




**Horace R.**  
 Horace R. Cayton, much of the 1930s on the city was pioneering social Chicago's Africa including *Black Negro Life in a New* masterwork, co-explored urban Chicago's Bronze study—an extra look at African—the perspective authors. Second of the Parkway established a the South Side.  
 Cayton initially sociology at the leaving behind where he had re- of We- ishe



**RING LARDNER**  
 JOURNALIST,  
 NOVELIST,  
 SHORT STORY WRITER  
 1893-1933

Chicago, Illinois, October 18, 1893. Famous is all over Al. White Sox champions and I done to see Comiskey before fix up about my contract year. I won't sign for no five thousand and if he a contract for less than leave the White Sox flat back."



**JAMES T. FARRELL**  
 NOVELIST  
 1904-1979

"It made him think how the world must be, at every minute, so full of people fighting, and jazzing, and dying, and working, and losing jobs, and it was a funny world, all right, full of funny people, millions of them. And he was only one out of a million of these millions of people, and they were all trying to get along, and many of them had gotten further than he."

— JAMES T. FARRELL, JUDGMENT DAY

**Malcolm O'Hagan**  
**The Force Behind Chicago's American Writers Museum page 28**

Fighting Addiction Through the Gateway Foundation page 20



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Centenaries ought to be a time for reflection. Frequently, however, centenaries occasion the past to be refracted through the prism of the present. The central debate that attended the centenary of Northern Ireland, by contrast, has been the future. Specifically, the question has been repeatedly pondered whether the place can continue to exist and for how long. The contrast between the narratives of unionism and nationalism crystallised during the centenary and no volume of trite appeals to mark the achievements of unifying figures

(in sport or in the arts) could hide that. There are, we are often told, two communities in Northern Ireland. It is less remarked that in N. Ireland there is a constituency that fervidly seeks to glorify and live in the past. Another constituency, while its exemplars are in the past, and the ancient past, is increasingly plausible in its fixation upon a future when Northern Ireland does not exist. There is nothing new in unionism doing everything in its power to retain the status quo or nationalism striving for a United Ireland. What is new is the degree of momentum against the first and in favour of the latter. Unionism is badly in need of a fresh narrative

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## View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



and speaks a language of inclusion. Unionism needs someone who will lead them to accept the Northern Ireland Protocol and embrace strong

relations with the rest of Ireland and with Europe. Can Beattie do that? Unfortunately, he will not get the chance. The UUP's electoral figures are on the floor. He may well raise the party's stock but Poots' DUP will remain the dominant unionist party.

The crisis in unionism will probably not benefit the biggest nationalist party, Sinn Féin. The purge of Sinn Féin's leadership in Derry is the clearest signal the party has yet given of its nervousness about how the Foyle (Derry) constituency will vote in the next assembly election. Derry is the biggest urban nationalist area in Northern Ireland and, as such, it is a bellwether constituency. When Sinn Féin begins to knock on doors in Derry the party will face questions about what it has delivered to Derry to merit support. Sinn Féin will try to avoid explaining why it channeled a great deal of its political capital in the past decade into North Belfast. (They succeeded in capturing the North Belfast Westminster seat from the DUP in December 2019). Sinn Féin did so in the assumption that Derry was a stronghold for them, as it was during Martin McGuinness' period as Deputy First Minister of the assembly. However, a stratagem Sinn Féin deployed to do so was to ply the University of Ulster's North Belfast campus with finance earmarked for the UU campus in Derry. Prioritising Belfast and disinvesting in Derry is endemic in Northern Ireland and sectarianism is the root cause. Now Sinn Féin can no longer pretend that impoverishing Derry is exclusively a unionist policy.

The real winners from the decline of the DUP will be the non-aligned parties—the Greens and the Alliance—whose base comprises younger voters who are disaffected with tribal politics.

The next Northern Ireland Assembly election looks set to be one of the biggest departures since the Good Friday Agreement and it will almost certainly see non-aligned parties continuing to gain ground. If their gains are such that, combined, they outnumber either the nationalist or unionist bloc then the argument that the Good Friday Agreement's provisions need to expand to account for the 'third force' in Northern Irish politics will have a democratic mandate. And there is another compelling reason to accommodate that constituency: they are the people who will almost certainly be decisive in a referendum on the removal of the Irish border.

Doug Beattie, the newly elected leader of the UUP, is a very different proposition. He exudes solidity





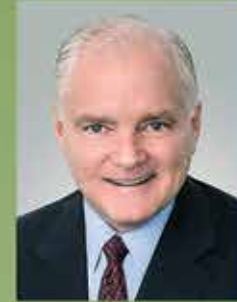
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**Naperville Hurling Club Wins GAA Grant**

Congrats to the Naperville Hurling Club for winning a grant from the Gaelic Athletic Association's Global Games Development Fund!  
The fund provides financial support specifically for projects and initiatives that increase or improve opportunities for the Irish Diaspora and other communities abroad to play Gaelic Games.  
With this honor comes the responsibility of using the funds to help grow the knowledge of hurling and camogie (women's



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# IAN Columnist and Former Irish Consul General, Sean Farrell Dies of Lung Cancer

By Cliff Carlson

Longtime columnist, Sean Farrell, passed away on May 26th of this year.

Until recently Sean contributed an in depth column on the happening in Ireland from his home in Raheny, Ireland.

Sean was Consul General here in Chicago and the Midwest, and upon retirement, I asked him if he would write for



Sean thoroughly enjoying Mulligan’s Restaurant in Dublin, December, 2019. Never noticed the halo before.

the paper and to my surprise he said yes!

While in Ireland in December of 2019 we met up in one of his favorite restaurants, Mulligan’s in Dublin, and shared a meal and a pint or two and talked about the world as it was.

Little did I know it would be our last time together in person.

Tell your friends you love them, because you do!

### Obituary

Farrell Sean, Portmarnock, 26th May 2021. Peacefully, at home after a short illness surrounded by his loving family. Beloved husband of Betty and loving father to Jennifer, Emmet and Sean, cherished grandfather to Oisín, Eoin and Maeve and father-in-law to Perry and Sineád. Sadly missed by his brother Liam, nieces, nephews, extended family, friends, neighbours and his former colleagues at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

May He Rest in Peace.

A live stream of Sean’s Funeral Mass can be viewed on Friday, 28th May, at 11am on the following link: <http://portmarnockparish.ie/>

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## Ireland Covid-19 Status Update

Ireland has moved into the the early stages of the Recovery phase of the pandemic.

Non-essential travel is not advised and travel restrictions are still in effect for those who are, and those who are not, vaccinated. If you are vaccinated, you

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For more information Visit [gov.ie/quarantine](http://gov.ie/quarantine)

must produce a negative PCR test 72 hours before flying and must quarantine at home.

If you are not vaccinated and need to travel for essential reasons, you will need to do the above but are also required to book a hotel for your mandatory hotel quarantine in advance of departure.

Please find regularly updated information and advice on restrictions and travel advice at [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie) and [www.gov.ie/Covid19](http://www.gov.ie/Covid19)

If you have a specific query that is not answered here, you should find it in one of the above links, or you may email us at [chicagocongen@dfa.ie](mailto:chicagocongen@dfa.ie).

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## Consulate No Longer Mailing Or Accepting Passport Application Forms

The Passport Service is now directing all Irish citizens to use the online system to complete their passport application. As of April 29th, the Passport Service has expanded services offered through the online passport application system and is operational for all applicant types in the United States.

The expanded online service will now include:  
 First time applicants - Adults, minors, and renewals/replacements over 5 years outdated

The online system already offers services for:  
 Renewing a passport that expired within the last 5 years

Renewing a passport to change your name  
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# Ireland Network Chicago

## Presidents Monthly Memo

Greetings IN Chicago Members, spring is in full swing now and certainly feels like Summer over the last few days.

We just delivered our AGM last week and delighted to say we had over 50 attendees logon who were also treated to a delivered gift bag and additional prizes!

Also great news in that we will be welcoming a number of new committee members to the 2021-22 committee team.

We will have 14 committee members so it shows that our continued online presence and engagement we have offered over the last 12 months during Covid has helped the Network grow as we get back to in person events.

To that end we are delighted to announce our first in person event of 2021, our **First Friday Happy Hour Networking, June 4th**. If interested in attending please register at <http://chicago.irish-network-usa.org/> as space will be limited.

Also save the date for our **2nd Annual Golf Event, Friday Oct 8th at Cog Hill Golf Club**, details will be released for that in the near future.

We will also be hosting a number of summer events so keep an eye out for those details as they are organized by the new committee!

As we get closer and closer to full reopening of our city and state again I want to thank my committee colleagues and Executive Director who served over the last year during challenging times.

Looking forward to seeing you in person this Summer!

Best regards,

Garrett Diamond  
IN Chicago President"



For Membership and newsletter signup visit  
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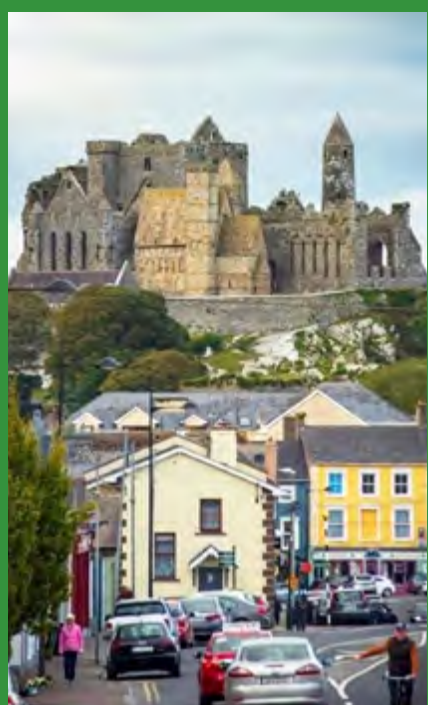
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## Scythian Releases New Album: Roots & Stones

Washington DC-based Scythian (sith-eeyin) began over 12 years ago as a bunch of college buddies playing Celtic music in the streets and has grown to be a headliner on the US Celtic Festival Circuit as well as a name in the Bluegrass/Americana Festival Circuit. They found that their brand of high-energy folk music found a resonance that led The Washington Post to state: "Scythian's enthusiasm is contagious, and shows seem to end with everyone dancing, jumping around or hoisting glasses."

For over 12 years they have found success as an independent band and have played over



1,300 shows all over the United States, Europe, Canada and as far away as Australia.

Founded by brothers Alexander and Danylo Fedoryka who are first-generation sons of Ukrainian immigrants, Scythian from the start has been a search and love for the "old time, good time music" of many cultures. They were inspired by a tale told by their 92-year-old grandmother of a roving fiddler who came into her farming village every six months or so. Once he was spotted, messengers were sent to all the outlying fields

and mills and worked ceased; everyone gathered in the barn where they danced all night and danced their cares away. This spirit is what has motivated Scythian from its inception and their success as an independent band is due largely to their finding a resonance of soul amongst kindred spirits that span all ages and races. This spirit took them from the streets to playing for the US president on St. Patrick's Day and its the enthusiastic response they receive that has made each of their 1,300+ shows unique.

THE calling card of Scythian is their ability to engage their audience no matter the venue or circumstance and truly every Scythian show ends with people dancing, smiling and covered with sweat. This is best summed up by The Camel-City Dispatch (Winston-Salem, North Carolina): "[Scythian gives] no quarter in their quest to entertain and bring a joy to their music that gives it an irony-free, wide open feel of manic possibility. The playing is technically brilliant, but it is the energy that carries the day."

<https://scythianmusic.com/store>

## Hindus Respond to President Higgins Comments on Teaching Yoga in Schools

Welcoming Ireland President Michael D. Higgins reported comments that he would like to see yoga taught to school children across Ireland, Hindus are urging that all Ireland schools should urgently adopt yoga as a part of their curriculum, providing an opportunity to students to avail the multiple benefits yoga offered.

Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, in a statement in Nevada (USA) today, exhorted all state-funded, private and other schools of Ireland to embrace yoga as part of their curriculum so that students did not miss a learning chance in this competitive world. Absence of yoga in schools was clearly doing a disservice to students and denying



Rajan Zed

them the valuable opportunities yoga provided.

Zed, President of Universal Society of Hinduism, also urged Ireland President Higgins, Taoiseach Micheál Martin, Education Minister Norma Foley, Health Minister Stephen Donnelly, Children-Youth Minister Roderic O'Gorman to wholeheartedly work towards formally introducing yoga as a part of curriculum in all the schools of the country; incorporating highly beneficial yoga in the lives of Ireland's students.

According to a report of US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: "Yoga is the most popular complementary health approach in the United States - used by 14.3% of the adult population, or 35.2 million people". According to US National Institutes of Health; yoga may help one to feel more relaxed, be more flexible, improve posture, breathe deeply, and get rid of stress. A research study by Trinity College Dublin indicated: Meditative and pranayama practices result in attentional, emotional, and physiological enhancements. Yoga was the repository of something basic in the human soul and psyche, Zed added.



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Well, we’re reaching the end of the line: our college careers are almost over. Graduation and the “real world” loom in the not-to-distant future. Some of us will probably grow apart



couple self-help books. Go to therapy. Breathe. You don’t have to figure everything out right this second. In fact, most people make it up as they

over the next few years as we seek to start our own lives and define our own destinies. Some of us might not even see each other again. But that’s okay. All of that is okay.

the kind of hatred that can topple great nations. In short, our lives have been a two-decade-long emotional rollercoaster. And yet, all of us alive today continue

The last year and a half has been tough for us all. We had our senior year robbed from us. Some of us have had loved ones lose their lives to this terrible pandemic. Others have struggled to find hope amid the bleak onslaught of bad news. Even now, as we start to emerge from our homes after a year or so in isolation, it can be hard to reconnect with the things that give us meaning and purpose in life. Again, that’s okay. It will be okay.

to find a reason to get out of bed each morning. We all find a reason to carry on, be it for a family member, a friend, a pet or even for our own sake. Life is good—it teaches us so much about ourselves, each other and the world around us. Even in the midst of great hardship and pain, the universe speaks to us in strange and mysterious ways. We have to keep listening.

Every generation has its challenges to overcome. I won’t pretend that our generation has had it harder than anyone else, but I think it’s safe to say that we’ve had more than our fair share of difficulties. Most of us were two or three when the Twin Towers fell. Many of us watched with concern as our parents and relatives struggled to overcome the Great Recession. We’ve endured a once-in-a-century pandemic and borne witness to

The path before us is unknown, and that can be scary. It’s okay to be scared. It’s okay to be unsure of what you want to do. And, above all, it’s okay to take time for yourself. Do some soul-searching. Read a

go along.

But right now, take a moment to treasure what you’ve accomplished over the past four years. Heck, take a moment to reflect on what you’ve accomplished over the past 20 years. Savor this moment, because fulfillment can be fleeting. Look forward to hard work, good company and the years to come. Understand that, while

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times may get hard, there is always something worth sticking around for.

With any luck, our class will be the last to graduate during the COVID-19 pandemic. While our younger peers will be able to physically walk across the stage at their own graduation, we must be content with a wave into a distant camera. This isn’t the end to our college career many of us had hoped for, but it is still an end. It will also be a new beginning. Let’s make the most of it.

Congratulations, Class of 2021. We did it.

### Mary Ellen Considine



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It has been a long time since an album has so grabbed me that I was compelled to keep listening to it over and over. That is exactly what I have been doing since

Danny Diamond's and Brian Miller's *Let Fly* arrived in my mailbox this week. It is a collection of twelve tune sets featuring Danny's impressive fiddling supported in great style by the magic of Brian's guitar.

Born in Belfast and now residing in Dublin, Danny has been playing fiddle since his preteen years. He was surrounded by the traditional music played by his parents. A member of several bands including Mórğa, his strong bow and smooth and easy



## On the Upbeat

By Maryann  
McTeague Keifer

style of play make the music such a pleasure to spend time listening to.

Brian is a native of northern Minnesota and resides in St. Paul with his bride, flute player and songstress Norah Rendell. Together they manage the Irish music school and cultural center there. Brian is well known and respected for his guitar and bouzouki playing and accompaniment. A member of trad band Bua, Two tap Trio, and a collector and recorder of the mining and lumber camp north woods music derived from Irish and Scottish influences, Brian is a busy fellow!

I don't know that I would have ever thought to put Danny and Brian together, but what a duo they make! Danny takes the lead with his strong and sure fiddle style. Brian's guitar supports and enhances each measure of every tune. He never takes over, but would be so missed if he dropped out at any point. Their play is like listening to a perfectly matched pair of harmonizing singers.

