicated themselves to this cause which resulted in a highly successful group. There vision and common goal was to "Honor Our Fallen." Thirty-nine years later this band is still in existence and going strong," concluded Dan Jr.

Simon O'Donnell, who was a Sergeant with the Chicago Police Department, and the second President of the Society, had this to say. "Dan served 40 years on the Chicago Police Department, working mostly on the West side's 15th District.

He had the inspiration to start an organization of Irish/American Police Officers in Illinois, and with the help of others, founded the Emerald Society of Illinois in 1975, serving for eight years as the President until 1983. Dan approached me in 1975 saying he wanted to start an Irish-American Police Association. He had the connections and I had the fire in me to push membership. Our Sargent was Bill McTighe who was also a believer. Dan really believed in the cause and all of us hustled and pushed for membership, and we grew a great organization," Simon said. "The great Maureen O'Looney and Bobby Ryan had us on their radio stations and supported us from the start. I talked to Bob Burns several times in Maureen's store. He was the founder of ***Irish American News*** and he helped us too.

We held picnics and children's Christmas parties, and a Dinner Dance for our membership. The first Dinner Dance was a sellout thanks to Bill McTighe, and was held at the Lexington House. I remember the entertainment was Sean O'Donnell and the Shannon Rovers. Other hard workers were Charlie McConaghy, Joe McElligott, Ed Brown, Pat Moran, Ray Hanley to name a few. Ray Hanley's cousin, Ed Hanley, donated the money that started the Scholarship Fund," concluded O'Donnell."

Simon confirms Dan Jr.'s, memories of Mayor Byrne. At the Emerald Society Annual Dinner that year, Mayor Jane Byrne was in attendance and requested to say a few words. In essence, she said that the City of Chicago should not have to rely on others for a Pipe Band to honor their fallen officers. She gave Dan a check for $5,000 and said to him "Get a pipe band started". Daniel E. Burke passed away Feb 4, 2021 at the age of 76 surrounded by his family. He will be greatly missed. He touched many lives, was first a great family man, a great police officer, and a dedicated individual who gave his time, which is most valuable to the Irish Community. He was a great man and will be sorely missed. Rest in Peace.

Contributors: Dan's son; Dan Burke Jr., Tom Cody; current President of the Emerald Society of Illinois, and Simon O'Connell.

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Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler

Who was Peig Sayers? She was an author and seanchaí (storyteller) from a Gaeltacht in Co. Kerry. She was born Mairead Sayers, the youngest of the family. (1873-1958) Her father was a storyteller and he passed on most of his stories to Peig. Peig moved to the Blasket Islands off the coast of Co. Kerry after marrying a native. Peig and her husband had 11 children but tragically only six survived. Today no one lives on the Blasket Islands however there are a few cottages to rent if one wanted to visit. (you will need some candles there is no electricity on the Island)

Sayers had what seemed like a, 1,001 stories to tell. A teacher fortunately saw the talent in Sayers story telling so she encouraged her to share her stories. Sayers couldn't write so she dictated her stories to her son Michael. He sent her stories in and hoped they would be published.

Over the years Sayers recited hundreds of legends, ghost stories, and folk tales to be written down. Sayers describes devout Catholicism, the Famine and the Penal laws.

Story telling is one of our most flexible hobbies. Story telling is carrying history that may never be found in books. (In Sayers case we do have a book) Everyone remembers a good story. Story telling is a powerful busines tool because it is through the stories that brands tell how we decide how we feel about them. Stories engage people and build relationships. Listening to stories positively affects our brains, it fires up some cortexes. Story telling is happening whether we're listening or not. A few places where the magic of the story continues includes most libraries, Chinese American Museum, Mrs. Murphy & Son's Irish Bistro, Eastgate Café in Oak Park and on the radio station, 91.5, NPR, The Moth Radio hour.

For many years, it was required to know Sayers work to pass the leaving cert however it is not compulsory today. There are a small number of schools today that require students to read Sayers Autobiography. In the TV show, Paddy Whackery, Fionnula Flanagan plays the ghost of Sayers. She's sent to restore the faith in the Irish language. Sayers is a cultural icon and is among the most famous expressions of the Gaelic revival.

I heard about a new program in Co. Wexford & other counties, The 'Tale-a-phone Exchange',. A project where a storyteller phones seniors or people who are feeling isolated during the pandemic. Here is the contact number 011 353 053 919 6680 in case anyone has family in Wexford.

I encourage everyone to share a good story. It could inspire, uplift, or change someone's life. Send me a story, you never know the effect your story might have.

Gaelic for the Month

Story-Sceal History-stair Co. Kerry-Ciarrai

"There are no two jewels more precious than youth & health." ***Peig Sayers.***

One Sunday I was reading the ***Chicago Tribun***e and on the cover of A & E, saw an old friend, Jeanie Doogan. I was delighted to see Jean made it in comedy. I knew Jean years ago when we were almost legal. She was the life of the party her humor was priceless & original. You loved being around her because her jokes were never at anyone's expense. You can find Jean performing at Laugh factory, Zanies and Comedy Bar.

If you have any questions or stories, please email me at: Molanive@yahoo.com

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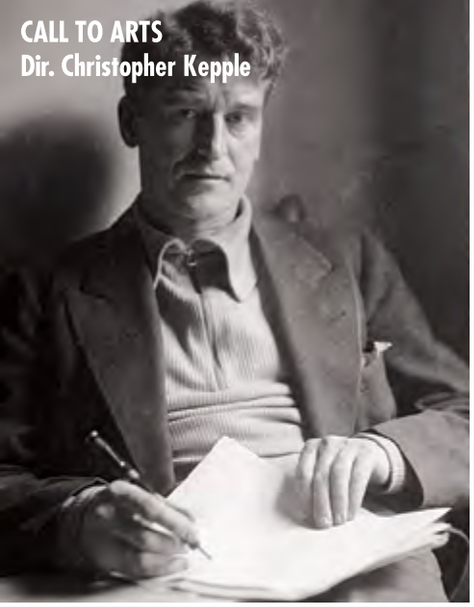
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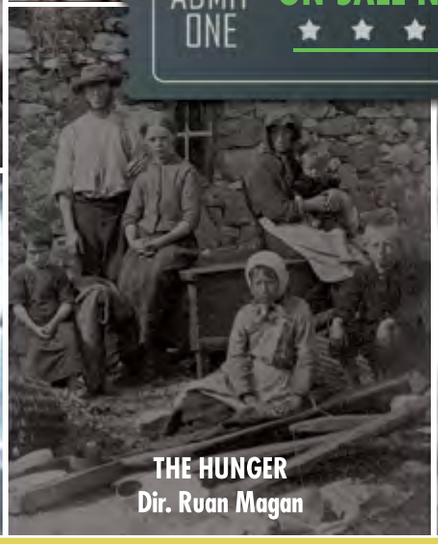
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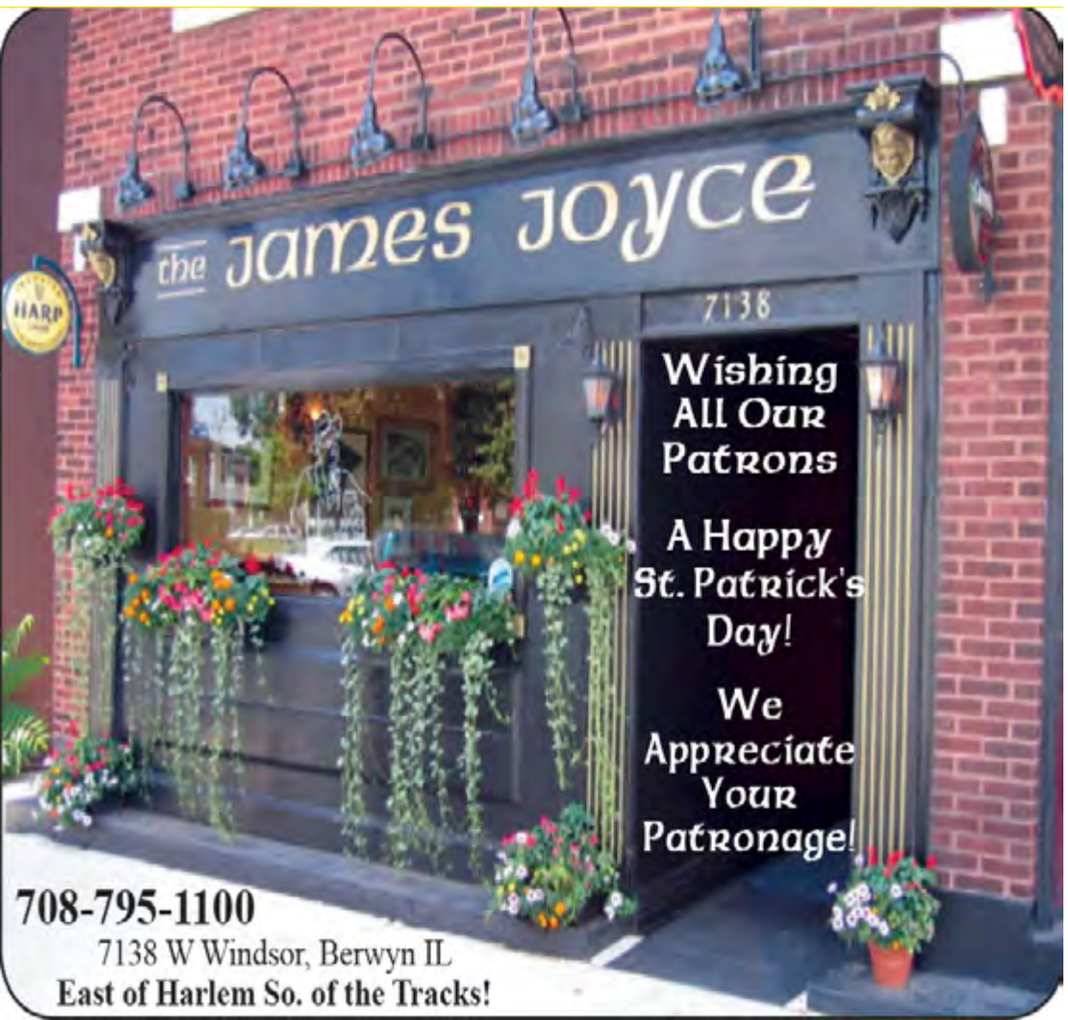
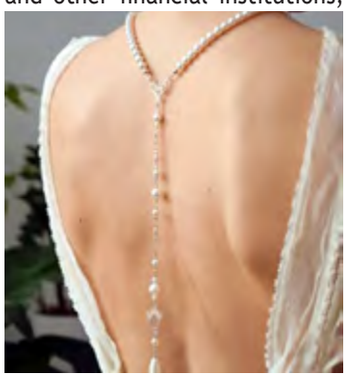


Touch of Venus Jewellery

Meet Adriana Glab, the creator and owner of ***Touch of Venus Jewellery***, an Irish exclusive online jewellery boutique, established in Donegal, Ireland in December 2018, the Ireland's Top Leading Supplier, Finalist as Jeweller of The Year in 2021.

