

# IRISH AMERICA

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2018

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Recent Medical  
Breakthroughs  
by Irish  
Universities

## OLIVER ST. JOHN GOGARTY

A BRILLIANT DOCTOR  
AND WRITER, BEST  
REMEMBERED AS  
A CHARACTER  
IN JOYCE'S  
ULYSSES

## ASTRAL WEEKS

VAN  
MORRISON'S  
LASTING  
LEGACY  
ON ROCK  
'N' ROLL

*"Caring for patients,  
employees, communities,  
meaningful innovation,  
high performance,  
diversity, globalization,  
and winning spirit, are  
the values that connect  
our company."*

— Mike Mahoney

# Mike Mahoney

HE TURNED AROUND THE FORTUNES  
of Boston Scientific, the medical device  
firm, by creating a culture  
where employees are empowered



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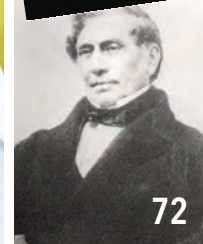
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Cover Photo:  
Boston Scientific

Irish America Magazine (ISSN 0884-4240) © 1999 by Irish America, Inc. Published bi-monthly. Publication #761070. Mailing address: P.O. Box 1277, Bellmawr, New Jersey 08099. Editorial office: 875 Ave of the Americas, Suite 1606, New York, N.Y. 10001-8013. Subscription rate is \$21.95. The name of the corporation is Irish America, Inc. The principal shareholders are Niall Oliver O'Dowd, Patricia Harty, Brendan MacLua & Down Daniel Investment Holdings Ltd. There are no other known bondholders. Average number of copies printed each issue during the last 12 months: 7,680. Average sales through dealers, carriers, vendors, counters: 1,584. Mail subscription: 3,688. Total paid circulation: 5,272. Free distribution by mail: 0. Free distribution outside mail: 300. Total free distribution: 300. Returns from newsagents: 2,108. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 7,898. Actual sales through dealers, carriers, vendors, counters: 1,699. Mail subscription: 3,512. Total paid circulation: 5,211. Free distribution by mail: 0. Free distribution outside mail: 300. Total free distribution: 300. Returns from newsagents: 2,387. Periodicals postage paid at New York and additional offices I certify the above statement is correct. Niall Oliver O'Dowd (Publisher).

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*"We have just returned from Ireland, and it was absolutely wonderful. Our tour guide, Liam, did a marvelous job from start to finish. He was both knowledgeable and entertaining, making the tour informative and enjoyable. We had been wanting to visit Ireland for many years, and this tour exceeded our expectations in almost every way. I would highly recommend CIE Tours for anyone who wants to see this beautiful country, with the peace of mind of knowing that you are in reputable, experienced hands."*

– Rosemary and Mike, NY

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Subscriptions: 1-800-582-6642

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Irish America Magazine  
ISSN 0884-4240

© by Irish America Inc.  
Published bi-monthly.

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1277,  
Bellmawr, NJ 08099-5277.

Editorial office: 875 Sixth Avenue,  
Suite 1606, New York, NY 10001.

Telephone: 212-725-2993.

Fax: 212-244-3344

E-mail: submit@irishamerica.com.

Subscription rate  
is \$21.95 for one year.

Subscription orders:

1-800-582-6642. Subscription  
queries: 1-800-582-6642, (212) 725-  
2993, ext. 217.

Periodicals postage paid at New  
York and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster please send address  
changes to Irish America Magazine,  
P.O. Box 1277, Bellmawr, NJ  
08099-5277.

IRISH AMERICAS PRINTED  
IN THE U.S.A.

**the first word** | By Patricia Harty

# Into the Future

“... and a pacemaker the size of a thimble.”

– Mike Mahoney

“As long as you have your health, you have everything,” my mother, Norrie, used to say. She said a lot of things that annoyed me when I was younger, but as the years go by I realize that she was right about everything, especially about health being your most important asset.

Many of us are guilty of taking our bodies for granted. We concentrate on our careers and accumulating material possessions, and we wouldn't be human if we didn't over-indulge in life's pleasures from time to time. But with age comes wisdom, and aches and pains, and morning stiffness; and let's not forget the seasonal ailments: cold and flu. (And in this political climate, anxiety is apparently catchy, too.)

Whatever our politics or lifestyle choices, we all face the unknown – the rogue gene that can cause heart disease, diabetes, cancers, or other disorders. And then there are environmental factors that cause the spread of contagious viral illnesses.

Tuberculosis was the scary monster of my childhood, the “silent terror” that ravaged Ireland for much of the last century. People lived in fear of being struck down and worse, shamed, as T.B. carried a stigma similar to AIDS in the 1980s. My best friend in high school, Maura, contracted TB, was separated from her family, and quarantined in a state sanitarium. She did survive, but she was one of the lucky ones, she was born mid-century. In Ireland's not-too-distant past, T.B. was an epidemic – patients went undiagnosed and, in time, were “consumed” to death.

I flashed back to that experience when I spoke to Elaine O'Hara as we went to press on this issue. Elaine runs the North American vaccines division of Sanofi Pasteur, the global biopharmaceutical company. I can never hear the word vaccine without being grateful for how far we've come in defeating once-killer diseases.

Which brings us to our Fifth Annual Health issue, featuring some of the best and brightest people in the fields of biology, medicine, homeopathy, bioscience, and technology. These men and women are the future of healthcare. In addition, there are wonderful stories of past trailblazers, including an Irish woman who posed as a man in order to become a doctor and went on to have a very successful career; a character made famous by James Joyce, who was inspired by a brilliant surgeon; and a man named Murphy, who turned surgery into performance art and lent his name to many medical devices used today!

Then there's our cover story on Mike Mahoney, the chairman & CEO of Boston Scientific. Mike has spent his whole career in healthcare and is now in charge of one of the world's largest medical device companies. “We are working on a pacemaker that is the size of a thimble and it is leadless – there is nothing that goes in the heart,” Mike told me when we meet up in New York in September.

Boston Scientific, which has three plants in Ireland, is also working on devices to manage pain in Parkinson's disease and stroke patients, and “all kinds of digital applications, patient interfaces, and artificial intelligence.”

And the extraordinary thing about all of this futuristic medical technology is that a lot of the research Boston Scientific is doing is being done in Ireland, by Irish scientists, which is one hell of a recovery for a country that was once raked by poverty and disease.

My mother, always right, would be in awe.



Mórtas Cine



# Empowering Life

SAGLB.MIS.17.10.1518 - © Sanofi / iStockphoto

## VACCINATION SAVES LIVES

**Life is a health journey:** vaccination saves up to 3 million lives every year worldwide, but an additional 1.5 million deaths could be avoided with improved vaccination coverage<sup>1</sup>.

**As a partner on the health journey,** we believe in a world where no one suffers or dies from a vaccine preventable disease. We are proud that our vaccines can help to protect us and our loved ones from severe infectious diseases, at every stage of life. Hand in hand with the public health community, we are committed to improving access to life-protecting vaccines, whilst striving to develop new and improved vaccines to enhance health and well-being.



**SANOFI PASTEUR**

*Empowering Life*

1. World Health Organization. Immunization Coverage. Available at: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs378/en/>. Last accessed February 2018.

## Myrtle Allen 1924-2018

Thank you for your obituary of Myrtle Allen. She holds a special place in our home. Her brown bread recipe in James Beard's *Bread Book* is a family favorite, simple and delicious. Someday we'll go to Ballymaloe in her honor.

– Karen Fitzpatrick, Prospect Hill, N.C.



## Frederick Douglass

Thanks for the wonderful article on Frederick Douglass. How moving that the Irish welcomed him so and that he saw their struggle as an echo of his cause. My students at a community college were always so moved by *The Slave Narrative of Frederick Douglass*. Learning to read was the key to Douglass's emancipation and to his subsequent leadership.

– Marian O'Shea Wernicke, web



Statue of Frederick Douglass.



Native American delegation at the NY Irish Consulate.

## Native Americans and the Irish

The Choctaws and those of other native tribes have been brutally treated by the white man in many parts of the New World, especially in what is now the United States. In spite of that, however, today's native people seldom seek the compensation they so richly deserve.

– Sean Curtain, web

Irish people everywhere and their descendants owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Choctaw tribe.

– Seanmar, web



Unveiling of the John Ambrose bust.

## John Ambrose Honored

John Ambrose was a true hero and I enjoyed writing about him in my book, *Heroes of New York Harbor*, and also in *Irish America* earlier this year. – Marian Betancourt, New York

Another great accomplishment of an immigrant. Let's continue to welcome today's immigrants. They are the ones who will continue to make America great. – Marjorie Larney

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Send a fax (212-244-3344), e-mail ([submit@irishamerica.com](mailto:submit@irishamerica.com)) or write to Letters, Irish America Magazine, 875 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 1606, New York, NY 10001.

Letters should include the writer's name, address, and phone number and may be edited for clarity and length.



A lovely evening last night to celebrate the #WallStreet50 with @irishamerica. I especially enjoyed the lively and honest keynote by Eileen Murray and wonderful entertainment by Ciaran Sheehan #IrishAdvantage @evamurphyryan, Twitter Singer Ciaran Sheehan picture above.

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# The Irish Budget includes Measures for Brexit and Mental Health

In his second budget as Minister of Finance, Pascal Donohue, in the Dail on October 9, offered spending plans totalling €66.5 billion for the coming year. €59.3 billion of that will be on current expenditure and €7.3 billion on Capital spending.

He opened his speech by calling Brexit the “economic and diplomatic challenge of our generation.”

He said that €110 million has been earmarked for Brexit measures and that while the government remained optimistic that a deal could be done, the possibility of a no-deal Brexit had influenced decisions.

He added that Ireland will remain open to world and heart of EU.

Cigarettes, social payments and the minimum wage are to increase Excise duty on a pack of 20 cigarettes will bring the price up by 50 cents. This will bring the standard price to around €12.70.

As suggested before, social welfare payments have increased by €5 while the 100 percent Christmas bonus payment to all social welfare recipients will be fully restored.

The hourly minimum wage will be increased to €9.80 and the weekly threshold for the higher rate of employer’s PRSI will be increased from €376 to €386.

An additional €84 million will be put towards Mental Health Services, marking an increase of nine percent.

There’s an increase of €1.05 billion in health funding for 2019 bringing the health budget to an overall of €17 billion.

With regards to affordable housing, Minister Donohue said

that the government is increasing the planned funding from €20 million to €89 million in 2019. This is expected to facilitate the delivery of around 6,000 affordable homes.

He said: “The infrastructural funding available per subsidised home is also being increased from €40,000 up to a maximum of €50,000, supporting the delivery of homes at up to 40% below market prices. Income eligibility limits of €50,000 for a single applicant and €75,000 for dual applicant households will apply and these will be kept under regular review to ensure they remain appropriate.”

€1.25 billion for the delivery of 10,000 new social homes has also been allocated while an extra €30 million has been assigned for homeless services.

Donohue also announced that parents are to receive two extra weeks’ paid leave to every parent of a child in their first year.

This will come into effect from November 2019, with an intention to “increase this to seven extra weeks over time”.

Elsewhere, the 9 percent VAT for hotels, restaurants and hair-dressers will rise to 13.5 percent, while €35 million will be added to the Transport and Tourism departments.

€10.8 billion has been allocated to the Department of Education and Skills, with an extra 950 Special Needs Assistants to be implemented in schools next year.

In business and enterprise, the 12.5 percent corporate tax rate will not be changing.

As of midnight tonight [October 9], an Exit Tax will apply at a rate of 12.5 percent for any company that aims to move their assets offshore.

Minister Donohue has delivered the first balanced budget since 2007. – Ryan Price, Irish Post: 10/9/18



Pascal Donohue, Minister, Department of Finance, Ireland

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Guests travelling to the U.S. will be driven direct to our U.S. Preclearance facility where business class passengers have complimentary access to 51st&Green, our dedicated Preclearance lounge. This new lounge was inspired by the intersection of Ireland and America and provides stunning views of the airfield and runway.

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## Top Shelf

**T**HE BEST Irish whiskeys of 2019 have been revealed in news that's sure to make essential reading for dram drinkers everywhere.

Scotch may go down well with some but over in Ireland, it's got to be whiskey every time.

But, away from the usual array of Jamesons and the like, the question remains: what constitutes the best dram on offer from the Emerald Isle?

Thankfully world-renowned whiskey critic Jim Murray knows the answer.

He's been sampling the finest whiskeys on the planet for much of the past 15 years and knows a thing or two about what constitutes the very finest on offer.

Each year they are included in Murray's annual *Whisky Bible*.

He sampled well over 4,600 spirits for the latest edition of his popular tome to reach his conclusions.

There's a clear winner too, with the Redbreast Aged 12 year Cask Strength coming out on top in two different categories in the 2019 edition of the book.

– Jack Beresford, *Irish Post*: 10/12/18



## Firearms Seized by Garda

**A** number of firearms, namely three GLOCK handguns, have been intercepted and seized in postal packages destined for Ireland from the United States.

The Special Crime Operations (SCO) branch of An Garda Síochána have conducted a joint operation with United States Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) following the detection of automatic weapons due to be delivered to locations in Dublin city and county.

On October 12, the Garda National Drugs and Organised Crime Bureau and Special Crime Task Force searched three addresses in Stepside, Carrickmines, and Newcastle, County Dublin as part of an ongoing operation relating to the seizures.

A quantity of cocaine and cannabis was seized during the course of these searches.

Three people were arrested during the operation.

The three, aged 26, 27, and 38, are currently being detained under the provisions of Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act at a number of Garda stations in the east of the city.

The Garda investigation is continuing with the support of Special Agents from U.S Homeland Security. – Rebecca Keane, *Irish Post*: 10/12/18

Members of the Garda Síochána, the police force of Ireland.

## Good News For Redheads

**R**edheads are significantly less likely to age badly.

That's according to a study conducted by Erasmus University in Rotterdam who discovered the gene that keeps people looking young is the same as the one responsible for red hair and skin.

According to their findings, those who carry a variation of the MC1R gene responsible for red hair, look around two years younger than they actually are.

The research was first published in the journal *Current Biology* and serves to highlight one of the hidden benefits of being ginger. As part of the study, front and side facial images of each of the 2,693 participants of the study were carefully analyzed by a 3dMD image assessment system.

The faces were examined and assessed using 25 different criteria that included pigmented spots, wrinkles, skin tone and face shape. All of the information collected was then fed into an algorithm that helped calculate their "perceived age."

What they found was that those carrying the aforementioned "ginger gene" were frequently attributed as being younger than they appeared to be.

Commenting on the findings at the time, Dr. Manfred Kayser, Professor of Genetic Identification at Erasmus University, noted



Newly crowned Redhead King and Queen, Alan Reidy and Grainne Keena pose with a crowd full of red heads at the Irish Redhead Convention, which celebrates everything to do with red hair, held in the village of Crosshaven on August 22, 2015 in Cork.

that the study "explains in part why some people look older and others younger for their age." "Looking young for one's age has been a desire since time immemorial. The desire is attributable to the belief that appearance reflects health and fecundity," he added.

The study is the third of its kind to identify a link between the gene and skin aging, including a study of 530 middle-aged women in France. It's not the first time the genetic benefits of ginger hair have been highlighted, either.

Previous research revealed how redheads are able to produce their own Vitamin D, meaning they are significantly less likely to develop conditions like rickets.

It also lessens the likelihood of diabetes, asthma, and arthritis.

– Jack Beresford, *Irish Post*: 10/12/18



## University College, Dublin A RADICAL APPROACH IN DIABETES RESEARCH

An international collaboration jointly led by University College Dublin (UCD) and Monash University in Melbourne has found that mimicking the activity of molecules found naturally in the body may provide a new approach to treating vascular disease in patients with diabetes. Currently 425 million people have diabetes

and this is expected to rise to 750 million by 2025.

People with diabetes have a high incidence of cardiovascular disease. In healthy conditions, the body produces special messenger molecules that tightly control inflammation. In diseases such as diabetes, inflammation can become so vigorous that it overwhelms the activity of these messengers and rages out of control.

This research study, carried out by Dr. Eoin Brennan in UCD and investigators in Melbourne as part of an E.U.-funded project, took a radical approach of mimicking the activity of these messengers, using a synthetic version of a molecule called lipoxin. By taking the plaque tissue from human blood vessels and exposing it to lipoxin molecules in the laboratory, the research team found that inflammation was reduced. Importantly, the team showed that lipoxins could prevent the progression of atherosclerosis in animals with established atherosclerotic lesions. The study builds on earlier work by these scientists that showed these compounds reversed established diabetic kidney disease.

## NUI Galway TREATMENT FOR CHRONIC PAIN

Dr. Martin O'Halloran, Director of the Lambe Translational Medical Device laboratory at NUI Galway, is the only Irish scientist among 50 in Europe awarded European Research Council top-up funding to develop a novel hydrogel to treat chronic pain.



The Proof of Concept grants, worth €150,000 each, are part of the E.U.'s research and innovation program, Horizon 2020. The top-up funding award will allow Dr. O'Halloran to develop the results of his scientific hydrogel concept to file patent applications and attract capital to make the research marketable, and explore the commercial and societal potential of the product.

According to international studies, one in five adults in Europe suffers from chronic pain which amounts to 95 million people. The novel gel being developed during this project can be used to treat many different types of peripheral nerve pain. One common type of chronic pain is Trigeminal Neuralgia (TN), a prolonged debilitating condition caused by a trauma to the trigeminal nerve, resulting in sudden attacks of excruciating shooting facial pain. It is infamously called the "suicide disease" due to the high number of suicides associated with it. Dr. Martin O'Halloran will use his Proof of Concept grant to seek to develop this novel hydrogel, which aims to provide long-lasting and drug-free treatment for this condition and other areas affected by chronic nerve pain.

## TED TALK ON SPIDER DUST A BIG HIT

In other NUI news, Dr. Michel Dugon from the Ryan Institute at NUI Galway has had his TEDxGalway talk, "Spider Dust and Scorpion Juice: Are Bugs the Future of Therapeutic Drugs?" featured on Ted.Talk.com on October 5, 2018 and distributed to 30 million viewers.

In his talk, Dr. Dugon, a lecturer in zoology and founder and lead researcher of the Venom Systems and Proteomics Laboratory at NUI Galway, outlined the potential of spider venom as a source of novel chemicals and therapeutic compounds. Dugon, who is also the founder and director of the Eco Explorers science outreach program at NUI Galway where he dedicates a sizable amount of his time to promoting eco-

logical awareness in the media and in schools throughout Ireland, said, "I hope that my experience will encourage other academics to take to the stage in the future and inspire members of the public to engage with Irish science and technology."

## Queen's University GROUND-BREAKING WORK ON BOWEL CANCER

Researchers at Queen's University Belfast have discovered a groundbreaking therapeutic process that can target and kill bowel cancer cells, which may improve survival rates for bowel cancer patients globally.

The research, published in the prestigious journal of Molecular Cancer Therapeutics, presented a novel treatment strategy for bowel cancer patients who originally present with an extremely poor survival outcome. The research was led by Dr. Nicholas Forsythe along with Professor Sandra Van Schaeybroeck and the late Professor Patrick Johnston.

Explaining how the research has exploited a cellular process in order to kill cancer cells, Dr. Forsythe said, "Essentially, we can take advantage of the aggressive biology of these cancers and use it against them." The researchers say the next step is to explore novel drugs, which can ultimately improve the survival outcome for these patients.

## THE ECONOMICS BENEFITS OF BREASTFEEDING

According to a research study, also conducted at Queen's university conducted, adults who were breastfed as babies went on to earn a 10 percent higher household income at age 50 than those were not.

The research team was led by Dr. Mark McGovern, from Queen's Management School, in collaboration with Dr. Slawa Rokicki from University College Dublin (UCD), Dr. Giampiero Marra from University College London, and Dr. Rosalba Radice from Cass Business School.

This finding has real economic potential, as Dr. McGovern explained, "Our initial results from the study suggest that a 10 percentage point increase in the number of breastfed babies in Northern Ireland each year could generate around £100 million in additional lifetime earnings, of which £20 million could be expected to be collected in the form of tax revenue, which could be partly used for public health campaigns."

Dr. Rokicki from UCD noted, "Having evidence on the economic benefits of breastfeeding supports the argument for greater resources being invested in public health campaigns and breastfeeding support services."

## University College Cork UCC NAMED UNIVERSITY OF SANCTUARY

Seven asylum seekers and refugees began their studies at University College Cork (UCC), in Sep-



ABOVE: are members of the UCC's Sanctuary Working Group with UCC President, Professor Patrick O'Shea (second from left) and Professor Caroline Fennell, Senior V.P at, UCC.



RIGHT: PMTC Director Ahmad B. Albadarin (left) with colleagues.

tember with scholarships that cover full fees and tuition, in addition to a number of annual bursaries covering travel and expenses.

UCC's Sanctuary Status is a marker not just of what has been achieved in UCC, but an indicator of the need for sustained and creative work to support asylum seekers and refugees locally and internationally, according to UCC's Senior Vice President, Professor Caroline Fennell.

"Universities provide a key space in which to challenge societal assumptions and to support and highlight work aimed at fostering a culture of welcome for asylum seekers and refugees.

UCC has joined Dublin City University (DCU) and University of Limerick (UL) as universities leading the way in Ireland by being awarded University of Sanctuary status by Places of Sanctuary Ireland.

## University of Limerick

### KNOWLEDGE DAY

Leaders in the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector in Ireland gathered at University of Limerick on August 30, for the fourth annual Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology Centre (PMTC) Knowledge Day.

The event brought together over 250 academic, industry and government agencies (Enterprise Ireland and IDA), and included experts from the University of Birmingham, Eli-Lilly, GSK, Rutgers University, Alfa-Laval, Amgen and Steris, who shared their insights into topics under the theme of continuous manufacturing, application of PAT, vessel cleaning and cleaning validation.

"PMTC is bringing forward novel technologies in a growing pharma market with extensive opportunities to build on the existing well-developed, productive and collaborative engagement between industry and academia in the region, aimed at ensuring the availability of a sustainable supply of high-quality skilled postgraduates to support economic growth in the region," PMTC Interim Director Ahmad B. Albadarin said.

## MORE WOMEN IN POLITICS LINKED TO INCREASE IN LIFE EXPECTANCY

A new study led by Ross MacMillan, Chair of Sociology at University of Limerick, has found that an increase of women holding political office is associated with an increase in the life expectancies of women and children. Published in the journal *Demography*, the study assessed changes in the share of women in the national legislatures of 155 nations, in

conjunction with their mortality rates between 1990 and 2014. The results showed that when the percentage of political representatives who were women reached the U.N.-advocated "critical mass" of 30%, the mortality rates of women and children fell even faster.

Countries with lower democracy and development saw the largest improvements in life expectancy after electing more women. Wendy Sigle, Professor of Gender and Family Studies at the Department of Gender Studies at London School of Economics and Political Science, commented: "Although we might expect that a critical mass of women in parliament would be better able to effect change in wealthy countries with strong democratic institutions, we saw the largest improvements in contexts where democratic institutions are not long-established or consolidated, and where economic and social development is low."

As the authors of the study wrote, "The value in encouraging efforts to increase the role of women in political leadership is clear, and such efforts could play a vital role in improving population health." They add, "further increases in women's political status – although an end in itself – may have important synergistic effects that improve life chances across the globe."

## Anglia Ruskin University

### THE BENEFITS OF BEER

Irish historian Dr. Susan Flavin, a lecturer in early modern history at Anglia Ruskin University has produced a study showing that beer was a vital source of calories and nutrition for Irish workers in the 16th century. Her work highlights the importance of beer consumption for many manual laborers due to the lack of readily available food-sourced calories, as well as for thirst-quenching and social drinking. "It was seen as good for energy and health, and was thought to have restorative properties," Flavin told the *Irish Times*.

Beer was brewed primarily from oats at the time, due to Ireland having inhospitable soil for barley-growing and the high price of hops and wheat. It was bitter and thick, regarded by the English as inferior, though it was considered by the Irish to be nourishing, containing an estimated 400-500 calories per pint in contrast to today's 180-200. Records from 1565 show that Clontarf stone masons were provided 14 pints of beer a day by the proctor of the Christ Church Cathedral. Documents from Dublin Castle reveal that the household staff consumed 264,000 pints of beer in 1590, which averaged up to eight pints each per day for each person.

"We don't know how strong the beer was," Flavin said. "It is suggested if you made beer using the proportions in the recipes, it may have been up to seven percent proof. But even if we could recreate it, we don't know how yeast worked then. We need more evidence. Were people drunk all the time? We'll possibly never know." – O.O.



## From *Gone Girl* to *Widows*

In November, **Liam Neeson** and **Colin Farrell** will team up with Irish-American writer **Gillian Flynn** (*Gone Girl*) in a crime thriller loaded with talent. Entitled *Widows*, the film features Neeson as one of a quartet of thieves who are killed in the middle of a heist. Their widows (among them Oscar winner Viola Davis) decide to finish the job. *Widows* is based on a 1980s British television series, and is directed by Steve McQueen, the English-born director who was also behind the camera for the harrowing Northern Ireland film *Hunger*. McQueen and Gillian Flynn wrote the screenplay for *Widows*, which also features Oscar-winner Robert Duvall, Oscar nominee Daniel Kaluuya (*Get Out*) and TV star Carrie Coon (*Fargo*, *The Leftovers*).

Also in November, look for Liam Neeson on Netflix, in the next Coen Brothers project, *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*.

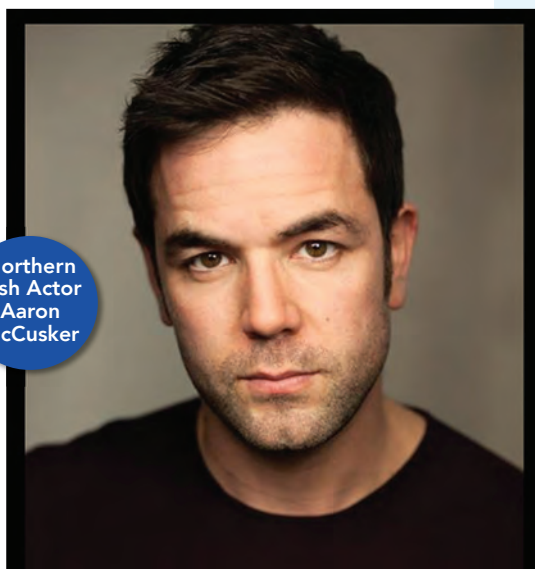


Gillian Flynn, author of *Gone Girl* and *Widows*

## Bohemian Rhapsody with a Hint of Irish

Queen lead singer Freddie Mercury was a giant of the British music scene. But his birth name was actually Farrokh Bulsara, and he was born in what, at the time, was British-ruled India. And with a new Mercury biopic entitled *Bohemian Rhapsody* hitting screens, it's a good time to recall the important role the Irish played in Mercury's life. First there was Jim Hutton, portrayed in the film by Northern Ireland native **Aaron McCusker**, who was Mercury's boyfriend. (In the 1970s and 1980s, the rock scene was not very welcoming of gay rock stars like Mercury, who died in 1991 after being diagnosed with AIDS.) *Bohemian Rhapsody* also features Irish rock giants Bob Geldof (portrayed by **Dermot Murphy**) and U2 drummer Larry Mullen (**Matthew Houston**). Finally, Irish actor **Aidan Gillen** portrays

one of Queen's managers, John Reid. Speaking of Gillen, he will move from the world of rock 'n' roll to the world of outer space in a forthcoming History Channel series entitled *Project Blue Book*. The 10-episode series takes a close look at suspicions that the U.S. government covered up evidence that U.F.O.'s may have visited Earth in the 1950s and 1960s. Gillen will portray real-life scientist Josef Allen Hyneck, a prominent U.F.O. researcher.



Northern Irish Actor Aaron McCusker

## Dinner With Jamie

One of HBO's more surreal, yet entertaining, recent projects was *My Dinner with Hervé*, about the life and times of 1970s diminutive *Fantasy Island* star Hervé Villechaize. The film featured *Game of Thrones* star **Peter Dinklage** in the title role, as well as Northern Irish actor **Jamie Dornan** (the *Fifty Shades* movies), as a journalist who gets sucked into Villechaize's life. Look for Dornan next – alongside Eve Hewson – in the November release *Robin Hood*. Dornan plays a member of Robin Hood's band of Merry Men, as well as the husband of Maid Marian, who just happens to be portrayed by Hewson, who is the daughter of the singer of a certain Irish rock band you may have heard of.



Jamie Dornan and Matt Dillon

## Al Capone's Irish Gal

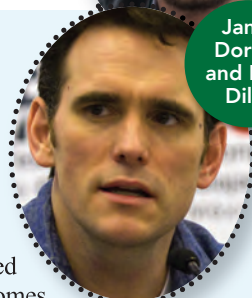
With Martin Scorsese's Netflix epic *The Irishman*, about the hitman who supposedly whacked Jimmy Hoffa, slated for release next year, now comes word that Oscar-nominated tough guy **Tom Hardy** (*Dark Knight Rises*, *Mad Max: Fury Road*) has begun shooting a new Al Capone biopic, called *Fonzo*.

From the streets to the bedroom, the Irish played a central role in the life of this Italian-American kingpin. Capone rose to prominence in 1920s Chicago during bloody Irish-Italian gang turf wars. Deanie O'Banion was killed in 1924 after crossing a Capone ally. And, of course, in February of 1929, Capone went gunning for Bugs Moran during the infamous St. Valentine's Day massacre. Moran escaped, but Capone went on to become the Windy City's top mob man.

