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Story page 17



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The Politics of Starvation

The total blockade of Gaza began on March 2nd this year. By late May, deprivation of food, water and medical supplies was endangering the lives of one in five people on the Gaza Strip.

And it is important to state exactly what is happening. By a premeditated policy of the Israeli government, Gazans are being starved. As Andrew Forde noted in a letter to Irish Times on May 16th: "Starving" is not the same as "being starved."

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly.' Gallant remained in office, head of the key ministry for prosecuting the invasion of Gaza, for over a year after making that comment.

Gallant is far from alone. Israeli Minister of National Security, Itmar Ben G'vir, speaking at Mar-a-Lago this April 23rd, said that senior US Republicans had 'expressed support for my very clear position on how to act in Gaza and that the food and aid warehouses should be bombed.'

of hunger, even though it might be justified and moral until our hostages are returned.' There is a causal relationship between these statements and current policy.

reflective merely of a handful of demonic members of Netanyahu's cabinet who have seized control of the government. In a recent poll, Israelis were asked if 'when conquering an enemy city, the Israel Defense Forces should act as the Israelites did in Jericho under Joshua's command - killing all its inhabitants.'

In some condemnations of the strategy, key global figures have specifically underlined the horror of the use of starvation. For example, UN Secretary General António Guterres said last March that the famine in Gaza is 'entirely a man-made disaster' and noted that Gaza constitutes 'the highest number of people facing catastrophic hunger ever recorded by the Integrated Food Security Classification system'.

In previous onslaughts in Gaza, journalists could gain access to the strip. No longer. The outside world is wholly reliant on citizen journalists, bloggers, UN officials and such to communicate the horror. Yet, that rigid control of information and coverage is no excuse for pretending not to know what is happening.

Mass starvation has caused a minor reprieve in the relentless support for the invasion in a way that detonating tens of thousands of tons of bombs on civilians and civilian targets, including schools and hospitals, did not.

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war.' This would be the same Donald Trump who, on February 4th, glorified, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at his flank, the prospect of ridding the Gaza Strip of its entire population of 2 million people.

Even the most ardent defenders of Israel are appalled by the policy of starvation. As Holocaust awareness activist in Dublin, Oliver Sears, recently wrote, the starvation of Gazans runs 'counter to Jewish morality and collective memory, one that jars so keenly with me. My mother knew hunger in the Warsaw Ghetto as a four-year-old, where 100,000 Jews were starved to death deliberately by the SS.'

The Israeli government is now allowing food deliveries but only to a small part of South Gaza. There were 400 food centres in operation earlier this year. After the total blockade, only four are operating.

In a 1946 essay, 'The Politics of Starvation,' George Orwell argued against the lunacy of any calculation that 'you can ever get good results from starvation.' Recalling that the blockade of Germany remained after the Armistice in 1918: 'We did keep up the blockade after the Armistice, and the children we starved then were the young men who were bombing us in 1940...'

Make no mistake, this disaster is not limited to Israel/ Palestine. Tolerating starvation as a method of war will have grave consequences for international law and the institutions which uphold it.

IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB "IRISH OPEN" SOLD OUT!!

The always popular Irish Fellowship Club Golf Outing on Monday, July 14 at Ridgemoor Country Club (6601 W Gunnison St, Harwood Heights, IL 60706) is SOLD OUT.

and enjoy the fellowship of the day." Golf Chairman, John Wrenn, former Chairman of the IFC shared that hole sponsorships are still available for a cost of \$500.



All proceeds from the Golf Outing, Hole Sponsorships and the Reception support the IFC Foundation which provides scholarships to Catholic High Schools across the Chicagoland area and small grants to Irish cultural organizations.

JOINING THE IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB

Form for joining the Irish Fellowship Club, including fields for Last Name, First Name, Middle Name, Street Address, City, State, Zip, Firm Name, Email Address, Credit Card #, Expiration Date, CVC #, and Marital Status.



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Last Call: Articles V, VI, VII

If you can believe it, we are quickly approaching the end of the main body of the United States Constitution! All that's left are a few housekeeping items-better known as Articles V, VI, and VII.

These Articles are among the least verbose in our country's famously short Founding document. Article V details the process for amending the Constitution. Article VI contains the all-important Supremacy Clause and declares that all elected officials must swear an oath to the Constitution. And Article VII stipulates the process for ratification of the Constitution.

Article V is my favorite of the three, as it was a prescient addition by the Founders to ensure that future generations could revise the Constitution when circumstances behooved them to do so. By doing this, the Founders created a living,

breathing document that continues to evolve even today, nearly 250 years after it was first written.

The process for proposing and ratifying amendments follows two distinct paths: via constitutional convention, and via an act of Congress with the consent of the states. The latter path is much more common; in fact, there has never been an amendment proposed via constitutional convention, and only one has been ratified by the constitutional convention process (that was the 21st, which ended Prohibition). At the time, Congress felt that it was important for state constitutional conventions to gather in order to decide the individual's rights issue of ending Prohibition.

Every other amendment (there are twenty-seven, as a reminder)

Summer Irish Arts Kids Day Camp at the Irish American Heritage Center

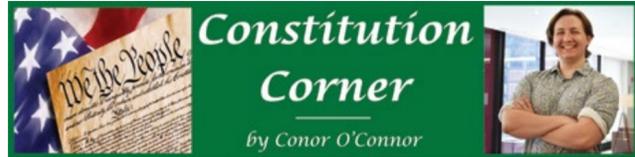


The Irish Music School of Chicago and the Irish American Heritage Center will be hosting their 16th annual Irish Arts Kids Day Camp July 21-25. Camp will run from 9am-12pm Monday-Friday.

Children ages 4-11 are transported to Ireland learning from some of the best Irish musicians, teachers and artists from around the world. Each day starts and ends with live traditional Irish

music and their days are filled with learning many Irish arts forms including singing, lilting, sean-nós, group and step dancing, storytelling and folklore, and arts and crafts. Campers choose between tin whistle or fiddle

The Irish Music School of Chicago and the Irish American Heritage Center will partner to provide this fun yearly program to pass on the love and appreciation of Irish arts to the next generation. To find out more about the 2025 Irish Arts Week Kids Day Camp, visit www.irishmusicschool.org or call 773-412-5082.



was proposed by Congress, with two-thirds of the House and Senate agreeing to send the amendment off to the states for ratification. After that, three-fourths of the states have to ratify the amendment via an act of their state legislature in order for it to take effect and be considered a part of the Constitution. This process is laid out in its entirety in Article V.

Lastly, Article V also includes an addendum on unamenable subjects-the first part is a concession to delegates from southern states who did not want an amendment passed aimed at restricting or taxing the slave trade. To assuage their concerns, the Framers added a sentence making it impossible for an amendment to be proposed or passed that would do either of these things before 1808.

The second part of this paragraph states that no amendment could be passed that would abridge the representation of a state in the Senate without that state's explicit consent. This addition was championed by the same man who proposed the Connecticut Compromise (which established the bicameral legislature), whose name was Roger Sherman. There was concern at the time of the

Constitution's writing that larger states might try to strip smaller states of their voting power using the Constitutional amendment process. This section remains in effect today.

Article VI explicitly mentions a few key tenets of the new American government. The first of these is confirmation that the new United States government would inherit the debts and engagements of the pre-Constitution government. The second is what is known as the supremacy clause, which declares that all federal law passed by Congress is supreme to any state law. This clause is essential for maintaining the top-down balance of federalism and prevents states from passing laws that directly contradict federal statute. The last sentence of Article VI stipulates that all Representatives, Senators, and executives of federal and state governments shall swear an oath to support the Constitution. It also states that there shall be no religious affiliation requirement needed to hold public office.

Last but not least, Article VII is the ratification mechanism for the United States Constitution. It says nine of the original thirteen colonies would have to ratify the document via special convention

in order for it to take effect. The Constitution was presented to the states for ratification on September 28, 1787. The first state to ratify the Constitution was Delaware on December 7, 1787. On June 21, 1788, New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify the Constitution, ensuring it would go into effect. The last state to ratify the Constitution was Rhode Island on May 29, 1790. The Constitution came into force on September 17th, 1788. The rest is history.

Starting in August, we'll be taking a look at the first ten amendments to the Constitution, which are known as the Bill of Rights. These amendments were added to assuage the concerns of skeptics of the new Constitution in order to protect individual and state rights. The First Amendment, which concerns freedom of speech, assembly, redress, and religion, is arguably the most important of the ten. I can't wait to explore it with you!



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Saw Doctors "Live" Near You

July 19 Chicago IL, Aragon Ballroom "The Saw Doctors offer wistfulness, humour and small-town nostalgia." "New York Times"

Celebrating 35 years on the road, acclaimed Irish rock band The Saw Doctors will play five US shows this summer, starting in Cleveland, OH, on July 18, with stops along the way in Chicago on July 19, Los Angeles on July 22, Boston MGM Music Hall on July 24 and finishing up in New York with a headline concert at SummerStage in

backed by the RTE Concert Orchestra" says Davy Carton, "without a doubt, the highlight of my career."

"I never imagined when we started out, we'd get a chance to play one of our songs with an orchestra" said guitarist Leo Moran, "The RTE conductor, Gavin Murphy, wrote a magical score for Same Out' Town."

Discovered by Mike Scott of The Waterboys on a stormy Tuesday night in the Quay's Bar, Galway, The Saw



Central Park on Saturday July 26.

Back in 1990, The Saw Doctors' debut single 'I Useta Lover' climbed to No.1 in the Irish charts, staying a record nine weeks at Number 1 and going on to become the biggest selling Irish single.

Led by songwriting duo, Davy Carton (lead vocals) and Leo Moran (electric guitar), The Saw Doctors recently welcomed back one of their founding band members Pearse Doherty on bass guitar, vocals, penny whistle and wooden flute. The eight-man lineup features longtime members Rickie O'Neill (drums), Kieran Duddy (keyboards and accordion) and Tommy Carton (backing vocals) as well as acclaimed sidemen, Anthony Thistlethwaite (saxophone, formerly of The Waterboys) and Noelle McDonnell (guitar and backing vocals of The Whiteaways).

Ahead of the US tour, The Saw Doctors will release a new single 'Same Out' Town', recorded with the RTE Concert Orchestra, on Friday June 27 on all digital platforms. "It was an amazing experience to be

Doctors quickly grew a reputation as a live band, touring around Ireland and the UK, including a six-week stint with The Waterboys on the Fisherman's Blues tour. The Galway band's debut album 'If This Is Rock 'n' Roll, I Want My Old Job Back which includes the anthemic song 'N17' has sold a half a million copies world-wide.

The Saw Doctors comeback tour in 2023 /2024, following a five-year hiatus, was a resounding success, marked by sold-out shows in Dublin, London, New York, Boston and a barnstorming performance on the Main Stage at the Electric Picnic festival in Ireland. Carrying the torch of resilience and brimming with infectious energy, The Saw Doctors continue to solidify their place as one of Ireland's most cherished bands, thrilling audiences everywhere.

"If they could bottle the sort of Bonhomie that make an entire concert hall feel better, The Saw Doctors would have the medicine show to end them all." "The Times" https://sawdoctors.com/

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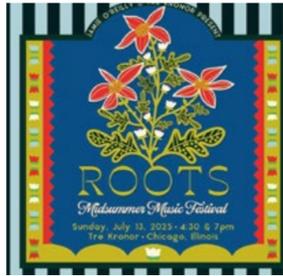
N. Park's Tre Kronor Rest. & Performer Jamie O'Reilly Bring Family-Friendly Summer Music Festival to Garden

Produced by Jamie O'Reilly and Tre Kronor Restaurant, Roots Midsummer Fest on July 13, 2025, is a two-show event in Tre Kronor's magical garden.

Musical acts from Roots Salons - hosted by O'Reilly at the popular Northside bistro will be featured along with special guests. Two different shows - at 4:30 and 7:00 pm, will feature a variety of acts

ranging from American folk, Irish, blues, alt folk, doo-wop rock, classical, acoustic jazz and musical theater genres.

Charismatic singer/actor Victor Holstein will emcee the event, which features Paul Amandes (singer/songwriter), Jimmy Conway (trad Irish and American blues), John Erickson



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(jazz piano), Katrina Loundy (musical theater), Willa Moore (performance poet), Ned O'Reilly (70s pop), Joe and Rue (alt folk), Peter Swenson Collective (jazz), Salon Rero (Brooklyn acoustic trio), Steve Vazquez (classical guitar), and Steve Zahradnik (folk and swing), as well as Jamie (variety) and Midnight Moxie - the doo-wop rock trio that includes daughters Meg Broz, Nia O'Reilly-Amandes, and Sarah Chang.

The garden gate opens at 4:00 PM. Guests are seated outside in the garden decorated in flags and flowers, in the Scandinavian summer tradition. Swedish-American cuisine, offered on a small-plate menu, will feature summerfare, created by chef and owner Patty Rasmussen.

Alcoholic beverages are BYOB. The garden is handicapped accessible. (Indoors if it rains.) Street parking.

Tickets are \$30 for admission.

Children under 12 are free. Food and drink are charged separately.

Artist merchandise will be on sale. Event link: <https://www.jamieoreilly.com/events/roots-midsummer-musicfest-at-tre-kronor/> MORE

"Thank you to Jamie for organizing these salons. At a time when many of us feel overwhelmed with anxiety, your voice brings serenity and hope." -Dan Dever, audience member



SATURDAY, JULY 19
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Una Geraghty (née Winters)
33 Nephin View Manor, Foxford, Co. Mayo and Chicago, Illinois and formerly of Muingearan, Moygownagh - peacefully at the University Hospital, Galway, on 21st May 2025.

Predeceased by her parents Thomas and Nora, brothers Michael, Tony, Sean, Richie and Pierce and sisters Mary, Evelyn and Ann.

She will be sadly missed by her heartbroken husband Mike, and extended family, her sisters Pauline Scollard (Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.) and Sheila O'Malley (Shrataggle, Porturlin), nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, kind neighbors and many life-long friends.

May Her Kind and Gentle Soul Rest in Peace.



Remains reposing at Fahy Community Centre, Fahy, Newport (F28 NW60) on Sunday evening from 5.30pm with removal at 7pm to the Church of the Holy Family. Funeral Mass on Monday at 11 am followed by burial afterwards in the adjoining Cemetery.

All enquiries to Paul Kilroy Funeral Director on 086 854 3991 Anyone wishing to offer their sympathies to the family can leave a message by clicking on the "Condolences" link below. Link is on midwestradio.ie

Mary Pat Flanagan

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Rewarding Others With Rich Lives Made Sister Rosemary's Life One of the Richest

By Tom O'Gorman
MISERICORDIA: That Latin word is perhaps the most dynamic and turbulent description of God's presence in the Scriptures. Don't believe me? Well, then, just look at Sister Rosemary Connelly,



RSM. Her recent death refocuses the significance of that revelation.

You needed a shoe horn to fit into Holy Name Cathedral for her funeral. After a lifetime of quiet and tender welcome and understanding, Sister Rosemary reinvented the embrace of families with

children with special needs. She lifted the helplessness and deep concerns of parents and families for shaping the best life for special need children to live to be special need adults.

She helped to rearrange that understanding for families, for caregivers, for special need children and for the life-long residents of the family of residents at Misericordia.

Sister Rosemary was opening up a wider path to the God of Jesus by her long life of finding room for all.

I've always believed that Sister Rosemary was filled with a sense of service and hospitable welcome long before she became a nun. Her father, after all, was Irishman Val Connelly, Chicago's most popular Westside saloon owner.

A beloved anchor for the Chicago Irish. It only stands to reason Sister Rosemary's home-life led her to become a builder of communities of service, learning and dignity. She worked quiet, humble miracles, every day, throughout her 94 years, giving everyone who knew her

the chance to experience a deep openness to Mercy for themselves.

In the very footsteps, also, of her order's founder, Mother Catherine McAuley, RSM. Sister Rosemary made Chicago a city of Mercy. It's the shortcut to Heaven.



Above: Mary Gorski with Sister Rosemary.



Former President of the Irish American Heritage Center, John Gorski, welcomed residents of Misericordia to IAHC yearly.



"How Many Loved Your Moments of Glad Grace?"

The nearness of a Summer in Ireland is a natural catalyst for memory and nostalgia in me.

I fall back on the past thousands of cozy celebrations I have shared and a lot of recurring over the top festivities all meant to mark the grandeur of the season. At this moment I long for those past cozy family occasions so filled with harmony and tasty vittles.

I remember all those fresh Sunday gatherings in which my grandmother, Rebecca Crowe O'Gorman, a Tipperary woman, ran her kitchen like a steel mill with ovens cranking out sublime meals of savory Irish character.

The summer air will always be remembered in the elegant aroma of a Leg of Lamb roasting on aromatic vegetables on perfumed scents from roasting fresh rosemary as poignant, still, as the Western Ocean. I always thrived on the creamed onions that ubiquitously made an appearance. And special for the Summer season a buttery batch of "Colcannon." A

traditional Irish country version of mashed potatoes with savory cabbage, chopped and crunchy, added to the Irish butter and heavy cream that really was a hold over to Rebecca's growing up at Reagoulawn, her Crowe Family Tipperary dairy farm.

Of course the sauce of pan drippings and juices were the perfect accompaniment for meat and spuds. Often roast carrots were plentiful and charred just right on the cooker.

In later adult life I often felt the same summery emotion in the chill of winter while at the Irish Fellowship Club's St. Patrick's Dinner at the Conrad Hilton where a thousand of Chicago's fancy Irish always dined and kicked up their heels. Local Irish notables, politicians, judges, clergy, visiting Irish diplomats and Chicago celebrities encircled

the Grand Ballroom surrounded by an army of bagpipers. Always made grand with a wondrous collection of the Daley Family, especially during the decades of those celebrated mayoral administrations.

Both Daley mayors, father and son, served as presidents of the



Our father, Mossy O'Gorman was always Ready to lift the occasion to melody on the Squeeze box.

"When You Are Old"
WHEN you are old and grey
and full of sleep,
And nodding by the fire,
take down this book,
And slowly read,
and dream of the soft look
Your eyes had once,
and of their shadows deep;
How many loved your
moments of glad grace,
And loved your beauty
with love false or true,
But one man loved
the pilgrim soul in you,
And loved the sorrows
of your changing face;
And bending down
beside the glowing bars,
Murmur, a little sadly,
how Love fled
And paced upon
the mountains overhead
And hid his face
amid a crowd of stars.

-W.B. Yeats

Irish Fellowship Club over the decades. Beginning with the great man, himself, Richard J. Daley, in 1955. He really helped to expand the membership and the scope of the club, first founded in 1901 with Mayor Edward Fitzsimon Dunne as the first president. The only Chicago mayor to later also serve as Governor of Illinois.

Back in 1956, Mayor Daley brought young Massachusetts Senator John Fitzgerald Kennedy to the black tie dinner with hopes of getting him on the Democratic ticket as vice president at the upcoming convention. Kennedy met all the necessary folk and wowed them. When he was not selected at the convention, Mayor Daley set his goal for larger plans and was instrumental in getting JFK elected to the office of president.

But for me, while celebrating with 1000 friends, nothing could hold a candle for me like the family coming together in Ireland around that leg of lamb, or a big juicy prime rib. Of course there was always an abundance of fresh homemade Irish soda bread. And buttery apple tarts for dessert. That was as predictable as the Irish music my aunts would play on their fiddles. Important pieces of the family furniture back in the 1950s.

In our home my father, Mossy O'Gorman, would always have his squeeze box nearby and add a live musical performance to the family celebration. With children expected to do their favorite jigs and reels through the sitting rooms and parlors of the house. The dances, like the children, came in all shapes and sizes, adding an authentic layer of old country nostalgia.