My professional background is corporate finance and securities with a university degree in Banking and Finance, and with experience of over 15 years working in banks and other financial institutions,



dealing with securities, investment issues, brokers and foreign exchange transactions I always had a feeling that I was missing something in my life.

After the migration settlement process of securities in Frankfurt, I realised that I was not happy and this is not what I want in my life, and I knew I had to do something to change this. At that time, I didn't even have a plan on what to do, however I knew I wanted to create something that I could showcase to the world.

I've always wanted to be my own Boss. The passion for original jewellery designs and excellence has driven me since childhood, and was my biggest dream, so I left my job in Allied Irish Bank in Dublin, and moved to Donegal in 2017. I knew this was the time, and I created my Jewellery Online Boutique.

Today I proudly can say I am the creator of moments and my dreams are coming true.

What woman doesn't want to shine wearing unique and original jewellery?

I have always loved jewellery, and with one mission in mind I provide unique and fashionable designs dedicated to every woman looking for smart, sophisticated, and modern jewellery, that combines passion and attention to detail, uniquely styled for all occasions and designed just for her.

Why Touch of Venus Jewellery?

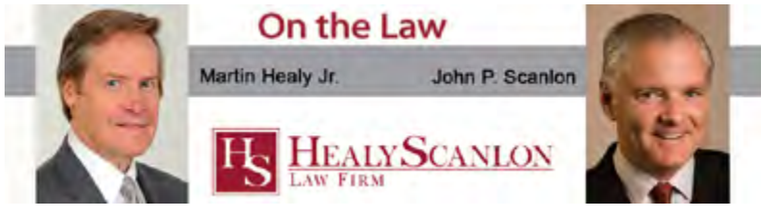
The story begins when in numerology the Goddess of Love and Star of Beauty has been assigned

to number 'six' symbolizing love and beauty, so being born on the 6th myself, and assigned to 'six' in numerology,' I decided to bring a touch of Venus by creating a unique Boutique's name inspired by love and beauty.

Touch of Venus Jewellery combines passion, fashion, originality and style with attention to detail, offering exquisite luxury jewellery like unique Back Necklaces along with a wide selection of headpieces and jewellery perfect to celebrate every moment you will cherish for a lifetime.

Check out our beautiful things on site **touchofvenusjewellery.com** **011 353 862 279 977** **info@touchofvenusjewellery.com**

On The Law



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

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

Never Ending Snow

With the COVID-19 pandemic still looming, we are now confronted with another challenge - winter storms sweeping across the county. What seemed like a mild start to the winter has given way to the more typical Chicago winter: cold, snow and sleet. The number of consecutive large snowfall storms seems unending. To some, especially skiers, snowmobilers and those who enjoy outdoor activities, it can be beautiful. To others who have to shovel their walkways and driveways, it can be a real burden. But to all, with an accumulation of snow, there can be a risk of injury as a pedestrian and a risk of liability as an owner or occupier of land. At this time of the year, people should be aware of their rights and responsibilities as it relates to snow falls. These include the right to make a claim if injured as a result of a fall on ice or snow, and include the responsibility of the owners of land to keep the premises reasonably safe.

Municipal Ordinances Requiring The Removal Of Snow

Under a City of Chicago Ordinance, there is a requirement for any owner, renter, or any other person responsible for any building in the City to remove the snow and ice from the sidewalk in front of the building.

While these municipal ordinances require property owners to remove snow, they are, generally speaking, for the benefit of the municipality. They usually do not establish a separate duty on the part of the land owner for injuries from falls.

"Natural Accumulation" and the Law Concerning Ice and Snow

While, as a general rule, property owners have a responsibility to maintain their property in a reasonably safe condition, property owners are not responsible for the "natural accumulation" of snow or ice on their property. This also applies if clearing off the snow exposes a natural accumulation of ice beneath the snow. The concept of "natural accumulation" would include ruts or uneven surfaces made by pedestrians and vehicles which result from a thawing and refreezing on a properly maintained surface.

As to business property owners, they have no responsibility to remove water or snow tracked in by customers or even to provide a mat or rug to wipe their feet. And, unless it is an unnatural accumulation, there is no duty to remove water accumulated around a rug or mat.

Injuries From Falls On Ice And Snow

Claims for injuries from falls on snowy and icy walkways or parking lots are often based on an "unnatural accumulation" or negligent maintenance or design of the walkway or parking lot. In the past, we had a recovery because a slopping sidewalk created an unnatural accumulation of ice and snow resulting in a fall. Another recovery involved an injury because an improper design of a entry way resulted in an unnatural accumulation. Liability has resulted from leaking gutters or downspouts forming ice on a stairway or a sump pump discharge forming ice on a sidewalk. Liability may also result from a negligent removal of ice and snow if it creates an unnatural accumulation. However, to encourage owners to remove ice and snow from sidewalks, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Snow and Ice Removal Act. The Act provides that residential property owners removing ice or snow abutting their property will not be liable for injuries unless their acts are willful and wanton. As can be seen, the facts of each individual case will determine the ultimate outcome.

Generally speaking, to begin to establish a claim, first, the claimant must be able to show there was an unnatural accumulation of snow which presented an unreasonable risk of harm to persons on the property. Secondly, the claimant must show that the owner knew or should have known about the condition and the risk. Thirdly, the claimant must show that the owner would not reasonably expect persons to discover or realize the danger.

This general discussion of rights and responsibilities relating to snow and ice should not be considered a substitute for individual legal advice from an attorney based on the facts of a particular case. If you have any questions, call us or visit our website.

Road Conditions

Another issue with the large snowfall is the fluctuation in temperatures. The City of Chicago's Office of Emergency Management recently came out with a statement regarding the dangers associated with melting ice and snow, which includes the potential for street flooding. When the temperatures dip, this creates for slick and dangerous road conditions. It is important to be mindful of the road conditions and to drive carefully when there is ice on the road.

The City of Chicago's Streets and Sanitation Department has asked resident to be respectful of the overnight parking ban on many of the City's main streets. This overnight parking ban runs until April 1st, and takes place from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. The goal is to make it easier for the department to completely clear many of the City's major streets from snowfall. Violators will be towed and be ticketed.

Conclusion

The law has established protections for owners and occupiers of land for claims based on nature accumulations of snow and ice. However, as discussed, there are exceptions to these rules. The hope is that everyone can enjoy the snow and outdoors without injury. And keep in mind: Spring is only a month away.

By: Neil Schelhammer

Old St. Pat's is Serving Up to Help Feed Chicago's Homeless on St. Patrick's Day

Old St. Patrick's Churc hosts Old St Pat's Chefs Kitchen Serving Up For A Cause on Wednesday, 3-10 at 5 pm

The virtual event will feature a festive Cooking Show where guests will learn how to make Irish specialty dishes in preparation of St. Patrick's Day. Old St. Pat's Pastor Fr. Tom Hurley will be cooking along with Chefs from well-known Chicago Irish Restaurants including the Gage

OLD ST. PAT'S CHEF'S KITCHEN

SERVING UP FOR A CAUSE

and Kerryman. There will be surprise guest appearances and entertainment to add to the fun. The money raised will go towards Old St. Patrick's Church's ambitious goal of providing meals for as many Chicago homeless shelters as possible on St. Patrick's Day. In honor of their patron saint, Patrick, a missionary who was a huge champion for the underserved, Old St. Pat's is pairing up with local restaurants to provide thousands of meals on March 17. Their hope is that this will be a win-win to provide meals for those in need and also a way to support local restaurants during these tough times. Entertainment will be provided by Chicago's own Irish Diva Catherine O'Connell, Trinity Irish Dance, Fiddler Patricia Treacy, who most recently performed at President Biden's inauguration and much more!

Tickets: The event is FREE; however good-will donations are being accepted to help provide thousands of meals for shelters on St Patrick's Day. The suggested good-will donation is $5. Those that donate $25 or more will receive an Old St. Pat's custom apron. Sponsorship packages are also available. To register go to www.oldstpats.org/ospchefskitchen.

Pappas: Cook Co. Board Passes Ordinance to Bring Transparency to Tif Spending

The Cook County Board of Commissioners has enacted an ordinance that would increase disclosure in an area where it is long overdue — Tax Increment Financing districts, Treasurer Maria Pappas said today.

The Board approved an amendment to the Debt Disclosure Ordinance, which allows the Treasurer's Office to gather vital financial data for the county's 547 primary taxing districts and publish it on cookcountytreasurer.com. The amendment would give taxpayers the opportunity to examine how TIF dollars have been spent and to whom. This information also would be posted to cookcountytreasurer.com for taxpayers to view and download. Pappas suggested the idea to the board and helped draft the amendment.

"The County Board took ground-breaking action regarding transparency when it passed the Debt Disclosure Ordinance in 2009 at my request," Pappas said. "I am grateful to the Board for doing the same with TIFs."

Commissioners John P. Daley (11th) and Larry Suffredin (13th) were lead sponsors of the amendment, which had 13 cosponsors: Alma E. Anaya (7th), Luis Arroyo Jr. (8th), Dennis Deer (2nd), Bridget Degnen (12th), Bridget Gainer (10th), Brandon Johnson (1st), Bill Lowry (3rd), Donna Miller (6th), Stanley Moore (4th), Sean M. Morrison (17th), Kevin B. Morrison (15th), Peter N. Silvestri (9th), Deborah Sims (5th).

Two commissioners voted no: Frank J. Aguilar (16th) and Scott R. Britton (14th).

In Cook County, 444 TIF Districts across 96 municipalities accounted for more than $1.3 billion in property tax revenue last year — or 8.4% of the entire $15.6 billion billed.

Rockaway Blue: Black 47 Leader Larry Kirwan's Latest Book and a Look Back on Life in Chicago, and New York

Larry Kirwan of Black 47, (pictured) fondly remembers Chicago. "We first played Gaelic Park Memorial Weekend 1991. It was freezing and windy, and it snowed while we were on the big outdoor stage. People in blankets and down jackets danced in front of us. I thought my fingers would stick to the strings of my Stratocaster. But we were hired to play 90 minutes and we did - through a blizzard."