But before all that came Capone's marriage to Mae Coughlin, the daughter of Irish immigrants born in Capone's native Brooklyn.

Mae's immigrant mother Bridget only wanted her daughter to marry a fellow Irish Catholic. As Capone biographer Deirdre Bair has written, "In the world of [Mae's] church and her Irish culture, Italians were 'colored,' and never to be associated with." But when Mae and Al did wed, Bridget made sure it was "not in (Capone's) modest Italian parish...but in her...staunchly Irish" one, as Bair puts it.

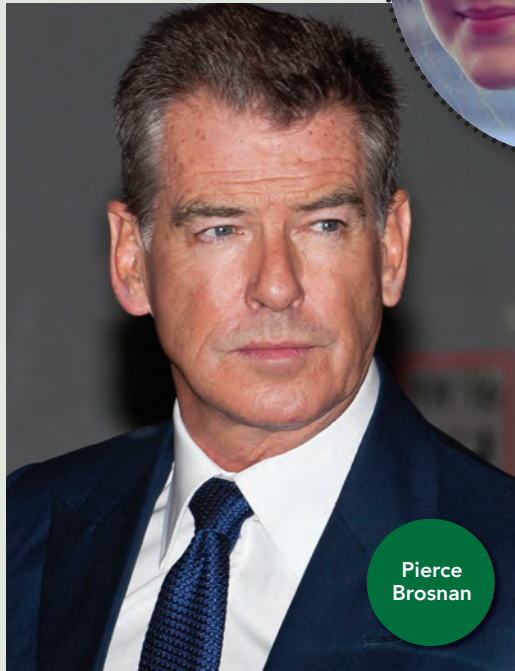
Linda Cardellini (*Freaks and Geeks*, *Mad Men*) will play Mae Capone in *Fonzo*, which will also feature **Matt Dillon**, **Kyle MacLachlan** and **Kathrine Narducci**, when it is released next year.



## Brosnan in Hemingway Flick

Former 007 Pierce Brosnan is re-teaming with *Goldeneye* director Martin Campbell for a very different kind of movie. The duo are looking to bring Ernest Hemingway's war novel *Across the River and Into the Trees* to the big screen. The novel is about a World War I veteran, Colonel Cantwell, on a hunting trip. Cantwell has serious health problems, and begins looking back on the years he spent as a soldier fighting in World War I. A chance encounter with a young woman compels Cantwell to reconsider his past – and future.

Until then, Brosnan will appear in the action flick *Final Score* in September, and is slated to star in the Northern Ireland drama *H-Block*, which should begin shooting soon.



Pierce Brosnan



Irish Oscar nominee Saoirse Ronan

## Saoirse Takes a Turn in *Little Women*

It has been 150 years now since Louisa May Alcott wrote her beloved novel *Little Women* – and filmmakers can't stop returning to this classic.

Just as one updated version was being released this September, it was announced that Irish Oscar nominee Saoirse Ronan would be teaming up again with director Greta Gerwig (they made the indie hit *Lady Bird* together) for yet another version of *Little Women* – a decidedly star-studded version.

Aside from Ronan, Meryl Streep and Emma Stone have also been in talks to star in the project.

Until then, look for Ronan in December, alongside fellow Oscar nominee Margot Robbie, in the costume period drama *Mary Queen of Scots*.

## TV & Streaming Report

New, recent, and noteworthy Irish shows streaming on various services.

### ● YOU CAN CATCH A CREEPY IRISH HORROR STORY CALLED *THE LODGERS* ON NETFLIX RIGHT NOW.

Directed by Brian O'Malley, *The Lodgers* is set in 1920s Carlow, where a brother and sister live a mysterious life on their family estate. But things get decidedly scarier at night, when the house becomes possessed by some kind of supernatural force. When an Irish soldier happens upon the family, romance blossoms – but things only get scarier.



● **SEASON 3 OF AMAZON PRIME'S ALTERNATIVE HISTORY *THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE* DEBUTED BACK IN OCTOBER.** Joining the cast is Dublin-born TV star **Jason O'Mara** (*Life on Mars*, *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*) who will play (fittingly enough) an Irish immigrant whose family was driven out of Europe by the Nazis. *The Man in the High Castle* is set in an alternative America where the Allied forces actually lost World War II to the Nazis.

● **IF YOU MISSED IT IN SEPTEMBER**, a film now available for streaming suggests the notorious Lizzie Borden, the main suspect in the August 4, 1892, axe murders of her father and stepmother in Fall River, Massachusetts, may have had help



from an Irish maid.

Simply titled *Lizzie*, the film also stars Irish veteran of stage and screen **Fiona Shaw**, as well as Irish American **Denis O'Hare**. The film revolves around the infamous crime, and Lizzie's relationship with the Borden family's Irish immigrant maid Bridget Sullivan (**Kristen Stewart**).

Fiona Shaw can also now be seen in the excellent BBC America show *Killing Eve*, the first season of which is available through Hulu and Netflix's DVD service. BBC America announced that *Killing Eve* will be back for a second season.

● **WITH DUBLIN ACTRESS SARAH BOLGER** playing a main role in the new FX motorcycle drama *The Mayans*, now is a good time to binge-watch *Sons of Anarchy*, which is where the show originated, and which had numerous, extensive storylines featuring Irish characters, including a fateful trip to Ireland in season three. *Sons* streams on Netflix.

● **FINALLY**, everyone's favorite dysfunctional Chicago Irish family, the Gallaghers, are back on Showtime for season nine of *Shameless*.

# Wall St

## 2018 Wall Street 50

*Irish America* magazine celebrated its annual Wall Street 50 Awards at a dinner event at the New York Yacht Club on September 26. Eileen Murray, co-CEO of Bridgewater Associates, delivered the keynote address, an honest and passionate reflection on her experiences growing up in an Irish-Catholic household within the melting pot of Manhattan. Murray was presented on the night with a Waterford Crystal Circle of Friends bowl by co-founder and editor Patricia Harty and founding publisher Niall O'Dowd.

Photos by Nuala Purcell



**"My parents taught me Irish curiosity, creativity, determination, common sense, and most important, hospitality, integrity, and generosity."**

Eileen Murray



# reet 50

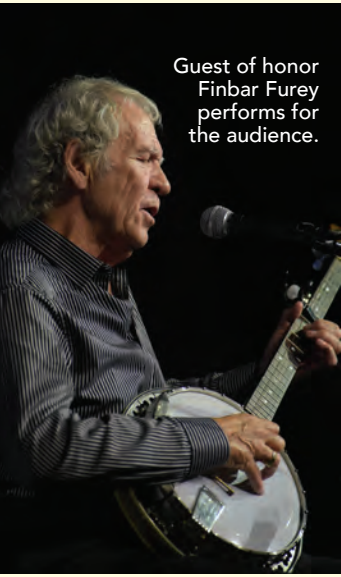


**1** Patricia Harty and the honorees. **2** Eileen Murray with Bob and Kate Devlin, and guests. **3** Honoree Jeanmarie McFadden enjoying Murray's keynote. **4** The Circle of Friends bowl which was given to Eileen Murray. **5** Honorees Dennis McCann, Sean Kilduff, and Kevin Sherlock. **6** Honoree Cathy Boyle and guests taking a selfie. **7** Honorees Ellen Walsh, Martin Kehoe, and Kieran Claffey with guest. **8** Honoree Greg McCrickard and his wife Beth. **9** Eileen Murray flanked by Kathie and Doane Kelly. **10** Patricia Harty with honoree Hugh Dineen. **11** Niall O'Dowd with honoree Michael Devlin. **12** Pauline Turley and Aiden Connolly flanking Eileen Murray and Honoree Ellen Walsh. **13** Eva Murphy-Ryan, Seán O hAodha, and Hannah Webb. **14** Honorees Tara McCabe and Jennifer Abate with guests Andy Pollart and Tom Quick. **15** Bob and Kate Devlin enjoying the night. **16** Honorees Tara and Kathleen McCabe flanking Patricia Harty. **17** Irish tenor Ciaran Sheehan and Eileen Murray. **18** Honoree Michael Devlin, Bob Devlin and guest. **19** Honorees Dan Kennedy and Dennis McCann. **20** Guests Eric Moore, Maurice Barron, and another guest enjoy the cocktail hour. **21** Kate Overbeck with Brian Senecal. **22** Irish America co-founders Niall O'Dowd and Patricia Harty present crystal to Murray. **23** Honoree Kay Ryan Booth with Niall O'Dowd.

**"The resiliency, the grit, of your and my ancestors to get us here is a testament to the Irish that came before us, who made this country."**

Eileen Murray





Guest of honor Finbar Furey performs for the audience.

## Gaelic Players Toasted in New York

The Gaelic Players Association (G.P.A.) held its annual dinner on Thursday October 4, at Capitala, 130 Bowery, New York City.

The gala event featured awards, a Q&A with all-star Gaelic players, and a musical performance by Finbar Furey.

The Gaelic Players Association has chosen Finbar as the first recipient of the Lifetime Achievement award to acknowledge his contribution to the music industry, both national and international. Finbar has reached iconic status over the last 50 years as a multi-instrumentalist, singer, songwriter, producer and actor, and on the night he kept the crowd entertained with talk and song and his five-string banjo.

Gary McGann was also honored. He was presented with the Gaelic Heritage Award for his philanthropic efforts. McGann is chairman of Paddy Power Betfair plc., an Irish bookmaker founded in 1988, which now fea-

tures online betting and odds.

The G.P.A. player development program helps amateur county Gaelic footballers and hurlers to achieve their true potential off the field of play.

Broadcaster Marty Morrissey served as emcee, while Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Chairman Emeritus of the Ireland Funds America, and Adrian Jones, Managing Director and co-head of the Americas Equity business of Goldman, Sachs & Co., served as dinner chairs. — I.A.



PHOTOS: JAMES HIGGINS (PADDYRAZZI.COM)



## The Ireland Funds 2018 NJ Golf Classic

On Monday, October 1, supporters of the Ireland Funds gathered at Bayonne Golf Club for the 16th annual N.J. Golf Classic.

This year's honoree was Bob Garrett, New York Office Managing Partner, KPMG LLP.

After the opening brunch, Pat Tully, the Ireland Funds America VP of Development, welcomed the guests, went over the rules for the day and sent the golfers out onto the challenging links of Bayonne.

Later that evening, Kyle Clifford, the Ireland Funds America Vice President of Development, opened the formal dinner program, thanked the committee, co-chairs and sponsors, and welcomed honoree Bob Garrett to the podium to accept his award.

Bob thanked his friends and KPMG partners in attendance and spoke warmly about the key work that the Ireland Funds does for Irish causes around the world.

The Ireland Funds America Chairman, John Fitzpatrick, then addressed the supporters and announced that the event raised over \$250,000 to assist Irish charities through the Ireland Funds' grant round.

Pat Tully followed John Fitzpatrick with a spirited live auction, including a VIP trip to the All-Ireland Football Final in Dublin in September 2019.



The Ireland Funds 2018 NJ Golf Classic Committee with Honoree, Bob Garrett.

L – R: Kyle Clifford, Anthony Callaghan, Eddie Dowling, Michael Higgins, Bob Garrett, John Fitzpatrick, Martin Kehoe, Angus Miller, Pat Leahy, Matthew McBride, George Stoll, Michael Hurley and Pat Tully.

Following the live auction, the Ireland Funds America chairman emeritus, Loretta Brennan Glucksman thanked John Fitzpatrick and congratulated the committee on another successful NJ Golf Classic.

Co-chairs Pat Leahy and Matthew McBride presented the golf awards, honoring the winning team going of George Stoll and GMS partners with a -19 net score. KPMG and Broadridge generously sponsored the event and Ott Miller Chevrolet sponsored the hole-in-one prize. — I.A.

FROM TOP: Kyle Clifford, 2018 honoree Bob Garrett, and John Fitzpatrick. Patrick Murphy, Michael Higgins, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, and Maureen Sullivan. Hillary Toohey, Tony Dunne, David Evans, Barry Harbison, and guest.



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## Carnegie Focus on N.I.

An international seminar celebrated and reflected on the progress made in improving wellbeing in Northern Ireland.

In the year of the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement, it is an appropriate time to explore the wellbeing of Northern Ireland's citizens, and the work being undertaken for future generations across all communities. And on this past October 8, the Carnegie UK Trust hosted an international seminar on wellbeing in Northern Ireland in New York, in partnership with fellow Carnegie institution the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs.

The event featured an address by former United States senator George John Mitchell, who reflected on the role that America played in the Good Friday Agreement; the views of Democratic Unionist Party representative Peter Weir MLA and Sinn Féin representative Máirtín Ó Muilleoir MLA on the current situation in Northern Ireland; and the contributions of senior stakeholders in Northern Ireland on the remaining challenges and aspirations for the future.

The audience consisted of American policymakers, analysts, and other key stakeholders with an interest in learning from those with direct experience in improving wellbeing in Northern Ireland.

Following the conference, the Northern Ireland Bureau co-hosted a networking reception for dele-



gates and key opinion leaders with the support of the British Consulate, highlighting how the Northern Ireland framework can be used as a model for future projects.

The seminar was a legacy of the Carnegie Roundtable on Measuring Wellbeing in Northern Ireland, which contributed to the commitment to focus on wellbeing in the draft Program for Government, and its continuing work supporting local wellbeing frameworks contained within Northern Ireland's Community Plans. — I.A.

TOP: Laura Hickey Deputy Consul General, British Consulate, Loretta Brennan Glucksmann, Norman Houston, Director Northern Ireland Bureau, Baroness May Blood

ABOVE: L – R: Neil Gibson, Katrina Godfrey, Deirdre Garvey, and Aideen McGinley.

Photo Credit: Amanda Ghanooni

The 28th annual Flax Trust New York banquet took place in the 21 Club on October 10, 2018, honoring Ed and Brigid Kenney and Tom O'Brien, Director and Audit Chair of Prudential Financial Annuity Funds for their support of the work of the Trust over the years, having seen the projects firsthand.

The Flax Trust is a registered charity formed in Belfast in 1977, and has as its mission the reduction – and, if possible, the elimination – of community tensions and religious prejudices by creative engagement in economic and social development, education and training with intercommunity activities including culture, the arts, sports, health, social programs, personal development and dedicated communication projects.

Flax Trust America was set up in 1982 and is a 501(C)3 charitable organization. — I.A.



LEFT: Jim Quinn, President of Flax Trust America with honorees Ed and Brigid Kenney and Sr. Mary Turley, Director of Flax Trust.

BOTTOM LEFT: Paul O'Hara, Frida Maiorana, Joe Hummel and Marcella Hourican.

BELOW: Irish Counsel General Ciaran Madden, his wife Lana Fitzsimons and Rory Power of Enterprise Ireland.





Icahn School  
of Medicine at  
**Mount  
Sinai**

Barbara Murphy, MD, and the  
Department of Medicine at the  
Icahn School of Medicine at  
Mount Sinai congratulate

**Michael Mahoney,**  
**Paul J. Kenny, PhD,**

and all of this year's  
honorees recognized  
by Irish America  
Healthcare &  
Life Sciences 50.

**Department  
of Medicine**

## UCD Smurfit School

On Wednesday October 17th, the 16th annual New York UCD Smurfit School Benefit Dinner took place at the Metropolitan Club, New York City.

This year's honorees were Aidan Connolly, Chief innovation Officer & Vice President, Corporate Accounts at Alltech & Helen Doody, Senior Client Advisor at Kepos Capital, L.P.

All profits raised from the event will fund scholarships for North American students, attracting the next generation of business leaders to study at UCD. A fantastic night of socializing & celebration was had by all in attendance. – I.A.



Helen Doody and Aidan Connolly, who were honored by UCD Smurfit School.

## Margaret Corrigan Retires



The Irish Consulate in New York hosted a reception on Wednesday, September 26, on the occasion of the visit to New York for UN Week by the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney, T.D., and Minister Ciarán Cannon, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with special responsibility for the Diaspora and International Development. The Tánaiste addressed a packed house about today's Ireland, increasing Ireland's global footprint and the challenges of Brexit. Cannon met with representatives of the Immigration Centers and with New York's first Foróige group, from the Aisling Irish Centre in Yonkers. Participation in Foróige helps the young people develop their leadership skills and teaches them how to become actively involved in society and engage with their Irish heritage.

The evening also saw two members of staff at the Consulate, Ann Condron and Margaret Corrigan, honored for their long service to Ireland. Ann has been with the Consulate for 14 years and Margaret for 53 years. She is Ireland's longest-serving public servant. Both will retire in the coming weeks and their departure will be an enormous loss to the Consulate and to the Irish community in the New York area. – I.A.



## Irish Arts Groundbreaker

Decades of work by so many culminated in the breaking of ground on the new New York Irish Arts Center in early October. The new building will be ready by 2020.

FROM LEFT: Irish Arts Center Board Chair Gerrard Boyle; Ciarán Madden, Consul General of Ireland; IAC Executive Director Aidan Connolly; Actor and IAC Honorary Chair Gabriel Byrne; Capital Campaign Co-Chair and IAC board member Loretta Brennan Glucksman; IAC Vice Chair Pauline Turley; Corey Johnson, Speaker of the New York City Council; Architect Carl Krebs; Capital Campaign Co-Chair and IAC board member Robert M. Devlin.





## Magic, Fun and Remembering Ruckle

17th annual Imagine Arts Festival set to open with art exhibitions, trails, and a tremendous Trad Weekend



The 17th annual Imagine Arts Festival opened in Waterford on October 18 for 10 days of magical fun, spooky happenings, mega music gigs, theatre, dance, spoken word, art exhibitions, and a litany of literary events with some of the country's top authors.



The festival officially commenced with the opening of an exhibition at the Garter Lane Gallery dedicated to the life and works of the late great American artist and Waterford resident Ernest Ruckle (1940-2018). The retrospective exhibition "Meeting Mr. Ruckle" included original artworks, photographs, and a range of media to highlight his artistic impact and lasting contribution to the culture of Waterford.

Born in Neptune, New Jersey, on May 1, 1940, Ruckle arrived in Waterford in 1986 and choose to make the city his permanent home for the next 32 years. During this time he not only painted some of his most important works but also interacted with the rapidly developing local art scene of the '80s and '90s in a number of crucial areas such as visual arts, theatre, printed material, and collaborations with local artists.

## O'Neill a Success in New Ross

The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Festival in New Ross, called "One Festival, Two Countries," was a big success. The first half of the festival, the 19th annual Eugene O'Neill Festival in Danville, was held throughout September 2018, and the second half, the First Annual Eugene O'Neill International Festival of Theatre, was held in New Ross October 11-14, 2018, with over 50 visitors from the O'Neill Foundation, Tao House, in attendance.

The festival took advantage of the *Dunbrody*, the full-scale replica of a Famine ship anchored in New Ross, to present a site-specific production of O'Neill's *Glencairn* cycle of one-act sea plays.

Meanwhile, director Eric Hayes' Danville production of O'Neill's *Hughie* was staged at St. Michael's Theatre.

Eugene O'Neill's father James was born not far from New Ross, across the border in Kilkenny. – I.A.



TOP: On the *Dunbrody*: Irish actors Ronan Barry, Stephen Byrne, and Eugene McLoughlin, who featured in a production of the *Glencairn* one-act plays on board the ship.

ABOVE: Aaron Murphy, Dorian Lockett, and Clive Worsley, who featured a production of *Hughie*, directed by Eric Hayes at St. Michael's Theatre, New Ross, that was played to a full house.

## A Visit to the Hall of Fame

Kevin M. White, Duke University's vice president and director of athletics, who was inducted into the Irish America Hall of Fame in 2017, paid a visit to the Hall of Fame in New Ross, County Wexford, in October. He described the visit as "an amazing, actually spectacular, experience."

Pictured below: Sean Reidy, co-founder with Patricia Harty of the Irish America Hall of Fame; Sean Connick, CEO of the Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience, in New Ross, County Wexford, where the Irish America Hall of Fame is housed; and Kevin M. White.



## Being New York, Being Irish

New York University's Glucksman Ireland House opened a quarter-century ago, and since then has led and witnessed tremendous changes in both nations' cultures. *Being New York, Being Irish* gathers many of Ireland and Irish America's finest writers and critical thinkers to consider and celebrate its 25th anniversary. This beautifully illustrated hardback is a wonderful recognition of this vibrant institution's work, and of its benefactors: Lew and Loretta Glucksman. *Being New York, Being Irish* is a vital and fitting tribute that will engage, entertain, and provoke.

*Being Irish, Being New York*, is edited by Terry Golway, historian and senior editor at *Politico*, and includes contributions by Seamus Heaney, Alice McDermott, John Connolly, Colm Tóibín, Patricia Harty, and Colum McCann. It was launched on October 25 at New York University's Glucksman Ireland House. Available now in bookshops and online from [www.iap.ie](http://www.iap.ie) – €24.95 / \$29.95. – I.A.



NYU President Andy Hamilton, Loretta Brennan Glucksman and Professor Kevin Kenny, director of the Glucksman Ireland House, pictured in front of the house prior to the launch of *Being New York, Being Irish*.



## Collins & Stills: Together Again

Judy Collins and Stephen Stills, two American singer-songwriters, celebrated the golden anniversary of their formative time together in the 1970s, when Stills penned "Judy Blue Eyes" and other songs about the couple's two year relationship, with a series of sold-out concerts across the U.S. *Irish America's* Patricia Harty and her family caught up with Judy and Stephen in Santa Rosa, California, this past summer. On the night both musician drew from their vast repertoire, and Collins' stirring a capella "Maria," an anthem for Dreamers now on the Billboard charts, brought the house down. – I.A.

For more on the Collins & Stills tour see:

<https://www.stephenstillsjudycollins.com/tour-dates>

Judy Collins and Stephen Stills meet with *Irish America's* editor Patricia Harty (second from right) and her family and friends just prior to the concert in Santa Rosa, California.



PHOTOS: WENDY HARTY

FAR LEFT: Irish folk musician extraordinaire, Vincie Keenan. LEFT: Shana Morrison, Van Morrison's daughter with Janet Planet, began performing with her group Caledonia in San Francisco in 1996. Her style has been called pop with a side of blues and rock. She's also known to throw in some country, R&B, and jazz into the mix. Since 2002, the band has been busy with tours across the U.S.

## Los Gatos Irish Celebrate

Showcasing the best in contemporary Irish arts and literature

The Irish Arts & Writers' Festival brought together Irish writers and audiences in the historic and intimate town of Los Gatos, C.A. (an hour south of San Francisco), on October 12-14, 2018. Additional events in 2018 are scheduled for Berkeley, Oakland, and San Francisco.

Founded and directed by Dubliner Catherine Barry, the Irish Arts & Writers' Festival is a project of Irish Culture Bay Area.

The inaugural Los Gatos Irish Writers' Festival took place in October 2016. Los Gatos was chosen as a location due to its 23-year-old sister city relationship with Listowel, Ireland, where the internationally acclaimed Writers' Week has been held for the past 40 years. The charming town lends itself to an intimate festival. Proximity of venues and availability of accommodation at a festival discount make it an ideal getaway weekend for the literary and arts minded.

BELOW: Christine Kinealy, who has a new book out on abolitionist Frederick Douglass, who was politicized by his trip to Ireland in the 1840s, and poet of world-renown, Paul Muldoon.





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“I recognize that there are a lot of raw emotions and feelings in this country, and very strong feelings for individual political parties, as well as individual politicians. But this country was founded upon the foundations of freedom and liberty, and freedom of speech, and if I and others are being targeted because we’re speaking out and living up to our responsibilities as citizens, I think that is a very unfortunate turn of events.”

– Former director of the CIA John Brennan, in response to packages containing pipe bombs being mailed to himself and nine other prominent Democrats. CNN, October 24.

**“How can the beloved community – based on equality, solidarity and respect – be built up in Northern Ireland with such contempt and awful sectarianism?”**

– Fermanagh-born president of the Washington-based Irish National Caucus Fr. Sean McManus in response to Lagan Valley MLA Robbie Butler being mocked by a senior DUP figure for attending a reception for Pope Francis. Irish News, October 24.



“It’s why they make comedies after war. You need to see the human experience, and you need to be able to laugh at yourself instead of just making fun of other people. I’m not saying that what we do is so important, but it’s a little stupid thing that maybe can take some of the tension off.”

– Actress Melissa McCarthy on the importance of comedy in serious times. *New York Times Magazine*, October 21.



*Is cearta daonna iad cearta teanga agus tá cothrom na féinne tuilte ag lucht labhartha na Gaeilge.* (“Language rights are human rights and the Irish speaking community are entitled to equality.”)

– British M.P. Liz Saville Roberts addressing the chamber of the U.K.’s House of Commons in the Irish language for the first time since 1901, calling for the implementation of an Irish Language Act in Northern Ireland. October 24.



“The press is not the enemy of the people. Immigrants are not animals. My hope and prayer is that all of our leaders will work to lower the temperature in our public dialogue. And I have faith that they will do that.”

– Former Vice President Joe Biden addressing a crowd at the State University of New York in Buffalo, hours after being targeted with two pipe bombs. October 25.

**“Ireland has more spirit per capita than anywhere else in the world.”**

– Johnny McDaid accepting the Spirit of Ireland award at the Irish Arts Center’s Groundbreaking Gala. October 19



# West Cork



## Take a walk (or a drive) on the wild side. West Cork offers an abundance of wildlife, nature, and scenery.

By Sharon Ní  
Chonchúir

Is there a more intriguing place in Ireland than West Cork? On a recent trip, I was dazzled by the wild beauty of its rugged coastline. I loved its small towns and villages, each buzzing with life. And I was thrilled to uncover its history through sites that still hold echoes of the past.

I started my trip in the **Eccles Hotel in Glengarriff**. This seaside hotel is one of Ireland's oldest and in its 250-year history, it has hosted the likes of W.B. Yeats and Maureen O'Hara. It's a great base from which to explore the **Beara Peninsula** to the

west and **Bantry Bay** to the south.

Ireland was sweltering in a heatwave when I arrived mid-summer, so I sought shade in the nearby **Glengarriff Woods Nature Reserve**. These mature oak woodlands, with their babbling streams and light-dappled glades, gave me shelter from the sun and made me feel cocooned from all of the worries of the world.

The following morning, I took the ferry out to **Garnish Island**. If you have even the slightest interest in gardening, you have to visit this place. Seventy years ago, its owner Annan Bryce worked



OPPOSITE PAGE:  
Boats along Haven  
Coast in Kinsale.  
ABOVE: Shops in  
Glengarriff.  
LEFT: Eccles Hotel.



with architect and garden designer Harold Peto to transform the entire island into 15 hectares of exquisite Italianate gardens. Those gardens have since been bequeathed to the Irish State, and on my visit, they were ablaze in beauty.

Back on the mainland, I dedicated the next day to the Beara Peninsula. I drove along its winding roads. I stopped to take in its stunning views and I explored its picturesque villages such as Allihies, Eyeries, and Ardroom.

I also braved the stomach-churning trip to **Dursey Island**. Located at the tip of the Beara Peninsula, this island is accessed by the only cable car in Ireland, a titchy thing that takes a maximum of six people.

Once my nerves had settled, I spent a relaxing time exploring this island of few inhabitants. It has no shops, pubs, or restaurants but it does have lots of bogs, birds, cliffs, and antiquities such as standing

stones, a ruined monastery, and a signal station dating from the Napoleonic era.

This isn't all you can do on the Beara Peninsula. There's a renowned Buddhist center here, the Dzogchen Beara, where you can take part in guided meditation sessions, enjoy wonderful vegetarian food in the café, and savor the peace and quiet of the gardens.

A tall stone engine house amid the rocks above the village of Allihies marks what's left of Ireland's most westerly copper mines. There's a museum in the

The Gardens at  
Garnish Island.

Photographs:  
Tourism Ireland



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Road to the Church at Beara Peninsula; Visitors in front of Bantry House; Mizen Head Bridge; A beach in Rosscarbery

village dedicated to the history of mining in this area. It starts in prehistoric times and continues until the mines closed in 1962. There are also fascinating displays on local geology and the social history of the miners.

Bantry is south of Glengarriff and is the perfect base from which to explore West Cork's **Sheep's Head** and **Mizen Head Peninsulas**. It's also home to Bantry House, one of the finest historic houses in Ireland.

The house is owned by the Shelswell-White family, direct descendants of the first earl of Bantry, Richard White. It was the first country house in Ireland to open its doors to the public, all the way back in 1946. Ever since, people have traipsed through its rooms, marvelling as I did at the collection of furniture, tapestries, and art.

Further south at the end of the Mizen Head Peninsula is the Mizen Head Visitor Centre. Its location is what makes this former signal station dating from 1905 special. It's perched on top of a cliff on a rocky island that is joined to the mainland by an arched bridge. Merely getting there is an adrenaline rush.

Once you arrive, you can enjoy exhibitions that cover topics ranging from the local birdlife to the history of Fastnet Lighthouse, which is located on Ireland's Teardrop, an island so called because it was the last sight of home for so many emigrants.

Travelling east, you'll be delighted by the seaside villages that cling to the coast of **Roaring Water Bay**. Schull, Ballydehob, and Baltimore each offer their own twist on Irish seaside living.

Offshore, there are islands to visit. **Sherkin** measures three miles by 1.5 miles and always attracts

artists, ecologists, and walkers.

**Heir Island** is even smaller and just as rugged. It's home to a renowned baking school that runs day courses. You could take the ferry there in the morning, spend the day baking bread and then hop on the ferry again in the evening, this time with a few freshly-baked loaves in tow.

