



Irish American News
iran
 April 2021



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All Irish Need Apply!
Declan Walsh & Donal Donoghue
Open Their Mystic Rogue!

Win A Home, Help A House!

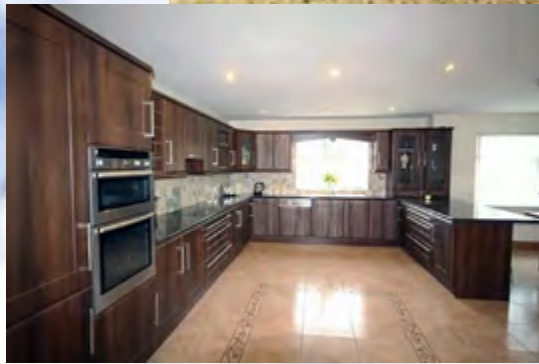


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5% of money raised will be going to Pieta House, a Mental health charity in Ireland!

Letter from Belfast

By John Breslin

Five to ten years from now, a short period, many discussions in Ireland, north and south, from the corridors of power to the local pub, will center on the transition to a united, independent country.

The talk at that point may well be not over whether it will happen, but the mechanics of how, and what form it will take.

Conversations are happening right now, not about hopes and aspirations but about crafting arguments for and against ahead of a poll in approximately five years time to decide whether to unite the island.

Think tanks and pollsters are busy rolling out surveys, while regular discussions air on radio and television both sides of the border.

Sinn Fein sees an opportunity, and has thrown some of its large stash of cash held in New York to launch an advertising campaign in the US for unity, and its leaders are already loudly calling for a border poll. Many centrist nationalists believe this is deeply unhelpful at this time, to shout a position rather than be part of a debate.

But there is a real possibility that in a few years the numbers will be there to secure an end to partition. It's not a stretch to argue it even may be inevitable by the time the border poll happens.

In short, it is going to be a hugely exciting time on the island and for its diaspora the next few years, one way or the other.

If anyone in the Chicago Irish community has missed what is happening, and why the debate has transformed from one for maybe some time in the future to one going on right now, it comes down to Brexit and the Northern Ireland Protocol.

For here's where - without getting too tangled in the deep weeds or falling down the rabbit hole of North of Ireland politics - it really is worth a quick recap of the weird and twisted journey that has led to where we are at now. To anyone following closely, apologies.

There is now effectively a customs border between the North and the rest of the United Kingdom. The North is now half or more in the EU - with the Republic - and the rest in the UK when it comes to the movement of goods, and indeed people.

In June 2016, the UK, driven largely by English voters, decided to leave the EU. The North, with the only land border with the now 27-country EU and governed under the internationally-brokered Good Friday Agreement, was barely mentioned in the run up to the referendum, certainly not in England. And not much for about a

year after.

A majority in Northern Ireland voted against Brexit, but a large majority of unionists voted for the break. Many people in Ireland did look forward and quickly realized there was no way to introduce a customs border between the UK and the EU without affecting the line that was cut through the island 100 years ago, and the provisions of the 1998 agreement that all but made it disappear.

After more than four years of negotiations between the parties, and much political wrangling in Britain, a lot of it after a while around the Irish border question, the Brexit deal was done. And it included the NI Protocol.

From Jan. 1, all goods coming from Britain to the North are subject to customs checks, particularly for live animals and food products. A three month 'grace period' during which the checks were less stringent, is due to end March 31, though it may yet be extended.

It has caused major disruption to businesses operating between Britain and both parts of the island, and between Britain and the rest of the EU.

But it is the longer term, political, effect of this huge change that is really causing consternation, if not borderline panic, among many unionists, many of whom voted for Brexit.

It is about business and movement. After this period of disruption, business people, and pretty much everybody else, in the North will be left in a unique position of being able to operate completely freely both in the EU and Britain.

Fast forward to 2025, four years into this situation, and any person in business will have taken every opportunity to tap into the vast EU market. Workers and students from the North, all Irish and therefore EU citizens by birth, will have free movement across the bloc. The pull from the south as a gateway to the EU may be irresistible.

On a political level, the date for a border poll may well be set. If given the chance, Scotland might have voted to leave the union, and London just given up on it, its support for a ridiculous unionist-backed proposal to build a \$35 billion bridge or tunnel between the North and Scotland a distant memory.

The votes that will matter in the North will not be from Sinn Fein or DUP supporters, but in the center and among the waverers. The Republic is an entirely different story.

For nationalists who believe in a united Ireland, the job over the next few years

Continued to next page

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Save the Date: Even the Heather Bled

Projected launch: anniversary of the Truce mid July.

Author Joe McGowan has a new book coming out, and when it does, we will have a preview of it in this paper in either the July or August edition.



On the morning of Wednesday September 20th 1922 - the closing months of the Irish Civil War - soldiers of the Freestate army shot dead six anti-Treaty Volunteers atop Sligo's Benbulbin Mountain. How did it come about? That Irishmen, former comrades, after together winning a bloody war against the British Empire, killed fellow Irishmen on a lonely Sligo hillside with a ferocity unseen since the Black and Tan times?

Richly illustrated with images of the period (40 pages of images), Even the Heather Bled sets out to answer this question. To explain the historical context the story begins with the invasion by Strongbow's forces in August

1170. It tracks Ireland's crucible of conquest, colonisation and survival from that Norman invasion to the birth pains of the Irish Nation in the 20th century: Penal Times, the Great Hunger of Black '47, Davitt and the Land League, the Celtic Renaissance, the Easter Rising, War of Independence, Civil War, and Sligo's part in that journey, are all detailed here.

If there is just one book you want on your bookshelf to cover Ireland's tumultuous history, and Sligo's part in it, this is it!

Colum McCann Novel Shortlisted

The New York-based author, Colum McCann, is the only Irish author shortlisted for the Dublin Literary Awards, for his novel "Apeirogon." The winner will be named on May 20th.



Continued from previous page will be to persuade those wavering unionists that a united northern voice as part of a strong, vibrant island country - maybe under a federal system, possibly as part of a Celtic bloc with an independent Scotland - is a truly exciting

future, and definitely not to be feared. It will be up to those who disagree to argue differently.

It will be a great debate, among Protestant, Catholic, and Dissenter, and all the other Irish people, here and abroad. It has begun, let it continue.

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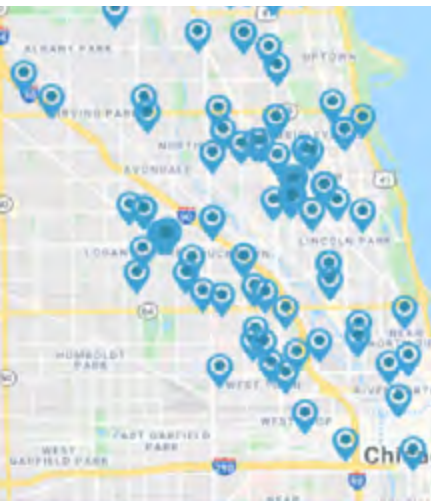
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MODERATOR

Méabh McMahon
Reporter & Moderator Euronews

Thursday 15th April - 12pm (CST)
- ONLINE -

Register at chicago.irishnetwork-usa.org



Ireland network members,
Spring is finally in the air after a difficult winter for many here in the Midwest and we look forward to warmer weather and the ability to enjoy the outdoors! We just celebrated a virtual St Patrick's holiday and in April we will see the continuation of online events. First up, on Thursday April 15th we will welcome a panel of experts to discuss the

economic and political impact of Brexit on US-Ireland-EU relations. Our panel will include Mr. John Bruton, former Taoiseach of Ireland and a number of other experts both locally and back home. This event will be hosted via zoom at 12 noon CST. On Thursday April 22nd we will host our 2nd speed networking event online, working with IN USA as a cross country networking event!

Full details will be announced soon. We hope you join us for both events. Hopefully in-person networking is not too far away! We wish you and your families a happy and safe Easter.

Regards

Garret Diamond
INC President

Save the Date

Back by popular demand, Ireland Network Chicago is teaming up with all Irish Network chapters across the U.S to provide another opportunity for virtual **SPEED NETWORKING!**

All are invited, however space is limited.

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Pulling One Out of the Hat, Mystic Rogue Opens in Spite of it All

By RYANNE GALLAGHER JOHNSON

The owners of Mystic Rogue Pub and Restaurant, Donal Donoghue and Declan Walsh, have had a dream to start a business here in the States, and it's finally coming true- pandemic or not.

Chicago's newest bar and restaurant offering, located at 6070 N Northwest Hwy, in Mo Daley's former location, is an authentic Irish Pub with "great food and drink, and a big personality." (Mystic Rogue Facebook)

"The story starts back in June 1999," explains Donal, "Where there was an advertisement in the newspaper, *The Irish Independent*, in Ireland."

"'Want to Live and Work in Chicago,' that was the headline," Declan adds.

"We didn't know each other in Ireland, but we applied for the job separately, and we got the interview, and the job," Donal continues. "We eventually came to the States in June that year."

"We both worked in the Curragh in Schaumburg until it was sold. After that, I went over to work in downtown Arlington Heights, at Peggy Kinnane's, and I was there for nearly twenty years. I met my wife there, and (now) I have three kids. My kids are getting a little older, and it's time to do something for myself. So I reconnected with Declan."

Declan took a similar route to the partnership, working at the new Curragh as a manager in Skokie, before becoming a GM for the sushi restaurant Shakou. "I was working in Libertyville, and Donal called me one day... we found out about Mo Daley's (closing), and we sat down and discussed (opening our own restaurant). That was September of 2019."

The desire to open a pub and restaurant seemed fated, as they've both been involved with the business in some way, separately, for most of their lives.

"We both come from big restaurant backgrounds. My grandfather owned a pub in County Laois in Ireland from 1947, and my Uncle still owns it today. It's called

Donoghue's. It's in my blood. And I think Declan's been working in bars since he was knee-high."

While the dream and the will were strong, the Coronavirus was relentless, and discussions with investors had to come to a halt early in 2020.

"We put a stop to it, because we were supposed to open this time last year," says Donal.

Luckily, they hadn't closed any deals yet, so they put the plan on the back-burner for a few months before deciding to try again this past November, finalizing the paperwork after months in limbo.

"Then we sat in here for 3 weeks, not knowing what to do," Donal jokes. "We finally decided to get contractors, and began reaching out to the Irish community to see who was doing what..."

"And also, Derek Hanley of Peggy Kinnane's helped us as well," Declan interjects, "because we were green to open a restaurant. We didn't really know what to do."

A lot of thought and energy had gone into the decision making process long before the project was put on pause, so there wasn't a whole lot of question as to whether or not they still wanted to move forward with it, given COVID.

"We had so much time put into it, and we said, 'If we don't do it now, we'll never do it.' And then we'd be sitting back, (wondering) 'what if we did do it?' The time felt right. Looking back on it, it was right. COVID is definitely on the way out.

Once they got the ball rolling again, things took off quickly. Both the Irish community and their established restaurant communities, along with their wives, stepped up to help get everything put together.

The creation of the moniker

for their new establishment came from a clever idea that a family member had offered.

"We couldn't call it Walsh's, we couldn't call it Donoghue's," explains Donal. "So, Declan's father suggested we put a bunch of random names we like into two hats, and pull them out and put

of emotions surrounding Their venture. Nerves are absolutely present. Excitement for both of their families, as well. And sometimes, disappointment in the ways the pandemic has kept them from experiencing the full joy of it all.

"The worst thing about it is both (sets of) our parents are still



*These Rogues will put plenty of personality into the place!
(l to r): Martin, Donal and Declan.*

them together."

Declan continues, "We were at my house one day and we were pulling out (the names), and it was 'bad', 'bad', and then Mystic came out, and then Rogue came out."

While they love the name, they also feel that a restaurant needs personality.

"I'm a firm believer that you walk into a restaurant, and you don't have to ask who the owner is," says Donal. "The personality will make them come back."

Opening a restaurant at this time, while the country and the world are experiencing such a strange and uncertain event, has undoubtedly created a myriad

in Ireland, and they're on a big lockdown," says Declan. "They want to be out here, so every week we're Face timing them and walking through the restaurant (to show them everything)... We're hoping to get both parents out here for Thanksgiving, maybe."

Right now, they're focusing on the business and the excellent opportunity they have, despite the pandemic. Keeping health and safety protocols in mind, they feel fortunate to have landed in this particular location.

"We're very lucky (because) there's two garage doors (in the restaurant), and they open up and the air circulates. That was a big thing for us when we were look-

ing at it, because we were in the middle of COVID," Donal explains.

"We're gonna be very family-oriented. We both have very big families. My kids are younger, Declan's are a little older... let's get the families in here to enjoy it. We have great food, we have a great kid's menu. We actually have about fifteen games that we're gonna hand out to tables."

Declan elaborates, "We really want to have a place we can be proud of, to bring your wife, your mother. A nice clean, respectful place where you'd enjoy going."

Once the world opens up again, they plan to introduce things like celebrations and GAA events in their fifty-person capacity party room with separate entrance and bar, and a Trad session brunch on Sundays with live musical offerings and a full Irish breakfast.

For the time being, Donal says, "We have a great fish n' chips, homemade tartar sauce, amazing desserts, and all homemade. We have a Baileys Toblerone cheesecake, great bread pudding, and my daughter Marhin's, Brookie, half brownie- half cookie. We also have the 'Dan Dog,' named after our son, wrapped in bacon and cheese sauce. Great burgers, and excellent corned beef from Harrington's."

Declan finishes, "We've got great food at reasonable prices."

Come for the novelty, stay for the food, return for the personality and atmosphere.

Donal and Declan, along with their families, are excited to meet people in the community. They also want to help with anything they can, whatever the community might need.

Mystic Rogue is at 6070 N. Northwest Highway in Norwood Park. Street and lot parking is available, and they hope to offer valet parking soon. (708) 831-5142

Find them on Facebook at Mystic Rogue Irish Pub, and also @mysticrogueirishpub, and soon at www.mysticrogueirishpub.com



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



A Cháirde

While we could not celebrate the holiday month the way we wanted to, we truly enjoyed celebrating the way that we could. It was wonderful to see people of all ages enjoying the live music and the craic as the Carraig Pub operated in various rooms in our building and on our patio. Our optimistic nature has us believing that next year we can bring back the larger parties that people love so much.

We also enjoyed celebrating the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade's, 65 years of Love, Loyalty and Friendship on Saturday the 13th. I hope you saw the event on You Tube.

Thanks again to the Parade Committee, Chairman James Coyne, and Plumbers Local 130 UA for naming Chicago Gaelic Park as a Guest of Honor (and for dyeing the Chicago River green).

Congratulations also to the parade's Grand Marshall, Fr. Tom Hurley and to the other Guest of Honor, the Irish American Heritage Center.

We've been talking about Spring since St. Brigid's Day, and now it is officially here. May the sun warm your land and may every seed you plant bear fruit.

Is mise le meas,
Bill O'Sullivan

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Celtic Legal Society Luncheon September 29th - Save the Date!

While the Celtic Legal Society of Chicago Luncheon will not be held on the tradition of St. Patrick's Day, the league is hopeful that it will be held at the Fairmont Hotel on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, and will be celebrated as a Halfway to St. Patrick's Day event.

The organizers ask that you diary the date, and get your reservations in for what is always a fun afternoon getting together with your friends and colleagues in the business.

While subject to covid mandates, you can make your reservations by going on the website at www.celticlegalsociety.com.

The Officers and Board of Governors have selected the Honorable Christopher E. Lawler as this year's Celt of the Year.

The Officers and Board of Governors will also be honoring Honorable John J. Cullerton, Illinois Senate President (Ret.) with a "Distinguished Service Award."

For additional information you can contact:

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Golden Horseshoe Murders

Author Babs L. Murphy's new book "The Golden Horseshoes Murders: A Nora Duffy Mystery" is a thrilling mystery that follows Nora Duffy as death swirls around her again. Short Description Recent release "The Golden Horseshoes Murders: A Nora Duffy Mystery" from Newman Springs Publishing author Babs L. Murphy is a chilling tale which is the sequel to "Murder at Duffy Hall Castle: A Nora Duffy Mystery". Readers of the first book will be excited to get their hands on the second, where the familiar characters return for a new clandestine tale.

Babs L. Murphy, a Chicagoan reading-addict, amateur astronomer and musician, has completed her new book "The Golden Horseshoes Murders: A Nora Duffy Mystery": an unsettling tale that focuses on Nora Duffy as she, once more, faces the grave and deadly situations that seem to tail her. Babs writes, "Nora Duffy, a pediatric brain surgeon, and her handsome husband, Tommy Barry, an international lawyer, and their family and friends are once again surrounded by mayhem and murder at her castle on the southwestern coast of Ireland and in her hometown of Chicago. The assaults continue during a vacation to her family's vineyard in California and at their new condo in New York City. "Nora and her two Irish dogs discover the battered corpse of a young woman on the Coral Beach in Sneem, Ireland. This is followed by another killing of a young woman, and then one of the loved tenant farmers on the Duffy Estate is brutally murdered. Their little corner of the world is usually quiet, and Garda Chief Brennan is mystified as to the motive and identity of the killer."



Published by Newman Springs Publishing, Babs L. Murphy's blood curdling tale delivers twists and turns as the main characters work to unravel the latest gruesome happenings. Readers who wish to experience this gripping work can purchase "The Golden Horseshoes Murders: A Nora Duffy Mystery" at bookstores everywhere, or online at the Apple iBooks Store, Amazon, or Barnes and Noble. For additional information or media inquiries, contact Newman Springs Publishing at 732-243-8512.

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FROM THE MOTHERLAND

By
SEAN FARRELL



Sean is taking
the month off

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

Shane O'Neill: the Grand Disturber of Elizabethan Ireland

Using Irish sources from the period to dispel centuries of English war propaganda disguised as 'history,' and with 30 years of research (including the Vatican Archives), Brian Mallon gives us the real story of Shane O'Neill, known as 'Shane the Proud.' This is the first biography of the man based completely on fact. Mallon



exposes the Jesuit plot that ultimately brought about O'Neill's downfall, and shows us why this hero of Irish Resistance has been confined to the shadows of Irish History. Apart from its literary merit, this book untangles the narrative of Shane O'Neill's life, showing cause and effect, and goes a long way to explain many of the seemingly unrelated events of those turbulent times.