When it was over **Frank Bradley** came up to me with our pay and said, 'Are you fellas mad?'

I told him we needed the money to get home and didn't know if he'd pay us if we stopped early."

For those who experienced the band live, that was the power and commitment of Black 47 who played 2500 gigs in their 25 years performing.

"Chicago was like a second home for us. The word had spread from New York and we were a big draw even before we got on the radio in 1992. We headlined Gaelic Park every Memorial Weekend and played a couple of times a year in North Side venues House of Blues and Park West."

Although they were a riotous live band with much audience participation, they never stinted on their political commitment towards such causes as civil rights in Northern Ireland, and opposition to the War in Iraq.

One of the songs from their IRAQ album was called South Side Chicago Waltz; it came from a story told to Kirwan by a veteran with deep roots in Beverly.

"Though born in Wexford, in my travels with Black 47, I became very interested in Irish America and how different each community is. Though they share certain characteristics like love of family, country and a folk memory of Ireland, there's a huge difference between, say, Woodlawn in The Bronx, Bridgeport on the South Side, and San Francisco's Geary Street."

Black 47 disbanded in November 2014, exactly 25 years after their first gig in The

Bronx. "We wanted to go out on top while still writing and performing powerful, original music. So we announced our last date 15 months beforehand and played for everyone who had ever hired us, while making sure we criss-crossed the country so fans could see us one last time."

Which brings us to Kirwan's new novel, Rockaway Blue,

which will be published by Three Hills/Cornell University Press on March 15th. It tells the story of the Murphy family from the Irish Riviera of Rockaway Beach whose son Lieutenant Brian Murphy died a hero at the World Trade Center on 9/11. Three years later, Vietnam veteran and retired NYPD Det. Sgt. Jimmy Murphy is on a mission to find why Brian was in the North Tower 30 minutes before the attack?

Dry-eyed and determined, Murphy battles barstool patriotism, the NYPD blue wall of silence, and a ticking clock—all the while haunted by his own secrets and the raw memory of his difficult relationship with his dead son.

"I've always loved the Rockaway Peninsula and its culture," Kirwan says," it's a totally unique community - imagine having the Atlantic as your back yard. 9/11 was a traumatic event for all Americans, but I wanted to explore what it was like for a regular family who lost a loved one and are still dealing with it. I also wanted it to be a redemptive tale that celebrates the people who carry on and create new lives in the midst of loss.

There's a mystery element to it too for I always felt that the conspirators had a perfect storm of good luck - that their plot could have been uncovered at any time. We just weren't wary enough back then, and it came back to haunt us.

Rockaway Blue is dedicated to two friends who perished, Fr. Mychal Judge OFM and Richie Muldowney NYFD. It's a story of a tight-knit Irish-American family, but it's also my own take on the US in the years between the Vietnam and Iraq Wars."

Rockaway Blue is available on Amazon and all digital outlets and may be ordered at your local bookstore. Kirwan has also autographed copies that can be ordered at www.black47.com (Shop)

He hopes to visit Chicago in the late summer to read from the novel and perform some songs specially written to highlight the characters and some of the action.

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Ireland Awaits To Welcome You Back Soon

By Liam Cassin

The relationship between America and the island of Ireland is perhaps as strong as the relationship between any two countries the world over. There are 35 million people in the USA that have Irish ancestry (about ten percent of the population). That is about five times the total number of people that actually live in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland combined! And California is one of the most populous states for Irish Americans.

Wave after wave of immigration from the mid-eighteenth Century, the famine years of the mid-nineteenth Century, the early twentieth Century, and on up until the present day have swelled our numbers. Now, Irish people come here for jobs in the tech and biotech industries instead of to flee religious persecution or hunger. But whatever the reasons, the bond between our two nations just seems to keep getting stronger. On the west coast of Ireland, looking out over the broad Atlantic Ocean, they say that the next parish over is Boston. It is genuinely hard to find a family in Ireland that does not have relatives living stateside.

All this makes the famous "Céad Míle Fáilte"—"A Hundred Thousand Welcomes"—even more pertinent for American visitors. The Irish really roll out the red carpet for us, and why not? Aren't most of us coming home?

These last twelve months have made it difficult, if not impossible, for most of us to return 'home' for a vacation. The pandemic, on both sides of the pond, wrecked travel plans and much more besides. Now, however, as we navigate what we all hope and pray are the final months of Covid, and as vaccinations ramp up, it is possible to look over the horizon to a time when we can safely go back and pay Ireland, and all our friends and relatives, a visit.

1.Titanic Belfast; EPIC 2.The Irish Emigration Museum 3.The Dunbrody Famine Ship.

2019 saw record numbers of American visitors to Ireland, the culmination of a trend that had seen rising numbers for well over a decade. Improvements in connectivity—think more direct flights to and from US cities—and significant investment in the tourism infrastructure on the island of Ireland, helped make it a bucket-list destination.

State-of-the-Art visitor experiences—such as Titanic Belfast, Dublin's new EPIC museum, the Dunbrody Famine Ship, and many more—added to the already long list of reasons for spending quality vacation time in Ireland: the unparalleled beauty of the island's land- and seascapes, it's unique and deep culture and heritage, and most of all, the warmth and welcome of its people. Throw in an extensive calendar of festivals and events, and a full range of options for accommodation, eating out and things to see and do, and you have all the ingredients for a perfect vacation.

All of the above is still in place, and the Irish are waiting patiently for things to open up again. Rest assured, they will be ready for us all when the time is right.

March is Irish American Heritage Month

In this month of Saint Patrick, Americans celebrate our long connection with Ireland during Irish American Heritage Month. Our histories are intertwined in so many ways. Several of the signatories of the Declaration of Independence were born in Ireland, as was more than a quarter of George Washington's army. Washington himself said: "Ireland, thou friend of my country in my country's most friendless days, much injured, much enduring land, accept this poor tribute from one who esteems thy worth, and mourns thy desolation."

He wasn't the last President to remark on our shared history. President John F Kennedy once remarked: "What's the use of

being Irish if the world doesn't break your heart?" Ronald Reagan, on a visit to his ancestral hometown of Ballyporeen, in the shadow of the Galtee Mountains in County Tipperary, said: "Today I come back to you as a descendant of people who were buried here in pauper's graves."

In all, 23 US Presidents have had some Irish ancestry, including the current incumbent of the White House, Joe Biden, number 46. Biden's great-great grandparents hailed from Counties Mayo and Louth.

There are reminders of Ireland's deep ties to America to be found all over Ireland, including some notable, 'must-see' attractions. Here are a few examples to 'wet your whistle' for when we can all travel in safety again.

Belfast's Titanic Quarter is one of the world's largest urban-waterfront regeneration projects, consisting of over 185 acres of the capital city of Northern Ireland. It's centerpiece is **Titanic Belfast**. Titanic Belfast shares the history of the ill-feted ocean liner with nine interactive galleries using latest technology special effects and computer generated 3D graphics, dark rides and fullscale reconstructions to bring this unique story to life. Titanic Belfast has become one of Ireland's leading attractions. Over 350,000 American visitors have "walked the decks, explored the shipyard and traveled to the depths of the ocean" since it opened in 2012.

Located just outside Omagh, in County Tyrone, the **Ulster American Folk Park** is a fabulous open-air museum which tells the story of three centuries of Irish emigration to the US. There are more than 30 exhibit buildings to explore—many are the fully restored original structures—and displays of traditional crafts, such as blacksmithing, candle-dipping, embroidery, spinning. Costumed guides escort you along the 'Emigrant Trail.' The park was developed around the Mellon House, the birthplace of Irish-American banker and lawyer Thomas Mellon, founding father of the Mellon banking dynasty.

The story of emigration, particularly to the United States, is the theme of many of Ireland's finest Museums. The **Jeanie Johnston**, a replica of an original famine ship which brought thousands of destitute Irish across the Atlantic between 1847 and 1855, and **EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum** are both located in Dublin's Docklands. EPIC houses a fully interactive exhibition, which tells the dramatic and inspiring stories of the Irish who ventured forth all over the world, "reliving some of their greatest achievements in music, literature, sport, politics, fashion and science."

In New Ross, County Wexford, the **Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience**, another stunning replica, offers the visitor a first class glimpse into the plight of Ireland during the time of the famine and the struggles and legacies of those who survived. If you are in New Ross it is only a short trip to Dunganstown, the location of the **Kennedy Homestead**, which commemorates the ancestry and heritage of President John F Kennedy. All eight of the president's great grandparents emigrated from Ireland around the time of the famine.

The **Cobh Heritage Center** in the picturesque town of Cobh in County Cork also documents the events of the famine—An Gorta Mór as the Irish call it (the Great Hunger)—as well as the stories of the transportation of thousands of convicts to Australia (they were deported from Cobh, then known as Queenstown), the sinking disasters of the Titanic (which docked in Cobh on its fateful maiden voyage) and the Lusitania (which sunk just a few miles offshore).

The **National Irish Famine Museum** at Strokestown Park in County Roscommon, contains many records and artifcts from the time of An Gorta Mór (1845-1852). The exhibit aims to explain what happened in that terrible time and to draw parallels with the occurrence of famine in the world today.

Further details on all of the above can be found at **www.ireland.com**, which is also the best resource for all the information you will need about getting to Ireland, where to stay, and what else to do when you get there.

It's been a long year with no ability to travel, but hopefully things will start to open up soon. The island of Ireland was a fantastic vacation destination before Covid and will be again when the pandemic is in the rear view mirror. The warmth of the welcome for American visitors is palpable, and after a year's enforced absence it will likely be even more amazing.