Furthest to the south is **Cape Clear**, where you'll hear locals speak Irish. 45 minutes by boat from the mainland, it's an island of sparkling harbours, cliffs, bogs, and lakes. Archaeological sites – such as megalithic standing stones and a 5,000-year-old passage tomb as well as a ruined 12th century church and a 14th-century O'Driscoll castle – tell of its long and storied history. It's also the center for birdwatching in Ireland and has the country's only manned observatory.

Back on dry land, your next destination should be **Skibbereen**, a town that for many is forever associated with the ballad, "Dear Old Skibbereen." This song tells of how the people of Skibbereen suffered during the Great Famine. It lost up to a third of its population to hunger, disease, and emigration during those dark years.

You can pay your respects to some of those people at the Abbeystrewery Famine Cemetery. Not even a mile outside of town, it contains the mass grave of up to 10,000 locals who died during those years.

You'll learn about how and why they died at the Skibbereen Heritage Centre, which is located in the



town's old gasworks building. Its Famine exhibition is haunting.

If you've got time, try to fit in a visit to Liss Ard. This estate is known for its gardens, which have been designed as a series of experiences. The lakeside walk gives way to the waterfall garden, which flows into the woodland garden, then the water garden, the arboretum, and finally the wildflower meadow.

The crater, designed by American artist James Turrell and Swiss architect Gert Burla, is one of its highlights. If you lie on the stone structures at the bottom of the dome, you'll appreciate the sky above you in a way you never have before.

Moving further east, you'll arrive in **Rosscarbery**. The Dunbeg Stone Circle is on an exposed hill just above this village. Its 17 standing stones are oriented towards the winter solstice sunset and just beyond, there are the remains of an Iron Age hut and cooking

pit. This place has been important for millennia.

Cork is known as the Rebel County and one of Ireland's most famous rebels was born there. The Michael Collins Centre in **Clonakilty** tells of the life and times of this man. The exhibitions feature photos, letters, and even a reconstruction of the country lane in which he was killed.

A short drive from Clonakilty is **Inchydoney Beach**, one of Ireland's best. A bracing walk here will give you the energy you need to continue on to our final destination in West Cork, the seaside town of Kinsale.

**Kinsale** has been popular with tourists for decades and it's easy to see why. It's got fantastic shops and restaurants. It's got a picture-perfect harbor and it's had a fascinating history.

One of the most interesting historical sites in Kinsale is Charles' Fort, one of Europe's best preserved star-shaped artillery forts. Dating from the 17th century, it was in use until 1921, when much of it was destroyed as the British withdrew from Ireland.

Exhibitions are now displayed inside its walls, showing the tough lives led by the soldiers who served here as well as the comparatively comfortable lives led by officers.

One such exhibition is the Copper Miner's museum in **Dunmanway**, these men worked in the mines in Butte, Montana where at one point there were 1,000 Sullivans and O'Sullivans in the phone book. These are just some of the wonders of West Cork. I haven't even mentioned the **Gougane Barra Forest Park**, which hides one of the prettiest little churches you will ever see. Set right on a lake and surrounded by rolling green hills and trees, it's well worth a detour.

But so are many places in this part of Ireland. There's so much beauty here and so much hidden history too. I'm already planning my next visit. Perhaps you should too. IA

Author of *Brooklyn* and other books, Colm Tóibín at the Bantry Literary Festival.



West Cork has long been home to artists and creative people and as a result, it hosts some of Ireland's most exciting festivals.

**1** The Baltimore Fiddle Fair attracts traditional musicians from all over the world to this seaside village. [www.fiddlefair.com](http://www.fiddlefair.com)

**2** The Fastnet Short Film Festival takes place in the fishing village of Schull. [www.fastnetshortfilmfestival.com](http://www.fastnetshortfilmfestival.com)

**3** Bandon Music Festival is a festival for lovers of traditional and contemporary music. [www.bandonmusicfestival.com](http://www.bandonmusicfestival.com).

**4** The West Cork Islands Festival is an action-packed weekend offering opportunities to learn all about the heritage and history of the islands off the coast of West Cork. [www.westcorkislands.com](http://www.westcorkislands.com)

**5** The West Cork Chamber Music Festival takes place in Bantry House and in St. Brendan's Church, and features concerts with internationally-renowned musicians. [www.westcorkmusic.ie](http://www.westcorkmusic.ie)

**6** The West Cork Literary Festival in Bantry showcases the best of Irish and international literature. [www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie](http://www.westcorkliteraryfestival.ie)

**7** The Cape Clear Island International Storytelling Festival is a weekend of storytelling on Ireland's most southerly island. [www.capeclearstorytelling.com](http://www.capeclearstorytelling.com).

**Walking, Hiking, Driving** West Cork is a great place to bike, hike, and drive.

**The Sheep's Head Walking Route** along the peninsula is rich in history and you'll find traces of the Ireland of long ago and magnificent views of the ocean. You can stop off in small villages for afternoon tea or pack a lunch, or stop at the **Buddist Center cafe** overlooking the ocean at Allihies Beara, for some wholesome natural food, followed by a meditative stroll along the cliffs. [centredirector@dzogchenbeara.org](mailto:centredirector@dzogchenbeara.org)

# The Fifth Annual Healthcare and Life Sciences 50 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mike Mahoney  
pictured with  
members of the  
Boston Scientific  
team.



# Pace *The* maker



Mike Mahoney on forging ahead with new solutions at Boston Scientific

**M**ike Mahoney’s entrepreneurial spirit goes back to the summer of the fourth grade, the time he started a lawn mowing business. The enterprising kid soon learned to deal with challenges. “I borrowed my father’s mower, but then he charged for wear and tear on his machine,” Mahoney says with a laugh.

The chairman and CEO of Boston Scientific met with the *Irish America* team in August, when he was in New York to talk at a Morgan Stanley conference on health. Health is big business and Mahoney’s company, Boston Scientific, a manufacturer of medical devices used in interventional medical specialties, including cardiology, endoscopy, neuromodulation, urology, and pelvic health, is a lucrative investment.

On first impression, you notice the full-toothed smile, bright blue eyes, slim build, and his height – over six feet. Dressed in a blazer, khakis, and an open-necked shirt, he offers a strong handshake and makes you feel like you’re talking to someone you’ve known for years.

Growing up, Mahoney moved with his family a number of times around the country. “My father worked for Eastman Kodak, so our family traveled all over – all the ‘garden spots’: Rochester, New York (where I was born); Cleveland, Ohio; and the Midwest, Indiana. But I kind of grew up in Chicago – that’s where I went to high school, had my first beer, my first kiss.”

As an adult working in the healthcare field, Mahoney used the constant uprooting of his boyhood to his advantage. He drew on his background of relocating, adapting to new environments, and trusting his instincts – all the childhood experiences that helped

him move on to new companies and bigger positions.

Mahoney also believes in something else he learned as he rose through the ranks: “You never want to pretend you’re the smartest person in the room. You want to be really engaging the team and helping them advance the company. You want to do that without trying to overlay your views on how things should be done.”

Mahoney understands this best when he looks back on his experience at Johnson & Johnson (J&J), his last employer before Boston Scientific. Mahoney was recruited to run the global orthopedic company within J&J, but didn’t know anything about the orthopedics industry. Plus, the man who hired him left two weeks after Mahoney came on board. Looking back, “I didn’t know anybody, my family and I had just moved from Colorado to New England and here I was, the leader of this big division.” Mahoney feared his mission was doomed. But soon he made it all come together. “It worked because I hired great leaders and I was very candid with my employees.”

When he joined Boston Scientific in 2011 as president, it was his job to focus on the needs of the evolving healthcare landscape, make improvements to patient outcomes, and increase healthcare efficiency and access. But the company was going through a rough patch. Profits were down and investors were wary. Under Mahoney’s leadership, the company regained its stride and then some.

He became CEO and a member of the board in 2012, and was elected chairman in 2016. Under Mahoney’s leadership, Boston Scientific not only brought many transformational medical devices to market, it went from an underperforming company to a global medical technology leader with nearly \$10 billion in annual revenue and commercial representation in more than 125 countries.

What Mahoney doesn’t say about himself is that he’s a good listener. And a quick decision maker; a team motivator; a leader who empowers, challenges, applauds, and rewards. Rewards include an innovation fund to bring good ideas to life, whether they come from a junior assistant or a senior manager. That’s leadership and that’s success.

Today, Mahoney serves on the board of Baxter International and the American Heart Association leadership council. He earned a B.B.A. in finance from the University of Iowa and his M.B.A. from Wake Forest University. He, his wife, and three children divide their time between Boston and Rhode Island.

Mahoney makes trips across the Atlantic a couple of times a year to Ireland for Boston Scientific. Though many generations removed from his Irish ancestors (it was his grandparents’ grandparents on both sides who immigrated to America), Mahoney feels very close to his Irish roots. Boston Scientific has taken root in Ireland as well, with three plants located there.

Working his entire life, Mahoney knows the value of commitment to the job at hand and to the many hands on the team that make it all happen. Here’s a look at the man and his values.

**Interview by Patricia Harty  
Transcribed and edited by Mark Donnelly**

**FIRST JOB:** I wanted to be a doctor but ran into a wall with organic chemistry. So I became a finance major. My first job out of college, I was selling NCR products door to door for 18 months. I wanted to get into healthcare at GE (General Electric), but they wouldn’t hire me because I wasn’t an engineer and didn’t have any healthcare experience – they wanted two years. But I kept calling on them and eventually they hired me.

We were to sell C.T. scanners at GE. And the first time I went into an E.R. to see one in action, a man had been stabbed and there was an image of a man’s head with a knife sticking out. I was blown away. And ever since then I’ve been in healthcare.

**HEALTHCARE IS COOL:** Maybe I’m biased, but I’ve been in lots of different companies and this one [Boston Scientific] is so fascinating. Our devices are lifesaving technology. We create deep brain stimulation for Parkinson’s patients, stimulators to



help people with severe pain, stents that unblock your heart when you have a heart attack, and defibrillators that prevent sudden cardiac death. The products we make are life-changing – and incredibly cool. So when you look at other industries, and this is where I’m biased, nothing compares to that impact on patients’ lives.

**LEARNING CURVE:** I left GE to run a startup I.T. healthcare company in Boulder, Colorado, which was fun, and I did that for six years. I probably learned more on the job with this I.T. startup because I had to do everything, including make payroll.

After that I took the job at J&J, where I spent six years, first with the orthopedics business and eventually running their medical devices division. That was another learning curve.

**THE CHALLENGE:** Boston Scientific had a ton of



TOP: Mahoney at Everyone Makes an Impact employee celebration.

LEFT: Mahoney and team at Boston Scientific Innovation Center in Beijing.

ABOVE: Mahoney addressing a group of Boston Scientific summer interns.

debt when I came on board in 2012. The company was not growing and reported a five percent decline in sales in 2012. In 2017 we achieved eight percent revenue growth and consistently outperformed analyst expectations across all business segments. Today, market capitalization is \$50 billion.

When I first joined Boston Scientific, we spent a lot of time creating a new vision for the company that would be exciting for employees. Many of the same leaders were still there, but we also brought in some new leaders. We really looked at it the way you might look at a startup. We created a new culture, a new pace, and a winning spirit.

We are much more nimble and agile today. We

have also created an environment where employees feel more encouraged to challenge the status quo and risk failure without fear of being reprimanded. Each quarter, we give “Winning Spirit” awards to teams that go above and beyond in tackling tough issues and delivering results.

**CLEAR VALUES:** I’d say there are two critical elements of culture that apply to most organizations. First, having a great leadership team in place around you, and empowering them to make good decisions and move quickly. We have leaders that have been with the company for some time, and we also have brought in new leaders to help evolve the culture.

Second, but just as important, is having a common mission and set of core values that engage employees and help them feel proud of the work they do. We established our purpose of “Advancing Science of Life” and developed core values like meaningful innovation, caring and collaboration, diversity and high performance – all of which are anchored in a Winning Spirit mindset.

**STRONG TALENT:** We look for authentic leaders who are driven to take on new challenges and demonstrate the ability to be agile, to anticipate and adapt to change, and take on appropriate risks. This requires a high-performance mindset, but also a certain humility that drives curiosity and an openness to new ideas from diverse people, experiences, and perspectives. It’s also important to have a sense of humor. Sometimes the best way to deal with life’s challenges is to simply laugh at



TOP: Mahoney with team for opening of Penang Malaysia facility.

ABOVE: Mahoney with patient Emily Herman and her family.

yourself.

**NEW TECHNOLOGY:** In our world there is so much miniaturization of devices. We are working on a pacemaker that is the size of a thimble and it is leadless – there’s nothing that goes in the heart. You’re seeing the miniaturization of devices to manage pain in Parkinson’s and stroke patients. There are all kinds of digital applications, patient interfaces, and artificial intelligence. It’s ingrained within the products that we make and how we communicate with patients and doctors.

**IRELAND:** A lot of the research we’re doing is being done in Ireland. We started with one facility in 1994 and today we have plants in Galway, Cork, and Tipperary. We’re among the largest medtech employers in Ireland now. We have great engineering there. We hire a lot of Irish engineers and interns – there are very good engineering schools in Ireland. Now the medical technology industry in Ireland is evolving from being prominently manufacturing focused to one that is more complex and driven by

R&D, with great examples of collaboration between research institutions, clinicians, manufacturing companies and government agencies.

I love going over there.

**WORK ETHIC & LOYALTY:** I wasn’t born in Ireland, but my family has a history there. Boston Scientific has also had a strong connection for nearly 25 years, and we’ve grown over time thanks to the success of our Irish teams – highly skilled, extremely hardworking and very loyal.

**DEEP ROOTS:** My father’s family is from Cork and my mother’s family, the McCarthys, are from Mayo. My grandfather Earl Mahoney, my dad’s father, had the most influence on me. He was a pediatric cardiac surgeon in Rochester, New York, and would have to crack open chests. Today we have a tiny aortic valve of manmade materials that can be inserted. He would have thought this was something out of *Star Wars*. I used to go to his home when I was about 10 and sit in the leather chairs in the den amidst the leather books on the shelves. He had these wonderful pipes. And while he was with patients in his office I would puff on a pipe and pretend I was a doctor like him.

**BEST ADVICE:** Find the industry you have the most passion for – that’s the most important one. I’m very fortunate that I am in healthcare and medical technology. I just love it. You’ve got to love what you do and the area you’re in. You’re going to put the extra time in and care about it beyond the financial piece. That’s what I tell my kids. I don’t care whether it’s healthcare or teaching, or something else. If you love it, you’ll have the chance to really shine.

IA

**THANK YOU.**

A light blue, semi-transparent DNA double helix structure is visible in the background, curving across the frame.

# Advancing Healthcare Excellence

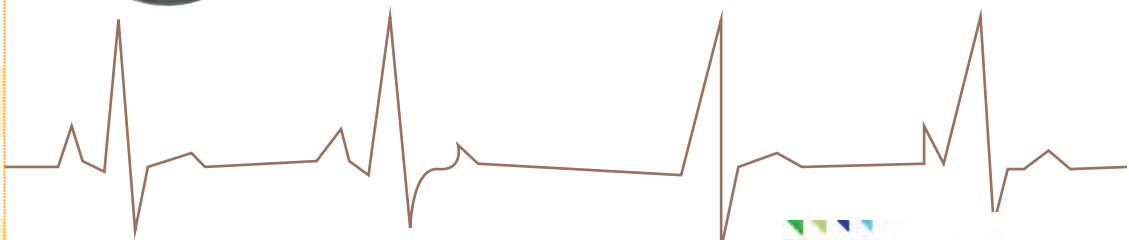
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## Patrick Boland

Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

Dr. Paddy Boland is a full-time, senior member of the Orthopedic Service, Department of Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where he specializes in the management of malignant and benign tumors of the bones, including those of the spine and pelvis, and in soft tissue sarcomas of the extremities. He also has special training in limb salvage surgery – the removal of the limb cancers while preserving a functional extremity.

Together with colleagues from neurosurgery, diagnostic radiology, and radiation therapy at Memorial Sloan Kettering, he has extensive experience in the treatment of primary and metastatic tumors of

the spine. Over the years, he has developed a special interest in the management of tumors of the sacrum.

Paddy is involved in extensive research activities, including ongoing clinical research in sacral tumors and in the assessment of quality of life in patients with metastatic bone cancer.

He has also authored and co-authored chapters and scientific papers on surgery for tumors of the extremities and the spine. Born and raised in Ireland, Paddy is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in England, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

## Aoife Brennan

Synlogic

Dr. Aoife Brennan is currently President and CEO at Synlogic Inc., a clinical stage biotechnology company applying synthetic biology to probiotics to develop novel, living medicines. She joined Synlogic as Chief Medical Officer in September 2016, served as interim CEO from April 2018 and was promoted to the permanent position in October 2018. Previously she was Vice President and Head of the Rare Disease Innovation Unit at Biogen where her work resulted in the approval of ALPROLIX™, ELOCTATE™, and SPINRAZA™, as well as the advancement of several early-phase programs



and external collaborations. She serves as a director of Ra Pharmaceuticals and is a member of the advisory board of the Harvard Masters in Clinical Investigation Program. Aoife is a graduate of the Harvard Medical School Scholars in Clinical Science Program and has more than 40 academic publications.

Aoife is a Kilkenny native, holds a medical degree from Trinity College Dublin and completed her clinical training in general internal medicine and endocrinology in Ireland before moving to Boston “for one year only.” She lives in the Boston suburbs with her husband and three sons.

## Elaine Brennan

True North / Northwell

Elaine Brennan is Chief Commercialization Officer for True North / Northwell Health, where she has responsibility for managing and developing collaborative and strategic relationships with the pharmaceutical industry. The focus is in establishing Northwell as a premier destination for clinical research, innovation, outcomes, and international programs.

Previously, Elaine was the CEO of Socrates, a healthcare information technology company, where she led the development and launch of its electronic health records system in the U.S. She also worked with Enterprise Ireland, managing the Irish life sciences companies entering the U.S. market.

She also founded Gastroenterology Ireland, which combined a cluster of companies, research and development, and Irish opinion leaders in Ireland and

*“A modern Irish woman in business today is fully aware that she can aspire to be a leader in business, in the knowledge that she can perform and compete to the highest standards.”*

– Elaine Brennan

the U.S. Her pharmaceutical career at Roche, Bristol Myers Squibb, and Abbvie included marketing, sales, and clinical roles launching blockbuster products in the virology sector.

Elaine has published scientific articles on genetic engineering and biodegradable polymers applications, and patented many products in the same area. She earned her science degree in the U.K. and received her early education in County Galway and Belgium.

She currently resides in New York with her son Cian, and says, “A modern Irish woman in business today is fully aware



that she can aspire to be a leader in business in the knowledge that she can perform and compete to the highest standards. We [women] have many traits that lead us to success. We are passionate, charismatic risk takers and innovators, all the while being grateful to those both at home and work, who support us.”

## Niall Brennan

Health Care Cost Institute

Niall Brennan is President and CEO of HCCI, which analyzes data on over 100 million Americans to foster greater understanding of the growth in and drivers of U.S. healthcare costs. He is a nationally recognized expert in health care policy, the use of healthcare data to enable and



accelerate health system change, and data transparency.

He has been published in leading academic journals, including the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *Health Affairs*. Prior to joining HCCI, Niall was Chief Data Officer at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Niall has also worked at the Brookings Institution, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, and the Congressional Budget Office.

Niall was born in Cavan Town, County Cavan and spent the majority of his childhood living in Bray, County Wicklow with his parents, Noel and Ann, and his sister Roisin. He attended Presentation College Bray and University College Dublin, before receiving a scholarship to Georgetown University where he received an M.P.P. He lives in Washington D.C. with his wife Myra Tanamor and their children Niamh and Eoghan.

## Kevin Burns

Action Wellness

Kevin J. Burns is the executive director of Action Wellness. He received a bachelor's degree in psychology from DeSales University in 1978 and a master's degree in social work from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in 1990. He is a licensed clinical social worker in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and also is a member of the Academy of Certified Social Workers. Prior to professional work in the HIV / AIDS community, his practice was in the area of mental health, developmental disabilities, and as an adjunct

professor at the Rutgers University School of Social Work. He maintained a private psychotherapy practice from 1993 through 2002, specializing his practice in the LGBT community.

Kevin began his work with HIV / AIDS in 1986 as a volunteer Buddy for Action Wellness (then ActionAIDS). He started his professional career at Action Wellness as a medical case manager in 1989. Since 1989 he has held a number of positions at Action Wellness, including medical case manager, case management coordinator, assistant director of Client Services, director of Client Services, and deputy executive director. He was promoted to his current position as executive director of Action Wellness in 2005.

Kevin is the current vice president of the board of directors of Dining Out For Life International, and a board member and secretary of Communities Advocating for Emergency AIDS Relief Coalition (CAEAR Coalition), a national advocacy group working for adequate funding for



AIDS services across the country. He is a past chair of the Circle of Care Advisor Board, a past member of the board of directors of the Pennsylvania AIDS Law Project, the Pennsylvania Coalition for AIDS Service Organizations and the board of directors of the AIDS Fund. Kevin served on the Philadelphia Ryan White Planning Council from 2002 until 2018.

Kevin is of Irish stock on his father's side of the family. His great grandparents, Thomas and Mary (Murphy) Burns, immigrated to the United States in 1880 from the Parish Clough, County Kilkenny, Ireland and settled in Minersville, P.A. Both his great-grandfather and grandfather

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*“My grandparents didn’t finish grade school, and my parents didn’t finish high school. Nevertheless, they worked tirelessly to give my generation the educational opportunities that they never had.”*

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– Kevin Burns

were coal miners. Kevin’s father worked as a butcher and factory worker. “My grandparents didn’t finish grade school, and my parents didn’t finish high school. Nevertheless, they worked tirelessly to give my generation the educational opportunities that they never had.”

## Patrick Carey

UPMC Susquehanna



Dr. Patrick Carey turned his skills on the football field into a career caring for athletes. He is presently working as an orthopedic surgeon and director of Sports

Medicine at UPMC Susquehanna. Dr. Carey received his sports medicine fellowship from Temple University and trained under Dr. Ray Moyer and Dr. Joe Torg.

The sports medicine program has grown in Williamsport, P.A. over the past 28 years under Dr. Carey’s guidance. They provide sports medicine care to one of the Minor League Philadelphia Phillies baseball teams, 18 local high schools, four local colleges, and the Little League World Series.

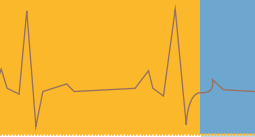
Dr. Carey received an athletic scholarship to Temple University to continue his football career after leading his high school team as quarterback for two undefeated seasons. He was a three-year starter at Temple and led the Owls to two winning seasons and one Bowl Game win.

Traits of vision, determination, and perseverance have always been attributed to his Irish heritage. As a third-generation Irish American, his family including wife, Maureen, and sons, Patrick and Shane, support their faith, local and national AOH, and Philadelphia St. Patrick’s Day Parade, and look forward to yet another trip to Ireland.

## Patrick Carroll

The Walgreens Company

Dr. Carroll serves as Chief Medical Officer Healthcare Clinics and is Division Vice President of Clinical Programs and Alliances for Walgreens. In this role, Dr. Carroll oversees all matters pertaining to healthcare strategy, provision of care, clinical outcomes, patient safety, healthcare information systems and strategic initiatives that enhance the care model. In addition, Dr. Carroll is instrumental in implementing care management pro-



grams, managing relationships with health systems in collaboration with the Clinical Office in the development of enterprise clinical programs.

Prior to joining Walgreens, Dr. Carroll served as the chief medical officer of Integrated Care Partners, Hartford HealthCare's clinical integration organization of 2200 healthcare providers. He served as medical director for Hartford HealthCare's Medicare Shared Savings Program as well as the lead in population health for the organization.

Dr. Carroll received his bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, M.A. and his medical degree from Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover, N.H. He completed his residency training at Middlesex Hospital / University of Connecticut. He is board certified in family practice as well as adolescent medicine and was a practicing primary care physician for 26 years.

Dr. Carroll traces his Irish roots to Shammer, Kilkelly, County Mayo. His maternal grandfather, John Harrison, and great-uncle, George Harrison, immigrated to the United States in the early 20th century. John was an accomplished stonemason in his native land as well as in Concord, N.H. George was a guard with Brinks in Brooklyn N.Y. as well as an active member of Clan Na Gael in New York City.

## Kristen Peck Cocoman

*ALS Association  
Greater New York Chapter*

Kristen Peck Cocoman is the president and CEO of the ALS Association Greater New York Chapter. As one of the ALS Association's leading chapters, the Greater New York Chapter works to discover treatments and a cure for ALS, and to serve, advocate for, and empower people affected by ALS to live their lives to the fullest. Having previously served as the



Chief Development Officer, Kristen has been a fierce advocate for people living with ALS and their families for almost two decades.

Prior to joining the ALS Association, Kristen was the president and managing director of her own fundraising consulting company, KPC & Associates, Inc.

For Kristen, running her own company combined her marketing and leadership skills with her passion for nonprofit causes. Her work with KPC & Associates helped raise crucial awareness and funding to accelerate the mission of numerous organizations including Seeds of Peace, Gilda's Club Worldwide, and Little Baby Face Foundation.

Born in New York, Kristen has a bachelor's degree in advertising and marketing communications from SUNY FIT. She is a third-generation Irish American and can trace her roots to County Mayo and County Armagh. Kristen currently lives with her husband, Glenn, also a third-generation Irish American and Notre Dame alum, and their four children in Huntington, New York.



## Lisa M. Coohill

*Summit Medical Group*

Lisa M. Coohill, M.D., is a neurologist at Summit Medical Group, the nation's largest independent multispecialty physician-owned medical practice. A distinguished physician, Dr. Coohill is a three-time recipient of the MDx Medical, Inc. Patient's Choice Award and MDx Medical, Inc. Patient's Choice Compassionate Doctor Award. Dr. Coohill has been featured in *New Jersey Monthly's* "Top Doctors" listings, *Castle Connolly's* "America's Top Doctors," and their "Top Doctors in the New York Metro Area." Her *Castle Connolly* listings have been reprinted in *US News and World Report* and *Inside Jersey*. "From an early age

I was interested in how the body worked, and I wanted to be able to help fix it when something went wrong. I find it very satisfying when I can help people get better," says Dr. Coohill.

She is a third-generation descendent of a large Irish family with roots in the Connemara region of County Galway, Ireland. She is one of 33 first cousins on her father's side alone. She and her husband, an Irishman who is retired from the police force, have two daughters. They love sharing Irish traditions, including baking Irish soda bread. They are planning their inaugural family trip to Ireland in the upcoming months.

## Dennis Crowley

*Baxter Healthcare*

Dennis Crowley is the senior vice president of Business Development & Licensing for Baxter Healthcare, leading all external transactions for the company. Prior to joining Baxter in June 2017, he served as Senior Vice President, Strategy and Business Development at Acelyt. Previously, he worked at Medtronic PLC (and before that, Covidien PLC) in roles of increasing responsibility between 2005 and 2015, most recently as Vice President, Corporate Development. Dennis began his professional career with Tyco International in 1993 and served in various strategic, business development, and operational roles during his 12-year tenure. Over his career, he has led over 120 transactions with a combined value over 12 billion USD. Dennis received his bachelor's degree in economics from Harvard College.



Dennis is involved with local fundraising efforts for the Children's Medical Research Foundation that provides vital funding for Our Lady's Children's Hospital and the National Children's Research Centre. A fourth-generation Irish American, Dennis traces both sides of his family to County Cork. His appreciation for the Irish countryside and rural lifestyle comes from his mother who grew up on a dairy farm in the midwestern part of the U.S. Fortunately, Dennis is able to make annual pilgrimages with his two brothers to Ireland to ensure that the golf courses remain green.

## Kevin Curran

### Memorial Sloan Kettering

"We have to have them work better with less toxicity, so that people don't have to have three years of treatment or have a lot of side effects or have long-term side effects. That is our vision, our dream."

Three years ago, nine-year-old Ezzy Pineda was diagnosed with leukemia and began chemotherapy. 98 percent of adolescent patients respond positively to chemo, so her doctors at a Long Island hospital began the routine process. After four rounds, however, she was only getting worse.

Her parents were lucky enough to get her into a clinical trial at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan, where she first met Dr. Kevin Curran, a pediatric oncologist who specializes in the development of novel treatment approaches for leukemia and lymphoma that do not respond to current therapies. Specifically, he and his colleagues use genetic manipulation of immune cells to recognize and kill cancer cells.

"When you are diagnosed with cancer, people start reading on the Internet and they are like 'Oh, the success rate is so high,' but truthfully, that doesn't matter for the individual. We have to give them the chemo and see how they respond," he told *Irish America*. "And hers didn't respond, so she needed a different approach. We were able to give her that different approach and she has been cancer-free since."

That approach is a budding treatment called CAR-T, which uses the body's own immune system to fight the cancerous cells attacking it. The problem is that cancerous cells, though deadly, are effectively invisible to the body's white blood cells, our natural defense mechanism against viruses and bacteria. What makes this treatment so unique, and experimental, is that Curran and others who are on the front lines actively remove billions of white blood cells, genetically modify them, and return them to the body so they can recognize the cancer when they



encounter it. Curran likens it to giving the blind back their sight. "The cells, they want to find the cancer, they just forgot how to do it," and blind cells can't find and kill what they can't see, so Curran is working on ways to genetically engineer white blood cells to learn how to see that cancer both exists, and is bad.

In the case of Pineda, it only took two weeks for her to be cancer-free after her genetically modified white blood cells were returned to her body, and four weeks for her normal cells to return. He double-checked at six weeks to confirm. She has been in remission ever since.