Grandma O'Gorman would always join in, as light on her feet as a young girl. It was truly an O'Gorman festival down to the Irish linen and the polished silver, thanks to the added work of the children who were expected to help in preparation for a big family meal, in spite of the rains of summer. We didn't travel there for a tan.

I believe it's important to

hold on to such recollections and memories in which the grandeur of the past is able to add meaning, purpose, clarity and cultural identity from the past through to the present. It is as the Irish poet, W.B. Yeats wrote, "How many loved your moments of glad grace."

It is important to cherish such moments, for they add light to our present from the past. Is that not the glory of a life well lived?

Knowing that our parents and grandparents had such moments of glad grace which truly redeem the times we live in now. As our American government is conflicted

and ransacked by political contradictions and questions of immigration conflicts not faced with such harsh realities. I take comfort in the hope that such gracious living as we experienced in our adolescence can give us the courage to sustain America's cherished freedom and liberty.

That's what I see in our family feasting, still, the authentic cultural understanding of who we Irish are. And what it is necessary for us to do. That's what Colcannon and creamed onions herald for me. The strength of our family. The great moments of glad grace.

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Proud Irishman Jim Mullen is Taking His Signature Applesauce National

Many readers are likely familiar with the story of Jim Mullen and his distinctive personal and professional journey. However, simply listing the stops in his career - working at Effeng Electric as a young man, serving as a Chicago Police Officer, and starting his own business, aptly named Mullen's Applesauce - does not begin to capture the depth and breadth of what he has accomplished. Rather, one simple guiding principle summarizes the impact that he has made: "I'm trying to help people."

Mullen's desire to help others comes directly from his Irish ancestry; he is a proud fourth-generation Irish American whose family hails from County Mayo.

"Growing up, I was surrounded by people and Irish culture," Mullen recalls. "We always celebrated our Irish heritage, going to the parades, the picnics, and other gatherings. It's nice to know where we come from."

A lifelong Chicagoan, as a youngster Mullen moved from the Hamlin Park neighborhood to Forest Glen on the Northwest side, attending grade school in Sauganash before going to Loyola Academy for high school.

"What a wonderful neighborhood," Mullen says of his childhood. "I grew up behind the Billy Caldwell Golf Course, which was like having our own private golf course in our backyard. My friends and I would be gone all day, out in the woods until dark. It was a simpler time, but I felt very blessed."

After graduating from Loyola, Mullen did not go far for college, attending Northeastern Illinois University and working for Efeenge Electrical Supply, the local company founded in 1919.

Shortly after St. Patrick's Day in 1990 - March 26 to be exact - Mullen joined the Chicago Police Department, beginning a distinguished career as a police officer in the 24th district covering Rogers Park. By joining the police force, Mullen was carrying on the proud legacy of Irish Americans in Chicago, and, more personally, of his own family; his great uncle Jim and father John

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Mullen both served in CPD as well. "It was a natural fit for me," Mullen says of becoming a police officer. "I was around policemen all my life. I'd go to work with them occasionally growing up, and I loved being an officer."

As a police officer, Mullen joined the Emerald Society, the organization made up of Irish American law enforcement officers that celebrated its fiftieth anniversary this year, and counted several Irish people as colleagues and friends. He married his wife Athena and they had a daughter - Margaret Kelly Mullen - who would attend St. Mary of the Woods and ultimately graduate from DePaul University.

Six years after joining the force - on October 16, 1996 - Mullen responded to a call where an offender was firing his gun out the back window of his car at passing El trains. Mullen took two bullets that instantly left him a quadriplegic.

Speaking about that day and the immediate aftermath of the shooting, Mullen shares several emotions, but most of all, he highlights his feeling of gratitude.

"I got saved by my partner and the Chicago Fire Department, who I owe a great deal of gratitude," he mentions. "Most people didn't think I could live, but God blessed my family genes, and I was treated at the Northwestern Hospital ICU before transferring to the Rehab Institute of Chicago (RIC, which is now the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab). A former classmate of mine at Loyola Academy happened to work at RIC and he helped me a lot to keep me going. It was a very long road, but I slowly got better. I'm lucky to be alive, to still be on the planet, and I'm ever grateful to the

ultimately become his long-term career: owning and operating Mullen's Applesauce.

The story of Mullen's Applesauce began when Jim was a child, when he would peel apples with his mother Audrey, a self-taught chef, that would go into a delicious, homemade applesauce. Fast forward to 1996, when Mullen met a nurse at Northwestern Hospital who bottled and sold her own barbecue sauce with her husband. From there, Mullen had the idea to turn his mother's recipe into the company that now bears his name.

"I remember ordering my first 15 cases of applesauce and taking them to Happy Foods - my local grocery store - and my mother would give me daily updates about how many bottles were on the shelf at any time."

Soon enough, those 15 cases were not enough to keep up with demand, and Mullen started selling the applesauce at large grocery chains like Treasure Island and Jewel, and it can now be found in major retailers like Walmart and Meier.

Like most small business owners, Mullen has done just about every job required to run his company - everything from marketing to accounting to sales and everything in between - working from his home office and using a voice recognition computer to manage the business and technology. He recently brought on two colleagues to grow the business into a national brand.

Harkening back to Mullen's dedication to helping people, he acknowledges that "my favorite thing to do is give away applesauce," and he has donated his product to support the Chicago Police Memorial, veterans' charities, and other organizations that help first-responders.

In making this community impact, Mullen is not only continuing the legacy of his mother - "I still feel like



people of Chicago, the city, and all my caregivers." Upon his discharge from RIC, Mullen moved to a house a mile from his childhood home in Wildwood, which the City of Chicago remodeled to make it wheel-chair accessible. Never one to stay idle for long, he took a job at CBS, reporting on disabled people and running a small foundation, before landing on the job that would

"I'm sharing her spirit, spreading her joy with people," he recognizes - but also the proud legacy of his Irish and Irish American ancestors.

"We the Irish are an amazing group of people who have helped the country grow and prosper. We're hardworking, honest, loyal people with big hearts, and I'm proud to do my little part."

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Hello everyone, Can you believe we're already into July? It just seemed like spring yesterday. Driving around our neighborhood, it's so lovely to see all the pop-up canopies as students prepare for their graduation parties. It makes me smile and reminds me of all the graduation celebrations we had for our son and daughter - from elementary to middle school, high school, and now college. We moved to the suburbs when our son was a year old. We were lucky to find a house backing onto a park, which has been a great source of entertainment for our children over the years. Back then, our street only had three families with young children. The others, I think, were what we called "empty nesters." Fast forward to today - and now we are the empty nesters. We often ask ourselves, Where do we go from here? Do we downsize, sell the house, and move into a small apartment? We've spent years putting our stamp on our home, garden, and pool. I'm not sure I could share an adjoining wall, listening to neighbors' music or conversations.

Downsizing would certainly cut down on housework and gardening, but a balcony that only fits two chairs and a tiny bistro table feels a bit depressing. I don't think we're quite ready for that yet. A few years ago, both of our neighbors on either side sold their homes. I'm delighted to say that two young families moved in. It's so lovely to see their children growing up - learning to ride bikes and getting tall enough to reach the basketball hoop in their driveways. One mum makes us a beautiful marble sponge cake every Christmas and Easter. We look forward to it every year - it reminds me so much of my own mother's cakes. I always save a bit to use in my Christmas sherry trifle. I must admit, it's such lovely company to hear our street come alive again with the sound of children's laughter. This has been circulating around social media and resonates deeply with many of us Irish because of our own history and painful past:

I am Israel. I never miss a chance to claim victimhood while inflicting violence. In 1947, the United Nations handed me more than half of someone else's land. A gift I didn't earn, from colonial powers who didn't own it. I accepted. My neighbors objected. I called it war - and in the chaos, I began my cleansing. Over 700,000 Palestinians were driven from their homes - some fled, yes - but many were forced out at gunpoint, their villages razed, their names erased. Then I planted pine trees over the ruins - to hide the memory. Forests where homes once stood. Parks over cemeteries. I made it green so the world wouldn't see the black underneath. I called it "reforestation." They called it erasure.

I am Israel. I have never chosen peace - only dominance. In 1967, I launched a pre-emptive war and seized Gaza, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and Sinai. I claimed it was for security. I held onto it for power. I built settlements, one by one, choking Palestinian towns. International law said it was illegal. I ignored it. My map grew. Their freedom shrank.

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I am Israel. I could have ended the occupation many times. But I always said no. In 2000, at Camp David, I offered a patchwork of disconnected enclaves surrounded by walls, checkpoints, and soldiers. I called it peace. Palestinians walked away. I called them extremists. Then I built a wall - not on my border, but deep in theirs. I called it security. They called it theft.

I am Israel. I glorify militarism. I raise children to believe they are chosen. My textbooks erase Palestine. My soldiers patrol streets with rifles pointed at teenagers. My media justifies bombings. My politicians joke about flattening Gaza. I send airstrikes to refugee camps, schools, and hospitals. Then I say they were human shields.

I am Israel. I elected Netanyahu. Again and again. Not once, by mistake. But knowingly. I voted for leaders who vowed to crush the Palestinians, to expand settlements, to never allow a Palestinian state. My ministers speak of "the Arabs" as a demographic threat. My settlers burn olive trees. My mobs chant "Death to Arabs." I call it patriotism.

I am Israel. I speak of democracy - but deny it to millions under my control. I rule over millions who cannot vote in the country that controls their lives. I build roads they cannot drive on. I issue permits for them to breathe, to move, to live. I bomb Gaza, then seal it off and say it's their fault. I say I left Gaza - but I control its air, sea, and borders. I say they are free - then I starve them.

I am Israel. I demand recognition - but give none in return. I demand that Palestinians accept me as a Jewish state - while refusing to even say the word Nakba. I ignore the homes, lands, and history of those I displaced. I hold their keys in museums, not in their hands. I deny the refugees their right to return. I make laws that call them "absentees," even when they're just over the hill.

I am Israel. I cry antisemitism - when what I fear is accountability. I call any critic a hater. I blur the line between Judaism and Zionism, using one to shield the crimes of the other. I weaponize history to excuse apartheid. I manipulate trauma to justify conquest. I say "Never again" - but let it happen to others, by my own hand.

I am Israel. I will never be secure. Praying for peace all over the world.

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Scorpions & Ants: At the Mercy of Insane Children

"Bobby found himself thinking of what William Golding had said, that the boys on the island were rescued by the crew of a battle-cruiser and good for them... but who would rescue the crew?"

"That was stupid, no one ever looked less in need of rescuing... but the words still haunted Bobby. What if there were no grownups? Suppose the whole idea of grownups was just an illusion? What if their money was just playground marbles, their business deals no more than baseball-card trades, their wars only games of guns in the park? What if they were all snotty-nosed kids inside their suits and dresses? Christ, that couldn't be, could it? It was too horrible to think about."

Stephen King, 'Hearts in Atlantis'. King's novel 'Hearts in Atlantis' is a trawl through the under thoughts of America from 1960 to 1999, over which years the Vietnam war and its aftermath plays like a dark and sinister fugue. In the long opening section eleven-year-old Bobby Garfield is tormented by the stark images in Golding's great book, 'Lord of the Flies'; and also, by the idea that not only are there no adults in charge... there are no adults, period. I was about Bobby's age when I first read it and would lay awake at night with much the same concerns, despite being with a loving and caring family.

A weird kid? Probably not. I don't think that I was any stranger than most eleven-year-olds; and as adults I believe that we have edited out of our memories just HOW peculiar our thought processes really were. Perhaps even as odd as those of ageing politicians, military generals, ayatollahs and presidents. But Bobby's thought, that there are no grownups in charge. And the ones that

are, well...they're crazy. Does that sound in any way like the global insanity that we are currently struggling to live through and to make sense of?

I'll come back to that in a moment, but first I want to talk about something else, something different, something that disturbed me in the here-and-now: the reopening of the cold case on Annie McCarrick.

An arrest just seemed to burst out of nowhere in the second week of June, at least to those not involved in the case; in reality it had probably been in the planning since it was 'upgraded' from Missing Person to Murder some two years ago.

Ms. McCarrick was a 26-year-old American student who went missing in Dublin in March of 1993. Well publicized at the time, nothing more came of her disappearance for more than three decades.

Three decades. I think of her late father and of her mother, now in her eighties, staring at her photograph and praying for...some kind of comfort, some kind of closure. Just a body to bring back to New York, as her mum has said. The agony that must have been, the unending torment.

But why was I so shaken at this light being suddenly shone on those events after all this time? I mean, I was glued to every news report and found myself vividly recalling where I was when she went missing, as though this were a Lockerbie or a 9/11. Others had gone missing before and have since, but it was Ms. McCarrick's image from that time that was in front of me.

And perhaps that's it: that image brings up for me a country that was just

over the cusp and embracing a changed Ireland. Ms. McCarrick was young, attractive, had a beautiful, winning smile...and she was AMERICAN. As hard as it is to explain to a younger person now, in 1993 that made her rather exotic.

Today of course we have immigrants of all nations, both legal and illegal, vetted and - more and more commonly - UNVETTED arriving here on a weekly basis. Back then it was a country where, if you voiced legitimate concerns and wanted to open a meaningful dialogue, you weren't quite so likely to be shouted down as a fascist far-righter. (And there is something that I'm WAY past caring about.)

As this column has speculated on over the years, if there are terrorist sleeper cells ready to be put into action here in the aftermath of...oh, for example, Iran being bombed into submission -- something you'll be more up on by the time you read this -- then they are already waiting and ready. In fact, as the fictional Deep Throat said in another era: "Mr. Mulder, THEY'VE been here for a long, long time."

Another era: that's what Ireland was in 1993. We had people with something to offer visiting, like Ms. McCarrick, for instance. And then the majority of the population still retained the blind blinkered ignorance of believing that their elected representatives had the interests of their constituents at heart instead of their own. That we had a country that put its citizens first instead of slavishly following Germany's Angela Merkel in 2015 by announcing that we were open to all. (A policy that has worked out REALLY well for Germany. Yes, that's sarcasm.) 2015... all it took was ten miserable years to blow Europe apart.

Back then Annie McCarrick's disappearance was front page news for weeks; today it would hardly dominate for two days, so much has this old world changed. How terrible is that. As I write this the Ayatollah of Iran, 'Supreme Leader' is reported to be covering in a bunker somewhere. Whether he really is or not I have no idea; when was the last time we could take a news report at face value, after all? But one thing is for sure: at the age of 86 this 'man of God' is in no more of a hurry to meet his boss than

letters of support for MacBride from all Irish-surnamed residents in Madigan's Representative district. Initially distant, Madigan responded to his constituents' overwhelming support for MacBride. He assigned Aide Tim Filan to the campaign. Soon thereafter, Madigan committed to MacBride, bringing in all sixty Democratic members of the Illinois House. MacBride eventually passed in the Illinois house by 84 to 14 and the Senate by 53 to 2. As the crucial politician, Madigan never even hinted at a quid pro quo. We gratefully remember that though his daughter was then a student at Oxford University, Speaker Mike Madigan served his constituents exemplarily.

Chris and Mary Fogarty

Sorry, I cannot renew my sub. This paper has become too much of a right wing rag. You may have no control over it, but maybe when asked why subs are falling, you can add this. I thought it was bad with Tom What's His Face, but it only got worse. Will check back in a year. Slan go Fhoill, **Paddy C**

We Get Letters....

Dear

Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan

In 1986-1989 the MacBride Principles for Fair Employment in Northern Ireland was enacted into law in the State of Illinois, into a City of Chicago ordinance, and into federal law in Washington, D.C. At the time, twenty-five U.S. companies employed eleven percent of the population of Northern Ireland whose Irish population faced blatant job discrimination. Supporters of the 1986-1988 State of Illinois phase of the campaign are saddened that Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan is sentenced to 7.5 years in prison for corruption.

State Rep. John McNamara, who led the planning sessions, directed us to win the support of Speaker Madigan. Campaigners went door-to-door collecting signatures on pre-typed

Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



the rest of them. Ageing warmongers as so many seem to be, they are happy to see the young die for them, no matter from which country, no matter of which religion.

In the middle of King's vast novel, I'm remembering a comment I heard once, that only one Congressman's son ever went to Vietnam. Trying to establish the truth or otherwise of that, I find that there are no public records available. Which tells you all you need to know, I suppose. (Mind you, it did give me an unexpected respect for Doomsday Al Gore. According to his roommate, actor Tommy Lee Jones, Gore actually went out of his way to embrace the draft, despite having every opportunity to avoid it. You live and learn.)

But as I close these musings, it's not Ms. McCarrick's face smiling out from thirty-two-year-old photos that haunts me; and it's not the feral, tribal children from 'Lord of the Flies'. Instead, it is that unforgettable opening image from Sam Peckinpah's 1969 masterpiece, 'The Wild Bunch', one of the most powerful sequences in all of cinema.

On the outskirts of a small village on the Tex-Mex border in 1913, on the eve of the first of the World Wars, a group of innocent-looking children have placed scorpions in the middle of a nest of vicious fire ants. The scorpions are being overrun, stinging madly as they go down. Finally, the children set both scorpions and ants aflame, while all the time the creatures go on fighting and dying. It's as powerful a statement/metaphor on the utter futility of war as one could get.

As I prepare to wind up and send this across the Atlantic to 'Irish American News', the Israel - Iran conflict is in its 5th morning. But it's not the scorpions and the fire ants that I'm thinking of: it's the happiness on the faces of those young peasants as they burn both sides to death. At the end of the first quarter of the 21st Century we are in the hands of cruel, insane children. charleybrady@gmail.com

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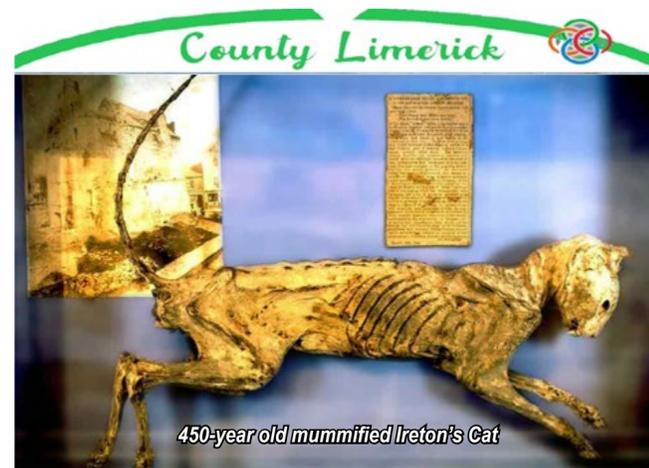
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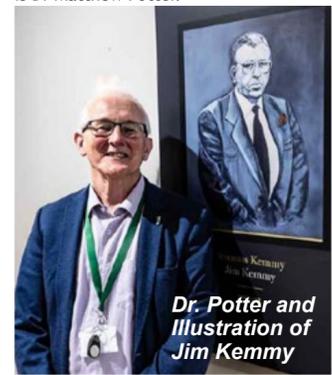
450-year old mummified Ireton's Cat

Limerick Museum: Window on the Past

By Dr Matthew Potter, Curator Limerick Museum

Step inside Limerick Museum for an unforgettable journey through Limerick's past. Discover Limerick's fascinating history through our wide and varied collections. Along the way, you will see iconic items, beautiful objects and learn fascinating facts and gruesome tales.

Opened in 1916, it is one of the oldest and largest local authority museums in the country with a diverse collection consisting of some 65,000 objects. Limerick Museum is dedicated to the memory of Jim Kemmy (1936-97), historian, activist, Labour Party TD and two-time Mayor of Limerick. The curator is Dr Matthew Potter.