MIND YOURSELF MARCH

Ideas and Information for Taking Better Care of Ourselves and Each Other

Mind Yourself March is a month-long community campaign about wellness and self-care. This past year has been challenging, and just about everyone is feeling, overwhelmed, anxious, or exhausted. Community is key, so **Mind Yourself March** is bringing together Irish organizations and community members to share ideas and information to help us all take better care of ourselves and each other. Throughout March, we'll be sending weekly email newsletters packed with helpful links and ideas, offering classes and events on a variety of wellness-related topics, and sharing stories and videos from your fellow community members about what they've been doing to stay physically, emotionally, and mentally well throughout this past year. Best of all, **YOU** can be part of **Mind Yourself March** too! We want to know what you've been doing to stay well during the pandemic. Maybe you have ideas on nutrition and exercise, tips on parenting under lockdown, suggestions on staying connected to our communities, or advice on how to manage stress or anxiety. If you've found something helpful, it's likely others will too! You can email or mail your ideas to us, or better yet, take 90 seconds to shoot a quick video that we can share with the community. Don't worry too much about your video being perfect. The most important thing – whether you want to take part in writing or by video – is that we're connecting as a community and learning how to take better care of ourselves and our loved ones. Make sure you stay up to date by signing up for Irish Community Services' newsletter. If you'd like to participate in **Mind Yourself March**, or you have questions, please get in touch with **Irish Community Services: info@irishhicago.org / 773-282-8445 / 4626 N Knox Ave. #301, Chicago, IL 60630.** When you take part in **Mind Yourself March**, don't forget to tag Irish Community Services (see below) and use the hash tag **#mindyourselfmarch.**

Irish Community Services
@ICSMidwest
@ICSMidwest
@irishcommunityservices
info@irishchicago.org

MARCH: A MONTH OF EVENTS AND PROMTS TO PROMOTE SELF-CARE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
MIND YOURSELF MARCH	1 Set goals for Mind Yourself March	2 Remember something you're proud of	3 Call someone you haven't spoken to lately	4 TRAINING Talk Saves Lives Suicide Training 5.30pm	5 Try to celebrate the weekend without alcohol	6 CLASS WEEKEND STRETCH 9am
7 Write down 5 things you are grateful for	8 Try to spend less time in-front of the TV	9 CLASS Weekday Wind Down 6pm	10 Do something physically challening	11 What hobby have you always wanted to try	12 Look at old photos of happy times	13 CLASS WEEKEND STRETCH 9am
14 Take a break from watching the news	15 Write down five things you are grateful for	16 CLASS Weekday Wind Down 6pm	17 Listen to the music you loved in school	18 Take a break from social media	19 Watch your favorite movie	20 CLASS WEEKEND STRETCH 9am
21 Cook your favorite meal	22 Call someone you know since childhood	23 CLASS Weekday Wind Down 6pm	24 Write down 5 things you are grateful for	25 Reach out to someone you think is hurting	26 Try to celebrate the weekend without alcohol	27 CLASS WEEKEND STRETCH 9am
28 Give - time or money - to a cuase you love	29 Write down 5 things you are grateful for	30 CLASS Weekday Wind Down 6pmm	31 Reflect on what you achieved this March			

Register For Weekday Wind Down Classes & the Talk Saves Lives Suicide Training at

www.irishchicago.org OR www.facebook.com/ICSMidwest

WEEKEND STRETCH

In these **recorded classes** available on Irish Community Services' Facebook page, learn postures that create union among mind, body and spirit, to reduce stress and fatigue. Take 20 minutes to stretch, breathe, and relax.

WEEKDAY WIND DOWN

In these **live online classes**, learn meditation practices that use mindfulness to increase well-being & resiliency. Explore using mindfulness to disengage from 'over-thinking', break re-activity and learn to 'tap into' your natural inner stability.

We're all worn out; tired of living this half-life. Time moves strangely now. There's a sense of being unmoored, finding the drift of days flowing endlessly one into another. There is malaise, lethargy, the evil of procrastination. Because, really, what's the hurry? The task/chore/project can be done tomorrow. You're not going anywhere. Knowing that everyone is riding along in the same boat doesn't offer much comfort. Even those blessed with an optimistic outlook begin to feel the pull of the negative riptide. Guess what? That's normal. You are normal. The times we are living through are NOT normal. This is important to acknowledge. Give yourself a gift. Set aside all the "shoulds". Allow yourself the time to do something you WANT to do, whatever that means to you. This is not the same as doing something to avoid doing something else(aka-procrastination). This is being intentionally kind to yourself. And this is not selfish. This is necessary. Take the time, whether it's every day or a few times per week.
As you begin to feel better you will create a wave that lifts all who surround you.

Siobhainn O' Connor
Producer/Host
The O'Connor Show

From watching the news from Europe I got a jump on the Covid lockdown when it hit our area. I had to figure out a new way of working and a new way of running and living in our home. Much of that new way of living was restricting for all of my family and curtailed many of our normal activities outside of the home. From a Gaelic Games point of view, I figured out better ways of connecting with our Gaelic Games families through Back Yard sports, online coach & player education and connecting with our community with webinars, improved online content and social media. The efforts of Spring meant that we hit the ground running when restrictions were eased and we were allowed back on the pitch. 2020– while a Gaelic Games season like no other – was productive, fun and a welcome ingredient of our late summer, fall and winter months. Many of the lessons of 2020 are in place for 2021 but with a renewed sense of optimism. Our Gaelic Games programs are about activity, community and a connection to our Irish heritage through sport. Come Join us! Connect with Chicago GAA Coaching & Games on Facebook. Beir bua agus beannacht!

Colm Egan
Chicago Gaelic Games
Development

For a lot of us the pandemic has taken the structure out of our lives. Whereas before there was the school run, the commute, the office, the commute, and home repeated five times a week and then the weekend. Now the kitchen table has become the classroom and the office, as well as the kitchen table.

While I don't miss certain aspects of the 'before times', it's only in the past year I've realized how important that structure was for me, that there was one place for work and another for home life. I found myself always in work mode and unable to switch off.

About 3 months in, I decided to build a new structure to my day, which involved a walk in the middle of the day rain, hail or shine. It's given me a chance to get some steps in, listen to audiobooks, and get some perspective.

Kevin Byrne
Consulate General of Ireland
to the Midwestern US

TALK SAVES LIVES

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

IRISH COMMUNITY SERVICES

Suicide Prevention Training
For The Irish Community

Thursday 4th March
5.30 pm - 6.30 pm (CST)
FREE & Online

Would you know what to do if someone you care about wanted to die?

Register at
www.irishchciago.org **OR** facebook.com/ICSMidwest

A live online interview with
Shane Carthy
author of
Dark Blue
The Despair Behind the Glory – My Journey Back from the Edge

Saturday 20th March, 12pm

Register at
www.irishchciago.org OR
www.facebook.com/ICSMidwes

Just weeks after realizing his lifelong dream to win an All-Ireland medal, Shane was hospitalized with suicidal thoughts.

Hear about his remarkable journey back from despair at this FREE program.

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MARCH 2021

CELTIC

AN IRISH JOURNAL FOR SENIORS

WELCOME

March is here and that means it's time to celebrate all things Irish and Ireland related! While there'll be no parades or green rivers this year, I'm sure we'll find ways of connecting to what's special about being Irish all the same. Why not cook up a little Irish cheer by making this month's **Celtic Kitchen** recipe. **Technology Talks** is a new feature helping to break down the barriers to accessing technology that some older people experience . We go all the way to County Cork for **Front Porch Profiles**, where we get to know our new social work intern, Diarmuid Óg Hennigan, and find out how he'll be celebrating St. Patrick's Day this year. At **Irish Community Services**, we like to think of everything we do as a celebration of being Irish, so maybe you can find a little Paddy's Day joy in these pages too.

Lá fhéile Pádraig sona daoibh go léir

Paul Dowling

THE AMBASSADOR'S POEM PICK

The Twelve Bens....For Lynn

by Moya Cannon

Those who like poetry probably relate well to poems that celebrate the glories of the natural world. From schooldays, we can probably remember nature poems by Wordsworth, Keats and Shelley. Lots of Irish poems also succeed by conjuring up Ireland's majestic landscape and Moya Cannon's 'The Twelve Bens' is one such example. No one who has ever visited Connemara can fail to know about its beautiful collection of mountain peaks. They are not the highest of mountains but there is something awesomely impressive about them.

Moya Cannon is a fine poet from Donegal who has taught at Villanova University in Philadelphia. This poem comes from her collection, *Donegal Tarantella* published in 2019. She describes the Twelve Bens ('na Beanna Beola in Irish') in all kinds of weather, "yesterday morning, striding
in their shawls of rain and, later,
sun-blasted, and today
dappled under running clouds."

Those of us who know the west of Ireland will be familiar with such often rapid changes of weather. She describes the Bens

"as they pose together
in a semicircle behind the lake,
a group of friends,
arms around each other's shoulders"

as if they are somehow human. Poets often opt to attribute human qualities to the physical features of the world around them. There is something comforting about this, inferring as it it does that we humans are part of the natural world that is a source of such wonder to us.

Adieu for now "Derryclare, Ben Lettery, Bengowar" and the
other nine Bens. Hope to see you in person again before too long.

The Twelve Bens... For Lynn

yesterday morning, striding
in their shawls of rain and, later,
sun-blasted, and today
dappled under running clouds.

I start to understand why we love them,
not just their hard grey,
white and blue beauty
but also their companionability

as they post together
in a semicircle behind the lake,
a group of friends,
arms around each others' shoulders,

as we did yesterday
smiling at the camera,
remembering our late, great friend
who loved the Glencoaghan horses

loved to name the mountains,
Derryclare, Ben Lettery, Bengowar;
who gathered us together yesterday
between mountains and estuary,

in a blue and white house
with seven welcoming doors.

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IRISH COMMUNITY SERVICES

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick

***Editor's Note**: In The Name of Peace: John Hume In America, a terrific film that Maurice Fitzpatrick made, will be shown on WTTW PBS several times in March!*

Wed, Mar 17 at 6:00 pm on WTTW Create
Wed, Mar 17 at 10:30 pm on WTTW
Wed, Mar 17 at 11:00 pm on WTTW World
Thu, Mar 18 at 6:00 am on WTTW Prime
Sat, Mar 20 at 3:30 am on WTTW

The Northern Ireland Protocol

The new arrangements for trade between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK became effective on January 1st. By any measure, they are extraordinary. Northern Ireland is politically part of the UK, but it remains part of the EU economically. In 2024, the Northern Ireland Assembly will decide to depart or to remain in Europe economically. Nobody but a fool would bet that the assembly will opt out of Europe.

The agreement that provided this bifurcated system is known as the Northern Ireland Protocol, agreed between the UK and the EU last year after an interminable wrangle. The Protocol has infuriated unionists since it creates a border between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The blame game has intensified in recent weeks as the bite of severance between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK has been felt. Yet there is no doubt at all about the principal culprits—the DUP—which is the only party on the island of Ireland that campaigned for Brexit; the party that rejected the then UK Prime Minister Theresa May's Withdrawal Agreement, which was more favourable to unionist interests; the party that stood by the current UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson until he betrayed them. Support for the DUP has been steadily sliding as a consequence of their fatal miscalculation. The UK agreed as part of the Protocol that 'checks and controls must take place at Points of Entry on goods entering Northern Ireland from the rest of the United Kingdom'. So, customs depots now operate between Northern Ireland and the UK. Besides the painful symbolism of customs infrastructure, many UK businesses and delivery services have ceased trading with Northern Ireland, viewing the customs clearance as not worth the hassle. There will be assembly elections in Northern Ireland next May and senior figures in the DUP know that they cannot pull a rabbit out of this particular hat. A circular firing squad seems inevitable.