LET FLY is a stunning collection of twelve tune sets of great variety. Well represented is Donegal fiddler John Doherty on whom Danny has done extensive research. Opening with a reel set "The Boys of Twenty-Five," they move next into tunes from Willy Clancy and the Hernon brothers. One of my favorites comes next as "The Galway Rambler" set including tunes of Minnesota's Paddy O'Brien, Mil-town Malbay's McCarthy sisters, and the great flute player from Boys of the Lough, Fermanagh's Cathal McConnell. Two more that will catch your ear are "April Fool" set with begins with the titled tune composed by Chicago's own Jim-

my Keane, and "Lough Isle Castle" comprised of two Donegal tunes, "Mick Carr's Highland and "Paddy the Cooper Highland" and topped off with another Cathal McConnell tune, "Lough

Isle Castle" and a John Doherty reel Seán sa Cheo."

There isn't a mediocre set on the album. Each time you listen, you'll be intrigued by something different. Their last set, "The Hare's Paw," will have you hitting replay to listen again. This is not an album to purchase one or two cuts. This is an album to own and tell others about. Danny and Brian have laid the red carpet out to move us out of the pandemic and back into the music scene!

Another new album you'll be bet-

case that you could listen to him sing anything and be well into the cups of satisfaction, but it is his poignant and go to the heart lyrics that grab hold. Eddi Reader and Paul Brady have both praised his songwriting and vocal talents.

Declan opens the album with "In Painters' Light," a song of life's big goal and wish. It makes you think of your own long lost wish and reflect on where it went. "The Stars Over Kinvarra" hit a major chord with me as it is about a favorite town, and despite place of mine. His refrain, "Till the stars over Kinvara said welcome home." Just sent me right there along the water looking over to Dungaire Castle. The title track tells the wistful and almost haunting story of may who have been away too long and realizing what they'd had all along and hadn't appreciated.

Having lived a good bit of his teen and early adult years in Australia, he includes "Convict Ways" telling of the floating jail ships which carried those Irish who had been convicted of crimes, had been revolutionaries, or had been in debt off to Australia to, more than likely, never come home.

Each of the ten songs tells a story, but it is his voice with its quiet but turbulent, rich but flowing, strong yet compassionate tones that carry you along with those lyrics. It is an album for a quiet

time alone to sit back with those two fingers of a good single malt Irish whiskey and get lost in the music.

With more people able to receive vaccine, and cities and towns beginning to ease restrictions, we are seeing late summer and early fall fests beginning to announce they are going ahead with some sort of gathering. Many are relying on bands and musicians based here in the States and hope those like We Banjo 3 and JigJam who already have visas can receive their vaccine in order to be able to come and perform. Milwaukee, LaCrosse, Kansas City, Pittsburgh, Ohio, Dublin and several others have already announced an intent to hold a fest and more are being added. Sessions are beginning to be opened again. It is a good feeling!

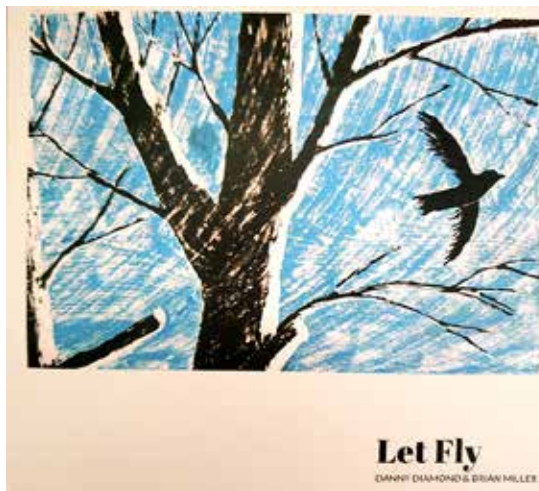
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ter off from listening to and adding to your collection is Dublin singer songwriter Declan O'Rourke's eighth album, ARRIVALS, a collection of ten folk songs written and performed by Declan and his deep rich bass/baritone voice. One could make a

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**On the Law**

Martin Healy Jr.

John P. Scanlon



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

*HealyScanlon, formerly The Healy Law Firm, is comprised of 8 trial attorneys, one of whom is from Ireland. We are located downtown at 111 West Washington Street, Ste 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). [www.HealyScanlon.com](http://www.HealyScanlon.com). The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents.*

**Spring is in the Air (Part II)**

Last month’s article discussed spring and summer opportunities for fun in the sun with water activities, as well as a number of potential safety hazards unique to warm weather activities. This month we will further discuss summertime opportunities and hazards unrelated to water activities.

**Bicycles**

Many products used during the summertime may contain hidden risks. Bicycle sales have significantly increased in the last year. Broken arms and legs, or concussions from falling off bicycles are common injuries. Users should always wear a helmet in order to reduce the risk of head injury. Trails that allow both bicyclists and walkers/joggers in the same area create additional risks to both riders and pedestrians, especially when the path is crowded. Caution must always be used, especially when passing others. According to World Against Toys Causing Harm (W.A.T.C.H.) there were 1,024 bike-related deaths in the year 2017, and 417,485 bike and accessory-related injuries in 2019.

The City of Chicago has increased the number of protected lanes throughout the city to accommodate the influx of new riders, and attempts to make for safer rides. In addition to rising bike sales, the Chicago Department of Transportation has a bikeshare partnership with Divvy

for easy transportation on a bike without owning a bike. Last year, Mayor Lightfoot directed the CDOT and Divvy to offer reduced membership fees and single-ride fees to incentivize safe socially distant public transportation during the health crisis. August 2020 was the largest rideshare month ever for Divvy.

**Trampolines**

Trampolines and bounce houses can be a lot of fun, but also have their own particular risks. Children tend to jump in groups, and injuries can result from mid-air collisions or being flung in unexpected directions. Concussions, as well as neck and back injuries, have been known to occur. Children should jump one at a time, or with similar sized children. Children who wish to do tricks on the trampoline should take classes and train properly beforehand in order to avoid injury. Bounce houses are especially popular at summer parties, carnivals, and fairs. However, according to W.A.T.C.H., over 110,000 injuries occurred due to these types of inflatable devices between 2003 and 2013, and over 120,000 injuries occurred on trampolines in 2019.

**ATVs**

Another popular summertime activity is riding an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) or “four wheeler.” There are over 10 million ATVs in use in the United States, and the

number of ATVs in use has more than doubled since 1998. Due to the serious injuries that have resulted from their use, ATVs have frequently been the subject of litigation. As a result of rollover litigation years ago, manufacturers discontinued selling dangerous three-wheeled ATVs in favor of the four-wheeled variety. However, many safety experts still consider the four-wheeled ATVs to be almost as dangerous as the banned three-wheeled types due to collision, ejection and handling issues. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), over 2,000 people were killed riding off-highway vehicles between 2015 and 2017 alone.

The risks of ATV use are compounded by the fact that there is almost a complete lack of governmental regulation regarding the use of ATVs. Indeed, some states still have no minimum rider age. It is important to remember that ATVs are powerful machines. There should always be pre-use instruction and review of the owner’s manual for particular risks. While they can be exciting to drive, users should always be helmeted, and operate the machine with safety in mind.

**Enjoy Summer Activities - Be Alert to Hazards**

Spring and summer is a special time in Chicago, and many of us want to cram as many fun activities into those short months as possible. However, warmer weather brings with it its own set of potential safety hazards, particularly as it pertains to consumer products. Keeping an eye out for these dangers can help to ensure that you and your family



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# The Stilt House in Cedarburg, Wisconsin: How One Man Got Around Local Government Rules!

**By Cliff and Cathy Carlson**  
On a getaway for 2 days in Wisconsin recently, we ran across The Stilt House and went in and

dined. The food and ambiance were terrific, and we were happy to find out that this fine restaurant/bar was Irish owned. In the early 1900's, Nick Schuh

was the owner of the Nick Schuh Tavern. He asked the city for permission to add a second floor onto the existing building. After the city denied his request, he raised the building up on "stilts" and built a first floor underneath!

**Today's Irish Owners**  
The restaurant is owned and operated by Gordon Goggin and Tricia Dooley. Keith Reid and Gordon opened the restaurant together in 2013. Gordon Goggin is a 20 year

restaurant industry veteran. Most recently, Gordon was the Director of Operations for The Lowlands Restaurant Group, whose banners include Café Hollander, Café Centraal, Café Benelux, & The Trocadero.

Gordon's wife, Tricia runs **Dooley's Restaurant and Pub in West Bend, WI** and they also own and operate Toast, in downtown Milwaukee.

We are going to try all three this Summer and we recommend you do the same!

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Hi, I'm **Annie Nestor**. I was born in Ireland and have family from Galway, Mayo and Kerry. I'm a locally owned Home Care Agency founded in 2015.

After 50 yrs in early childhood education and owning several child care centers, I decided to pass the baton. Our children are the third generation in our family to start schools and after seeing their success & passion I decided to venture into another area of caregiving, **seniors!** I thought, I'm not going to retire I'm going to RE-FIRE!

Working with seniors reminds me of my wonderful years teaching children loving, laughing, and appreciating the joys of life. HAPPY SENIORS singing old favorite tunes is music to my ears. Now I get to continue doing what I love with a new generation.



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## Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



### Nimitz

**E.B. Potter**  
**Naval Institute Press**

Nimitz “is the definitive biography of the commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet in World War II.” It was first published in 1976 by the Naval Institute Press which has now made it available as paperback. In this wonderful book, we see Admiral’s Nimitz’s personality as well as his naval skills. This book encourages us to “appreciate the contributions he made as principal architect of Japan’s defeat.”

This is the first part of this extraordinary history of Admiral Nimitz and the beginning of naval warfare of World War II. On December 7, 1941, the empire of Japan without warning,

attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. President Roosevelt said, “The date will live in infamy.”

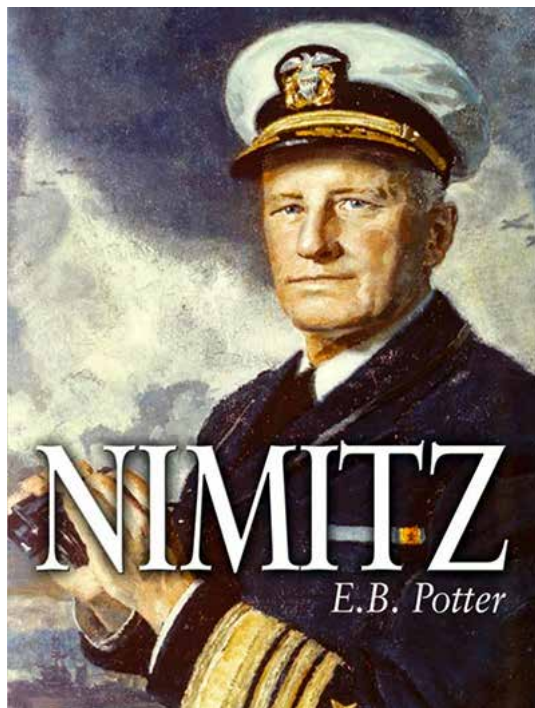
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During the following six months, American forces made brave efforts against the Japanese, but these efforts were not lasting or decisive. Japan’s navy had rampaged across the Pacific and Indian Oceans. However, the attack “on Pearl Harbor galvanized a dangerously divided nation into one implacably determined to fight the war through to final victory. On balance, the raid truly strengthened rather than weakened the United States.”

Also, some naval officers realized that despite the enormous damage at Pearl Harbor, “in modern carrier warfare, only planes could reach the enemy

fleet and that the old battleships at Pearl Harbor were to a great extent superfluous.”

Now in early June, 1942, intercepted radio messages (only about an eight could be decod-



why would this large fleet be going to Midway? If the Japanese seized Midway, the area of the Pacific controlled by Japan would be greatly expanded. This would make it difficult to communicate with Australia and the South Pacific.

The Battle of Midway was the most crucial naval battle of World War II. It took place on June 3, 4, 5 1942. Admiral Nimitz drew his forces together and put them on the flank of where he hoped the Japanese fleet would be.

A dive bomber pilot saw a destroyer making high speed. He guessed it was hurrying toward the Japanese carriers. “His hunch was correct. The bombers dropped out of the blue on two Japanese carriers, just as another squadron arrived to attach a third. Within minutes, all three were flaming wrecks.”

The Japanese lost four large carriers, one heavy cruiser and one oiler. The American navy lost one carrier and a destroyer. “Navy

ed) pointed to a large Japanese fleet of 150 warships and six aircraft carriers were storming toward AF. But what was AF?

The code breakers felt it was Midway. Admiral Nimitz believed the code breaker. But

officers and other students of warfare recognize the Battle of Midway as decisive as it erased Japan’s military advantages in the Pacific, bringing the antagonists to something approaching equality.”

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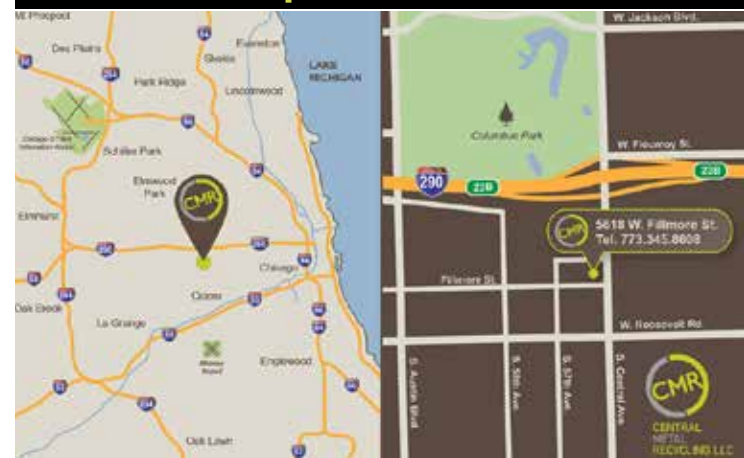
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JUNE 2021

The Fifth Province is open! The Fifth Province is OPEN! Did I mention the Fifth Province was open?!

I'm so excited to share that the pub is open again (can you tell?!). We welcomed our lovely members and guests back on Saturday, May 15th, and we've been open on Fridays and Saturdays since. It was so lovely seeing old friends our first weekend open, and it was great catching up with everyone there. We shared good food (the grilled cheese sandwich and fries with vinegar were delicious!), a nice pint (my husband said it was the best pint of Guinness he's had since we were last in Ireland), and enjoyed the wonderful music and a surprise dance performance by Trinity Irish Dancers! As if our hearts weren't full enough from being at the Center and enjoying the things we used to take for granted, the best part of the night was seeing our friends and catching up with them after a long, loooong 14 months. The room was filled with smiles, warmth, and love; it was wonderful!

Join us this weekend, if you can; we open at 6:00pm! We have good food, cold drinks, good music, and great friends; everything you'd want at the Fifth Province! For our opening weekend, we were graced by Joe McShane's singing and music, and The Academy of Irish Music and Devil in a Woodpile joined us for some great entertainment our second weekend open. We'll have other entertainment joining us throughout the summer, and we'll have the most up-to-date schedule on our website ([www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org)) and social media pages.

With the Fifth Province open, our Gift Shop hours have been extended as well. Our Gift Shop is open on evenings the Fifth Province is open until 9:00pm. After eating dinner in

the pub, I strolled over to stock up on banana bread from the Galway Bakers, some Winston's Irish sausage for breakfast the next day, and bought a few candy bars to enjoy almost immediately. Members receive 10% off their non-food purchases, and if you're ready to renew your membership—or

become a new member—now's the perfect time! Members get first access to events, which may have limited capacity due to Covid pandemic restrictions.

We hope to see you around the Fifth Province, Gift Shop, or building soon! We're so excited

to welcome you all back; what a great start to the summer!



Nicole McDonagh-Tueffel, President



The Fifth Province Pub at the Irish American Heritage Center is open and the craic is on! In the coming weeks you can enjoy favorites like Joe Cullen, the Dooley Brothers, The Boils and In Spite of Ourselves – and some newcomers, too! The kitchen is open and the pints are cold! Come in and join your friends. Party like it's 2019!



<b>June 4</b>	<b>Joe Cullen</b>	<b>June 18</b>	<b>In Spite of Ourselves</b>
<b>June 5</b>	<b>The Boils</b>	<b>June 19</b>	<b>The Dooley Brothers</b>
<b>June 11</b>	<b>Whiskey Mick</b>	<b>June 25</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>June 12</b>	<b>Mulligan Stew</b>	<b>June 26</b>	<b>TBD</b>



The Heritage Center Gift Shop will be open until 9:00pm both Friday and Saturday nights so you can shop for special gifts – and Irish breakfast goodies – while you're here enjoying the pub!