The novel is a dramatic telling of the life of Shane O'Neill, 'a rogue and a rakehell' who was the arch-foe of young Queen Elizabeth I in the early years of her reign. Needing to assert her absolute power, she denied his claim to succeed his

father as Earl of Tyrone, setting off a chain of events that nearly saw the English driven out of Ireland. With his victories rose his ambitions, until only the kingship of Ireland would satisfy him. This man is known to history as 'Shane the Proud'.

At the center of O'Neill's trajectory is a passionate love story. A young Scottish Countess who was unhappily married to an old man who was Shane's 'chiefest rival', and allied to the English. The fiery redhead, Lady Katherine, delivered up her husband to Shane, and thereafter became his wife. This canny 'Countess of Argyle' used her connections to Mary Queen of Scots in her plotting and scheming to further O'Neill's aims. The 'irregularities' of this scandalous coupling have heretofore kept Shane O'Neill from the canon of Irish heroes, but this fresh telling, reflecting newly discovered infor-

mation and reconsidered scholarship sheds surprising new light, and restores his place in the pantheon of Ireland's heroes.

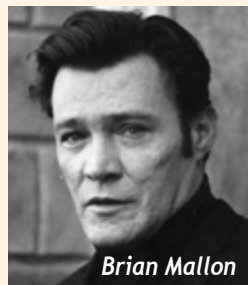
Shane was undone by the Catholic Church, specifically by the Jesuits. At this point in time, they were hopeful of winning England back to Rome, and regarded all Irish political resistance as a threat to this goal.

"Brian Mallon's massive and magnificent novel...With powerfully drawn characters and a vigorous, and often witty, dialogue, this is historical fiction on a grand scale. Comparable not to Swift or Mantel, bolder in its contours than Scott, but aspiring for comparison with the great canvasses of Hugo and Dumas."

Irish Times review by Prof. Ciarán Brady, Trinity College Dublin)

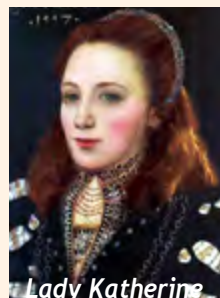
About the Author

Brian Mallon is heretofore known chiefly as a film and stage actor. He is a life-member of New York's famed 'Actors Studio.' He wrote and starred in a one-man show, 'Secrets of the Celtic Heart,' that was directed by Ellen Burstyn, and won a 'Best Play Dramatologue Award.' He wrote 'On the Square', a play about George M. Cohan, as well as



Brian Mallon

'Red Hand' a drama of Shane O'Neill's life. As an actor, he toured the British Isles, playing Richard Burton to great acclaim in Mark Jenkins' award winning drama "Playing Burton." Small-screen credits include "Guests of the Nation" for PBS Great Performances. On the big screen, Mallon acted in "Some Mother's Son" with Helen Mirren, "The Informant" with Timothy Dalton, and most notably starred as Gen. Hancock in "Gettysburg", a role he reprised in "Gods and Gen-



Lady Katherine

erals" with Robert Duval, Jeff Daniels etc. He speaks Irish and Welsh, and has translated a good deal of poetry from those languages. Mallon also hosted and narrated a two-hour documentary on the Irish Brigade for the Smithsonian Channel, as well as a version in Irish for TG4 in Ireland.



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On the Upbeat

By Maryann
McTeague Keifer

"When I was young, I had only one song." A line from the lyrics of "Under That Old Clare Moon" from John Spillane's just out this month new album 100 SNOW WHITE HORSES surely no longer represents his collection.

A member of several bands, including the excellent Trad band NOMOS with Niall Vallely

and Liz Doherty, this is the first indie release for John in over 20 years. This album is what he hopes to be a "love song to the Island of Ireland," and well it is.

John, who was raised in Bishopstown in Co. Cork, grew up within the sights of the gates to the college he attended, University College Cork, where

he graduated with degrees in Irish and English. He was always pulled by the ancient weeping willow at those gates and has the listener of "The College Gates" almost swaying with those branches, and that is the magic of John's singing. He makes you experience the song.



It is why musicians like Karan Casey, Mary Black, Sean Keane, and Sharon Shannon look to him for new material, and Christy Moore says, "I sing John Spillane songs everywhere I go. John has been my favourite songwriter for the past 10 years." John's lyrics are always wrapped in the Irish heritage and land. He celebrates the storytellers, dreamers, poets, and history of Ireland, thus the tribute song "Carolan."

John is a two time Meteor Award winner for the Best Folk/Traditional Act, and is considered one of the most accomplished songwriters of our time. He says that he was inspired to create this album from his travels around his country, and the lyrics are inspired by the nature, wonder, and mythology of the land. He realized that he wanted the listener to understand the "depth of mythology" that envelops Ireland.

John's lyrics exude the love of, respect for, and realization of foibles of what is Ireland in its essence. Whether relationships as in "Bishopstown," the need for respect for and preservation of nature in "The Dawn Chorus," or in his recently released video "We Come in the Wind," applying the history of the voyages of Bran, Maeldin, and St. Brendan to our lives, John sings to us of Ireland being "the island of the longing, the island of the

strong."

John's singing voice is one that makes you listen intently. It is quiet; it is husky; it is mesmerizing. I have listened to this album quite a few times in the evenings since receiving it to learn, to enjoy, and to relax as he takes you on his journeys to Cork, Clare's Kilkee and Kilrush, and ever so many other places real and mythical.

100 SNOW WHITE HORSES is a gift, a must have for your collection, and a tribute to the talent of John Spillane.

Bryan O'Leary, former member of the talented Trad band The Conifers who is now performing solo, has recently released a spectacular EP album of seven tune sets that give a



tutorial of what puts the Sliabh Luchra playing style on a high plane in Irish music. Grandson of the accordion icon Johnny O'Leary, Bryan was not "into" the music until his grandfather passed. While he had never played the accordion, he asked for Johnny's box and has never turned back. He said he realized it was all there in his head and heart from going to sessions and play at the house.

Winner of the TG4 Young Musician of the year in 2014, Bryan has advanced warp speed to becoming the modern "voice" of Sliabh Luchra, its music, and its history which he is really happy to seriously share with anyone. He becomes very sincere and serious when he is discussing the history of the great musicians and their known for polkas and slides. I was really pleased to see the cover of his album is not serious Bryan, but the Bryan who, when enjoying the music



and craic, has the best smile in Kerry!

Titled TRANQUILITY IN TUREENCAHILL, named after his hometown, Bryan opens with a dance in the kitchen toe tappin' set of polkas "Dance your Way to Heaven/Granda's Dream Visit/From Gullane to Tureencahill" which will make it difficult for you to advance to the next set as it is so much fun. Advance you will, though to a fabulous set of jigs, "Era mo léirl/McAuliffe's musical mind," and all the way through enjoying waltzes, hornpipes, reels, and more polkas and jigs.

Bryan's playing is clean, crisp, and incredibly smooth. He owns the accordion, and as you watch him play, you can see they are one as the tunes progress. Accompanied on some tunes by bouzouki ace Brin Mooney, the beautiful cello of Sharon Howley, and fiddle of Therese McInerney, there is just enough music to give it more interest without taking anything away from his magic.

This is another album you'd be remiss in not spending time with and adding to your regular listening playlist and is available on Bryan's Facebook page.

Just delivered is the incredibly interesting and beautifully sung album by Clare sisters Marie and Siobhan O'Sullivan. Created as a project to present and give the history of old songs of Ireland, they researched hundreds of songs settling on a collection of eleven which include "Danny Boy," "My Love Is in America," and "The Garden Where the Praties Grow." Marie and Siobhan's voices are beautifully matched, and they present you with the songs as they were sung years ago.

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Nursing Homes and Their Star Ratings

As a Nursing Home Neglect and Abuse Attorney, I get many calls from people seeking my recommendation or advice with regard to which Nursing Home to choose to place their loved ones in. It is a monumental decision to find a place for our most vulnerable loved ones. Twelve years ago, the US Government introduced a new rating system that was intended to assist families with this decision. Using a simple star rating system, one star being the worst, five the best - the system was intended to give families and loved one's reassurance based on an independent government backed system.

The Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) in creating the 5 Star Quality review system based the system on a combination of self-reported data and information gathered from actual on-site inspections. Scoring is based on how much time nurses spend with residents, (also self-reported by the nursing home), the quality-of-care residents are receiving and how nursing homes are faring during the on-site inspections by the Department of Public Health. CMS posts each nursing home's overall star rating and how it rates for inspections, quality of care and staffing on a website called Care Compare.

The *New York Times* has recently revealed the ultimate and frightening failure of the star rating system, which so many people had come to rely on. It's investigation and report, provides some worrying and disturbing reading for those of us who felt reassured by the often used and often relied on star rate system.

During their investigation The Times unearthed that much of the information submitted to CMS which made up the Star rating is flat out false. Almost always this incorrect information will paint a picture of a cleaner and safer home than what actually exists in reality. The investigation revealed that some nursing homes are inflating their staffing levels to make it seem that they have adequate staff to care for their resident population. On looking deeper into the staffing levels, it revealed some staff were on vacation at times when they were being reported as working. Or that Nursing Homes were including administrative or office staff when counting staff who provided care and treatment to residents.

The onsite inspections from which a lot of data is gathered to go into the grading system, are supposed to be surprise visits and nursing homes are not supposed to know in advance that the Department of

Public Health will be in their nursing home to carry out inspections. Unannounced inspections are by far the best way to gather objective data about how a Nursing Home is really being managed and operated. In reality a lot of nursing homes were being tipped off about the site inspections in advance, which was in turn giving them a chance to clean up their act, so to speak, before inspectors arrived. Instances of abuse and neglect were routinely being found at homes with five-star ratings and yet inspectors were rarely deeming the issues serious enough to cause a lowering of the facilities star rating and audits of nursing homes inspections were very rare.

The Times reported that from 2017 to 2019 health inspectors wrote up about 5,700 nursing homes, more than one out of every three in the country, for misreporting data about resident's care and treatment. That included nearly 800 homes who had top star ratings. Some facilities failed to tell the government about certain medications they were giving to their residents and some did not disclose when residents were injured because they fell or when they developed pressure sores/bed sores.

The most important impact of the falsified star rating system however appears to be the fact that those ratings hid the true reality of how ill equipped many nursing homes were to deal with the Corona Virus Pandemic which hit our world last year. We have all seen, heard and perhaps experienced firsthand, the devastating way COVID-19 tore through Illinois Nursing homes, killing thousands of residents as it went.

Just last week, on the heels of the NY Times investigation, California prosecutors sued the country's largest chain of senior living communities, accusing the company, Brookdale Senior Living, of manipulating the federal government's nursing-home ratings system.

The lawsuit was filed by California's attorney general and other prosecutors against Brookdale, which operates multiple nursing homes in the state. The lawsuit is among the first of its kind to accuse nursing homes of submitting false information to Medicare's ratings program and one that I think will be closely followed and watched by Attorney's country wide.

The California prosecutors said that until April 2018, Brookdale won "undeserved higher star ratings" by submitting



Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



false information about its staffing. In particular, the lawsuit said, the company exaggerated the number of hours that registered nurses worked.

The California prosecutors allege that the nursing home chain, had continued to game the statistics even after C.M.S. improved the way it collected staffing data in an attempt to crack down on nursing homes' inflating their figures. Starting in 2018, C.M.S. began using payroll records, which logged nurses' daily hours, to calculate the homes' ratings, rather than relying on nursing homes to self-report the amount of time nurses spent with patients. Prosecutors accused Brookdale of "falsifying its payroll-based journals."

The result, prosecutors said, was that Brookdale "has been awarded higher star ratings than it deserved." They added, "The chain's manipulation has allowed Brookdale to attract prospective patients and their families to its facilities by misleading them about its quality of care."

If you or your loved ones would like to discuss any concerns you may have sur-

rounding care and treatment in an Illinois Nursing Home, please give me a call and we can discuss through the issues. As always, our consultations are free.

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

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The Giant Killer

On November 28, 1945, doctors in Stamford Connecticut Regional Hospital intensely worked to save new born Richard James Flaherty's life. His mother didn't know at the time of his birth that her blood type was Rh-negative which may lead to serious health problems—and death—in a second



born fetus. Richard's future therefore was sealed before he took his first breath. The complications caused a hormonal imbalance which stunted his growth. Medically speaking, Richard would be considered a proportionate dwarf. He was expected to only grow to the height of 4' 7" but Richard proved them wrong as he grew to 4' 9."

At 4' 9" and 97 pounds, Richard J. Flaherty was the smallest and most unconventional man to serve in the U.S. military and

needed a congressional waiver just to join the Army. Bullied and ridiculed through Basic Training, Flaherty nonetheless achieved the kind of stature that's only dreamed of: He became a Green Beret Captain, earning the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts for his actions in Vietnam. Flaherty served with the 101st Airborne & the 3rd Special Forces Group.

His decommission in 1971 due to the military budget downsizing (RIF Reduction in Force) was unexpected and devastating, and Flaherty sank into the murky world of private contract work. He is believed to have worked as a military contractor



throughout Africa and most notably in Rhodesia and Angola. During these ongoing operations he gained a reputation for intelligence, and the CIA in the late 1970's recruited him to supply the Contras in Central America with weapons and cash. So began

a wild adventure involving guns, cash, and High Altitude Low Opening parachute jumps into the Florida Everglades swamps. All of that ends when he's arrested for possession of gun silencers. Abandoned by the CIA, Flaherty locates a smuggling ring stealing tons of explosives including a classified weapon from inside a U.S. Army base and signs on to work the investigation undercover with the Federal law enforcement agency the ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms).

Miami Police officer David Yuzuk befriended Richard J. Flaherty when he was living on the streets as a homeless man. After 15 years of friendship, Flaherty finally confessed, "It's time I tell you who I really am." Only 10 days later Flaherty would be killed in a bizarre hit and run. After Flaherty's death, Yuzuk kept digging, researching and confirming. He located witnesses and found documentation in a storage unit that revealed that even while homeless, Flaherty was still conducting clandestine missions around the world—Cambodia, Iraq, Jordan, Venezuela—but who was he working for? The CIA? Private contractors? Or were his missions something much darker?

"My 3 year journey of discovery dragged me down the rabbit hole of CIA conspiracies and the hunt for stolen classified weapons—stretching from the bloody jungles of Viet-



nam to the dangerous streets of Iraq and Venezuela, all in search of the peripatetic Green Beret Captain Richard J. Flaherty,"

Captain Flaherty's Irish lineage is traced back to his grandfather Joseph Patrick Flaherty who was born in the Aran islands and his grandmother Bridget Smythe was born in the village of Feakle next to the Sliabh Aughty Mountains.

Flaherty's incredible life story was captured in the Amazon #1 Best Selling book, "The Giant Killer" available on Amazon as a Paperback, eBook, & Audiobook and the award winning documentary, "The Giant Killer Finding Flaherty." Visit The Giant Killer Facebook page.

The Titanic Sisters by Patricia Falvey

Spanning from rural Ireland, to New York and Texas in the early 1900s, Patricia Falvey's *The Titanic Sisters* explores the relationship between two sisters whose lives take very different directions after the perilous voyage from Ireland to America aboard the Titanic.

Delia Sweeney has always been unlike her older sister--fair and delicate compared to tall, statuesque Nora, whose hair is as dark as Donegal turf. In other ways too, the sisters are leagues apart. Nora is her mother's darling, favored at every turn, and expected to marry into wealth. Delia, constantly slighted, finds a measure of happiness helping her da on the farm. The rest of the time, she reads about far-off places that seem sure to remain a fantasy. Until the day a letter arrives from America.

A distant relative has provided the means for Delia and Nora to go to New York. Delia will be a lowly maid in a modest household, while Nora will be govern-

ess for a well-to-do family. In Queenstown, Cork, they board the Titanic, a majestic new ocean liner making its maiden voyage. Any hope Delia carried that she and her sister might become closer during the trip soon vanishes. For there are far greater perils to contend with as the ship makes its way across the Atlantic.

In the wake of that fateful journey, Delia makes an impulsive choice--and takes Nora's place as governess. Her decision sparks an adventure that leads her from Fifth Avenue to Dallas, Texas, where oilfields bring unimaginable riches to some, despair to others. Delia

grows close to her vulnerable young charge, and to the girl's father. But her deception will have repercussions impossible to foresee, even as it brings happiness within reach for the first time . . .

Patricia is the author of 4 popular novels, 'The Yellow House,' 'The Linen Queen,' 'The Girls of Ennismore'.

patriciafalveybooks.com



Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Murder on the West Coast

Book by David Pearson

This is the 2nd part of Great Irish Detective Series. Quoting Amazon, "David is a native of Ireland and lives on the east coast near Dublin." The middle-aged Irishman has traveled to many beautiful places throughout the world. However, for him, the most beautiful place is Ireland's Connemara region. "He loves capturing the rugged Connemara landscape..." He has sited many mystery stories there, as he wants to spread awareness of Connemara's great beauty.

The book introduces us to a pair of Irish shoplifters and to a low-level English criminal. The English criminal gets them to commit to a kidnapping. They are promised money on completion of the kidnapping. The person to be kidnapped is the son of an Englishman who recently sold his printing business for a lot of money. He and his wife hope for a peaceful retirement and have moved to Connemara.

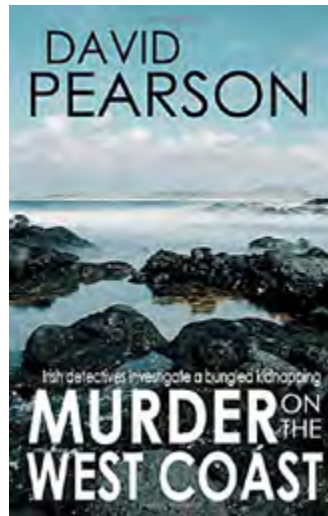
Their son is kidnapped as he walks home from a pub in a nearby village. He is tied with tape and is put into a car trunk. As the kidnapper drives away, high speed and poor driving skills, cause the driver to lose control and swerves to the side of the road. This causes the car to crash and overturn.

He and the girl are badly hurt. He carries her to a half-built house, where she dies. The young man in the trunk of the overturned car is forgotten.