If either the UK or the EU deems that the disorientating Protocol is no longer justifiable there is a nuclear button at their fingertips in the form of Article 16. At a stroke, that clause moves the border from Northern Ireland and the UK and repositions it between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, which has been generally termed a 'hard border' on the island of Ireland. Avoidance of such a border was an absolutely central objective of the EU during Brexit negotiations over the past four and a half years. Hardline unionist Jim Allister diagnosed the consequences of the new border down the Irish sea as follows: 'The infrastructure of the Irish Sea border is the physical manifestation of not just the partitioning of the United Kingdom but the locking of Northern Ireland into the economic orbit of the Republic/EU…Over time, as GB progressively diverges from the EU, we are to be left in its bondage, with our economy by compulsion reorienting away from that of the UK to that of the Republic'.

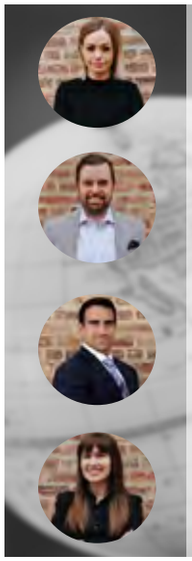
Given how much is at stake and how central the location of the border was to negotiations, it was thoroughly astonishing when, on January 29th, the European Commission authorised the triggering of Article 16. The commission did so in response to a dispute between the EU and a UK-based company over the allocation of the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccination. The European Commission failed to even notify the Irish government of its intentions before doing so—on learning of the plans, Taoiseach Micheál Martin immediately phoned president of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, who was forced into U-turn on the matter. But, rubbing salt into the sore, von der Leyen has neither explained how this happened nor has she taken full responsibility for it.

The intent to trigger Article 16 gifted DUP politicians with just the right ammunition rail against the Protocol. Once again displaying hopeless political instincts, they initially lobbied the British government to abandon the Protocol. After dithering a little, the minister charged with Brexit, Michael Gove, ruled that out.

In this crisis, London's objective is twofold. It does not share unionist hostility to the Protocol. Quite the contrary, the wedge that the Protocol forces between Northern Ireland and Great Britain aligns with London's ultimate (as yet unstated) ambition of jettisoning Northern Ireland. Secondly, the storm caused by the European Commission gives Boris Johnson's government a much-needed bargaining chip to wring whatever concession it can from the EU to offset the economic turmoil of Brexit for Great Britain. Northern Ireland could not be further from their concerns.

That reality is excruciatingly difficult for unionists to accept. Hence many are still managing to ignore it despite all the signals coming from London. For instance, Alister Jack, Secretary of State for Scotland, wrote recently that the 'UK government's position is clear. Scotland is better off within the UK and the UK is better off with Scotland in it'. A similar love letter affirming the UK's commitment to keeping Northern Ireland in the UK from Brandon Lewis, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, apparently got lost in the post.

Despite the climate of denialism, some unionists are starting to acknowledge that the momentum is now irreversibly against the political link that is foundational to their identity. Alex Kane recently wrote: 'The biggest problem for unionism, though, is that the 'betrayal' comes from its own parliament and prime minister. That makes it much harder to fight, particularly when opinion polls in England suggest that few tears would be shed if Northern Ireland ceased to be part of the United Kingdom. There's another problem for them. This sort of 'betrayal' does raise a fundamental question: why is your loyalty to a government and broader union which doesn't seem to care all that much about your fate or constitutional status?'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Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher

If you live in the city of Chicago or any of the surrounding suburbs you are no stranger to snow and ice on the ground during the winter season. Chicago sees an average annual snowfall of 36 inches. With Chicago's snowy winters come many beautiful things, unfortunately, however, there also comes slip and falls that, in many events, lead to painful injuries, some requiring extensive surgery and rehab to get back to normal. When this happens avenues of liability may or may not be difficult, depending on the circumstances of your fall and it is important that you contact an attorney who understands this field to better assess whether or not you may be compensated.

Unnatural Accumulation of Snow & Ice Rule

In Illinois, in order for there to be liability for a fall on ice or snow, the ice or snow that caused the fall must be as a result of an unnatural accumulation of ice or snow. The biggest focus therefore must be determining if the snow or ice is due to an unnatural accumulation versus a natural accumulation of ice and snow. If the snow or ice is as a result of a natural accumulation - no liability will attach and therefore no property owner can be held liable if you are injured from falling on a natural accumulation of ice or snow.

The easiest way to think of a natural accumulation, is snow falling from the sky and accumulating or gathering in a specific area. Falling on such a gathering of snow or ice would generally not bring about liability for the home or property owner on whose property the snow gathered.

Now you might be wondering; won't all gatherings of snow or ice therefore be deemed a natural accumulation. Not necessarily. There are many possibilities as to how snow or ice could have accumulated in an unnatural fashion. For example, a property owner piling up snow to one corner of a parking lot is an example of unnaturally accumulated snow. In this scenario the snow was likely ploughed and purposely moved and gathered in one area. Thus, if you were to injure yourself by being in contact with that mound of snow, you may in fact have a legitimate case against the parking lot owner.

Another example may have to do with the way the property was originally built in that there may be a tendency for snow or ice to build up in one particular area more than another. For example, by a doorway, above which a downspout leaks water. In that scenario, the water leaking from the downspout, freezes causing ice to form and thus that accumulation of ice would also generally not be considered natural. These are just a few examples of an unnatural accumulation of ice and snow. The picture below shows how ice can form at a downspout that would not generally be considered natural and thus if you injured yourself traversing an area like this you may have a legitimate case against the property owner.

An attorney himself or herself would almost always have to go to the scene of the fall and investigate whether or not it is possible that the snow or ice in that area accumulated unnaturally. At Dwyer & Coogan, P.C. that is exactly what we do. Whether it is with the client or without, we go to the scene and investigate the premises so that we can determine every possibility of how the fall could have happened. Because of the unnatural accumulation of snow and ice rule, insurance carriers almost always deny liability in these cases, forcing us to file a lawsuit and ice and snow falls are routinely strongly defended by insurance companies.

What Can You Do?

There are, two ways that you can assist your attorney if you are hurt in a slip, trip or fall where snow, ice, or water may he culprits. One is to seek an attorney as soon as possible and talk to them about what happened. This allows for a timelier investigation prior to any changes being made at the property where you have fallen. Another, is taking photographs of the area of the fall immediately after the fall or as soon possible after the fall. As difficult as these cases are, they are even more difficult if there are no photos of the scene as close to the accident time and date as possible.

2021 in Chicago has brought with it more snowy days than I can remember and we are just about halfway. If you or your loved ones are involved in a fall on snow or ice please give us a call so we can investigate and go through all the possible avenues of recovery in hopes to find the best one for you and to ensure your rights are protected. You could be eligible to recover compensation for your medical expenses, lost wages, pain and suffering, and other damages.

**Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney now licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of personal injury law - including premises liability claims, nursing home litigation, medical malpractice law, wrongful death claims, transportation injuries, defective product claims, construction site injuries and Workers Compensation. She can be contacted at Dwyer & Coogan Personal Injury Lawyers or at 312-782-7482.*

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA

Have You Selected Your Guiding Lights?

As I reflected on several of my columns, I found myself wondering how a person selects their "guiding lights." You hear people talk about "rules" to live by. Apparently one or more of my columns spoke to a number of our readers; I have received more responses to the columns which challenge readers to consider how they can improve their personal or professional lives. I hope this column speaks to you.

I once heard a priest say that the biblical Jews had 613 rules or requirements to guide them. I can hardly fathom keeping 613 admonishments on my mind at any one time. Perhaps alternatively one can reduce the list of rules to ten (commandments), but even there many of us do not follow them. The Lord himself spoke of two golden rules (1) "Love your God with all your might", and (2) "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." Some people feel that these rules apply to our personal lives, not our business lives.

This column is written by a hard nosed businessman with many years of business experience, not by a clergyman. Having said that, don't you find that some/many of those rules that we learned as children have direct application to our business lives? Who wants to work with a dishonest boss or fellow employee?

And in our current society hypocrisy seems to be running rampant. To counter this disturbing trend I recommend that we all find some guiding lights/principles to help us with our day to day business and personal decisions. I would most earnestly recommend four traits: honesty, courage, respect and responsibility. But have no doubt, close adherence to these four traits is not always viewed positively. If you find that to be the case in your organization, you may need to leave to preserve your integrity.

Honesty is absolutely key in our lives. Can you imagine working with or for a person whose word you cannot trust? It means that you cannot trust what they say or write (in memos, emails or text messages). How can you do business with such a person? Clearly, this person does not respect the notion of honor. Their conduct reflects a distinct lack of integrity. But executives, managers and supervisors have to ask themselves, do they support, indeed encourage, dishonest conduct? Think about how people manipulate budgets because some higher up wants to show a bottom line profit. So they succumb to the pressure. Often times, people make it a point to reward those who bring them good news and punish/demean those who bring bad, albeit true, news to them. How many public employees "sold" their integrity when they provided "tainted" water in Flint, Michigan? What would prompt them to do that? I really don't know anyone who heads to work and says to themselves, well, I guess I will sell my soul again today. But then again, my loving wife says I am very naïve.

Having grown up in a blue collar section of Chicago's South Side, I instinctively thought courage means physical courage. Can you stand up to the bullies? But as I have grown older, I realize that courage is a far broader concept than simply slugging it out with the bad guys. It means having the backbone to tell your supervisor, "No", when he or she asks you to do something unethical. It means having the nerve to stand for something. The old saying, "stand for something or you'll fall for anything," speaks a great truth. Courage also means having the guts to speak your mind even if it's an unpopular position. I encourage any person in a position of responsibility to understand that dissent is not disloyalty, in fact, often it is just the opposite; it may be an act of genuine concern or courage.

When was the last time you congratulated one of your employees for their courage in challenging one of your corporate tenets? Never emasculate your employees; it is a self defeating concept.