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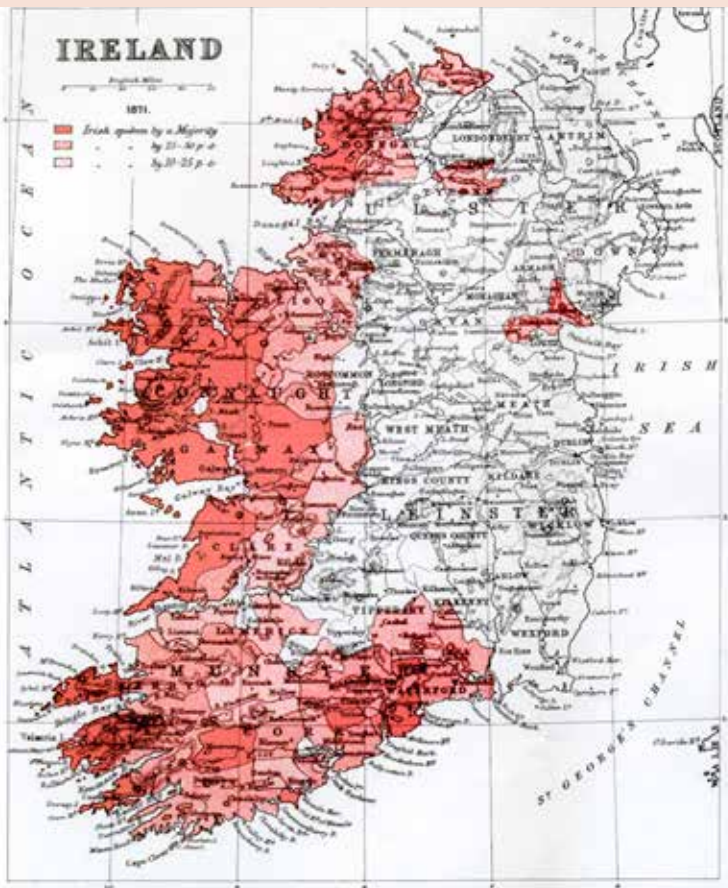




**Connemara Daly**  
By Bill Daly

**Mind Your Language**

About a year ago, I came before I left the valley. When I was growing up there was an amount of Irish spoken in the parish. The older people were fluent, and even among those who were not very old either. It was to be heard ev-



language in Ireland, and to also have Annraoi O Liathain (Harry Lyons) as part of the narrative. You may remember I introduced you to some of Annraoi’s stories in earlier columns. As luck would have it, I came across another one of his short stories (Glendine), which is relevant to this article, and even managed to translate it for your benefit also!

‘Maybe all I am doing by writing this article is venting some emotion. Lately, I happened to be in Glendine, the small parish on the banks of the River Blackwater in the West Waterford Deise where I grew up, and this is what I wrote on the night

language. They formed a class themselves to help with the reading and writing of the language. They really loved the Irish language, and the same love is carried on by their descendants. However, on a visit to the valley today I only came across two people who were able to speak fluently to me.

Some years ago when I held Irish language classes here, everyone would come to the schoolhouse twice a week. Thirty years ago, everyone in the place thought that the Irish language would be used for all normal work in the country. At that time too the rosary the rosary was said in the Chapel before Mass by Liam O Finn, the Lord have mercy on his soul. Canon Power, the Archaeologist, lived here at the time and he would say some of the prayers, before and after Mass, in Irish.

There is nothing around the place now only English. English in the Church, in the newspapers, and in the offices of the State. English in all the shops of the big towns also. English on every box, packet and jar that comes out of the Irish factories. And, the worst thing is - nobody believes anything will change to stop the decline of the Irish language.

I became angry today when I was thinking about the wonderful people around here who have been deprived of their Irish language heritage’.

*Anraoi O Liathain (1967)  
Translated by Bill Daly (2019)*

**There is Nothing Like an Irish Gift: Especially From the Heart!**

Irish at Heart, the Irish subscription box company has been overwhelmed with the positive response it has continually received following the launch of its gift box business in March 2019. From a standing start, this small Irish business has now delivered over 32,000 of its green boxes.

and their heritage. Mary set her sights on creating a one of a kind Irish gift box full of authentic and interesting Irish items delivered to subscribers doors each month.

Each beautifully curated themed gift box contains artisan and handcrafted gifts from some of Ireland’s finest creative talents and small independent businesses. The items inside are to wear, keep, use, display and share.

Speaking of her passion for Irish heritage, Mary said: “The surprise element for people living far away opening their box of Irish curated items makes this a special part of the business. My goal has always been to supplement the surprise of opening the box with education so each month we have a different theme and a podcast which focuses on interesting subjects relating to the different Irish traditions. This really helps our subscribers understand and feel closer to the beauty of Ireland.



Over 3,000 subscribers and individual purchasers have been keen to experience authentic Ireland by receiving handmade Irish gifts.

Mary Moore, Founder of Irish at Heart has a passion for Irish creativity. Born and bred in Ireland but currently living in Scotland, She recognised the demand amongst the Irish community all over the world, but particularly in the USA, to build and maintain a link to Ireland

Our online community is growing each day and we really value the wonderful feedback we receive every month through our Facebook, Instagram and Twitter following.”

All of the different subscription options are available to see at [www.irish-at-heart.com](http://www.irish-at-heart.com). You can choose to give the gift of Ireland to yourself or to a loved one, either as a recurring monthly box throughout the year or as a one-off gift.

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# Chicago Gaelic Park

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



## A Cháirde

It was a Wednesday evening in the Carraig Pub, and everything felt right. A few Gaelic Park Players finished up their rib dinners before going upstairs to the Library for a meeting. When the dance school finished up in the Emerald Room the dancers came in to collect their mothers and to share a kind word or snarky remark with their unofficial (Uncle Pat) A few parents of youth GAA players waited by the bar or at tables watching the White Sox having a big inning. The air was full of the smell of ribs and the new menu items. A father and daughter enjoyed a drink and a meal at the bar, as did others, and the sounds of conversation filled the pub.

A table was waiting for a group of young women, who soon arrived

ready to enjoy their get-together. Another group of young women came in off the fields, having been out training for the Gaelic football season. I had time for one more pint before my to-go order came up, and the pint was perfect. My cajun chicken sandwich was delicious.

There was laughter, there was craic, and there was community. When the founders of Gaelic Park decided to acquire the first parcel of land oh so many years ago so the GAA had a place to play its games, they knew they wanted sports and much more. We're very glad they had the foresight that they did.

Is mise le meas,  
Bill O'Sullivan

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## WELCOME BACK!!!

# Gaelic Park's June Luncheon

Wednesday, June 02, 2021

Doors open at 12:00, Lunch is served at 1:00  
\$16.00 per person - Reserve your table now!

What a wonderful way to spend the afternoon catching up with friends, enjoying a hearty meal of soup, salad, a delicious entrée, along with dessert, tea and coffee.

Entertainment by Joe Cullen

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6119 W 147th Street Oak Forest, IL 60452  
Reservations required 708-687-9323 ([www.chicagogaelicpark.com](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.com))

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## WELCOME BACK!!!!

# the Carraig

Irish Pub

Can't wait to see you again!!!

### Pub Entertainment for May & June 2021

#### MAY

Friday May 21 - Joe McShane 7:00pm

Friday May 28 - Liam Durkin 7:30pm

Saturday May 29 - The Larkin & Moran Brothers 7:00pm

Sunday May 30 - Tim Gleeson & Friends 3:00pm

Sunday May 30 - Expo 76 7:00pm

#### JUNE

Thursday June 3 - Irish Music Session with Pat Finnegan & Friends 7:00pm

Thursday June 10 - Frank Rossi 5:30pm

Saturday June 12 - Bernie Glim 8:00pm

Friday June 25 - Joe Cullen 7:00pm

Pub food served Wed-Sat starting at 4:00pm - Sunday starting at 3:00pm



# Irish Fellowship Club Irish Open Golf Outing July 19, 2021

The 48th annual "Irish Open" is scheduled for Monday, July 19, 2021 at the beautiful Ridgemoor Country Club.

As always, the Irish Fellowship Club's Golf Outing is one of the country's finest and sells out early. John Wrenn, the IFC President said, "We are lucky to have such a hard-working committee to plan this fabulous event." Golf will begin with a shotgun start at 1:00 P.M. The \$450 ticket price will include green fees, driving range, golf cart, one fore-caddy per four-some, all liquid refreshments, lunch and a heavy buffet dinner. Prizes will be awarded to the most worthy participants. All reservations will be on a first come, first served basis. Proceeds from the Outing will benefit the Irish Fellowship Educational and Cultural Foundation.

Hole sponsorships are available and a great way to promote your business or to honor a friend. Prizes for the day are also being accepted. Contact the Club's Executive Director, Kathy Taylor at 312.858.0628 for more information.



## Join the Irish Fellowship Club

The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago has been getting the Irish together since 1901. Become a part of this historic organization that has a great time throughout the year, while helping others through their Educational and Cultural Foundation, the charitable arm of the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago. The Foundation supports philanthropic causes in the Chicago area and most importantly, provides scholarship assistance to students in need in each of the Catholic high schools in the Chicagoland area.

Apply on the website: [www.irishfellowshipclub.com](http://www.irishfellowshipclub.com) or by mailing the form below to the Irish Fellowship Club at P.O. Box 31604, Chicago, IL 60631

As part of the day, the IFC is holding a raffle. Tickets are \$50 each or 3 for \$100. There is a great list of prizes. You don't need to be present to win. Reserve your place at the golf outing or obtain your raffle tickets on the Irish Fellowship website [www.irishfellowshipclub.com](http://www.irishfellowshipclub.com)



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Occupation or Title

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Expiration Date

CVC #

Or you can mail this form with a \$75 check for membership dues to:

**The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago**

c/o Kathy Taylor

P.O. Box 31604

Chicago IL 60631

Mail to: Business  Home

Marital status: Single  Married





## John McCormack

John McCormack was born in Athlone, Ireland on June 14, 1884. By the age of thirteen he was singing classical arias and in 1903 he won first prize in the tenor competition in the National Festival of Ireland. He then recorded some cylinder recordings of Irish songs and used the money from the sales of these to go to Italy to study with the great music teacher Vincenzo Sabatini. He made his first trip to America in 1904 when he and his soon-to-be wife were hired to perform at the St. Louis World Fair in the Irish village.

In 1906 he had his Italian operatic debut in Savona and later that year sang in Ireland in the production of Faust. In 1907 he was the youngest singer to sing a leading role at Covent Garden in London. In 1909 he made his American debut at the Manhattan Opera House and received a rapturous reception. The Metropolitan



Opera House soon signed him for the following year and he soon was a major star in America.

McCormack continued his operatic career for the next eight years with successful tours of all the top opera houses in the world. These tours took him to Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Australia, South America, China, Japan, Canada and the U.S. He was certainly one of the best operatic tenors of the twentieth century. Although a great singer he was never comfortable with the acting side of his profession.

Around 1914 he started to do many recitals and by 1918 it was his preferred method of performance over opera. His recitals included many Irish songs in one half and the other half with opera or classical material. By this time he was the top selling recording artist in America. His royalties on records alone topped over \$300,000. His most famous recording was 'Il mio tesoro' recorded in 1917 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

He soon fell in love with America and he became a citizen in 1917. During the

first World War McCormack raised over a million dollars for war charities. He was awarded the American Legion of honor for his efforts during the war and his recording of the 'Star Spangled Banner' was the fastest selling record ever recorded by Victor Records. For a few years around this time McCormack is selling more records than any other performer in the States, even Caruso.

In 1922 he suffered a serious throat



infection and almost died on Good Friday. In October he makes his return performance. Although he is still a great singer it is clear that his volume has been diminished. In his only film as the lead McCormack is paid a half-million dollars

to star in Song O' My Heart in 1929. Film exposes McCormack's lack of acting talent and he only appears in one other film as himself.

According to Joel Whitburn's Pop Memories; 1890-1954, The History of American Popular Music McCormack had 73 charted hits with 8 of them reaching the #1 spot. These included "Mother Machree," and "It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary." Only five of the seventy-three charted hits did not make the top ten. Other Irish songs of his that made the top ten include "Killarney," "Come Back to Erin," and eight others.

A deeply religious man McCormack was made a count by the Catholic Church and sang many concerts for Catholic charities worldwide. He was also respected as a great art collector and his homes in America and Ireland were a gathering place for all the great performers, artists and politicians of his day. In 1939 he moved back to Ireland and in 1945 he died peacefully in his home in Dublin.

The Ward Irish Music Archives has one of the largest John McCormack record collections in the world.



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## Crafters of Ireland

My name is Fiona Concannon, and I am an artist from Spiddal, Co. Galway. I was born in London, and my parents decided to move back home to Ireland when I was 4, near where my Granny



Concannon came from. I went to school in Spiddal, as did the rest of my siblings. My Mother is very creative and I think it's from her that I developed my creative side. When I was about 15, I decided I wanted to become a fashion designer and discovered that one had to go to art college to do so, Limerick School of Art and Design and the National College of Art and Design were the only places that offered fashion, so this became my goal. After a



lot of hard work and practice, I gained entry to Limerick, where I discovered after half an hour of fashion class that fashion was not for me!! But drawing and painting were to become my passion, and this is what I pursued. I then went onto Galway RTC where I got my Diploma in Fine Art, then onto the Crawford College of Art and

Design in Cork, where I got my B.A. in Fine Art.

A friend offered me a job in her sandwich shop in Ennis, Co. Clare, so off I went - I reconnected with a friend from college in Limerick, and we both enrolled for a pilot project in Art where I got a placement as an artist's assistant in the Courthouse Gallery, Ennistymon, Co. Clare. It was during this time that I decided to go to Australia for a year, heading off in July 1999, starting off in Sydney for 6 months and then Melbourne for the remaining 6 months. Colour has always been a

huge influence on my work, and it was in Australia that I began researching Aboriginal art, which I found fascinating. I worked at a variety of jobs - telemarketing, retail, chambermaid and in a bakery, anything that paid the rent! I decided then that I wanted to go back to college and get a Masters in Fine Art, and as I was away I was always being asked about Northern Ireland, and to my shame I had never been there and knew very little about the place. I began researching the art college in Belfast, part of the University of Ulster, and found they had a really good reputation with excellent lecturers. I went back to Galway in July 2020 and began working on a series of paintings for my application - I was accepted and started in September 2001, and finished 2003.

I moved back to Galway when I finished, got a studio and went about launching my career as an artist. To say that it was tough financially is an understatement! I took part in exhibitions, but sales were not paying the rent. It was at this time that I began teaching - substitution work, and found that I like it and after working in retail for years, found that I liked normal hours and Monday to Friday! After 3 years of substituting, I then had

to make the decision to get the teachers training qualification, so I applied and was accepted to the National College of Art and Design in Dublin, and got my Higher Diploma in Art and Design Education, 2007. A recession hit Ireland, jobs were scarce and I found myself moving back to my



patient parents in Galway, again! I was lucky enough to get part time work around Galway County, and finally secured a full time position two years ago. I was always painting, but with the recession I had to look at ways of making money, as teaching was not covering my bills. After talking to friends who were abroad, they all told me they wanted artwork of home - Galway. This is when I started researching the business side and began looking into limited edition prints, how to sell, where to sell, etc. So that is where my journey began, in 2015, I launched my first collection of prints, The Long Walk - Galway, was my first series. I did some business courses, had mentors from the business sector, and discovered that I really loved

this new avenue. I met a wealth of fascinating people, and through the Galway LEO I did a course with the Design Craft Council of Ireland, and from this I joined the Creative Makers Galway.

I have continued to expand my collections, now including wildlife, sunsets and a series of drawing of heritage sites. The pandemic has thrown a variety of challenges - but I found that working and keeping busy helped keep me sane. From May 2020 I threw myself into creating new work and pushing my website. I joined a multitude of online platforms, got the Online Trading Voucher. Although the shops and galleries were closed, I found that my online sales were better than ever.

I have now joined Crafters of Ireland, and another new journey is beginning for me.

## Voice of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

**By Rev. Gerard Kelly, C.M.,  
Associate Administrator**

In my 23 years with Catholic Charities, a nearly universal goal with people I meet, whether it's donors, board members, volunteers, or clients, is the desire to be good role models for their children. Most people want to be the absolute best parents they can be. And so it is fitting that, as we celebrate Father's Day this month, we take a moment to reflect on our spiritual father, St. Joseph.

On December 8, 2020, the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pius IX declaring St. Joseph the Patron of the Universal Church in 1870, Pope Francis declared the "Year of St. Joseph," through December 8, 2021. What a blessing that Pope Francis calls our attention to St. Joseph at this moment in history when parents, and indeed all of us, are facing innumerable challenges. This humble man, whose quiet servitude often goes unnoticed, shows us how ordinary people can have an extraordinary impact on salvation.

As our Holy Father carefully lays out in his Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde* (With a Father's Heart), St. Joseph faced great

difficulties—physical danger, persecution, being forced to flee his homeland, poverty—yet he endured these challenges with unwavering faith in divine providence and what Pope Francis calls "creative courage."

St. Joseph accepted the difficulties he faced—things he did not choose for himself—and he trusted in God's plan so deeply that he worked hard to make every situation better. He was the ultimate caretaker and protector of Jesus and Mary, particularly when Jesus was an infant, a time when the Holy Family was most vulnerable. Joseph showed them the "earthly" unconditional love and protection that Jesus went



on to espouse in the Beatitudes, when He urged us to show great love for the poor and vulnerable: "...just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Mt. 25:40).