As the smashed car is surrendered to a wrecker truck, the trunk snaps open and people are horrified to see a body fall out.

As the detective observes: "Birds sing in the warm scent of the bright yellow grove as it loafed by." The detective thinks: "What a beautiful place to die."

Police detective Maureen Lyons and Mick Hays hope to find the



kidnappers. A police dog follows the scent and finds the body of the female kidnapper, but the male has fled. The male kidnapper steals a van and hopes to escape to Northern Ireland and take the ferry to the UK. But, as he approaches Belfast, he falls asleep at the wheel. This causes another accident where he is arrested by the police in Northern Ireland and

sent back to the Republic.

A mid-level English crook comes to Dublin on the way to Connemara and wants to see where the money is hidden. Unfortunately for him, the very innocent-seeming man at the car-hire office is a Garda. The description of the car is quickly sent to detectives at the scene of the first car wreck. And he is quickly arrested. Hays encourages the master crook in London by telling him where the ransom money is to be picked up. The police have put torn-up newspaper in the ransom money bag. And the whole area is staked out by hidden Irish police.

There is only one road to the location of the ransom money. The police think arrest would be easy. But the master-mind behind the kidnapping has rented a small, open boat with an outboard motor. He has put the boat at the coast's edge under the cliff.

When the police move in, he runs down to the boat and escapes. The sea comes up and he runs out of fuel. The next day his body was washed ashore.

Justice was served again in the same location as the first detective story.

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GLENVIEW



By Aishling Kelly



2020 will be in the history books for sure for many years to come, but as we emerge from this virus gradually the untold damage on everyone's emotional state will most definitely surface when all the data has been collected. I cannot help but think mostly about the seniors in the communities, Independent care, Assisted livings and Memory care. All these folks were literally in solitary confinement for the past year. For those of us that were able to get out and about, all be it if it was only to the grocery store, post office or for a walk, how truly fortunate we were. Those in skilled nursing communities and senior living buildings we not. I recently interviewed a daughter on my pod cast who has a mother in one of the communities locally and honestly, I am not sure who was in worse shape the daughter or the mother. Not being able to hug or touch your Loved one in a year was simply devastating for both. The outside visits through screens and windows were soul

destroying to say the least. Having said that I know that on the inside of these communities the staff worked tirelessly and diligently to meet the needs of their resident's, soul searching I am sure for different activities to keep the seniors occupied and to pass the time.

This brings me to me to my next point. Are you aware of the benefits of music and memory? Are you aware how music benefits people of all ages from birth to end if life? It plays a big role in managing patients with disabilities, and those suffering with forms of dementias, in addition to those of us that have no cognitive issues nor illnesses. It's a natural stress reliver, reducing agitation and can cause positive stimulation in our bodies and mind. Music has multiple advantages and can also help develop mental, social, and physical abilities. There is significant research being done today using music stimulation in conjunction with other therapies and medicines

for heart patients.

It is also fascinating to see a patient in stage 2 of dementia where the patient does not have the ability to put a simple sentence together, yet they can sing the words of a favorite song with ease when given their selected musical tunes on an iPod. Music brings out the best in all of us. It is truly enriching to our souls and nourishment for our brains. Retrieval of musical memories stems from an emotional connection formed years previously most specifically a memory that was tied to a happy emotion.

What a wonderful opportunity now for memory care communities to implement this program for our seniors. If time permits watch the movie 'Alive Inside' and see for yourself the genuine power and magic of music. What a very rewarding Opportunity for those that are retired or have spare time on their hands looking to reach out and to work with the memory care facilities in our communities to implement this program and to become music and memory certified. Simplicity at it best and a game changer for all.

Music and memory is an official certification program and further information can be found on the internet.

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Richard the Driehaus

By Mike Houlihan

He was my Hail Mary in a chaotic life of show biz risks taken while walking the tight rope over a pond of snapping gators.

I was tapioca in 2009 and driving a limo to survive. The bank was threatening foreclosure. I'd



removed my office in the Loop into my basement, put my house up for sale, and stopped answering the phone at home to avoid those Indian guys who kept calling to talk to "Mr. Hooligoof".

A Hells Angel repo man had banged on my door at 5AM screaming for me to "surrender" my 2002 Caddy. As I dropped a car full of cheap Germans and their concrete luggage at the hotel, one of them flipped me a finski with a big stupid grin on his kiss-er. I cursed them as I drove away. "I am too old for this crap!"

And then my cell phone rang. The Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust wanted to know if I would consider a "matching challenge grant" to finish my film, OUR IRISH COUSINS.

It wasn't the first time Richard Driehaus had saved my ass, and it wouldn't be the last, but the timing couldn't have been better as I broke out my rosary in thanksgiving for the guy who gave me a reason to believe.

We first met in the year 2000 when I was looking for investors for my politically incorrect, south-side "noir comedy", MICK-EY FINN, at the Royal George Theatre. My old friend Roger Guerin introduced me to billionaire philanthropist Richard Driehaus, who dropped twenty grand into the play and showed

up on opening night to party with us into the night. Critics cringed and the play closed quicker than a honeymoon gone wrong.

Richard took the tax write off, and remained a friend, inviting me to his annual 4th of July parties to hobnob at his estate in Lake Geneva with the hoity toity and the hoi polloi alike. Richard was a sophisticate without guile or pretension and his parties were spectacular events with plenty of free booze, music and beautiful people. I took my son Paddy with me one year and we woke up the next morning, hungover in our bargain basement overnight cabin and Paddy said, "The whole thing was like a dream!"

When I was writing the "Houlihan in 'da Hood" column in The Sun-Times I interviewed Richard in May of 2005 and we compared notes on our southside Irish Catholic roots. He had started using



(l to r) Mike Houlihan, Richard Driehaus, and Paddy Houlihan

his paper route money to invest in the stock market when he was 13 and the rest is history. He grew up in St. Margaret of Scotland, the next parish over from me, and had donated a million bucks to the nuns there when he made good.

Richard told me, "It's important to give something back. There is good in doing good. Money is like fertilizer, if you let it all pile in one place, it stinks."

His generosity is legend, and

he never forgot the lessons he learned at St. Margaret's, St. Ignatius, and DePaul. He also took a liking to playwrights, poets, and dreamers. I was lucky enough to be among that group.

Richard died suddenly last Tuesday, March 9th. He'll be celebrating St. Patrick's Day in heaven with his mom and dad, Saint Ignatius Loyola, William Blake, Father Danny Mallette, and Sister Henrika from oh so long ago at St. Margaret's.

Back in September Richard invited me and my son Paddy to his home to talk about the future of

Hibernian Media and our mission "telling stories to enlighten future generations while honoring our ancestors."

He had just purchased a couple of hotels in Dublin and showed us pictures. But it wasn't gold that made Richard happy, it was his love for his family. His good friend Marzena Mellin told me how he would light up after messages from his daughters Tereza, Caroline, and little Kate. He sure was beaming that day, showing us photos of Kate on his phone.

At his funeral mass Richard's great niece Regina Rossi gave the eulogy, "He encouraged all of us to be a never fading star." That he was.

Richard was proud to be a Southside Irish Catholic, "Everything goes back to the 'hood, that's where I came from."

Remembering my old pal Richard H. Driehaus, Yeats said it best. "Think where man's glory most begins and ends, and say my glory was I had such friends."

God rest his lovely soul.

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Van Gogh Exhibit

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Chef Devon Quinn

After earning his degree in culinary arts from Le Cordon Bleu, Devon Quinn went on to cultivate his culinary proficiency working alongside a range of world-renowned chefs including Jean-Michel Diot at La Bastide Tapenade in San Diego where he learned basic French technique, Dale Levitski of the former Trio Atelier where he developed his passion for modern American cuisine and Andrew Zimmerman of Del Toro where he discovered his love for Spanish flavor. Next he took on a Sous Chef role with Blue Plate Catering before moving to The Lobby Restaurant at the Peninsula, Chicago.

Devon moved to the Art Institute of Chicago where he took part in developing a world-class dining program as Chef de Cuisine under Executive Chef Tony Mantuano. He also opened the McKinlock Court Restaurant at the Art Institute, a small plates concept offering local and seasonal selections.

In 2011, Devon was a crucial part of the opening team at Paramount Events as Executive Chef. Today he is the Culinary Director at the Paramount Group in addition to Executive Chef and Partner at Eden, a Michelin-recognized restaurant within the group's



portfolio. Eden features clean, new American cuisine inspired by both his travels worldwide and the Midwest's ever-changing seasons.

As guests of the Van Gogh exhibit complete their journey through the cafe, the aroma of freshly baked Stroopwafel should entice them into the Grab n' Gogh Cafe.

The Cafe will be open during exhibit operating hours from 9am to 10pm seven days a week, and will serve a rotating menu of items to fit the time of day.

Menu Overview

The Grab n' Gogh Cafe offers a melting pot of European offerings. Featured items include traditional French pastries with plain and chocolate croissants and macarons adorned with a self portrait of Van Gogh or his famous Sunflowers painting. From the Netherlands, a stroopwafel, a popular dish made from two thin wafer cookies joined by a caramel filling. For a taste of Italy, enjoy the Caprese or the Italian sandwich or warm up with an espresso or cappuccino.

Specialty Items

With Dutch Origins, Stroopwafel translates to 'syrup waffle' and has been gaining popularity in both the United States and abroad. Two thin layers of griddled dough sandwich a mix of sugar and spices to create a quick caramel. Stroopwafels are best enjoyed with a latte or cup of coffee and can be held warm when placed atop a hot beverage.



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Ireland's Final Rebellion and an American Dream

by Michael Gerard

Thomas Kane, a young Co. Mayo tailor in 1919 decided to join the fledgling IRA in their brewing fight for Irish Freedom against the mighty British Empire. The Irish population had recently witnessed the brutal execution of dozens of their countrymen who had dared to stage The Easter Rising of 1916. The Rising took place during the protracted 1914-1918 Great War/ World War One in which hundreds of thousands of Irish were fighting on behalf of Britain. The lack of mercy shown to the 1916 Rebels while so many

they emerged victorious. The final Treaty was flawed and led to a split throughout the ranks of the IRA, the politicians and the population at large, resulting in a savage and bitter Civil War. Thomas was Anti-Treaty but he also knew in his heart that a Civil War pitting former comrades against each other, was a disaster for Ireland. He resigned from the IRA, turned in his weapons to his commanders, declared his neutrality and returned to his tailor's bench.

After hostilities broke out he was arrested by the Pro-Treaty Free State Army and sent to an internment camp in the Curagh of Kildare called Tintown, where prison conditions were very bad. The Pro-Treaty side won the war quickly, but they continued to hold their prisoners in the camps and added thousands more under the pretext of vague emergency declarations. Thomas was finally released in late December 1923 after enduring a near-death hunger strike. He stayed in Ireland as a simple tailor and many years later admitted to his young son Sean that he regretted not having emigrated to America to start a new life. Sean lost his father at fourteen and made an impromptu promise on his father's grave that he would fulfill his Dad's dream - he would someday settle in America. In book two Sean takes over as narrator and carries the reader along on his life's journey, which indeed brought him to America many years later.

Irish were dying in the trenches defending Britain, ignited a new spark of rebellion in Irish hearts that pushed them to continue their 700-year quest to free themselves from the yoke of oppression.

Thomas, the narrator of the story represents all the young Irish rebels of this Final Rebellion. These fighters knew the sad history of countless failed risings, the centuries of suffering from persecution, famine and poverty. They adopted a new style of guerilla warfare that would tip the odds in their favor and lead them to the coveted goal of Freedom in 1921. This young man tells his story from the front lines, constantly living with fear while on the run, constantly on the attack, and consistently sheltered and cared for by the Plain People of Ireland. These fighters were very young, very brave and

Ireland's Final Rebellion and An American Dream is a must-read for Irish men and Irish women, and for everyone who is part of the Irish diaspora - especially in 2021 as Ireland celebrates the 100th anniversary of the birth of The Irish Free State. It is also compelling reading for anyone interested in Irish history, in the power of determination to achieve national and personal liberty, justice and the pursuit of one's dreams.

Published by Amazon as an e-book and paperback.



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Rose Plays Julie

Review By Mike Houlihan

For those looking for artistic descendants of Alfred Hitchcock and his unique style, building suspense and sometimes horror, check out Christine Molloy and Joe Lawlor's Irish film ROSE PLAYS JULIE. The film is now running virtually as part of the Gene Siskel Film Center's "From Your Sofa" series.

Ann Skelly delivers an astonishing performance as "Rose", a college student in Dublin studying to be a veterinarian. We don't know how long Rose has known she was adopted, but her inner monologues reveal her overwhelming yearning and frightening resolve to find her birth mother.

The filmmaking here is precise and perfectly sets up the suspense in this psychological thriller that will have you climbing the walls of your living room. It works, big time.

We follow Rose on her mission of discovery, while studying "Euthanasia and the healthy animal". Her friend recounts putting down dogs, cats, and even horses



as she reassures Rose, "Trust me, you'll get used to it." Rose knows her birth mother is an actress in her mid-fifties. Rose somehow finds her phone number and starts stalking Ellen, her mother, played engagingly by Orla Brady.

We're not sure of Rose's intentions. After an awkward

ploy to view her mother's home for sale, she and Ellen finally retreat to a wooded area by her home to "talk". The filmmakers have trusted their actors to convey so much of this story without dialogue, which adds to the

suspense. We're not sure where it's going and violence seems imminent until Ellen blurts out, "I was raped."

ROSE PLAYS JULIE is very much a woman's film. Mother and daughter form a strange alliance. Rose dons a variety of disguises to play "Julie" and seeks out and meets the father, a creepy archeologist named Peter Doyle.

The rest I won't give away, only to say that this is a psychological thriller that will give the hair on the back of your neck a great workout. It's eerie, creepy, and scary as hell; taking you on an adventure in identity and revenge that seems almost supernatural, particularly in the performance of Ann Skelly as Rose/Julie. Her face can take you in a hundred different directions all at once with no dialogue necessary.

ROSE PLAYS JULIE is available online at <https://www.siskelfilmcenter.org/rose-plays-julie> until April 15th and could potentially be extended beyond that date. Do yourself a favor, get some popcorn, prop up the cushions and hunker down for one helluva ride from your sofa.

MEMOIR: Now 70, I Recall Visiting My Ancestral Homeland, Ireland, as A Young Artist/Designer

By Patrick Michael Redmond, M.A.

Patrick Redmond Design

(www.PatrickRedmondDesign.com)

April 1971. Fifty years ago. My design for a commemorative Waterford® Crystal celebrating the first trade fair between Ireland and Minnesota had been selected earlier, in 1970, as the prize winner in a competition. The competition had only been open to Minneapolis School of Art (MCAD, Minneapolis College of Art & Design) students. I was a student there for my first two years of college, 1968-1970, honored and grateful to have received a scholarship to attend the school. Of note, Nancy Rice, Joe Duffy, and others who would also go on to become leaders in the field, were among the talented students at the Minneapolis School of Art (MCAD) around that time.

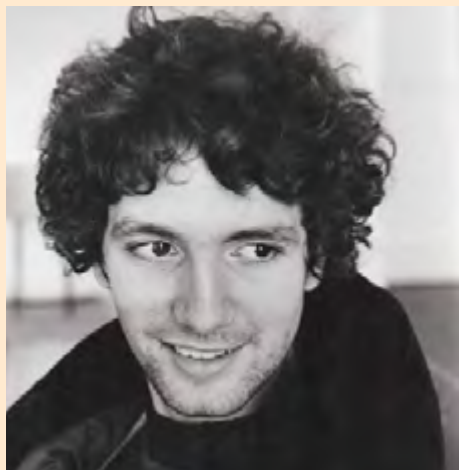
The prize was an all-expense-paid trip to Ireland mainly to visit the Waterford® Crystal factory in Waterford, Ireland, to meet with the Chief Designer and engravers there, to see how Waterford® Crystal was made, and, to experience Ireland as an honored visitor. The competition was co-sponsored by the Minneapolis School of Art (MCAD, Minneapolis College of Art & Design), Powers Department Store, and Ireland's C oras Tr acht ala, Trade Board in Irish, now known as Enterprise Ireland.

I was, of course, very grateful and proud to have been selected for this prize. This would be my first travel outside the United States, and it would be to my ancestral homeland. My dear father's side of the family is of Irish Catholic descent. (Parenthetically, I had come from an ethnically "mixed marriage" since my dear mother's side of the family is of Italian, specifically Sicilian, Catholic descent.) Travel - expenses paid - to Ireland was a dream prize in itself for a young artist/designer.

And what a wonderful trip to Ireland it was! I recall being awe-struck at the first sight of Ireland's brilliant green countryside as my Aer Lingus® flight descended through the clouds while approaching Shannon Airport after crossing the Atlantic, having left behind still-cold, snow-covered Minnesota and the Midwest.

Flying on from Shannon to Dublin, I was welcomed at the airport by a distinguished looking gentleman in a bowler hat and black three-piece-suit, Percy Lovegrove, from C oras Tr acht ala, accompanied by a uniformed chauffeur, a chauffeur who, as it turned out, I was told, was Ireland's leading chauffeur, who would drive me through the south of Ireland - in a Mercedes-Benz® limousine!

The visit to the Waterford® Crystal factory and offices was fascinating and the Kilkenny Design Workshops, inspiring, as were so many other places in Ireland, including, Dublin; Trinity College (where I saw the unforgettable "Book of Kells"); Dun Laoghaire; Glengarriff (where I



had my first poached salmon); Limerick area (home to some of my ancestors, such as the O'Brien's); Wexford (where I crossed the "Redmond" bridge); Bunratty Castle (where I tasted mead for the first time and enjoyed a medieval feast); the countryside where on a beautiful, gusty, sunny-and-cloudy spring day, I watched a thundering horse race across the fields and around a festival-capped hillock; and, toward the end of my visit, the Ring of Kerry and Valentia Island, where looking off from atop a seaside cliff I could see the Skellig Islands (long before the latter were the major tourist attractions that they have become in recent years).

It was truly an honor to be awarded this prize for my artistic and design talent and, as a result, that I was able to have such a wonderful, memorable experience, an experience for which I will always be grateful. My family

was proud.

Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and raised in West Allis, Wisconsin, I was fortunate to have attended [Pope] Pius XI Catholic High School, Milwaukee, with its excellent art program, and classes in the Children's Art Program at the then Eero Saarinen-designed Milwaukee War Memorial-based Milwaukee Art Center (later known as the Milwaukee Art Museum), a mid-century modernist building overlooking Lake Michigan. I believe, these foundations - also including my education at the Minneapolis School of Art (MCAD) - and the support of my family and friends, in significant part, combined with my God-given talents, helped to make my achievements possible. I will be forever grateful.

Epilogue: The commemorative Waterford® Crystal I had provided the winning design for was donated to the Minneapolis Institute of Art, and, it was truly an honor to see, years later, in the collection catalog identification cards: "Glass", "Crystal", "Ireland", and my name, "Patrick Michael Redmond."

I will always remember this visit to Ireland, the trip and the first stunning sight of my verdant ancestral homeland as my flight came through the clouds.

Notes: "Gift," The Minneapolis Star, Minneapolis, Vol. XCII, No. 261, September 25, 1970, p. 4b. Note: Minneapolis Star photo by Charles Bjorgen of "the winning Waterford Crystal design" ... "by P.M. Redmond"; caption also includes statement that the crystal "has been donated to the Minneapolis Art Institute by Powers Department Store."

"The Irish Make a Clear-Cut Case for Crystal," The Minneapolis Tribune, Minneapolis, Vol. CIV, No. 130, October 1, 1970, p. 17. Note: Article makes reference to Powers Department Store's "Irish festival" citing "Pat Redmond" as the creator of the design including "an outline of the state [of Minnesota] and the state seal and flower" for a (commemorative Waterford Crystal) "apothecary jar made for Powers." Article also states that "the piece is to become part of the permanent collection of the Minneapolis Institute of Art."

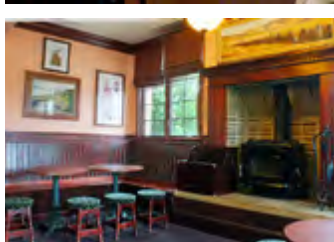
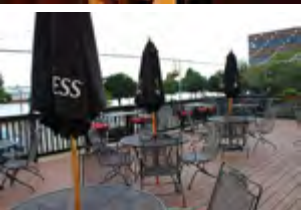
1970 photo of Patrick Michael Redmond, age 20, by his Minneapolis School of Art (MCAD, Minneapolis College of Art & Design) Photographic Design professor, Joseph "Joe" Zimbrott. Copyright © Patrick M. Redmond. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Eric McKeegan is the son of Nolan McKeegan, of Co. Antrim Northern Ireland. Nolan was kind enough to facilitate this interview. Thank you to Nolan and Eric enjoy growing up, We all love Irish Candy too ...

Do you identify as being Biracial? Eric doesn't really understand what being biracial is yet.
Tell us something about yourself. He likes soccer and plays in a league in Wilmette with his friends. He also loves roblox and all the games and music on it. In the winter he loves to go sledding in the snow and in the summer ride his bike through the forest preserve paths. He also likes to go swimming whether it is the beach or pool. **What do you like about being Irish?** He doesn't identify as being Irish just yet but he does understand that his dad is. He gets lots of GAA tops sent out from Ireland so he does know he is. **Have you been to Ireland? -If yes what was your favorite thing?** Eric has been to Ireland twice. I'm from Cushendall co Antrim in northern Ireland.
(Continued...)

The first time he went was when he was one year old, to get christened in Ireland. The second time he was five, it was for his uncles wedding. He says his favorite things about Ireland was he got to meet his cousins and granny and grandad. He also loves Irish candy and any time we get some out here it is gone in seconds!!!! **What has it been like growing up?** Growing up for Eric has been good. He has not really experienced any racial incidents. **Do you celebrate St. Patrick's day? tell us about what you do?** He celebrates St Patrick's day like most people here in the USA by wearing his green tops. Though I do also make him wear his GAA tops too sometimes. He's been to a few parades as well.

If you could make an Irish superhero what powers would they have? can you describe the superhero.
If he could invent a superhero he would be really cool and have lasers. He would have a great big fast car as well to get him everywhere.



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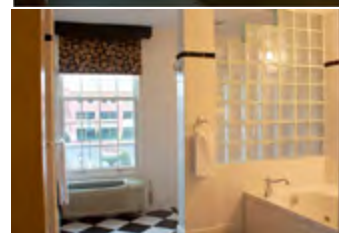
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WELCOME

While it might still be too early to call winter completely over, we're in optimistic spirits at **Irish Community Services** and are determined to approach this edition of *Celtic Magazine* with a springtime attitude! In the *Celtic Kitchen*, we turn our attention to Easter and experi-

ment with a wonderful Hot Cross Bun recipe from Irish Central. Knowledge is power, and our Irish social work student, Leah Comiskey, continues her efforts to empower the community by demystifying some of the confusing and intimidating jargon that surrounds technology. Blow off those winter

cobwebs by checking out the recorded yoga classes we developed as part of last month's *Mind Yourself March* initiative, and be sure to join our online April senior groups which will be both surprising and musical this month.

Happy Easter!

Paul Bowling

THE AMBASSADOR'S POEM PICK

Quarantine by Eavan Boland

This month's *Ambassador's Poem Pick* is a little different than usual. Instead of a poem chosen directly by Ambassador Dan Mulhal, we're featuring the piece selected to open this year's official online Saint Patrick's Day celebrations in the US. At this special event, this poem - *Quarantine*, by Eavan Boland- was recited by Grace Odumosu, the Youth and Family Program Coordinator at **Irish Community Services**. Many will undoubtedly feel that *Quarantine* embodies an apt sentiment for the times we currently find ourselves in. This poem offers a description of agony

and anguish, and the way in which love shines through in the bleakest of moments.

In fact, this poem surmises that it is only in these most desperate of circumstance that love can really find true expression. It is at these times that costly sacrifice is required if love is to be honored. In this poem, a man and his wife flee in desperation from a famine-time workhouse. He is deeply committed to his her. He carries her so they might be together and later that night he holds her so they might die together. In a final act of love, he hold his wife's feet to him to offer up whatever heat his body might still hold.

At the conclusion of the piece, the poet considers how trying times are the true test of our relationships and the love that can exist between us.

Quarantine

In the worst hour of the worst season
of the worst year of a whole people
a man set out from the workhouse with his wife.
He was walking — they were both walking — north.
She was sick with famine fever and could not keep up.
He lifted her and put her on his back.
He walked like that west and west and north.
Until at nightfall under freezing stars they arrived.
In the morning they were both found dead.
Of cold. Of hunger. Of the toxins of a whole history.
But her feet were held against his breastbone.
The last heat of his flesh was his last gift to her.
Let no love poem ever come to this threshold.
There is no place here for the inexact
praise of the easy graces and sensuality of the body.
There is only time for this merciless inventory:
Their death together in the winter of 1847.
Also what they suffered. How they lived.
And what there is between a man and woman.
And in which darkness it can best be proved.



Technology Talk by Leah Comiskey

Our goal at Irish Community Services is to promote digital inclusion for all community members and break down any barriers that are in place prohibiting people from staying in touch with the world during the pandemic. Education is often the first step to creating accessibility. In this month's article you will find the second installment of a technology dictionary which provides easy-to-understand definitions for some of the technology jargon that many find confusing and overwhelming.

If you feel this is useful for you, feel free to contact us here at Irish Community Services and we can send you a printed copy of the whole dictionary.

Browser

The computer software or app you use to access the internet. Examples include Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, and Safari if you have an Apple device. You can type the website which you would like to access into the address bar of the browser you are using.

Boot (re-boot)

To boot (or re-boot) is to load and initialise the operating system on a computer. Think of it as starting up your computer. If you run into a glitch you can press CNTL , ALT , DELETE which restarts your computer without turning it off . This is called a soft boot.

Cookies

Most websites pop-up with a memo asking you to 'accept cookies'. A cookie is a small piece of data that is stored on your computer, smartphone, or tablet when you visit a website. They allow the website to track information about your movement on the website, such as how many times you have visited and how long you spent on the website or perhaps what you are

looking at. You don't have to accept cookies if you do not want to, but it might mean that you can't access some websites.

Cache

When you download (read) a web page, the data is "cached," meaning it is temporarily stored on your computer. The amount of cache stored on your computer can slow it down . If you are experiencing this you can clear the cache in your computer or phone settings.

Data allowance

It uses mobile data, measured in megabytes (MB) and gigabytes (GB), to use the internet on your phone or tablet if you are not connected to Wi-Fi. Most phone and tablet contracts have monthly allowances for data usage. Once you use up your allowance, you might get charged for additional usage, or you might not be able to use mobile data until your allowance renews the next month.

Device

This is a catch-all term for smartphones, tablets, or computers.

Download

To move files or data stored on the internet onto your smartphone, tablet, or computer. For example, you might download a picture or video that a friend has sent you over email or text message.

Email

Email is short for Electronic mail and is a free and easy way to contact family and friends, and the most common way that organisations and companies will communicate with you. Popular email providers include Gmail and yahoo mail.

Ethernet

Ethernet is the most common way of connecting computers on a network with a wired connection. It is a type of local area network or " LAN" technology, which simply provides a crossing point for connecting multiple devices in your home.

Facebook

Facebook is a popular social media platform. It allows you to create a personal

profile where you can share your thoughts, pictures, videos, and interests on your 'timeline' along with communicating and staying InTouch with family and friends.

Firewall

A firewall is a barricade that acts as a security system to safeguard trusted computer systems from outside connections and untrusted networks, such as the Internet.

MORE DEFINITIONS NEXT MONTH



Last month, ICS ran a health and wellness initiative called Mind Yourself March. As part of the campaign we worked with volunteer teachers who created recorded yoga classes for beginners. Laura Ramsel, who works at the Irish Consulate in Austin, Texas created the Weekend Stretch class series, and Caroline Hennessy (who is also a board member of the Irish American Heritage Center) created the Chair Yoga for Everybody class series. All the classes in each series (9 in total) can still be accessed on the Irish Community Service YouTube channel! On your computer, tablet or smartphone, in web browser go to www.youtube.com and type 'Irish Community Services' in the search bar. Once you arrive at our channel you'll be able to browse all of ICS's videos including our wonderful yoga classes.

What did the snowman and his wife put over their baby's crib?
A snowmobile!

What is a king's favorite kind of precipitation?
Hail!

What's the difference between a horse and the weather?

One is reined up and the other rains down.

What did one raindrop say to the other?

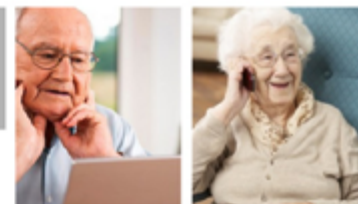
Two's company, three's a cloud
What does a cloud wear under his raincoat?
Thunderwear!

Got a good joke to share? Our contact details are on the front page of the Celtic Magazine Section!



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

APRIL

The Student Takeover

WEDNESDAY 7TH - 10AM(CST)

Our Irish social work students have been working hard to create a fun program for today's meeting. Be sure to join us to see what they have in store!

Songs Live from County Cork

WEDNESDAY 21ST - 10AM(CST)

Lorraine Manley is a wonderful singer well-known to the people of her native county Cork. Today, Lorraine will be joining us to share show band tunes and Irish classics.

HOW TO JOIN OUR REMOTE SENIOR PROGRAMS

DIAL-IN BY PHONE

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

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

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

Meeting ID : 884 0991 8529

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

USE A COMPUTER OR TABLET

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

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

www.zoom.us

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

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

Meeting ID : 884 0991 8529

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

Think it Over



DOWN

1. Day of the last supper
4. Jesus has _____

ACROSS

2. Seven days of Easter worship
3. Famous Easter candy brand
5. Early spring flower
6. He brings the Easter candy
7. Pre-Easter period
8. Young spring animal
9. Receptacle for Easter egg hunts
10. Springtime headgear



EASTER

N	G	N	I	R	P	S	E	F	P
W	C	Q	R	E	T	S	A	E	E
N	D	A	F	F	O	D	I	L	F
S	K	C	I	H	C	G	S	E	K
J	T	I	B	B	A	R	N	K	S
H	O	P	E	G	G	H	U	N	T
E	E	N	S	R	E	W	O	L	F
J	Y	C	E	Q	J	Q	P	Y	H
I	K	G	P	W	T	X	L	I	B
W	W	K	P	Y	D	N	A	C	N

EGG HUNT	DAFFODIL	CANDY
FLOWERS	CHICKS	EASTER
RABBIT	SPRING	HOP

So quintessential to the season are *Hot Cross Buns* that's it's difficult to see one and not think of Easter! Their distinctive appearance and soft, bread-like texture make them ideal Easter treats. This month in the Celtic Kitchen we've been trying out this recipe from Irish Central!

Ingredients

- 4 cups bread (strong) flour
- Pinch of salt
- 2 tsp mixed spice
- 6 tbs butter
- 2 tsp (1 packet) active dry yeast
- 1/4 cup caster sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup warm milk (30 seconds in the microwave will do)
- 1 cup dried seedless raisins
- Grated rind of an orange

Directions

- 1) Put the flour, salt and mixed spice in a bowl, and give them a quick whisk to mix. Rub in the butter to the flour mix until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the yeast, sugar, beaten egg and milk, and stir together into a soft dough.
- 2) Knead for 10 minutes until the dough is smooth and elastic. If you are using a mixer to make these buns give it five minutes on low with the dough hook. Add in the dried fruit and the grated orange rind and knead for another minute.
- 3) Roll out the mix slightly and cut the dough into 10 pieces. Roll these into balls on the table using the flat of your hand and place on a baking sheet or tray. Leave their own width again between each bun so they will have room to rise.

The Celtic Kitchen

Hot Cross Buns

- 4) To make the cross mix 1 cup flour with about 3 tablespoons of cold water to make a basic soft dough. Roll it out really thin and cut into little strips. Dampen with a little water and stick to the top of each bun. Take a length of plastic wrap and brush with a little cooking oil. Place this loosely on top of the buns (oiled side down) and leave in the kitchen to double in size - about 20 minutes depending on the weather and the warmth of the room.
- 5) Bake in a pre-heated oven at 390°F (360°F if a fan oven) for 20 minutes.
- 6) Hot cross buns can be brushed with a sugar and water glaze or honey when they're still hot.

Crossword Solutions:

DOWN: 1. cabbage, 2. Down, 4. parade, 5. river, 7. trinity, 10. kells
ACROSS: 3. Mayo, 6. lent, 8. wales, 9. snakes



Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

When Bobby Met Harry: Debasing Heroism

A phone call in early March got me thinking of how sadly reduced the words 'brave' and 'heroic' have actually become.

I've mentioned the writer Paddy McMenimen in this column before. He's a neighbour of mine in County Galway and great company to be in, with a very dry sense of humour that I enjoy. Sure, he plays golf, a baffling waste of time that I don't get the sense of, but everyone has their faults.

He's also a former political prisoner who served time in the notorious Cages of Long Kesh back in the '70s.

Paddy was reminding me that it had just gone 40 years since Bobby Sands began the hunger strike that would end in his death and the deaths of nine others. "It's funny", he said, "but it always seemed to be dark then. That's the way I remember it; you saw another coffin coming out and it was always dark and it was always bloody depressing."

What an odd sensation that gave me as I knew exactly what he meant, even though my experience of that period was light years removed from Paddy's.

In 1981 I was working in the bar of The Royal George Hotel in Limerick. Three times a week I would finish up there at ten minutes to six, then leg it up to Gerry Smyth's pub where I was doing extra part time work. Making a ton of money but always broke because I spent it as fast as I earned it.

Gerry insisted on live music - usually country-rock - and it made a change from the more formal surroundings of the Royal George. He also got a lot of music-heads in as customers, so that was extra entertaining. And the place attracted some cracking looking women.

You know how you look back at certain periods in your life and you think: I was happy then; but at the time maybe you didn't really appreciate it? Well, from 1979 until 1982 in Limerick I was happy and I knew I was.

God, where did I get the energy? After I finished up in Gerry's, I would head out to Poldark's Nite Club at the Two-Mile Inn, for a few pints and maybe hope to 'get off with a bird' as we said in those less Politically Correct but strangely more innocent days.

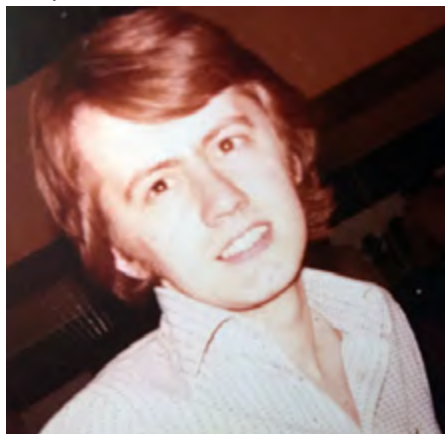
The photo is of me back then, when I still had all my own teeth and charging

up two flights of stairs without drawing breath never cost me a thought.

And I had not the slightest in-

terest in politics - something that seems to have come full circle - so yeah, my experiences couldn't have been any more different from those of Paddy McMenimen up in the North. But talking to him brought back that terrible day and night when we heard that Bobby Sands had died. That feeling of anger and actual danger in the streets; the dawning awareness that it probably wasn't the best time to be working in a hotel with 'Royal' in the title; and the sense that real violence was just a petrol bomb away... And if it was like that for me in Limerick, what was it like for Paddy?

In the March 4th issue of the 'Tírconaill Tribune' he is talking about that time; and I suspect he's as baffled as I am at where



Charles Brady

forty years have gone. But his vivid and evocative opening paragraphs show that they might have locked him up for a while but this guy was never going to emerge as anything other than a natural writer:

"...Put yourself in the bare feet of a young guy of just 27, a dirty blanket for a form of clothing to protect from the cold. The wind coming through a broken pane of glass after the late winter frost. Long hair matted, a straggly beard turning colour, accommodation 8' by 4', 48 square foot rectangle cell, no furniture, only a mattress on a bed base on the floor. Nothing to read, nothing to do, no tv or radio, locked in this environment 23 hours a day.

"And the piece de resistance, the 4 walls covered with the individual's own excrement, every day, every week, every month, every year for the previous four years..."