Dr. Potter and Illustration of Jim Kemmy



Limerick Lace

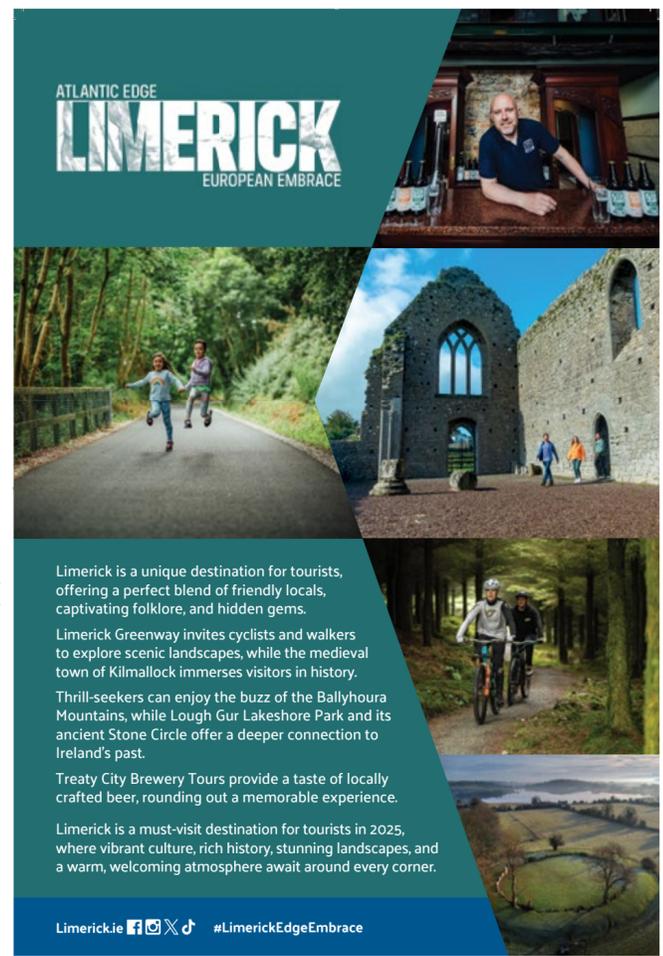
Limerick Museum's mission is to collect, preserve and display objects that tell the story of Limerick and its people. With the largest amount of Limerick-related material in existence, our ever expanding collection illuminates every aspect of our fascinating and remarkable mix of cultures.

Founded by Vikings eleven centuries ago, Limerick was later conquered by Anglo-Normans who brought in English and Welsh settlers, more of whom arrived during the Plantation of Munster. English and Dutch soldiers stayed on after the seventeenth-century sieges, while German Protestants, known as Palatines arrived a century later. In recent decades, Limerick has received immigrants from all over the world, especially the European Union.

Take an enthralling journey through time as you explore the Limerick story from the Mesolithic Era to the present. Thanks to our wide-ranging collection of unique artefacts and archaeological finds, you can follow the footsteps of local people through all the great upheavals and triumphs of Limerick's history. Variety is the spice of life, and Limerick Museum's collection ranges from Stone Age axes to medieval coins, and from civic sword of Queen Elizabeth I to medals presented to veterans of the 1916 Rising. Limerick's heritage is also reflected in two World War II gas-masks, that fortunately never had to be used and a magnificent array of municipal regalia.

By far the oldest object in Limerick Museum is the 4.6 billion-year old fragment from the largest meteorite ever fell in Ireland. In 1813, what was later named the Limerick Meteorite fell to earth in County Limerick. At 7 stones 8 ounces, it was the largest and heaviest meteorite ever to hit Ireland and Britain. It shattered into several fragments, which are housed in museums all over the world. Our fragment was donated to Limerick Museum by Lord Dunraven.

Jurassic Park comes to Limerick with our second oldest object, a 160-million year old fossil ammonite from the Jurassic Period. Ammonites were shelled animals with tentacles, closely related to octopuses and squid and lived at the same time as the dinosaurs. Examples of this specimen could reach a length of five feet.



ATLANTIC EDGE LIMERICK EUROPEAN EMBRACE

Limerick is a unique destination for tourists, offering a perfect blend of friendly locals, captivating folklore, and hidden gems.

Limerick Greenway invites cyclists and walkers to explore scenic landscapes, while the medieval town of Kilmallock immerses visitors in history.

Thrill-seekers can enjoy the buzz of the Ballyhoura Mountains, while Lough Gur Lakeshore Park and its ancient Stone Circle offer a deeper connection to Ireland's past.

Treaty City Brewery Tours provide a taste of locally crafted beer, rounding out a memorable experience.

Limerick is a must-visit destination for tourists in 2025, where vibrant culture, rich history, stunning landscapes, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere await around every corner.

Limerickie #LimerickEdgeEmbrace

One of the Museum's most iconic objects is the 450-year old mummified Ireton's Cat. Dating from the Elizabethan era (1558- 1603), it was discovered during the demolition of Henry Ireton's house, Nicholas Street, Limerick in 1894. Completely fleshless, with no hair left except for its whiskers, the cat was found in a pounce-like pose. In Early Modern Europe, it was common to place mummified dead cats in the walls of a new house as a bizarre good luck charm.

The phrase 'pay on the nail', meaning to pay debts in full and without delay, originated in Limerick city. This is due to one of Limerick Museum's most prized exhibits, the Nail, a limestone pillar 3 feet and 4 inches tall, topped by a circular table of copper. Dating to 1685, the Nail was like a shop counter, where fines, bills or other financial transactions were paid across the table, which served as both a literal and symbolic point of transaction.

The City's Georgian splendor is symbolized by our unrivalled collection of Limerick silver. Most Limerick silver dates from 1700 to 1815, when a total of 110 silversmiths worked in the city. Many of these also ran other businesses, like clock-making. Three-quarters of Limerick silver is connected with dining: knives, forks, spoons, teapots, coffee pots, sugar bowls and soup gondolas.

Beautiful examples of world famous Limerick lace



also illustrate the city's reputation for superb craftsmanship. Indeed, Limerick lace is one of Ireland's most famous art industries. It is a form of hand embroidery on machine made net and is a 'mixed lace' rather than a 'true lace', which is entirely handmade. Limerick Museum has the largest Limerick lace collection in existence, consisting of hundreds of wonderful lace confections, dozens of patterns, and other ancillary items related to the craft such as medals and certificates won at the Great Exhibitions of London (1851), Chicago (1893) and St Louis (1904).

Limerick Museum is easy to locate in the city centre on Henry Street and with a wide range of stories and objects, it has something for young and old, locals and visitors. In addition to the permanent collections, there is a regular programme of special exhibitions hosted at the museum. Entrance to Limerick Museum is FREE.

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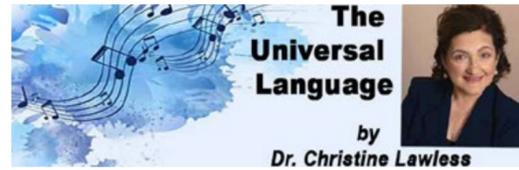
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The Universal Language

by Dr. Christine Lawless

When the 2025 All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann takes place in August in Wexford, Ireland, the Midwestern USA will be well represented by some of our finest Irish musicians and singers of all ages.

The All-Ireland is run by the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, a world-wide non-profit cultural organization whose mission is the preservation and promotion of Irish traditional music. To qualify for the All-Ireland, one must first compete in county events throughout Ireland, and then advance to 4 provincial events, held about 1-2 months before the All-Ireland. Only the top two competitors are chosen to advance. In other parts of the world, like the USA, only 2 provincial events are held, the Midwest, and the Mid-Atlantic. As in Ireland, the top two finishers in each category advance to the All-Ireland final.

The Midwest qualifying competition was held April 25-27th 2025 at the Holiday Inn in Countryside IL. A complete list of medalists can be found on the Midwest Fleadh Cheoil Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MidwestFleadhCheoil>

Midwest qualifiers range from 9 to over 70 years old, reminding us that Irish music and song is for everyone. Over 150,000 visitors are expected to descend upon Wexford from August 4th til the 11th, partaking in non-stop music from mid-morning till the wee hours every night. Nightly concerts feature famed Irish recording artists like Frankie Gavin and De Dannan, and the 60-member Comhaltas National Folk Orchestra of Ireland. Along the Wexford Quay, non-stop back-to-back performances will take place on the massive outdoor stage called the Gig Rig. If you prefer a cozier setting, virtually every one of Wexford's pubs will host open sessions in the evening with world class musicians and competitors. Buskers of all ages, playing a wide variety of



MacKenzie Krewal competing in singing Ladies 12-15

instruments, display their talent on every corner and curb.

Who are the competitors representing the Midwestern USA?

Singer Mackenzie Krewal, 12 from Waukesha WI, will compete in the 12-15 Ladies English Singing. Although last year she did not qualify, this year she stepped up her game, especially her song choices. The changes paid off, resulting in 1st place, and qualification for her first All-Ireland. She'll be required to perform one slow song and one lively song. Mackenzie is the oldest in a family of 4 siblings, and will start 7th grade in the fall. She plays flute in her school band, and enjoys dance and poms. Her mother Molly Messplay is a dancer and choreographer, while Molly's sister, auntie Shannon Messplay, is Mackenzie's singing coach. Molly strives to provide Mackenzie with

as many opportunities to sing as possible. Mackenzie travels to Chicago to perform with the Chicago Irish Singers on special occasions, and was with them when they performed with Colm Keegan of Celtic Thunder at the Mayfair Theater earlier this year. She will be coming to town for the "Sing a Song for Ireland" Chicago Irish Singers session at IAHC on July 24 where she will practice her Fleadh songs before a welcoming crowd. While Mackenzie's goal at the Fleadh is to have a good experience and learn, she is very clear on her long-term goal, "I want to be a professional Irish singer." She is certainly going about it the right way by cultivating a strong foundation in traditional Irish singing.

Theodore "Teddy" Thomas, 9 from Wilmette, started playing violin 2.5 years ago, but began to study Irish fiddle 6 months ago with Katie Grennan. Teddy is the second oldest of 6 children in a musical family; his siblings study accordion, fiddle, and cello. Although he competed in under 12 in both fiddle (against 21 others) and fiddle slow airs (one of 3



Teddy Thomas

competitors), Teddy came in 2nd place in the slow airs and thus qualified for Ireland. He must prepare 2 tunes, but the judge will select only one for him to play. Wexford will be Teddy's first All-Ireland, and for this one, he just plans to "have fun and learn!"

However, Teddy has plenty of other fiddle goals. As his family intends to visit all 63 USA National Parks, Teddy has made it his goal to play his fiddle at every one of them. Last year, while visiting Alaska's Katmai National Park, Teddy did indeed manage to play his fiddle, even though things did not go exactly as planned. As the park is known for its abundance of brown bears that are drawn to the salmon in Brooks Falls, Park Rangers would not allow Teddy

to play outside, fearful that the music might excite the bears. So, he had to play inside the Visitor Center. Nonetheless, it certainly



Henry Judge (r) Stephan McDaniel from South Bend IN, showing off their Midwest Fleadh medals

counted as "playing his fiddle at the park." But the Alaska trip proved to be memorable in other ways too, as Teddy unexpectedly got to play with Irish legends Gaelic Storm in Hope Alaska. (His uncle happened to own the concert venue, and as luck would have it, Teddy was there the night of their performance.)

Three fine young men from South Bend IN will travel together to Wexford: Henry Judge, Stefan McDaniel and Patrick Wilson. Henry, age 14, is third oldest of 8 children, and qualified in 2 events, bodhrán and concertina. While he has played bodhrán for over 2 years, he's only played concertina for about 10 months. When asked why he wanted to play a 2nd instrument, Henry was emphatic, "I wanted to play tunes instead of just beats." Of Wexford Fleadh, as it's his first time at the All-Ireland, Henry has no expectation to win a medal. But he said, "I know I'm going to have a great experience, and it will be lots of fun. Also, I'm not sure I'm going to win (the Midwest) again so this is my chance." Gotta love a guy who seizes opportunities. Outside of music, Henry enjoys sports like Trail Life USA, baseball, basketball, golf and soccer, and school subjects history and literature. His goal is to get as good as he possibly can on his instruments, and maybe when he is in college to join or form a band. John Kennedy, of the group Kennedy's Kitchen, coaches Henry on bodhrán, while Shannon Dunn teaches him concertina. Henry and his 2 friends Stefan and Patrick play in a céilí band



(l-r) Mary Nolen, Mary Beth Osowski, & Carrie Collins prepare for their IMA session at the IAHC

during tailgates at Notre Dame before the home football games. I'm hoping to meet up with them at this year's Purdue game.

Stefan McDaniel started on tin whistle at age 7 in New York. Now 13, he qualified in 1st place in the 12-15 Tin Whistle, and he's excited to head to Wexford with his friends Henry and Patrick. Patrick Wilson is a singer. Stefan's mother Monica says the Irish music scene for children is really growing in South Bend thanks to the efforts of teachers Kennedy and Dunn. The 3 boys have become great friends through Irish music, and are raising money to get to Wexford by mowing lawns in South Bend. Stefan is using money he won in an essay competition towards his trip; it helps that his parents matched the amount!

The All-Ireland is not just for soloists, nor only the young. A trio of musicians from Chicago - Carrie Collins on whistle, Mary Nolen on flute, and Marybeth Osowski on fiddle - have been learning and playing Irish traditional music through the Irish Music School of Chicago, and the Irish Musicians Association. Carrie teaches the daily challenges of long COVID. Mary Nolen is a full-time school teacher, balancing the demands of the classroom with her love of music. Marybeth, a lifelong musician, brings a steady hand and seasoned ear to this trio. On their crowdfunding platform, they state, "Playing together has become a source of purpose, connection, and resilience." Although they entered the Midwest competition with the hope of growing as musicians and staying inspired, they were quite surprised to qualify for the All-Ireland to represent the Chicago Irish music community on one of the most respected stages in the world. Anticipating \$9000 in travel expenses, the trio has set up a GoFundMe page in the hopes of soliciting donations to help them get to Wexford. If you are inspired to help them achieve their Wexford dream, please visit that page. christine.lawless@yahoo.com

How to Make the Most of Your Savings After You Retire

For many people, retirement is one of the biggest financial goals—and one of the biggest questions. Whether it's just around the corner or still years away, the challenge remains the same: how do you turn the money you've saved into an income stream?

This is a significant financial and emotional shift. Transitioning from building wealth to drawing from it—especially without a regular paycheck—can be unsettling. It's not just about having enough saved; it's also about having a clear strategy for how and when to access what you've built.

Here are a few key considerations to help you think through—and that need to be revisited periodically as circumstances change:

Social Security Isn't Just About Timing—It's About Integration. Most people know they can begin taking Social Security as early as 62 or wait until 70 for a higher benefit. However, what's often overlooked is how Social Security fits into their broader income strategy.

For example, delaying benefits might allow your portfolio more room to grow, but it also means you'll rely more heavily on withdrawals early on. Conversely, claiming earlier may reduce your monthly benefit but

could free up investment assets to remain untouched longer. In many cases, Social Security works best when viewed not in isolation but in conjunction with your investment income and lifestyle. Which Accounts You Withdraw From—and When—Can Affect Your Taxes for Decades. Your retirement portfolio is typically divided into three broad categories based on

its tax characteristics:
· Taxable (e.g., brokerage accounts)
· Pre-tax (e.g., traditional IRAs, 401(k)s)
· Post-tax (e.g., Roth IRAs)
How you sequence withdrawals from these accounts can impact your current tax bracket, the amount of Social Security taxed, and even the premiums you pay



Master Your Money

By Mike Corrigan

for Medicare. One approach to consider is withdrawing from taxable accounts first, then pre-tax, and reserving post-tax accounts for later.

But there are nuances. For instance, taking smaller IRA withdrawals earlier in retirement may be beneficial—even before they're required—if you're temporarily in a lower tax bracket. This kind of "bracket management" can help smooth out taxes over time.

It's always wise to consult your tax, legal, and accounting professionals for insights tailored to your situation.

Flexibility Can Help Manage Market Risk in the Early Years of Retirement. One concept we often discuss is "sequence risk"—the danger of retiring just before or during a market downturn. Taking withdrawals while your portfolio is temporarily down can hinder its ability to recover.

Managing this risk by incorporating flexibility into your strategy is super important:
· Establishing short-term cash reserves

· Adjusting withdrawals if the market drops
· Being thoughtful about discretionary spending in the early years of retirement.

Having a strategy for responding to market volatility can alleviate stress and enhance long-term outcomes.

RMDs—and Future Tax Liability—Can Be Approached Proactively. Required minimum distributions (RMDs) start at age 73. While they may seem like a distant concern, early preparation is wise. RMDs are taxed as ordinary income and can push some individuals into higher tax brackets, especially when other accounts are considered.

It's suggested that you review different withdrawal patterns to balance current income needs with future tax exposure, and in some cases, explore Roth IRA conversions to manage taxable income later in retirement and eliminate RMDs altogether.

Bottom Line: Retirement Income Isn't One Decision—It's a Strategy. Retirement income isn't a single choice or a fixed formula—it's an ongoing process. Our office is available to help you approach retirement with confidence and a strategic mindset. Call for a free consultation. 708-215-5100 [Corrigan Financial Services, Inc. Mike@corriganfs.com](mailto:CorriganFinancialServices.Inc.Mike@corriganfs.com)

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Help piece together a mosaic celebrating our community that will be installed at the Irish American Heritage Center!

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Build sessions are open to everyone! To find out more or to let us know that you or your group are interested in the project, call **Irish Community Services: 773-282-8445.**

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Visit the Slieve League Cliffs in County Donegal Along the Wild Atlantic Way

By Grainne McCool, Ireland Correspondent

The Wild Atlantic Way route around the west coast of Ireland awakens the traveller to the wonders of nature and the wonderful environment of this beautiful country of ours. It allows one to experience and appreciate the power of the ocean and its imprint on our western coast. It showcases our wild Irish countryside at its finest.

has to offer, and she explained the regular tours from the centre by bus going up to the viewing point and down again constantly throughout the day. These all commenced with the new extension. And all for less than a tenner! Such great value when you consider what you get. Mary Claire also explained that the tourist season here has grown and extended in recent years.

we pass three standing stones - two of which are egg shaped. One of them is there to tell us the story of Aine, who whilst minding her family's cattle on the mountain, never returned home. People believed the fairies took her. A plaque in Aine's memory is present on the side of a small cottage along the way.

We see Sligo and parts of County Mayo as we drive. Aidan told us if we go straight ahead (the Atlantic Ocean) we will find ourselves in New York. Aidan also told us that the area is home to whales and dolphins and later in summer the basking shark will also visit.

When we arrived at our stop, Eunán brought us to the viewing point and showed us the different markings on the cliff side; from vertical lines to horizontal lines, to the adjoining line where two parts obviously met in years gone by. Part of the cliffs may well have been underwater originally. There are many folklore, fairy, myths and real-life stories to be told, and Eunán told them with ease, passion, knowledge and a real sense of place. We learned that the mountain was once the site of a Christian pilgrimage, that the island jutting off the cliff had a curse when the lighthouse closed, the folklore tale of the eagle stealing the child and with prayer, returned the said child. We saw the giants chair where Finn McCool may have sat. Eunán told the stories and the history so that we constantly wanted to know more. He even brought his guitar and sang a song he wrote about his father; he sang another ancient Irish poem and an audience soon gathered around. I discovered that when you take a tour from the Slieve League Cliffs Centre, you get much more than just a tour. You get a package, and you leave knowing more than you ever bargained for. With the sun shining and the blue ocean beneath, one really didn't want to leave this beautiful place to return below. But return we had to, and thanked everyone we had met, and left promising to return.