During the pandemic, with so many lives and livelihoods lost, each of us has felt vulnerable,

afraid, and perhaps even hidden like Joseph. We are facing difficulties we did not choose. Joseph reminds us to trust in God's plan and face challenges with the same creative courage he displayed. And Joseph's model of quiet servitude shows how we are to treat others who may be facing even greater difficulties than our own, offering help and protection to the most vulnerable among us. In this way, no matter how hidden we feel, each of us "ordinary" people has a critical role to play in salvation history.

As we celebrate the life of St. Joseph on Father's Day and throughout this year, I invite each of you to join in the mission of Catholic Charities, where we are witnessing the creative courage of thousands of fathers and mothers who are working hard to be the best parents they can be during these challenging times. Whether showing their children the importance of sharing their time and treasure as donors and volunteers, or seeking help to improve their families' lives in one of our programs, Catholic Charities is a place where people from all walks of life rejoice in their shared humanity and make life better for one another.



## Peter O'Brien and Family: Helping Those Fighting Addiction Through the Gateway Foundation

**By RYANNE GALLAGHER JOHNSON**

Peter O'Brien and his family have a long history with the city of Chicago. Along with being the owners of O'Brien's restaurants, they also run MADO Healthcare, a group of mental healthcare treatment facilities, founded by Peter's parents Mary and Dan O'Brien in 1961. Their work, not only with MADO, but Peter's work with the Kennedy Forum here in the city, are helping to advance the way mental health and substance use disorder are treated, and has earned the family the *Gateway Foundation's Industry Hero Award* this year.

After his only son, Peter Jr ("PJ") passed at 32 from schizophrenia and the health problems that arose from self-medicating with alcohol, Peter and his family found a way to use his family's experience to draw attention to the damage surrounding the stigma of these disorders to people who suffer from mental illness.

"Our family wanted to do whatever we can to support those with mental illness and substance use disorders," he says, explaining that it's a family struggle because of these stigmas. "Peter didn't reach out for the help that's actually out there, both through the talk treatment and medications, because of the stigma. Because of the stigma, he self medicated, and self medication for Peter was alcohol."

It wasn't long after PJ's passing that Peter found another path towards helping others who are suffering.

"I was watching Katie Couric talking to Patrick Kennedy (on television), speaking about the unfortunate incident when he crashed his car into the

gates of the Capitol... It was that publicity of his struggle with substance use that brought him to the realization of his bipolar diagnosis, and because of that realization and the subsequent treatment that he got, Patrick decided that he needed to make his illness something of a catalyst for other people to go and get early care."

Patrick Kennedy, former congressman from Rhode Island and son of the late Ted Kennedy, began The Kennedy Forum in 2013, which seeks to set a new standard for the future of healthcare in the United States, "Just as President Kennedy rallied the nation to dream big and set audacious goals 50 years ago." ([thekennedyforum.org](http://thekennedyforum.org)). The Forum leads a national dialogue on transforming the health care system by uniting mental health advocates, business leaders, and government agencies around a common set of principles, including full implementation of the Federal Parity Law.

The Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (Federal Parity Law), enacted in 2008, requires insurance coverage for mental health conditions, including substance use disorders, to be no more restrictive than

insurance coverage for other medical conditions.

Peter, knowing the power of uniting in a cause, reached out to Patrick to see if they could join forces in this effort.

"Patrick Kennedy came out and shared a meal with me at O'Brien's restaurant and told me of his plans to launch the Kennedy Forum in Boston, at the Kennedy Presidential Library, on the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy's landmark Community Mental Health Act of 1963," Peter recalls. "That became a clarion voice to end discrimination against persons living with mental health and substance use disorder. In 2013, the Kennedy Forum was established, and at the time of its passage, was the most comprehensive federal law guiding the way mental health and substance use disorder is treated.



*The O'Brien Family: Reenie, Mimi, Peter, Meghan and Caitlin.*

And Patrick's bill, the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, was one of his last actions (done) in Congress before he left."

The policies and the advocacy of the Forum support the implementation of federal laws, and work to hold insurance companies accountable for the treatment of mental health and substance use disorder at a state level.

"I looked around the room of about 400 people, and I walked up to Patrick, and I said, 'You know what? We can do it bigger in Chicago. The next convening of the Forum should be in Chicago.'"

*Peter O'Brien*

"We don't talk about it, we don't educate ourselves on the signs of mental illness and the struggles of mental illness and the treatments for mental illness. But also, the insurance companies, up until the passage of the Federal Parity Act, didn't treat mental health issues as they treated other (facets of healthcare). The Parity Act is an extremely important ingredient to treating mental illness, to surviving with mental illness.

"And so, Patrick said, 'Peter, I want you to support and attend the inaugural

Kennedy Forum in Boston, which was in October of 2013, and (while at the kickoff), I looked around the room of about 400 people, and I walked up to Patrick, and I said, 'You know what? We can do it even bigger in Chicago.

The next convening of the Forum should be in Chicago.'"

Patrick put his trust in Peter, and they established an affiliate of the Forum in Illinois. Since that time, has convened six times with as many as a thousand guests in attendance each year, and raised over \$1 million annually.

"The Kennedy Forum in Illinois is proud to say that (we now have) the strongest Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Equity Law of any state in our nation. We even strengthened the Federal Parity Act, and passed it here in the Illinois Legislature about two years ago. I'm very proud of the fact that not only are we working on eliminating stigma, so people can get early help in the treatment of mental health and substance use, but also the insurance companies are treating that needed care as any other needed care of the body."

For programs such as the Gateway Foundation- which is an evidence-based treatment organization that uses highly educated clinical and medical professionals, expert psychiatrists, and nurses to approach mental health and substance use disorder treatments- what this means is that insurance companies must use industry accepted medical necessity standards when authorizing treatment and care, especially in instances that call for longer term treatment and support.

Because of this, among all of the efforts they have dedicated to this work, The Gateway Foundation honored the Peter O'Brien Family with their annual Industry Hero Award at their Illuminating Recovery Gala.

Dr. Tom Britton, President and CEO of Gateway, recently spoke about the O'Briens and this award. "We are so blessed to be in a relationship with Peter and his family. They've done so many great things for the city and for the people that Gateway Foundation supports."

The Gateway Foundation, started in 1964 by Governor Ogilvie and several of his friends, began as an organization called Citizens United for Rehabilitation and Addiction, to rehabilitate those suffering from addiction in the 1960's. In 1968, Gateway Foundation opened its first site on the Southside of Chicago, followed by their first residential site in Lake Villa.

53 years later, they are the largest nonprofit addiction treatment provider in the country. Serving about 8,000 people every single day, in 100 sites throughout the country (16 in Illinois), they help provide solutions to people suffering from substance use, to give them paths to individualized, long-term recovery, by looking at the whole person.

"I think part of what really matters for treatment to work or not work is finding the right intensity and the right environment of care for each unique person," explains Dr. Britton. "It's not one size fits all. You and I may have exactly the same using behavior and the same mental health disorder, but I might respond well to one



treatment, whereas it may make you say, ‘I’m out’. So you’ve really got to do some modification and figure out what’s right for each person.”

In the general industry, 26 million people in this country need treatment. Only 3-4 million receive treatment. And out of that, only about 30% of them are successful 12 months later in continuing their recovery “What we have found, based on our data, is that we’re beating that trend pretty impressively.”

The Foundation’s success rate at 12 months, based on a study performed on their patients four years ago, for the use of drugs like meth and heroin, was 90%. For alcohol, the success rate was 73%.

As you can imagine, this kind of treatment has higher costs for the planning and execution of long term care. The Parity laws that are in place, helped forward by Peter O’Brien and his work with the Kennedy Forum, has had an impact on The Gateway Foundation and their continuing work where it’s needed most.

“Peter’s personal story, the loss of his son, even before the loss of PJ, his family has been committed to improving Chicago for generations,” says Dr. Britton. “Peter and the work he does at MADO has had such a massive impact. He’s one of the people that I personally look at as a role model of who I want to be. The work he’s done has been such good work that we as an organization wanted to honor him for the impact that he’s had.

“He is an example of someone who reduces suffering



Dr. Tom Britton

in people that he’ll never even know.”

May was Mental Health Awareness month, and with its passing, the need to continue the conversation surrounding mental health and substance use disorder is extremely important. As nearly 46% of people will meet the criteria for a diagnosable mental health condition in their lifetime (Mental Health America), it’s imperative that we remove the stigmas surrounding it, and open the dialogue so that people can acknowledge their illness and get the treatment they

so very much need.

The demand for programs to diagnose, treat, and assist those suffering from mental health and/or substance use disorders is great in our country. There are many ways you can get involved.

“The first thing people can do is, if they know someone or love someone who is using substances, and they have worry or wonder about them, the right thing to do is to talk about it with that person,” says Dr. Britton. “We live in a time where people are often uncomfortable with that. They don’t want to insult the person, or they don’t know how to have the conversation. The message we give out is if you don’t reach out today, and today is the day they die, you’ll regret it forever. We have to take the time to have those conversations today. Gateway Foundations is a place where people can get the help that they need. We have a 24 hour call center that helps people find opportunities for treatment, and also helps

people think out, ‘what do I do?’.

The other thing is we’re living in a time where, financially, the value of the services that Gateway offers is not valued appropriately by the people that pay for care. So, we make less money than we need to earn in order to do what we need to do. I want to expand our mission, and people who want to philanthropically support this mission, or other organizations like it, can be truly lifesaving to the person who doesn’t have a way to get the care.”

More information at: [gatewayfoundation.org](http://gatewayfoundation.org)  
[thekennedyforum.org](http://thekennedyforum.org)

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## Aer Lingus

ICS's annual golf outing is being held on June 19, 2021 at 12:00pm.

This year our event raffle is being sponsored by Aer Lingus. The main prize for our golf outing raffle is two round trip flights to Ireland.

You can purchase tickets to our raffle without attending the event itself, so don't miss your opportunity to see the Emerald Isle, purchase your tickets today!

**Purchase your raffle tickets at**

[www.irishchicago.org](http://www.irishchicago.org)

For questions please contact us at: [info@irishchicago.org](mailto:info@irishchicago.org) or call 773-282-8445. All proceeds to benefit Irish Community Services.



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**Wednesday, August 4**  
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Consultations currently done remotely via telephone or Zoom. To schedule your appointment, please email [info@irishchicago.org](mailto:info@irishchicago.org) or call 773-282-8445

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Introducing...

## Siobhan Reddy- Best

29, Black Irish Chicago, IL

**How do you identify?** I identify as a Black Irish American. **How did you get your name?** I'm named after my maternal grandmother, Siobhan Reddy, with whom I was very close. She and my grandfather immigrated to America. **How did your parents meet?** My parents met in my mother's apartment. He was friend's with her roommate's boyfriend - in May 1976, she came to view the apartment and he was sitting in her living room when she walked in the door. When they first got together, she told my dad she was never getting married or having kids and he said that was fine with him. About three months later, they realized they were in a serious relationship. They've been married for 40 years now and have two kids, myself and my older brother, Brendan. **Tell us something about yourself.** My grandmother instilled in me a deep love of stories and storytelling. She used to tell me stories from Irish mythology, like the Children of Lir or Niamh and Oisín and Tír na nÓg. It felt like she had a bottomless supply of legends and fairy tales, and her version was always better than anything in a storybook. She suffered from senile dementia, but her memories of Ireland and Irish folktales and songs remained with her for a long time, which gave me a kind of touchstone with her, looking back. **What was it like growing up?** Growing up biracial in America wasn't always easy - I have always felt deeply connected to my Irish heritage, and spent a lot of time both in Ireland and with my Irish grandmother. People in America always seemed to struggle to understand or believe that I was Irish, which was (and still can be) painful and frustrating. To this day, I have people (continued...)

ask me how I got such an Irish name, or say I don't "look" Irish. But I do look Irish because I am an Irish person. I'm proud of my history and proud to tell anyone that my grandparents immigrated from Ireland, but I wish fewer people assumed that the color of my skin disqualifies me from being Irish. **What's your favorite way to celebrate your Irish Heritage?** One of the simplest ways is by wearing symbols of my Irish heritage. I have a lot of jewelry with Celtic knots, and a little claddagh pin I got in Ireland when I was a child. They're almost like little talismans, reminding me of my history and my heritage. When I got married, my Dad gave my husband a beautiful triquetra knot pin as a symbol that he'd married into our Irish family, and it was very touching. Another way I celebrate and feel connected to my heritage is through learning Irish history. Growing up, when I had the opportunity to choose my own topic for school projects, I often chose subjects like Seán MacBride and Gráinne Mahol (my parents got a dog during the pandemic and have actually named her Grace O'Malley because of my continued obsession with the pirate queen). I also I love Irish literature, and think reading contemporary Irish writers like Naoise Dolan, Roddy Doyle, and Sally Rooney helps me feel connected to present-day Ireland as well. Do you have any thought about the Irish community in the states? I have never felt particularly connected to the wider Irish community in the states. I have an

extensive community of family and family friends, but due to how often my Irish heritage has been questioned by Americans, I have not always felt welcome. **What hopes/wishes do you have for the Irish American community?** I hope and wish the Irish American community would honor our history by being more vocal/outspoken against systemic wrongs like racism, sexism, and xenophobia. The Irish have a rich history of fighting oppression and inequality! When Fredrick Douglass went to Ireland in the late 1840s, he said it was the first time in his life he felt like a man, and not like chattel. I think we Irish Americans would do well to remember that history, and to make common cause with all those who are fighting against the ruling class. **Do you have any advice for Irish America?** The Irish diaspora is vast, not all Irish Americans will look like you. We should be proud of our heritage, and know what that means without playing into stereotypes of what and who the Irish are.





# CELTIC

AN IRISH JOURNAL FOR SENIORS



## WELCOME

Last month, **Irish Community Services** was very excited to reopen our office and with the pandemic forecast looking positive, we're already thinking about in-person get-togethers in the coming months! In the meantime, **Celtic Magazine** has lots to keep you occupied and

connected. This month, we introduce you to our new summer intern who hails from County Mayo but now calls Morton Grove home. In the **Celtic Kitchen** we've gone back to basics with a simple but well-loved dish, and in addition to our usual jokes and puzzles, we have a giveaway that'll help keep you fit and healthy. Check

out our online programs for June, when we'll be learning more about a medical condition that occurs most frequently among the Irish, and our great friend Theresa Choske will be on hand to enlighten and entertain us.

**Stay safe and well!**

*Paul Dowling*



This year, Poetry Day Ireland took place on Thursday 29 April. To mark this celebration of poetry, **Irish Community Services** teamed up with the Irish American Heritage Center and Irish community organizations in Liverpool, Leeds and Manchester in a collaboration we called **Words Across Waves**. Together, we chose a poem and asked members from our respective communities to record a recitation of this poem. The theme for this year's Poetry Day was **New Directions: Maps and Journeys**. For emigrants, one of the most significant journeys we take – whether by plane or ship,

or only in our minds – is the journey home. And while it may seem that going home is about retracing well-worn steps toward an immovable mark on the map, in fact, home is forever changing – whether we want it to or not – and each time we go there, the journey takes us in a new direction and to an altered place.

For our **Words Across Waves** initiative, we chose a poem by **Patrick Kavanagh** called **The One**. This piece considers fondly the ordinary beauty of home – a place, which to anyone else will likely seem unimportant, but to the poet is filled with meaning and is forever part of who he is.

## The One

**Patrick Kavanagh**

Green, blue, yellow and red –  
 God is down in the swamps and marshes  
 Sensational as April and almost incredible  
 the flowering of our catharsis.  
 A humble scene in a backward place  
 Where no one important ever looked  
 The raving flowers looked up in the face  
 Of the One and the Endless, the Mind that has baulked  
 The profoundest of mortals. A primrose, a violet,  
 A violent wild iris – but mostly anonymous performers  
 Yet an important occasion as the Muse at her toilet  
 Prepared to inform the local farmers  
 That beautiful, beautiful, beautiful God  
 Was breathing His love by a cut-away bog.

**You can watch the video we produced as part of *Words Across Waves* on the Irish American Heritage Center's YouTube channel. Not familiar with YouTube? Check out this month's *Technology Talk* section overleaf for more information.**





## 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 fourth and final installment of

puter. Depending on the brand, a tablet can also be called an iPad if you have an Apple device.

**Twitter:** Twitter is a popular social networking site that enables you to create a profile and post short public messages known as 'tweets'. Many influential people have Twitter accounts which may be interesting to follow, these people include, Joe Biden and Pope Francis for example amongst many more.

**Upload:** To transfer files or data stored on your smartphone, tablet, or computer to

networks – for example in a café – by asking for help or by asking for the Wi-Fi password. You can arrange a contract with an internet provider who will provide you with your own WiFi at home.

**YouTube:** YouTube is a popular and free video-sharing website. It contains millions of videos, uploaded by individuals and organizations. You can use it to watch documentaries, music videos, tutorials, funny videos and much more. It's a great way to learn new hobbies or participate in activities such as mindfulness or yoga





My wife told me to stop impersonating a flamingo. I had to put my foot down

If you don't pay your exorcist, do you get repossessed?