If that doesn't make you ashamed about moaning over a year in lockdown with nothing at your fingertips but smartphones, computers, books and Netflix, nothing will.

If you want an insight into how men of unshakeable principle - men who were the exact opposite of mercenary - conducted themselves, then check out Paddy's article in the 'Tírconaill Tribune' for the date I gave above. It is well worth your while.

As chance would have it, just before I heard from Paddy, I was looking at a couple of amusing memes that I'd been sent. One was an image of the appalling Me-Me-Me Markle, with the Wolfe Tones playing in the background and a blurb saying that in two hours she had caused more damage to the British establishment than the Provos had done over decades.

The other was an image of her and Prince HazBeen Dimwit (or Ginger and Whinger as they're affectionately known over here) having a glass of champers, with Me-Again commenting that she would like a trip to Europe and Dimwit saying (in a high voice as she now keeps his unmentionables in a glass next to her bed) that they would be safer going to Crossmaglen.

It's funny because it's true. But come on, some people are actually holding these two chancers up as 'brave' and 'heroic'? A man of 37 whining to Oprah, Queen of Divisiveness, that Daddy has cut off his allowance? A second-rate actress being described by Hillary Clinton as some sort of bullied 'young woman'?!? Bloody hell, talk about 'by their friends shall ye know them.' Clinton, who turned two blind eyes and waved a white cane around when her cigar-loving creep of a husband was messing around with a genuinely vulnerable 'young woman'. As the great Gore Vidal once said: 'This is the moment when you genuinely wonder if you have gone insane.'

Have a look at that piece on Bobby Sands and his fellow hunger strikers. And then come back and tell me that the two millionaire hustlers who are - inevitably - down to playing the race card, are in any way victims.

PS: I haven't been back to Limerick in years; but the Royal George finally dropped the 'Royal'. Probably for the best.

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Crafters of Ireland

Born, reared, educated, living, and working in the historic market town of Gorey in the north of County Wexford in the glorious sunny south east of Ireland, Stephen Sheridan is about as native to Gorey as you can get. In addition to that, he's a top craftsman, keeping the art of traditional wood hand carving alive in his workshop.

Using just a wide range of mallets and chisels, Stephen can craft everything from a throne to a crest, a Celtic cross, garden furniture, to tables, keepsake memory boxes and decorative set pieces. Indeed, his work stretches across the globe, with pieces in homes and businesses in New York, California, Kentucky, Argentina, Australia, Germany, even Korea. His most high-profile piece is in Monaco! Charlene, Princess of Monaco (Prince Albert's wife)



A carpenter by trade, Stephen started hand carving in Gorey Community School, where he was lucky to meet a teacher who did some carving

as a hobby and gave Stephen an hours lesson and from there the love of carving began. Stephen also studied Art in school and began to feel a bond for the Celtic artworks of the book of Kells and craftsmanship of the Celtic and Viking metalworkers, carpenters and carvers. After school he went on to train to be a carpenter and joiner while practising his carving on any piece of hardwood he could pick up along the way. A roofing accident in 2008 which resulted in a spinal fusion to correct a broken vertebrae put an end to most of his carpentry, and he started up his hand carving business in 2009 to focus his mind and help with his mental health. Now called High Cross Wood Carvings, he put in the hard work building up the business in the early years. "I attended every craft fair I could, even up as far as Oxford Island in Armagh.

As with any craftsman, the right tools and materials are essential. Stephen favours lime or basswood because it allows for more detailed work, and that the soft timber is more suitable for interior pieces.

"Oak is more common and is longer lasting, so that's more for pieces that will be outdoors." He's also happy to work in ash and beech.

He loves being engrossed in the whole process of creating a carving, from drawing out the initial design, to picking a block of wood best suited for each project that he sources locally in Gorey and nearby Askamore, then drawing the design out on the timber before chiselling it into a piece of art.

Throughout his workshop, you'll notice Celtic drawings and carvings - "I was always interested in Celtic art, the amount of detail they were able to achieve with the tools they had at the

time". And that appreciation for 'older' things extends to his tools - his chisels were inherited from his woodwork teacher who went to Australia. "I've a set of hand planes that date to the 1930s, I bought them in a car boot sale. And I've also got a cross cut saw from the turn of the 20th Century, I bought that in a market in Kilkenny."

Stephen is married to Catherine since 2007 and dad to two kids Faye and Finn. He is happy working his magic on timber in his workshop, letting the work and his creativity speak for itself. "I like the element of giving a piece of wood a new lease of life" he said adding that he believes that word of mouth and the pieces of work themselves are their own greatest form of advertising.



"commissioned a wardrobe from a local furniture company and I carved the Welsh feathers emblem for the top of the wardrobe," said Stephen. He was commissioned along with a local stone mason to create a commemorative monument for Gorey that celebrated its 400 year anniversary in 2019.

Stephen Sheridan Contacts
0861055797
highcrosswoodcarvings.com
highcrosscarvings@outlook.com

Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

By Marie Jochum, Senior Director of Mission Engagement

During my many years overseeing Catholic Charities volunteer relations, I have had the privilege of witnessing Biblical and Church teachings come to life. As staff, volunteers, and those seeking help interact with one another, I see first-hand the everyday miracles that happen when mercy is shown, love is felt, relationships are formed, and community is created and strengthened. Lives are transformed on both sides of these interactions because each of us has something to give and something to receive. Volunteers are often amazed that they are the ones who feel "nourished" by their service.

The Church calls this urge to serve one another the "Call to Community and Participation." Human beings are not meant to live alone, but rather are most fulfilled by being in community with one another and with God—and we are called to participate actively in that community; to

help shape it into a loving, caring place where everyone experiences a sense of purpose and belonging.

That is one of the many reasons why this past year has been so challenging, as we have been forced to do the exact opposite—stay socially distant from one another and limit our personal interactions. Despite these limitations, most people have found

Charities sets forth strengthening communities as a key focus as we navigate the COVID pandemic and beyond. With needs rising exponentially, that strength and support are absolutely vital.

With "Community and Participation" at the forefront, what might we achieve in a post-pandemic world? When we extend the circle of our caring and the scope of our participation, how might more people experience the the support, the mercy, and the true sense of community God intends for them? What kind of "new normal" can we create that is more just and leaves fewer people behind?

There are a myriad of ways to participate in this rebuilding—and the invitation for you to join us here at Catholic Charities is a standing one. You can volunteer at ccofchicagovolunteer.com, seek help at GetHelp@catholiccharities.net, receive counseling support (312) 948-6951, pray with us on the Call to Prayer Line (312) 534-8200, or donate at catholiccharities.net.



creative ways to stay connected with those they love.

Likewise, our Catholic Charities community of staff, board members, volunteers, donors, and parish partners has found important and inventive ways to serve one another—to strive for "Community and Participation" each day.

It Starts With A Song

By Joe McShane



Hello Everyone,

I thought I would write about a man who wrote some beautiful Irish Ballads. A man called Francis Arthur Fahy, and I'm sure everyone will remember at least some of his songs. Francis A. Fahy was born in Kinvara, County Galway on the 29th September 1854 and died on the 1st of this month, April, 1935. He was one of eight children that survived from a family of 18 children. When Francis was 15 years old he wrote a play, entitled 'The Last Of The O'Leary's'. He donated the funds to the families of Irish Fenian Prisoners.

Just after the famine, or Holocaust, as I would refer to it, of approximately 1,800 families in Kinvara, there remained only about 800. That's when Francis moved to England. He was a true Irish patriot, even when he moved to London. He wrote song and poetry in book form to help children of Irish parents, and published an Irish newspaper called 'Erin'. The first of its kind in England. He was also a great poet as well as a songwriter. Probably best remembered for being the composer of the evergreen 'The Ould Plaid Shawl' he also wrote (Galway Bay), (The Queen of Connemara), (I Gaily Gave My Heart Away), (My Heart's Treasure), (The Tide Full In), (Summer is Coming), (The Bog Road), (Rebel Heart), (Little Mary Cassidy), and, (Irish Molly O).

Francis A. Fahy never forgot his native area. In 1924, at the age of 70, he wrote: "I left Kinvara in '73, a youth of 19. Its scenes, its people, their customs, sports, recreations, their kindness and affections, their good humour and light-heartedness, their abiding faith in God, are as fresh in my memory, after fifty years of exile, as things of yesterday and have been ever the inspiration of my songs". R.I.P. Francis A Fahy.

I hope you have a wonderful Easter. I've picked a song that was written only a couple of weeks ago, by my friend Stephen Smyth and I.

Stay safe, and as always, be good to one another, till the next time.

Joe

'By The River That Flows Through The Glen'

© Joe McShane © Stephen Smyth

Verse 1
Down by the clear water, we'd dangle our feet
Where that old river flows, It's there we would meet
We were all friends together how quickly time goes
A young man's desire to roam, to where nobody knows

Verse 2
In my mind I go back, reminiscing the times
Of me and my sweetheart, How her blue eyes would shine
Like a beacon of love, That was guiding me in
Beside that old river, that flows through the glen

Chorus
Flow on dear old river by hill and by glen
In dreams I'm returning, to see you again
My people will greet me and welcome me in
To my home by the river that flows through the glen

Verse 3
I picture the times Oh! it's well I recall
A promise we made, by that old waterfall
Now with gold for your finger, loves song we will sing
Down by that old river.....

The church bells will ring
Chorus
Flow on lovely river, by hill and by glen
It's now I'm returning, to see you again
My people will greet me and welcome me in
To my home by the river, that flows through the glen

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Good Morning Ireland Saturdays 7pm GMT/1pm CT

(Repeated Sunday 4pm GMT/10am CT)



Hosts: Tom Flannery & Katherine O'Sullivan

The Cappoquin Sighting

December 26th 1965 was a beautifully clear and sunny day in West Waterford, as it was over most of Ireland and the British Isles. At between 3.15pm to 3.30pm in the afternoon Jacqueline Wingfield, who worked at the Victoria and Albert museum in London, was driving along

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a road near Cappoquin with a Danish friend, Lisbet Mortensen. Suddenly they saw a bright object passing steadily from right to left across the sky in front of them. Afterwards they described it as a solid, metallic-looking, rounded thing trailing a big elliptical plume of brightness. The plume behaved as if it were attached to the smaller object and was being dragged across the sky by it.

Miss Wingfield stopped the car, turned off the engine, and the two girls got out with their cameras. Jacqueline found to her annoyance that hers had no film in it, but Lisbet, using a cheap Agfa snapshot camera with only two range settings, was able to take a picture before the object disappeared. They estimated that it was in sight for three or four minutes altogether. When they got back to London they gave the film to Charles Gibbs-Smith, a colleague of Miss Wingfield and an experienced and enthusiastic investigator of reports about Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's). He had it developed by Percy Hennell, a professional photographer, who certified that in his opinion the negative was genuine.

What does the photograph show?

According to Gibbs-Smith the object's brightness, trailing plume, and relatively rapid horizontal movement across the sky rule out between them such possibilities as an aeroplane, balloon, rocket, satellite, or meteorite. 'I'm not going to stick my neck out and say what it is', he said, 'but I don't see what alternative explanations there are except that it's interplanetary'. He further added; 'it is the small, bright object at the left hand end of the bright area which is the actual 'saucer' and the large oval area is just the efflux from it.

That was the story of what became known as 'The Cappoquin Sighting' on St. Stephen's Day 1965, and it made headlines across the world in the early months of 1966, featuring on the cover of 'The Flying Saucer' magazine and even reported in the very historic and prestigious 'London Illustrated Times'. I first came across it when I was about 9 years old in 1966 from a British weekly comic. There was never a mention of Ireland in these comics, and a mention of Cappoquin was quite extraordinary to me at the time. I never heard anything more about it, never heard anybody speak about it afterwards either and it just disappeared from my memory. About a year ago, when I was doing some research for something else online it came to my attention once again and that is why I decided to investigate it in a little more depth.

I also came across an interesting little article from Liverpool, which stated that at approximately 2.30 pm on the same day it was reported that somebody had sighted a similar object and which was on a trajectory heading for South-Western Ireland. Also in the town of Syracuse, New York State, there was heightened activity in the sky during November and December of 1965.

I managed to track down an interview by Charles Gibbs-Smith to the American Network CBS in 1966 not very long after the Cappoquin Sighting. The following is a small extract:

'My position now is that I believe about 5% of sightings come from outside our planetary system, some of them are manned by intelligent beings of some kind, and some look like they are remotely controlled. Who really do



we think we are? We're a 5th rate miserable and measly little system out on the edge of the milky way, fooling around the universe with about 7,000 years of so called civilization behind us. We think we're the cat's whiskers, we're not, we're a 5th rated lot of conceited apes. And here we go, the moment that somebody should suggest that something should come in from the outside, no, no, it can't be that, it's quite out, these things can't happen!. We're all thinking mediocrally'

Charles Harvard Gibbs-Smith was a British polymath historian of aeronautics and aviation. His obituary in The Times in 1981 described him as "the recognised authority on the early development of flying in Europe and America". Richard P. Hallion called him "The greatest of all historians of early aviation".



At this stage, I was just about to E-Mail the article to Cliff Carlson when I got an inclination to do one more search online. After the search, and to my complete surprise, the following is what I found and the reported details closely resemble those of 1965.

At 9.23 pm on Thursday 7th October 2004, a man from Cappoquin was picking his son up from football training when an extremely bright object with a tail crossed the sky in front of him. The object developed a large halo and then he lost sight of it. It was travelling from East to West and his location was map ref 223.113 on sheet 22. He picked up his son who did not see the object, but himself and his friends did hear something whistling overhead. His son was at map ref. 227.104 on same sheet. A man from Cavan responded and said he saw it too at around the same time, observing it shooting from East to West, leaving a huge grey trail visible for about 5 seconds, no noise though. A third man from Dungarvan looked at the map reference and established it was close to the 'bend at Gabe Foley's', if anybody is familiar with this particular area.

Maybe, generations from now we will finally know the answer in relation to the puzzle of 'The Cappoquin Sighting', but for now all we can do is review the facts and leave it at that for the moment. They say 'seeing is believing', but sometimes we may also have to believe to see.



George M. Cohan

This great American song and dance man spent 56 of his 64 years on the stage. He became, as one of his songs would proclaim, "The Man Who Owned Broadway." He wrote 40 plays and shared production of 150 other plays. He acted in over 1000 performances and wrote over 500 songs. Many of these songs became major national hits.

He was born George Michael Cohan in Providence, Rhode Island. Contrary to his own songs and beliefs Cohan's birth certificate states that he was born on July 3, 1878. Even his mother would later state that she was sure he was born on Independence Day. He was born into a true Irish family. His paternal side had emigrated from Co. Cork, Ireland. The name had originally been O'Caomhan in Ireland and when they entered the states it was changed to Keohane, which eventually became Cohan. His mother's side also had Irish ancestry with his grandmother being a Breen. George would later work with many Jewish people in the entertainment industry and because his name closely resembled Cohen, a common Jewish name, many people thought that he was Jewish. Any look beyond his name would tell you different.

Both of his parents Jerry and Nellie Cohan were already established in the Vaudeville circuit when George was born.

In those days Vaudeville shows were sometimes called Hibernicon's or Grand Hibernica's stating the hold the Irish had on theater in those days. His older sister Josephine would be his only sibling. As an infant he was sometimes used as a prop during his parents performances. By the time George was ten the family was working sketches and shows together and they billed themselves "The Four Cohans." By age 13 George was writing songs, lyrics and plays for their act. By 1894 George was selling his songs to publishers and The Four Cohans were commanding \$1,000 a week, a tremendous sum in those days. George had a famous line at the end of each show that became his trademark; "Ladies and gentlemen, my mother thanks you, my father thanks you, my sister thanks you, and I thank you!"

In 1899 George married Ethel Levy who was a popular singing comedienne who joined the Cohan's act. In 1904 George Cohan and Sam Harris formed a partnership that ruled Broadway for fifteen years. He also had his first smash hit with the play "Little Johnny Jones." In this play two of his songs became household and vaudeville favorites; The Yankee Doodle Boy and Give My Regards To Broadway. In 1906 another major hit was You're a Grand Old Rag. Some folks objected to the title of the song and it was changed to You're a Grand Old Flag. By 1907 George M. Cohan was a name known nationwide. He divorced Ethel and married Agnes Nolan, an Irish-American whose sister was married to Sam Harris.

Besides being a composer, lyricist, actor and song-and-dance man, Cohan was a great businessman. In 1911 Cohan and Harris had 6 hit shows on Broadway and controlled 7 theaters. He was also an avid fan of baseball and was active in the Lambs Club and Friars Club. In 1917 George composed one of America's greatest hit songs. America had just entered the war and on the train going into New York he penned the song Over There. It was an instant success and 25 years later President Roosevelt would present to him the Congressional Medal of Honor for this war song.



In 1919 an actors strike closed Broadway. Cohan took this personally, dissolved his partnership with Harris and retired from show business. But it was inevitable that he would comeback as the theater was in his blood. He would write fifteen more plays and musicals but none would be as successful as his earlier efforts. In 1933 he played Nat Miller in Eugene O'Neill's nostalgic comedy "Ah Wilderness" to much critical success. In his final years Cohan was sick and in seclusion. Warner Brothers approached him to do a movie on his life. Cohan approved the choice of James Cagney for the role and later, against doctor's orders, he snuck out of his apartment to catch a screening of the movie at New York's Hollywood Theatre. Sitting in the backrow unknown to the audience Cohan heard the audience laughing and cheering and then returned to his apartment. He died quietly on November 5, 1942.

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I have another broadcaster to write about for this month, the famous, Terry Wogan. Sir Michael Terence Wogan from Limerick. (1938-2016) They claim he might have been the most listened to broadcaster in Europe! Wogan was a leading media personality in England and Ireland in the 60's and was referred to as a national treasure.

Wogan started his career in banking he worked at the Royal Bank of Ireland. He had a change of heart and joined the RTE as a newsreader and announcer. He conducted interviews and presented documentary features before becoming a DJ and host of TV quiz and variety shows.

He married Helen Joyce and they had four children but sadly one died shortly after birth. He looked for extra work with BBC initially was told no because they didn't want two Irishmen pre-

sented on BBC, but he persuaded them and finally got on one of the programs. He commuted weekly from Dublin to London but after landing more work they eventually moved to England.