Respect speaks to showing simple dignity to the most humble as well as to the most exalted of us. We sometimes forget that the janitor or the receptionist has family responsibilities as significant to them as those that concern the current occupant of the executive suite. Do you treat your employees and co-workers with the respect due to them simply because they are fellow human beings? We have all seen people who dismiss others once they realize that this individual is not "important". The boss who takes a few minutes to speak to one of his/her employees at the mall buys a lot of support, particularly if the employee has the kids with him. It tells the kids that Dad or Mom is appreciated by their employer. When the boss flips burgers at a departmental gathering or brings donuts to an early morning meeting it is genuinely appreciated.

We hear a great deal about responsibility and accountability these days. Simply acknowledging a mistake does not speak to responsibility; one has to recognize the need to correct the misdeed and see that it does not happen again. Instead, our society seems to ignore the realities of responsibility. The dreadful comment, "it ain't my job" seems to permeate our society. Jewel Food Stores employed a concept for many years called The Second Assistant. Its premise was that the boss should be the assistant to the subordinate. If the boss complained that his/her employee was not performing up to snuff, the next level of management would insist that the "boss" face up to his responsibility of developing the subordinate. It was understood that the subordinate's improvement was the duty of his/her immediate superior. The subordinate needs a coach, not a critic. How do you conduct yourself? Are you a coach or a critic? **CARPE DIEM**

For Your Consideration: *One of the reasons mature people stop learning is that they become less and less willing to risk failure.* ***John Gardner***

Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. ***Goethe, poet, scientist***

Personal note: If you have an opportunity to hire a military veteran, do so. It would be a great way to celebrate the end of covid. They and their families have made a huge contribution to the quality of our lives. God bless!

James F. Fitzgerald was the president of James F. Fitzgerald and Associates, Inc., a Naperville, IL-based senior executive career transition and executive coaching firm. Phone #630-420-0362 email: jamesffitz37@ hotmail.com

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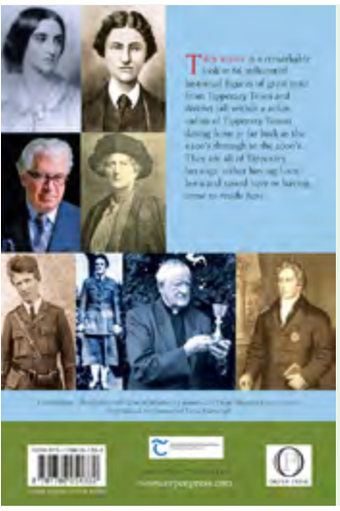
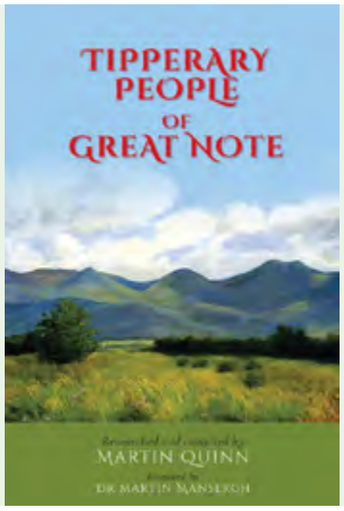




Tipperary People of Great Note

The book is a remarkable look at 86 influential historical figures of great note from Tipperary Town (Ireland) and district (all within a 20km radius of Tipperary Town) dating from as far back as the 1100's through to the 2000's.

They are all of Tipperary heritage, either having been born and raised here or having come to reside here.

Former Minister of Sate, Dr Martin Mansergh has written the foreword to this remarkable book. Dr Mansergh writes that 'The most important heritage of any area is its people. Irish people particularly are rooted in place, even when living elsewhere.

Martin Quinn has selected 86 men and women, mostly from the last 300 years, from Tipperary Town and district, all of whom left their mark. A few we will have known personally. More we will have heard of. Others we are glad to learn about. Each biography gives a picture. Many of us will be stimulated to find out more.'

This book could be of great interest to Tipperary people in the US. It includes several who emigrated to the USA including the author and broadcaster, Frank Delaney, actor Neil Fitzgerald, founder of Fahey Banking, Timothy Fahey, the patriarch of the Brown dynasty (grandfather to Gerald 'Pat' Brown), Joseph Brown, Olympic Bronze Medalist, James Mitchel and Titanic survivor, Kate McCarthy.

The book is published by and can be ordered from Orpen Press.

In Event of Contact

In the Event of Contact contains fourteen gripping stories set in Ireland, England, and America. Stories from a fierce and fantastic voice that chronicle characters profoundly affected by physical connection, or its lack—survivors who turn trauma into power and make startling bids for recovery.

Among them, a scrappy teen vies to be the next Sherlock Holmes; an immigrant daughter must defend her decision to remain childless; a guilt-ridden woman is haunted by the disappearance of her childhood friend; a cantankerous crossing guard celebrates getting run over by a truck; an embattled priest with dementia determines to perform a heroic, redemptive act, if he can only remember how; and an aspirational, angst-ridden mother captains the skies.

Amid backgrounds of trespass and absence, the indelible characters of ***In the Event of Contact*** seek renewed belief in themselves, recovery, and humanity.

"This is a terrific collection; each story is its own thing, gripping, powerful, and very moving." **RODDY DOYLE**

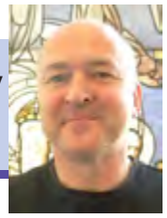
About The Author

Ethel Rohan is the author of In the Event of Contact, winner of the Dzanc Short Story Collection Prize. Her debut novel The Weight of Him (St. Martin's Press and Atlantic Books, 2017) was an Amazon, Bustle, KOBO, and San Francisco Chronicle Best Book, and was shortlisted for the Reading Women Award. She is also the author of the story collections Goodnight Nobody and Cut Through the Bone, the former longlisted for the Edge Hill Prize and the latter longlisted for the Story Prize. Her work has appeared widely, including The New York Times, World Literature Today, The Washington Post, PEN America, Tin House, Guernica, and more. Raised in Ireland, she lives in San Francisco where she is a member of the Writers Grotto.

May Release: Preorder at **www.dzancbooks.org**

Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



Random Acts Of Self-Interest

It seems an age ago when we heard of the benefits to random acts of kindness. We can all recall a time when we witnessed acts of generosity to inspire the best in each of us. It seems such a long time ago since we celebrated the best of humankind. The idea of good will to all people became so novel that it even caught the interest of Hollywood who made a movie, Pay it Forward, heralding the virtue of giving. Oprah even had a show packed full of real-life stories demonstrating how unselfish we can be we. The effect of this mantra, pay it forward, was so tangible, people began to consciously seek out opportunities to show kindness. Even the media, who usually like to cover the worst of who we are, started to cash in on the love of good news.

There was also a time when our governments cared not only for their own constituents but the whole planet. But recently this fair-minded attitude has changed.

Cultivated by the past administration, we have reversed our course towards a greater understanding of the global community and embraced petty selfishness. For once you begin to highlight nationalism in opposition to the rest of human race, you risk dehumanizing yourself. When you withdraw from the rich diversity of international relationships, you diminish yourself as a community. Our world, as we know, is entering a time of tremendous change. The love of convenience and capitalism has brought our planet to its knees. We have destroyed the gift we have been given through greed.

Scientists have warned us for decades and still we have refused to listen. Instead, we have ignored their warnings preferring to believe the shallow words of politicians who care only their political careers. Even before the pandemic hit us, there were clear warnings that were disregarded. We continued, and still continue, to believe that our collective self-destructive behaviour bears no consequences. Weather patterns have changed, sea levels have increased as glaciers have melted. The world around us is radically and irreparably changed, and we still do not believe it. When a clownish president of the free world mocks a teenager for her concern for global warming and the destructive forces of capitalism, it shows how far we have come from validating acts of kindness. Nowadays, it has become a virtue to engage in random acts of intimidation.

Increasingly, we hear more and more stories of how behaviours we formerly found unacceptable, are normalized. An elected politician can overtly state their anti-Semitic rants, racist slurs, and question the foundation of our democracy and receive a stand ovation. Meanwhile, those who question such actions are punished. A white teenager can kill people who are marching against racial injustice, and be allowed protections no person of colour would ever get. When it comes to the vaccine distribution, the state of Florida, as a means of encouraging tourism, offered vaccines to tourists while neglecting the needs of its own citizens. In my own neighbourhood, a non-for-profit hospital offers vaccines to donors who pay in more than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Fairness, it seems, has a price, and it is one most of us cannot afford.

For too long, we have heard those who flog the term 'moral compass' to death lack sufficient moral integrity to be taken seriously, and, yet, they are, governing us. It seems as if we have become so immune to blatant duplicity that it no longer has to be covert. Racism, greed, self-interest and moral hypocrisy have become the things we pay forward. Now, random acts of intimidation, such as the riot on Capitol Hill, are seen as patriotic acts. Disenfranchising people of colour from educational and social opportunities is quite acceptable to those who claim to have a religious faith. They do not see any incongruity between the beatitudes and overt racism. When it comes to the law, it is a fact that white people are treated differently. It is a fact, a horrible fact, that is reproduced in our news every day.

Attitudes such as these are not changed by reinforcing them as normal or acceptable. What we saw in those random acts of kindness was how contagious they were. People are capable of greatness. At our best, we can transform our world and make it a better place. A pandemic has shown our vulnerability. And, since, I am what Victor Frankel calls a 'tragic-optimist', I would like to think we can become better people through our shared suffering.

During the Northern Irish Troubles, we dreaded annual marching season. In Belfast, the Orangemen would march through Catholic areas and all hell would break out. In Derry, the mainly Catholic city would be taken over by Protestants wanting to celebrate an age-old victory over Catholics. The twelfth of July and the twelfth of August were dates you did not forget. They were engrained into your brain, and you did not leave home for fear of running into some kind of trouble. Unfortunately for me, I had the misfortune to forget about the dreaded twelfth, when visiting a girlfriend in Belfast.

I was taking the train back to Derry when it suddenly hit me that the carriage was filling up with boisterous young men. They were drunk, noisy and worst of all looking for an opportunity to demonstrate their hatred of Catholics. I sat there, paralyzed, listening to 'kick the pope' songs. What was I thinking? How could I forget what day it was? My mind was racing. I was trapped. To make matters worse, an older Orangeman, dressed in all his Orange regalia, sat opposite me. My eyes were fixed on the window, watching my opportunity fade away as the train lurched forward. I was well and truly done for.

The older man, who was determined to have a conversation with me, started his questioning with a nightmare of a question 'where are ye, going?'. If I said Derry, he would know I was a Catholic and feed me to the rabble. If I said Londonderry, he might think I was one of them but how could I keep it up for two and half hours? If I had any wit, I would have opted for somewhere that did not have such a political landmine name attached to it. With sweat breaking out, I said Derry, and sealed my fate.