Eunán returned to the café below and continued entertaining the diners with story and song.

As we left Slieve League that day it was with gratitude and a smile. Gratitude as we received such a warm welcome, and a smile because this is our home county, and this is our beauty.

Just along the road from Slieve League you will come upon The Rusty Mackerel; an award winning bar/restaurant with accommodation. Known for its craic agus ceol, you are destined to enjoy your food whilst there.

Nearby you have the village of Glencolumbkille (steeped in history and tradition), Teelin Pier where boasts a 5th century Coptic church and more; the Spaniards Church is nearby and then the towns of Killybegs, Ardara, Donegal are all a short drive. And each one with its own welcoming hospitality. Just outside Donegal town you can visit or stay in Harvey's Point, described as 'an authentic hotel' on the shores of Lough Eske. Donegal Town itself has a host of hotels and wonderful restaurants.

One thing is certain, as you visit Slieve League and the county of Donegal in general, you are guaranteed a warm welcome wherever you go. You are never more than a stones throw from good food and good Guinness. You will discover gems that weren't even on your itinerary. And you will leave knowing you will return.

Travelling along Donegal's Wild Atlantic Way will allow you to encounter the past, enjoy the present and plan for the future. Donegal, in a league of its own, just like our Slieve League itself.



Some of the beautiful area around Slieve League

With 1600 miles (2600km) of coast to explore, you will discover hidden gems of villages and towns. Also starting in the majestic Inishowen Peninsula (where I live!!) in the north, down to the quaint, picturesque town of Kinsale, County Cork in the south. Around every corner you will discover hidden delights.

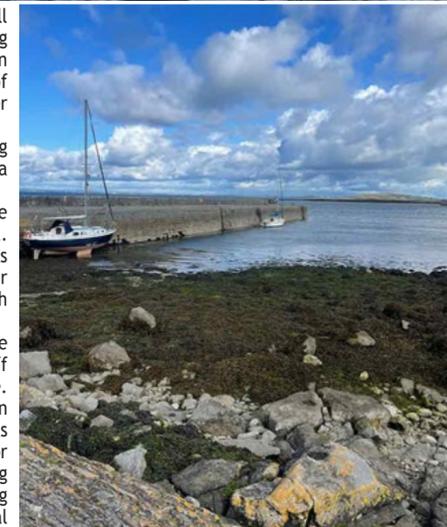
As you start in Inishowen you will find yourself along the Donegal coast and the Slieve League Cliffs are a must-see and a must-visit.

The best starting point for a visit to the cliffs is the Slieve League Cliffs Centre at Teelin, Co. Donegal. Situated at the bottom of the cliffs, the centre boasts a delightful gift shop, Ti Linn Café and a host of tour guides and entertainment to keep you motivated both before and after your cliff experience.

It was early June that I drove down to the Slieve League Cliffs Centre from my home village of Muff here in Inishowen. It was just under a two-hour drive. Travelling from Derry City would be similar as I live on the Derry/County Donegal border. With a host of fabulous hotels in both Derry and Inishowen, you have the world (or rather the Wild Atlantic Way) on your doorstep if staying in our delightful area. The drive itself is one of stunning scenery all the way with many options to stop in a local town or village enroute to fuel with coffee/food.

I found myself at the Slieve League Cliffs Centre just before lunchtime and was immediately welcomed by Mary Claire on arrival. She brought me into the Ti Linn Café where we had coffee and talked about the centre and the cliff experience. Although the café is there for 20 years, the newly added gift shop and information area were built just two years ago, so overall, it feels new but with experience! A bit like Donegal really, you always find something new and it's a county steeped in history and experience!

Mary Claire told me about the centre and what it



The view from Harvey's Point Hotel at low tide, from its excellent restaurant

What used to run April to September now runs March to late October - such is the demand for visiting the Slieve League cliffs.

I was then introduced to Eunán (local tour guide and singer/songwriter), and he with driver Aidan (also tour guide) brought myself and my husband on the tour up to the cliffs. On the way Aidan told us about the area in general, the history and some of the myths. He told all in a very fun and entertaining way. On the way up



Aiden Haughey works at the Slieve League Centre, and is a cousin of Gerry Haughey a well known musician here in Chicago, with Mary Pat Flanagan enjoying a reunion at the Centre.

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CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

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

A Cháirde:

The Chicago Feis, Gaelic Park Queen Contest, YGA Boat Trip and the Continental Youth Championship (CYC). Our popular events geared toward young people give us great hope for the future.

We were thrilled to see 700+ dancers compete in the Chicago Feis at the end of May. It was a very lively weekend, with four stages of dancing, and lots of costumes, wigs, medals and trophies. We appreciate all the Gaelic Park and dance school volunteers who made this a success.

Congratulations to our new Queen, Orlaith Conlon, and to her court, Bridget McDermott! With 21 lovely and talented young ladies signed up for the contest, our judges were faced with very difficult decisions. Many thanks to all the contestants, to all involved in organizing, facilitating and judging, and to all supporters who joined us that evening.

Mark your calendars for the July 24th weekend, as we welcome the Continental Youth Championship (CYC) back to Gaelic Park. Youth players from across North America will visit to compete in Gaelic football and hurling matches, which will be played on multiple pitches. You're very welcome to attend the CYC and cheer for your favorite teams, clubs and cities.

Le gach dea-ghuí,
Bill O'Sullivan - President of the Board of Directors



We hope to see YOU in the Beer Garden this summer!



Seo Linn - Energetic, trad-influenced, contemporary folk music
Seo Linn has been amazing audiences since 2013. The group consists of Stiofán Ó Fearail on guitar, Daithí Ó Ruaidh on keyboard and saxophone, Keith Ó Briain on bass guitar, mandolin, and percussion, and Kevin Shortall on accordion, and percussion. The lads perform both in Irish and English. Check them out at a concert on the CGP Patio on Thursday, July 31st!

Chicago Gaelic Park Members and Young Gaelic Association Members receive a \$5 discount on tickets. Check your emails for the member promo code you will use at checkout!

CGP Event Calendar

Visit chicagogaelicpark.com for more information.

July 4 - CLOSED
July 31 - SEO LINN PATIO CONCERT
August 22 - IRISH FEST BEGINS
September 26 - FOUR C NOTES DINNER & SHOW

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July 1 - JAM SESSION & CAR SHOW
July 3 - TRAD THURSDAY
July 4 - CLOSED
July 5 - CELTIC ROVERS
July 8 - JAM SESSION & CAR SHOW
July 10 - SAMMI & COLIN
July 11 - BERNIE GLIM
July 12 - GERRY HAUGHEY
July 13 - GLEESON IRISH TRIO
July 15 - JAM SESSION & CAR SHOW
July 17 - TRAD THURSDAY
July 17 - ERIC BUTLER
July 19 - O'LEARY'S LANTERN
July 22 - JAM SESSION & CAR SHOW
July 24 - 51 LINCOLN
July 25 - LIAM DURKIN
July 26 - RAY GAVIN
July 27 - CELTIC ROOTS
July 29 - JAM SESSION & CAR SHOW
July 31 - SMILEY TILLMON
August 1 - KEVIN ROWAN
August 2 - FABTONES

KIDS' IRISH CULTURAL CAMP
Art! Craft! Drama! Irish Language! Sport! Social Dance! Song!
August 5th-7th - 9:30am-3:30pm. Light breakfast, lunch and snack provided.
Register at ChicagoGaelicPark.com

SAW DOCTORS RAFFLE

You can enter for a chance to win 2 tickets to see The Saw Doctors at the Aragon Ballroom on July 19th and 2 tickets to Seo Linn concert on the patio on July 31st!



Support Irish Culture Become a CGP Member Today

Become a member or renew your membership between Memorial Day and the Festival, and you'll automatically be entered into a drawing for the pair of Aer Lingus tickets to Ireland. Purchase tickets and memberships at ChicagoGaelicPark.com.

Membership Raffle Entry Options:

- \$30 - Single Membership and 1 entry
- \$50 - Couple Membership and 1 entry
- \$30 - YGA Membership and 1 entry

Increase Your Odds of Winning:

- \$20/1 Raffle Ticket
- \$50/3 Raffle Tickets



Drawing at Irish Fest on Sunday, August 24th

2 Round Trip tickets from Chicago to Dublin. Tickets subject to date restrictions. Membership not required.

All are welcome at CGP year round, but our Members receive the following special offers:

- Exclusive offers
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- Permitted to run for office after 3 years of continuous membership
- Invitation to annual convention
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More Fest info & tickets at ChicagoGaelicPark.com

Friday - Irish Language Workshop with Liam Og O hOistin, Celtic Knotwork Design Workshop with Michael Carroll

Saturday - Ceili Lessons, Set Dancing Lessons, Ceili Mor Dance with Jack Kinsella, Jive Lesson and Social Dancing with Gerry Haughey

Sunday - Irish Singling Lessons, Elias Alexander Workshop, Irish Language Workshop with Liam Og O hOistin, and Michael Carroll Celtic Knotwork Workshop

@ChicagoGaelicParkIrishFest @ChicagoGaelicPark @CGPIrishFest

2025 Chicago Gaelic Park Queen and Court



Queen Orlaith and Court Bridget

Queen Orlaith Conlon
Hi everyone! My name is Orlaith Conlon and I am a first generation Irish American from Evergreen Park. I am a student at Illinois State University, where I am studying Elementary Education. Gaelic Park has been a part of my life since I was born, especially being there every Sunday in the summertime for as long as I can remember. From playing Gaelic Football, Camogie, Irish dance, attending many events and weddings, etc. Gaelic Park and the Irish community have been a big part of my life, where I have met so many people who are like family to me, which I will be forever grateful for. I am so excited to represent my Irish heritage and the Gaelic Park community for the coming year!

Court Bridget McDermott
Hi everyone - my name is Bridget McDermott and I'm so excited to be this year's Queen's Court! I was lucky enough to be a part of the court in 2020 and am happy to be back again with Orlaith as the Queen! I work as a neurologic physical therapist and have been coming to Gaelic Park for as long as I can remember. From monthly Masses to football games- Irish dancing to dinners at the Carraig - Irish fest and Ireland on Parade- I love being a part of all the amazing things this community has to offer! Can't wait to see everyone this year!

Thanks to our amazing contestants!

Keep up with all things Queen by following @ChicagoGaelicParkQueen on Instagram



Chicago Gaelic Park's Board of Directors Scholarship Committee proudly recognizes the outstanding achievements of Lucy Maloney and Maeve Emmons, recipient students from Mother McAuley High School. Their dedication and leadership exemplify the strength and promise of young students in our community. Congratulations to these remarkable young women!



How do we maintain the accomplishments of the Gaelic Park Community and ensure that it will thrive in the future?

Give the gift of Irish Heritage to succeeding generations by contributing today!



GAELIC PARK PLANNED GIVING. ENDOWMENT

Examples of ways to give:

- cash donations
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Planned gifts are made after careful consideration of one's financial situation and charitable goals. It is recommended to consult financial, tax, and/or legal advisors regarding these types of donations.

CHICAGO GAELIC PARK MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Chicago Gaelic Park is to celebrate, preserve and promote Irish culture and heritage through artistic, athletic, cultural, educational, and social activities. We provide a welcoming place for all who want to share in our great Irish American experience.

Preserving and Promoting our Irish Mission:

- Chicago Irish Feis
- Gaelic Park Irish Fest
- Official Home of the Chicago GAA
- Our Lady of Knock Rosary Procession
- Monthly Mass and Irish Breakfast
- Mother's Day Buffet/High Tea Celebrations
- Gaelic Park Players Irish Theater
- Heritage and Harvest Day
- Children's Irish Cultural Camp
- Outdoor Beer and Music Patio
- The Carraig Traditional Irish Pub
- Official Home to the Young Gaelic Association
- Premier Event Venue for Weddings, Parties, and Concerts

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit our box office to buy tickets and view upcoming events!
Seo Linn Concert Thursday, July 31
Irish Fest August 22-24
Four C Notes Concert Friday, September 26

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO ACCESS THE CHICAGO GAELIC PARK BOX OFFICE OR VISIT TICKETS.CHICAGOGAELICPARK.COM/EVENTS/CHICAGOGAELICPARK



This month we head to Co. Offaly (Kings county) Offaly is basically in the middle of Ireland.

My sister-in-law Mary Grumley-Butler is from Tullamore. A very calm and mellow woman for having had eleven children. Offaly is one of my home county hurling rivals, we have good healthy competition in sport. When they're on our turf it's at Nowlan park when were on their turf it's at O'Connor Park.

Offaly is famous for Tullamore Dew whiskey. (However, production was transferred to co. Cork) it might not be as popular as Jameson but nevertheless it's in it.

The Slieve bloom mountains are in Offaly. Sliah means mountain. They are the

oldest mountain range in Ireland, 400 mil yrs) Offaly is known for its extensive bog land (to harvest turf) I read recently on RTE a pair of rare cranes (birds) have nested in bogs in Offaly and have returned for a seventh consecutive year.

The renowned Clonmacnoise is located in Offaly, the earliest monastic site in Ireland. My daughter Tina and her husband Mike went there last April. It's a beautiful monastery everyone should visit. Castles worth the visitor's tour include Birr, Charleville, Leap & Kinnitty. It's worth going to see the architecture, scenery and

Counties of Ireland

by Tom Butler



to day, allows you to keep no cash balance, and every evening cancels whatever part of the amount you have failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every dollar each day!

We all have such a bank. Its name is Time. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever time you have failed to use wisely. It carries over no balance from day to day. It allows no overdraft so you can't borrow against yourself or use more time than you have. Each day, the account starts fresh. Each night, it destroys an unused time. If you fail to use the day's deposits, it's your loss.

There is never any borrowing time. The time you have is the time you have and that is that. Time management is yours to decide how you spend the time, just as with money you decide how you spend the money. It is never the case of us not having enough time to do things, but the case of whether we want to do them and where they fall in our priorities.

A few newspapers in Offaly include Offaly Independent and Offaly Tribune. Common last names found in Offaly: Dunne, Fitzpatrick, O'Connor and Egan.

A few famous people from Offaly include Shane Lowry (golfer), Brian Cowen (Taoiseach), Johnny McEvoy (country singer) and Bernadette O'Farrell (actress), she played Maid Marian in the TV version of The Adventures of Robin Hood.

Here is a story on the value of time. A Very Special Bank Account Imagine you had a bank account that deposited \$86,400 each morning. The account carries over no balance from day

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Gaelic Park Players to Present New One Act

The Gaelic Park Players will be presenting a new one act, never performed before, consisting of 4 cast members called *A Sunny Day in Derry*, a beautiful & sweet story about one's first love. Coco & Fancy, a husband & wife duo will be singing & playing guitar, covering Irish pop music from the 90's & sharing some info about the bands & songs. Jim Seeberg will be returning to our stage to perform "Casey At The Bat", Christine Lawless & The Chicago Irish Singers will be returning to our stage, performing an entirely new set, never heard before, Tim O'Sullivan & Family will be returning,

performing their Irish Storytelling & Songs, our Gaelic Park Player member, Kim McCauley, new to our stage this year, will be singing & her friend Mike Murphy will be playing the banjo alongside her. The Players will be performing a heartwarming poem, Leaving County Mayo, and Liam Og (liamoghoistin) from Galway will take the stage for a discussion on the roots of Irish people and their culture

- the influence of the Great Irish Famine (an Gorta Mór) 1845-1852
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Are you Scottish by birth, by heritage, or simply by inclination?

Generation to Generation: We are All Connected

Irishman Keith Killacky, retired FBI, joined the Irish American Heritage Center in 1983 when it was located at 410 S Michigan Ave., and since he attends the AOH (Hibernians) Thursday night monthly meetings at the Center he has joined again.

The IAHC will be celebrating a special 40th anniversary soon.



Keith joined Gaelic Park (who just celebrated their 40th anniversary) around 1985 and is now a member of both Irish organizations. In the photo (below right) his oldest son, John Patrick, (right) is now 54 years old! Keith's daughter, Katie Killacky Toomey, was the Chicago Rose 1999.

His Toomey grandkids, Katie's daughters, are currently acting in a filming in Atlanta and Los Angeles. Keith urges non-members that now is the time to join these great Irish organizations!

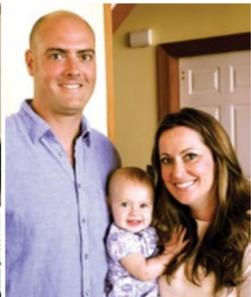
Peter Killacky, born 1853 County Galway, on the IAHC Brick is Keith's Grandfather; the group photo in front of the 1986 photo of the IAHC construction site: LEFT to Right are Bridget, Katie Killacky, son Ryan, wife Kathleen Killacky holding baby Margaret (born in 1985) and son John. Then photo of Matt

(our son-in-law) and Katie Killacky Toomey with baby Maggie Toomey (born 2013). Katie's daughter, baby Annabelle Toomey (born 2016) was not born as yet.

Annabelle has been on Chicago PD, Chicago Fire, and episodes of The Bear (see her with Bear stars on the left) where she is currently on Season 4 EPISODE 7 in a 12-15 minute scene Under The Table, with her father, cousin Richie and other cast stars.

Our daughter Katie was the 1999 Chicago Rose of Tralee and was on the St Patrick's Day Queen's Court two times.

Katie Killacky Toomey recently played the wife of Dermot Mulroney in *Killing Mary Sue* (see below). Mulroney also plays the Chicago Fire Chief, Engine 51 Fire Station. Keith's Granddaughter Maggie, was also in a recent *Law & Order: Organized Crime* as a kidnapping victim.



PETER KILLACKY
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I Forgot What I Was Saying

By Mike Leonard

My Substack goal is to build a community of people who believe, as I do, that societies are made better through the sharing of authentic stories filled with kindness, empathy, compassion and humor. Together we can become a much needed positive force in an increasingly divided world. Your support with a free or paid subscription would be a humbling gift. Also, a "like" or a "share" will help spread the word. Thank you.

Wait, what were we talking about? You mentioned something that triggered a thought and I was going to comment, but whatever it was slipped my mind. Let me think. Hold on. H m m m m m. Shoot. It's gone.

That's been happening to me a lot lately. I used to think it was an age thing. Or perhaps the concussions. I've had seven or eight of them, some from my hockey-playing days and others from early and/or late-in-life mishaps.

That age-related, head injury theory looked good on paper until I heard the same "monkey brain" complaints from younger, non-concussed people who also bemoan their scattered thoughts, fractured concentration and mental impatience. These days, most everybody seems to have contracted some form of A.D.D.

What caused this?

The internet? The smart phone? Social media?

Robert Adler and Eugene Polley? Who? Well, until February of 2002, I had never heard of Robert or Eugene. Then we met and it suddenly became apparent that the two of them bear a good deal of responsibility for short circuiting our ability to hold a coherent



thought for more than a few seconds. A lot of other factors played a role, but Adler and Polley have secured their place in history for contributing to our... um...(head-scratching pause)...darn, I lost my train of thought again.

Other innovations that have altered our minds and robbed our memory banks include automobile navigational software and one-step automatic phone dialing. My sense of direction is totally shot and I can no longer remember anybody's telephone number. Great thinkers have long warned against innovation-caused brain atrophy.

But...we can't stop progress. In my journalism career, I profiled a number of inventors, mostly those who profoundly impacted my personal life with their wondrous products. The Nerf Ball. The Wiffle Ball. Velcro. Silly Putty. Corn Flakes. Gum. And so much more.