This is an exceptional story, to be sure, but more radical medical treatments have been developed based on less conclusive case studies (penicillin comes to mind). Curran's job now is to determine what the success rate is of CAR-T for a larger pool of trial patients. He just closed a four-year trial in March that treated 25 patients with a 75 percent success rate, and by the end of the year, several drug companies will have products on the market as the direct result of Curran's research.

"We have now shown this proof of principle," he says. "So now we need to figure out how to work it for five cancers, 10 cancers, 15 cancers, and not just for kids. We need to make it work for adults, too." Curran has been working towards this goal since high school, when he saw how talented and happy his pediatrician was, he says. He earned his M.D. at Georgetown University, where he decided to specialize in oncology. He did his residency at Tufts Floating Hospital and afterwards joined Sloan Kettering.

He grew up in Springfield, Massachusetts, the son of two Irish immigrants, both from Kerry, who met in Boston. His

mother, Eileen O'Sullivan, is from Castleisland, and his father, Liam, is from Ballyferriter, where the Curran family farm remains today with many extended Irish relatives. It was there, in fact, where Curran proposed to his wife, Kathleen. Today they have two sons, three-year-old Liam, named after Kevin's father, and 11-month-old Declan and still attend the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade every year.

"Education was definitely something that was instilled by my family and by my community," he says. "My father worked for the gas company, so he worked driving front loaders and literally digging holes and putting in gasoline, and he did that for 35 years and my mother was a homemaker. Sometimes my dad says, 'How come you are not a regular doctor? What is all this research business?' But that is the farmer in him... Like, 'Why are you not doing a regular job? What are you doing?'"

## John P. Curtin

### New York University School of Medicine

Dr. Curtin is a gynecologic oncologist currently practicing at NYU Langone Health. He is also the director of Gynecologic Cancer services at Bellevue Hospital Center.

Dr. Curtin joined the faculty at NYU School of Medicine in September 1999. Prior to joining the NYU faculty, he held faculty positions at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and USC School of Medicine. He is a nationally recognized cancer surgeon,



teacher, and researcher.

Dr. Curtin received his undergraduate and medical degree from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Following medical school he trained at the University of Minnesota as

an obstetrician and gynecologist. He then did additional training as a gynecologic oncology fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Dr. Curtin is past president of the Society of Gynecologic Oncology. He has been an invited participant at a Consensus Conference for ovarian cancer at the National Institutes of Health. His research activities presently include directing both clinical and preclinical translational proj-

***"Education was definitely something that was instilled by my family and by my community."***

— Kevin Curran

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ects, and he has been active in the Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG) as a principal investigator and committee member. He is a past member of the executive board of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. He is the author and co-author of more than 140 peer-reviewed articles, and has presented scientific abstracts at many national and international forums. His practice is devoted to women with cancer of the uterus, cervix and ovaries and his research is especially focused on improving the diagnosis and treatment of these cancers.

Dr. Curtin's father John J. Curtin was born in Kinvara, County Galway and immigrated to the United States at age 22. His mother Leah Colwell Curtin was a second-generation descendant of immigrants from County Clare. Both were active in the Irish-American community in St Paul, Minnesota. His mother, Leah, was the executive director of the Hibernian Life Insurance Fund.

## Michael Dowling

### Northwell Health

Michael Dowling is president and chief executive officer of Northwell Health, which delivers world-class clinical care throughout the New York metropolitan area, pioneering research at the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research and a visionary approach to medical education highlighted by the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra / Northwell and the School of Graduate Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies.

Northwell is the largest integrated health care system in New York State with a total workforce of more than 66,000 employees – the state's largest private employer. With 23 hospitals, 6,675 hospital and long-term care beds, more than 665 outpatient physician practices and a full complement of long-term care services, Northwell is one of the nation's largest health systems, with \$11 billion in annual revenue.

One of healthcare's most recognized executives, Mr. Dowling, who was born in County Limerick, has received numerous awards, including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, an honorary degree from Queen's University Belfast, and his selection as the Grand Marshal of the 2017 St. Patrick's Day Parade. He also serves as chair of the Healthcare Institute and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.



Prior to joining Northwell in 1995, Mr. Dowling served in New York State government for 12 years. He was director of health, education, and human services, commissioner of social services, deputy secretary and a chief adviser to former Governor Mario Cuomo. Earlier, Mr. Dowling was a professor of social policy and an assistant dean of the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services. He started his career as a case-worker in the New York City schools.

## Garret A. FitzGerald

### University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Garret FitzGerald is the McNeil Professor in Translational Medicine and Therapeutics at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where he chairs the Department of Pharmacology and directs the Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics. His research has been characterized by an integrative approach to elucidating the mechanisms of drug action, drawing on work in cells, model organisms, and humans. His work contributed substantially to the development of low-dose aspirin for cardioprotection.

FitzGerald's group was the first to predict and then mechanistically explain the cardiovascular hazard from NSAIDs. He has also discovered many products of lipid peroxidation and established their utility



as indices of oxidant stress in vivo. His laboratory was the first to discover a molecular clock in the cardiovascular system and has studied the importance of peripheral clocks in the regulation of cardiovascular

and metabolic function. Dr. FitzGerald has received the Boyle, Coakley, Harvey, and St. Patrick's Day medals, the Lucian, Scheele and Hunter Awards and the Cameron, Taylor, Herz, Lefoulon-Delalande, and Schottstein Prizes. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine and a Fellow of the American Academy of the Arts and Sciences and of the Royal Society.

## Patricia Forbes

### Psychotherapist

Patricia Eileen Forbes, LCSW, is a psychotherapist who specializes in treating, on a daily basis, patients suffering from anxiety disorders. Forbes can easily relate to her clientele of creative professionals as she herself was once one of them. Before going into the medical field, Forbes was a successful singer and producer in the music industry, once having a number one single in Europe.

But she describes the "seismic shift" from music to medicine as "the best decision of my life." She gave up her gift for singing to use another gift – listening and talking – and went back to school to fulfill her lifelong dream of being a psychotherapist.



In addition to her successful practice, Forbes runs weekly group therapy sessions dedicated to alleviating anxiety and the stress her patients experience working in such a stressful, competitive field. Besides

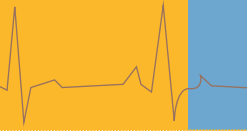
that mixed gender group, Forbes runs a weekly women's group and has begun a weekly podcast, "The Woman's Room."

Her Irish roots are from both parents, her mother's people from Cork, her father's from Kerry. Today, her singing is confined to Irish tunes, both sad ballads and patriot songs, usually on St. Patrick's Day.

## Mary Anne Gallagher

### New York Presbyterian

Mary Anne Gallagher, D.N.P., R.N.-B.C., is the Director of Nursing Quality at New York Presbyterian (NYP) and adjunct professor at Adelphi University. Prior to NYP, Mary Anne held a number of versatile director positions driving improvement initiatives, leading extensive service



lines, and administering strategic financial initiatives. Certified in pediatric nursing, she focused her career on clinical and leadership roles in women and children's healthcare across the continuum of care.

Quality and safety, the heart of her work, led to her doctoral research on the relationship of staff nurses' perception of safety culture and their attitude toward reporting events.

Gallagher has authored articles on community cardiopulmonary resuscitation, childhood asthma, the nurse leader's role in construction, pay for performance, nursing research, and women's health.

In 2017, Gallagher visited Daeyang Luke Hospital and College of Nursing, Malawi, Africa educating faculty, hospital staff and leadership while learning about Malawian healthcare and nursing.

Gallagher is a board member of Nurses House, New York Organization of Nurse Executive Public Policy member and a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine.

A second-generation Irish American, with maternal roots in Kenmare, Kerry and her father's family from Creeslough, Donegal and Ballinalee, Longford. Pride of Irish heritage was instilled in her upbringing and she is currently in pursuit of Irish citizenship.

## Rosanne Haggerty

### Community Solutions

When Rosanne Haggerty was a girl, her family went to a church in downtown Hartford that was across from a worn, single-room-occupancy (SRO) rooming house. Over time the Haggertys got to know some of the residents, even invited them to their home for holiday meals.

It was an introduction to the importance of housing for the poor and lit the spark of what has become a remarkable career. First, Haggerty pioneered "supportive housing": housing with treatment, counseling, and other services on the site. Now she is taking on the broader issue of homelessness – and making progress.

After building affordable housing for Catholic Charities in Brooklyn,

she chanced on an opportunity. The once-grand Times Square Hotel in midtown Manhattan had fallen on hard times when Times Square itself went seedy in the 1960s and '70s.

Long story short, she formed a non-profit, Common Ground Community, in 1990 (at age 29), gained control of the hotel and renovated it. The hotel reopened in 1994 as the largest supportive housing community in the country. Half of the more than 650 residents of the Times Square Hotel are low-income working people, actors and artists, shop workers, etc. The other half were formerly homeless people.

The success of the Times Square and other projects brought her national recognition: a MacArthur Genius Grant in 2001, two appearances on "60 Minutes," etc.

But as she continued building housing for the homeless, it dawned on her that she was still seeing the same homeless people on the street, year after year. "We'd open a building, rent it up, and the people would still be out there," she said in a recent interview.

So she began to look at the workings of New York City's homeless system and found it "a bureaucratic nightmare." The parts weren't connected.

For example, outreach workers were contracted to make "contact" with the homeless and offer food or rides to shelters – not help them find a home. Those who didn't want to go to shelters weren't even officially considered homeless, and were thought not to want housing. Haggerty sent staffers out to interview scores of homeless folks and found that they did indeed want "a place

of their own – small, private, clean, safe space, no questions asked."

She came to realize that the people moving into her buildings were not necessarily the most needy, but those who had social workers and were good "self-advocates." Many of the others were falling through the fairly large cracks.

Haggerty started thinking about what drove homelessness. She studied models in England and Japan. She observed that if resources spent on crisis services for the homeless were redirected, the problem could be reduced, even solved. But communities did not coordinate their resources, nor have any way of tracking whether their efforts were leading to fewer people experiencing homelessness.

In the two decades after it was founded, Common Ground (now Breaking Ground) created more than 3,000 units of supportive and affordable housing, and served more than 4,500 people.

But Haggerty now saw that programs operating alone could not make a significant impact, and that homelessness required a community wide approach.

In 2011 she spun off a new nonprofit, Community Solutions, Inc., to help communities end homelessness. Her "Built for Zero" team of data analysts and improvement coaches works with more than 60 U.S. communities to build coordinated local systems that will make homelessness rare, and brief. She involved other sectors and nonprofit agencies that receive federal funds for the homeless and the housing authority, who became the core members of the team. These teams learn to be accountable to each other, to set tough deadlines, and to use real-time, person-specific data, to get the job done.

Her people are also developing new types of housing for communities that have gaps in housing supply: A "well-run Y.M.C.A." is one model. Thus far, Community Solutions has had a hand in housing more than 200,000 people in the U.S. since 2011, and more in Canada.

The goal is to prevent homelessness through greater collaboration between employment, health and other services, and also to learn about neighborhoods, what makes them succeed or fail. Haggerty, who exudes intelligence and confidence, but also humility, says, "We're still learning." – Tom Condon



Rosanne Haggerty with Patrick McKenna, senior project manager, outside the factory site in Hartford's Northeast neighborhood

## Alan Healy

Yale University

Dr. Alan Healy is a Charles H. Revson Senior Fellow in Biomedical Science at Yale University, where he studies the link between small molecule toxins produced by select strains of bacteria in the human gut and the development of colorectal cancer. In January 2019 he will be starting as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), where his research group will utilize genomics, bioinformatics, and automated



chemical synthesis to discover, study, and repurpose natural products as novel therapeutics.

Alan is a native of Doonbeg, County Clare in Ireland and received his undergraduate degree and gold medal in Medicinal Chemistry from Trinity College Dublin. He subsequently obtained an M.Sc. in Biomedical Science from the University of Edinburgh, U.K. and his Ph.D. in Chemistry in 2014 from the University of St. Andrews, U.K. He joined Yale University in 2015, during which time he has been awarded a Rudolph J. Anderson fellowship, a Charles H. Revson fellowship, and was selected as a finalist for the regional Blavatnik awards for young scientists.

Alan is married to Caroline Marrinan, a fellow County Clare native who works as an elementary school teacher at St. Brigid School in Manhattan.

## James Patrick Herlihy

Baylor College of Medicine

Dr. Herlihy is a professor of medicine at Baylor College of Medicine, founding Chief of the Critical Care Service at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, and clinical staff of the Texas Heart Institute, in the Texas Medical Center of Houston, Texas.

He has been recognized at local, regional, and national levels for clinical excellence in both Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. Dr. Herlihy's deep commitment to the education of medical students, residents, and fellows has marked his career of over three decades and been recognized by multiple teaching awards. Investigation, innovation, and writings that he has led, or been a team member for, have spanned the spectrum



from molecular biology to clinical quality improvement. Dr. Herlihy, additionally, is a principal founder of Ex Machina Medical LLC, a medical device company evolving automated solutions to tissue and vascular access.

"Pat" was born in Spain to an Irish "mixed marriage", stating that, "My father was a very proud son of West Cork and my mother a daughter of the Dingle Peninsula, in the Kingdom of Kerry." He grew up in Maryland, received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Dallas, and his M.D. from Georgetown University School of Medicine. He completed his medical training in Boston via the Harvard Fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Along the way he served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, receiving an Army Commendation Medal for work as Chief Resident for Internal Medicine at Letterman Army Medical Center in San Francisco, and staffed the 98th General Army Hospital in Nuremburg, Germany, during The Gulf War. Per Dr. Herlihy, "The diaspora indeed wears cowboy boots, and eventually took myself, wife Kathi Abba, and boys, Derry and Shea to Houston, where I've been proud to be an Irish Texan for the past quarter of a century."

Regarding his Irish heritage and giving back, Pat says, "Growing up, I had the great fortune to have spent time on my grandparents' farm outside of Skib-

*"The heritage of the Hibernian land, its magical spirit, people and culture have been great treasures in my life."*

— James Herlihy

been and in the waters off Brandon Head fishing with the Kerry cousins. The heritage of the Hibernian land, its magical spirit, people, and culture have been great treasures in my life. I have endeavored to share these wonderful gifts through support of the William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas, here in Houston, as a board member of the 15-year-old organization. The center offers an array of courses ranging from Irish language to history and literature, and provides select students with scholarship opportunities to study in Éire. The center also faces outward to the community, providing public lectures to understand the context of Irish and Irish-American experience, as well as story-telling, poetry, and music, from our beautiful traditions."

## Nicholas Keane Vita

Columbia Care LLC

Nicholas Keane Vita is the founder of Columbia Care LLC, the nation's leading cannabis company. Nicholas has over 25 years of experience serving in corporate leadership roles, investing capital, structuring and funding public / private partnerships, and providing strategic advisory services to Fortune 500 companies throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Prior to Columbia Care, Nicholas was a partner and served as the chairman of the investment committee at Apelles Investment Management, LLC, focused on the healthcare and privatized military infrastructure sectors. Before Apelles, Nicholas was a general partner,



member of the investment committee, and the portfolio manager for the Healthcare Sector at ARX Investment Management, a multi-billion-dollar global credit hedge

fund. Previously, he worked in the Investment Banking Division at Goldman, Sachs & Co. Inc., as an analyst, associate and vice president in the healthcare department focused on mergers, raid defense and corporate finance. Nicholas is a graduate of Columbia College, Columbia University. In 2018 he was awarded a Tribeca Film Festival Disruptive Innovation Award for his efforts to combat the opioid crisis as CEO of Columbia Care. Nicholas has served as a guest lecturer at a number of

Western Connecticut Health Network  
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leading universities, serves on several corporate and philanthropic advisory boards, including GenNext (NY), Success Academy, the Deerfield Club of New York, the NY State Industrial Hemp Working Group, and the U.S. Attorney's (Eastern District, NY) Counterterrorism Working Group (Disruption and Early Engagement). He is a Knight of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta.

His grandmother, Helen Keane, was born in Ireland and is buried with his grandfather, Frank Vita, in Arlington National Cemetery. Vita says "There is nothing unique about my story, it's basically the story of America."

## Aris Roberts Kelly

### Advocate for Domestic Abuse Victims

Aris Roberts Kelly traces her Irish roots to County Roscommon and County Monaghan. A native New Yorker, Aris moved to Austin, Texas in 1997, where she became a mother, writer, and woodworker. In 2013, she had an epiphany – her life would become dedicated to releasing people from domestic violence.

She went back to school at St. Edward's University, earning a bachelor's degree in social work and women's studies. She became an advocate at the SAFE Alliance in Austin, a shelter and community service for domestic abuse survivors. Taking her advocacy to a national scale, she joined the National Domestic Violence Hotline, where she currently works writing and editing



content for their website. Much of her time is spent talking with survivors of domestic violence, supporting, validating and educating them on how abuse intersects with other identifiers such as race, immigration, and LGBTQ. She coaches victims to plan for their future safety. She also speaks with abusers to discuss the impact of their behaviors, educates them about accountability, and helps plan for their rehabilitation.

Working on NDVH's domestic violence hotline, Aris guides younger people (aged 13 – 24) who have been deeply affected by abuse (or those who are trying to avoid it). It's an experience that has given her insight into how abuse develops and takes

hold, as well as the ways that abuse can be prevented, navigated, safely traversed and eventually healed. Her beautiful son, Orion Fierro, is 20, and she lives happily with her supportive and loving husband of 8 years, Mark Downs.

## John G. Kennedy

### Hospital for Special Surgery

Dr. John G. Kennedy is the assistant attending orthopedic surgeon at the Hospital for Special Surgery's Department of Orthopedic Surgery, as well as assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College. Kennedy also founded and co-chairs the International Congress on Cartilage Repair of the Ankle, a multinational think tank instrumental in changing cartilage treatment strategies around the world.

A native of Dublin, Kennedy was a big sports fan as a child. He went on to compete at national and international levels in track, rugby, fencing, and water skiing. His medical career stretches over 25 years and is buttressed by a commitment to teaching, researching, and administering quality care dedicated to sports injuries of the lower limbs.

His interest in basic science research was initiated as a medical student at the Royal College of Surgeons. As a result, in his intern year he began his first post-doctoral thesis investigating the effects of oxygen-free radical scavengers on tourniquet induced ischemia. This formed the basis of his M.M.S. Following this, he continued to be involved in basic science at the Enders Laboratory at Harvard Medical School under Dr. Melvin Glimcher, where he defended his Masters in Surgery thesis on new composites in bone regeneration. Shortly after that, he was instrumental in setting up a basic science laboratory at University College Dublin as part of his role as senior lecturer in orthopedic surgery.

Since his time at HSS, Kennedy has been involved in several basic science investigations principally involving cartilage regeneration, but also involving biomechanics and biological augmentation of healing processes, having published over 190 peer-reviewed articles in addition to countless podium presentations and other citations of his research.

Kennedy's goal in both clinical and basic science research is to establish HSS as a world leader in ankle cartilage regeneration and arthroscopy. To this

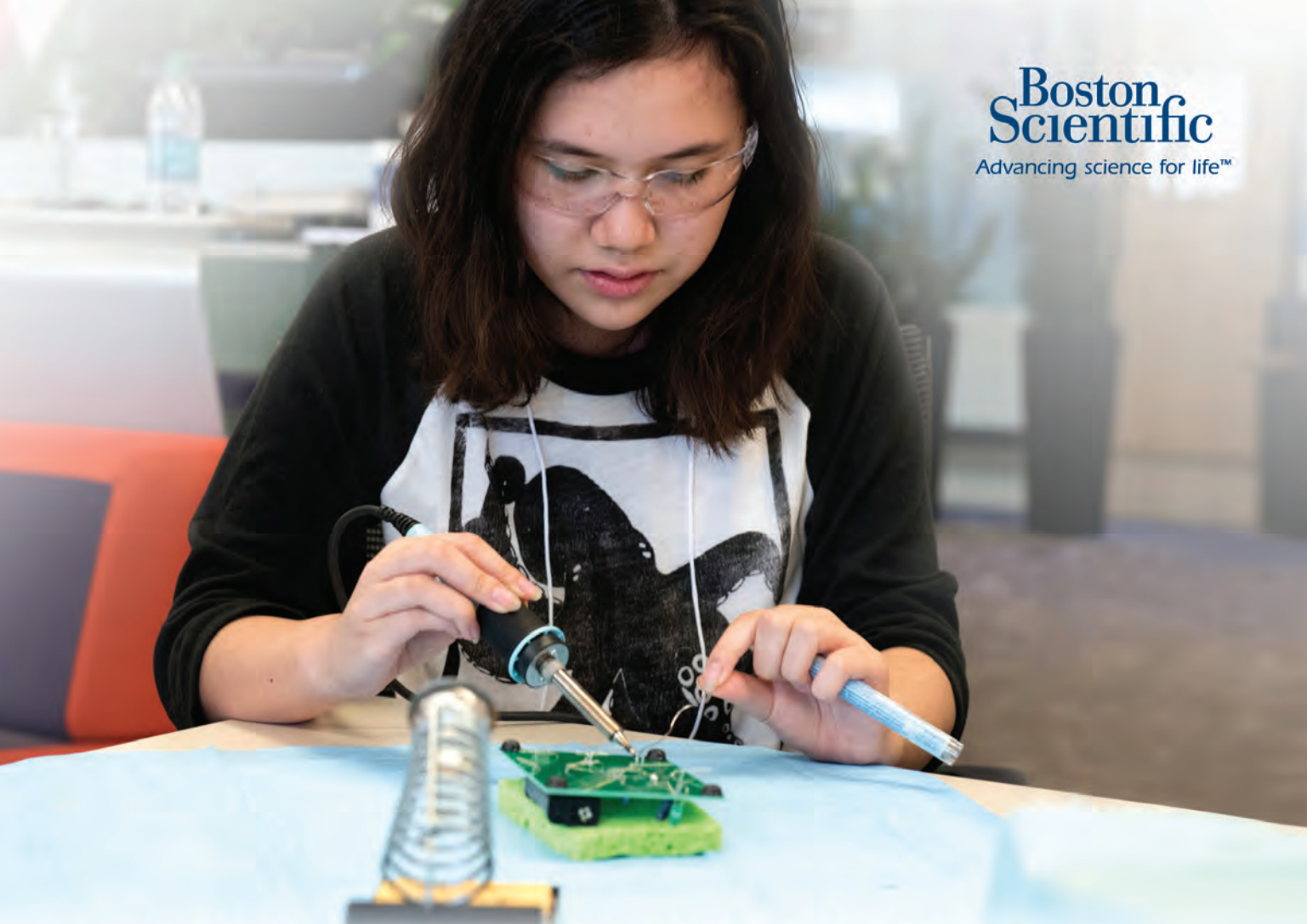


end, Kennedy's office has many fellows visiting and collaborating from numerous international universities. "The world is getting to be a smaller place. Medical problems are universal but often were approached in a regional manner. International collaboration, sharing knowledge for the common good is truly the only way forward," he says.

As part of the international collaboration between Ireland and the U.S., Kennedy recently received an honorary degree from the faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine in the Royal College of Surgeons. This was in part due to the pipeline of medical students and residents that travel from the RCSI to his office in New York each year to experience the different medical culture and collaborate in innovation between the two countries.

His approach to innovation is that of a collaborator. "If I have had any success it is because of those who have taught me well," he says. "My parents, my school teachers, and my college professors all have left their mark. I remember my mentors in surgery every day I operate."

Of his strong connections to Ireland, he knows he is like so many others. "Ireland has a deep and rich history of medical excellence and innovators. That legacy has been supported and advanced by massive outpourings of support from Irish communities at home and abroad who have allowed Irish doctors and scientists to achieve success," he says. "I am blessed to have a great family, great friends, and be Irish!"



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## Edward "Ted" Kennedy, Jr. *Representing Persons with Disabilities*

After two productive terms as a Connecticut state senator in which he authored and shepherded more than 60 bills to passage, including some landmark environmental legislation, Edward "Ted" Kennedy Jr. is leaving the senate to devote himself to fighting for the rights of persons with disabilities. Kennedy, who



is the board chair of the American Association of Persons with Disabilities, says that in the past year, he has seen the erosion of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). The Department of Justice, which had about 40 lawyers in the ADA during the George W. Bush and Obama administrations, now, Kennedy said, "It has four." And, he added, "HUD Secretary Ben Carson is scaling back federal enforcement of fair housing laws. This will affect persons with disabilities because 60 percent of complaints are for disability discrimination."

At 56, Kennedy has a killer smile and the build of the champion para-athlete skier that he was as a young man. When I met him at his office in July, he talked of his trip to Ireland the summer after he lost part of his leg to bone cancer. He had packed extra chemo pills for the trip but the first thing he did after he landed was get sick and be hospitalized. He recovered in time for a "very memorable" cruise down the River Shannon and a visit to the Guinness brewery. "Pretty cool for a 12-year old," he said. He has been back to Ireland many times, often with his family, to take part in Daffodil Day, the biggest fundraiser for the Irish Cancer Society, and he plans to go back soon.

He "really enjoyed" the senate job and got a lot done, including a ban on tiny plastic micro beads in personal care products, which became the model for similar federal legislation; a comprehen-

sive pollinator protection law following a dramatic die-off of bees and other helpful insects; but he's looking forward to returning to his law practice – covering healthcare regulatory and reimbursement law in the Stamford office of the New York firm Epstein, Becker, and Green – and devoting much of the rest of his time to fighting for Americans with disabilities. "This is where I think I can make the greatest difference," he said.

## Paul J. Kenny *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*

Dr. Paul Kenny is the Ward-Coleman Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neuroscience at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. Paul is also Director of the Drug Discovery Institute at Mount Sinai. He received a degree in biochemistry from Trinity College Dublin and his Ph.D. in psychopharmacology from King's College London. He completed his post-doctoral training in neuropharmacology at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California. Research in Paul's laboratory is focused on the molecular neurobiology of drug addiction, obesity, and schizophrenia. Paul is also involved in efforts to develop novel small molecule therapeutic agents for the treatment of drug addiction and other psychiatric indications, and is the co-founder of Eolas Therapeutics, Inc.

Paul was born and raised in Dublin, Ireland, where all of his immediate family still lives. His mother's family comes from Dublin, where her father was a sergeant in the Irish army and for many years and was the administrator of the famous "Magazine Fort" in the Phoenix Park. His father's family also comes from Dublin. Paul now lives in New York with his wife Dr. Dymrna Kenny (born and raised in Kildare, Ireland), whom he met at Trinity College Dublin, and their three children: Conor, Ronan, and Amelia.



## Sr. Bernie Kenny *Health Wagon*

It has been 50 years since Robert F. Kennedy toured over 300 miles through the destitute towns of Appalachia, discovering and spreading the truth behind the 1964 war on poverty. It has been 40 years since Sr. Bernadette "Bernie" Kenny made her way to those same rolling hills of Southwest Virginia, finding a purpose and leading her mission to heal the people of Appalachia.

"She made her way through the area in the 1980's, when the concept of nurse practitioners was very foreign. She saw the need and she saw people hurting, so she came and she did something about it. Even saying she's a hero does not describe it," said Dr. Paula Hill-Collins. She serves as the clinical director at the Health Wagon, a nonprofit organization founded by Sr. Bernie.

Sr. Bernie grew up in Boston and entered the order of the Medical Missionaries of Mary in 1957. She spent five years in Ireland completing her original nurse and midwifery training in Our Lady of Lourdes hospital. After returning to the U.S. for a short time, she went on to serve in Tanzania for 10 years as a midwife delivering babies, then moved to Southwest Virginia in 1978 by request of the Richmond Diocese.

"I was frustrated because of legislation and regulations," Sr. Bernie said. "So, I went to school to train as a nurse practitioner, and that's when I thought about a mobile unit. Before that, I had been visiting patients in homes and used a Volkswagen Bug to carry around supplies and whatever medications I could."

Her vision turned into a reality in 1982, when the Health Wagon was officially founded as a single mobile unit, traveling through small towns to community locations and even providing care in families' backyards to the medically underserved populations of Southwest Virginia.

"We are now broadening the concept of health," Sr. Bernie said. "The healing touch inspires people to make big changes that often have to happen in the person's life, and also in their family's lives."

From preventative care, women's health, and chronic disease management (the list goes on), to parenting classes, economic health, and even technical education, the Health Wagon has become an invaluable lifesaving resource across

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*“The healing touch inspires people to make big changes that often have to happen in the person’s life, and also in their family’s lives”*

– Sr. Bernie Kenny

the five main counties it serves, and beyond. Last year alone, the Health Wagon managed close to 14,500 patient encounters through their programs.

“We feel that we are only reaching the tip of iceberg – the need here is phenomenal as healthcare needs outstrip available resources” explained Dr. Teresa Tyson, Executive Director of the Health Wagon. “It is a poor resource area with a lot of poverty. Sometimes it’s hard to believe that healthcare disparities of this



proportion are occurring in the United States. We see the brokenness of humanity here daily at the clinic.”

In 2014 the Health Wagon expanded to include two mobile units and one stationary clinic. 2015 followed with an innovative undertaking, as the first FAA-approved drone medication delivery was accomplished in a joint venture with Remote Area Medical (RAM). Then in 2016, the Health Wagon team completed the first telemedicine bladder cancer screening in the world, performed as a joint venture with the University of Virginia. 2017 wrapped up with the first Army Readiness Training event in Virginia, as well as the addition of veterinary services.

“It’s been phenomenal,” Tyson said. “We keep adding resources that we did not have before.”

The Health Wagon continues to participate in and host several RAM events each year, where Sr. Bernie can be found volunteering her time and services. “I’m still learning, that’s for sure,” she said.