Most people are shocked when they find out how bad I am as an electrician

What's a frog's favorite type of shoes? Open toad sandals.

My therapist says I have a preoccupation for revenge. We'll see about that.

I didn't think orthopedic shoes would help, but I stand corrected.

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



## SENIOR GROUP PROGRAM

WHERE THERE'S A WARM IRISH WELCOME FOR ALL!



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

JUNE

### An Irish Ailment

WEDNESDAY 9TH - 10AM (CST)

hATTR amyloidosis is a hereditary and often misdiagnosed condition with a particular variation that is most common among the Irish. Learn more about this condition and its symptoms at today's event.

### Irish Historical Profile

WEDNESDAY 23RD - 10AM (CST)

Our friend Theresa Choske returns to tell us about another historical Irish figure of importance! Who will Theresa be telling us about this time?

## HOW TO JOIN OUR REMOTE SENIOR PROGRAMS

### DIAL-IN BY PHONE

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

<b>From the US</b> 312 626 6799	<b>From Ireland</b> 01 653 3895	<b>From the UK</b> 131 460 1196
------------------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------------------------

<b>From Australia</b> 02 8015 6011	<b>From Canada</b> 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](http://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

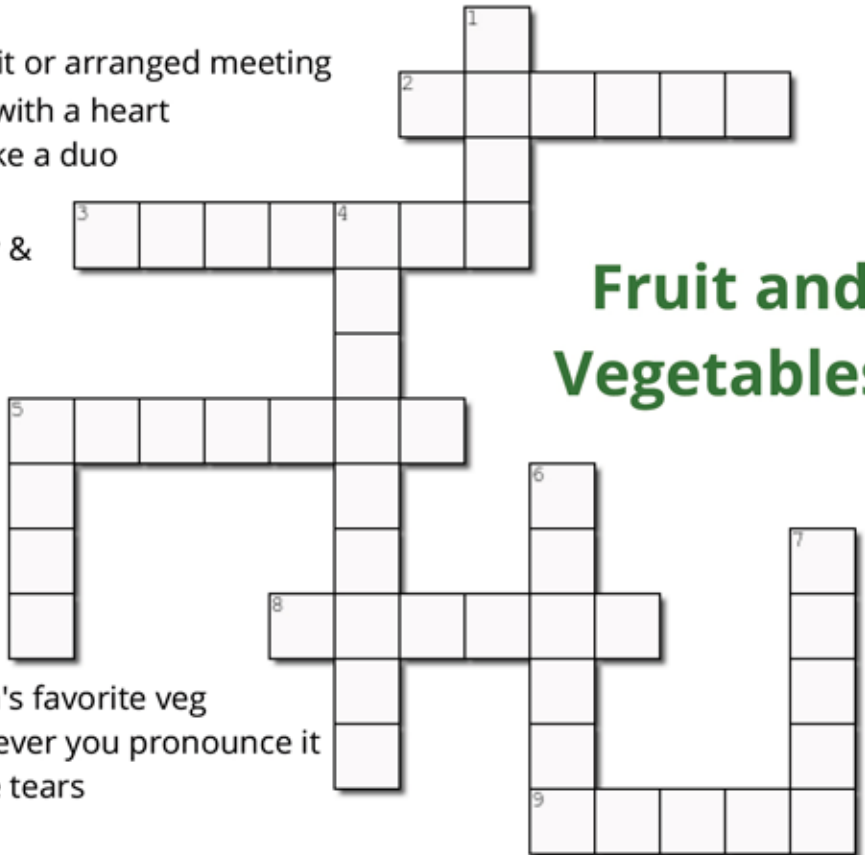


## DOWN

1. Sweet fruit or arranged meeting
4. Only veg with a heart
5. Sounds like a duo
6. Spud
7. It's yellow & bitter

## ACROSS

2. It's good for eyes & rabbits
3. Pairs well with Irish bacon
5. Halloween's favorite veg
8. Juicy, however you pronounce it
9. May cause tears



## Fruit and Vegetables

## Fruit Salad

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

- |        |            |       |
|--------|------------|-------|
| APPLE  | STRAWBERRY | KIWI  |
| ORANGE | RASPBERRY  | PLUM  |
| BANANA | PEACH      | MELON |

# The Celtic Kitchen

Boxty is a traditional and simple potato pancake most strongly associated with the counties of southern Ulster and Connaught. Unlike Irish Potato Cakes - which use cooked mashed potatoes - Boxty calls for grated raw potatoes. As a dish, Boxty may be little simple for many but this plain pancake can easily serve as a hearty base for a variety of flavorful toppings and can also hold it's own as part of a larger meal. In the *Celtic Kitchen*, we like Boxty as a snack served with sour cream and scallions.

## Boxty - Potato Pancakes

### Ingredients

- 1lb potatoes, washed and peeled
- 2 tbs. all purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- salt and pepper
- 1/4 pint milk

### Directions

- 1) Coarsly grate the potatoes
- 2) Add the flour and baking powder and mix thoroughly.
- 3) Season with salt and pepper and mix in the milk.
- 4) Drop tablespoons of the mixture onto a hot lightly-oiled griddle or frying pan.
- 6) Cook on each side for about 5 minutes.
- 7) Serve hot with butter or your choice of toppings.



We're giving away 3 home exercise kits! For your chance to win, all you have to do is join our mailing list or email list. In addition to a chance to win, you'll receive occasional news about Irish Community Services' events and programs.

**Sign up for mailings or emails:**  
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**Email:** Info@irishchiacgo.org  
**Online:** www.irishchicago.org  
**Mail:** 4626 N Knox Ave #301, Chicago, IL 60630

## Crossword Solutions:

DOWN: 1. Date, 4. Artichoke, 5. Pear, 6. Potato, 7. Lemon  
 ACROSS: 2. Carrot, 3. Cabbage, 5. Pumpkin, 8. Tomato, 9. Onion



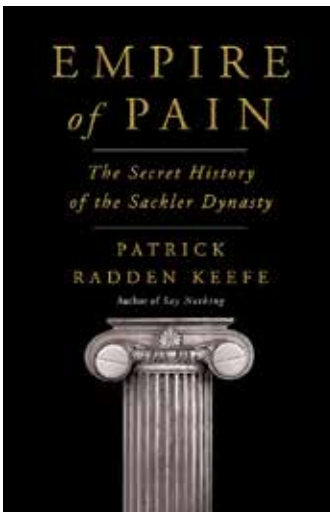
# The Fall of a Dynasty Built on Greed

By Sabina Clarke

In his latest tour de force, Patrick Radden Keefe peels away the false façade of the Sackler dynasty, the purveyors of OxyContin a drug they invented, manufactured and peddled that for decades caused innumerable deaths and ruined countless lives while the Sacklers, a greedy soulless clan counted their gold while projecting a carefully cultivated image as benefactors and patron of the arts.

As skillfully told by Keefe this panoramic family saga reaches the dizzying heights of a Shakespearean tragedy or a medieval cautionary tale.

Keefe, an investigative reporter and author of several books first began covering the Sackler saga for The New Yorker magazine where he is a staff writer. This book is the culmination of his research and will likely be the most definitive book on the subject—no more needs to



be said.

This is an important book on so many levels and an eye opener on the cozy relationship between the Sacklers pharmaceutical company Purdue Pharma, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), corrupt politicians, and attorneys who were paid off and willing to look the other way and enable the company to continue manufacturing and profiting from a deadly drug.

Isaac Sackler the family patriarch an immigrant from Austria and his wife Sophie Greenberg an immigrant from Poland had high hopes for their three sons, Arthur, Raymond and Mortimer.

Isaac told his sons that although he had no money to leave them he was leaving them with something far more valuable—“a good name.” Several decades after Isaac’s passing, the Sackler name would be an anathema on a parallel with the seven deadly sins.

There are heroes and villains in this story—those who enabled, profited from and lied for Arthur

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Sackler and his brothers and those who tried to bring them to justice and expose their treachery and their ill-gotten gains.

The rise and fall of the Sackler dynasty is as dramatic and spectacular as their lack of soul searching and self-awareness.

About the Author: Patrick Radden Keefe grew up in Dorchester, Massachusetts and received his undergraduate degree from Columbia.. He earned a law degree from Yale Law School, a Masters in Philosophy in International Relations from Cambridge University and a Masters in Science from the London School of Economics. His 2019 book ‘Say Nothing’ about the Northern Ireland Troubles and the murder of Jean McConville won the Orwell Prize in political writing and was named by the New York Times as one of the 10 best books of the year.

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**AND MORE!**  
\*The schedule and lineup are subject to change.

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That happy folk up there is a Bóhair chí (pronounced: de-war choi), a creature from Irish folklore said to be half dog and half otter. The decision to add a concertina was ours.

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# Malcolm O'Hagan: The Force Behind Chicago's American Writers Museum

By **Ryanne Gallagher Johnson**

The American Writers Museum, after a long period of planning, and living for a brief

has officially reopened post-COVID, timed perfectly to coincide with its fourth anniversary! The brainchild of County Sligo "Yeats Country" native Dr. Malcolm O'Hagan, this museum was a multi-year endeavor culminating in its grand opening on May 16, 2017.

"I've always had an interest in literature. I think, it's part of the Irish gene. We've all our great writers," says Dr. O'Hagan.

The Irishman, whose parents hailed from Counties Longford and Leitrim, came to the US on a one year scholarship at George Washington University in Washington D.C..

"The one year turned into four years, a Doctorate and a wife. A lot more time than I bargained for," he jokes.

After finishing his degrees in Mechanical Engi-

time back in Ireland, Dr. O'Hagan returned to the U.S. perma-

Mayer Brown, the big law firm. He set me up in an office near Brown took us on as a pro bono client."

Werner became my partner in developing the museum.

The process for undertaking such an ambitious endeavor began in 2010. "Step by step, we got introduced to one person after another. I invited people if they wanted to join the exploratory committee, and then we established a Board. It was a team effort. The key was getting all these people to be a part of it, making it a team effort."

Not knowing anything about museums or fundraising, Dr. O'Hagan sought advice from the Smithsonian Institution early on. In addition to providing guidance on how to proceed, the Smithsonian team recommended an exhibit firm in Boston. The inspiring museum is the creation

the current Irish Ambassador to the U.S. is a huge literature enthusiast.

"We're very fortunate, said O'Hagan. We have a fantastic Ambassador now, Daniel Mulhall. He's a lover of poetry, and he Tweets out a poem every day. He's a terrific cultural Ambassador for Ireland. He's doing an amazing job."

When COVID shut down the physical building last year, just two years after it opened its doors, they made a shift to expand the museum's online presence to include virtual exhibits, online author events, virtual tours and field trips, and podcasts. Not only to bring AWM into homes, but also to reach people around the world during the pandemic. But with everything slowly opening up once more, the hope is to bring people back into the museum for the pleasure of the in-person experience.

"I'm delighted the museum is being re-opened. It's been a tough year for everybody. It's so uplifting for me, and hopefully for everybody, to walk in here. It's a joyful place," says Dr. O'Hagan. "You come in, you're in a special space. It's three-dimensional, there are other people there. You're hopefully inspired."

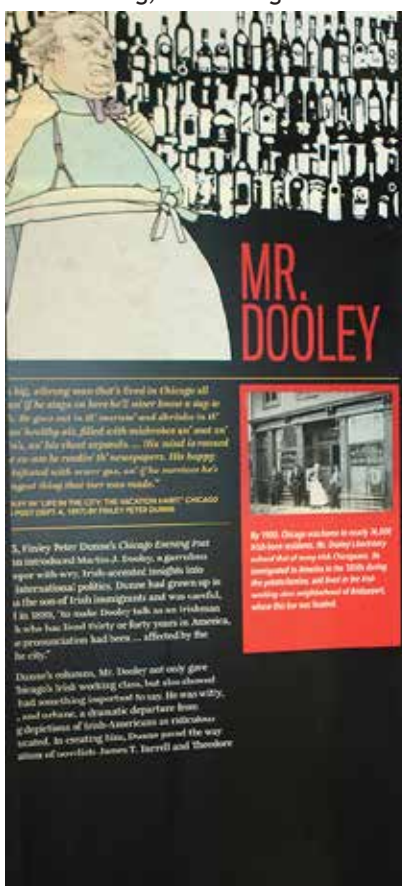
Along with this re-opening, AWM is debuting a new temporary exhibit, Ray Bradbury: Inextinguishable, which explores the works and influence of the legendary science fiction writer.

The museum is also following all CDC, IDHP, and local guidelines for the safety of all staff and visitors.

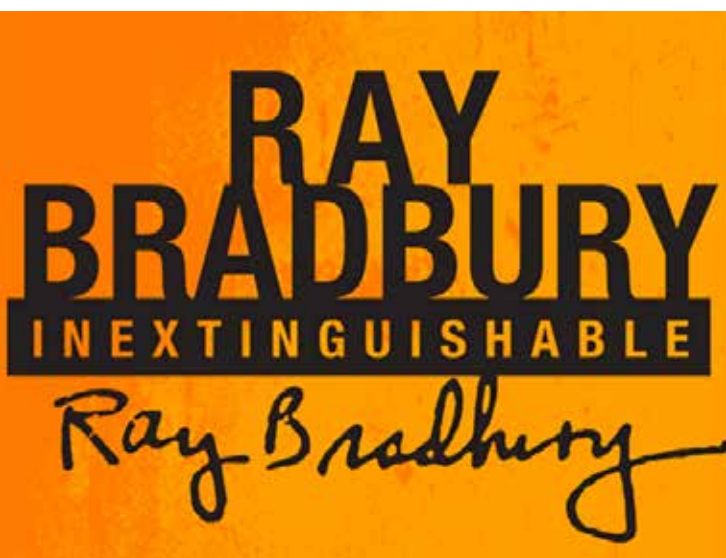
You can find more information about the exhibit and the museum, as well as purchase advance tickets and find virtual links, at:

[americanwritersmuseum.org](http://americanwritersmuseum.org), or at 312-374-8790

**The American Writers Museum**  
180 N Michigan Ave Chicago  
**Current Hours:** Open Thursday through Monday 10am-5pm, closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



If you like books and reading, there is something for everyone at the American Writers Museum. (Pictured) Founder, Malcolm O'Hagan



Latest Exhibit

## Ray Bradbury: Inextinguishable

On View at the American Writers Museum May 2021-May 2022

Ray Bradbury is perhaps best-known for writing Fahrenheit 451, The Martian Chronicles, and The Illustrated Man. He was much more than those stories though: a screenplay writer, a friend to Walt Disney, and an amateur painter, just to name a few.

From a young age, Ray was obsessed with finding a way to live forever. He will certainly be remembered for his writing, but his influence elsewhere may surprise you.

nently. He served as CEO of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, was President of the Washington Industrial Roundtable and Chairman of the Council of Manufacturing Associations, and served in the Carter and Reagan administrations as Executive Director of the U.S. Metric Board ([penfaulkner.org](http://penfaulkner.org)).

During one of his visits home, he spent time in the Dublin Writers Museum, and when he came back to America, he was surprised to find that there wasn't something similar here. So, once he retired, he thought of it as the perfect timing and project to get to work on.

"I was in a small writing group in Washington, and I invited one of the members out for coffee to bounce the ideas off of her. I'd never met her husband, but she said, 'Well, my husband would be interested in this too.' The next morning, I got an email from Werner Hein, who said he'd love to help. He was with

of Andy Anway and his amazing colleagues at Amaze Design.

"Andy helped us visualize what a Writers Museum would look like. You think of a library and books and so on, but when you walk (into the museum), it's not like what you expect, and that's really wonderful."

Although his original vision was much larger, Dr. O'Hagan considers this the first step towards accomplishing it. As it stands, the current location on the corner of Lake and Michigan is perfectly situated in the heart of museum territory in the city. It's rated in the top three museums on Tripadvisor, and it's a really fun, lovely place to spend a couple of hours.

Having an Irish native spearhead this beautiful project has been fortuitous. Ireland has a rich history of famous authors and poets that have been shared with the world for centuries. Irish people in general are lovers of literature, and in fact,



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# CELEBRATING NEWS™



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Bob Barnett  
City of Downers Grove, Mayor  
<https://youtu.be/V5LVRfSdmC4>  
Downers Grove City Council Meeting  
10.13.2020



Diveheart.org Jim Elliot- Founder

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# MISSION STATEMENT

# HUMANITY

## 90 DAY GRAND INAUGURAL CELEBRATION ON JUNE 17

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### Summary Downers Grove City Council Meeting 4-13, 2021

Hello Mr. Mayor – Good Evening

My name is James F. Kelley

I need some critiquing on my paper any suggestions - get your pens feel free to send me the copy. Fresh off the press....

I was here a couple of months ago and I made a comment about me being homeless. And since then, I've had (wow) a lot of things told to me. The biggest thing that was told to me is that I am brave to admit I was homeless. There's nothing brave about it. It was a situation I was in – I'm not in the situation now and one thing I strongly believe in my heart and I've learned through my life experience is critique.