To my surprise, he instructed me to move further down into the carriage where we could get away from the mob. Nothing happened as I thought it would. Instead of throwing me to the wolves, he protected me. I will never forget that act of kindness. Politically, we were on opposite sides, and I had always been led to believe that Orangemen were dangerously bitter. I was saved by my perceived enemy. His actions have stayed with me, changed my narrow-view of humanity from them and us to simply us, all of us. We can be changed for the better by kindness or we can be changed for the worst by self-interest.

I Am Ireland Starring Paddy Homan on WTTW and 239 PBS Stations Across America in March

The ***Irish Fellowship Club*** backed PBS Special, ***I Am Ireland***, will be shown throughout the American market as 239 stations have agreed to air the show representing an 84% market share nationwide. That's not a home run. It's a grand slam!

Paddy Homan had the vision and the gifts to bring the story of Irish Independence to life in a compelling way. Rich Daniels was there every step of the way as well, leading the musicians and full orchestra backing up the production.

"While we cannot celebrate the "Season of Saint Patrick" in ways that we have come to love and cherish, we can all take pride and ownership in this project as a little bit of Chicago gets to be part of a nationwide celebration of all things Ireland" said Rich.

Here are the current March broadcast dates for ***I AM IRELAND*** on WTTW Chicago.

Soon, there will be a list of national PBS broadcast dates and locations and once it becomes available we will let you know so you can tell a friend across America and the world to see it!

These local dates are all part of the annual WTTW PLEDGE DRIVE so in support of that effort Paddy went to the WTTW studio and recorded some inserts that they will broadcast during the show supporting PBS.

Thursday March 4, 2021 - 9:00am
Saturday March 13, 2021 - 11:00am
Wednesday March 17, 2021 - 9:00pm
Thursday March 18, 2021 - 8:00am
Friday March 19, 2021 - 2:30am

The Mac Celebrates St. Patrick's Day With the National Dance Company Of Ireland's 'Rhythm Of The Dance' 3-17

In celebration of St. Patrick's Day 2021, the McAninch Arts Center (MAC) is thrilled to offer a special, streamed performance of The National Dance Company of Ireland's "Rhythm of the Dance" beginning 7 p.m. Saturday, March 13 and continuing through Wednesday, March 17. The richly costumed show marries the contemporary and the ancient, combining the traditional music with modern forms of Irish step dancing and song while showcasing a wealth of Irish talent, including World and Irish Champion dancers and some of the finest musicians and singers.

The 90-minute performance was filmed during the 2019 European tour of "Rhythm of the Dance" and recorded in a six-camera shoot by Ukrainian TV at the Odessa National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet in front of a live audience. "It never ceases to amaze me how many countries we have actually toured," says Kieran Cavanagh, "Rhythm of the Dance" Producer. "Some of them are non-English speaking territories like Russia, where we generally start a tour as far over as Siberia and then work our way back to Moscow over a five-week period of one-nighters going from town to town overnight by train. It's pretty amazing and the people come out and fill the theaters and sometimes bring Celtic song books and literature with them to show to us and we have sometimes even played music with them in our hotel. They cannot communicate with us, only through the music."

"Rhythm of the Dance," previously seen in a live performance at the MAC in 2015, has been touring the world for 22 years. COVID-19 protocols precluded an in-person performance of the crowd pleasing show this year, but The National Dance Company of Ireland got creative. "We have teamed with WatchLive to make it available to theaters world-wide to offer to their audiences during this St. Patrick's Day season. The response has been gratifying. We are considering continuing making a show available to places where our live tours are not yet possible," says Cavanagh.

"Rhythm of the Dance" is one of the longest-running Irish dance show in the world. It has been seen by more than 7 million across 50 countries. In China it performed at the Earth Dome stage, before an audience of 50,000 and was beamed to 750 million viewers on syndicated Chinese National TV. Per Cavanagh, "One of the biggest highlights for me was when we were invited to perform in Shenzhen City in China for the Millennium New Year's Eve TV special. We had an 8-minute slot and the show was broadcast to 1 billion viewers in Asia on CCTV. Can you imagine being able to reach that big of an audience in one TV show? It was amazing and I was emotional when it happened, it was our finest hour for sure and we now tour China every year."

The MAC presents a streamed pre-recorded performance of "Rhythm of the Dance," beginning Saturday, March 13 at 7 p.m., then on demand through Wednesday, March 17. Tickets are $25 per household (+ $3.75 service fee). Link to tickets and more information is available at AtTheMAC.org or by calling the MAC box office at 630.942.4000. The MAC Box office is open remotely Monday - Saturday, 12 noon - 5 p.m.

2021 Solutions and Resolutions for Your IRA

By Brendan Houlihan

What are your IRA resolutions for 2021? A new year brings YOU the opportunity of a fresh start. Do not overlook your retirement accounts while making your list of goals. Now is the time to consider suggestions that will impact the future of you and your family.

1.Do not delay. You can make an IRA contribution for tax year 2020 anytime until April 15, 2021, the tax-filing deadline. Do it early so your IRA can grow faster. This also avoids the potential of last-minute problems. Consider making your 2021 contribution as well at this same time. Early contributions can produce a surprising impact on your future retirement nest egg. Remember if you must take your RMD, get that out sooner rather than later. A missed RMD can result in a 50% penalty. Plan ahead!

2.Roth conversions. Traditional IRAs can be converted to a Roth IRA. Determine if this makes sense for you. Do the analysis to decide if a conversion is right for you. Build a tax-free pool of money for your retirement. Consult a financial professional to guide you through the steps.

3.Transferring retirement accounts. If you are not satisfied with your current IRA investments, you can make a change. Follow the proper procedures of changing custodians. Direct trustee-to-trustee transfers are always the best route to go.

4.Review your beneficiaries. The beneficiary designation form determines who will inherit your retirement account. Review and update ALL your retirement accounts, bank accounts and insurance policies. Your hard-earned money should end up in the hands you so desire. Avoid costly mistakes!

5.Take advantage of IRA tax breaks. Qualified Charitable Distributions work well for retirees who make donations to charitable organizations. Is this a good fit for your retirement tax planning? IRA rules can be perplexing, consider beneficial options.

6.Expect changes and updates! IRA tax rules do change, consult a professional.

Brendan Houlihan, a fiduciary, is Financial Advisor at BFH Wealth Management and creator of the Learn to Earn Investment program for children. bfhwealthmanagement.com, (708)280-8753, or brendan@BFHWealthManagement.com.

Go Rogue: Mystic Rogue Opening Soon

Never let a pandemic get in the way of your dreams. That must be the mantra for Donal Donoghue and Declan Walsh.

The story began in Ireland when these 2 young Irish lads left their homes with a head full of ideas in search of the American dream.

Fast forward 20 years and now both with families of their own and having worked in pubs all over the Chicagoland, have taken that experience and developed a family oriented, welcoming Irish pub concept. The new Mystic Rogue Irish Pub and Restaurant will be an authentic Irish Pub with great food and drink and a big personality.

So welcome to Mystic Rogue, your hometown Irish Pub, made in Chicago, born in Ireland.

6070 N Northwest Hwy., Chicago, IL 60631, (708) 831-5142.

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This charming Irish Pub Votive is a replica of those which are found in every Irish Village and also scattered through the countryside of rural Ireland. Here local gossip is exchanged and wondrous stories told. It was common to have someone playing a fiddle or starting a sing-song around an open fire, where weary travellers could get refreshments or accommodation overnight to resume their journey in the morning. Simply add a votive candle or LED to create a lovely Irish accent to a room. Hand painted with intricate details such as the red painted windows and the bicycle propped up against the side of the wall. It also has a lucky shamrock placed above the archway at the back. The perfect piece to start off your new Belleek Irish Village Collection.

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Good Grief

By Josephine Coleman

Here is another immigrant story of a wonderful renowned Irish musician in his son's words.

When my father Patrick Cloonan read Josephine Colman's article about her father in law's travels. She asked me about my father Patrick. At 16 years of age with his brother he left Lettermullan Connemara for England. These young Irish lads were basically rebuilding what the German Luftwaffe destroyed. Post WW2 England was an interesting atmosphere for a young Irish kid who only spoke Gaelic. Patrick picked up the English language quickly. On the construction sites, Patrick becomes the interpreter for the Irishmen who only spoke Gaelic.

One of Patrick's favorite tunes is ***McCalpine's Fusiliers***. When we are out playing. My father always asks the singer to have a go at the song. As it turns out. Patrick worked for McCalpine's. It was a rough construction company to work for. Many an Irishman lost their lives in construction accidents in post WW 2 England. In the third verse of the song Calpine's Fusiliers, it says" I remember the day that Bear O'Shea fell into the concrete stairs, what Horse face said when he saw him dead well it wasn't what the rich call prayers". The Horse-face was the Foreman and his reaction in the verse gives you an idea of the conditions the Irish lads endured.

Patrick was also an Irish button accordion player and from what my friends in the Irish music world say he's a "Great Irish button accordion player". He played in the dance halls on the weekend's in London. Camden- town. Cricklewood. It was a great release from the rough working conditions

Tough times hit Patrick, so he had to pawn the little gray Irish button accordion to pay his rent. My dad always talks about that little gray accordion he had to pawn. His wondering soul soon took him to Northern England where he worked for the English farmers.

My father Patrick came from a military family. His father and his father's 7 brothers served in the British Navy and the American Army during WW1. Four boys serving in the British Navy and Four boys serving in the US Army. Patrick decided England's military wasn't for him. He headed back to Ireland and joined the Irish Army. After time served he headed over to Boston.

In Boston, he was able to purchase another Irish button accordion. It was here where he met the great Irish musicians "The Cooley's" Joe and Shamus. The 3 Irish lads played Irish music every weekend in the dance halls and pubs in Boston. A decision was made and the lads moved to Chicago. As far as Irish music goes, Chicago is ranked at the very top. Some people might disagree with me, but I think musically we're second to none. While living in Chicago, Patrick was playing music with some of the greats: Doctor Murphy and his sons John and Robert, Frank and Jimmy Thornton, Kevin Keegan, Paddy Welsh, Una Mc Gloo Johnny McGreevy, Pat Burke, Albert Nary and John Nary, Kevin Henry, Malachy Towey and Phil Durkin. A very young Michael Flatly, Liz Carroll, Patrick Finnegan and Francis Campbell. Patrick and many of the Irish musicians in Chicago performed at various Catholic charity events and benefit dances over the years.