He had several projects, he hosted Children in Need, he had a weekday radio show, a BBC chat show called Wogan, a game show called Blankety Blank and Come Dancing. He was also BBC's commentator for the Eurovision Song Contest every year. He presented Weekend Wogan a two-hour Morning show on Sundays. Wogan was prone to go off on tangents to ramble and have side conversations with the producer of the shows. This actually helped to make the shows more entertaining and much of the entertainment came from letters sent in by listeners. Wogan had a dry humor, emotionally neutral and some would say his humor

was at the expense of others and caused controversy.

He worked almost up to his passing. He died in 2016 of cancer. The BBC Radio 2 renamed BBC Western House to Wogan's House.

FIND HAPPINESS

"Once a group of 50 people were attending a seminar. Suddenly the speaker stopped and decided to do a group activity. He started giving each attendee one balloon. Each one was asked to write his/her name on it using a marker. Then all the balloons were collected and put in another room. Now these delegates were let into that room and asked to find the balloon which had their name written within 5 minutes. Everyone was frantically searching for their name, colliding with each other, pushing around others and there was utter chaos. At the end of 5 minutes no one could find their own balloon. Now each one was asked to randomly collect a balloon and give it to the person whose name was written on it. Within minutes everyone had their own balloon.

The speaker then began, "This is happening in our lives. Everyone is frantically looking for happiness all around, not knowing where it is. Our happiness lies in the happiness of other people. Give them their happiness; you will get your own happiness. And this is the purpose of life.."Questions/comments. (708) 425-7021

Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



Who was Turlough O'Carolan? (pronounced Turlock, it means someone who brings about something)

He was a blind Celtic harper, composer and singer from Co. Meath. (1670-1738). The harp is said to be an instrument capable of spiritual healing. I suppose that's why the harp is mentioned over 50 times in the Bible. He is considered by many to be Ireland's national composer. O'Carolan lost his sight because of smallpox (virus) (eradicated by 1980) in Churches across Ireland and beyond they continue to play O'Carolan's music/songs. When I think of O'Carolan it brings to mind the blind poet Anthony Rafferty from Mayo, whom I learned about from my mom. Rafferty came from my mom's hometown, Kiltimagh. Rafferty was born a few decades after O'Carolan's death.

O'Carolan spoke Irish as it was the majority language at the time, he didn't speak English very well. He composed only one song in English, "Carolan's Devotion". He traveled around Ireland on horseback composing songs for customers.

The Celtic Harp is the national instrument of Ireland. You may notice that the Guinness (our famous stout) logo is a harp. Most of O'Carolans compositions were not published or written

down in his lifetime. They have survived through the collections of fiddlers, pipers and harpers. The ultimate work containing most of O'Carolan's melodies was compiled by Donal O'Sullivan. (born in Liverpool to Irish parents 1893-1973) "The lifetimes and Music of an Irish Harper." Since Sean O'Riada and the Ceoltoiri Chualann released Carolan's Concerto. A dozen other artists have performed O'Carolan's tunes such as the Chieftains, Planxty and Patrick Ball.

Roscommon holds an annual harp festival & summer school to commemorate his life. There is a bronze monument depicting O'Carolan playing his harp in Co. Leitrim.

Sadly, Queen Elizabeth the I of England (1600's) said, "that rude and barbarous nation Ireland", "hang Irish harpers wherever found and burn their instruments". However today O'Carolan's Concerto is used as a slow march by the foot Guards of the British Army. Interesting...

Carolan's compositions are in the animated game, "Fate". O'Carolan is on the Irish 50-pound bank note. You may have heard of the name Turlough before, there is a writer for *Irish America Magazine* named Turlough McConnell.

Gaelic for the month Blind-dall, Harp-clairseach, Horse-capall

"Inspiration is striking a chord in a person in order that they start playing their own music" "your body is the harp of your soul and it is yours to bring forth music" Khalil Gibran

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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



The Media and the Record

Over 20 years ago a bitter spat erupted between two London-based news sheets about their editorial lines on Northern Ireland. On February 25th, 2000, The Guardian bridled at a suggestion of The Spectator that the 'Guardian's line on Northern Ireland is covertly dictated by a republican cell'. The new broom editor at The Spectator, Boris Johnson (who has since moved on to a new job) had a reputation for lying and fabricating stories. The allegation that the Guardian's coverage of Northern Ireland was heavily influenced by the IRA formed part of the standard discursive warfare between two papers and readerships: The Spectator is conservative and right of centre and The Guardian is a liberal newspaper. So, it was noteworthy that the then editor of The Guardian, Alan Rusbridger, took especial offence at his newspaper and his colleagues being impugned. Fast forward twenty-one years and it transpires that there was substance to the allegations after all.

During Rusbridger's time as editor, columnist Roy Greenslade used his platform at The Guardian to defend Sinn Féin. That was fine—Sinn Féin is a legal organisation. However, Greenslade concealed that he also supported the IRA and wrote under a pseudonym for an unfailingly pro-IRA newspaper in Belfast, An Phoblacht. By concealing these matters Greenslade implicitly acknowledged the consequences they could have for him and for The Guardian if they were made public.

Should The Guardian and Rusbridger have realised? Yes, if they were paying any attention at all. Greenslade's warm welcome into the inner sanctum of republican circles in Belfast and Derry at the time, as well as the substance of his columns, were enough to raise

strong suspicion. But his standing surety in 2014, for an IRA man on trial for a bombing in London, should have merited a full internal inquiry. Greenslade openly stated at the time that he did so as the bomber's friend. Greenslade's identification with the IRA's campaign really should not have been hard to work out at a newspaper that fancies itself one of the best in the world.

In his writing, Greenslade attacked the British media for its portrayal of Irish republicans: 'The undeniable truth is that newspapers in Britain have turned bias into an art form...every quote—often from an unnamed source—is selected to feed the paper's own political prejudice'. Despite apparently adopting that position, Greenslade, in his declining years, became a professor of journalism at City University in London where he lectured on journalistic ethics. In his lectures he argued that 'claims towards neutrality and impartiality and objectivity are bogus' in the media. Neutrality in the media may well be impossible but the old dichotomy between opinion and fact remains crucial. Neutrality is a legitimate aim for genuine reportage and there is nothing bogus about the endeavour.

On February 25th of this year, Greenslade published a lengthy admission of his support for, and connection with, the IRA during the Troubles in the British Journalism Review. The article immediately raised the ire of many who had been criticised by Greenslade in his Guardian columns down the years.

One case is particularly poignant. Máiría Cahill, a woman from a republican background in West Belfast, who brought allegations that she was raped at the age of 16 by a member of the IRA, Martin Morris, to senior IRA figures. The IRA arraigned Morris before a kangaroo court at which

Máiría Cahill was present. The IRA did not find against Morris. Máiría Cahill has spent a good deal of her life since attempting to have her case heard through official channels. Since Greenslade cast aspersions in print on Cahill, his admission of support for the IRA all these years later is exceptionally bitter for Cahill. She personally suffered for the way he used his platform at The Guardian to write 'opinion' pieces that covertly pushed the IRA's line.

This is also deeply embarrassing and damaging to The Guardian's journalistic record. The paper responded by apologising. The Guardian also removed three articles by Greenslade from The Guardian's website.

Amid the heat of the controversy, it is vital to consider the implications that erasing articles has for a newspaper's record. When a newspaper decides to remove articles from its website to give the appearance of taking responsibility for a mistake it is also denying an aspect of its own narrative and identity. Certain newspapers style themselves as being papers of record: a resource for posterity to establish what was printed. Whether or not what was printed is justifiable is beside the point. If the news was not fit to print, then it should have not been printed. Removal of articles does not unprint them and we should insist, even if the content of the articles was not journalistic, that the record stands. The Guardian's apology would have been a lot more far-reaching if it prompted an analysis of why the newspaper's culture facilitated Greenslade for decades instead of shoving a few of his columns down the memory hole.

Just a generation ago, prior to the transformation of journalism by the internet, newspapers were print editions only. The mistakes, the embarrassments, the travesties of editors, journalists and publishers remain on the record in hundreds of libraries in physical form. Now, in the internet age, the meaning of the phrase that has adorned The New York Times' masthead since 1897, 'All the News That's Fit to Print', has a dif-

ferent significance. Subscriptions to the digital edition of The New York Times now exceed its print circulation more than tenfold, which points to an increasingly (or exclusively) online-only future for newspapers. Some established newspapers such as The Independent in London now exist in an online format only. Simply because articles exist in a format

where they can be more easily erased does not justify erasing them. The Irish government's recently formed Future of Media Commission could do worse than to examine this controversy as part of a debate for the future of media and propose credible responses to it in the interests of citizens, journalists and the historical record.

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Monsters of the Mediaway

While visiting New York in 2016 with two of my daughters, Mary and Katheryn, we stopped at O'Lunney's Times Square, an impressive multi-story tavern and dining establishment on West 45th Street, by the bonny banks of Broadway. We met with Cavan-born restaurateur Hugh Lunney, renowned for his hospitality, generosity to Irish causes, and commitment to uniting Ireland.

So, it was shocking and sad to see Hugh's post last year: "O'Lunney's Times Square Pub will be closed till further notice. This order is to take effect as of Today, March 16th, 2020 at 8pm." Mayor DeBlasio and Governor Cuomo had ordered Manhattan's pubs and eateries shut down on the

eve of St. Patrick.

Many relied on March 17, a day that could bring in more than a week's income, to pay their tax bills. "It is a very difficult situation," O'Lunney said last year. He was facing a 7-figure rent. By December, over 110,000 restaurants & pubs were driven to extinction.

It was sadder still to hear of Hugh O'Lunney's passing this February. The closing could not have helped his health.

After three years of complaints and charges of "fake news" from players on the left and right, this new, deadly virus arrived with a politically sensitive pedigree. A year and a half on, the debate continues: what is the best approach to solve the problem.

Failure is an orphan. From kids snatching cookies to politicians fudging contracts - the very first instinct when caught is to deny and cover. Was shuttering society and destroying multiple economies, from family businesses to large corporations, really the best answer?

And now the world is dosing itself with remedies that deploy at a molecular level and were created under emergency conditions. Do we trust that data provided to us is accurate, and that no unintended consequences will result down the road?

Lewis Browne in his book 'This Believing World' wrote that there are no judges, only people judging, and no sheepdogs, only dogs guarding sheep.

At the moment, the trial of officers for the death of George Floyd is on. Its outcome will decide whether a video that millions watched repeatedly for weeks on their smartphones and TV screens showed George Floyd being murdered by police; or showed George Floyd in custody dying of a massive overdose.

Protests, riots and looting began and spread immediately, the largest in U.S. history. Floyd's official autopsy report was released just over a week later, concluding the cause of death was "cardiopulmonary arrest complicating law enforcement subdual, restraint, and neck compression." It also revealed he had a mixed cocktail of drugs in his system, including three times a lethal dose of fentanyl, which can cause a person's breathing to slow or stop. That was seldom mentioned in sensational news reports that focused on street fights, fires, and Black Lives Matter rhetoric. The fact that neck restraint was a method approved by the City of Minneapolis to control unruly suspects also won little press attention.

At least 25 Americans died in the mayhem. More formal, yet no less dramatic protests had people kneeling for BLM, including doctors and nurses, PhD's at major hospitals, like the one shown here. How does one accomplish that?

Well, also missing from most media reports was the fact that BLM was founded by people who had no qualms declaring themselves "dedicated Marxists", and the fact that its finances were managed by Susan Rosenberg, a May 19th Communist Organization terrorist linked with the Weather Underground and convicted for bombing U.S. Government buildings. She had been released from prison 16 years into a 58-year sentence by Bill Clinton at



the behest of Congressman Nadler of New York.

Such cases often hinge on how much money and power leans on one side of the argument. In Ireland's Bloody Sunday Inquiries there was never doubt that 13 unarmed citizens were shot dead by British soldiers. An "unimpeachable" judge, Lord Widgery, was chosen to preside. After three weeks of inquiry Widgery determined the soldiers had been fired on first, and there was "no reason to suppose" that the soldiers would have fired otherwise. There ensued a long, bloody, civil conflict and yet another inquiry (Stevens) lasting 12 years and costing £195m - the longest and most expensive public inquiry in UK history. That finally resulted in a statement from Prime Minister Cameron that the shootings were unjustified. However, no soldiers involved were punished.

In the Minneapolis case it is the state prosecuting its employees, with a threatening mob backing the prosecutors.

As the Floyd incident shows, often the outcome of a conflict is determined by intel: who can get it first; who can hide it; and who can manufacture it.

Along those lines Bill Gates' Trillion-dollar Microsoft has teamed up with other super-rich players of varied political stripe, including the Charles Koch Institute, Democracy Fund (Pierre Omidyar - eBay) Zuckerberg's Facebook, Soros' Open Society Foundation, Google News Initiative, Huffington Post (NBC, Verizon), Middle East Broadcasting Networks (U.S. Gov't.) NPR, the Sulzberger's NY Times, Bezos' Washington Post, China's TikTok and Gannett's USA Today.

Together they plan to create a Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA) to trace online content. It would vaporize online privacy and anonymity in the name of preventing "disinformation", which they present as "a growing threat to the integrity of the information eco-system". The giants of tech want to attach an ID to all information from the moment it is created on a computer's CPU. Information would be tied its source wherever it traveled online. It could also serve as a double-edged sword, allowing it to be censored and suppressed, labeling dissidence as disinformation simply because of its point of origin or because it challenges established views.

It comes down to who is judging. Do you trust a judge more because of race, creed, sex orientation or disability? Was New York's 55th Governor, David Paterson more trustworthy than Eliot Spitzer who preceded him or Andrew Cuomo who followed because he was a blind, black man? © 2021 Michael P Morley E-mail: IrishTV@att.net Watch TV shows & more online: irisheye.us/information

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Irish Movie News for April 2021

By **James Bartlett**

The 93rd Oscars take place at the end of this month, but this year they will take place in two locations: the familiar Dolby Theatre in Hollywood Boulevard, and at the magnificent Union Station in downtown LA.

With viewing figures cratering for the Golden Globes and the Grammys, AMPAS have made it clear to nominees that they expect them to attend in their Sunday best - Zoom will not be allowed - and it will be interesting to see how many actors can't resist the limelight and will take the Academy's assurances that the event will be super Covid-safe.

Though Irish talent came away empty-handed from the Golden Globes, as I predicted the excellent Irish animation *Wolfwalkers* was also nominated at the Oscars in the Best Animated Film category, and now it's up against *Onward*, *Over the Moon*, *Soul* and *A Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon*.

However, I think that after much acclaim for their past movies *The Secret of Kells* (2009), *Song of the Sea* (2014) and *The Breadwinner* (2017), *Cartoon Saloon* and directors *Tomm Moore* and *Ross Stewart* might just walk home with the trophy this time. It would be fifth time lucky in fact, as they were also behind the short *Late Afternoon*, which was directed by *Louise Bagnall* and *Nuria González Blanco*, and nominated in the Short Animated Film category in 2019.

A couple of weeks before that *Wolfwalkers* has another shot at a glittering prize; they're nominated for a BAFTA for Best Animated Film, and this time they're "only" up against *Onward* and *Soul*.

Whatever happens at the Oscars, it could be the most glamorous sign of the movie business coming back to life. In Los Angeles the number of film permit requests were up 43% percent this past month compared to the beginning of the year, and *FilmLA*, the organization that tracks production in the city, says it received 777 film permit applications in February too.

Don't crack open the champagne (or throw away those face masks) just yet, though: production remains around 40% below normal for this time of year.

All things considered, it was very timely indeed that *Fís Éireann/Screen Ireland*, together with the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media *Catherine Martin* (TD) were in L.A. - virtually of course - on a trade



mission to strengthen working relationships between the Irish screen industry and the world's largest streaming and production companies.

The mission was a series of back-to-back meetings, and as you will have read in these Irish Movie News columns over the years, the links between L.A. and Ireland are very strong. At the moment, Netflix is currently in production in Ireland with *Vikings: Valhalla*, and animation projects it is partnering on include *Chico Chico Bon Bon* with *Brown Bag Films* and *My Father's Dragon* with *Cartoon Saloon* (*Wolfwalkers*).

For many movie fans, just the use of Ireland's beautiful scenery can almost be a reason to go to the cinema (or, in more recent times, click or press the button), but that also generates what's called "screen tourism," when tourists visiting Ireland specifically to see locations they've seen on the big and small screens (think of *Game of Thrones* and the "Dark Hedges").

Hopefully soon we'll all be able to go to Ireland again and visit some of our favorite places, whether they're famous from the big screen, or just among your family and friends.

Finally, some casting news: Irish actor, writer and director, *Eoin Macken* is to play the male lead opposite *Natalie Zea* (Justified) in NBC's new drama series *La Brea*.

Zea stars as *Eve*, a mother whose family is ripped apart when a massive sinkhole opens in Los Angeles, separating her and her son from her estranged husband *Gavin* (Macken) and their daughter - how will they (and the people around them) work together to survive and reunite?

Macken recently starred in the NBC *Syfy/Netflix* series *Nightflyers*, which was filmed in *Limerick's Troy Studios*, and is also known for his role in the NBC medical drama *The Night Shift*.

Stayed tuned, and keep your fingers crossed for *Wolfwalkers*!

Irish Authors Shortlisted for The Writers' Prize

Three Irish authors were on the shortlist for the Rathbones Folio Prize, known as The Writers' Prize.

The Irish titles include a pair of literary debuts: *Elaine Feeney's As You Were* and *Doireann Ní Ghríofa's A Ghost in the Throat* which won the An Post Irish Book of the Year in 2020, and *Sara Baume's* memoir, *Handiwork*.

Two of the books were published by *Tramp Press*, and independent publishers and small printers account for five of the shortlisted titles.

The 2021 Rathbones Folio Prize shortlist also includes:

Handiwork - Sara Baume (Tramp Press)

Poor - Caleb Femi (Penguin)

My Darling from the Lions - Rachel Long (Picador)

In the Dream House: A Memoir - Carmen Maria Machado (Serpent's Tail)

The Mermaid of Black Conch - Monique Roffey (Peepal Tree Press)

A £30,000 Prize rewarded the best writing of the year, regardless of style, and it went to *Carmen Maria Machado's In The Dream House: A Memoir*. The award is governed by an international academy of distinguished writers and critics, includ-

and anthologised in *Poetry Review*, *The Stinging Fly*, *The Irish Times*, *Copper Nickel*, *Stonecutter Journal* and others. *As You Were* is her fiction debut.