For paying subscribers, I have included

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an inventor story that relates to today's theme of forgetfulness. The Post-it Note.

(Don't mention it to Socrates) I am just one person and this is Substack effort is my attempt to inspire hope for a more unified and cooperative society. It is a small gesture but it is something - and I greatly appreciate your support.

Mike Leonard, former National reporter for NBC, posts these stories and videos on Substack.

if you'd like to get the paid version type in Mike Leonard on Substack on an internet search! It's \$6 a month or \$60 for the year!

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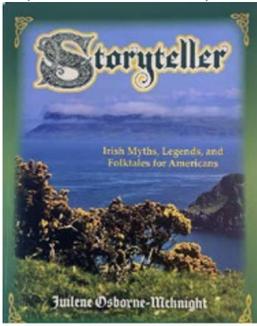
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Storyteller: Irish Myths, Legends, Folktales for Americans By Juilene McKnight

https://juileneosbornemcknight.com

More than forty million Americans claim Irish ancestry. This lively illustrated book, divided into parts exploring myths, legends, and folktales, explains for the U.S. audience the importance of storytelling in Irish culture in particular. In ancient Ireland, a good storyteller was so valued that he would be a member of the aoid na, the bards, and would be welcomed into every village because he came bearing tales.

From the One-Eyed Giant to the Salmon of Knowledge to beloved "fairy" tales, the author--a seancha (traditional storyteller) herself--presents a fascinating collection that places these archetypal tales in historical context. JUILENE OSBORNE-MCKNIGHT is an accomplished folklorist and teacher on Celtic culture and history. She is author of I am of Ireland, Song of Ireland, Bright Sword of Ireland & Daughter of Ireland. She resides in Pennsylvania.



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Who is Sir James Galway?

(he was knighted in 2001) Gifted flutist, a virtuoso from Belfast, Co. Antrim. A legend, an icon and a humanitarian. Today he lives in Switzerland with his wife Jeanne, and fellow flutist.

I heard him on the radio recently, WFMT, 98.7. My husband, Michael, saw him perform over 30 years ago in Ireland, he said it was an unforgettable concert. His nickname is, "The Man with the Golden Flute". My dear aunt Catherine Butler (I call her aunt "G") from, Woodlawn, Co. Galway loved James Galway & Phil Coulter. Sadly, she passed three years ago, my only aunt in the country. I miss her very much.

He has played renditions/interpretations of Bach, Mozart, Vivaldi and many more. He played the flute for the 1993 recording of Beauty and the Beast.

He has played at the white house, Chicago symphony, Boston symphony & The National Symphony Orchestra.

In classical, folk, and popular he has influenced the world with his music. Galway performed for the Academy Award winning ensemble, the soundtrack for The Lord of the Rings film.

Galway left school at a young age to work as an apprentice for a piano repairer. He studied flute at the Royal College of Music. He went on to play as an orchestral player in the London Symphony Orchestra. He auditioned for the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and was the principal flute player for the National Orchestra. It often happens when someone feels they have outgrown something they tend to pursue other opportunities. James pursued a solo career playing the flute and he has been appreciated and admired ever since.

Galway has been said to be the greatest flutist of all time. No one person has said it, it is a title he has earned through widespread recognition and influence within the classical world. I can't imagine how many hours a day he must practice in maintaining his skills/art.

It reminds me of when I was young, my mom would ask me to spend five minutes with the tin whistle. I didn't even want to do that. I wasn't a musically inclined kid or happy about the discipline of Irish dancing. I was happiest listening to stories, reading little articles & taking notes on a story I heard.

Advertisement for 'GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!' by Tina Butler - Leonard. Includes a photo of Tina Butler and a red gemstone ring.

Galway was the featured guest on a Christmas special on CBS in 1982. He has been on the late show several times, years ago with Gay Byrne. Galway was on Sesame Street (children's Education show set in New York) tonight show starring Johnny Carson. There is a music documentary, "Being James Galway", 2015.

Galway is the president of Flute Wise, a global charitable organization that supports young flute players. He is an ambassador for the National Foundation for youth music.

Galway launched First Flute, an online interactive series of lessons for beginning flute students of all ages.

For all of his talent, charismatic performances, global fan base, influence on the world what I also find meaningful and beautiful is the fact he is a devout Christian and prays before he plays. I really appreciate his stance on his identity; he is Irish not northern Irish or English. He has been critical of the actions of the "unionist" figures, one in particular, Ian Paisley.

Some pieces of Galway that I like include Danny Boy, Brian Boru's March & Celtic minstrel. Some of his awards include 1997 Musician of the year by Musical America, National flute Lifetime Achievement Award, 2009, and Spirit of Ireland Award, 2008.

The piano is generally the most popular instrument in the world and the flute can seem a little simple, however Galway has turned the sounds of the flute into magic. "I do not see myself as a master of the flute, but I get a real kick out of trying" James Galway

Smidin Gaelige Music-ceol, Flute-fluirt, Performance-feidhmiochta We were saddened and sickened to hear about the murder of Michael Gaine, the Kerry farmer. We are praying for his family & his community. Eternal rest grant unto him. Ar dheis de go raibh a anam. Molanive@yahoo.com



Galway's Aunt G



The Tribeca Film Festival run last month in New York, and saw Irish movies Re-Creation and The Wolf, The Fox and the Leopard taking their bow.

Re-Creation is written and directed by Jim Sheridan (The Field, My Left Foot and many others) and David Merriman, and the cast includes Dubliners Colm Meaney, Aiden Gillen and Vicky Krieps. It's a movie based on real events, and follows a fictitious trial where twelve members of a jury must decide whether British journalist Ian Bailey is guilty of the murder of French filmmaker Sophie



Toscan Du Plantier in 1996.

On a very different track is The Wolf, The Fox and The Leopard, which is written and directed by David Verbeek and stars Jessica Reynolds, Nicholas Pinnock, Marie Jung, Lucas Lynggaard Tonnese, Eoin Duffy, San Shella and Naomi Kawase and is about a feral girl who has spent her life living among wolves is taken on an odyssey through modern life while the threat of climate apocalypse seems to be coming. Keep your eye out for them in the future on a screen near you!

Over in Ireland, shooting has just finished in Dublin and Sligo on the new and unusual drama movie by auteur Werner Herzog, which is called - read this carefully - Bucking Fastard. It features Domhnall Gleeson alongside Kate and Rooney Mara, who play Joan and Jean, twin sisters who live on the fringes of society and believe they can dig their way to a perfect world.

The movie also stars Orlando Bloom, who plays their rowdy ex-lover, while Gleeson is their government-issued social worker who is trying to help them adapt to modern life after they become media celebrities.

Two-time Oscar nominee Rooney has filmed in Ireland before, and noted that she "feels completely at home in Ireland, except that doing the Irish accent was hard. It's a hard accent to master and one that - even I can hear - often ends up being done horribly. Doing it was terrifying. Especially being on set with real Irish people."

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An Irish Staple Closes Their Doors - Unforgettable Edibles Says Goodbye After 35 Years in Business in Chicago's Northwest Side

After 35 years of being one of Chicagoland's premier catering companies, the ovens at Unforgettable Edibles in Edison Park will go quiet.

On June 30th, the beloved women-owned catering business will officially close its doors, marking the end of an era for the Chicagoland area and the Irish American community it so proudly served.

Founded in 1990 by Mary O'Connor and MaryEllen Stanton, Unforgettable Edibles grew from a dream into a cornerstone of community life. What started as a small catering operation in their mothers' basements quickly became a community staple - serving weddings, business functions, fundraisers, graduations, funerals and everything in between. Once operating three businesses - O'Connor's Market & Deli, Blackthorn Manor Banquets, and the catering company - the owners took the focus on the catering company and made it a known name across the Chicagoland area.

"We built something special here—something rooted in tradition, in care, and in feeding not just stomachs, but hearts," said Mary O'Connor, founder and owner of Unforgettable Edibles. "It's

been a labor of love, and we're deeply grateful for every customer who trusted us with their milestones."

As a women-owned business in a competitive industry, Unforgettable Edibles also blazed a trail—building a team rooted in collaboration, kindness, and a relentless work ethic. Hiring many local teens as their first jobs, or adults needing some part time work, the kitchen was more than just a workplace—it was often a second home.

"We've had kids work here after their parents. Friends became coworkers. Coworkers became family," said MaryEllen Stanton. "That kind of loyalty and community is rare—and we'll carry it with us, always. We have truly been blessed with such great staff."

The decision to close wasn't easy, but after decades of late nights, early mornings, events in heatwaves and snowstorms, it was time. "We've loved

Ray Burzic on First National Bank Team

Ray began his banking career in 2004 when he joined LaSalle Bank directly out of college. Over the next 20 years, Ray has been focused on commercial real estate lending with an emphasis on construction and multi-family financing in the Chicago market.

Through strong relationships with clients, prospects and peers, Ray has been able to build a strong network and generate significant loan production at a number of local regional and community banks. He was most recently a real estate lender at Republic and First Eagle Bank. Ray relies on



superior customer service skills to foster relationships and provide tailored loan solutions to local real estate investors and developers.

Ray earned a Finance degree from the University of Illinois-Champaign Urbana with a concentration in real estate. He was awarded the Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship and is actively involved with the Western Golf Association in raising awareness for the scholarship and mentoring existing scholars as they navigate college and transition into full-time careers. Ray resides on the NW side of Chicago with his wife and daughter and is also an avid handball player and golfer.

every minute," said O'Connor, "but it's time to hang up the apron and enjoy some of the moments we've helped others celebrate for so long. We are closing with full hearts and lasting memories."

Though the business will close, the

legacy of Unforgettable Edibles lives on in thousands of memories—the weddings they made brighter, the holidays they made easier, and the families they fed with grace and care.

As they move onto their next steps, they have found a trusted partner in

Tasty Catering to carry on their legacy through their recipes, employees and customers. Customers of Unforgettable Edibles will receive 10% off their first orders from Tasty Catering. You can visit their website at www.tastycatering.com.

While the ovens may cool and the kitchen grows quiet, the impact of this beloved Edison Park institution will be felt for generations to come.

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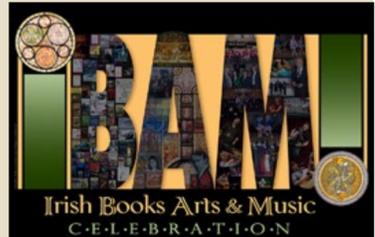
Volunteer Treasurer Wanted to Join the iBAM! Board of Directors

As it approaches its 17th year, iBAM! (Irish Books, Arts & Music)—a weekend-long celebration held each November at Chicago's Irish American Heritage Center—is seeking a dedicated Treasurer to join our volunteer Board of Directors.

Founded in 2009, iBAM! is a nonprofit organization committed to celebrating, preserving, and promoting Irish culture in all its forms. Planning for the 2025 iBAM! event to be held November 21- 23 is well underway, and we are looking for someone with experience in bookkeeping, financial oversight, and nonprofit compliance who can help steward our mission with integrity and transparency. Your expertise will help ensure that Irish culture continues to thrive in Chicago and beyond for generations to come.

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 - Assist with grant and sponsorship reporting as needed
 - Collaborate with fellow board members to support the mission of iBAM!
- This is a rewarding leadership



opportunity and an excellent way to build your résumé while making a meaningful impact.

If you'd like to be part of a passionate team and are willing to work remotely in this Treasurer role, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact: ibam.chicago.npo@gmail.com



So here we are and it's July! Half the year is already in the books and summer is just starting. I have a few tomato plants and some herbs planted in my garden. On Tuesdays I'm in the habit of checking the sale papers from the local grocery stores and fruit markets to see what's on sale and sometimes I wonder if it's worth the bother growing my own. Last week I bought grape tomatoes for .49 a pint! Anyway there is an abundance of fresh fruits and produce in the market place. At this time of the year a lot of stores are sourcing their fruits and vegetables locally rather than bringing them in from Mexico, and California. Tomatoes, zucchini, and the often overlooked eggplant,

balsamic glaze, and fresh basil. A real crowd pleaser, Eggplant Parmigiano is breaded and fried eggplant, topped with Parmesan cheese, and baked in a marinara sauce. I like to serve this with a side of pasta like penne, and broccolini. Here is a classic recipe for you to try.
Eggplant Parmigiano
 Serves 4-6
 1 medium to large eggplant, enough for 8 ¾ inch slices.
 1 cup of flour seasoned with

crumbs making sure each piece is completely covered at each stage. Heat oil in pan over medium heat. When oil is hot place each slice in the oil and fry. You will probably need to do this a few times. Cook until golden brown about 8 minutes. Adjust the heat if necessary. Turn and cook the other side. Drain on paper towels. Coat the bottom of a large baking dish that will accommodate all the slices with marinara sauce. Add eggplant and cover all



salt and pepper.

Egg wash, 2 eggs beaten with a splash of water and milk. 2.5 cups of panko bread crumbs seasoned with garlic powder, oregano, thyme, salt and pepper and 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese.

Enough vegetable oil to fill a large skillet ½ deep.
 1 qt marinara sauce.
 8 slices of mozzarella cheese.
 ½ cup grated parmesan cheese.

Salt eggplant slices and let

the slices with more marinara reserving 1 1/2 cup for serving. Cover and bake 20 minutes in a 350 degree oven. Remove from oven and sprinkle with grated Parmesan cheese. Top each eggplant round with a slice of mozzarella cheese. Return to the oven for ten minutes, or until the cheese is melted but not browned. Serve with pasta like rigatoni, or penne with additional sauce and a green vegetable. Broccolini, green beans, or spinach all work well.

A drizzle of olive oil is also a nice touch. For something more casual try grilling a ciabatta roll and make an eggplant Parmigiano sandwich. Boun Appetito!



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Game On!

By Chris Wheaton

I was all set to report on the recent hurling tournament hosted by St. Mary's Camogie Club at the end of May but after watching the Munster Senior Hurling Championship I admit I got a little sidetracked. I was unable to attend but from what I heard from some folks who were at Gaelic Park for the St. Mary's tournament there was some high-quality hurling being played by at least two of the clubs; the Michael Cusack's Hurling Club from our hometown and the Hurling Club of Madison. Those two powerhouses met in the final with the Cusack's taking home the cup.

It was a particularly tough and emotional week for the Cusack's as they buried club founder, Paul Reynolds earlier in the week. Paul, who has been mentioned in this column in the past lost his long, courageous battle with cancer. He leaves a legacy of

being one of the pillars of the Chicago hurling community. Paul will be sorely missed by anyone who ever met him.

The Midwest certainly has some top-notch hurling with the teams from Milwaukee, Indianapolis and the Twin Cities joining Madison and the Cusack's as teams that can win a tournament on and given weekend. It is going to be a fun summer with the build up to the North American Championships in Philadelphia this coming August. Stay tuned and if you have a chance, check out the Gaelic Park schedule and try to catch a match.

Not to slight the local football community, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the thriving league which also competes at Gaelic Park just about every weekend. I do not cover it much, but Chicago is a hotbed for football with far more football panels than hurling. Adding to the intrigue is the

breaking news that recently retired Dublin great, Brian Fenton, is set to line out for the John McBride's Club this summer. If this is true, it is a huge development. Fenton, holder of seven All-Ireland medals, would change the landscape of the Chicago GAA and create some excitement in the football scene not seen here in a long time.

Now back to the Munster final - Cork vs. Limerick; frequent foes who most often produce matches that are "instant Classics." With Limerick winning Munster six years in a row and their thumping of Cork on May 18 (3-26 to 1-16) many pundits did not expect much of a match - they were WRONG! In what I can only describe as an epic contest, Cork prevailed in a penalty shootout.

The battle was extremely physical with both teams throwing their weight around. The referee



clearly let the boys play and only stepped in when tempers bordered on getting out of hand. It was a game that I did not want to end, with both sides drawing even 17 times. It was sad that such a conflict had to be decided on penalties, but the rules are the rules and I'm not sure how much the players had left in the tank if

they were forced to play until one group landed a knockout punch. I strongly recommend finding a replay of the game on YouTube or GAA Go and watch it. Those with heart issues may want to consult with a cardiologist first!

In a follow-up to last month's column, the Special Congress of the Camogie Association voted in a landslide to change the dress rule which mandated that camogie players wear skorts. 98% of the 133 delegates voted to change the rule and allow the women to choose between shorts and skorts. This was a huge victory for the female hurlers who had fought for this change for quite some time only to be ignored by the Camogie Association. Unwilling to back down, the players never gave up and forced the Association to act. Cheers to the women; your strength prevailed, and your voices were finally heard!



Brian Fenton (in blue) attended the Kellogg's Cúl Camp recently held at 5801 Pulaski Rd., in Chicago, 9am to 2pm Monday thru Thursday and 9am to Noon on Friday. Brian made it his mission to spend time with every age group of kids in the camp, and probably signed over 190 Jerseys, as all of the kids wanted their jersey signed!

Cúl Camp was first brought to Chicago in 2019 with about 25 kids. As of today they have 200 kids playing hurling and Gaelic football, coached by 30 Irish coaches — mostly J1ers here for the summer. It's really a sight to behold, and the camp founders are very proud of how far it's come.

Record-Breaking Week at Chicago's North Side Cúl Camp

Peterson Park on Chicago's North Side was a vibrant sea of activity last week as nearly 200 children took to the fields to play Gaelic Football and Hurling. They were guided by almost 30 coaches — many of them Irish students spending the summer in Chicago on J1 visas.

Chicago Irish Culture and Sports (CICS) first brought the Kellogg's Cúl Camp to Chicago in 2019 with just 25 children in attendance. Now in its sixth year, the camp has grown exponentially, with 197 children registered in 2025, making it the largest Cúl Camp held outside of Ireland.

Founders Mairin Flaherty-Wallace and Thomas Sheehy are immensely proud of the camp's growth and popularity. With strong community support and an ever-growing interest in Gaelic games, the hope is that the camp will continue to flourish for many years to come.

Like all GAA initiatives, the Cúl Camp relies heavily on the dedication of volunteer parents

and coaches. The success of this year's event is a testament to countless hours of planning, organizing, and coordinating — powered by thousands of phone calls and WhatsApp messages.

A highlight of this year's camp was a special visit from Brian Fenton, six-time All-Ireland winner, and former Dublin County Senior Footballer. Fenton led the children through a series

of GAA skills and drills and generously stayed afterward to sign jerseys for every child in line.

Looking ahead, the CICS Cúl Camp will return in 2026 and is typically held the first Monday after Chicago Public Schools begin summer break. Be sure to keep an eye on Irish American News (IAN) for updates and registration details.



Tadhg Sheehy, and Brian Fenton



Roisin, Clan, and Brian Fenton enjoying Clu Camp



(l to r): Ava Hough, Brian, & Ana Hough

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CONNECTIONS

BY ELYSE LYONS PFANDLER



Who loves a bucket list? According to AI, which is the first thing that pops up now when you google anything, the definition of the term bucket list is "a list to guide individuals towards a life filled with purpose and intention, helping them explore their passions and prioritize meaningful experiences." Each summer my kids and I create bucket lists. These are mainly things we hope to accomplish during our time off of school. The bucket list includes new things, not the usual things we do in the summer. They are not usually life-changing, but they are fun! A few of the things on our list this summer are: eat at a Hibachi restaurant, try Italian ice from Mario's, go to Chinatown, set up a lemonade stand, visit the Nutella store, ride bikes in the cemetery (my 8-year-old son's wish), and check out a new waterpark. These are mainly ideas from my kids, but I have one of my own: attending festivals.