As Sr. Bernie approaches her 80th birthday – a milestone of her own – the Health Wagon is preparing to celebrate a milestone of their own, in her honor. They are set to open another stationary clinic – to be named the Sr. Bernie Kenny Clinic – funded primarily by an Appalachian Regional Commission grant.

This clinic will host several of the organization’s growing initiatives, such as vision care, telemedicine, and the application of diagnostics through the use of a new ultrasound machine (donated by Philips Foundation through a partnership with RAD-AID). Tyson hopes that these new programs can service widespread needs such as diagnostic testing, prenatal ultrasounds and diabetes care, among others.

Hill-Collins and Tyson, who have been friends since just 14 years old, both grew up in southwest Virginia and have seen the ebbs and flows of poverty and medical care in the area. “What hurts me the most,” Hill-Collins said, “is that on this anniversary of the war on poverty, we can tell you that things are worse now than when we were children in the 70’s.”

“We want to be the hands of Christ in some small way,” Tyson said. “Paula [Hill-Collins] and I found mission work right here in our backyard. We’ve had some wonderful influences in our lives – but Sr. Bernie is our mentor. She taught us firsthand about social justice and we are forever indebted. As two Appalachian women, we will be able to carry that on into the future.”

## Raymond F. Kerins, Jr. Bayer U.S.

“Growing up, I thought everyone’s grandparents spoke the way mine did – with an Irish brogue,” said Ray Kerins, Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs for Bayer U.S. “My love and respect for the Irish culture – its songs and stories – started at a young age.”

Kerins, who previously held senior positions at Merck and Pfizer, embraced a Catholic education from grammar school through Iona College. From his father, a



retired Bronx homicide detective, Kerins learned about the importance of loyalty, love, and friendship – traits Kerins shares today with his wife and three children.

“Our family always comes first, whether it’s sharing a pot of tea and Irish soda bread at the kitchen table or a pint around the fireplace,” he said. “I still get chills ‘wearing the green,’ and I still listen to Irish music on the radio.”

## Mary Maroney RN Turned Entrepreneur

Mary Maroney, R.N. graduated from Wagner College in 1975 and was hired by Maimonides Medical Center where she worked and received her M.S.N. from Adelphi Academy.

Mary left Maimonides in 1983 to open, with a physician friend of hers, an ambulatory care center, which still operates to this day. In 1989, she founded a company, Maxireturn, with her longtime friend, Marie Sayour. Initially, the company was started as a medical billing company, it’s evolved to include practice management, and today, the focus is on Electronic Medical Records. “We help with the training and implementation of E.M.R.s throughout the various phases including gap analysis, scheduling, hands



on training and system wide application. We can also help with chart abstractions and data collection for submission at year-end for measures," Mary said. Additionally, in 2008, the partners formed a second company, RN Staffing Solutions, LLC. Through this company, they provide supplemental staffing, patient assessments, and non-medical companions in the home and hospital settings.

Mary Maroney is a second-generation Irish American. Her family is from Milltown Malbay, County Clare. She was born in Bayridge, Brooklyn, her father was a physician at a time when house calls were made and they only cost five dollars.



## Kelsey Donohoe Martin

Yale Cancer Center

Born in New York City, Dr. Kelsey Donohoe Martin was raised in Westport, Connecticut and is a fourth-generation Irish American.

She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in anthropology and human biology from Emory University, as well as a minor in art history. She spent part of her undergraduate studies at the University College Dublin studying archaeology and architecture, and went on to receive her medical degree from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. She completed training in Internal Medicine at Jacobi Medical Center / Albert Einstein College of Medicine and subspecialty training in hematology and medical oncology at Lenox Hill Hospital. Dr. Donohoe is a clin-

ical instructor at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and an attending physician at Lenox Hill Hospital.

While currently a practicing hematologist / oncologist in New York City, where she lives with her husband Scott, son Cody and dog Oliver, Kelsey will be transitioning her career to the Yale Cancer Center in Connecticut where she is appointed as Assistant Professor in Clinical Medicine.

## Bridget Christina Maybury

James J. Peter's VA Medical Center

As a quality management nurse at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx, Bridget Maybury oversees selected units ensuring that the hospital is in compliance with regulatory agencies. She has been an employee since 1994.

Historically, the James J. Peter's VA Medical Center has treated veterans from WWII to Vietnam to the Iraq War. They're considered vanguards in spinal cord and PTSD patient care. The hospital is closely associated with Mount Sinai, the Hospital of Special Surgery and Columbia University.

Bridget earned both a bachelor's and a Master's of Science Degrees in Nursing with a nurse practitioner concentration from the College of Mount Saint Vincent.

In 2005, *Nursing Spectrum* magazine selected Bridget for the National Nurse of the Year Category: Advancing the Profession of Nursing, an award she is very proud of.

She's a lifelong resident of New York. As a youth, Bridget participated in Irish step dancing and even entered the Rose



of Tralee pageant.

In 2018, while in attendance at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Manhattan, she was interviewed by 1010 Wins Radio discussing what her Irish roots mean to her.

A first-generation Irish American, her maternal roots originated in Castleisland, County Kerry, while her paternal side comes from Kenmare, County Kerry and Bantry, County Cork.

Bridget affectionately cherishes the Oscar Wilde quote "Be yourself; everyone else is taken." It recognizes the ubiquitous Irish quick wit and charm.



## Michael McBrien

Mercy Ships

In September 2010, Michael McBrien discovered Mercy Ships at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland in Harrogate, England, where he was presenting a talk. Eight months later he arrived in Freetown, Sierra Leone having undergone the online application process and received many vaccines. It was the beginning of a wonderful journey with Mercy Ships taking him to Togo, Congo Brazzaville, Madagascar (twice), Benin, and Cameroon.

McBrien has worked as a Consultant (Attending) Anaesthetist (Anesthesiologist) in the Royal Victoria Hospital since 1997, having qualified in medicine from Edinburgh University in 1988 with post graduate training in Edinburgh, Oxford, Perth (Western Australia) and Belfast. His professional skills and interests in adult and pediatric anesthesia, including difficult airway management, are ideal for the many difficult and challenging cases presented in his seven trips of two to three weeks each on board the *Africa Mercy*

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since 2011. His wife Irene, a pharmacist, has accompanied him on two of those trips in 2012 and 2017.

"In my time with Mercy Ships I have gained more than I have given. I have seen extravagant, unconditional love demonstrated by crew members from many countries around the world. I have seen resilience and contentment despite poverty and living conditions that I could not imagine. I have seen beauty in nature and creation that I will never forget. I have seen lives changed, not just patients and carers," McBrien wrote in an email to *Irish America*.

## Stephen McHale

23Bell LLC

Stephen has a 35-year career in founding, investing in, and building information technology companies. He is recognized for his leadership in data mining, analytics, and business intelligence.



In his current position he is the managing director of 23Bell LLC, an Invention Capital firm.

He is an advisory board member to Austin-based Genesis Inventions, market leaders in cyber security development, and serves on the board of directors for the Center for Families and Children, a non-profit organization in Northeast Ohio's most challenged communities. He serves on the investment screening committee for the North Coast Angel Fund, and is a member of the Global Center for Health Innovation Industry advisory board. An active member of the Entrepreneurs Organization, he also serves on the Cleveland Orchestra and Cleveland Clinic board of trustees.

The McHales, and on his maternal side, the Walshes, are from Castlebar, County Mayo.

## The Brothers McGinn: Carrying on the Family Tradition

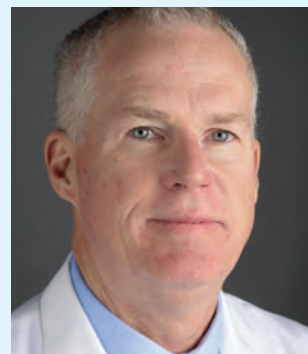
*Doctors and brothers Joseph and Thomas McGinn, come from a highly medical family: their father, uncle, brother, sister-in-law, and nephew all hold prominent roles in healthcare and the title "Dr. McGinn."*

*They are third-generation Irish American with both paternal and maternal roots in County Tyrone, the brothers were raised in New York City's "Irish Riviera" – Breezy Point, where several family members continue to make their homes. The brothers are both enthusiasts of traditional Irish music and closely follow the Irish national rugby team and Gaelic sports.*

### Joseph McGinn Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute

Joseph McGinn, M.D. Chair, Division of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute, as the developer of a minimally invasive coronary artery bypass grafting (MICS CABG) known as "The McGinn Technique," Dr. McGinn has helped revolutionize the field of cardiothoracic surgery. Having performed more than 1,000 of these minimally invasive procedures, Dr. McGinn has trained hundreds of surgeons from around the world.

Before coming to Sanger, Dr. McGinn was a founding director of the Heart Institute at Staten Island University Hospital's (SIUH) Ocean Breeze Campus and chair of the hospital's Department of Surgery. He has been recognized by the American Heart Association for excellence in medicine and received the Samuel L. Koontz Award for Clinical Excellence.



### Thomas G. McGinn Northwell Health

Thomas G. McGinn, M.D., M.P.H., is Deputy Physician-in-Chief and Senior Vice President at Northwell Health, and Chair of Medicine and David J. Greene Professor of Medicine at the innovative new Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine. Dr. McGinn is overseeing and coordinating the rapid expansion of Northwell, New York State's largest healthcare provider and private employer, including its vast network of more than 5,000 physicians in its independent practice association and more than 2,500 employed faculty.

An internationally acknowledged authority in evidence-based medicine and comparative effectiveness, Tom built and continues to oversee an unprecedented expansion in both the scope and size of Northwell's Department of Medicine research enterprise by focusing on cutting-edge study of healthcare delivery and patient-centered outcomes research.

The foundation of Dr. McGinn's research and clinical programs is his belief that every patient deserves the best available evidence-based, highly integrated care and that health outcomes research can immediately transform healthcare delivery to reduce waste and enhance the quality of care. He was an early researcher in the health benefits of evidence-based medicine, preventive care, and patient empowerment, well before the Affordable Care Act institutionalized these principles. He is known nationally and internationally for his pioneering research and teaching in these areas, serving in leadership roles in the major forums for continuing research and dissemination of these disciplines. He has published more than 100 peer-reviewed journal articles, numerous book chapters, and various social media programs.

He is a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. He earned his M.D. from SUNY Downstate, completed his residency in internal medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine / Bronx Municipal Hospital Center in the Bronx, and holds a master's degree in public health from Columbia University.





PHOTO BY: PATRICIA HARTY

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## Festivals abound this time of year in Ireland, not least is Temple Bar

**TradFest**, which has been around since its humble beginnings in 2006 as a niche traditional music festival. Offering mostly free events, today TradFest is Ireland’s largest festival of traditional music, but it also has expanded its repertoire to include folk, nu-folk, and even rock-and-roll artists. The festival features new and up-and-coming acts as well as established names. The venues for the concerts are unique. Festivalgoers can catch a musician performing under the arched nave in St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Ireland’s largest church. Or they can head over to see an act at St. Michan’s Church, home to mummified remains in its underground vaults, including those of an 800-year-old crusader. This limestone crypt is said to have inspired Bram Stoker, creator of *Dracula*. The festival is a five-day affair, beginning January 23 and lasting until the 27, showcasing 200 free events in Dublin’s cultural quarter, which is scattered with plenty of



Musicians performing in Dublin at Temple Bar TradFest, Ireland’s largest festival of traditional Irish music.

pubs, art galleries, and restaurants to check out between events.

A highlight of the Irish cultural calendar is the **Subtitle European Film Festival** in Kilkenny in late November. Called a “cult favorite for new Irish cinema,” the event brings together a selection of popular European films of all languages.

From November 17 until December 22, the **Belfast Christmas Market** resides beneath the lights of City Hall. It's the perfect atmosphere to enjoy a warm mug of Glühwein, some crisp shortbread, and delectable Belgian chocolate while bundled up and shopping for handcrafted goods and bespoke artisan products. Last-minute shoppers will be thankful for the extended hours at St. George's Market around Christmastime. The 248 stalls offer festive treats such as ginger wine and mince pies, as well as homemade products like Donegal tweed and local bog oak sculptures.

Down south, Cork's Christmas season kicks off with the **Switch On of the Cork City Christmas Lights**, taking place on November 18 on St. Patrick Street. Glow: A Cork Christmas Celebration lights up the sky weekends starting November 30 until its close December 22. Bishop Lucey Park will be transformed into Santa's Workshop, complete with toys and elves. Children can even write a letter to the North Pole. The festival will also feature Ireland's largest ferris wheel, a 30m high ride offering stunning views of the city. Carol singers and musicians will perform onstage for various charities. Just across the road is Cork's famous food market, **The English Market**, where people can shop for loved ones while they sip hot chocolate.

This will be the 10th edition of the **Galway Christmas Market**, which will once again feature the massively popular Bier Keller and the 32m observation wheel. Santa will be in residence, and gifts and stocking-fillers will include hand-blown glass ornaments, wooden toys and jigsaws, paper stars, jewelry and accessories, wood sculptures, ceramics, and all manner of seasonal, indulgent treats including handmade Italian chocolates, candied nuts, and Irish fudge.

**Limerick's Christmas Market Lights** will also be switched on at 5 pm on December 15 by Mayor Kieran O'Hanlon, with a host of festive fun and free entry for all the family to enjoy! Christmas hampers will be available over the full 10 days from selected traders. The Milk Market will launch a series with nighttime Christmas Food Producers, which will run in partnership



with the Limerick Food Group, a voluntary collection of Limerick people passionate about promoting local food produce.

**Winterval Waterford** will feature an “Enchanted Christmas” Santa Experience at the Old Sorting Office, Custom House Quay in the heart of the city for Winterval 2018. Festival favorites include Winterval on Ice at the Gasworks, Waterside; Winterval Express Train; and the Horse Drawn Sleigh.

On December 26, St. Stephen's Day, the very old tradition of “**The Wren Boys**” is still carried on in areas of rural Ireland, particularly in around the Dingle peninsula and in parts of counties Limerick and Galway, where people, mostly young men, dressed in old clothes with painted faces, go from house to house to sing and dance. It staves off bad luck to give them a few coins. **Dublin's New Year's Festival** grows more ambitious annually. The three-day extravaganza in the heart of the city sees landmarks lit up and carnivals emerge on side streets. Liffey Lights Midnight Moment presents a spectacular symphony of lights, music, and daring acrobatics as the crowd counts down to the New Year.

“Share the Magic”

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## VALENTINE'S DAY

What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than to visit his heart in Dublin? Many tourists don't know that heart of the martyred Roman saint rests in a Dublin church. The relic was presented in the mid-19th century to an Irish order of Carmelites by Pope Gregory XVI, who was struck by the devotion of Dubliner Fr. John Spratt, a member of the order.

**St. Valentine's heart resides in Whitefriars' Street Carmelite Church** on Aungier St. in the heart of Dublin City. In honor of the saint's feast day, the relic is showcased at several masses throughout the day. Affianced couples are encouraged to flock to the church for the annual Blessing of the Rings ceremony, to receive graces during their life together. Stop by for a glimpse of the heart at the heart of romance!

**Start Planning Your Trip** For more information on Ireland and planning your visit, go to [www.ireland.com](http://www.ireland.com)

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

For **Wolfe Tones** Fans – the Irish rock band is celebrating 56 years in the spotlight this New Year's Eve, hosting a three-day event ending in a special countdown to midnight with their fans, accompanied by a performance of their greatest hits. Join them at the Citywest Hotel in Saggart, County Dublin for a night of music, dance, and fun. Doors open at 8 pm from December 29 – 31, and tickets can be purchased at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

**New Year's Eve at Titanic Belfast.** If you're over 18, and would like to celebrate this New Year by turning back the clock, book your passage for New Year's Eve at Titanic Belfast. Put on your fancy clothes and trade 2018 for 1912 – at least for one night. Savor cocktails before a light meal, then take a turn on the dance floor, where the music will include a live band and D.J. A solo piping performance will top off the evening at midnight. Don't miss the opportunity to see the beautifully detailed reproduction of the ship's main staircase. Tickets can be purchased by 18+ at [titanicbelfast.com/nye](http://titanicbelfast.com/nye).

Ireland has a host of great indoor spaces and museums that will add to your travel experience. Referred to as "Dublin's best museum experience" by *The Irish Times*, **The Little Museum of Dublin** chronicles the city in the 20th century and provides visitors with a glimpse into life in Dublin during that period, with exhibitions on everything from the 1916 Rising to the success of the rock band U2. **Titanic Belfast** is the world's largest Titanic visitor experience in Northern Ireland, located at the site where the ship was built. For those who want a more interactive activity, **Weescape** is a challenging live escape-the-room game with locations in Dublin and Cork. Ireland also has many ice-skating rinks, for the perfect combination of light physical activity and yuletide cheer. One of Ireland's longest-running winter happenings is **Cork On Ice**, an indoor rink located on the grounds of Mahon Point Shopping Centre from November to January.

The first week of January will see the celebration of the music, song, dance, and storytelling of Irish culture at the **New Inn Mummings Festival** at the New Inn Leisure Centre in Galway. The fest is organized by the community council to foster and promote Irish culture as well as raise funds for the Centre and for charity.

**Music For Galway** will be hosting its Midwinter Festival Swansong: Imitations of Mortality over the weekend of January 18-20. Along with concerts by classical musicians, it will include talks by distinguished musicologist Richard Wigmore and interviews with composers at the Town Hall Theater.



FROM TOP: Kids taking part in Dublin's St. Patrick's Day Parade; High fives at Dublin's St. Patrick's Day Parade; Marching band at Limerick's St. Patrick's Day festival

Finally, a calendar of festivals and activities in Ireland would not be complete without mention of **St. Patrick's Day**. The one national holiday that is celebrated in more countries around the world than any other ought to have a proper celebration in its country of origin, and Ireland seizes that opportunity. From March 15 – 17, **Galway's 117th annual St. Patrick's Day Festival** aims to celebrate Galway's diverse culture and talent through an inclusive program of events. The parade makes its way through the city center, featuring a vast array of community, cultural, sporting, and international groups. It's a wonderful platform to showcase local artists and community groups. All will be dressed in green, even the iconic fountain in Eyre Square.



Not to be outdone, the **St. Patrick's Day Festival in Dublin** will attract over 100,000 visitors to join locals in celebration from March 14 until the 18. The medieval streets of Temple Bar, once a Viking stronghold, will be packed with jubilant folks dressed in green top hats and Republic of Ireland home jerseys, enjoying live music. Dublin aims to harness Ireland's energy, ideas, and enthusiasm to offer a national festival that ranks among the greatest celebrations in the world, while projecting an accurate image of Ireland as a creative, professional, and sophisticated country.



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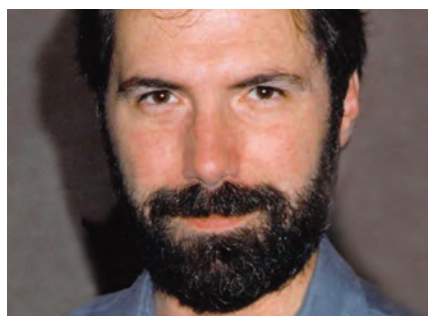
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## Paul J. Millea

### Family Practitioner

Dr. Paul Joseph Millea is a Family Practitioner at the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group in the Washington, D.C. area, as an Integrative Medicine specialist. In practice for 34 years, his primary patients come to see him for issues involving musculoskeletal pain. "Thanks in large part to all the pharmaceutical advertising on the internet and on television, people with conditions targeted by the ads often believe that new medication is the one they need," Millea says. "But oftentimes there's a healthier, holistic solution to a medical condition – either through acupuncture, mindful meditation, manual therapy, or homeopathy. I like to try the



natural alternatives as a first course of action." In addition, Paul is often part of a care team, where he offers nutritional approaches for patients suffering from cancer and diabetes.

While his Irish roots are in County Kerry, Paul was born and raised in Rapid City, South Dakota. He graduated from the Medical College of Wisconsin in 1984, completing a residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. He is also a medical contributor to the U.S. News & World Report website.

Paul cares for his patients in an old-school style, unhurried, looking at the body as a whole, and taking into consideration the physical, environmental, spiritual, nutritional, emotional, social, and related factors that may be contributing to the patient's medical issues. Says Paul, "Seeing a patient achieve pain relief and a better quality of life is, for me, the greatest reward."

## Richard Mulry

### Northwell Health

As Chief Operating Officer for True North – the arm of Northwell Health dedicated to innovation and commercialization of services – Richard Mulry helps

*"Seeing a patient having pain relief and a greater quality of life is for me the greatest reward."* – Paul Millea

build new relationships with private organizations and curates innovative ideas within the health system. He oversees all operations and delivers new investments into the marketplace to drive improvements in patient care and create diversified revenue streams for the health system.

Mr. Mulry has more than 25 years of health care administration and operations experience. Previously, he served as the senior vice president for operations within Northwell Ventures, and administrative vice president of Northwell's neurosurgery, neurology, ENT / head and neck, and ophthalmology services, overseeing operations, finance, growth and quality management, among other areas.

Mr. Mulry joined the health system in 2015 after working for Catholic Health Services of Long Island, where he was senior vice president responsible for the physician network within the \$2.2 billion, six-hospital health system. At Catholic Health Services, Mr. Mulry was responsible for the physician recruitment and alignment strategy and developing the infrastructure of the health system's ambulatory network.

Previously, Mr. Mulry was Executive Director / CEO at University Physicians of Brooklyn at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, and held various leadership positions at PricewaterhouseCoopers and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. From 2003 through 2007, he also served as vice president of practice and revenue management for Northwell Health.



Mr. Mulry holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Saint Michael's College and a Master of Public Health in health policy management from Columbia University, School of Public Health, and is a member of the Medical Group Management Association and the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Richard Mulry's mother, Mary (Walsh) Mulry was born in County Galway, and his paternal grandmother (Margaret Crowley) was from Cork. He spent summers in Ireland as a child, and has come full circle, given the opportunity to work with Irish companies.

## Joseph Mulvehill

### Concierge Medicine

Dr. Joe Mulvehill obtained his medical degree from SUNY Stony Brook and completed his training in internal medicine at Albert Einstein Medical College. A diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine and recognized as one of Castle Connolly's Top Doctors and Best Doctors by *New York* magazine, Mulvehill's metropolitan New York practice was rated among one of five "best concierge-medicine practices nationwide" by *Town & Country*. Joe is among a small group of



New York physicians who pioneered the concept of concierge medicine, with the goal of restoring to his practice the intimate doctor / patient relationship he experienced while growing up in rural Ireland. He believes that finding the solution to medical problems must be accomplished in the context of each patient's life.

Dr. Mulvehill believes in innovation, and his use of Internet-based solutions to stay in contact with his patients has become an integral part of his everyday practice. However, he says, "I only use technology to augment and not replace the personal care that each patient needs," which he believes is paramount to the doctor / patient relationship. To this end, a patient's ongoing medical history is consolidated

into a Personal Health Record, which allows each patient to access his or her vital medical information. This Personal Health Record, which helps to create a closer bond between doctor and patient, is now available to treating physicians wherever they happen to be.

## Barbara Murphy Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Dr. Barbara Murphy is the system chair for the Department of Medicine, the Murray M. Rosenberg Professor of Medicine, and the dean of Clinical Integration and Population Management at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She is a transplant immunology researcher whose most recent work has focused on the use of genomics and genetics to investigate outcomes following renal transplantation.

She was first recruited to Mount Sinai as Director of Transplant Nephrology in 1997 and was named Chief of the Division



of Nephrology in 2003. In 2011, she was appointed Dean for Clinical and Population Management, Director of Conduits at the Institute for Translational Science and PI of the Institutional CTSA. She was named the Murray M. Rosenberg Professor of Medicine and Chair of the Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in 2012.

Dr. Murphy is a Councilor for the American Society of Nephrology and past President of the American Society of Transplantation and Chair of the World Transplant Congress. Among her numerous honors, Dr. Murphy was named Nephrologist of the Year by the American

Kidney Fund in 2011 and received the Wyeth Basic Science Investigator Award – the single most prestigious award for young physician-scientists in the transplant field – from the American Society of Transplantation in 2003. She is the recipient of the 2014 Jacobi Medallion for her dedication and distinguished service to Mount Sinai. In 2018 Dr. Murphy became Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board for RenalytixAI, a company that uses artificial intelligence solutions in collaboration with the Mount Sinai Health System to improve kidney disease detection, management and treatment.

Born in Ireland, Dr. Murphy earned her M.B., B.A.O., and B.Ch. from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and went on to do an internship, residency, and a fellowship in clinical nephrology at Beaumont Hospital in Dublin.

## John Matthew Murphy Western Connecticut Health Network

John Matthew Murphy, M.D., F.A.C.P. is president & CEO of the Western Connecticut Health Network (WCHN). A neurologist by training, he oversees a billion-dollar health network anchored by Danbury, New Milford, and Norwalk hospitals, along with multiple health subsidiaries. Murphy sets the vision and strategy as the organization continues to grow in size and capability with current plans to join with Health Quest in New York State in 2019.

Born the youngest of six children to Irene and Eugene Murphy, and raised in New Jersey, John's extended family of Murphys, Egans, O'Keefes, and Kellys hail from many towns in the west of Ireland. His family first arrived in New York City in the early 1900's and soon after, his grandfathers were earning a living as a police officer and a bus driver. His love of family and his Irish heritage has no bounds.

Dr. Murphy graduated summa cum laude from Fordham University and attended Rutgers Medical School before



completing his training in internal medicine and neurology in N.J. He married his wife, Nancy, and moved to Connecticut where he practiced neurology for 20 years. Murphy was involved in teaching and research in neurodegenerative disease prior to shifting his focus to healthcare administration. He volunteers on many healthcare and community boards and committees, and has made many trips to Lourdes, France as a physician volunteer with the Order of Malta. Closer to home, he continues to advocate for the underserved and treats uninsured patients in the local clinic.

## Kieran Murphy GE Healthcare

Kieran Murphy is president and CEO of GE Healthcare, a \$19 billion medical technology and life sciences business that provides transformational technologies and solutions to the global healthcare industry. GE Healthcare supports customers in over 100 countries with a broad range of services and systems, from diagnostic imaging, monitoring, and digital solutions to molecular diagnostics and life sciences.

He was previously President and CEO of GE Healthcare Life Sciences, a \$5 billion molecular medicine business that provides a broad range of industry-leading technologies and services for drug discovery, pre-clinical, and clinical development and biopharmaceutical manu-

*"I am lucky that I have some great Irish friends in Boston and New York which keeps me connected to home."*

– Kieran Murphy



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facturing, as well as molecular tools for diagnostics, therapy selection, and treatment monitoring in patient care. Kieran was CEO of Whatman plc, a global supplier to the laboratory research, life sciences and medical diagnostic industries, prior to its acquisition by GE in 2008.

Kieran began his career with Janssen Pharmaceutical, a division of Johnson & Johnson, followed by leadership roles with Mallinckrodt, veterinary medicines provider Vericore, Novartis, Adprotech, ML Laboratories and Innovata plc.

Kieran graduated from University College Dublin with a Bachelor of Science degree before completing his Master of Science degree from the University of Manchester. He was brought up on a farm in County Cork, youngest of a large family. "I love to return to Cork at least once a year to catch up with the family and play a game of golf. I am lucky that I have some great Irish friends in Boston and New York that keep me connected to home," he said.

## Owen A. O'Connor

### Columbia University

Dr. Owen A. O'Connor is the director for the Center for Lymphoid Malignancies, a professor of Medicine and Experimental Therapeutics, and co-program director of the Lymphoid Development and Malignancy Program at Columbia University.

Owen is an international leader on the study of Hodgkin's Lymphoma and non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and has overseen the development and regulatory approval of three new drugs for the treatment of such diseases. He currently leads several international studies, many the largest of their kind to ever be conducted, on various lymphoma subtypes. His primary goal is to develop safer drugs that exclusively target the unique biology of the cancer cell, minimizing the collateral damage of existing chemotherapy treatments. He is globally known for his ability to translate novel scientific concepts into applicable patient care plans, and was recently honored by the Irish government as one of the top 50 Irish Americans in science and medicine in the U.S., and was recently inducted into the New Jersey's Inventor Hall of Fame.

Born in Huntington, Long Island, Owen continues to live in New York with his wife, Rosella, and children, Marc and Laura. He is a second-generation Irish American with ties to Bantry, County Cork and



Castlebar, County Mayo. "My Irish Catholic upbringing came from a family proud of their heritage," he says, calling it "very instrumental to every success I have achieved in my personal and professional life."

## Mary O'Dowd

### The Frances Pope Foundation

Mary O'Dowd exemplifies the meaning of giving back. She has dedicated her life to helping families in need, truly understanding the emotional and financial challenges they are dealing with, and is always there to lend a helping hand.

Mary is the president and co-founder, along with her husband, Tony Pope, of the Frances Pope Memorial Foundation, established in memory of her daughter, Franny, who died of leukemia in the summer of 1981. This year marks the founda-



tion's 36th anniversary. It continues its mission to improve families' quality of life during their children's illnesses by offering financial resources, friendship, support, and empathy. To date, the foundation has distributed over a million dollars to many worthy families in need. It also provides

funding for the Andrew Baeumler Technology Program at Mount Sinai Children's Hospital, designed to enhance quality of life for pediatric patients while in hospital; and provides partial funding for the Pediatric / Oncology Fellow's salary at the Stephen Hassenfeld Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders, NYU Langone Medical Center.

Prior to her daughter's diagnosis, Mary enjoyed a robust singing career in the Irish circuit. In the autumn of 1981, still reeling from the loss of her beautiful little girl, she received a call from her good friend, Tommy Makem, who told her, "Get yourself a guitarist and be at the Irish Pavilion next Thursday." She is always grateful to Tommy for forcing her back onto the stage, not only because music is a great healer, but it added another wonderful 25 years of singing to her career and it was a brilliant opportunity to promote the Frances Pope Memorial Foundation.