I did a VIP feeding. It had nothing to do with the homeless. It was for anyone in this community. And we had a lawyer there that tipped the food truck driver \$20.00 bucks. He liked the rib tips and their fried chicken. And another neighbor that says I want to know where I can get this food truck because I have a company and want to do events.

We gave away about 40 meals. The majority of the meals were not for the homeless. It was for people who can well afford it. And I was there most of the time. I was very proud of it. I was very proud that Pastor Scott permitting me to do it on a rush. I kind of like doing that kind of stuff sometimes.

I want to thank the encouragement from Mr. Mayor and the City Council

Something that happened personally to me... When I was in here in this town. I can list a number of businesses that treated me like no different than anybody else. And to be honest with you – it was a wonderful thing. Because you don't get that in any other community - it's a rare thing - the respect and the kindness. I plan on doing another event in town and actually a couple of events in town again.

The announcement night is - We're going to be honoring one of your long time not-for profits in this town. . . His name is Jim Elliott - he does Dive Heart - he's awesome and is going to be receiving our first humanitarian award. We're doing an event on June 17 in the meantime we we're doing other fundraisers. If anyone knows any charities that need energy and Celebrating News™ when this comes out and actually for full release - they can contact me. I believe in networking. If anyone on the counsel feels like critiquing and has any suggestions give me a heads up. I have a wonderful staff on my not-for-profit They don't work as hard as I do...I know you understand what I mean.

So, on that note - Thank you and enjoy.

This should be in print – in the Irish American Newspaper and the title of the campaign is "Everybody is Irish on St. Patrick's Day." (I'm Irish what can I say.) I think you'll enjoy it. It's not a downer and anything I ask from where this paper goes is...Encouraging people to do the right thing, to be successful from the little kids to Mom to Dad to Businesses. My not-for-profit that I started 14 years ago and I restarted - it's called Successfully Yours & You NFP. Nothing personal but they didn't want you to use the name. I am determined – I met a lot of politician. Eventually, they changed the laws you have to put not-for-profit behind it because the State of Illinois and the Secretary of State says you can't use the word "successful" because success is about money.

Successful does not involve money. Especially, as the Mayor has quoted, it's about humanity – it's a new era in life. Thank you very much for your time.

Mayor: Where can we find the paper when will it be out in print?

Between June 1st and July 1, 2021 in the Irish American News

### Thank you Dee's Place for joining our rally!



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**You're Invited: Awards Presentation**  
**On June 17th, Jim Elliot, David Barish, Elizabeth Pechous, and a very special surprise winner will be awarded for their service to their communities at Windmill Grill and Pizzeria, 90 N. Island Ave, Batavia, IL. For more information or to join us, call Jim at 708-577-8956.**  
*(Awards presented by Successfully Yours and You NFP, Celebrating News, James Kelley Publishing Company, LLC)*



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Abella's Restaurant originally opened its doors on April 19, 2009. Owner, Kerry, (pictured above) brought with him over 46 years of restaurant experience ranging from short order cooking to gourmet dining management. Kerry's first job in high school was in food service and he has always dreamed of owning his own restaurant. Try them out, and pick up your copy of Irish American News and the Celebrating Newspaper when you visit!

Saint Bede Abbey Press began to serve the public in 1945, fifty-five years after the founding of the Benedictine monastery of St. Bede and the school associated with it. Previously, it had been a graphic arts program in the basement of the abbey, intended to serve only the internal needs of producing the oblate newspaper, Our Family News.



The present building in which Saint Bede Abbey Press is located was built in the spring of 1962 and opened later that fall. It is located on the grounds of Saint Bede Academy.

Today, Saint Bede Abbey Press offers an extensive range of commercial printing products and services, featuring our state-of-the-art presses and design. Specializing in Letterpress printing. The Saint Bede Abbey Press has since become a well-known enterprise of the community by providing businesses throughout the Illinois Valley with quality print products and services. We, at Saint Bede Abbey Press, have built our reputation on integrity and quality.

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Ed Kirch, of Kirch Property Management, has generously donated space for our new home for our not-for-profit, Successfully Yours and You, 518 N. Lake St., Aurora IL 60506. Thank you Ed!



Pictured (right) are Oak Forest and Tinley Park firefighters holding practice fire drills

**Thank You Fire Fighters and First Responders!**



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# All About JIM ELLIOTT

## Founder, Diveheart

The inspiration for Diveheart actually comes from Jim Elliott's daughter who was born blind. At the age of 9, she was being teased and made fun of by her sighted peers. Elliott got her involved in Alpine downhill skiing and it turned her life around. Suddenly her peers showed a newfound respect for the blind girl that could ski, and because of the confidence and the independence Erin developed, she began to excel in academic, extra-curricular and social activities.

Elliott began scuba diving in the 1970's and it became his passion. Driven by his daughter's positive experience downhill skiing as well as his love for scuba diving, Elliott moved to replicate the process for children and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities and wounded veterans. Thanks to the wonder of the water column,

the ocean and lakes of the world become the forgiving weightless environment of outer space, giving perfect buoyancy and balance to any individual who might otherwise struggle on land while providing both physical and psychological therapeutic value.

In 1996, Elliott decided to leave a successful career in the media industry (Chicago Tribune, WGN Radio and CLTV News) to become a full-time volunteer and focus on having individuals with disabilities experience freedom underwater. In 2001, he founded Diveheart a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that helps build confidence and independence in children, adults and veterans with disabilities through scuba diving. Diveheart seeks to instill the can do spirit in its participants. Diveheart works with individuals who have any type of disability, including developmental disabilities, vision and hearing impairment, paraplegia, quadriplegia and amputations.

Over the years, Diveheart's reputation has grown nationally and internationally. Elliott has been solicited as an advisor to launch similar projects in more than 200 cities in the U.S. and around the world in China, Australia, Israel, the UK, the Caribbean and more. Elliott

is regularly conducting trainings for instructors and dive buddies around the world as well as lecturing to medical professionals about the Diveheart vision of scuba therapy as a tool to revolutionize rehabilitation for individuals with disabilities.

Diveheart is a volunteer-driven non-profit that depends on thousands of dedicated friends throughout the world to provide programs, instruction and opportunities to children, adults and veterans with disabilities everywhere. Diveheart's goal is to have individuals with disabilities experience the benefit and therapeutic value provided by zero gravity underwater. This is accomplished by working with hospitals, therapists, rehabilitation professionals, veteran organizations and more, to develop programs around the world.

As Elliott says: "Forget the moon. The underwater environment of innerspace is the next frontier for research, rehabilitation education, training and vocational opportunities for individuals not just with disabilities, but people of all abilities".



## HUMANITARIAN AWARD







## Celebrating 40 Years



When I look at the home movies, I get kinda panicked; I really do, because I remember people thought being Irish was no good. I used to call Joe to come play at my house, but we had rats between the walls and he says ... "my dad says I can't play with you" It was motivating for me. I was always tough, but I had feelings and I thought "the hell with you, I'm gonna prove you guys all wrong!"

Man, I worked and worked and worked, and my mother who was the best human being in the whole world, she was both a mother and father to me. She was thirty-two years old... I was nine. I came home one day with some nice brand new pencils and she said ... "Where did you get them?" And I said... "I found them" and she said ... "No you didn't find them, they're brand new" She knew! She took me back to the five and dime store and this clerk put the fear of God in me. She was my whole life, she was my savior, I swear to god! That was the end of that... Man!

It was unbelievable... I grew up with rats in between the walls. Trudy and I used to take the kids in the car and put them in the back seat to look at these houses that were \$40,000! At that time, I couldn't even afford the doorknob, but I thought ... this is the way I want to live. Ya know! Everybody's got a DREAM and you can all make it come true. If you fall down GET UP! If you don't feed the cow, you don't get the milk, so you got to feed the cow. I love all you guys and thanks for coming to my 80th Birthday party. It was a total surprise and that's all I want to tell you. Good Night Guys!

- Frank Ward, Sr.  
April 19, 2014

# BATAVIA, ILLINOIS



Batavia barber, Craig Foltos

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Erected in 2006, this pedestrian/bicycle bridge spans the Fox River in downtown Batavia and allows for easy transition from either river bank leg of the legendary Fox River Bike Trail. During the winter months the side of the bridge facing the Wilson Street traffic bridge just to its south is adorned with the wording "Peace on Earth." The bridge naming which was encouraged by local barber Craig Foltos, who has raise funds to pay for the lettering, has lead to the local folks referring to this popular attraction as "The Peace bridge." It is common knowledge around town that the Foltos Tonsorial Parlor is often referred to "as the best place to hear the local news up to the minute." As Batavia currently does not have a weekly newspaper, the Foltos lobby is also been dubbed "the news room." Submitted by Jeffery Schielke, Mayor of Batavia



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## Bringing the Community Together During These Trying Times

During this time of pandemic and social distancing, mask wearing and stay at home orders, one thing that has been lost is those who have no place to go.

While Dupage county has traditionally been seen as a county of great wealth and resources, there is a growing number of those falling through the cracks. At First Congregational United church of Christ in Downers Grove, we've tried to work with community partners and non for profits to meet listen to the needs of those who are homeless or working poor.

One of the most devastating effects of being homeless is often being treated as invisible. "People avoid you, pretend like I'm not even there." People tend to get nervous when they see someone sleeping on a park bench or huddled at the fountain at the train station. Eyes are averted, people clutch their children more tightly or move to the other side of the street. The reality is that people living without homes are human beings with hopes and dreams like anyone else. Many have either mental health challenges or a lack of familial support that the bulk

of this readership enjoys. As state and municipality budgets get cut, resources for those on the street shrink and evaporate, the challenges remain ever present. "Show me how a community cares for the poor and marginalized, and I will show you what it values."

Our church, along with other faith organizations and local families have come together to start the community kitchen a non for profit that serves breakfast, dinner, and often daily hygiene kits and toiletries to those trying to make ends meet. To date we've served several thousand meals.

Recently a man who'd in the past been a recipient of meals and PADS shelter came forward to help. Jim Kelley and his non for profit Successfully Yours and You NFP coordinated a local food truck to come and hand out up to one hundred meals to the community. Jim stated that the meals were for VIPs....

Very important people. And "to me" he said, "that's anybody. Part of my work with this non for profit is to bring people together and help them feel valued and part of a

community."

Over forty meals were served to those throughout the community as a way to bring people together after such a harsh year apart.

We'd ask if you are reading this that you'd consider volunteering In some small way whether at the Community Kitchen, or in some other community effort that helps lift peoples' spirits and dignity. If nothing else, the next time we encounter someone in a surprising way living on the street to smile, to say hello, and to give the gift of acknowledgment that before me stands a fellow human being in need of love, treasured of God.

*Submitted by*

*Pastor Scott Oberle, lead pastor at First Congregational United Church of Christ, Downers Grove*

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Working to provide a better quality of life for those in need of: food, housing, clothing and drug prevention

James Kelley





# THE PETITE PALETTE ART SCHOOL

You are creative. God made everyone creative in their own way. This is what we believe and it is the driving force behind our art school. Petite Palette is located in the heart of a small town called Sandwich in Northern Illinois. We teach fine art classes, private lessons and more to all students ages three to adult. Every student that passes through our doors is not only warmly welcomed into our art community but invited into our lives. That is the joy of owning a small business.

“This community needs more art education,” I thought to myself five years ago before the foundations were laid and plans set for the Petite Palette. My name is Michelle and I am the owner, artist, and founder of Petite Palette. Having been an art teacher in our community, I quickly realized I wanted to offer more art to all generations, not only K-12. I wanted to create a physical location for students of all ages to explore art in a new and real way, forming relationships with others sharing the same joys and passions.

In the summer of 2016, I opened our small school in a 400 sq ft space with a few tables, chairs and supplies, hoping it would be accepted and enjoyed for years to come. Within the first 6 months, we were outgrowing the space and had to expand into the space next to us, forming a studio totaling 800sq ft. However, our students were growing and the love our community showed was overwhelming. Within the year, we were remodeling and moving into our current, larger location only a block away from our first studio.

My background is in Interior Design so if you wouldn't mind, I would love to give you a tour. When you walk into the studio you are greet-ed not only by our friendly team, but by our shop, coffee/tea sitting room. Feel free to shop and sip a drink while you wait for your 7 year old to finish class. Follow me into our classrooms filled with art supplies galore and workspaces built for every ages group. Take a stroll down our gallery hall filled with work from our team and examples of projects you can choose to make in a class.

We are overjoyed to be able to offer such an educational and creative atmosphere for our students and hope to continue to train artists of all ages for many years to come. If you would like to find out more about our classes, you can browse our website: [www.petitepalette.studio](http://www.petitepalette.studio) as well as follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Come on by to say hello and happy creating friends!

*Michelle Shepard, (right) Owner/Artist of Petite Palette pictured with a student!*

# JAMES WEBBER SANDWICH FAIR

I remember growing up during harvest season here in Northern Illinois and how it was my favorite time of the year. It wasn't because of the tractors, or the weather, or football games. In my town during harvest season was the Sandwich Fair. My siblings and I could see the sky lit up over the fair from our farm house 6 miles away, and the excitement and anticipation was all we could stand. It was as if the entire county shut down for the five days of the fair. Fast forward 35 years and I find myself working next to my father who several years ago took over as caretaker of the fair grounds. When he passed away I became one of a hand full of people that run the fair grounds year round.

Now I don't have to look at the sky to see the lights 6 miles away. I actu-ally live here.

I hear people say how lucky they think they are, and I just smile to myself because I know I am truly blessed.



# 8 YEARS OF RECYCLE ART



Eight years ago we decided instead of throwing the stickers away in the trash, we started a sticker ball! It now weighs over 150 lbs!







## Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

### What did YOU do during the Lockdown, Daddy?

I've been writing this column for a good many years now - certainly more than I would have thought likely when I started out - and in that time I've never been interested in treading cautiously when it comes to giving an alternative viewpoint. In this tepid and diluted age we live in you are going to offend someone, somewhere. If you try to avoid doing that then you might as well give up breathing, let alone writing.

I'm going to make an exception to that rule this go-around, though; because what I say will be - possibly with justification - offensive to a great many people; very likely, the majority of people.

You see, I have not only loved all fourteen months of the Covid lockdown in Ireland, but feel that I have mentally thrived during it. I'm certainly happier than I've been in many a day. And hence my trepidation in stating this, because I'm painfully conscious that many have lost their livelihoods because of it; and many more have found themselves plunged into the darkness of mental depression during it. I am aware of this and feel for them, many of whom I know personally.

But let me go back to the second week in March of 2020: that strange morning when we awoke to find that the roads were empty; all but essential shops were closed; theatres, art galleries, bowling alleys, golf clubs and cinemas would not be opening; we wouldn't be traveling anywhere and pubs and restaurants would remain locked up.

For many it was an eerie and disturbing feeling; for me it was exhilarating. I felt that I was living through something profoundly thrilling and different and here was my chance to purge myself of things that had bothered me in a vague sort of way for far too long.

It helped that I live alone and so there wasn't the worry about having to fit my new lifestyle in with anyone else's needs. Without checking, I think that at that point we were being told that lockdown would last perhaps three months, something I felt unlikely. If a politician announces

something I always just take it for granted that they are lying. It's generally the case. So, I doubled

whatever they said. I was mentally prepared for six months.

Just as we now live in a world that is peopled by the Perpetually Offended and bogged down by insincere, synthetic 'caring', we also exist in one that is overdrenched in sensation. We have been saturated to an unhealthy degree with too much information, much of it coming from unsavory sources. With that in mind, I removed myself from all social media, which I didn't use much in any case. Emails, to a large extent, were next to go, unless essential: once they were a very useful and time-saving tool, but somewhere along the way they began to take hours out of our day, with acquaintances getting their panties in a knot if you didn't reply to them within the hour. To hell with that kind of constricting twaddle.

From the beginning I was determined to get up at my usual early time, to shower and dress as normal. I would have periods set aside - nothing hard and fast, just loose - for reading, for writing, for listening to music, for using the wonderful technology we have for learning something new.

For walking. For sitting and staring. I'm blessed to be in strolling distance of many pleasant views and few days now go past when I don't go out to look at 'my swans' as I think of them. Or I'll watch a bee sup at a flower these afternoons with an enrapt concentration that I don't think I've had since I was a child; listen to the birds sing the marks to their territory at a quarter to five; see a bold and fearless urban fox stare me down, blaming me personally for having driven him out of what used to be his greenbelt.

All the stuff I was too busy for before; now there never seem to be enough hours in the day for 'doing nothing'.

I've always been fond of classical music but this past year I've been revisiting all the other wonderful stuff I listened to back in the '70s: Lou Reed and the Velvet Underground; David Bowie; Rick Wakeman; Vangelis; Steve Hackett; and that truly great recorder of all things Americana, Ry Cooder. All of these guys sounding as fresh as they did back then.