A Ghost in the Throat
Doireann Ní Ghríofa (Tramp Press)

A devastating and timeless tale about finding your voice by freeing another's.

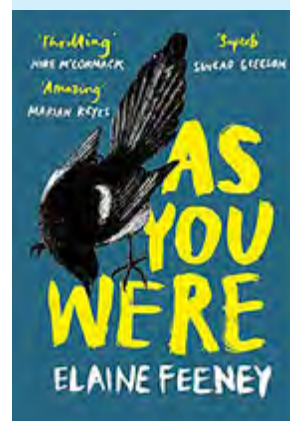
Doireann Ní Ghríofa is a poet and essayist. Her most recent book is the bestseller *A Ghost in the Throat*, which finds the eighteenth-century poet *Eibhlín Dubh Ní Chonaill* haunting the life of a contemporary young mother, prompting her to turn detective.

Doireann is also author of six critically-acclaimed books of poetry, each a deepening exploration of birth, death, desire, and domesticity.

Handiwork
Sara Baume (Tramp Press)

Handiwork is a contemplative short narrative from acclaimed writer and visual artist *Sara Baume*. It offers observations at once gentle and devastating, on the nature of art, grief and a life lived well.

Sara Baume's work first appeared in newspapers and journals such as the *Irish Times*, the *Guardian*, *The Stinging Fly* and



ing *T.S. Eliot* Prize-winning poet *Roger Robinson*, novelist and short story writer *Jon McGregor* and Irish writer, editor and broadcaster *Sinead Gleeson*.

Past winners are *Valeria Luiselli* (2020), *Hisham Matar* (2017), *Akhil Sharma* (2015) and *George Saunders* (2014).

As You Were - Elaine Feeney (Harvill Secker)

One of the most buzzed-about Irish debuts of 2020: a novel for our times.

Elaine Feeney has published three collections of poetry, *Where's Katie?*, *The Radio was Gospel*, *Rise*, and a drama piece, *WRONGHEADED*, commissioned by *Liz Roche Company*. She teaches at *The National University of Ireland, Galway* and *St Jarlath's College*.

Her work has been widely published

Granta. She won the 2014 *Davy Byrnes Short Story Award* for 'SoleSearcher1', and went on to receive the *Hennessy New Irish Writing Award*, the *Rooney Prize for Literature* and an *Irish Book Award for Best Newcomer* in 2015. Her debut novel *Spill Simmer Falter Wither* was longlisted for the *Guardian First Book Award*, the *Warwick Prize for Writing*, the *Desmond Elliott Prize for New Fiction* and the *International Dublin Literary Award*. It was shortlisted for the *Costa First Novel Award*, and won the *Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize*. In autumn 2015, she was a participant in the *International Writing Program* run by the *University of Iowa* and received a *Literary Fellowship* from the *Lannan Foundation* in *Santa Fe, New Mexico*.



The Day Webb Adopted Me

JAN. 16, 2020 -- All the Lakeland Animal Shelter knew about Webb) is that he showed up on the porch of a farmhouse on the Illinois-Wisconsin border. The woman there told the shelter she had a very friendly cat that they should care for. October 31st was a brutal day, the start of an ice and snow storm that could have hastened the end of the starving, emaciated tomcat. Webb must have felt a sigh of relief as he was gently lifted in a cardboard carrier with love and gave his last look at the woman who saved him. Knowing him now, a deep look of sincerity, love and thanks.

"He was just bones," a volunteer told me. As every pet who comes to Lakeland, love was exactly what he got. ,: he said to the person taking the picture, judging from his expression. His dirty and matted front legs were gently washed and he was examined. One eye had a cataract from a fight, and another trauma left him with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, FIV. The cold he was starting to get outside would rapidly progress to pneumonia and worsen since his body couldn't fight against illness.

Seven years old, he was the senior citizen in the FIV Colony room. Perhaps sensing that he was a "tough sale," LAS actively promoted his availability on FaceBook with a letter he wrote to Santa

in November (the first one they did that season), and later a picture of him "chillin'" by the window on a cold December day.

Three weeks after Christmas I came to the shelter, still hurting after losing my beloved Miss Kitty 10 days before. A beautiful tuxedo girl named Emily captured my heart on the website, but it wasn't to be. Emily was firmly bonded to another cat and wouldn't budge, extremely shy. In a typical shelter miracle she and her close buddy were both adopted together to spend their days loving their new family and each other.

"What are you looking for?" a young woman asked as she played with and cuddled several cats in the wide-open room with plenty of perches, beds and sunlight. No cages here. I didn't hesitate. "I want a cat I can give lots of love to, and who gives it back in spades." She replied "have you looked at our FIV Positive cats? They are the most loving of all cats."

I took her advice and a simple leaflet explaining that FIV felines live as long as any other cat if kept safe indoors with regular checkups to catch illness. After a pre-Covid 19 hand washing I was led into to see the cats there. I sat down to get my bearings as 20 pairs of eyes

looked me over. A blur of white and orange leaped off a high perch and straight into my lap, hanging on with white paws outstretched and back paws completing a grasp that had me say "Awwwwww" with about 8 w's. "That's Webb," a kind older volunteer said. "He really loves people." "I gather so!" I said. I moved around the room and another cat, named Jackson, started rolling around on his belly, a kitty come-hither. He loved his belly rubs and I loved him.



I went home telling the shelter I would be back for either 2 year old Jackson or Webb the old man.

"Get the old one," my friend Diane said. "Get him." Diane had driven 3 hours north to Two Rivers after seeing her poodle mix Clarence whose shelter ad read that he couldn't control his bladder. Unlike Lakeland which is a no-kill shelter, Clarence was on borrowed time. 8 years later he is a happy and loving dog who didn't have a whit of urinary trouble in his new home.

I still wasn't convinced. Jason, another friend, shared that he had two FIV cats who lived to 14 and 15.

That settled it. It will be Webb with Jackson a close second if he's a cuddler.

As you enter the shelter the FIV cat room is to your right. Webb was on his perch bent at an angle grooming with his legs up in the air to hit the right spot. He spotted me with his good eye and the legs dropped like a stone and he and his ears

I tried to pick him up to snuggle and he hissed and fought (he got adopted the next day). "I'm taking Webb," and she reacted with a big smile. They had been rooting for him. On the way out they took our picture and the volunteer ran after me. "This is his favorite toy, he just loves it."

That quiet, calm, intelligent stare all the way home, his bird feathers on a stick fluttering above his brand new carrier I bought and had layered with Miss Kitty's blanket that she had snuggled her last day.

At my coach house he did what every cat does...investigate every nook and cranny sweeping through every room and crevice.

Then he went directly for me and hopped straight into my lap, only this time he craned his head up and looked right through me with those deep intelligent eyes. "I'm so glad you're mine," then rubbed my thigh with his cheek marking me as his own for all cats to know. We sat there together a few minutes getting acquainted then it was time for work.

Ten hours later I drove up and there he was, his white legs, chest and cheeks visible in the moonlight looking out the window for me.

As I put some things in the cupboard he leapt to the counter and then stood up on both legs and leapt onto my shoulder. Another Awwwww moment. I held him tight and rocked him side to side as he purred.

I got on FaceBook and asked the Town of Sharon page who was the heroine who rescued my boy Webb, whose nickname at the shelter was Sweet Webb. Such an unusual name for a mysterious creature with no past. Someone recognized the picture.

"I believe that was me," wrote Duanne Gunnarson Webb, who had just moved from her farmhouse on State Line Road. "He was very friendly. I'm glad I have a namesake."

It's been a year now. Every night I go to bed and when I pull the covers up to my chin to signal it's time, Mrs. Webb's namesake crawls onto my chest, wraps his arms around my neck and purrs. He repeats in the morning when I wake up. We love each other. He picked me out when his life was half over. We're both of a mind that his life is just beginning.

It's been said that some shelter cats know their owner-to-be on first glance. It could be scent, it could be instinct, it could be the draw of a kindred spirit.

What's certain to me is that I wasn't the one doing the adopting. More certain is that I didn't rescue him. He rescued me. IrishRoverJim@gmail.com

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stood up and his eyes gave the calm deep stare I've come to know. "It's YOU" he said.

I walked in the room and Webb eyed me, trying to gauge how I felt about him. I wondered if he'd pass the "Dog" test and come if I called him. I spread my arms opened wide and said "Come here, Webb." One leap to the floor with a second leap straight into my lap, holding on for dear life as he stretched out and I petted him.

He didn't know me but he loved me. I put him down gently and walked over to Jackson.

Commemorate the Easter Rising 1916 Proclamation

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The Proclamation of Irish Freedom

Easter Rising 1916 - The First Dáil of Éire

The Provisional Government of the Irish Republic, consisting of the following members: **Patrick Pearse, James Connolly, Thomas Clarke Luby, John MacDonaghy, Michael Mallin, Sean O'Meara, Richard Johnston, Joseph Plunkett, Michael O'Connell, Seán Ó'Riada, Patrick H. Pearse, David Gray, James Joyce, Patrick P. Clavin, and James Connolly.**

**PUBLAICHT NA H ÉIREANN.
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.**

IRISHMEN AND WOMEN! In these official acts of our Provisional Government which have been taken for the freedom of Ireland, Ireland through us, we exercise the right to be free and to rule her own affairs.

During the past few years we have been struggling through our own revolutionary organization, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through its own military organization, the Irish Volunteers, and the Irish Citizen Army, having already proclaimed our complete independence for Ireland and our right to govern our own land, we have taken this momentous and, we believe, historic step in the name of the people of Ireland.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland and to the overthrow of the British Empire. We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland and to the overthrow of the British Empire. We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland and to the overthrow of the British Empire.

The Irish Republic, which we hereby declare, shall be a free, sovereign, and independent State, entitled to full recognition by all other States. The Irish Republic, which we hereby declare, shall be a free, sovereign, and independent State, entitled to full recognition by all other States.

We pledge the men of the Irish Republic, under the leadership of the Irish High Command, to be true to the Republic and to be true to the Republic and to be true to the Republic.

Signed on behalf of the Provisional Government,
PATRIK PEARSE,
MICHAEL O'CONNELL,
THOMAS CLARKE LUBY,
JOHN MACDONAGHY,
MICHAEL MALLIN,
SEAN O'MEARA,
RICHARD JOHNSTON,
JOSEPH PLUNKETT,MICHAEL O'CONNELL,
SEÁN Ó'RÍADA,PATRICK H. PEARSE,
DAVID GRAY,JAMES JOYCE,PATRICK P. CLAVIN,
JAMES CONNOLLY.

The Provisional Government was publicly proclaimed by the Irish Republican Brotherhood, for the purpose of the establishment of the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic, at the start of the Easter Rising on Monday, April 24th, 1916. After fighting with valour, having done its utmost against an enemy, it was completely defeated. The Irish Republic, which we hereby declare, shall be a free, sovereign, and independent State, entitled to full recognition by all other States. The Irish Republic, which we hereby declare, shall be a free, sovereign, and independent State, entitled to full recognition by all other States.

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Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Job Seekers Who are Prepared are More Likely to be Hired!

I have been an outplacement/career transition consultant for a long time. I have learned many of the important issues that get in the way of job seekers. As we recover from this terrible virus a lot of us may possibly be looking for new employment. As we get started, we are bombarded with data about the difficulties of the job search process. Although some of those challenges are real, they can be overcome by following some basic ideas, such as the nine

I have suggested.

Idea #1 Take the time to really think through where you want your job search to take you. Research says that 85-90% of people continue in their chosen career when they have been terminated. They seek and accept a similar job. Is this time to kick back for a day or two and probe your mind for clarity on the type of job you really want now? This break is a good time to kick back for a day or two and probe your mind for

Former President of the MWRD, Terence J. O'Brien, Passes at 64

In what has been a very rough year, we have lost another great Irishman on the last day of February. I knew Terry almost since I bought this paper in 1991 after being introduced by the Irish king-maker, Ed McElroy.

The thing about Terry was he was always even keeled and friendly every single time we met. You just knew that if you needed something, he would help if he could, and do it with a smile. That's the kind of guy he was.

Terry spent all his life living in Chicago. He attended grade school at St. Hilary's, Loyola Academy High School and John Carroll University in Ohio. He moved to Edgebrook with his wife Julie in 1989 raising three children and where St. Mary of the Woods Parish community became a significant part of his life.

Throughout his lifetime, Terry formed hundreds of lasting friendships and relationships. He retired in 2012 from the M.W.R.D.G.C after 24 years. His professional accomplishments were countless. His greatest achievement was focusing on the completion of the Deep Tun-

nel. A well-known fact is that Terry never missed a Board of Commissioners meeting in his 24 years of service. Upon his retirement, the Northside Treatment plant was renamed Terrence J O'Brien Water Reclamation Plant honoring his years of hard work and dedication to the people of



Cook County, the employees of the District and always doing what was best for the District.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Terry's name to Misericordia, 6300 N Ridge Ave., Chicago IL 60660 or www.misericordia.com.

clarity on the type of job you really want now.

Idea #2 Once you are sure of your job target, develop a plan of action that focuses your search on likely companies; your research should surface them. Stay focused on companies that interest you. Do you know anyone who works for a prospective company? Remember the old adage, we are only 6-7 people away from a person who can help us.

Idea #3 Develop a resume that highlights your achievements not one that only lists your responsibilities. People hire or reject you based on their perception of your achievements, be sure that you give yourself enough credit. Think of your resume as your door opener that highlights your successes. It must be neat, clean and organized.

When you are preparing your resume, remember there are three golden rules, EDIT, EDIT and then EDIT again. Have a couple of trusted friends review it; be sure to give them permission to be as critical as possible. Ideally, your final resume will be flawless. The outstanding achievements on the resume should provoke an interest in you.

Idea #4 The thorough rendering of your resume will be the basis for developing and practicing your verbal presentation. Tell the interviewer enthusiastically why their company should be interested in you.

Think of yourself as a performer who has practiced your presentation numerous times. You should be able to stop and start your message without missing a beat. Your tough minded friends can provide a great service by helping you get comfortable with your

message. Ask them to conduct mock interviews and hold you accountable for everything you say as you practice. You should also get comfortable giving your presentation via Zoom and Skype.

Idea #5 Determine how you will present yourself ahead of time. Are you going to let them know that "you are the smartest person in the room"? What clothes and shoes are you going to wear? Give yourself plenty of time to get to the interview site. Be sure to take the name and phone number of the individual you are going to meet. Be prepared to call if you are unavoidably detained.

Idea #6 Here is another golden rule to remember: NETWORK, NETWORK, AND NETWORK some more. You simply cannot overdo networking. People will help you for any one of a hundred reasons. Tell everyone what you have been doing, what you want to do, where you want to do it and what your compensation expectations are. The compensation piece unnerves many of us, but your contact needs to know how you see yourself: a Chevrolet or a Porsche. How else can your contact discuss your circumstances competently if they don't know your financial expectations.

Idea #7 Do your homework before each and every interview. You need to learn about your prospective employer; very few things should come up in the interview that you don't already know. What are the future prospects for this company and/or industry? Ideally if you can find out something about the interviewers before meeting them, you could be a big hit. Stick to positive information, that is what you want to present to the interviewer.

Idea #8 Stay focused on the job search. Many people feel that "they have time"; they are wrong, get started as soon as possible. Don't paint the garage or rewire the house.

Idea #9 If you are not highly competent on the internet, find someone who can teach you, at least the basics. You need to be able to search out information on your prospective employers. LinkedIn can help you reconnect with people whom you have lost track of. The vast variety of web sites can be overwhelming, so find a few that appear to be good for you and stick with them.

Here are a few other thoughts for your consideration:

- If you are convinced that you are going to be successful, take the time to enjoy the "ride". Most people want to help you; provide them the pertinent info to do so.

- Enlist a friend as your confidant or conscience and let him hold you accountable.

- Help someone else in the process. It will take some of the pressure off of your own search.

- Carpe diem (seize the day; seize the opportunity).

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: "NEVER, NEVER, NEVER GIVE UP." Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of England.

"One of the reasons mature people stop learning is that they become less and less willing to risk failure." John Gardner, founder of COMMON CAUSE and scholar.

James F. Fitzgerald was the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates for the last 24 years. He retired in January, 2021. This Naperville-based firm specialized in executive coaching and outplacement. #630-673-0362



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President's Message - April 2021



I hope you all had a good St. Patrick's Day and a wonderful Easter! As we talked last month, our celebrations this year have been forced to be different, but we still enjoyed them all the same! I hope you were able to join us on Facebook or YouTube for one of our St. Patrick's virtual events. If you were unable to join us on March 13th or March 17th, the good news with virtual events is you can revisit them whenever you want! If you missed our streams, I encourage you to go back and watch either our St. Patrick's Fest, our St. Patrick's Day, or our Children's St. Patrick's online events. Again, these can be viewed at any time on

Facebook or YouTube (just search "Irish American Heritage Center"), and they feature Irish music from local bands, and musicians from Ireland!

Along with our fun virtual events, we were able to enjoy the St. Patrick's Day Parade! The Plumbers Local Union 130 did a fantastic job with this year's parade, and we were so grateful to be the guests of honor alongside our friends on the southside, Gaelic Park! A huge thank you to our parade committee and crew; you guys knocked it out of the park once again!

With the weather warming up, vaccines being more widely available, and constraints being lifted on event spaces, we're getting ready to open our pub again! We're working hard to create a safe and responsible reopen of our pub and outdoor spaces. Once we have more information, we'll be sure to share it with everyone! For those who are wanting to visit the building and support the IAHC in the interim of the pub's reopening, our Gift Shop is currently open for in-person shopping, along with curbside pickup. The store hours are Saturday from 10:00am through 4:00pm.

Be sure to sign up for our newsletter at www.irish-american.org and follow us on social media for the most up-to-date information on our events, the pub reopening, and more! Until we meet again, happy spring, enjoy the nice weather, and we hope to see you soon!

Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel
President, Irish American Heritage Center



**Thank you, St. Patrick's
Parade Float Committee!**

The 2020 and 2021 float looked great!
You did us proud, once again!