Mary is a native New Yorker. Her mother, Ellen, was from County Roscommon and her father, John, from County Sligo. She has one daughter, Ellen Pope Preimesberger, who has been a bastion of support in all of the foundation's endeavors. She is a graduate of Marymount Manhattan College and serves on the board of Physicians' Home.

## Elaine O'Hara

### Sanofi Pasteur

Elaine O'Hara is Head of North America Commercial Operations for Sanofi Pasteur. In her Vaccines leadership role, Elaine has spearheaded the launch of the company's first recombinant influenza vaccine within the company's flagship franchise. She has driven long-term strategic planning and execution to continue to build the success of the more than \$3 billion North America Vaccines business.

Elaine has more than 20 years of experience in the pharmaceutical and vaccine industry. She has a consistent track record of developing and managing billion-dollar franchises within the industry, in addition to launching multiple pharmaceutical brands. She has held numerous leadership roles in different therapeutic categories and markets.

Prior to joining Sanofi, Elaine was Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing at Otsuka America Pharmaceutical Incorporated (OAPI). Elaine joined OAPI in 2012, and led the commercial organization to its current success of core products across



CNS and cardio-renal franchises, totaling \$2 billion in net sales in 2016. Elaine also served as portfolio lead for Pfizer's anti-infective category, where she led the marketing and sales teams through portfolio maximization and delivered \$880 million in revenue. During Pfizer's acquisition of Wyeth, Elaine was responsible for the global launch of the Prevna13 adult indication. She has also held other sales and marketing management roles within Wyeth's vaccines group.

Elaine, who was born in Dublin, Ireland, moved to New York with her family for several years, until they re-located back to Newport, County Mayo.

Elaine earned her M.B.A. with a concentration in marketing from the Haub School of Business, Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, and a B.A. in music and French from the National University of Ireland. She is married to Finbar Bleahen and they have two teenage children, Myles and Rose.



*"I think being Irish and American is a plus, as I have an understanding of both cultures; this is especially helpful when working for multi-national companies, and conducting business in Europe."*

— Elaine O'Hara

### Alice O'Leary Randall

#### Marjuana Spokesperson

Alice O'Leary Randall traces her Irish roots to Bantry Bay, County Cork. She is a longtime senior spokesperson for the medical marijuana movement, co-founded in 1976 with her late husband, Robert C. Randall, the first person in the U.S. to legally receive medical marijuana. For more than two decades Robert and Alice worked tirelessly to reform the prohibitions against cannabis. After Robert's untimely death in 2001, Alice became a hospice nurse and later a grief counselor. She retired in 2012 and re-entered the medical cannabis field. She frequently writes and speaks on the issue. Working with Mary's Medicinals of Denver, she developed the Cannabis Primer series in 2015 and Mary's Prime Time in 2017. She has served on the Board of Directors for American Cannabis Nurses Association. Her book, *Medical Marijuana in America: Memoir of a Pioneer* was first released in April 2014. Her most recent publication is *Mary's Cannabis Primers Collection: Vol. 1*.

### Patrick D. Pilch

#### BDO USA, LLP

Patrick D. Pilch leads the National Healthcare Advisory practice and co-founded the BDO Center for Healthcare Excellence & Innovation for BDO USA, LLP, a U.S. professional services firm providing assurance, tax, and advisory services to a wide range of publicly traded and privately held companies.

With more than 25 years of healthcare, financial services, operational management and restructuring experience, Patrick provides strategy, business transformation, interim management, M&A advisory, restructuring, turnaround and performance improvement services to assist organizations and their stakeholders. He has served as a strategic advisor to hospitals, boards, foundations, and healthcare systems in matters involving mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, real estate holdings, and other assets and structurings.



A third-generation Irish American, Patrick has maternal roots in Bonnicloun, County Mayo, County Kilkenny and Abbeyleix, County Laois. His father's side is from Belfast. Patrick is one of 10 children, whose parents instilled in them the importance of education. "All 10 of us have college degrees, and many have graduate degrees," says Patrick, who is a certified public accountant and licensed investment banker and holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Fairfield University and an M.B.A. from Columbia School of Business. "It is my parents' legacy." Patrick and his wife, Mary Pat (whose mother is from County Waterford, her father's family from County Cavan) have three children: Patrick, Briege, and Fiona.

### Muredach Reilly

#### Columbia University and New York Presbyterian Hospital

Dr. Muredach Reilly is the Herbert and Florence Irving professor of medicine and director designate of the Irving Institute for clinical and translational research at Columbia University and New York Presbyterian Hospital. He also has extensive training and expertise in cardiovascular medicine, human genetics, preventive cardiology, clinical pharmacology, and clinical epidemiology.

Muredach is a Fellow of both the American Society for Clinical Investigation and



the Royal College of Physicians, Ireland, and has been presented with the Special Recognition Award by the American Heart Association for his work in cardiovascular medicine and science. He is also a past recipient of the William Osler Award for Patient-Orientated Research.

Muredach was born in County Mayo, Ireland. He received qualifications in medicine and pharmacology from University College Dublin in 1988 and 1989 respectively. He trained in internal medicine and cardiology at St. Vincent's and the Mater Hospitals in Dublin, as well as at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center, from which he earned a master's in clinical epidemiology in 2003 and served on the faculty for 16 years, most recently as Professor of Medicine with tenure. He is married to fellow UCD-graduate Emer Smyth, and they have three children, Maeve, Fina, and Cormac.

### Anne Sansevero HealthSense LLC

Anne Sansevero is the founder and CEO of HealthSense LLC, a care management consulting company, and co-founder of Holistic HomeCare Associates, a home health care placement agency. HealthSense LLC is focused on skillful advocacy for families who are caring for



### Sister Sean William O'Brien, O. Carm & Sister Michael Mary Campbell, O. Carm

The Carmelite Sisters of the Aged and Infirm minister to and care for the residents of Mary Manning Walsh Home, long considered the premium home for the elderly in New York City. Recognized for its superior medical care, Mary Manning Walsh is just as renowned for its staff of nuns who believe the end of life should be about living, not just surviving – these sisters have dedicated themselves to their patients, most of whom are ill and many, alone.

Sister Sean William O'Brien O. Carm, Executive Director and daughter of immigrants from, respectively, Donegal and Waterford, recently had the daunting task of overseeing the expansion of Mary Manning Walsh. The home will now include short-term rehab, hospice care, and a TellStat program for cardiac patients in addition to a renovation of its still-elegant building. While it's now more than a nursing home, Sister Sean promises, "The Walsh Home will always uphold the Carmelite philosophy of care and commitment."

Michael Mary Campbell O. Carm, Director of Volunteers, is a first-generation Irish American, her father from County Longford, her mother, from nearby County Leitrim. She directs a small army of volunteers of varying ages with different skills and interests, but all abound with energy and generosity. They're seen around Mary Manning Walsh bringing levity, games, and often taking patients to the Emerald Lounge for a spot of wine. Seeing Sister Michael Mary in action brings to mind the mission of her order, "To care for and to care."



older relatives or disabled adults and she and her team offer a holistic, targeted, and responsive focus to crisis management, problem solving and care coordination related to health and aging challenges. Holistic Home Care Associates LLC, her second company which she runs with her partner Rick Gang, offers expert guidance and support in assembling a high quality private hire home care team.

Anne has over 30 years of experience in the health and aging field and serves on the national board of the Aging Life Care Association (ALCA) and is Vice President of the local New York Chapter. She co-chairs the Educational Committee at ALCA and develops conference programming both at regional and national levels.

Originally an O'Toole from Galway, Anne emigrated to the U.S. in 1986. Anne holds a B.S.N., M.A. in Nursing and is licensed as a geriatric nurse practitioner

and care manager. Her other skills include fostering entrepreneurship and she is an advisor to a number of health care start-up companies. Anne is active in her NYU Rory Meyers School of Nursing alumni committee and mentors and develops educational initiatives as they relate to improving care for frail and vulnerable elders. Anne is a frequent public speaker and engages in media relations locally and nationally on all aspects related to aging. Anne also serves on the board of the Children's Medical Research Foundation (CMRF Inc.) – a non-profit philanthropic organization that helps support pediatric research and health innovations in her native Ireland.

### Bryan Traynor Johns Hopkins University

Dr. Bryan Traynor, M.D., Ph.D., is a neurologist and senior investigator at the National Institute on Aging, and adjunct faculty at Johns Hopkins University. Dr.



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Traynor is best known for his work aimed at understanding the genetic etiology of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease, ALS). He led the international consortium that identified pathogenic repeat expansions in C9ORF72 as a common cause of ALS and FTD. He has over 200 publications in professional journals, including *Neuron*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, and *Nature Neuroscience*, and has received numerous awards for his work, including the NIH Director's award, the Derek Denny-Brown award, the Sheila Essey award for ALS Research, and the



Potamkin Prize for Research in Pick's, Alzheimer's, and Related Diseases.

He received his medical degree from University College Dublin medical school in 1993, a Medical Doctorate from University College Dublin in 2000, a Masters in Medical Science (M.M.Sc.) from Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2004, and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from University College Dublin in 2012. He has been a Member of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRCPI) since 1996. Before moving to the NIH in 2005, he completed a neurology residency and an ALS / Neuromuscular Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, and was an Instructor and Staff Neurologist at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. IA

## Kathleen Coffey Steimel

*EliteNursing*

Kathleen is co-founder and CEO of EliteNursing, a concierge nursing service providing private duty R.N.'s, intravenous therapy at home, R.N. visits, and case management in N.Y.C. and the surrounding area. Kathleen is from a large Irish family. Her parents, John and Mary Coffey, from Counties Kerry and Cork, emigrated to New York, had seven children and instilled in them a rich sense of Irish culture in music, song, and dance. Kathleen was a champion Irish step dancer and piano accordion player, competing in the Fleadh Cheoil and the Oireachtas. Kathleen's father was a gifted Irish button accordion player who, along with Kathleen and her siblings, played in the Coffey family band throughout her childhood. Kathleen spent summers growing up in West Cork on her grandparents' farm.

Kathleen has been a registered nurse for over 35 years and has extensive clinical experience in acute medical care, E.R., I.C.U., visiting nursing, private duty, geriatric care management, and patient advocacy. Kathleen has focused most of her career in community health, where she has wide-ranging experience as a clinical nursing supervisor, encompassing health promotion, disease prevention, coordination of services and management of complex healthcare needs for clients with acute and chronic illness.



## Margaret Weber

*EliteNursing*

Margaret Weber, R.N., B.S.N., is president and co-founder of EliteNursing, a concierge nursing service offering the highest level of private nursing in New York and Southampton. EliteNursing only uses registered nurses with extensive nursing backgrounds, including I.C.U., E.R., medical-surgical nursing, and community health.


Over 25 years of experience as a registered nurse in various hospital and community settings including the Intensive Care Unit, Recovery, and Emergency Rooms, has given her a unique perspective in delivering excellent home nursing care for prestigious families and distinguished individuals all over the United States.

Community positions in home-care and hospice enhanced her comprehension of the requirements of patients in a non-hospital setting. She has extensive experience in facilitated care coordination services including disease management programs, involving educating, motivating and empowering clients to manage their disease.

Margaret's mother was born in County Longford, Ireland and emigrated to the United States at 14 years of age and while living in Manhattan finished up her education at a private high school in N.Y. Margaret's father was a first-generation Irish American whose parents emigrated from County Claire. Her parents met at the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade and went on to have seven children. Her father was a New York City detective and a member of the Emerald Society. Her mother worked as a nursing assistant while raising Margaret and her siblings, and was always able to "find something shining in a bad day."

"My parents ingrained in me a belief I could accomplish anything if I worked hard," Margaret says. Proving her parents correct, she has been co-founder and President of EliteNursing since 2013.






A condition called arthrogryposis limited Brianna's hand function and her confidence. But after surgery at Northwell to get a bionic arm, Brianna's ready for whatever the future holds.

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For Brianna, a new arm  
meant a whole new life.

# From REEFER MADNESS to Reefer Medicine



The highs,  
lows, benefits,  
and downfalls  
of legalizing  
marijuana.

By Rosemary  
Rogers

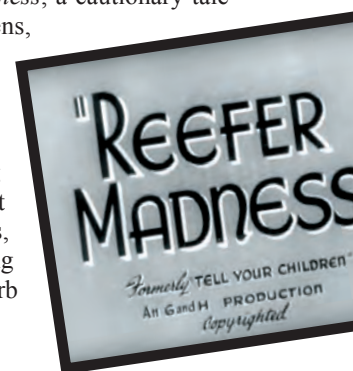
**T**he archeologists who discovered the bones of a man in China's Gobi Desert determined his age at over 2,700 years and noted he was buried alongside 28 ounces of marijuana. Thanks to dry desert conditions, the pot, unlike the man, was well-preserved and scientists speculated the stash may have been a hunter-gatherer love token. Not surprising, since every civilization in pre-history from the Stone Age on took advantage of the psychoactive properties in *cannabis sativa*, or marijuana.

It was William O'Shaughnessy, doctor, scientist and Limerick man, who introduced cannabis to Western medicine in 1839. Stationed in India, he read that, 4,000 years earlier, cannabis was mentioned in sacred Hindu texts, the Vedas. O'Shaughnessy's meticulous research demonstrated the herb's success as a medicine, particularly with patients suffering from rheumatism and the pain associated with tetanus and cholera. The doctor did see some strange side effects from his subjects who would often turn "talkative and musical," and "dissolve into uncontrollable giggles," while the occasional patient would "eat the dinner of two persons." Some were cured, others received palliative care, and for those who were terminal, "cannabis," as O'Shaughnessy delicately put it, "strew the path to the tomb with flowers."

In the United States during the 19th century, mar-

ijuana was a frequent ingredient in medicinal tinctures and routinely prescribed as a pain reliever and an anti-convalescent. Things changed at the beginning of the 20th century with the arrival of Mexicans, escaping revolution, who introduced the concept of smoking "marihuana" just for fun. The idea took hold but so did government propaganda declaring reefer "subversive," much like the music that became its soundtrack – jazz. After the Great National Buzzkill, Prohibition, was ended, federal agents had a lot of time on their hands. Henry Anslinger of the newly created Federal Bureau of Narcotics turned to the menace of marijuana. Government "research" linked it to violence and inciting "Negroes, Mexicans and other social inferiors" to rape white women. So began the war on pot.

The feds had a dramatic weapon in the war – a 1936 movie, *Reefer Madness*, a cautionary tale wherein innocent teens, addicted to "marihuana" cigarettes, wildly danced to jazz music and, oddly, featured frequent scenes of young girls revealing their garter belts. If it sounds ridiculous, it was, particularly the opening frames denouncing the herb



as a “a violent narcotic...ending often in incurable insanity.” Now the movie is a camp classic, but back then it was serious and scary. The following year, 1937, the plant with a 5,000-year history of medical use, was prohibited and criminalized in the United States. Even harmless hemp, the stuff of rope and paper, went down with marijuana.

The government kept raising the bar on the ban. By the early 1950s a first-offense marijuana possession carried a minimum sentence of 2-10 years with a fine of up to \$20,000. In 1971, when it was evident that mainstream white Americans and not just beatniks and sax players were enjoying pot, President Nixon officially declared a “War on Drugs.” Marijuana was now a Schedule I Drug along with heroin, its users subject to “mandatory minimums.” Many years later, Nixon’s domestic policy advisor, John Ehrlichman, confessed the “War on Drugs” was racially and politically motivated, a facile tool against Nixon’s (pothead) “enemies” used to imprison African Americans and anti-war activists.

These days weed wafts in the air everywhere as enthusiasts openly smoke the still-illegal herb while the furtive puffers of still-legal cigarettes hide in shame. The drastic shift seems like it came quickly but it didn’t, it was a slow, uphill fight. A good place to begin this history is with Alice O’Leary, “the First Lady of Medical Marijuana Movement,” who’s been on the front lines of the movement for 45 years. Alice, now 71, lives in Florida, the state where, many years earlier, she met her husband, Robert Randall. Even at the beginning of their relationship, Robert was suffering from the glaucoma that had plagued him his entire life. His doctors flatly told him he would be a blind man by the age of 30.

A sometime-pot smoker in college, Robert hadn’t smoked a joint in years until one evening in 1973 when he shared one with friends. It was an epiphany of profound proportions, “a singular moment,” and it wasn’t what he saw, “Actually it was what I didn’t see that stopped me. The haloes around the nearby streetlight were gone.” For glaucoma patients every light comes with a dreaded, tricolored halo but now after smoking, Robert’s haloes were gone.

His ophthalmologist confirmed Robert’s discovery, his intraocular eye pressure (I.O.P.) was now, with marijuana, in the “safe range.” But the seemingly miraculous news was tem-

pered with harsh reality – Robert needed, on a regular basis, a Class A drug. It proved too expensive to buy on the streets so Alice and Robert grew pot – a total of four plants – on the sun porch of their Washington D.C. house. In 1975, coming home after a long weekend, they found the house ransacked, a search warrant lying on the kitchen table. Busted! They hired a lawyer but when Robert said, “I smoke marijuana for medical reasons...to save my eyesight” the lawyer they could barely afford laughed in his face.

Just as Alice had shared Robert’s battle against glaucoma, she joined him to fight the United States government and change the laws on medical marijuana. They went to NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) where they learned that for four years the organization had been trying, unsuccessfully, to reclassify marijuana for medical use. Before Robert’s case went to trial the court ordered him to undergo a battery of tests at UCLA. There he made an unsettling discovery, UCLA – and the federal government – were already aware of pot’s ability to reduce inner eye pressure.

Their case went to the Washington D.C. Superior Court. In November 1976, the judge ruled Robert “has established a defense of necessity. . . The evil he sought to avert, blindness, is greater than that he performed.” The charges were dismissed and Robert received his prescription medicine, joints in a pill bottle with instructions, “Smoke as directed.” He was now the first and only individual in the country allowed to legally use marijuana for medical purposes. Robert and Alice parlayed the publicity from the case to further their cause, Robert even smoking a joint on T.V. on “The Tom Snyder Show.” The eponymous host, never without a cigarette, looked on as Robert lit up and smoked a



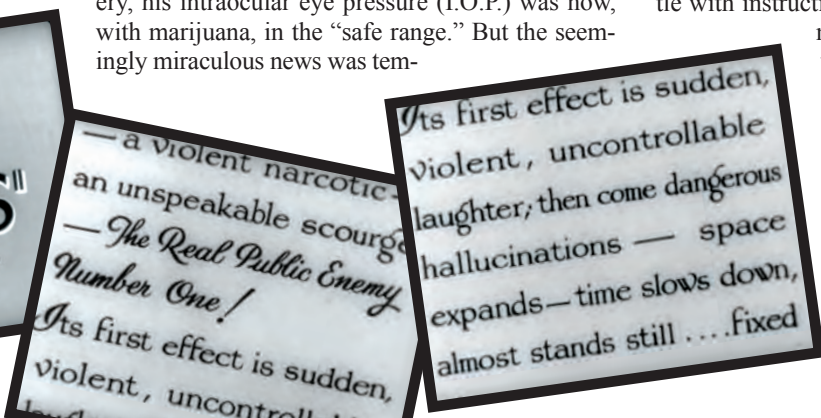
OPPOSITE PAGE:  
Offices of Columbia  
Care dispensary.

TOP: Poster advertising  
*Reefer Madness*.



ABOVE: Alice O’Leary,  
“The First Lady of  
the Medical Marijuana  
Movement.

LEFT: Stills from  
*Reefer Madness*.





joint. It was major news, one headline shouting, “Bob Smokes Pot! And It’s Legal!”

Now a fulltime activist, Alice hit the road, a spokesperson for the group she co-founded, Alliance for Cannabis Therapeutics, ACT. ACT’s base grew exponentially to include patients suffering from MS, ALS, arthritis, chemo side effects and finally and most famously, AIDS. In 1987, the couple again sued the federal government and again, were successful. The judge’s decision stated marijuana was “one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man.” Less successful was the DEA’s reaction – they unilaterally ignored the ruling of the court. Alice, refusing to be discouraged, kept up the fight, “We knew we were right.”

Robert died in 2001. He was 53, smoked legal medical marijuana to the end, always maintaining that he never got high. He also never lost his eyesight.

In 1996, Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act was passed in California allowing for the sale and medical use of marijuana for patients suffering from serious diseases. Today, medical marijuana is legal in 30 states and Washington D.C., where patients almost unilaterally praise its relief, while recreational marijuana is legal in nine states. Besides medical use, other selling points – increased tax revenue (and this is the biggest selling point), the elimination of a black market, the heightened potency of street weed, reduction in mass incarceration, the possibility of pot working as “exit drug” for opioid abuse – make a strong case for legalization. Medical marijuana is now the fastest growing industry in the United States.

New York-based Columbia Care LLC, founded in 2013 by Nicholas Keane Vita, is the nation’s leading medical cannabis company, operating in 13 states with its pharmaceutical-quality medicines. Nicholas drew on his background in finance to design a “vertical” structure for the company – Columbia Care cultivates, manufactures and dispenses medical cannabis overseeing every step in the process. But the mindset of Columbia Care is medical and the company is recommended by 60 percent of a highly elite, highly discerning community New York City doctors.

But, as Nicholas points out, “Nobody learned about cannabis in medical school” and Columbia Care is staffed with Pharma Ds (pharmacists with a Ph.D. in biology and chemistry). The Pharma Ds help patients create individualized programs, finding the

best medicinal format (tablets, tinctures, vaporization oils) and dosage (the ratio of cannabinoids in a prescription). Cannabinoids are 100+ compounds in cannabis, the most significant cannabinoids being THC and CBD, both of which have distinct health benefits. Higher ratios of CBD target particular medical problems while higher ratios of THC target others. Columbia Care’s Pharma Ds work with patients throughout the nuanced process of determining ratios, a procedure requiring fluidity and trial and error.

It’s THC that has a psychotropic effect. In other words, THC is what gets you high, which is why medicinal pot is still a tough sell. Attorney General Jeff Sessions could have written the prologue to “Reefer Madness,” so intent is he to prosecute any use of marijuana, compassion be damned.

Even the moderate voice of General Barry McCaffrey, the former director (1996-2001) of Drug Control Policy, sees real danger. McCaffrey, a decorated war hero, witnessed rampant drug addiction among his soldiers during the Vietnam War. Back in the U.S., he put in place successful drug programs for veterans, one of the reasons President Clinton appointed him “drug czar.” Today he believes the prevalence of medical marijuana, its inclusion in the culture and validation by the government exposes children and adolescents to the drug lifestyle or what he calls the “dazed lifestyle.” Marijuana is still, in his opinion, a “gateway drug” that leads to other, more dangerous drugs, all with the capacity to slow down I.Q. development in a young person. Then there’s the danger of street marijuana, which has a high THC content risking negative side effects, the edibles being particularly dangerous, sometimes ending in an E.R. visit. The general casts a cold eye on the health benefits of medical marijuana, “A total fraud!”

During the Bronze Age, a tribe of nomads, the Yamnaya, trampled through the Steppes region, transformed the gene pool of Europe, and introduced the Indo-European language. They introduced, too, transcontinental trade of cannabis, making them, in effect, Bronze-Age drug dealers. That was over 5,000 years ago and today, the great success of medical marijuana assures the long run will continue. It seems that marijuana, like rock ‘n’ roll, is here to stay.



FROM TOP: Columbia Care Dispensary; Movie poster; Nicholas Keane Vita who founded Columbia Care LLC, the nation’s leading medical cannabis company.

General Barry Richard McCaffrey who served as President Bill Clinton’s Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

# Dr. James Barry

*The famous British Army surgeon was actually an Irish woman*

...and then he was a she. She said, hey babe, take a walk on the wild side. . .

-Lou Reed

BY ROSEMARY ROGERS



**D**r. James Barry was born in County Cork as Margaret Anne Bulkley, the daughter of Jeremiah and Mary-Ann (née Barry). Accounts vary on the year of her birth, but whether it was 1789 or 1795, women were denied a formal education. Her father was a feckless grocer who lost his business, landed in debtors' prison and was last seen on a convict ship to Australia. Alone and penniless, Margaret and her mother emigrated to London where they lived with her uncle, James Barry, a successful painter, progressive thinker, and major eccentric.

Uncle James had a coterie of rich, radical patrons, including General Francisco de Miranda and David Stuart Erskine, who became impressed and obsessed by Margaret's intelligence. Devout feminists all, these de facto godfathers vowed to get her a medical degree, especially since Miranda's soldiers back in Venezuela needed a doctor. Together they devised a plan, a trope that dates back to ancient Greek literature – Margaret Anne would dress as a man. Taking the names of her uncle and godfathers, Margaret Anne Bulkley became James Miranda Stuart Barry. Now she was a he.

With taped breasts and a heavy overcoat lined with fluff, the newly christened James Barry enrolled in the University of Edinburgh. He impressed everyone with his brilliant mind but became something of a curiosity. There was the baby face (absent an Adam's apple), height (barely five feet), squeaky voice and bursts of violent temper. Rumors spread, not that he was female, but a pre-pubescent boy. He received his M.D. at the tender

age of 22, noting in his final thesis, he was a "man of understanding," something he remained for the next 56 years.

Even when he was Margaret Anne Bulkley, James Barry would announce to anyone in earshot, "Were I not a girl, I would be a soldier!" By the time he graduated, General Miranda was dead and so were Barry's Venezuela plans. After receiving his Royal College of Surgeons diploma, he entered the British military, passing what must have been a cursory army physical. It was 1812 and Dr. James Barry, army surgeon, was appointed Medical Inspector for Cape Town South Africa.

Something of a health nut, Dr. Barry was a teetotaler and vegetarian who kept a pet goat for its milk. Always at odds with his superiors, he raged at them about unsanitary hospital conditions and kept raging until he singlehandedly revolutionized healthcare in Cape Town. Revolutionary too was his open-mindedness – he treated everybody, not just wealthy whites but colonials, slaves, the poor, mentally ill, and prisoners. Throughout his career, he had an odd affinity for lepers, treating them with almost saintly compassion.

His patients adored him, but not so much his co-workers and administrators, who found him foul-mouthed, short-tempered and, considering his looks, full of an absurd vanity. His short fuse had much to do with the effort he undertook to look and behave as a man. Barry had by his side for 50 years a West Indian manservant, John Danson, who supervised the makeover. John – who, it should be noted, never saw Barry naked – would obscure curves, strategically place padding, and add height, courtesy of 3-inch shoe lifts. The manservant set aside extra primping time since the doctor was, ironically, a ladies' man, thanks to his light-footedness on the dance floor.

His toilette over, Dr. Barry emerged in a scarlet jacket, a plumed hat covering the wig that covered his frizzy red hair and a saber draping his tiny physique. The saber was essential since Barry, quick to take offense, would challenge anyone to a duel or threaten to cut off the villain's ears if he heard a slight against his low stature or high voice. He and John always traveled with Barry's



After Cape Town, Barry served as medical inspector in posts throughout the Empire from Jamaica to Malta to Canada. Wherever it was necessary, the cross-dressing, globe-trotting surgeon established a leper colony. Wherever he was posted, he fought for sanitation and universal healthcare while remaining insubordinate to his superiors. He went AWOL in Jamaica, saying he needed a “proper haircut.” In St. Helena, he bypassed top officers to petition the Home Office for medical supplies and was summarily court-martialed for “Conduct unbecoming an Officer and a Gentleman.”

His career trajectory zigged and zagged. Stationed in Malta, Dr. Barry again found himself in good favor when the Duke of Wellington commended him for instituting public sanitation and preventing a typhus epidemic. He was promoted to the highest rank an army doctor could reach, Inspector-General of British Hospitals, the equivalent of Brigadier-General. Lord Raglan, commander of the British Forces during the Crimean War, asked the now-eminent doctor to pay a

“social visit” to the battlefield.

Even though he was on leave, Dr. Barry went to Scutari, the site of an infamous hospital where more soldiers died of infection than battle

wounds. It was also the site of his infamous fight with Florence Nightingale, pet of Queen Victoria. In his salty style, he up-braided Nightingale about her hat, or lack thereof, she called him a “brute,” and so began a mutual and a lifelong hatred. Nightingale did improve sanitation conditions at Scutari but her achievements paled next to Barry’s, some 30 years earlier, in Cape Town. The Empire ignored his feat but continued to glorify its beloved “Lady with the Lamp”—this realization may have inspired Barry’s snit but the spat forever diminished his

beloved poodle, Psyche, and a menagerie of small animals.

Dr. Barry proved unstoppable. He developed a plant-based treatment for syphilis and gonorrhea, promoted the novel concept of clean water and a healthy diet, and introduced the smallpox vaccination to the colony 20 years before it was introduced in England. At a time when doctors avoided lady parts and delivering babies, Dr. Barry was, not surprisingly, a most popular OB-GYN. He performed the first successful Caesarean section, meaning both mother and baby lived, in the British Empire.

And there was a scandal. Cape Town gossip had it that he was having an “unnatural” affair with the colony’s governor, Lord Charles Somerset, a man Barry once called “my almost only friend.” Vulgar posters announcing the governor was “buggering Dr. Barry” or referring to the doctor as his “little wife” were everywhere. Rumors intensified when Barry moved into Somerset’s estate especially as Somerset had politically and monetarily backed the doctor’s reforms. As homosexuality was a serious crime, the Crown set up an investigation; both men were exonerated but soon afterwards, the doctor, likely heartbroken, left Cape Town. It was the only time Dr. James Barry found romance, and if the relationship was sexual it would have been...curious.