If there is one single thing that I miss, then it is the cinema, the big screen experience. I mean come on... you're not

going to tell me that 'Godzilla Vs. Kong' (and I will be there, shamelessly elbowing small children out of the way to get a good seat) isn't meant to be seen on the biggest screen you can find.

Even if you go along on your own there is a communal experience in watching a movie in the presence of others, especially in an arts house where, generally speaking, people are there because they want to be; and you're less likely to have some mindless oink talking or playing with his detestable phone, both criminal acts that I don't think it is overstating it to say deserve the death penalty.

And now here we are, on the brink of opening up for business again. And I wonder what we are looking at? Because we are now a society in transition. But into what? A world rare and exotic and wonderful - or will we be (as I suspect) foolish enough to simply go back to being our same old greedy, money-obsessed selves?

Please God, let it be the former; because it is about time that we started learning that this beautiful old planet isn't going to put up with our bull for much longer, that there may just be other and far more destructive pandemics on the way.

It's a bit like my liver. A while back my drinking got out of control to the tune of a bottle of hard spirits a day. And my liver didn't like that one little bit. It whispered to my doctor, Michael Coughlan, and he relayed it on to me that it had just about put up with enough of my nonsense and that if I didn't pay it some mind it was going to split on me. And it came close. But here we are some 15 years later, a badly damaged liver now back to normal, feeling happy and on very good terms with me. We're not quite best pals yet, as I'll still drink a beer, but we're getting there.

And I find that extraordinary, how it is the only organ that will repair itself if we give it a chance. I think that our lovely planet is like that. I'm not one of these obsessed environmental headaches, but yes - I think that our planet is very much like that, willing to give us another chance.

Will we take it? I'm cynical when it comes to human behaviour, so I think that no, we'll be gone before the end of this century. And that won't be any big deal to the planet either - species go extinct all the time and more deserving ones than us.

But I do hope I'm wrong. So, when you go back to work, don't forget to also take a bit of time to study those swans or look at that bumblebee.

I think that one pandemic is enough for any lifetime.

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## Part 2 Irish Songs

We have a lot of traditional songs the best way to pass them on is to continue to play them & discuss their meaning. The next generation has to carry the heritage. On Saturday's the Irish hour on 1490AM does a great job of playing traditional songs. You could categorize Irish songs in these groups: murder ballads, drinking songs, travelling people, love songs, emigration songs, work songs, the troubles and the 1916 Rising.

I will review Down by the Sally Gardens, Noreen Bawn, Our Lady of Knock, James Connolly, Black Velvet Band, Foggy Dew, Kevin Barry & and finally Galway Bay.

Down by the "Sally Gardens", it was a poem written over 130 years ago by William Butler Yeats. It's a sorrowful story by a young man who meets a beautiful girl in the Sally Gardens but unfortunately loses her. Probably for neglecting to accept what she had to say, she urged him to take life easy. But his approach was as they say 'fools rush in', the song is about a missed chance.

From Donegal we have, "Noreen Bawn", a song about emigration inspired by a true story, the death of Bridget Gallaher upon her trip home from America. She was only 23 years old.

We go to Mayo for the song, "Our Lady of Knock", there was an apparition of the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph & St. John the Evangelist in 1879 at the Knock Parish.

"James Connolly" - A song about a Republican/Nationalist that grew up in Scotland to Irish parents. He was put to death for his role in the Easter Rising. (one of the 16 men that were executed)

"Black velvet Band" is about a young man that was tricked & sentenced to Australia. A young apprentice becomes romantically involved with a young woman. She steals a watch and places it in his pocket. The young man is sentenced to seven years penal servitude in Tasmania. (island state of Australia) In some versions of the song the young woman's motivation is more obvious, she has met a sailor and wants to get rid of her lover.

"Foggy Dew" was written by Fr. Canon Charles O'Neill, it is a political song it encourages Irishman to fight for Ireland and not support England. Around the time of WWI Roughly 200,000 Irishmen joined and served in the British forces during the war. This naturally created mixed feelings for many Irish people.

"Kevin Barry" is a Rebel song recounting the death of Barry, member of the IRA who was hanged in 1920. He was only 18 years old. He

is one of a group of IRA members executed collectively known as the forgotten ten.

"Galway Bay" was popularized by Bing Crosby but written by Irish Dr. Arthur Colahan. It was used in the movie, Quiet Man. It describes the beauty of Galway and how England tried to repress Ireland. There is a lyric in the song, "Light a Penny Candle" it became the title of a Maeve Binchy book.

I will leave you with a Poem by Seamus Heaney titled, **Bogland**

*We have no prairies  
To slice a big sun at evening -  
Everywhere the eye concedes to  
Encroaching horizon,  
Is wooed into the cyclops' eye  
Of a tarn. Our unfenced country  
Is bog that keeps crusting  
Between the sights of the sun.  
They've taken the skeleton  
Of the Great Irish Elk  
Out of the peat, set it up  
An astounding crate full of air.  
Butter sunk under  
More than a hundred years  
Was recovered salty and white.  
The ground itself is kind, black  
butter  
Melting and opening underfoot,  
Missing its last definition  
By millions of years.  
They'll never dig coal here,  
Only the waterlogged trunks  
Of great firs, soft as pulp.  
Our pioneers keep striking  
Inwards and downwards,  
Every layer they strip  
Seems camped on before.  
The bogholes might be Atlantic  
seepage.*

*The wet centre is bottomless.*

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

## Getting to Know the Irish

By Tina Butler



I'm feeling nostalgic so I would like to highlight a mayor from Boston from over 100 years ago. The topic of mayors came to mind because news has been circulating that our current mayor Lori Lightfoot should step down, call it a day.

Hugh O'Brien (1827-1895) He was Boston's first Irish Catholic mayor he paved the way for many that came after him. He was from Cork and emigrated around 1837 with his mom. His first job was working for the Boston Newspaper, he rose to be editor.

O'Brien became mayor in 1884 and did a four- year term. He was said to have been a successful businessman, articulate and responsible. He was well liked among Irish Americans and other.

During his time as mayor, he had the streets widened, he felt it important to repair the streets. Streets are public space and much easier to use obviously if they're in good condition. Streets originally were dust bowls or no more than mud holes. Streets also reflect the standard of living in a community. O'Brien was part of the planning for the Emerald Necklace park (chain of parks), building Boston Public Library, cutting taxes and my favorite part, he was an advocate for orphans during his term as mayor. A few facts about orphans: there are roughly 150 million orphans worldwide. Orphanages are extinct in America;

we use Foster Care. An orphan's life is very regimented and often lacking in anything social. Marily Monroe and Herbert Hoover were orphans. At this time, Uganda has the most orphans in the world.

A few things that were going on in America at the time of O'Brien's term include: The Spanish/American War, Haymarket affair in Chicago (which won the 8-hour workday) Coke-a-cola was invented and there were only 38 States that comprised America. (1959=50 States)

There have been several Irish mayors after O'Brien, a few that have succeeded him include: Patrick Collins (Cork), John Fitzgibbons, Maurice Tobin, John Hynes and Martin Walsh. Marty Walsh's current and very new position is the United States Secretary of Labor. (laws affecting the workplace & unions)

The current Mayor of Boston is Kim Janey. We wish her well in all her duties. A mayor that stands out in America is Los Angeles mayor, Eric Garcetti, some say he should run for president!

**Gaelic for the month**  
First-ar dtus Streets-sraideanna  
Orphan-dilleachta

**Irish proverb** - "Titles mean nothing the one with a servant's heart is the leader" cont..

June is migraine awareness month & my amazing mom, Mary, is tormented with migraines. If anyone has any tips or cures for migraines, please contact me...

My talented & dear friend retired Professor Virginia Gibbons is keeping busy working her zoom book clubs & memoir group.

Please contact her with any questions: virmarthershorgibbons@gmail.com

I want to send a very Happy Father's Day to my marvelous dad, Tom. You are my anchor & role model. Thank you for always supporting us kids no matter what trouble we got into!

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## Irish America Claims Chicago Flag!

By Izzie Cusack

Hibernian Media is in the final stages of editing their masterpiece *In Search Of Weeping Jim*, the story of the late 31st Ward Alderman James Ambrose Kearns and his role as the "father of the Chicago flag." The film is financed by the Consulate General of Ireland in Chicago and other donors.



Kearns introduced legislation in the Chicago City Council in 1915 that Chicago should have its own flag, with these words. "Whereas it is fitting and proper that the city of Chicago should have an emblem of its history, progress, enterprise and achievement made manifest in the shape and character of a municipal flag in order to symbolize properly the civic spirit of the city of Chicago, visualize local patriotism, stimulate industrial progress, and instill in the hearts of school children and of citizens a concrete evidence and example of the reality of the City of Chicago as a corporate community and civic organism."

Today the flag of Chicago is known all over the world and seen everywhere in this city of the big shoulders. Hibernian Media Chairman, Mike Houlihan, is equally proud of his team's effort to "claim the Chicago flag for the Irish Diaspora!" "Without Jim Kearns, there is no flag, and as Irish Americans we are proud to let the world know that an Irish emigrant who came to Chicago in 1884 at the age of 13, went on to transform America and the spirit of this city with his flag."

The film covers the lifelong friendship of Weeping Jim's grandson, Dennis Kearns, with Houlihan and their eight pilgrimages to Ireland in search of ancestors of James Kearns, starting in 2013. And they found them too, as well as his birthplace on the tiny island of Iniscuttle, Kilmeena,



Liam Durkin



Jimmy Cloonan  
& Friends

just outside Westport in County Mayo; maybe one of the most gorgeous spots among the many islands of Clew Bay.

The film is bursting with great music from The Saw Doctors, Gaelic Storm, The Wolfe Tones, and locally Jimmy Cloonan and Friends, as well as an epic ballad written and performed by young Chicagoan and the Southside's favorite Irish troubadour, Liam Durkin.

Hibernian Media has launched a fundraising campaign at <https://igg.me/at/weepingjim/x#/> where you can hear Liam's ballad, learn more and donate to the cause to "claim the flag of Chicago for Irish America!"

More info at <https://weepingjim.org>

Houlihan says, "The City of Chicago flag was borne out of the efforts of an Irishman from Mayo and it's time we reminded the world of this fact!"

Hibernian Media will celebrate Irish America claiming the Chicago flag at a party on Wed. June 9th at 7PM at Cork & Kerry Irish Pub, 10614 South Western Ave. in Beverly with a free Paddy's Irish Whiskey raffle and music from Liam Durkin and Jimmy Cloonan & Friends. All Irish Americans, family and friends are invited to celebrate the Chicago flag that night. Please join us for the craic.

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## Irish Movie News

by James Bartlett

Slowly but surely, it seems like things are getting back to normal - or at least a new kind of normal - here in Southern California. Time will tell whether crowds will start flocking back to the movie theaters, but with a full re-opening due this month (fingers crossed), it does seem that there is finally hope in the air.

Changes are afoot though, with rumors that Amazon is going to buy MGM Studios (or more specifically in this case, their huge back catalogue) for close to \$9bn,

which means they're betting that you will be happy to stay home and stream.

Amazon recently recorded its 200 millionth milestone - closing the gap on Netflix, who reported 208 million - and MGM coming to Amazon could add a lot to your Prime Watchlist: MGM has 17,000 hours of television and over 4,000 movies including the James Bond, Rocky and The Hobbit franchises, Irish-shot TV show Vikings, and classics like The Wizard of Oz and Ben-Hur, among many more.

A new Amazon production has cast three Irish actors - Belfast-born **Stephen Rea**

and **Ciaran Hinds**, plus Steve Wall - in the new western series "The English". A six-hour long mini-series, it stars Emily Blunt (Mary Poppins Returns, A Quiet Place) and Chaske Spencer (The Twilight Saga), and is written and directed by Hugo Blick. Set in 1890, it follows Cornelia Locke (Blunt), an Englishwoman who arrives into the new and wild landscape of the American West to wreak revenge on the man she sees as responsible for the death of her son. Upon meeting Eli Whipp (Spencer), an ex-cavalry scout and member of the Pawnee Nation by birth, they join together for their dangerous journey.

An Irish story worth watching on Netflix is **Sophie: A Murder in West Cork**, a three-part documentary series examining one of Ireland's most famous murders, that of Frenchwoman Sophie Toscan du Plantier, in West Cork in 1996.

The series was filmed in West Cork, Ireland and in France, and contributors include Sophie's family, including her son Pierre-Louis Baudey, local residents, and journalists. The brutal murder rocked Ireland, and became a national obsession both there and in France. It debuts June 30.

Currently shooting for Netflix is **The Matrix** and John Wick star Laurence Fishburne, who has just joined a star-studded cast in Belfast, where they are filming **The School For Good And Evil**.

He will play "The Schoolmaster" and Michelle Yeoh (Tomorrow Never Dies, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon), has been cast as "Professor Anemone", with a supporting cast that includes Charlize Theron, Kerry Washington, Sofia Wylie and Sophia Anne Caruso.

Filming of the fantasy drama, which follows a group of girls and boys who are taken to an institution and trained to become fairy tale heroes and villains, is taking place at Belfast Harbour Studios in the city.

Moving to the big screen, and Yorgos Lanthimos' upcoming adaptation, **Poor Things**,



The great Irish actor, Stephen Rea, won the iBAM! award for Performing Arts in 2012.

will see producers Ed Guiney and Andrew Lowe of Irish production company Element Pictures continuing their successful relationship with the writer/director (in 2019 their project **The Favourite** was nominated for 10 Oscars, with Olivia Coleman winning Best Actress).

**Poor Things** will star Mark Ruffalo, Emma Stone (who was nominated for her role in **The Favourite**), and Willem Dafoe in the film adaptation of Alasdair Grey's novel. According to Variety, **Poor Things** is a Frankenstein-esque tale set in the Victorian-era and focuses on a young woman named Belle Baxter (Stone) who is brought back to life by an eccentric but brilliant scientist.

Finally, **The Giant Company**, which is led by Dublin entrepreneur **Paddy Dunning**, the man behind Dublin's National Wax Museum, recently launched its latest project: the tallest moving statue in the world.

Standing over 10 storeys high, the "The Giant" is inspired by the satirical writing of Jonathan Swift and his book **Gulliver's Travels**, and is set to appear in 21 major cities across the globe, either as visiting attraction or a permanent structure.

This is no hologram or 3D effect, however. The Giant's arms and head can move into a number of positions, and its patented LED pixelated skin gives it the ability to instantly take the form of any man or woman, boy or girl - from Einstein to Spiderman.

You can also literally stand on the shoulders of a giant at the observation desk, and look out over the city. Who knows what will happen with this, but it's certainly something I could see here in Hollywood - not only for movie premieres, but maybe even astride the Hollywood sign!

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I am re posting this and dedicating it to my little sister who just passed away April 2021 Ireland. Caroline, Dad was so proud of you and loved that you took after him with your love of horses. We were all so proud when you opened up your own riding school. Our hearts are broken. Gone too soon.

Happy Father’s day to our dad’s past and present. It’s been a few years and I’m feeling a little sad because my parents’ home was sold last year. I feel it’s kind of like sacred because my father passed away in that house, it wasn’t our ancestral home but it was home as long as our parents were in it. I have great memories bringing my son home to meet my parents, my dad was happy I gave my son his name, later I would have a daughter and give her my mother’s name .Ok I’m off to pack and I’ll tell you all about it when I get back, hope you enjoy reading my memories about my dad.

My father was very tall with thick wavy dark hair he was very kindly never went to pubs, loved to tell a good story but the trouble was if he lit that darn pipe, oh boy the story took forever and ever, if it was a funny story he would suddenly start laughing halfway through it. We knew when his

# GOOD GRIEF

By JOSEPHINE COLEMAN



shoulders started shaking it was going to be a very very long story. His parents died when he was barley a teenager, he had a younger brother and sister to help care for .He didn’t talk very much about his parents but would tell us funny stories about his childhood like the time himself and his friends tied binder twine around the bottom of their trousers and jumped the wall into a rich farmers orchard grabbing as many apples as they could stuffing them all the way down the legs of their trousers until they could barely climb back over the wall with the farmers dogs hot on their heels. He was so funny I could write a book on his childhood escapades.

I’m the middle child out of twelve so when Mother was in hospital dad would wash us ,change nappies, organize the household made us porridge for breakfast unfortunately for us he liked to put salt in it whereas mother had a sweet tooth and used sugar and milk. He was a pretty decent cook,One time helping him make Irish stew, I thought it was a great idea to add a tin of bachelor green peas to his

stew but it turned it emerald green, my siblings were not happy fortunately for me it tasted delicious.

If he was around after his farm chores dad would always pitch in especially on Sundays helping mother wash the dishes, he was very hygienic and told us to let them drip dry but as soon as he was out of sight we would quickly dry them and shove them in the cupboard as fast as we could as teenagers we had better things to do.