Mike Neary- Chairman/Marshall

Marianne Lynch

Kathy Kelly

Peggy Murphy

Mike Roach

Mike Kelly

Jim Rochford

Rich Godley

Jim Butler

Bill McDonagh

Dominick Mulcrone



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Winter Melts Away and Student Thrives

Three weeks ago, I was digging my hand and my older-than-me neighbor's car out of drifts of snow. Like the late-1970's it seems that we were destined to plow through hip deep white stuff, then watch our shoveled spaces get occupied by millennial lay-about who eased into our icy car revetments when we ventured off to Meijer's in search of sidewalk salt (it did not exist for weeks) and submit to that back-sliding rodent in Pennsylvania that harbingered weeks of endless frost and icy stalactites grinning from every roof from Michigan City to Jimtown.

The groundhog really did a job on us.

You may have had a dusting or two over where you live, as well.

However, God is merciful and He decided to confound the weather worriers and usher in a cavalcade of spring-like days with mild temperatures and a glorious lack of precipitation. The snow pyramids that buried the basketball hoops are receding around the vast parking lot of the Indiana school where I roll through the days teaching English Language Arts and Social Studies, as a permanent substitute.

I am blessed to have taught so many hundreds of wonderful youngsters, from Kankakee to Laporte, Indiana. One young lady is a Michelin Chef and owner of the finest restaurant in Michigan City. One gentleman retired from the United States Air Force as a Brigadier General. Another young lady starred in movies with John Candy, John Goodman, Kate Winslet, Mark Wahlberg and acted at Chicago's famed Steppenwolf Theater with John Malkovich. All are a credit to our nation and wonderful human beings. And most recently, I have encountered



pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



ment and pay attention to his habiliments. I assured him that we would learn much, much more in the days to come.

Sergei, I learned, worked as a sous chef at Long Beach Country Club and

then for the Blue Chip Casino, where he turned eighteen, He had mastered Spanish, Italian, Russian and was learning German in order to read Goethe in the original. He played on the soccer and golf teams until his senior year and then began a book club and young man's discussion group at the school. I never ever heard this merry springald say, "I am bored."

Most importantly, Sergei was kind to his slower, less attractive, or unpopular classmates. You cannot pretend to be a great a guy.

I wrote long and effusive letters of recommendation for entry to IE University and for scholarship money. More than my pleasure. After reading O Henry's "The Gift of the Magi" I tasked Sergei with producing a quality video of that beloved story. That he did. The task was not too big for a young person with daring who would bring twenty other people into the project.

In his first semester at a foreign university, Sergei attracted a score of like-minded and great souled young scholars with his concept of creating a website dedicated to Daring:

"The Avant-Guard Media is an apolitical infotainment media organization that focuses on curious, bizarre, hidden, and undiscussed topics within the fields of science, culture, business and economics. Through content created by students, The Avant-Guard Media attempts to inspire a renaissance of profound thought within the youth of our world, displaying the unorthodox and bizarre in a manner that educates yet creates curiosity amongst our audience.

Our mission: To drive innovation through the obscure and bizarre."

Give this site a very good look - theavant-guard.com

The site is impressive. It is entirely student driven and Sergei Ganz is the President.

Not too bad for a Dune Billy from Michigan City, Indiana. People wonder how the Elon Musks achieve so much. They are never bored and willing to make the next big idea work. Thank you, Sergei, for melting away much, much more than your share of this winter's snow!

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another student who promises to achieve beyond the norm. His name is Sergei.

I received an e-mail from this former student, who is studying in Segovia, Spain, informing me that he had formed and leads a most impressive website dedicated to cutting edge thought and courageous inquiry.

My days go by in the blink of my wrinkled eyes. Setbacks and disappointments and months of back-busting warehouse work have melted away with the joy of teaching young adults figurative language and Andy Jackson's battle with the financial monsters of his day. But last Monday, I was poleaxed when I went to the site theavant-guard.com. The young man who dreamed up and put together this site was taught by me last year and has more than justified my university and scholarship recommendations.

I first met Sergei as he entered the classroom for my Dual Credit College Composition class, with all the tails of shirt untucked, his tie askew and his thick head of brown hair pointing to every corner of the globe. This is a private school with a strict dress code--on the books. Sergei was beaming with welcome for me, but I needed to establish my authority at the get-go and asked the young scapegrace to join me out of ear shot. He was only too delighted.

I said, "I'm Pat Hickey and I will teach you a great deal, but first you must tuck in that shirt, knot that tie and at least run one hand through that mane of yours. Come to my class prepared for my class."

His apology was genuine and completely unaffected.

Sergei told me that I was the first teacher to make him aware of his deport-

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Roaming in the Gloaming

By Estelle Shanley

Thoroughly vaccinated, safe from Covid-19, I had the privilege this week joining three friends for a weekend outdoor breakfast on a sun drenched patio in Palm Springs, California. Fred of Irish decent, Loren who hails from Oregon, reared by parents both Lutheran Ministers. Endudi, the third guest an Immigrant from India, a physician, a US citizen revealed his sister, was a registered nurse and relocated to Dublin many years ago. Hence our conversation lingered on the Irish and Ireland.

Talk to visitors, especially Americans, who have visited Ireland and they will tell you it is a land of enchantment where a holiday becomes an experience, providing memories for a lifetime. There are stories and recollections to be told and retold over breakfast, lunch, over cocktails and dinner. But, talk to those of us who left Ireland to experience a new life in the United States, to make our fame and fortune, to gain status whether in business, journalism, education, health care, or politics and we speak of a different land.

Sometimes we speak in defiance, perhaps subconsciously angry that we had to leave, that the economy necessitated our exodus. Sometimes we romanticize Irish life, enlarging the memories, weaving fantasy into tapestry that is rich, colorful but inaccurate. Sometimes we speak with a longing fed by loneliness, nourished by a desire to return to our beginning, our roots, our cocoon of shelter and safety.

In past years the Emerald Isle featured the youngest population in Europe, and one of the best educated. The metropolitan centers, Dublin, Galway, Cork, Limerick and Waterford are sophisticated and impressive. Theater is of the highest quality, innovative and affordable. But what one notices upon return following a long absence is the land, the countryside, the sweeping mountains, the hedges, meadows, fields, glens, the smell of the earth, the just clipped-weeds and bushes along the ditch and always the low billowing clouds. The quality of life in Ireland holds great appeal. It intoxicates the returning native, a spirit not affected by rural surroundings or city streets, or

economic status. It permeates the Irish mentality, easing, coaxing, relaxing, laughing. It enjoys the soft rain, appreciates the rays of the sun, even if they are intermittent. It feeds on the intensity of conversation, the exchange of ideas, philosophy, poetry, literature and song. In a word, Ireland fills our souls.

There have been changes since we left. Irish women, always powerful in personality, ever matriarchal, enjoy new status as the women's movement took hold across portions of the world. One notices more Irish feminist publications in bookshops in Dublin and Cork City. The legality of contraception has given women control over their bodies, hence more control over their lives.

They have changed and so have men. Marriages occur at a younger age, more women postponing children and maintain careers. There also appears to be a lessening of the appeal the United States has for Irish citizens. Nonetheless they still clamor to come, on tourist visas and illegally. They are less willing to assimilate, uninterested in filing their lives with schedules, deadlines, and demands shunning the hectic pace that Americans maintain. Also the contrast between Irish children and their American counterparts is startling. The emphasis on education in Ireland is extraordinary, and the quality is a higher standard so much so that educators are often embarrassed that a small Island produces such scholars. Children are expected to excel, to develop minds, expand their intellect, study and be serious. They are a polite lot, articulate and keen.

In recent years the Catholic Church has lost its stranglehold especially in urban areas. Conservative Catholics would argue this is a tragedy, but for most it heralds progress. Reared through adolescence in Ireland, many of us found the fierce control of clergy tragically repressive. The excessive emphasis on sin and guilt was ultimately destructive. What has not changed is the warmth and hospitality of the Irish. There is no lessening, no dilution of the genuine welcome they bestow on Irish-Americans, and tourists from all over the world. It is this spirit of human generosity that keeps tourists flocking to Ireland. One tremendous advantage the country boasts is its literary strength. Pick up an Irish newspaper and the contrast in quality is staggering. The writing style is crisp, not sloppy. Columnists are less arrogant, more informative and the coverage of news is

more global than most American newspapers.

Perhaps the highlight in change is the revolution of Irish food. The Michelin Guide keeps a food critic team in Ireland issuing coveted Michelin Stars to the increasing number of elegant restaurants, high-end hotels, renovated Irish castles and country homes. Prices for the discerning traveler are on a par with France. Pub grub still abounds, fresh, hearty and abundant. One relishes fresh Irish salmon, Irish Spring lamb, brown bread and above all, the potato, flowery, flavorful, the staff of life, food for the soul.

As Covid-19 commences to chill, with vaccines abundantly available, 'tis time to book a flight on Aer Lingus and enjoy the Irish Spring, fields of daffodils and a "soft day thank God."

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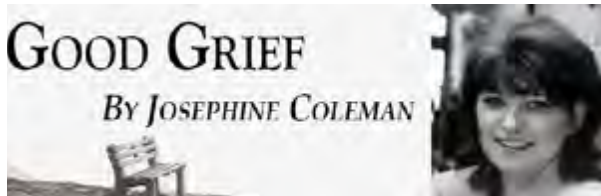
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Hello there again. Hope you're all keeping well and like many others maybe by now you may have been

called for your Covid Vaccine appointment. We have been helping our senior neighbors log in to find openings close by their homes. I was able to get the Johnston and Johnston due to my work with the Homeless. I had it at the old Kmart on Oakton and Lee Street. Driving in I noticed the car park was jammed full so my immediate reaction was 'Oh lord I'm going to be here for hours.' I was met at the front door by the National Guard who was so polite. They took my temperature and scanned my appointment bar code I was immediately sent to sit down at a desk with a nice young lady who was also a member of the National Guard. She asked me a few health questions then passed me onto a young kindly soft spoken nurse who immediately put me at ease. The National Guards were behind her filling up her cooler with the

GOOD GRIEF

BY JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



vaccines. Nurse Clare efficiently administered the needle in my arm and as I turned to look away she said ALL DONE. I was like wow I didn't feel a thing. (I did hear that from people but I thought how do you not feel a needle in your arm?) I was directed to go sit in the observation area for fifteen minutes so they can monitor you for any allergic reactions. As I sat there I was so impressed watching the National Guard spraying tables and chairs and making sure everyone had hand sanitizer. I was in awe of how everything just flowed from the moment I walked in to the moment I got the needle in my arm. I was literally out in the car park in less than thirty minutes. As I walked out I got a lot of goodbyes. Have a nice day!! I just wanted to run back in and hug them all. Going to try to get people together and organize some lunch for them.

God knows they deserve it and more.

This is just my personal account. Janet my neighbor and sewing friend had this to say.

People have asked me if I was afraid to get a COV-19 vaccine. Wasn't I worried about possible reactions or side effects? Honestly, yes. I was initially hesitant to get a vaccine, especially one that seemed to be rushed through. As I learned more, I came to learn that steps were not eliminated to make these vaccines available. Research using the mRNA model was already underway. Drugs trials had been done with a large number of people. Standards established by the FDA and the National Institute of Health were not altered. As these drugs were authorized only for emergency use, monitoring by the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues.

We have a friend that was a nurse on a COVID-19 unit. She reported caring for a young

COVID-19 patient. They were talking and joking. She went to check on another patient. When she returned just minutes later to the first patient's room, he was in acute respiratory arrest. He died that day.

I knew a couple that were in their 80's. They both caught COVID-19 and needed hospitalization. No one in their large close extended family was able to be with them. The hospital did let them share a room and placed their beds so that they could hold hands. They passed within a day of each other.

Personally, I was more than willing to get the vaccine and take a chance of a possible side effect rather than take a chance of catching this terrible virus. I have gotten both shots. I got Pfizer. My arm was sore and tender to touch for 2 days. I was tired but still able to be up and around. After my 2nd shot, my reaction was much the same. My husband shots were Moderna. His arm was also sore and he was tired after the 2nd shot for a few days.

Our reactions to the vaccines and now having immunity against COVID-19 were well worth these minimum inconveniences. I would do it again without hesitation.

Thanks Janet for your input.. To date I have had no allergic reaction to Johnston and Johnston vaccine. I am just grateful I was eligible to get it and help others to get registered so that we may have a decent Thanksgiving and Christmas this year. On that note I'm going to sign off as I am getting prepared to have knee surgery which I'm not looking forward to if its anything akin to my rotary cuff surgery and sleeping in a lazy boy chair for weeks. My dentist is 80years old and had both knees done so if he can do it so can I (I love this guy he was a dentist on Michigan Ave years ago he tells me lots of great stories about the rich and famous while he is working on my teeth I might share them with you) His advice to me was" TAKE ALL THE PAIN MEDICATION!!.

Spring is here finally the sun is shining there is better days ahead. Stay well and safe till next time..

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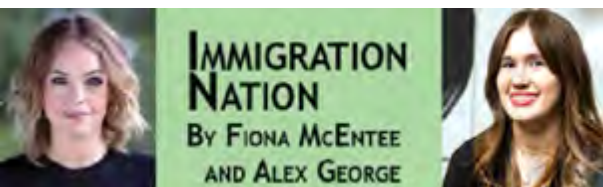
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Welcome Changes to Citizenship Process in Biden Administration

Since Inauguration Day, the Biden Administration has taken steps toward making the immigration system more inclusive and welcoming. For many immigrants, their ultimate goal is to become U.S. citizens. At McEntee Law, we help our clients clear multiple hurdles while they run toward their American dreams. Recent changes to the citizenship process will make the process more accessible and bring countless permanent residents that much closer to the finish line.

On February 2, 2021, President Biden released the "Executive Order on Restoring Our Legal Immigration Systems and Strengthening Integration and Inclusion Efforts for New Americans." The executive order states that the Biden administration will create a plan by early April 2021 to improve the citizenship process, also known as naturalization. The Biden administration has committed to



creating a naturalization reform plan to do the following:

1. Conduct a comprehensive review of the naturalization process from start to finish to eliminate barriers and improve the process overall;
2. Reduce processing times;
3. Find ways to make the process more accessible to all, potentially by reducing the government filing fee and restoring the fee waiver process;
4. Facilitate naturalization for qualified members of the military and other eligible candidates born abroad; and
5. Review denaturalization and passport revocation processes to ensure that they are not used inappropriately.

While all of this is in the works, the Biden administration has already used its authority to make citizenship more accessible to qualified applicants by returning to the 2008 version of the naturalization exam. This is great news for permanent residents who aspire to U.S. citizenship because changes to the exam made in December 2020 by the Trump administration would have made the exam that much more difficult.

In order to become a citizen, qualified permanent residents must file an initial application with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). After filing, they are scheduled for an interview. During the interview, the applicant takes an oral civics exam to test their knowledge of the fundamentals of U.S. history, founding principles, and government. Under the 2008 version of the exam, there were 100 possible questions for immigrants to study. The interviewer would ask them 10 questions and they would need to answer 6 correctly. In 2020, USCIS announced its plans to expand the number of possible questions to 128, and immigrants would have to answer 12 out of 20 correctly. Immigration advocates argue that the new test created another arbitrary obstacle on the path to naturalization because the original Civics Test was difficult enough for aspiring American citizens, particularly those who also need to learn English to pass the language portion of the citizenship test.

The updated Civics Test questions were also hotly

contested by immigrant and civil rights advocates for its political overtones and bias, so much so that some answers were demonstrably false. This is problematic for aspiring new citizens because, while the USCIS website says that "there may be additional correct answers to the civics questions," the website provides study materials that focus on the limited set of answers they deem acceptable and encourages immigrants to memorize and use those answers.

For example, one question on the 2020 Civics Test asked, "Many documents influenced the U.S. Constitution. Name one." Acceptable answers included The Federalist Papers, a favorite among the Trump administration's judicial nominees and appointees. Any fan of the Broadway musical Hamilton will know that this is false because The Federalist Papers was a collection of 85 essays drafted after the U.S. Constitution was already written and circulated to encourage states to accept and ratify the Constitution. The new questions also focused heavily on wartime trivia and only included the word "democracy" once.

There were also acceptable answers that misrepresent the rights of those living within the U.S., such as saying that "everyone living in the U.S." has the right to bear arms. In reality, individual states have the authority to restrict several groups of people from owning or possessing a firearm, including non-immigrant visa holders in California. Not only would these questions create an unnecessarily difficult barrier to citizenship, but they would also force applicants to memorize incorrect information and recite it on record.

In advance of its implementation, USCIS received approximately 2,500 public comments about the 2020 citizenship exam. In a recent Policy Alert, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) stated that multiple commenters noted that there was "little advance notice before implementation of the 2020 Civics Test, which raised concerns about limited time for study and preparation of training materials and resources." This stands in sharp contrast to the 2008 version of the exam, which was piloted, tested, and edited extensively under the Bush administration.

Fortunately, under the Biden administration, USCIS is returning to the 2008 version of the exam. This version of the exam is not perfect, but it is tried and tested, and there is a wealth of study resources available. It is also much more consistent with the Biden administration's goals to encourage naturalization.

If you are confused as to which test you should be studying for, you are not alone, and we will break that down here:

If you applied for naturalization before December 1, 2020, you will take the 2008 Civics Test during your interview. If you applied from December 1 - February 28, 2021 and your interview is scheduled before April 19, 2021, you can choose between the 2008 and 2020 Civics Test. USCIS is offering both tests to accommodate some applicants who studied for the 2020 test. However, if you applied from December 1 - February 28, 2021 and your interview is scheduled on or after April 19, 2021, you will take the 2008 Civics test. If you applied after March 1, 2020, you will also take the 2008 test.

If you have already applied for citizenship, there are many organizations across the U.S. that help citizenship applicants study for the Civics Test. If you are in the Chi-

cagoland area, we would highly recommend reaching out to Irish Community Services Midwest at irishchicago.org. They offer virtual citizenship classes and support through the New Americans Initiative.

If you would like to discuss becoming a U.S. citizen yourself, our team at McEntee Law would be very happy to assist. info@mcenteelaw.com 773-828-9544

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