Up first, I plan to go to Swedish Days in Geneva, Illinois, which is happening June 18-22. During my junior year of college, I studied abroad in Vaxjo, Sweden, and fell in love with this beautiful country and people. Swedish Days is a perfect way to be immersed in all things Swedish. The tagline on the Swedish Days website is "Summer doesn't get any Sweder than this." Some of the highlights of Swedish Days are the Midsummer Procession and a Swedish children's choir on the first day. You can play Swedish games, go on a cottage walk with the cutest Swedish cottages imaginable, eat delicious treats, buy gifts, view a parade, and even tour an actual Viking Ship. They also have a carnival, which my kids love. Swedish Days and visiting Geneva is something I have done before, but am looking forward to on my bucket list.

Another fest that I hope to attend is Irish Fest in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This is held August 14-17. Their tagline on their website is "Four days of music, culture and craic." Five years ago, my parents and kids went to this Fest and it was full

of lots of fun and a great experience. This Irish Fest is the world's largest celebration of Irish and Celtic culture. The grounds are huge and there is so much to see, experience, drink, and eat. When you look at their website under "experience," you can find food, culture, shopping, family ideas, mass, VIP areas, and tourism. The music and Irish dance is the real reason I want to go. There are over 100 music and cultural acts across eighteen stages. The website gives the lineups and I already know some of the bands and singers that I plan to see.

Last summer, I went with my Mom, aunt, and cousin to Gaelic Park in Oak Forest, Illinois for Irish Fest. Gaelic Fest this year is being held August 22-24. This fest is top-notch and also so very sweet. The website states that "the air will be filled with enchanting tunes of Celtic music and the rhythm of dancing feet." This was my first time going back to this fest after many years and I loved the ease with which you can go from tent to tent to see bands, grab food, shop all things Irish, and hang with friends. Gaelic Fest was like a reunion as I ran into so many old friends. I was able to see a former St. Patrick's Day Queen, watch my friend's daughter Irish dance, talk with some Shannon Rovers, and even run into a few of my college friends. Gaelic Park Irish Fest is another bucket list item that I can't wait to do again and will bring my kids this time..

I know that we are fortunate in our city to have so many celebrations of diversity through fests and I hope to attend a few more than just this list. Attending these kinds of fests allows us to celebrate our own culture and appreciate other cultures by trying different foods, listening to music that may not be what we normally hear, and appreciating and embracing all people. When thinking about the concept of a bucket list, I came across a study in the Journal of Palliative Medicine with over 3000 participants who had answered questions about bucket lists. Over 2700 of these participants stated that they had

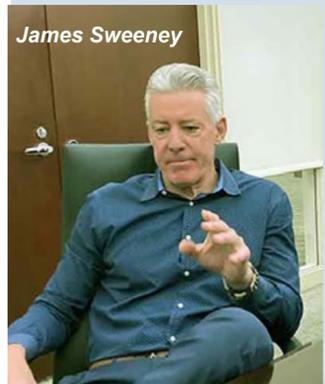


Elyse and her family at Irish Fest in Milwaukee.

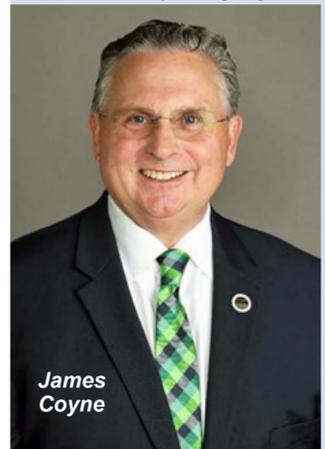
bucket lists and the most prevalent item on bucket lists of those who participated in this study was the desire to travel. It is not always possible to travel all around the world, but attending these fests may

Irish American Labor Leaders Join Hibernian Media

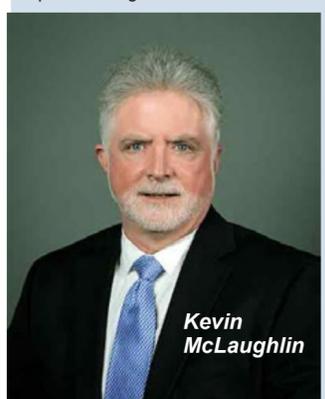
Mike Houlihan, Chairman of Hibernian Media NFP, announced today a new "Alliance with Irish American Labor" from at least three unions who have joined the Board of Directors of this not-for-profit (501c3) public charity.



James Sweeney, Business Manager and President of the International Union Local 150 Operating Engineers,



and James F. Coyne, Business Manager of The Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Local 130 UA, and Kevin McLaughlin, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council have all



been welcomed as Hibernian Media board members. These Irish American Labor Leaders represent almost 100,000 collective members working in their trades.

Houlihan said, "At the turn of the Industrial Revolution, it was Irish immigrants, dreamers, laborers, who laid the bricks, dug the tunnels, built the railroads, and fought for fair wages and dignity. With calloused hands

give one a small dose of another culture. So create a bucket list in life or just for the summer, attend a fest and just be open to other cultures, because you never know the journey you will go on.

and unbreakable spirits they helped forge America. Hibernian Media will tell their stories while preserving and promoting Irish and Irish American culture, "telling stories to enlighten future generations while honoring our ancestors."

Founded in 2013, Hibernian Media has established their public charity working for the Irish Diaspora with two weekly Irish radio programs on Global Irish Radio, (GIR.ie), and podcast at Hibernianradio.org; their Annual Irish American Movie Hooley film festival at The Wilmette Theatre each September, (now in its 11th year as the "only Irish American film festival in the world"); their annual pilgrimage to Ireland each October; and a variety of TV shows, concerts, books and films celebrating the Irish American Diaspora.

"We are a cultural engine and we look forward to partnering with unions, labor councils, and Irish American Business, as we continue to evangelize the spirit, grit and integrity of our Diaspora."

Houlihan has hosted Hibernian Radio since 2019 with a focus on Irish First Responders: cops, firefighters, paramedics, and nurses. He was honored by the Emerald Society of Irish American Police as their "Man of the Year" in 2020, and 2021. He is a former *Chicago Sun-Times* and *Irish American News* columnist and currently writes the "Chicago Calling" column in the *Irish Echo*, the oldest Irish American newspaper in the USA.

"We embrace the history and courage of the Irish American Labor Movement and hope to recruit more labor leaders as we celebrate our ongoing commitment to Irish First Responders and soon begin telling the inspiring story of the Irish American Labor movement as well. We are thrilled and so very proud to be working with these guys! God bless them!"

In addition to leading their respective labor unions, these leaders have a special relationship with the Irish American community. Sweeney founded Chicago's "Working Families Archer Avenue St. Patrick's Day Parade". Coyne oversees Chicago's legendary St. Patrick's Day Parade and dying of the Chicago River green. The Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade has been proudly sponsored by the Chicago Plumbers Local Union 130 UA since 1955. McLaughlin was the youngest of nine children who grew up Southside Irish after his maternal grandparents immigrated from Ireland. The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners was founded in Chicago on August 12, 1881.

Each of these Irish American Labor Leaders has unique stories to tell, enlightening the Irish American experience.

Hibernian Media is a public charity dedicated to Irish and Irish American culture and all donations are tax-deductible. More info at hibernianmedia.org

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JULY 6 | 10:00AM

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BINGO-MANIA NIGHT

JULY 9 | 6:30PM

Exciting news at the IAHC it's our second Bingo Night in the Fifth Province Pub. Get ready for a lively evening of laughter, luck, and great company. Join us on Wednesday, July 9th for a fun-filled night featuring exciting prizes, hot pizza, and your favorite BINGO caller, Geno Cooney. Doors open at 6 PM and the trouble starts at 6:30 PM. This is one Bingo Night you won't want to miss. The bar will be open, so come thirsty and ready to win. Great prizes. Great company. Great fun.
Bingo Cards: \$10



DAMIAN MCGINTY SUMMER NIGHTS TOUR

JULY 26 | 7:00PM

Make this summer one to remember! Damian McGinty is a multi-genre singer/songwriter from Derry, Northern Ireland, who now calls Nashville his home. Damian rose to fame as a founding and lead vocalist of the acclaimed group Celtic Thunder, and has also built a successful solo career, releasing several albums and EPs and touring regularly both with Celtic Thunder and as a soloist. He has also appeared on television, including his role on Glee and his 2023 appearance on Dancing with the Stars: Ireland, in which he was a finalist.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members and Friends of the Irish American Heritage Center, This is the 40th year anniversary of the Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC)! The Board is in the planning process of holding a massive celebration of our history and the impact we've had on the Irish community, not only in Chicago but abroad. I want to thank all the people that have built the IAHC to what it is today, not only the building but dedicating their heart and soul volunteering their time during events, fundraising and enhancing our Irish Culture. Our founding members are our HEROES! Our Board and membership THANK YOU.

Speaking of the Board, by the time this article is published we may have 2 or 4 new Board members. I want to thank Mike Galvin, Sean McDonough, Dominick Owens and Moira Cahill for their dedication to the IAHC Board and the membership. Dominick Owens and Moira Cahill are running again in the election for a second term. So they may be back! Either way they have our gratitude!

WELCOME TO SUMMER! Summer is the best time of the year and it will be at the Center too. As we enter summer we continue to have live entertainment every weekend in the 5th Province and also in the Mayfair Theatre and we are exploring outdoor activities on the grounds. MORE TO COME about that topic just watch our social media pages for outdoor events. We will also be hosting Sunday Mass! The first being the last Sunday of July with Irish Breakfast. Mass will be scheduled for 10am with breakfast to follow. It is important to continue to support the IAHC this summer as we do throughout the year.

I want to thank Dwayne McGill and McGill Construction for their generosity in making the parking lots an affordable accomplishment. The parking lots are DONE and striped. I've been told this project has been spoken about for 10 years. Well 2025 was the year!!!! What an improvement. The final layer of asphalt was laid on June 18th and striped the following weekend. Hopefully by the time this article is printed tuck pointing is started on the upper areas of the building where we have some deterioration. Volunteers will also be repairing and beautifying the front entrance and 5th Province entrance which also is in need of tuck pointing, seal coating, painting and dedication bricks repaired/replaced. Lots of work coming our way!

The search for a new Executive Director is moving expeditiously with over 40 persons applying for the position. Applications have been reviewed and the best candidates will be selected to continue in the hiring process. The goal is to have a replacement hired by the end of July.

The membership wants to thank our Social Media Manager Delaney Buckley for her service to the IAHC. She has been selected for a position in Ireland that she could not pass up! We wish her well. Madison Casey has been hired to replace Delaney and she is already up and running keeping our members informed through social media posts. Madison is a graduate of Miami University and also attended Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. She has extensive experience in creative writing, social media production, event planning, web and visual strategies and global marketing! She is a great addition to the TEAM!

The IAHC continues to advance Irish culture and education focusing on dance, Irish music and appearances by Irish Authors and entertainers. Our main focus at the IAHC will always be the enhancement of our culture by coordinating with the Irish Government in Chicago and Ireland.

I do want to thank everyone at the IAHC for allowing me to hold the position of the President of the IAHC Board. It's been a fun, entertaining and interesting year. In the event I do not return I just want to thank you for all the laughs, handshakes, hugs and support! Again without YOU there is no IAHC! Finally, I just want everyone to know the IAHC Board, Management and staff will continually enhance the IAHC experience because of our strong relationships with the Chicago Irish Consulate, the Irish Government, our "Sister" Irish Cultural Centers throughout the U.S and MOST IMPORTANTLY YOU, our dedicated Members. There is more fun to come!!!!!!

GOD BLESS and GO IRISH!!!!!!!!!!

Thomas "Tom" Herion
Board President IAHC 2024-2025
therion@irishahc.org



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“ As a member of the IAHC, it is my honor to represent the Center as a volunteer in the gift shop for the past ten years. I have seen firsthand the value and importance of membership. At present I see the parking lots being totally replaced and numerous other projects being completed for the benefit of our community. We see “our Center” continue to grow through the generous support of our members. As we move forward into the future, let's continue the work of our founding members. Let's not forget their vision in securing our Center. Should you attend an event in the Mayfair Theater, take a look at the nameplate that is on your seat and silently say a prayer, or just say thank you, for their vision and perseverance to give us what we enjoy today. ”

Irene Higgins-Hruby
Manager of the Irish American Heritage Center Gift Shop



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THE IRISH BOOK CLUB.COM

Much More Than Leprechauns
By Sheryl O'Sullivan

Welcome back to the magical world of Tir na n'Og for books! The big news this month is that the Children's Books Ireland Awards were announced for 2025. There are awards for fiction and illustrations, special reader and judges awards, the Eilis Dillon Award for first book, and of course, the top overall winner. This month we will look at the winner for illustrations and book that won both the top prize and the Eilis Dillon Award.

Beanie the Bansheenie

Beanie the Bansheenie won the CBI big prize for the illustrations which are by Steve McCarthy. McCarthy won the CBI 2023 award for The Wilderness, so this is an illustrator to put on your "watch list". The book also has a big-name author in Eoin Colfer, so it should go far.

The story is based upon the Irish mythical being of the banshee who is supposed to be a messenger of death. This sounds like a fairly grim topic for a book for young children, but Colfer's light touch and typical humor mean the book is not scary or grim in the least.

Beanie is the main character and is a Bansheenie. She is assigned to one girl, Rose, as all Bansheenies are, and Beanie's only job is to howl the banshee's howl at Rose when Rose is about to die. This gives Rose time to finish up any last-minute business. But while Beanie was in her formative growing years, her pod was loosened from the bridge she was growing on before she was fully mature. She fell into the river and was raised by atom fish who loved her. Because of this unconventional upbringing, though, Beanie doesn't develop the howling and prediction skills she needs to do her job for Rose. Rose cannot hear her howl, and Beanie can't even be sure Rose is about to die because she can't see the Cloud of Doom.

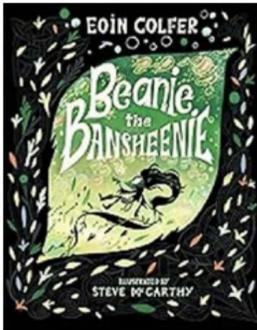
Instead of warning Rose that she is about to die, Beanie realizes she loves Rose and works to save her from a coming flood instead. Since Rose can't hear Beanie's banshee howl, Beanie sings instead. Rose hears this, and she and Beanie hatch a plot to move Rose's whole family to safety. Beanie never does to her main job of warning Rose of her death because she begins to protect her instead.

The main theme of this witty, light-hearted look at banshees is that beings who are raised on love, even Bansheenies raised by atom fish, will want to pass

that love on instead of being harbingers of doom. The illustrations, as you would guess from the award, are fantastic. They are bold and inventive and show all the little water creatures and mythical beings in creative and colorful ways.

The book is a picture book, and it is heavily illustrated, but it has features different from most picture books. First, it has quite a bit of text, so it is a little long to be read aloud. Also, it is 56 pages long which is much longer than most picture books at 32 pages. Because of these features, this book might be one an early reader rather than a prereader might like.

Beanie the Bansheenie won the CBI big prize for the illustrations which are by Steve McCarthy. McCarthy won the CBI 2023 award for The Wilderness, so this is an illustrator to put on your "watch list". The book also has a big-name author in Eoin Colfer, so it should go far.



Fia & the Last Snow Deer

Our chapter book this month is the fabulous Fia and the Last Snow Deer by Eilish Fisher. If you are thinking right now that you have heard me speak of this book before, you would be right. I told you about it in February 2025, but since this book won both the overall top CBI Award and the Eilis Dillon Award for first book, I have decided you should hear about it again! The story is written in poetry and while it is a chapter book aimed at older kids, the book is also richly illustrated by Dermot Flynn.

Fia and the Last Snow Deer is set in the long ago of Ireland. Perhaps the ice age. Fia and her snow deer, Solas, are born under the same moon. The sun has failed to come for three years, and the people are near starvation or freezing to death. There is a prophecy that the Deer Mother will not wake the sun until the sacrifice of a snow deer is given freely, gladly and with hope. Until now, Fia has been able to protect her snow deer, but when the hunters return to say the herds are gone, the village decides it is time to sacrifice Solas.

Fia, and her cousin Mish set out with Solas to find the Deer Mother. Along the way, they acquire Wolf. The journey is almost too much for all of them. They are starving and freezing, but they call on each other's gifts to keep going. Mish's gift is kindness which Fia eventually recognizes. Wolf is the guide.

Gerd, Fia's great-grandmother, is the shaman of the village. She has a hat of antlers that she uses to prophesy. She gives this to Fia for her journey, and when Fia wears it, she is kept warm and can see beyond.

Along the way there are beings called Shadows which lurk in the trees and sap their strength with untrue promises of

warmth and ease. It is very hard to resist these beings, but they do.

They reach the Deer Mother who demands her sacrifice. Both Fia and Solas give it freely, gladly and with hope, but it turns out Solas is not to die. The Deer Mother takes some of Solas' hair, adds it to her cauldron, and Solas and the Deer Mother go to find the sun and the herds. Summer returns due to their sacrifices.

The illustrations and book design are as wonderful as the words. The illustrations show rather abstractly what the long-ago time was like, what Fia looks like, and how the snow deer and Wolf blend into the story. The book's last pages become more and more golden as the sun returns to the land.

Getting Lost On My Way: Self-Discovery on Ireland's Backroads

Paperback out September 30, 2025 by Diane Hartman (Author)

For fans of McCarthy's Bar, a debut memoir about a woman's humorous and poignant solo adventures of self-discovery on Ireland's backroads following a painful divorce.

Diane chronicles the soul-searching journeys that led her through Irish villages and misty cliffs, with her grief lingering in the background. Prompted by poet and philosopher John O'Donohue to write not just about where she traveled, but how it changed her, Diane sets off with a journal, a deep love of Celtic culture, and a desire to begin again.

When an introverted, divorced, middle-aged mother and school librarian from the Midwest decides to leave her comfort zone and travel alone to Ireland, her desire to fulfill her dream overcomes her fear as she immerses herself into what will become an adventure of courage and self-discovery.

Motivated by her love of Irish music and Celtic spirituality, Diane sets off for Ireland, a country she's been obsessed with for years. Her romantic preconceptions of the Emerald Isle quickly clash with reality, however, and while there she faces many obstacles, including driving the narrow, ill-marked roads throughout the countryside she traverses. Nevertheless, this first sojourn leads to three more trips over the next six years, and she gradually

My Generation: Memoirs of a Second-Generation Irish Wimpy Kid

The OFTEN HILARIOUS story revolves around a second-generation Irish child who is reflecting and recollecting on his bittersweet experiences that he has endured during his upbringing, from the complications of poor health to the incredible fortitude and desire to face the pain and kill it like a painkiller, to rise after every fall, and to learn and laugh after every cry. He bravely rode the rollercoaster of life. Let's get to know THE FOOTBALL AND MUSIC OBSESSED WEE MAN , and through him, the customs and traditions of Irish people living in Britain.

£10.99 Euros Available on Amazon UK website and Waterstones UK website

PJ McKeown is a second-generation Irish Mancunian - that means he was born and raised in Manchester England to parents from Galway and Laois.

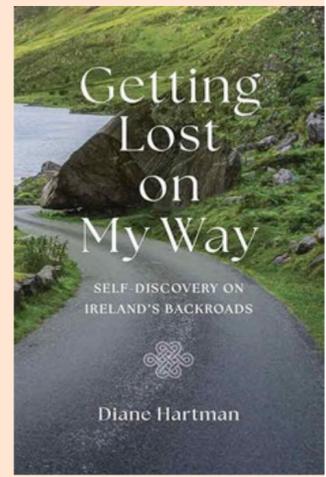
Fia is a wonderful heroine. She is spunky, a good hunter, talented and resilient. She also learns to listen, though, and becomes a more mature person with less of her actions built around anger and jealousy.