Jimmy Keane and John William. The great box players have mentioned many times that my father was one of their main influences in Irish music and accordion. When the Dennehy dancers went to Ireland in the 70's to compete in the all-Ireland, they took a group of Irish musicians with them, my father Patrick was one of the musicians. A young Michael Flatly specifically asked for my father to play for him when he went on to be the first Irish American to win the all-Ireland. My father has played with so many great musicians, too many to recall. My father has a certain style on the accordion that comes from his upbringing in Connemara.

When I was learning how to play Irish music, he would say you have to play steady and tough. kind of a cool sound if I had to describe his playing. We have a musician friend who stops by to play tunes with us on occasion, his name is Marty Sammon. Marty happens to be Buddy Guy's piano player. Marty's grandmother was Nora Killeen, an Irish button accordion player from Ennistymon, County Clare. Marty likes to jam with The Cloonan boys because he said it reminds him of his grandmother. Marty has played with Eric Clapton, Steve Winwood and Ronny Woods from the Rolling Stones. It's kind of cool when he stops by to jam with me and dad and my son Jack Cloonan. Jack is a rock and roll, bluegrass and Irish musician in Colorado. He just recorded a CD that features Marty Sammon on some of his tunes.

What a wonderful story. Patrick will be 90 years young in March. His son Jim and grandchildren are very proud of him. Together they are keeping the Irish traditional music alive here in Chicago. I love these stories don't you? If you have a story to share I would love to hear it. Jocoleman58@gmail.com.

I am still sewing masks and collecting socks for the homeless .Feel free to contact me if you wish to donate. Stay well and safe till next time. Happy Saint Patrick's Day wherever you may be.

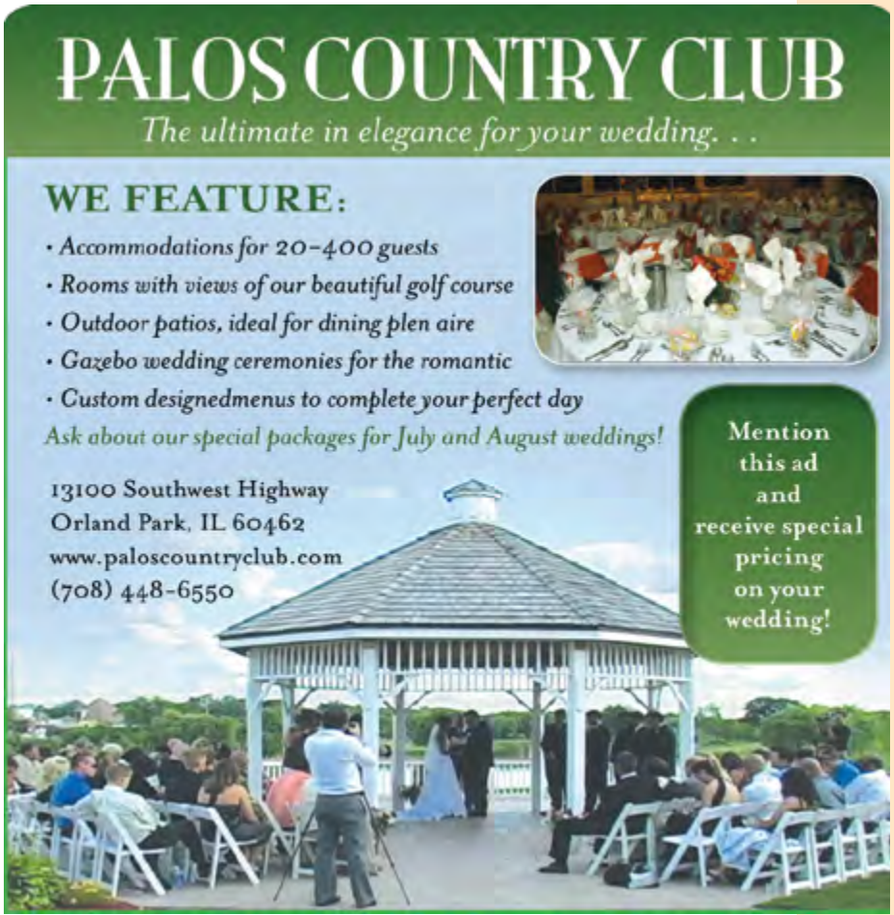
Forbes Rates Ashford Castle Only 5-Star in Ireland

Ashford Castle, the 800-year-old luxury hotel in western Ireland, has been awarded the prestigious Forbes Travel Guide ("FTG") Five-Star rating in the annual Forbes Travel Guide Star Awards for 2021 for the second year in a row. And, for the second year running, is the only Irish hotel awarded with the 5-star rating from FTG this year, or any year.

Forbes' team of inspectors travels the world to assess hotels, restaurants and spas based on 900 objective standards that determine its coveted annual Star Ratings, paying particular attention to the provision of exceptional service.

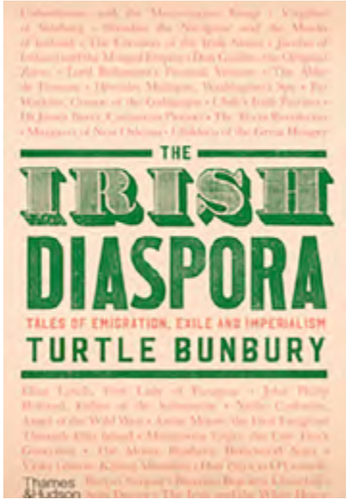
The top award from Forbes is given only to properties that meet more than 500 service and physical criteria during anonymous inspections, showing "an impeccable standard of excellence in hospitality."

The castle was also designated with the "Sharecare Health Security Verified," a comprehensive facility verification that ensures guests and travel planners that they can book with confidence at properties that have appropriate health measures in place. In addition to the castle's amazing facilities, service and health protocols, FTG particularly noted the hotel staff's dedication to their positions and to every guest experience



The Irish Diaspora by Turtle Bunbury Coming in April

Coming April 6 from Thames & Hudson, 2021, ***The Irish Diaspora: Tales of Emigration, Exile***, and Imperialism recounts the compelling stories of the great Irish pioneers who left their homeland and profoundly influenced their adoptive countries



The Irish have always been a traveling people. In the centuries after the fall of Rome, Irish missionaries carried the word of Christianity throughout Europe, while soldiers and mariners from across the land ventured overseas in all directions. Since 1800 an estimated 10 million people have left the Irish shores and today more than 80 million people worldwide claim Irish descent.

Historian Turtle Bunbury explores the lives of those men and women, great and otherwise, whose journeys—whether driven by faith, a desire for riches and adventure, or purely for survival—have left their mark on the world. The advent of the British Empire ignited a slow but extraordinary exodus from Ireland. The pioneering explorers of the Tudor Age were soon overtaken in number by religious refugees, the "Wild Geese" who opted to live outside of the Protestant state and to take their chances in the Spanish or French empires, or in America. The Irish played a pivotal role in the foundation of the United States of America, just as they would in the Civil War that followed eighty-five years later. The lives of Irish emigrants have woven in and out of major events in global history, including, among many others, the Abbé Edgeworth, confessor to King Louis XVI at his execution during the French Revolution; Margaretta Eagar, governess to the daughters of Nicholas II, the last Tsar of Russia; and William Lamport, who traveled from County Wexford to Central America, and became Don Guillén, a martyr for Mexican independence.

"In this book, a cast of missionaries, explorers, and philanthropists share the stage with inventors, tycoons, and warriors, as well as a composer, a doctor, a would-be assassin, and a football manager," Bunbury writes in his Introduction. "These disparate souls are the prisms through which I have attempted to tell some of the broader, more complex tales of the Irish abroad. The reasons why they left Ireland are many and varied. Some were emigrants seeking a better life. Others were political émigrés. A few were simply born under a wandering star. It is my hope that collectively their stories will showcase the remarkable contribution—mostly good, occasionally bad—that people from Ireland have made upon the world's stage."

304 pages, 29 illustrations, $34.95, hardcover, ISBN: 9780500022528, thamesandhudsonusa.com

www.turtlehistory.com

The month of March is the Holy Grail for the Irish as we tend to celebrate St. Patrick on more than just the feast day. In Chicago we even have a North Side and a South Side parade and festival. For the Irish Heritage Singers, 10 concerts booked across Chicagoland throughout the month is our typical schedule the last few years. It is a joy and a privilege to sing on stage, in assisted living facilities, and in several libraries. Fortunately, despite our pandemic way of life, we will continue to do so virtually this 2021 season!

The Irish Heritage Singers will present virtual concerts at McHenry Public Library, Joliet Public Library, and at our very own Irish American Heritage Center via Facebook LIVE https://www.facebook.com/IrishAmericanHeritageCenter. From contemporary pieces like "The Wind that Shakes the Barley" and U2's "In the Name of Love" to everyone's Irish favorites like "Carrickfergus," this repertoire will lift our audience's spirits and continue to tell the story of Ireland and its people through song and music all month long. Be sure to join us at one of our our virtual concerts.

Like you, the Singers feel the effects of our yearlong social distancing deeply. Alto Marilyn Engstrom shares: "I really miss getting together with the group. It has been a very big part of my life. I especially miss the singing and can't wait until we can sing again and laugh together and share times together and even cry together." Marilyn found and joined the Irish Heritage Singers by way of doing genealogy research on her husband's relatives at the Center. Additionally, Marilyn knew our music director, Paul Matijevic, from St. Timothy Parish and how good he was, and "the rest is history."

Paul is also "a major draw" for Doug Beardsley, who sings bass. "Paul's keyboard abilities and sense of humor are the best!" says Doug who was recruited in 2012 and hasn't been asked to leave yet. Doug is missing the weekly gatherings, especially the hugs from fellow Singers. Although the Zoom meetings help, keeping tabs on each other's lives is important to Doug and all of us. "I so enjoy the camaraderie as well as most of the music chosen to sing," Doug shares. Oftentimes you will here him singing falsetto with the sopranos as they (and he) learn that line of the piece.

Our true love of Irish music and shared bond strengthen our desire to wait patiently and safely to gather again. When that day arrives, Doug won't be the only bass singing soprano!

Kitchen Party Ceili Radio
at 9pm Central on WICR FM 88.7 or www.wicronline.org. Also Monday at 4pm Central on WXTF 97.9 FM in Harrisville, Michigan, and on Friday 6:30 am Central on Blues & Roots Radio, bluesandrootsradio.com

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