He was a good hard working man, every Friday he would hand mother his wages then he would line us up and with a twinkle in his beautiful blue eyes ask us if we had been good and helped mother around the house so according to our age he would give us pocket money. I remember graduating from the big brown heavy pennies to thrupence, sixpence and then a shilling. Oh boy you were getting old when you got to a shilling. I actually carry on the same tradition with my children to this day

He was heartbroken when my mother died in his arms. He lived on for another four years he was very lonely without her. I used to call him a few times a week and ask his advice about my garden to make him feel I still needed him and his advice; my kids would post little care packages just for something for him to look forward too. He hated using the phone so I was

shocked when he called me, he was mad because he found out I had breast cancer and hid it from him. I explained to him I was in treatment and taking cancer drugs with the re assurance it wouldn’t return. (unfortunately it did fourteen years later after he passed away).

I thought it would be great idea to arrange a surprise party back home for his eightieth birthday. I booked the hotel and was excited to get little party favors together, one being photos of him in his kilt when he played snare drum for the Hibernians in Donegal. Four months before his birthday my father smoked his pipe for the last time put it in the ashtray laid down for his afternoon nap and passed away peacefully in his sleep. I was heartbroken but took condolence in the fact that he was with my mother and his parents that he had lost and dearly missed as a young boy.

We arranged a beautiful horse drawn glass hearse for him because when we were growing up we would be in awe of these beautiful glass carriages and ask him who are these people, he would nod his head and say they must be very important people. Father you were very important to us so we did the same for you, we hope we made you proud, we miss you very much and know your content up there with our beautiful mother. Gone but never forgotten.

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## "Why Not Me"?

Recently I attended the college graduation ceremony of one of my grand daughters, Janna. I and most of the audience were captivated by the wonderful Commencement Speaker, Geisha J. Williams, who was being recognized by Illinois Wesleyan University and given an honorary degree. She gave a brief summary of her early life; she was born in Cuba to a family of very modest means; her family emigrated to the United States when she was four. She started to work at the family's corner grocery store that her father opened in New York City when she was 6 or 7. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in engineering and a master's degree in business

administration.

As she climbed the corporate ladder she continuously challenged herself with the mantra, "Why not me?" She would use it to encourage herself to volunteer for the toughest assignments. Her tenacity, intellect, and willingness to take risks led to her being seen as a person who could solve the most difficult problems. She was ultimately promoted to the role of CEO and president of one of the largest combined natural gas and electric energy companies in the U.S. She has been recognized as the highest ranking Latina leader in U.S. business.

She wanted to share the key to

## Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



her success with the graduating class of students. She suggested that each of the graduates consider adopting her mantra as THEIR own. Certainly you will find opportunities in your career where you can volunteer to take on a tough task. No doubt you may be a bit over awed by the challenge, but it is in that type of opportunity where you can test your mettle. Surely you have been in situations where someone you believe to be nowhere near your competence level has accepted responsibility for a significant project. This happens to all of us.

As I prepared to write this article, I discussed the natural fear that many people feel when they are presented with a task that they believe to be far above their competence level and I got some interesting reactions. One very talented man I know, John Wall, said he was close to 40 years of age before he would risk accepting a really difficult task because he felt he couldn't handle such an assignment. Although he had held himself back from such tasks, he finally said "why not me" and took the leap and succeeded, time after time. Another outstanding person I knew quite well, my brother, Tom, who was a Colonel in the U.S. Special Forces, said that he too held back taking a risky assignment because he might fail. But finally when a tough assignment was offered to him, he decided he was ready. Neither of these two examples ever looked back; they proved to themselves

that they were up to the task.

The phrase "WHY NOT ME" became an immediate success by the time

that our Commencement Speaker finished her excellent presentation. It was virtually ringing throughout the auditorium.

I read somewhere years ago, that some European research organization said their studies showed that Americans fear public speaking more than almost anything else. Think of all the times you have thought "I could have done THAT better than the person who did something or said something." Just think of all the times that your teacher asked if anyone had a question, and no one was confident enough to raise their hand. Maybe it is the concern that your response will be seen as a foolish suggestion. Or maybe you will be seen as a "show off".

No one reaches the status of an exceptional person without help from others. People who want to be successful manifest a certain drive that others will admire whether as a fan, a colleague or mentor. In my experience "chargers" tend to attract other chargers who will help them along. They feed off each other's confidence. One smart person and then a second smart person does not make two, but rather they make a "third" person because of the synergy they generate.

There are a lot of wonderful people who would like to help others to succeed—why? Because they relish helping others succeed to a higher level. You see it among college students, professional athletes, teachers, business people, scholars, etc. Once the

famous, Johnny Carson started an interview with Mickey Mantle, the centerfielder for the NY Yankees, who quickly stopped Carson. He said "you should interview Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox, he is a tremendous baseball player." Carson didn't know what to say, those two teams were seen as enemies. Mantle said Williams had befriended him when they first met. Williams wanted to help Mantle improve his game. They would meet privately when both teams were doing spring training in Florida. Williams said he helped Mantle because he had the makings of a great player.

Nobody succeeds on their own; they all have mentors. Johann Goethe said "Magic is believing in yourself; if you can do that, you can make anything happen." All of us are not going to be super stars or billionaires, but each of us can do something better, but you have to believe in yourself. All of us have a chance, if you chose to be a star that could be your calling. WHY NOT ME?? CARPE DIEM.

Other thoughts for consideration: **Doubt can only be removed by action.** Johann Goethe. German poet, playwright, scientist, statesman and so much more.

**Surround yourself with people that push you to do better. No drama or negativity. Just higher goals & higher motivation.**

Warren Buffett, American financial genius

**James F. Fitzgerald was the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates for the last 24 years. He retired on 12/31/2020. His Naperville based firm specialized in Executive Coaching & Outplacement. #630-420-0362**



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## Gallagher's Advice

By Caroleann Gallagher



## Automobile Accidents and Insurance Coverage

Every day hundreds of people are involved in automobile accidents which can result in severe bodily injuries. In Illinois the at-fault driver will generally be responsible for the damages and injuries that result. Victims of automobile accidents are often taken advantage of when trying to make a claim for their damages on their own. It is important to know that there are legal services that can help anyone that has been injured as a result of being involved in an automobile accident.

### Illinois Coverage

Although the amount of Illinois coverage for bodily injury may vary depending on the at fault driver's policy limit, the minimum amount of bodily injury coverage that a driver is required to hold in Illinois is \$25,000 per person. Bodily injury insurance is meant to cover the following:

- Medical Expenses: a victim's medical bills that they have incurred as a result of the treatment sought.
- Loss of income: a victim's earnings lost (or to be lost in the future) as a result of an inability to work due to the injury suffered. In other words, when a victim suffered an injury that interferes with their ability to work.
- Pain and suffering: including a victim's physical and emotional distress that resulted from an injury.
- Loss of normal life: a victim's temporary or permanent diminished ability to enjoy life.

### Underinsured Motorist Coverage

#### Uninsured Motorist Coverage

Underinsured Motorist and Uninsured Motorist coverages are additional avenues of insurance coverages that can be held by you yourself and can be useful in certain situations. In Illinois, every person is required to purchase uninsured motorist coverage of at least \$25,000 per person and \$50,000 per accident. I would advise people to purchase more coverage if that is a feasible option for you. These coverages become important, when you have been hit by a driver who either has no insurance at all or the policy limit on their insurance is not enough to cover compensation for your injuries.

Underinsured motorist coverage comes into play when you are hit by a driver who is deemed at-fault and that drivers insurance policy limits are not enough to cover your medical expenses, pain and suffering, and the other losses stemming from the crash.

For example, imagine your personal injury case is worth \$100,000, including medical expenses, pain and suffering, loss of normal life, and loss of income. However, the negligent driver only has \$50,000 of coverage available on their insurance policy and is otherwise found not to have any significant assets. In this case you would make an underinsured motorist claim against your own insurer. As long as your underinsured motorist coverage is more than \$50,000, then you may make a claim. If you had \$100,000 in underinsured motorist coverage then you could settle

with the at fault driver's insurance for the full policy limit of \$50,000 and settle with your own insurer for \$50,000, thereby obtaining \$100,000 in full for your personal injury.

Uninsured motorist coverage works the same way as the above. The only difference is that you would tap into your uninsured motorist coverage when the at fault driver has no insurance or their insurance situation is otherwise unknown, which can occur in say perhaps a hit and run situation, whereby the driver who caused the accident, flees the scene and is not apprehended by the Police.

### Notice for Uninsured and Underinsured

It is important to know that some car insurance policies have strict deadlines in place when it comes to notifying them of a potential underinsured or uninsured motorist claim. If you have any reason to believe that the driver who hit you is uninsured or does not have enough insurance coverage, you should give your insurance company notice as soon as possible. That way you have that avenue of coverage available in the event that it may be necessary.

### Why Hire an Attorney?

In any event, whether you are injured by a driver who has an insurance policy that covers your personal injury and more, or if you are to go through your own insurance company to seek compensation, my colleagues and I at Dwyer & Coogan, P.C. can explain the process to you and guide you through it. Over the years I have come to see through experience that you are bound to face challenges and obstacles along the way, regardless of whichever avenue you are taking. By hiring an attorney, you are able to focus less on being compensated for your injury and put more of your focus towards your recovery. All of our consultations are free so please do not hesitate to call in the event you have any questions about underinsurance or an insurance coverage.

*\*Caroleann Gallagher is an Irish born Attorney now licensed in Illinois and practicing all types of personal injury law - including 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) 543-4642.*

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## New Series Debut on PBS: "Ireland With Michael"

Ireland with Michael, a new 6-part travel and music series premieres on PBS across the U.S. and Canada, created and hosted by Emmy® nominated Irish tenor and an expert on all things Celtic, Michael Londra.

Ireland with Michael aims to tell a story of Ireland through the eyes and hearts of its greatest assets - its creators, painters, singers, dancers and storytellers.

Set amid stunning Irish scenery, Ireland With Michael features a travelogue of Ireland's most beloved tourist destinations, hidden gems and tips

for the traveler all seen through a musical lens, joined by top Irish singers, musicians and writers as co-hosts and special guests. The program offers breathtaking views of the Emerald Isle,



Irish and Celtic music, interviews and duet performances with major artists and local talent.

Season One featured artists include international stars and public television darlings such as Chloë Agnew (Celtic Woman), Brian Kennedy (Riverdance), Celtic Thunder's Ryan Kelly, Nathan Carter, Eoin Colfer (Artemis Fowl author), Kilfenora Céilí Band, trumpeter Niall O'Sullivan and trad bands One for the Foxes, Ceolteoirí Munna and Beoga.

For a full list of airings go to [www.irelandwithmichael.com](http://www.irelandwithmichael.com) The show is produced by VenuWorks Theatricals and NBC producer, Mike Sulzberger and is distributed in the U.S. by Detroit Public Television and NETA with main sponsorship from Tourism Ireland & CIE Tours.

EPISODE 1 "IT'S A LONG WAY FROM HERE TO CLARE"  
EPISODE 2 "SLANEY VALLEY"  
EPISODE 3 "MAY THE ROAD RISE TO MEET YOU"  
EPISODE 4 "IN A NEAT LITTLE TOWN THEY CALL BELFAST"  
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## We Get Letters

To the editor,  
In my humble opinion, if Mr. Morley spent half as much energy thinking about how to undo the negative effects of systemic racism as he does bashing Black Lives Matter, he might actually accomplish something worthwhile.

Sincerely, Geoffrey Graham

Words of the President of Ireland are reported (*Irish Times*; May 17, 2021) with the banner headline; "British 'policy of non-intervention' was a key factor in Irish Famine."

Britain's contemporaneous (1845 through 1850) hand-written WO 379/7, "Disposition of the Army" records (photocopies in my possession) refute President Higgins. They show that, far from a policy of "non-intervention," Britain massively intervened in Ireland throughout 1845-1850; that it took more than half (67 regiments) of Britain's empire army (of 126 regiments and two sub-regimental brigades) to enforce the removal of Ireland's abundant foods to the ports for export.

The commander-in-chief of the 67 food removal regiments throughout those 6 years was General Sir Edward Blakeney. In 1849, as General Blakeney and his troops neared successful completion of mission, Queen Victoria conferred on Blakeney an Order of the Bath.

Are the Irish government unique on Earth in concealing a genocide of their own people?

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Chicago, IL 60611  
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Cell: 312/437-3189



By Estelle Shanley

As we ease, edging back from the pandemic, adjusting into our normal routine in the world that was, it behooves us to recall, even catalogue, what we accomplished during the long and fear filled lockdown.

What we possessed was time. Memories surfaced filling the space either to relish or weep. In Ireland growing up was harnessed with multiple restrictions, who to play with, who to ignore, shun the family next door, names of kids not worthy to count as a pal. In those early years and even now, it seems secrecy was as important as chastity.

My Uncle Tom, head-honcho of T&P McCaffrey's Paint Factory, in Dundalk, County Louth, co-owner with his brother Patrick. The pair staffed a popular paint and wallpaper shop located as we'd say: "down the town." Tom was a raconteur. He'd perform magic tricks for young kids in the family. Childless, he was a maestro playing practical jokes on children and adults. As a youngster, he served as a role model, an uncle full of jokes and stories. He stuttered and so I practiced and mastered the art of stuttering to my parents dismay, necessitating private elocution sessions from an ancient nun at the Convent of Mercy. Our aunt Lolo was my Uncle's bride. I once eavesdropped on elders scoffing about her name, critical of her, the only Lolo in Ireland without a patron saint. She was unforgettable, a woman about town, riddled with distinction, director of the County Louth Drama Society. Drama was and continues to be revered in Irish culture, hence award winning plays attracted not only local patrons to our Town Hall but busloads of patrons from

nearby towns. Our aunt also worked theatrically with children and my first and only role was in Peter in the Clock. For the bulk of the show I was imprisoned inside a grandfather clock located center stage. On cue I emerged, took a bow and left the stage. If memory serves me, my bow enticed cheers coupled with loud applause. I was about five year's old, determined to continue studying acting, becoming rich and famous.

Aunt lolo wore a fur coat, bangles and bracelets that clanked musically on her wrist. Jewelry hung from her ears and



moved when she spoke. She was unique, highly respected, cultured and in my eyes, fearless.

She was not old when she died. The rumor circulated through the family that Uncle Tom murdered her, sliced her up in pieces stashing her upstairs inside the wardrobe. My younger brother and sister and I loved visiting their big home because a Fairy Queen and her minions lived at the back of Uncle Tom's garden.

After a drink of lemonade, he'd walk us down to the back wall, talk to her, introduce us by name as we stood spell bound. Their home was unique, littered with oriental rugs including a gorgeous red one in front of the fireplace. Back from the garden we'd stand on the rug while his fairy conversation continued. He said Fairy Queens possessed magical bodies and could hear voices inside and outside. He had a way of standing, not correctly up straight, his head had a notion to hang to the side as if his neck lacked the weight strength to bear the weight

of his bald head. As we stood in awe, he began to speak: Queen Fairy, Queen Fairy place money under the mat for my young guests. The chant was repeated four times, directing us to take our places on three corners of the carpet. Being the oldest and the nicest he'd address me first, knelt on one knee, lifted the mat and lo and beyond a shinning half crown was right there where the Queen Fairy left it. It was amazing, my siblings and I cheering Uncle Tom and the Queen Fairy.

On one visit the three of us hatched a plan to tip toe up Uncle Tom's stairs and see if Aunt Lolo was in the wardrobe. We'd get up half way, frightened to death, afraid we'd be caught by uncle in his home office paying bills, or talking on the phone. When I mentioned the murder to my father, he chided sternly declaring Lolo's death was a secret and we should never talk about it again. I often wonder if Lolo was indeed the skeleton in the closet!

Those of us born, reared and educated in Ireland are familiar with secrets, similar to family grudges held onto for decades, passed down from generation to generation. To this day I don't know if my Aunt Lolo was murdered, but if her remains were in the wardrobe, the stench would overwhelm. So at least she was not sliced up.

Ireland may rank as the most secretive nation on the planet. A few doors up from us two sisters lived together, the married one had a little boy. His aunt devoted her life to him. Gerry always had sweets in his pocket. Aunt Mary took him on mystery bus tours during the summer, on the train to Dublin to shop at Woolworths.

We envied Gerry and the lovely things his aunt showered upon him. As a young adult I discovered the aunt was Gerry's mother. She slept with her sister's husband and nine months later delivered a baby boy. Was the strength of the family achieved by the secret or the lie? Secrets were abundant. Kinship care denied in secret by parents sentencing pregnant daughters into homes for unwed mothers where babies and mothers were abused, even starved. Those secrets held for decades including priests sexually abusing boys and girls. Parents denied homosexuality but maintained its secrecy. Secrets clung like barnacles tormenting, negating contentment, tainting spirituality.

What is not to be kept a secret, Dublin currently rates as the fifth most expensive city to rent a home in Europe. Even Paris is cheaper! Spread the word!

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## Widows and Widowers Social Club First Fridays Monthly in Tinley Park

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175th St, Tinley Park

We meet once a month. Entertainment on most months.

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