LEFT: Barry, left, with John, his servant, and Barry’s dog Psyche, c. 1862, Jamaica.

BELOW: Florence Nightingale called Barry “a brute.”

FAR LEFT: Sketch of Dr. James Barry.





ABOVE: Portrait of James Barry, painted circa 1813-1816.

RIGHT: Photograph of Dr. James Barry; approx. late 1840s.

In *Whistling Psyche* by Sebastian Barry, the doctor looks back on his success outwitting the Empire, "and not just as a woman, but an Irish woman, not just as an Irishwoman, but a Catholic to boot. How easily I entered the supposed male world of difficulty and challenge and played my part."

reputation. He was denied the knighthood his career merited, his army transgressions were revisited and Nightingale assured his omission from her Royal Commission on Army Doctors. Her legacy was as a national treasure, his legacy was as a "footnote in Imperial Oddities."

In his play *Whistling Psyche*, Sebastian Barry imagines the two combatants sharing a room in the afterlife. The doctor despairs of a life lived in ambiguity, "I am that other sort of creature, neither white nor black, nor brown nor even green, but the strange original that is an Irish person." Florence has her say too, describing Barry as "a dwarf... shriveled and shrunken in his rather gorgeous uniform." Even Psyche the poodle isn't spared, "a little black dog with hair seemingly growing out of its very eyeballs..."

In a pointed and final gesture, the army posted Barry in Canada, a cruel destination for one of advanced age who had spent years in the tropics; he became ill and was forced into retirement. Barry returned to London, where he died in 1865 of dysentery, a disease he spent his career fighting in the colonies. He left strict orders that he be buried



in the clothes he was wearing, a dictate that was ignored. When the nurse undressed him, the secret was out: Dr. James Barry "had the body of a woman, a perfect female," including stretch marks from childbirth.

Speculation on the stretch marks still continues. Was the pregnancy the result of a rape Margaret Anne endured as a girl? Or was the baby the love child of Barry and Somerset? His deathbed sex secret scandalized the Victorian establishment, Nightingale gloated, Dickens had an opinion, and the army put only a sandstone marker on his grave and closed off access to his papers for 100 years.

Today, feminists see Dr. James Barry as an icon for women, while the LGBTQ communities believe the doctor is a true trans hero. If you take the "he's a she" argument, Barry would be the first woman doctor in Britain (50 years before the other "first woman doctor," Elizabeth Garrett), the first woman to rise to the rank of general in the British Army, and the first woman to perform a successful Caesarean section. Those who take the opposite side, "she's a he," reject gender binaries. They assert that for 56 years, Barry presented as a man, identified as a man, and only used masculine pronouns when writing or talking about himself. After he transformed or transitioned at age 14, he never wanted his secret revealed – only Psyche saw him in the nude.

It's a gender bender but really, what difference does it make? James Barry was fearless, a brilliant doctor and public health reformer sympathetic to patients on the margins of society. When Major McKibben, the doctor who signed the death certificate, was pressed to identify the sex of Dr. James Barry, he snapped, "None of your business!"

# The Upside

## OF HAVING YOUR LIFE TURNED

# Upside Down

**Karen Duffy** writes about living with chronic pain.

**T**here is pain that hurts you and pain that changes you. Pain is a survival mechanism; it's a signal that you need to pay attention to what is causing you harm – pull your hand away from the hot stove; jump back from the prickly cactus. Acute pain is usually caused by tissue damage and will resolve in a period of three months or less. “Acute” comes from the Latin root *acutus*, which translates to “sharp” or “pointed.” It hurts but it will resolve. You will heal. You will go back to the person you were before the injury.

When the pain remains and goes beyond acute, it becomes chronic. This is the pain that changes you. With chronic pain there may be no visible injury. In many cases it is invisible, located inside the nervous system. The nerves never stop firing, sending constant signals to the brain. These signals are your “Harm Alarm.” Except you can’t jump back from chronic pain. You can medically dull it or mentally distract yourself from it, but you can never escape chronic pain. “Chronic” comes from the Greek root *khronos*, meaning “time.” The pain is endless; chronic

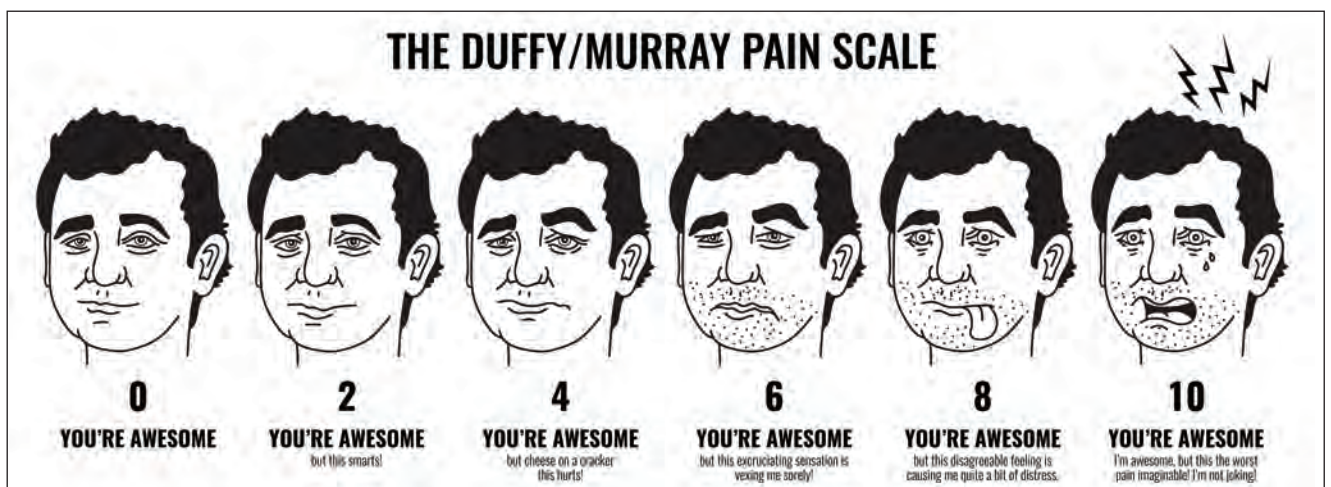
pain changes you.

Over 115 million Americans live with chronic pain; one third of us are dealing with long-term physical pain. One of the many punitive effects of pain is that it is unsharable. Severe and prolonged pain is incredibly difficult to express. The reduction of language adds to the isolation that patients endure. The challenging effort to describe our state of being can compound the loneliness of a chronic condition. The inexpressibility and incomprehensibility of pain separate us from our friends and family.

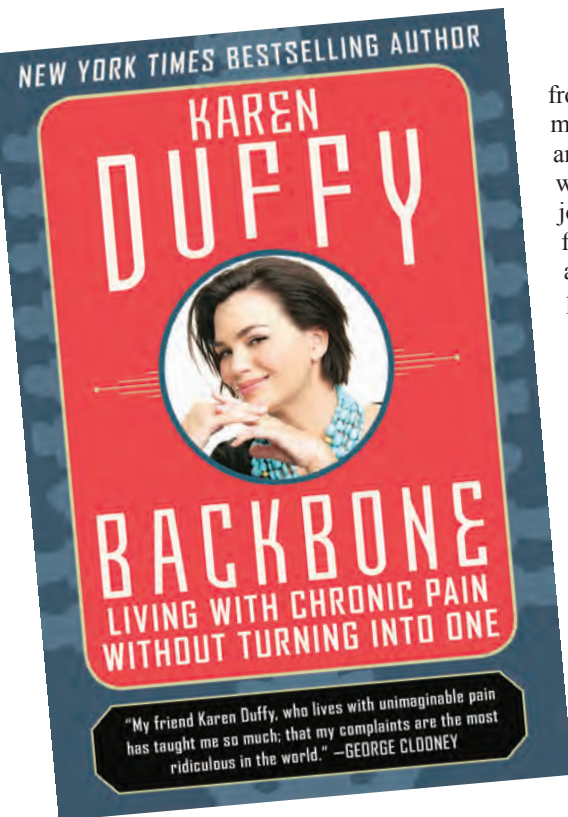
I have a serious illness called sarcoidosis of the central nervous system. It is a multi-system inflammatory disease of unknown origin. A healthy immune system defends your body from disease; with sarcoidosis, the immune system is what’s causing the problem. My body is making itself sick. Sarcoidosis causes the immune system to create inflammatory lesions called granulomas. I have cultivated a bumper crop of these granulomas in my brain, central nervous system, and lungs.

My symptoms came on like a freight train. I woke up with an intense headache that radiated

The Duffy / Murray pain scale.



# I have learned that pain is inevitable, but suffering is optional.



Karen Duffy's book outlining her experiences.

from my right ear to the top of my head and down to my neck and shoulder. At the time, I was working at MTV as a VJ (video jockey) I had been cast in a few films, like *Dumb and Dumber*, and was the Revlon Charlie perfume spokesmodel. I was in my early 30s, at the prime of my health, and enjoying a successful career as a writer and on camera.

When I first got sick, I thought the doctors would figure it out and I'd get better and get back to my life the way it was before. It didn't turn out that way. The disease has irreparably damaged my central nervous system. I never imagined that the pain was going to last 20 years, that it would be endless, and that I'd have to figure out how

to deal with it for the rest of my life.

My husband and son are lavishly healthy; they don't fully comprehend what it is like to live in chronic pain. My guys are loving, compassionate, and funny, and like most people, they have a narrow frame of reference for how they have dealt with pain. Their sprains and stitches and dental visits are finite, a sprint through nagging discomfort. Chronic nerve pain is an unending marathon of

physical distress. They can't see the torment that bursts in my neck and ruptures through my central nervous system. They can't see the agony of the evil parrot perched on my shoulder, digging his sharp, scaly claws into my shoulder and pecking my neck and head with its razor-blade beak. It is invisible.

The English word "pain" is rooted in the Latin, *poena*, meaning punishment or penalty, as well as the sensation one feels when hurt. Chronic pain is like serving a life sentence. It is punishment for a crime you didn't commit.

Living with chronic pain is like living next door to a bully. You never know when he's going to stomp over, ring your bell, and knock you on your kiester. Chronic pain and invisible illness are a part of me, and I am doing my best to peacefully co-exist with them. I try to keep the pain-to-fun ratio in my favor. I have learned that pain is inevitable, but suffering is optional.

An eccedentesiast is someone who hides her pain behind a big fat smile. This is my approach to living with a chronic illness and chronic pain. There is evidence that the act of smiling makes you happier. I plaster on a smile rather than grimacing in pain. As Lord Byron advised, "Always laugh when you can, it is cheap medicine." This is how I go on: smiling through the pain, trying to find a bright side. I have a serious illness, but I don't take it too seriously. Every day we have a choice: be useful or useless. I choose to be useful, or I try to, and this contributes to my happiness. In a way, I am a very lucky unlucky person. I have found an upside to having my life turned upside down.

## COMPLIMENTARY THERAPIES

I rely on a wide variety of medicines to tamp down my chronic pain, and wear a lidocaine pain patch just below my collar bone. I am grateful that my neurologist is a fearless pharmacologist, and I try to live a healthy life. I'm a very healthy-looking, chronically sick person. I do my part by incorporating complementary therapies to help with my traditional medicinal protocols. Here are my two favorites, that I do every single day:

Researchers at the University of Liverpool have noted that **reading** and cognitive behavioral therapy have similar effects on the brain. Reading can trigger positive emotions as the reader engages with a book. The investment in a story or a poem recalls positive memories and sends new pain-free messages to the brain. By reading *Irish America*, you are doing something positive for yourself.

Living with chronic pain is difficult,

but a sedentary lifestyle is the greatest single cause of serious health issues. The American Cancer Society followed over 100,000 subjects and the study proved that sitting all day causes a multitude of problems. Constant activity will make your overall health even worse. But it is inspiring that even very moderate exercise, such as **stretching and walking**, will stimulate the release of endorphins, your body's natural painkillers, and mood enhancers.

# Frederick Douglass in Ireland: “The Black O’Connell”

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Statue by Anglo-Irish  
sculptor Andrew Edwards



# THE *Irish Nightingale* OF THE CIVIL WAR

“The Irish-American Florence Nightingale” of the Civil War – Sister Mary Anthony.

By Peter F. Stevens

**T**he name of this Civil War medical pioneer has unjustly slipped between history’s proverbial cracks. Still, her legacy flourishes: “Her innovative triage techniques remain standard practices in every theater of war where American troops fight.” Those words come from a 2003 Pentagon report. They laud Sister Mary Anthony, “the Irish-American Florence Nightingale,” the woman whose innovations saved untold numbers of lives on the battlefields of the Civil War.

Her mission first unfolded amid the carnage of Shiloh, where her kind, consoling features proved the final earthly sight of many Yankees and Rebels. The middle-aged woman clad in the habit of the Sisters of Charity covered virtually every inch of the bloody turf, from the Hornet’s Nest to the banks of the Tennessee River, comforting the wounded, praying over the dead and dying, and directing stretcher bearers’ evacuation of the wounded to Union ships.

Sister Anthony, Mary (Murphy) O’Connell, had come a long way from her native Limerick and from the Ursuline Female Academy of Boston. Poverty, the arduous passage across the Atlantic and the prejudice of Boston Brahmins and Yankee workmen had not crushed Mary O’Connell’s spirit. Instead, her character and resolve “were like forged iron.”

Mary O’Connell was born in County Limerick on August 15, 1814, the daughter of William and Catherine (Murphy) O’Connell. Tragedy arrived early in Mary’s life with the death of her mother when the girl was 12. In 1817, the “forgotten famine,” a harbinger of the Great Famine of the 1840s, engulfed Ireland and sent rising numbers of the Irish to America. Among the “ragged refuse” who trudged aboard leaky, ancient merchant ships were the O’Connells.

The exact date of the O’Connells’ immigration to Boston is unknown, but the fact that Mary received her education at Charlestown’s prestigious Ursuline Academy, where the nuns taught girls age six to 18 years, indicates that the family set foot among “the icicles of Yankee land” sometime in the 1820s. Immigrant Irish families of the day lived mainly in the city’s North End, numbering about seven thousand by 1830 and beleaguered by Yankee mobs, who periodically vandalized Irish neighborhoods on Broad,



Pond, Merrimac, and Ann Streets.

Many Irish girls of Mary O’Connell’s age worked as maids in Boston’s hotels and brownstone mansions, in many cases enduring the harsh epithets and whims of Brahmin families or in other, rarer instances becoming valued members of households. Mary was luckier in many respects than her peers, for she was accepted as a student at the Ursuline school, where she boarded with 40 or so other girls. Only a handful, however, were Irish Catholics. Most of the young ladies were Protestants, boasting such Yankee pedigrees as Parkman, Endicott, and Adams. Because of the outstanding education offered by the Ursulines, a handful of Brahmin families laid aside anti-Catholic prejudice and packed off their pampered daughters to the graceful, three-story brick academy and to the ministrations of the nuns.

In August 1834, when a mob of Yankee workmen ransacked and torched the convent in a spasm of anti-Catholic rage, Mary O’Connell was 20 and had already graduated. The influence of her Ursuline mentors had ignited a vocation in her, but unlike her teachers, she did not yearn to educate daughters of privilege. She wanted to minister to the poor and the sick, and in June 1835 she was accepted into the con-



**Sister Anthony Dead.**  
 Cincinnati, Dec. 9.—Sister Anthony, for many years mother superior at the Good Samaritan hospital, this city, died at St. Joseph's asylum in Norwood, aged 83. Her name was Anthony O'Connell, her birthplace being Limerick, Ireland.

THE MARION DAILY STAY - OHIO  
 9 DECEMBER 1897



tion. On April 12, 1861, the roar of Confederate cannon pounding Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina, heralded the foremost challenge of Sister Anthony's career.

Shortly after war was declared, Sister Anthony and several of her fellow nuns began to tend to Union troops ravaged by a measles outbreak at Camp Dennison, near Cincinnati. Her compassion and her knowledge of the latest nursing techniques earned her the plaudits of the camp's officers and the attention of the Union's chief medical body, the U.S. Sanitary Commission. Like Clara Barton and Dorothea Dix, Sister Anthony was about to reform traditional, often harmful methods of treating wounded soldiers.

The first flash of the Irishwoman's evolving impact upon military medicine materialized during General Ulysses S. Grant's victorious assault upon Fort Donelson in early 1862. For surgical staffs, the campaign, fought along Kentucky's Cumberland River, posed a formidable problem in the transport of wounded soldiers from battlefields to "floating hospital ships." From the gunwales of Union riverboats and on the battlefield, Sister Anthony devised techniques in which medical teams and stretcher-bearers sent the most severely wounded to the ships first, dispensing with the traditional practice of carting off the injured at random. Her methods, the first recognizably modern triage techniques in war zones, saved countless lives through faster hospital treatment and won her praise from President Abraham Lincoln. In tandem with her innovations in transport and treatment, she formulated fast and effective nursing programs for female hospital volunteers.

In early April 1862, Sister Mary Anthony boarded a hospital ship chartered by the Sanitary Commission and packed with other nurses and physicians, including George Curtis Blackman, one

**FAR LEFT:** Sister Mary Anthony O'Connell tending to a wounded soldier.

**CENTER:** Sister Mary Anthony O'Connell.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Sister Mary Anthony's newspaper obituary.

**ABOVE:** Union soldiers bringing in the wounded.

vent of the American Sisters of Charity Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Leaving behind the familiar streets of the Irish North End, she could never shake images of the charred remnants of the Ursuline convent, testimony to the cultural and social obstacles confronting all Irish-Catholic immigrants and particularly their clerics and nuns. Mary O'Connell embraced both her challenges and her faith. She took her final vows in early 1837, and in March of that year, was assigned to Cincinnati's St. Peter's Orphanage.

As Sister Mary Anthony, she worked tirelessly with the city's poor children, combining kindness with an intellect both keen and pragmatic, and rose steadily in her order's hierarchy. By 1852, she was appointed procuratrix of Cincinnati's St. John's Hotel for Invalids. Nursing the sick had evolved into her true mission, and her medical skills would soon prove critical in a catastrophe about to engulf the entire na-



TOP: Mother Anthony O'Connell.

TOP RIGHT: Nuns of the Battlefield bas relief by Jerome Connor.

ABOVE: The death of a Sister of Charity on the battlefield.

of America's foremost surgeons. He had personally selected Sister Anthony as his chief assistant. Their destination was a Tennessee River site called Shiloh, where one of the bloodiest battles in America's annals was raging.

Nearly 23,000 Union and Confederate soldiers littered the muddy battlefield by April 17, 1862, their moans and shrieks pealing above the riverbank. Sister Anthony moved swiftly through the carnage and oversaw the transport of casualties to the waiting ships. As always, she made no distinction between Federal or Rebel soldiers; she saw only the extent of the wound. Once she returned to the "floating hospital," she took her place as Dr. Blackman's "right arm" at the surgical table, mixing her practical skills with moral support for men torn apart by musket balls, grape shot, and bayonets.

At Shiloh, Sister Anthony not only proved an

"angel of the battlefield," but also cemented her burgeoning status as a luminary in wartime medicine. She used her clout to compel the Catholic Church to train rising numbers of nuns as nurses, winning the admiration of even anti-Catholic Americans.

The Catholic Church officially assigned Sister Anthony to the U.S. Army of the Cumberland on September 1, 1862, at the request of the Sanitary Commission. She ran the nursing teams at Base Hospital 14 at Nashville and comforted not only battered troops, but also runaway slaves suffering from smallpox. Sister Anthony's efforts on the battlefield and in the floating hospitals and the surgical tents alike led the government to commemorate her service and that of her fellow Sisters of Charity.

After the Civil War, Sister Mary Anthony continued her life of good works. She died of natural causes in Cincinnati at the age of 87. Her funeral, in December 1897, filled the city's cathedral with mourners, and outside, another throng gathered to honor the gentle Sister of Charity. Whenever asked where she had come from, she had invariably replied, "Ireland – by way of Boston."

Although the names of Barton and Dix would eclipse that of Sister Anthony, the Irish immigrant, in a career of quiet brilliance, had proven her mettle second to none. In famine-wracked Limerick, in the anti-Irish streets of Boston, in the classrooms of Charlestown's ill-fated Ursuline convent, and on the battlefields of the Civil War, Mary O'Connell's transformation from an impoverished immigrant girl to the "Irish-American Florence Nightingale" had unfolded with dignity, compassion, and sheer selflessness. Today, a portrait of Sister Mary Anthony hangs in the Smithsonian.

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# Retracing the footsteps of the last Gaelic King of Ireland in Rome

Why it's time to reclaim the last days and figureheads of the old Gaelic world.

By Cahir O'Doherty

Stories matter, so here's a good one. Four hundred and ten years ago this November, the last two living Gaelic lords of Ulster arrived in Rome, uncertain of their welcome and feeling physically spent.

They were Rory O'Donnell, former king of Tír Conaill, now the earl of Tyrconnell (with his brother Cathbarr), and Hugh O'Neill, the earl of Tyrone (with his son Hugh, the Baron of Dungannon).

If they felt like their world had collapsed they could be forgiven, because it had. Cruelly exiled a year earlier, their hasty departure from Ireland had signaled the final collapse of the old Gaelic order. One year later they arrived in Rome, after a perilous journey across Europe and the Alps that had been physically punishing for all of them.

We know that it was from the detailed account given in the *Turas na dTaoiseach / The Departure of the Lords*, the diary of the Flight of the Earls which was kept by Tadhg Óg Ó Cianáin, a member of O'Neill's retinue who journeyed with them from Rathmullen, County Donegal all the way to Rome.

The abrupt change in their fortunes must have broken their hearts. O'Neill was the same man who had once defeated Queen Elizabeth's generals in Ulster, and who had effortlessly outmaneuvered the earl of Essex, who led the biggest English army ever to Ireland to suppress his island-wide revolt.

But now it looked like their story had run out. All three members of O'Neill's exalted company, minus the O'Neill himself, would be dead within the year.

I grew up on the shore of scenic Lough Swilley in County Donegal, the giant fjord that they had originally set sail from in 1607, and this June, 410 years

later, I had an unexpected opportunity to visit Rome and go in search of O'Neill's final resting place.

I felt called, to be honest. Growing up I had often wondered about them, O'Neill especially. Did he know he that was writing the last chapter of a great story, I wondered? Did he have the abiding sense of ending? Or did he hold out hope for a restoration, a return to power and to the old order?

The *Annals of the Four Masters* records O'Neill's departure from Donegal: "That was a distinguished company for one ship, for it is most certain that the sea has not borne nor the wind wafted from Ireland in the latter times a party in any one ship more eminent, illustrious, and noble..." He was the among the first, and, as the Masters say, the most illustrious, of the centuries of Irish exiles that would follow. Millions of us have walked in his footsteps.

In Rome I booked rooms in Trastevere, the beautiful vine-covered neighborhood (which literally means "across the Tiber") to the south of the Vatican. Maps on the internet had shown me I would be quite near to the church where O'Neill is buried, but on arrival I was astonished to discover I wasn't just near it, I was literally at its foot. I had blindly thrown a dart at a map and hit bullseye.

Above my rooms lay a series of ancient steps that led upward toward a steep hill, and at the top of that hill was the stately old church of San Pietro in Montorio. There are worse places to spend eternity. The elevated position catches the evening breezes and it looks out over the city's fabled hills. A medieval tradition claims it was the site of Saint Peter's crucifixion. It was twilight when I reached it.

Exile was such a fateful reversal for O'Neill. In Ireland he had been



the chieftain of Tyrone and the most powerful lord in Ulster, but in Rome he was a political fugitive in need of aid, and a thorny political problem for the Vatican. The torturous political calculus of the period made him both a jewel and a pin, and that contradiction was never settled.

Researching the place before my visit I read that the poet John Keats had visited San Pietro in 1820 and the painter Giovanni Battista Lusieri had painted his view of Rome from the piazza on the Janiculum Hill around that time. Bellini had designed the side chapel. Looking out from my vantage point on the little hill I realized instantly that the view has hardly changed. Rome really is the eternal city.

Impressive as all of this was I was only there to meet an Irishman, the last High King of Ireland, who is buried inside the San Pietro Chapel, near the altar. That's his ossuary there at the bottom of this column.

It's a quiet place, fittingly somber. It's also a beautiful and antique place, and it was an easy matter to travel back the centuries to the time he would have known the place himself. After his departure from Ireland the Plantation began in earnest. It's said that he maintained hope of a return to Ireland, but political events made it impossible. He eventually died in Rome on July 20, 1616.

The setting sun fell across the slab on the church floor as I viewed it. It was inscribed D.O.M. HUGONIS PRINCIPIS ONELLI OSSA ("To God the Best and the Greatest. The bones of Prince Hugh O'Neill").

Looking at it, I realized something else had been driving me that I hadn't been aware of until that moment. I deeply wished, I realized, that I could have one good look at him, but how he was whilst he was alive, speaking to him in both Irish and English, and also to his companions, including Hugh.

He was the last of the Mohicans, the O'Neill. A living link to an unbroken Gaelic lineage that stretched back into antiquity. He was deeply rooted in his land and his traditions. He was one of the last truly whole examples of a Gaelic man. It moved me just to be in his vicinity, four centuries later.

Looking around I also realized that I have never read of a single official Irish commemoration that has been held there to acknowledge the last chapter of his epic life. In fact, I can



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

count on one hand the number of Irish people who have ever even asked me about him.

I know that Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich replaced his original ossuary stone in the 1980s. I know that Irish scholars and individuals have made pilgrimages here over many decades, my own family members included. But we haven't marked this final chapter, we haven't given him the national wake and send off that he richly deserves.

I think we should. I think we should remember O'Neill's epic journey and his great loss, which was our own great loss, and the start of many further ones. I think we could commemorate him now without stirring the wrath of the English, which was the fear during his own time.

And why should we commemorate him? Because the arrows that went up with the Normans came down with O'Neill, because he lived and embodied a fateful change in our history that we should honor and never forget.

Rome has preserved his remains for us but Ireland should preserve his memory. His story, as I wrote at the outset, matters profoundly. He stands at both the end and the beginning of a great shift in Irish history, and one way to come to terms with that lasting legacy is to commemorate what happened, to whom it happened, and what it has made of us.

Rome is a beautiful and complex city, with so many eras clamoring for a hearing that we can forgive the locals if they sometimes shout. Most Romans I spoke to were unaware that the very last Gaelic lord of Ulster was buried in their midst – at the center of one of their most beautiful neighborhoods, in fact.

We should change that, for them and for us. We should restore a part of what was sundered, we should publicly commemorate his final resting place, reclaim his story, and welcome his memory home at last. It's time. **IA**

**ABOVE:** A bronze sculpture commemorating the Flight of the Earls in Rathmullan, County Donegal. It was from here that Rory O'Donnell (known as Red Hugh), the earl of Tyrconnell (with his brother Cathbharr) and Hugh O'Neill, the earl of Tyrone (with his son Hugh, the baron of Dungannon), and some 90 of their followers set sail for mainland Europe on September 4, 1607.

**BOTTOM FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:**

Steps from Trastevere toward the Church of San Pietro in Montorio.

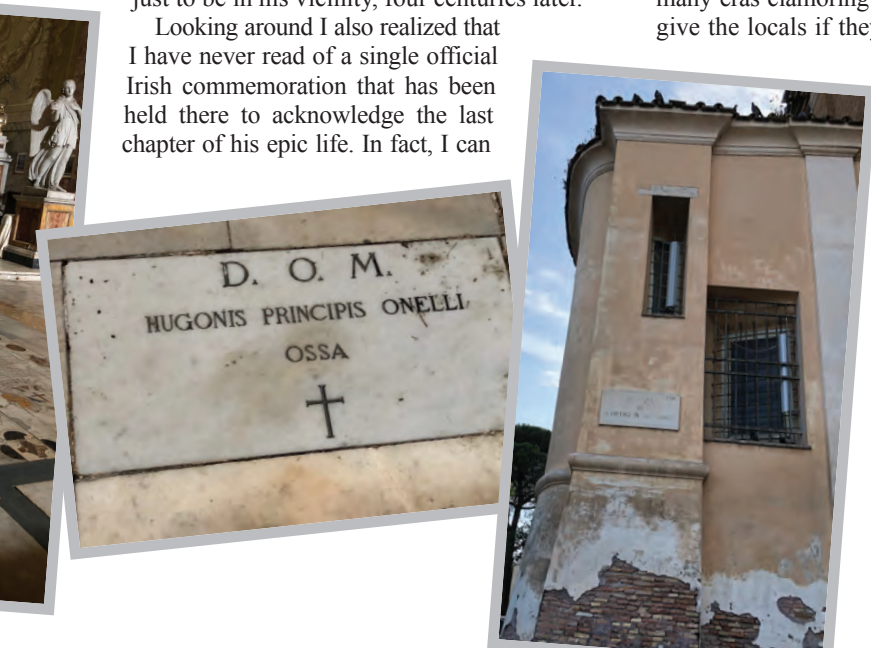
Steps toward the Church of San Pietro.

Tempietto, a small commemorative martyrium (tomb) built by Bellini.

The ossuary of Hugh O'Neill in Rome.

Hugh O'Neill's headstone.

Detail of the Church of San Pietro in Montorio.