The intended audience of this book is probably about 9-13-year-olds. It could almost be for any age. Elementary age children may be somewhat frightened by the Shadows. Children who don't read particularly well, though, may find the verse telling with few words on a page very manageable. As an adult, I was extremely moved by the book and pondered it for many days. I told you in February that this book was a winner, and I wasn't wrong. A true treasure. Buy it!

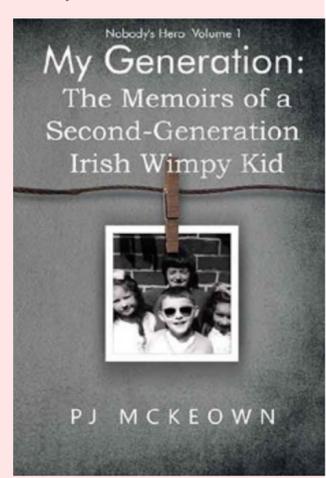
learns to navigate Ireland's back roads—not to mention her own personal and spiritual roads toward self-discovery and acceptance.

This heartfelt and humorous account of Diane's adventures—including meeting author John O'Donohue, hanging out with an Irish rock band, traveling remote roads in search of a hermit nun, and meeting her favorite Irish musician not once but twice—is sure to inspire readers to get outside their own comfort zones and take some rewarding risks of their own.

link to the book on Amazon:



His mum was from near Mount Bellew in Co. Galway and his dad was from Abbeyleix in County Laois. He spent many a happy holiday in Galway and Laois



THE IRISH BOOK CLUB.COM

Super Sleuth Martin Dillon at The Plough & the Stars

I first met Martin Dillon, acclaimed Irish author, journalist and foremost authority on global terrorism when he came to Philadelphia in the mid 90s. His career as a journalist introduced him to major political figures, paramilitaries and Irish literary greats.

After his book signing, I caught up with him at a restaurant in the Old City neighborhood of Philadelphia.

Perhaps his vocation as a journalist enabled him to have friendships on both sides-- "From a personal perspective, I enjoyed the company of both Unionist and Nationalist political leaders. Also, on the same day, I could have lunch with John Hume and dinner with a notorious UDA, Ulster Defense Association figure."

I read his first book, Political Murder in Northern Ireland written with fellow journalist Denis Lehane and his bestselling trilogy The Shankill Butchers, The Dirty War and God and the Gun—not for the fainthearted—detailing the atrocities that occurred during the political and sectarian conflict that rocked Belfast during the late '60s, '70s and '80s.

Dillon was raised in a Catholic family, one of nine children, in the Lower Falls area of Belfast.

He came from an illustrious background on his father's side. His uncle was the famous Irish artist Gerard Dillon.. "the Lower Clonard Street Dillons had a profound influence on my life. I inherited their attachment to the arts and a desire to pursue a creative career."

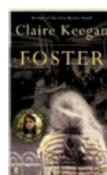
On his mother's side, he was captivated by his mother's older brother, Uncle John, unaware that he had once been an IRA, Irish Republican Army, activist.

For a few years, he attended the same primary school as Gerry Adams—St. Finian's. When he went to interview Adams, Adams suggested they visit their old primary school and look at some photos of themselves when they were students there. After the interview, Adams led the Angelus prayer when the bells of the Clonard Monastery rang out in front of a class of 7-year-old boys. When the prayer ended, Dillon recalled, "The boys reached out to touch Gerry like pilgrims touching a relic in the hope of being transformed. They were thrilled to be close to their hero in the flesh and were trying to come to terms with the sheer joy of it."

Dillon spent a few years boarding at Montfort Seminary but decided he liked girls more. On his return home from the seminary, "My sisters greeted me like a "prodigal son" - my mother was not convinced I would change when she saw my long sideburns, bleached jeans and John Lennon spectacles -and ordered me to leave."

He began his career as a newspaper reporter for the Irish News in 1969 ; then in 1972 joined the Belfast Telegraph as an investigative journalist. In '72 and '73, much of his time, he says , "was devoted to writing about some of the most ghastly killings of 'The Troubles'. Journalists, myself included, tended to be blasé when asked about life on the streets, But underneath our bravado, we all feared for our lives at some stage during 'The Troubles.'"

His exposure to The Troubles shaped his investigative journalism. His reporting on bombings, riots and political assassinations is unparalleled. The Irish Times called him



Books Under Review

By Sabina Clarke



"one of the most creative writers of our time" and Conor Cruise O'Brien called him "our Virgil to that inferno."

In 1972, he heard about 'Romper Rooms': "Loyalist paramilitary drinking dens where victims randomly snatched off the streets were beaten and tortured in front of revelers and paramilitary members while the bar staff served drinks." He talked to detectives who confirmed the existence of Romper Rooms in Loyalist areas of East and West Belfast.

He shared his intense interest in the subject with his colleague at the Belfast Telegraph Denis Lehane. When they presented their findings to Eugene Wasson, the Belfast Telegraph's editor, he rejected them and suggested they turn over their research to his features staff---they refused and collaborated on their first book Political Murder in Northern Ireland.

Towards the end of his career, he worked at the British Broadcasting Corporation, BBC , for 18 years as a news reporter and created award-winning programs for radio and television. When he joined the newsroom he was surprised to learn that his colleagues relied almost exclusively on information supplied by the RUC , Royal Ulster Constabulary, and British Army press outlets. His career at the BBC was not what he anticipated and he longed for more investigative work. Eventually, he moved to the Radio Arts department and created award -winning programs for TV.

The Irish Times called him "one of the most creative writers of our time" and Conor Cruise O'Brien called him " our Virgil to that inferno."

One of his many accomplishments was to arrange a debate between Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams and Social Democratic and Labour Party Leader John Hume-- a meeting that seemed improbable at that time.

fter he left the BBC, he continued as a terrorism expert for CNN, NBC, Sky Television and Channel Four contributing to global discussions on conflict and organized crime. He has written poetry, plays and 31 books.

His memoir Crossing the Line...My Life on the Edge would be a real life adventure film--there is so much drama, risk and intrigue. I met him in the '90s before the release of this memoir and asked him a few questions:

SC What was the impetus for your first book Political Murder in Northern Ireland?

MD Dennis Lehane and I were reporters for the Belfast Telegraph. A series of articles we produced were turned down by the paper. The main conclusion of these articles based on their research was that Protestant groups were responsible for the majority of assassinations - a startling revelation at that time and not one easily accepted by a wide section of the Ulster population. When I told my English editor that people were being tortured in front of revelers in illegal drinking clubs, my editor refused to believe it. Consequently, we decided on another vehicle to get our information to the public. This became the catalyst for my first book, co-written with Lehane and published in 1973, Political Murder in Northern Ireland.

SC What was journalism like during that time in the '70s?

MD Journalism in the '70s, lacked the investigative dimension that was necessary for people to understand what was happening in their midst

SC What effect has writing about this been on you personally?

MD It has never been easy. This sort of conflict damages even writers

SC I was shocked by the sheer barbarity of the torture/murders by the loyalist terrorist killer in your book, The Shankill Butchers. It is numbing. And one particularly gruesome practice you mention is the 'Romper Room' where victims are ritualistically tortured in front of revelers before being slowly put to death

MD I had nightmares for years after writing that book. There were people who threatened to slit my throat after I wrote

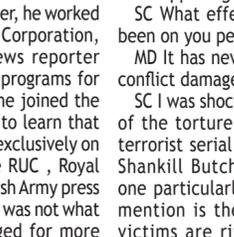
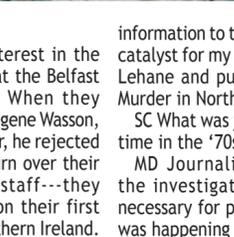
SC Do you ever feel your life is at risk?

MD For years, I have lived with a loaded gun beside my bed and routinely I look under the hood of my car for bombs. There have been constant death threats against both me and my family--and for awhile we lived in France. Finally, we felt we had to get out of Ireland for personal safety.

SC What do you think of Sean McPhilemy's book The Committee alleging collusion between the Royal Ulster Constabulary, RUC, loyalist terror gangs and prominent people within the unionist business and professional community with a hit list for Catholics and nationalists?

MD I don't support his thesis at all . McPhilemy became preoccupied with a conspiracy theory. I don't think he proves his case and I don't think the argument about David Trimble is sustainable. Trimble was not involved in planning assassinations. Trimble is an honorable man.

Reporter 's Note: After multiple threats on his life from terrorists, Martin Dillon left Ireland in 1998 and flew from Paris into Kennedy Airport with all his worldly possessions in two suitcases. He has lived lived in England, France, New York and since 2014 in California with his wife Violeta Kumurdjieva, a Bulgarian journalist. He smokes Dunhill Reds and says if he didn't have to work he wouldn't wonder "Who would want to work anyway?"



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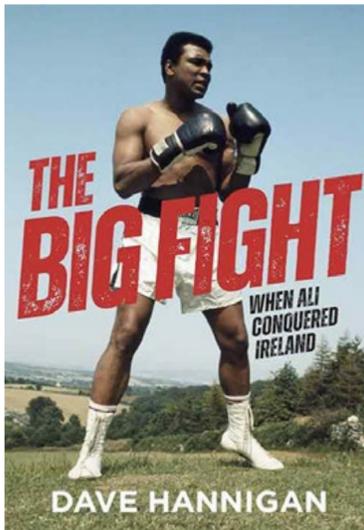
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The Big Fight: When Ali Conquered Ireland

By Dave Hannigan
PUB DATE: 27 JUNE
Merrion Press
PAPERBACK 256pp \$29.99
ISBN: 9781785375460

In 1972, 'the Greatest' came to Ireland for seven unforgettable days of charm and chaos leading up to his bout against Al 'Blue' Lewis at Croke Park in Dublin. In *The Big Fight*, award-winning journalist Dave Hannigan tells the thrilling story of Muhammad Ali's iconic visit. On a balmy July evening in 1972, as The Dubliners played over the tannoy, Muhammad Ali climbed through the ropes to fight Al 'Blue' Lewis at Croke Park. Whoever could have imagined that the fighter from Louisville, Kentucky would one day feature at the headquarters of Gaelic games?

The most famous athlete in the world had somehow been inveigled to Ireland by Butty Sugrue, a charismatic entrepreneur who was ridiculed for trying to do the impossible right up to the moment Ali and his entourage touched down at Dublin Airport. And so began a week of the most glorious mayhem, as 'the Greatest' charmed

the Irish people. Ali could be found jogging along Wicklow lanes, strolling into The Old Stand pub, chatting with street cleaners, and paying an early morning visit to the GPO to receive a history lesson about the Easter Rising. No matter where he fetched up, wonderful chaos ensued. Traffic stopped. Crowds gathered. The greatest show on earth had come to town.

Conducting interviews with dozens of those Ali met and worked with over the course of those seven unforgettable days, Dave Hannigan has pieced together an enthralling narrative of one of the most unique events in Irish sporting history.

About the Author
Born in Cork city, Dave Hannigan is a former Irish Young Journalist of the Year. Starting his career at The Sunday Tribune, he now writes a weekly sports column in *The Irish Times*. He has also worked for *the Evening Echo*, *The Irish Echo*, *The Sunday Times* and *the Irish Daily Mail*. Hannigan now lives in Long Island, NY.

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The Irish American Society of County Will hereby pledges itself to the following ideals:

- * To promote Irish culture in America and to preserve Irish-American Heritage
- * To promote education, friendship, understanding and cooperation among members, and the community in general.
- * To promote and cooperate in the general welfare work of the community.

The County Will Irish Send Greetings and Salutations to All Fellow IAN Readers.



The Irish American Society of County Will (IASCW) was founded on February 10, 1981, in Joliet, Illinois. Membership in the IASCW began with 14 founders and has since expanded to hundreds of individual and family members.

Those founders include: my father, Robert Emmett Brophy, President; Jack Schaller, 1st VP; Daniel Malloy, 2nd VP; Dennis Ockerman, Secretary; Raymond Slattery, Treasurer; Michael Dowd, Parliamentarian; Thomas K. Ward,

Historian; Michael McHugh, Membership Chair; Rev. John Fogarty, Chaplain; Kevin O. Shanley, O.Carm., Board Chair; and trustees James J. O'Connell; Patrick Malloy; Robert Blackburn; James Albritton; Michael Reilly; and William J. Ferguson.

The IASCW is an open membership non-profit organization where members cooperate to promote the history, culture, and values of Irish Americans through education, scholarship, fellowship, and fun. The IASCW has never had

an office, building, or clubhouse. We focus our assets and efforts on accomplishing our mission and goals. Toward those ends, we celebrate 59 student scholars sent to Ireland through the Irish Life Experience Program; 48 student scholarships for post-high school education; and over \$300,000 contributed to local charities and non-profits from the Manhattan Irish Fest proceeds.

We are grateful for the vision of our founders. Come join us!
~Tim Brophy



Photo above: L to R: "Rob Brophy (1964-2023), Mic Brophy, Beth Brophy Starcewich, and IASCW Executive Director Tim Brophy continue the traditions begun by their father Robert Emmett Brophy, JR."

Photo above left: "Robert E. Brophy, Jr., founding IASCW President, (1933-1986) & Robert J. "Blackie" Blackburn, (1953-2020).

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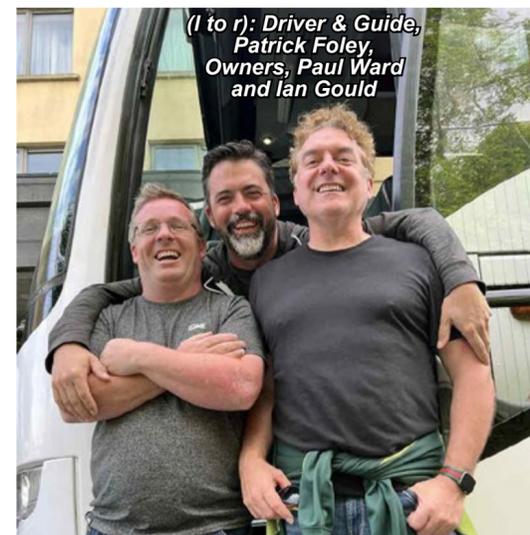
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Ian Gould and Paul Ward - G & W Irish Tours

Ian Gould and Paul Ward, longtime friends and partners in adventure, embarked on their journey to create G & W Irish Tours on a memorable night in December 2022. Ian had been leading tours to his beloved Ireland since 2019, initially with friends and music enthusiasts. Recognizing the value in collaboration, he invited Paul to join him. Their pivotal moment came on New Year's Eve 2022, over a pint at a cozy Irish pub in Milwaukee, where they conceived the idea of a travel company. Their vision: to share the rich culture and warmth of Ireland—and now Scotland—with passionate travelers.



Both Ian and Paul have deep roots in Ireland: Paul hails from County Clare on the rugged west coast, while Ian comes from Belfast in the North. Their backgrounds, diverse in geography and culture, reflect the rich tapestry of the Irish experience. Their friendship, spanning over two decades, is built on shared values, music, culture and a passion for storytelling and of course a good "bit o' craic"—a combination that laid the foundation for G&W Irish Tours.

Before launching G&W Irish Tours, Paul spent over 25 years in Milwaukee's hospitality industry, managing and bartending at renowned Irish establishments. Ian, a celebrated Irish musician, has graced countless stages locally and internationally, including performances for dignitaries and the President of Ireland. His musical talents enrich every tour experience, making them truly exceptional.

In 2023, G&W Irish Tours was born with a mission to offer personalized, authentic travel experiences that go beyond conventional group tours. They quickly gained popularity, selling out five tours in their inaugural year—a testament to the demand for meaningful connections and local insights.

Today, G&W Irish Tours continues to expand, delighting travelers with sold-out excursions to Scotland and various regions of Ireland. Their upcoming "A Taste of Home" culinary tour promises a unique exploration of Ireland's northeast. They've also proudly showcased their passion for Irish culture at events like Milwaukee Irish Fest and have been featured on Channel 12 News for their impactful work.

James & The Magic Sliotar: A GAA, Hurling, Children's Book

by Padriac O'Lamha
James and the Magic Sliotar - A Tale of Sport, Legend, and Destiny

In a land where hurling is more than just a game, young James O'Connell embarks on an extraordinary journey to fulfill an ancient prophecy. Gifted a magic sliotar by the legendary Fionn Mac Cumhaill, James must unite the people of Ireland through sport, courage, and unwavering belief.

With legendary figures, bitter rivalries, and heart-pounding matches, James and the Magic Sliotar is a thrilling adventure for young readers and sports lovers alike. A story of passion, unity, and the unbreakable spirit of Ireland, this book captures the magic that lives within the greatest game on Earth.

Perfect for fans of GAA, hurling, Irish mythology, sports fiction, and unforgettable hero's journeys, this is a book that will inspire the next generation of hurling legends!

A way never seen before. With a deep passion for folklore and the adrenaline of sport, Padraic



crafts epic adventures where young heroes uncover hidden legacies, face mythical trials, and fight to preserve the traditions of the past.

In Alastair and the Highland Stone, the sixth installment of the series, readers are transported to the rugged Scottish Highlands, where shinty isn't just a game—it's the key to uniting feuding clans and awakening the legendary magic of the Highland Stone. With action, mystery, and a trickster spirit lurking in the shadows, the stakes have never been higher.

Whether you're drawn to the pulse-pounding excitement of ancient sports, the richness of mythology, or the timeless battle between destiny and free will, Padraic O'Lamha's books promise adventure, discovery, and a touch of magic on every page.

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Ian and Paul are committed to giving back to their adopted home of Milwaukee while sharing their beloved Ireland with travelers—making G&W Irish Tours a journey like no other. Join G&W Tours for a truly authentic Irish experience. wardtravel@gmail.com

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The Great Maureen O'Looney

In 2014 a brick was donated in honor of Maureen O'Looney that read "MAUREEN O'LOONEY IAHC FOUNDER 1922-2014"

It is true that Maureen helped with the founding of the wonderful institution that is called the Irish American Heritage Center, along with several other ambitious trail blazers 40 years ago.

Born in County Mayo, she travelled across the ocean on the Queen Elizabeth in 1953 to visit an aunt for a few weeks. Falling in love with Chicago she decided to stay for the rest of her cherished life.

Her wide tentacles stretched out in many directions to improve the lives of many Irish immigrants. She was known to dine with priests, poets and politicians while saving time for many poor boys and pirates. She was a one-person welcome mat. She founded "Shamrock Imports" in 1967 and used that as her headquarters for the Irish Community. Her generosity was legendary in helping young immigrants find housing, jobs and a future. Shamrock Imports sold Irish goods, clothing, food and music for 44 years. I was told by one of her competitors, Alex McGraw, that after his Donegal

Import store was burglarized, Maureen showed up a few days later with trays of Irish jewelry so that he could re-open his doors.

Founder is a familiar word while talking about the history of Maureen. She was instrumental in the early formation of Chicago's Gaelic Athletic Association often found mending the worn socks of the players. She was also one of the founders of Chicago Gaelic Park, The Irish Northern Aid in Chicago and helped to form Chicago



Photo by Cathy Curry Carlson

Irish Immigration Support. She was an early pioneer in Irish Radio hosting her program for 40 years. Along the way she saved an invaluable collection of Irish interviews and music.

Benefits that helped the lives of families who suffered tragedies were a large part of the Irish culture where communities got together to raise funds for those causes. Where there was a benefit, Maureen O'Looney was probably in the fore front coordinating things.

I am not sure if she is to blame, but she was also responsible for igniting countless courtships and relationships that lead to marriage with her dances

VOTED "BEST DANCE CLASS FOR KIDS" CBS



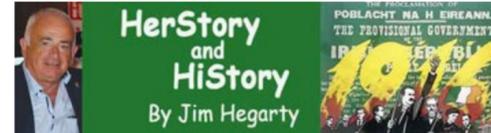
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at the Irish Center meant to connect young Irish immigrants.

In 2011 she moved her Import business to the Irish American Heritage Center where it still thrives today. Stop by and pick up your favorite Irish goods and souvenirs. Together with Conan O'Brien, they starred in one of the funniest segments of his late night show, learning to Irish Dance at the Center. Do yourself a favor and look for it on Youtube.

She was generous to a fault and her chats could turn into marathons. During her life she touched so many and her passion helped make the Irish Community what it is today. She passed away in August of 2014 and her memorial service was held at The Irish American Heritage Center. We are all very lucky that in 1953, she found her way to Chicago.



The Beginning of the End

From early June 1920 the IRA were gaining the 'upper ground' with the Cork Brigade to the forefront.

Intelligence Network
When Michael Collins established intelligence cells nationwide, the Cork cells continued to provide vital information to the Brigade. Mamie and John Forde still had unfettered access to the British Navy and Army, particularly in Queenstown (Cobh) due to John's work as their Undertaker.

In the City IRA men and women were working in shops and business that were providing services to the Army and RIC. These ranged from tailoring, catering, mechanical, hotel and army officer's clubs.

Others worked in the railway stations giving the signal to John Joe which safe trains of interest to attack travelling to country Army and RIC Barracks, thus securing ammunition, mail, and other ordinance.

Cumann na mBan had members in service in big houses and hotels so they were privy of sensitive information. Others worked as secretaries in Barracks having first sight of letters that came from spies, agents and confidential vital troop movements. Much of this was delivered to Con Harrington, John Joe's man in City

working full time continued bringing dispatches and arms to James Leahy in Thurles under the protection of local landowners a Church of Ireland family, the Sarsfields's. As former British Army officers they enjoyed a private train carriage which allowed them unrestricted passage when the train was stopped and searched by the Army, RIC or Black and Tans. They also allowed Nan to store arms on Sarsfield property which was never raided or burned by the British or the IRA. When not travelling Nan and Mamie were crisscrossing the city carrying arms and dispatches to the different Brigade officers before and after the raids. This dangerous activity continued despite a curfew and martial law being in place.

Ireland's First Republican Wedding

Less than a week after their involvement in the Farren Barracks raid, the family could finally focus on Mamie's wedding. The Hegarty siblings now in their early 20s were living at home with their parents. This changed on the 26th of June when Mary Frances (Mamie) married her fiancé John Ford a fellow member of H company.

The wedding took place in their parish Church of the Immaculate Conception the Lough. The groom was the first to be married in Volunteer's Uniform. The

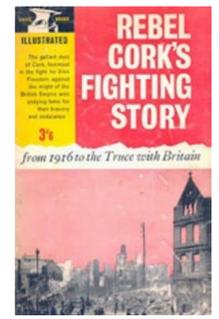
He also continued making tin can bombs. The cans been smuggled out of local factories by Cumann members.

Nan now making tin can bombs. The cans been smuggled out of local factories by Cumann members.

After the ceremony, they all returned to the 'Laurels' to change into civilian clothes to partake of a lavish wedding breakfast that had been arranged by her proud parents. Their commitment and determination to have a military wedding had of course further endangered the lives of all the family that continued residing at the Laurels

Jailed Without Trial - Resulting Hunger Strikes

During July and August, Joe Murphy along with 100s of other volunteers were arrested and jailed without trial. In City Hall one of those arrested with MacSwiney and other senior Brigade officers was Con Harrington. Harrington wrote a very comprehensive account of the night's events in the book 'Rebel Corks Fighting Story'. Apart from MacSwiney all the others including Sean



were brought to a worldwide audience by several American journalists as like DeValera, Murphy was in fact an American citizen born in Lynn Massachusetts.

Michael Fitzgerald died on the 17th of October, by request is buried in his family plot near Fermoy County Cork. On the 25th of October, Murphy and MacSwiney (who had been removed to Brixton Prison in London) died. Both men are buried in Corks Republican plot.

When John Joe removed Joe Murphy's remains from jail, he wrapped him in the Tricolour and had the lid of the coffin bolted so that the British could not remove it as they had previously attempted. He organised guards in the church to protect the coffin overnight. The funeral procession and services were held under the watchful eyes of the British who had restrictions in place allowing only 100 to walk behind the hearse. Despite the authorities 1000s lined the route to the cemetery. Later that evening John Joe with H company returned to the cemetery, there they fired a volley of shots over Murphy's grave as a final salute to their friend and comrade.

Murphy's family requested the following to be engraved on his coffin plate,

Brutally done to death by the English in Cork Prison 25/10/1920

Fourth year of the Republic In his 24th year. R.I.P

When MacSwiney's remains were returned to Cork, his death further galvanised the citizens to strive for Independence. When his burial was in progress the opposite field was occupied by the Black and Tans who had a piano installed and were playing and singing as a show of disrespect. They would be singing a different tune before the following year was over.

In November, Michael Collins 'Squad' executed 15 British intelligence officers known as the Cairo Gang, the British forces in reprisal opened fire on a crowd attending a football match in Dublin's Croke Park, killing players and spectators.

These murders now remembered as 'Bloody Sunday' were a major turning point in the war resulting in the demand of an Irish Republic by much of the civilian population.

To Be Continued next month.

- Burning of Cork City - The Truce, Treaty, Civil War and Aftermath

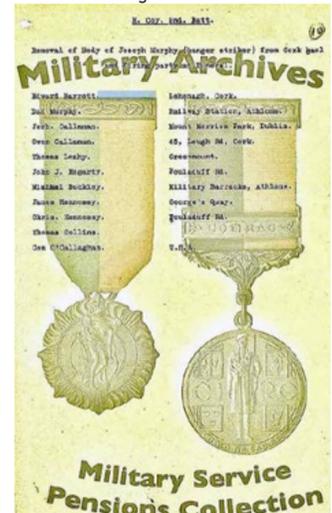
Source: The Hegartys of The Laurels - A Story of Unsung Heroism
Jimhegartyauthor@gmail.com
www.hegartycollection.ie



Lord Mayor MacSwiney laying in state at Cork Cathedral Flanked by his brothers Sean and Peter

bride who was a President of Cumann na mBan wore the Old Irish National Wedding Costume instead of her uniform as suggested by Fr O'Flynn.

John Joe continued his clandestine intelligence work while delivering vegetables to the City's RIC Barracks. At this time, he had 60 men under his command and continuing with numerous raids and storing arms at 'The Laurels.'



During their incarceration Nan and Mamie were collecting parcels of goods including food and cigarettes for the comfort and well-being of prisoners not on hunger strike. The plight of the prisoners gripped the city with slogans such as 'Release the Prisoners' appearing on its walls. Cumann na mBan members together with Priests and Politicians congregated outside the jail in prayer and protest. Their actions

Nan a Captain and Treasurer of the Cork District Council was bridesmaid; the best man was John's cousin and fellow volunteer Paddy Forde. All their lives were in danger if arrested in Republican dress. The church was closed for the ceremony with sentries posted strategically for their protection. Even on such a joyous family day, John Joe had arranged with H and G companies including neighbour Joe Murphy to provide military protection.

Cumann na mBan officers Maud Mitchell and the Hegarty's cousin Cis Moore organised members to act as scouts around the parish to warn of any imminent danger.



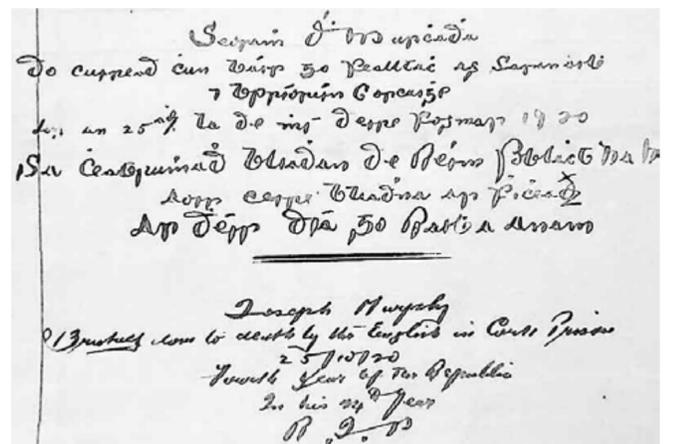
Wedding party (First Irish Republican wedding)

Hegarty (who would succeed MacSwiney as Brigade CO) were released over time by giving false names and identities, if they had failed to be released, it would have devastated or destroyed the Cork Brigade

This action by the authorities resulted in several of them going on a mass hunger in Cork Jail.

Conn Neenan in his paper's reports, he, Joe Murphy, Michael Fitzgerald, and MacSwiney were not in favour of the strike. How ironic that 3 of these men were to make the ultimate sacrifice.

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Inspired by a Network of Support, Healing, and Partnership

By Laura Kuever

When I enrolled in my first intro to social work class in college, I remember thinking, "Wait, I can do this as a job? This is who I am!" I went on to earn my bachelor's and master's degrees in social work and I've spent the last 20 years of my career at Catholic Charities, where I have accompanied many people who need support, while discovering there is always more we can do.

The mission and culture allow me to empower staff to empower families to be the best they can be. And every day I wake up thinking of the people we serve. They inspire me to be the best I can be.

Watching single parents facing challenging circumstances transform their lives to create stability for their children; leading behavioral health counseling services; and supporting the healing of domestic violence survivors, I have witnessed how walking with others can lead to mental wellness, self-sufficiency, and a better future.

I have also witnessed the increasing need for these services as resources continue to diminish. Last year, Catholic Charities provided 61,000 mothers and families with long-term support. This is only possible through the generosity of our vast network of partners and supporters.

Our counseling services support individuals experiencing emotional and behavioral health challenges. Our Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide (LOSS) program provides counseling, support, and a strong survivor network to people grieving the loss of a loved one to suicide. The Encompassing Center not only provides outreach and behavioral health counseling services but also serves as a community center for residents of the Near West Side, North Lawndale, East and West Garfield Park neighborhoods.

Many people we serve are dealing with daily stressors like how to put healthy food on the table, how to keep the lights on, and how to afford basic mental healthcare services without adequate insurance. Others carry the added stresses of navigating violence and trauma as part of everyday existence. These issues can compound symptoms of anxiety, depression, and sleeplessness. Our team responds with compassionate, trauma-informed services, with a goal of building trust with the people we serve.

We also provide transitional housing and counseling services for domestic violence survivors and their children, providing safety, shelter, and stability. Our Family Self-Sufficiency program provides five years of accompaniment and encouragement — no longer defined by their past but empowered by the life they were choosing to build," she shared. "This person's story stays with me as a reminder that healing is always possible, even from the deepest wounds — and that every person is more than the worst thing they've done."

There is a huge need for our mental health services, but it's sometimes a challenge to connect with those in need. People have to be at a level of pain that they can't tolerate and be strong enough to get out of bed and make that first call to us. Then, they have to build trust, tell their story, and go through the therapeutic process. When you get to the other side, it's worth it.

The need is the greatest it's ever been, and we're doing the best we can to keep up with it. I'm grateful every day for the opportunity to do this work with an amazing team of people — and for the donors, parishes, and partners who support us.

Laura Kuever is Associate Vice President, Empowering Families, for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Catholic Charities partners with mission-driven people and organizations to witness a message of mercy and hope across Cook and Lake counties, accompanying anyone in need, regardless of race, gender, faith, or ethnicity. Learn more at CatholicCharities.net.



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How does Prehistoric Ireland sound? No, we're not talking about dinosaurs here. But in every Irish county there are awe-inspiring stone monuments constructed by our earliest Irish forebears 2,000 to 5,000 years ago - older than Stonehenge and the Great Pyramids of Giza!

Following up earlier, similar projects in England my wife Linda, and I have recently completed a 14-county photographic expedition from one end of Ireland to the other, locating and capturing evidence of Ireland's prehistoric past.

Some may have heard or seen pictures of the Poulrabrone dolmen in Clare or the stone age Newgrange passage tomb in Meath, and to be sure they are not to be missed. But away from the tourist bus Ireland has a wealth of other less crowded Bronze Age, Neolithic Age, prehistoric monuments such as standing stone circles, dolmens (some say quoits or cromlechs), portal passage tombs and stone forts that will tease you to imagine the lives of those who created them and left them for us to ponder. Standing alone and in the quiet, it is easy to open yourself to the magic and meaning of these sacred spaces.

Wherever in Ireland your next trip takes you, take a bit of time to discover which of these mysterious treasures may be some of our favorites. Or, before your next trip, feel free to email me, drpaul@drpaulpowers.com and I'll be glad to offer a suggestion or two. For holiday gift-giving the annual "Ancient Stones of Ireland" calendar will be available from Amazon. If you pre-order it from us at <http://www.pocassetpress.com/> we'll

ship it for free!

When you find your first site, you immediately will be overwhelmed by what was required to build these mind-boggling monuments. Then, you'll realize that only communal tribes and sophisticated societies could have come together to create them. And eventually it will dawn on you that they, who left these magnificent stone monuments, were constructed not by otherworldly or less-evolved creatures but by our own ancestors; human beings just like you and me.

With simple tools of their own creation, they demonstrated a knowledge of quarrying, transport, construction, navigation, teamwork, ingenuity, architecture, the heavens and the stars, physics, the bearing of seasonal climate on feast or famine, with respect for their forebears, and with a spiritual belief system that acknowledged a universe beyond their understanding.

They loved, and laughed, and lived lightly upon the land. They left only these stones - that pre-date history itself - for us to know them by. We should marvel with awe and humility that in every way they were every bit as human as you and me and begs the question - what will we leave behind that will stand the test of time?

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Your Irish Group Getaway at the Retreat Country House, West Cork, Ireland

Whether you're organizing a multi-generational family vacation, a golfing trip with friends, or celebrating a special birthday milestone, The Retreat Country House is an idyllic spot to reconnect with your Irish roots.

Nestled in the scenic coastal region of West Cork in southern Ireland, this 18th-century Georgian estate and winner of Best Luxury Property in Ireland 2024 at the Irish Self Catering Federation Tourism Ireland Awards, is available for exclusive private rental.

With six spacious bedrooms, it comfortably accommodates twelve guests.

The house features a library, morning room, drawing room, and dining room, providing plenty of space for family gatherings and quiet moments alike—perfect for a

getaway that appeals across generations.

What Awaits You
When you book The Retreat Country House, it's yours exclusively, offering complete privacy while being just five minutes from local amenities—the best of both worlds! The property combines luxurious period features with the warmth and charm of a family home. Set on large, lush gardens, it's an ideal spot for a family barbecue while children play on the expansive lawn. The owner, Miriam O'Driscoll, warmly welcomes dogs, so your four-legged family members can join in the experience too. A fully equipped kitchen awaits, and with private catering available, guests often highlight the family feast prepared by Chef Shane Deane as a memorable part of their stay.

Daytime Adventures
Ideally situated at the gateway to West Cork (while only a twenty minute drive from Cork Airport), The Retreat Country House is an excellent base for exploring the region's renowned tourist attractions. Nearby destinations include Kinsale, Clonakilty, Cobh and Killarney, with activities ranging from world-class golfing at Old Head Golf Links to exploring Killarney National Park and the scenic Ring of Beara. Family-friendly outings abound, including horse riding, water parks, and a model farm railway village. Plus, Cork is a culinary capital of Ireland, offering endless dining options.

History
Originally part of the Duke of Devonshire's estate, The Retreat's story stretches back to the early 1800s.

The Sullivan family of Bandon owned the property for around 70 years, and it was once home to Anne Winifred Grosvenor (née Sullivan), Duchess of Westminster. In 1919, P.J. O'Driscoll Sr., a local lawyer, purchased the estate, and it has remained in the O'Driscoll family for over a century, last home to the late P.J. O'Driscoll Jnr, his wife Miriam and their four children who represent the 4th generation.

In 2022, after her husband's passing, Miriam O'Driscoll, along with her children Valerie and Edward, transformed the estate into The Retreat Country House, preserving its legacy and welcoming guests to enjoy this historic home.

For rental rates for The Retreat Country House visit www.retreatcountryhouse.ie or reach out to Valerie at info@retreatcountryhouse.ie or Miriam at +353868282818.





IAHC President Tom Herion and wife Joanie



Hall of Fame Chair Caroline Hennessy and Committee Member Anne Marie Herlehy



St. Patrick's Day Queen and Court



Gala host Brian Noonan, Hall of Fame former chair Pam Taylor with inductee Joe Ahern



Shannon Rovers



Mike and Linda Shevlin with family, friends



IAHC Board Member Bob McNamara (left) and wife Jean and Kathy and Tim Ryan

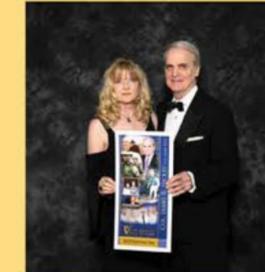


Hall of Fame Committee member Joanie O'Hara and volunteer Karen Noble

2025 Irish American Hall of Fame Gala



Virginia Murray, daughter of inductee Joseph E. Murray, M.D.



Inductee James Hickey and wife Maureen



Inductee Father Joseph Mulcrone



Hometown Hero James Sweeney and family



Inductee Joseph Ahern and family



Family of inductee Mick Moloney



Family of inductee Eoin McKiernan, Ph.D.

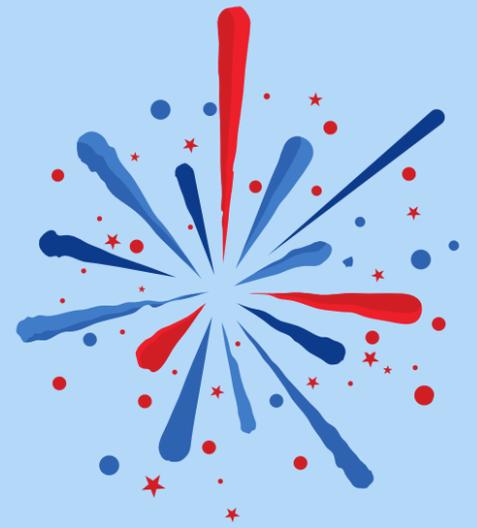
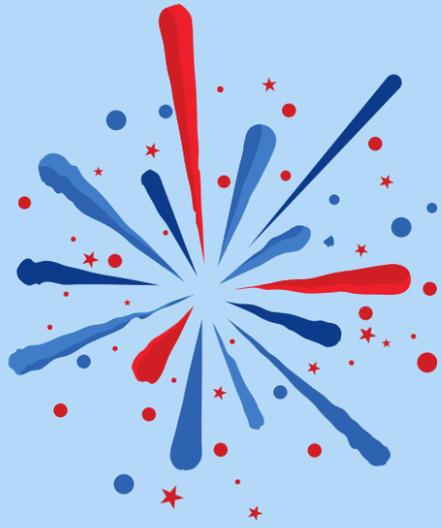
A Celebration Like No Other!

Another moving evening as the Irish American Hall of Fame honored the 2025 Class of Inductees at the 13th Annual Hall of Fame Gala held at the Irish American Heritage Center in May.

More photos and videos on our Facebook page. Watch all videos on our YouTube channel.

Nominations for the Class of 2026 open in July!

Visit iahof.org for updates.



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