# The Mahoney

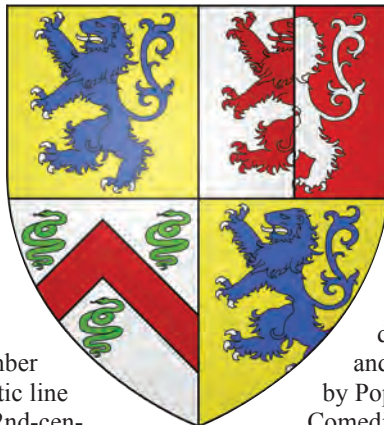


**T**he surname Mahoney originally designated the descendants of Mathghamhain, an Irishman of the early 11th century who was killed in the Battle of Clontarf in 1014. He was the son of Cian mac Máelmuaid and his wife Sadhbh, who was the daughter of the High King Brian Boru, a member of the Eóganacht Raithlind dynastic line descending from Eoghan Mor, a 2nd-century king of Munster. The descendants of Mathghamhain, which means “bear-calf,” eventually became sovereigns over territory in west Cork, in particular around the Iveragh Peninsula and the town of Bandon.

Although the Mahoneys have spread to all different parts of the world, a majority of descendants can still be found in Counties Cork and Kerry. There are several variations on the name, including Mahony, O’Mahoney, and O’Mahony, since the spelling of one’s surname was once not as important as it is today.

**Suzanne Marie Mahoney** was born in San Bruno, California in 1946, as the third of four kids in an Irish-Catholic family, but she is perhaps better known by her married name, Suzanne Somers. The actress, author, and singer is best known for her television roles as Chrissy Snow on *Three’s Company* and as Carol Foster-Lambert on *Step By Step*.

After getting shipwrecked in Wales while trying to return home to Ireland from



Rome, Franciscan martyr **Charles Mahoney**, O.F.M. (1640-1679), was arrested, imprisoned, and executed in Denbigh for confessing to be a Catholic priest. He is one of the “Eighty-five Martyrs of England and Wales,” a group of men who were executed on charges of treason and related offenses in the kingdom of England between 1584 and 1679. The group was beatified by Pope John Paul II.

Comedian Dave Allen, born **David Tynan O’Mahony** in Firhouse, County Dublin, in 1936, originally became known in Australia in 1963, but made regular television appearances in the United Kingdom in the late 1960s through the mid-1980s. The television show *Dave Allen at Large* was aired on the BBC from 1971 until 1979. He was often considered Britain’s most controversial comedian, habitually pointing out political hypocrisy and disregarding religious authority.

Even fictional characters have brought the name Mahoney to public attention, as proven by **Woody Mahoney** in the play *Finian’s Rainbow* (1947), about two Irish immigrants who arrive in America’s Deep South – and the problems that ensue. Woody’s surname, characteristic charm, and urge to support and protect the people of his town ingratiate him quickly to Finian McLoneran, the title character, as well as his daughter, Sharon.

Another fictional Mahoney is **Carey Mahoney**, the main character from the comedy film series *Police Academy*, played by Steve Guttenberg. The series follows a group of misfit police recruits in their attempts to prove themselves capable. The last installment came out in 1994, but Guttenberg announced this year that there is a new film in the works.

**Joseph Christopher O’Mahoney** (1884-1962) was an American journalist, lawyer, and politician who served four terms as a Democratic senator from Wyoming. Both his parents

FROM TOP: The O’Mahony crest, Suzanne Somers, Dave Allen, Joseph C. O’Mahoney, and John Mahoney.



# Clan

were Irish immigrants.

When the majority of able men went off to fight in World War II, the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League was started to keep baseball in the public eye. Nicknamed “Red” for her hair color, **Marie Mahoney** (1924-2016) was a right-handed outfielder for the league that would later inspire the film *A League of Their Own*.

Professional wrestler Jonathan Rechner (1972-2016) opted to join the Mahoney clan by adopting the ring name **Balls Mahoney**. He was a three-time Extreme Championship Wrestling Tag Team Champion, and is also known for working for WWE.

**Roger Mahony** (b. 1936) is an American cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church whom Pope John Paul II appointed to be Archbishop of Los Angeles in 1985, making him the first L.A. native to hold the office.

English-American actor **John Mahoney** (1940-2018) played the role of veteran and retired police detective Martin Crane, the father of Frasier and Niles Crane on the television show *Frasier*. In addition to this role, he worked as a voice actor and on Broadway.

The first African American to study and work as a professionally trained nurse in the U.S. was a Mahoney. **Mary Eliza Mahoney** (1845-1926) co-founded the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses (N.A.C.G.N.), which had a significant influence on eliminating racial discrimination in the registered nursing profession.

Musician **Edward Joseph Mahoney** (b. 1949), better known as Eddie Money, had a string of Top 40 hits and platinum albums in the 1970s and 1980s. Some famous songs of his



include “Take Me Home Tonight,” “Two Tickets To Paradise,” and “Baby Hold On.” A reality show about Money and his family, *Real Money*, premiered in April on AXS TV.

Robert Frost knew the value of the Mahoney moniker, as his poetry teacher was

**Katharine A. O’Keeffe O’Mahoney** (1855-1918), an Irish-born American educator, lecturer, and writer. She was the first female Irish-American lecturer in New England and authored *Famous Irishwomen* (1907).

Finally, another worthy individual of the Mahoney name is the subject of our cover story, **Michael Mahoney**. As the CEO and president of Boston Scientific, Michael has steered improvements to patient outcomes by focusing the company on addressing the needs of the evolving healthcare landscape. He has more than 25 years of experience building market-leading medical devices, capital equipment, and healthcare I.T. businesses, and is a member of the American Heart Association CEO roundtable.

The Mahoney clan is a spirited bunch who has proudly brought their name to all parts of the world while succeeding in various fields.



FROM TOP: Eddie Money, Marie Mahoney’s baseball card, Balls Mahoney, and Roger Mahoney.

RIGHT CENTER: Mary Eliza Mahoney and Katherine A. O’Keeffe O’Mahoney.



# GAA

*in the*

# USA

The passion, competition, and camaraderie of supporters and players of Gaelic games were on display at the USGAA Finals in Philadelphia over Labor Day Weekend.



By Dave Lewis

September is traditionally the last month of the GAA season as the best of the best in Ireland play each other in the All-Ireland Finals. September is also the time of USGAA Finals, a competition that pits the best Hurling, Camogie, and Gaelic Football teams in North America against each other.

It's a gathering that's been growing since the championship began 22 years ago, in 1996. Today, an estimated total of 2,000 people gather annually to participate in the three-day weekend of games, no matter how far they have to travel.

This year the games were just outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In the early hours of a wet and rainy Friday morning in Malvern, P.A. – “an Irish day” – there was already a massive buzz surrounding the grounds despite the weather, as teams from all

over the U.S. and Canada, coaches, organizers, heads of the some 200 GAA clubs, and their supporters and families started to arrive. There were lots of greetings; handshakes and catch-up talk of years gone by. Stories circulated amongst the GAA faithful, of rising stars and veteran players, of hard-to-beat teams, and players who showed great promise.

Over the next three days, 100 teams – hurling, camogie (the female version of hurling), and Gaelic football – would be split into different skill levels – from Senior to Junior B; then divided into four divisions; to play in 19 different competitions.

As I walked around the manicured pitches and tents full of equipment, food, and drink, the majority of the voices were distinctly American, cheery, and enthusiastically looking forward to the days ahead. For many of those gathered it had become a yearly tradition, a chance to connect with others who shared

Photographs by David Morgan, Stylish Images

their love of Gaelic games. There were large contingents from Milwaukee, Charlotte, Chicago, and several teams from San Francisco.

**DAY ONE:** I followed the camogie action on the first day of the tournament. Like hurling, camogie demands a tremendous level of skill, fitness, ball control, and heart, and this soon became evident as the Seattle Gaels and the New York Annie Moores took the field. The difference between the two teams was supposed to be a major factor, given that the Gaels club was established in the 1970s and had won a USGAA title in 2016, and the Annie Moores were a

ing Club, one of the largest GAA clubs in the United States. Founded in 1996 with just 34 players, the club now boasts over 300. Unlike most other clubs, the MHC fields co-ed teams, and is primarily made up of players who are American, and have never seen or played the game before

The Philadelphia side, led by Katrina Terry, performed well for their first USGAA National Championship and went on to win their first game. Despite the loss the MHC team manager Cory Johnson explained that, “In the Milwaukee Hurling Club we’re all about family first, game second, so I think what happens when we come to the Nationals and they



relatively new team, but the level of play was superb on both sides.

While the Gaels did take the lead at half time, the Annie Moores showed the old New York grit and determination to come back and made it a competitive game by scoring two great team play goals. However, the Seattle Gaels went out on top despite the New York determination.

Camogie doesn’t always get the recognition and respect that it deserves, and many of the women I talked to over the weekend were adamant about wanting to see the community and their sport expand. “We’re pro-camogie, we’re all about our sport and we want our sport to grow,” Heather Morris of the Seattle Gaels emphasized.

Another terrific camogie match-up that caused much excitement was a junior game between the Philadelphia Na Tóraidhe, and the Milwaukee Hurl-

[new players] see the veterans who are shaking hands and hanging out with St. Louis, or there’s hugs with Minnesota, or seeing all the babies, I think they get that pretty quickly, and then they go home and become addicted.”

This feeling of acceptance, growth, and focus on family was a spontaneous theme that weekend. After a long day of games and torrential downpour, all the clubs went out to dinner or to bars to relax and enjoy each other’s company before they became rivals the next day.

**DAY TWO:** I watched more Gaelic football and hurling and this time I spoke with Irish-born players who had a lot to say about their American or Canadian teammates. The first game on the day was not the greatest as the J.P. Ryans handily beat the Washington D.C. Gaels but the manager for the victorious Ryans of Vancouver saluted his American opponents. “I’d

**FAR LEFT:** Captain Heather Warren of Coastal Virginia Camogie focuses on winning the ball before a Seattle Gaels camog does.

**CENTER:** The Chicago Patriots and Austin Celtic Cowboys struggle for the ball during the Intermediate Football final.

**TOP RIGHT:** A Chicago St. Brigids player flying by her Charlotte James Connolly’s opponent.



TOP: Dan Flanagan of Allentown Hibernians takes his point against rivals Philadelphia Na Tóraidhe.

TOP RIGHT: Philadelphia Na Tóraidhe and Milwaukee Hurling Club camogs scrap for the ball.

have to say, they were very, very committed, and it's the same thing you get when you come to North American Championships, the commitment is unbelievable. I have to say the American born-players, the effort they put in, their fitness, and physicality always seems to be better than ours [Irish players in Canada]."

For the second game, I stuck with the D.C. Gaels as they were playing against a Philadelphia team, the Notre Dames, a squad of all Americans who won out in the end. Despite going 0-2 on the day in hurling and football, there was a unique perspective from Sophie Friedl, a dual player (one who plays Gaelic football and hurling camogie), as she started playing Gaelic Games in college, a major entry point for Americans into Gaelic Games. "I have been playing co-ed hurling and camogie since I was in college with the Montana Grizzlies, we started a team out there and we were pretty successful, I went to play in Ireland for a year, and moved to D.C. and knew there had to be a team and I've been playing football with them for the first time and we're growing with both codes." Throughout the weekend, Sophie and I saw so many friends we played against in the NCGAA tournaments with, and we reminisced about old times, and we all agreed that wherever you play there, is always someone you know.

There was an exciting local hurling semi-final between Allentown Hibernians and Philadelphia Na Tóraidhe right after the D.C. Gaels doubleheader where tempers flared and hurleys flew. Both teams are known for their fiery passion and find pride in their traditions of American recruitment. The Pennsylvanians fought hard against each other but Allentown beat the hosts in the end to claim bragging rights until the season starts up again despite the close loss, one

of the main men from Na Tóraidhe, Anthony Picozzi recognized their determination by making a congratulatory speech to the opposition, another proud tradition of the GAA. The sun finally started to come out and it was soon time to check out two of the last games of the day, a senior semi-final between the J.P. Ryans and the Austin Celtic Cowboys, and the other, senior semi-final between Tipperary Boston and San Francisco Na Fianna, and they were two of the best matches of the weekend. The GAA and clubs throughout the United States and Canada are home away from home for a lot of Irish immigrants, whether they're looking for a change from living in Ireland or need to find work, the GAA is always an opportunity to make business connections, make new friends or reunite with old ones, just like Paul Nolan of the Vancouver J.P. Ryans who came to Canada looking for a new change in work: "I just took a couple years out to work somewhere different so I'm here now and seen the club before I came over and became involved with them." Paul actually reunited with a old college roommate he went to school with at the Finals, a Liberty Gaels coach. Talk about a home away from home.

Two great hurling matches later, the games were over for another day, but everyone was bursting to watch the championships the next day.

DAY THREE: The final day of the USGAA Finals was a great one full of drama, heartbreak, joy, and an emphasis on homegrown players. The first game I watched was the Junior Camogie final between Coastal Virginia GAA and Seattle Gaels. The Virginians won out on the day, making the first of two championships that the club as a whole went on to win. If you listen to our podcast, *The Story*, you'll know all about the emphasis on family Coastal Virginia has,



**“We all share a passion for hurling, camogie, and Gaelic football, and that’s a beautiful thing.”**

as they are currently in a process of adding more and more children to their ranks, to eventually grow the game. Captain Heather Warren said it this way: “We’re all friends, we all hang out together, you know. I mean we are a family, we support our guys, they support us, we have a lot of couples. We’re just going to make our own youth team, we’re all American and we’re here to have fun.”

Another All-American side, the Patriots from Chicago, were facing up against tough competition: the Austin Celtic Cowboys, a side that had a strong Irish contingent in the Intermediate Football final. The Patriots took it to the Cowboys as they fought hard to tie the game before the half time whistle. Their extra efforts almost saw them win the cup as they only lost by two points to the more experienced Celtic Cowboys. The representative from the USGAA presenting the trophy gave words of encouragement to the Patriots: “I’ve been watching ye for the last ten years and you’re a great credit. You’ve started off at Junior, you’re doing the right thing coming up the ranks, and you’re not too far from Senior.”

One of the best matches at the weekend was the Senior Ladies Gaelic football Final between the Charlotte James Connolly’s and the Chicago Saint Brigids. The two sides had great support from both of their clubs, but the effort put in by the travelling support of the Charlotte James Connolly’s was impressive: they not only had 50 or 60 supporters show up, they also had a full live stream with live commentary and a whole tent just to house the equipment meant to broadcast between a drone and the regular camera. However, the support didn’t help the Charlotte side over the line and, despite their valiant efforts the Saint Brigids of Chicago went on to win by a point in a very close and exciting game that ended up with 11 goals total in the match.

One of the best ways to describe the range of emotions the supporters like Charlotte James Connolly’s

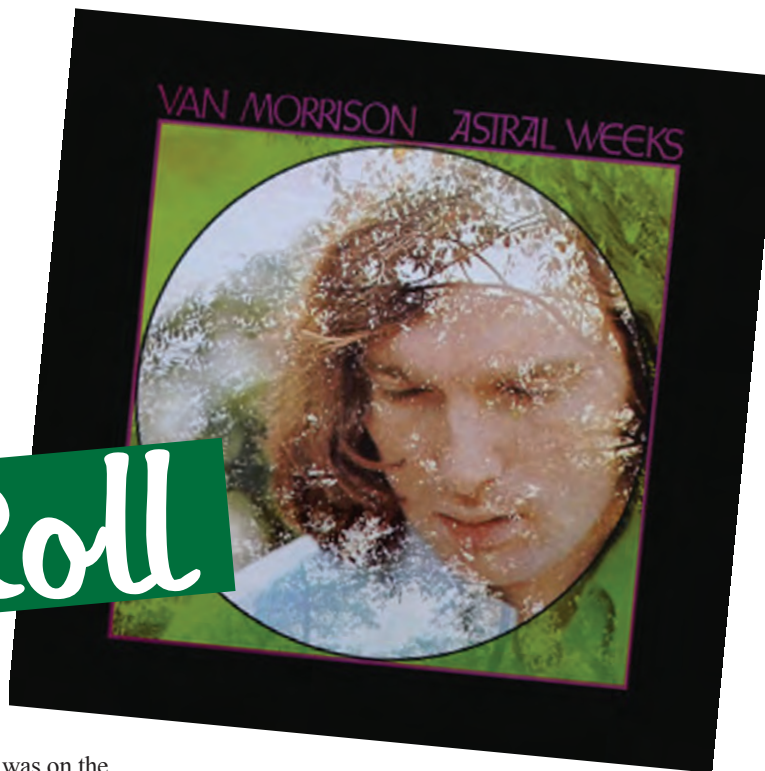
felt that weekend was in the words of David Wogan of Play Hurling, who promotes Gaelic Games through social media. He described the USGAA Finals by saying, “We all share a passion for hurling, camogie, and Gaelic football, and that’s a beautiful thing.”

While there is always some beauty, there is also some pain as not every team could win a championship. One of the harder stories, for some anyway, (joyful for others) was the Senior Camogie final, the very last game of the weekend, between the Liberty Gaels, who wanted to return home with the trophy for the fourth year in a row, and the San Francisco Cú Chulainns, who weren’t afraid to foil the Gaels’ plan. While the Liberty Gaels were the favorites, and it looked like they were about to bring home the trophy with the amount of goals they scored in the first half, it didn’t shake the Cú Chulainns at all. In the second half they came out roaring and brought the game closer and closer until the very last puck when the Liberty Gaels gave away a free while the game was tied up. Into the limelight stepped goalkeeper Rita Burke, who took her free, and slayed her Cú – just as Setanta did when he became Cú Chulainn – winning the championship.

The weekend of competition and the year of hard Finals were over, but that didn’t bring down the place at all. The buzz continued in the beer tent, where people were dancing, throwing hay bales around for the fun of it, and having friendly drinks between those who were sworn enemies merely hours ago. On the outside looking in, people might think that the games and the community are niche or the sport looks too rough and intimidating to get involved with, but the GAA in the USA is one of, if not the most, friendly and welcoming sports organizations around today. Naturally sports and tournaments like these are often about winning, and yet I saw these people celebrating together the spirit and focus of the GAA which are community, friendship, and passion for heritage. They won off the pitch, no matter if their team won or lost while on it. **IA**

# The Sacred Text of

# Rock n' Roll



The birth, re-birth, and enduring legacy of Van Morrison's *Astral Weeks*.

By Rosemary Rogers

In 1968, Van Morrison was on the lam from the mob and hiding in Boston. Author Ryan Walsh takes Van's frantic story of "another time, another place" and folds it into the radical zeitgeist of Boston / Cambridge in *Astral Weeks: A Secret History of 1968*. Walsh argues that Boston, usually associated with prudery, academia, and beans, had, in 1968, just as much sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll as anywhere else during that fevered year. The book goes on tangents, both amusing and scary, featuring Timothy Leary, Mel Lyman's commune, the Boston Strangler, astral projection, Viet Nam, Harvard, Ram Das, a bank robbery and LSD all over the place. And, there's something else: Boston was the birthplace of a record, ignored when released, but now considered one of the greatest in music, always on the list of All Time Top 10 Record Albums, the "sacred text of Rock 'n' Roll," "the mystical document," Van Morrison's *Astral Weeks*.

Van, a singer / songwriter from East Belfast, and his band, Them, attracted the attention of Bang Records in New York where Van, barely out of his teens, recorded his songs, "Brown Eyed Girl" and "Gloria," two hits that set of the phenomena of Celtic rock and garage bands. When he signed with Bang Records he obsessed about having his "vision" realized but barely looked over his unfair contract. As a result, he was never paid royalties for "Brown Eyed Girl," a song still a staple on supermarket playlists, the omission still galling the skinflintish singer.

He battled with his producer and Bang co-founder Bert Berns. After the two had a vicious phone call, Bert dropped dead, the widow blamed Van and she made sure his contract fell into the hands of the equally hot-headed Carmine "Wassel" De Noia.

"Wassel," a mobster not inclined to take any guff from an East Belfast corner boy, made his point early in the relationship by smashing a guitar over the singer's head. Even Van got the message and, as his immigration status was as precarious as his career and life, he married his American girlfriend Janet Planet (néé Risbee), and bolted to Boston. He was 23 years old and totally broke.

In Boston, the couple laid low, starving. Soon Van emerged to perform in sleazy clubs, roller rinks and high school gyms and after some scattershot soliciting, put together a band, the Van Morrison Controversy. John Payne, Harvard student and flute player, was recruited on a wharf and later that night found himself sitting in with the band. Only when the Controversy broke into "Brown Eyed Girl," a song Payne loved listening to on the juke box, did he realize that he was playing with the artist who wrote and sang it. As the Van Morrison Controversy became one of the hottest acts in town, Van kept writing the songs that would be *Astral Weeks*. The melodies and lyrics came to him in a dream, as did the dictate to lay off the electric and make the album acoustic.

When word of Van and his success in Boston reached Warner Brothers, they sent producer Lewis Merenstein to check out his new material. Merenstein showed up at a rehearsal space expecting a raucous electric jam with songs akin to "Brown Eyed Girl" or "Gloria." Instead Van showed up alone, carrying an acoustic guitar and proceeded to sing the album's title track, "Astral Weeks."

If I ventured in the slipstream  
Between the viaducts of your dream  
Where immobile steel rims crack  
And the ditch in the back roads stop  
Could you find me?

ABOVE: Cover of the Van Morrison album *Astral Weeks*. The copyright is believed to belong to the label, Warner Bros., or the graphic artist(s).

It took only moments for Merenstein to break down, “He vibrated in my soul... I got the distinct feeling he was going back in time to be born again.” He said to Van, “Let’s make a record.”

Sometime soon afterwards, somewhere on New York’s 9th Avenue, someone with \$20,000 in a paper bag paid off the mob and Van got his Warner’s deal. But the label demanded he record *Astral Weeks* with New York studio musicians. Van, usually not given to sentiment or spurts of conscience, felt loyal to his Boston guys. Perhaps that explains why he confined himself to the vocal booth, snubbing musicians, most of whom had played with legends of jazz. Van didn’t introduce himself to the players or provide them with charts, he only played the tunes on his guitar and instructed, “Follow me and don’t get in the way.”

Richard Davies, the genius of double bass, picked up the groove from Van’s acoustic guitar track and after only three sessions, it was a wrap. What emerged was a new sound, a fusion of jazz, blues, soul and folk, seemingly born in a pastoral dream. It was a victory of poetry over electronics, a “song cycle” with no beginning or end, explained by Van as

**W.B. Yeats, like Van Morrison was a student of Irish mythology, folklore, and the occult, who mined his unconscious to create art. Yeats, born 80 years earlier, was the elegant force behind Ireland’s 20th century literary revival, a senator, and the first Irishman to receive the Nobel Prize. Van, a stubby fireplug in a porkpie hat, usually with a snootful, would stop a performance to get into a fist-fight with a club manager over money. Or, just because he felt like it, would finish his set by lying on the floor hanging on to his microphone. In short, he was, as Yeats would put it, “a drunken, vainglorious lout.”**

Yeats, with the help of his wife, the medium Georgia Hyde-Lees, engaged in automatic writing, the process of writing while channeling the supernatural spirits from another world, including dead ancestors. It was during this period that Yeats, arguably, created his greatest works.

**Van Morrison, too, credits automatic script to the creation of his work.** What else could explain the transcendence and sense of the divine that permeates *Astral Weeks*? Even the singer doesn’t know as he admitted to *Rolling Stone*, “There are times when I’m mystified. I look at some of the stuff that comes out, y’know. And like, there it is and it feels right, but I can’t say for sure what it means.”

“mythical musings channeled from my imagination.”

The big question is: How was a vulgar, contentious alcoholic able to create *Astral Weeks*, a work steeped in spirituality? Was Van truly a “dweller on the threshold,” a receptacle of visions and voices, tuned into the music of the spheres? He said that even as a child, he could leave his body, and as an adult he immersed himself in the esoteric. Was he like his countryman, W.B. Yeats, another poet of Celtic mysticism?

When *Astral Weeks* was released, Warner Brothers, not hearing about any Glorias or brown-eyed girls, refused to promote it and the album fell into obscurity. Van became a star with his next album, *Moondance* (1968), and went on to be Van the Man, one of the hardest working men in show business, firing agents, managers and producers along the way. His output, not including performances, was prodigious – 39 studio albums, 6 live albums and 71 singles. He and Janet Planet divorced in 1973 and in 2000 he married (and recently divorced) a former Miss Ireland. He’s in every Hall of Fame, received every music award and, by way of being a citizen of Northern Ireland, is now Sir George Ivan Morrison. And, *Mirabile Dictu!*, Van has gone on the match, even forbidding alcohol being served at any of his gigs.

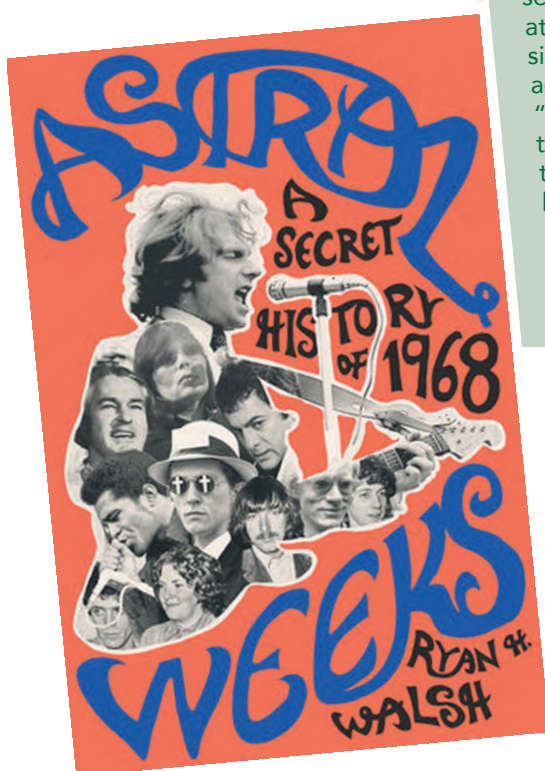
Just as the theme of *Astral Weeks* is rebirth, the album, too, was reborn. In the 50 years following its flop, it’s taken on a life of its own, appearing in all-time best album polls worldwide and in 2015, was back on the charts. Bruce Springsteen, the Counting Crows, Ed Sheehan, Elton John all cite it as an influence and inspiration.

On the 50th anniversary of *Astral Weeks*, critic Jeff Melnick wrote:

“If rock has a canon, Van Morrison’s 1968 LP *Astral Weeks* contributes its gnostic gospels... a journey into the mystic that has scores of devoted fans, but virtually no artistic heirs. Two generations of rock critics and fans have enshrined *Astral Weeks* as a sui generis work of wonder and borderline madness.”

IA

***Astral Weeks: A Secret History of 1968*  
By Ryan Walsh  
Penguin Press, 2018**



LEFT: Cover of Ryan Walsh’s *Astral Weeks: A Secret History of 1968*.

# Oliver St. John Gogarty!

Caricatured as “Buck Mulligan” in Joyce’s masterpiece, **Oliver St. John Gogarty** was more than just a swashbuckling figure – he was a poet, a playwright, a politician, and a renowned surgeon who operated for free on poor children.

By Sean Kelly



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

*“The physician must have at his command a certain ready wit . . .” – Hippocrates*

Two famous Irish authors, both Dubliners (and former roommates), reacted very differently to the Easter Rising and its aftermath. The younger of them, James Joyce, had already exiled himself to the continent. In February 1922, while Ireland’s tragic civil war raged, he published his great comic novel *Ulysses*. According to his biographer Richard Ellmann, when he was asked if he looked forward to the establishment of an Irish republic, Joyce answered, “Why? So that I might declare myself its first enemy?”

The older of the two, Oliver St. John Gogarty – caricatured as “Buck Mulligan” in Joyce’s masterpiece – had been active in the Sinn Féin movement from its inception. When the party was banned in 1919, he hid the Sinn Féin headquarters’ files in the trunk of his yellow Rolls Royce and made his Dublin

home a safe house for (pre-Treaty) I.R.A. gunmen on the run.

Gogarty was a swashbuckling figure: a champion athlete and swimmer, a pilot, a playwright, a poet, and a politician. He was a friend of W.B. Yeats, George Moore, George Russell (*Æ*), James Stephens, and other leaders of the Irish Literary Revival. He was famous as a wit: Moore described him as, “the arch-mocker, author of all the jokes that enable us to live in Dublin.”

He was also medical doctor, a successful ear, nose and throat surgeon, who made his private patients – he said – “pay through the nose,” so that he could operate for free on clergy, poor children, and actors.

That he was a skillful, if unorthodox, surgeon may be gathered from two anecdotes:

“Gogarty operated at great speed. Often he re-

moved tonsils with only a local anesthetic, while the patient was sitting in a chair . . . As he worked away with his fingers flying, Gogarty talked continually, telling stories, making jokes, passing remarks, making allusions sometimes related to his work and sometimes not. In the Meath hospital, the surgeons operated together in one large theatre. Occasionally, as he operated with gusto, Gogarty would fire tonsils at his fellow surgeons across the theatre.” (*The Times I’ve Seen* by Ulick O’Connor, 1963.)

“When he was consulted by a musician who had lost his voice and could make no sound nor utter a syllable, Gogarty suspected hysteria. He examined the man’s throat carefully, shining his light into the dark recess. Then he said, with great deliberation: “Your parents had syphilis.’ ‘They did not!’ exclaimed the musician. ‘You’re cured,’ said Gogarty.” (*Oliver St. John Gogarty: The Man of Many Talents* by J. B. Lyons, 1980.)

Unlike many physicians of his time, Dr. Gogarty was as concerned with preventative measures as with diagnosis and treatment. He was appalled by the unsanitary conditions in which the poor of Dublin were condemned to live.

His first play for the Abbey, *Blight*, was set in the slums. At its climax, its rascal anti-hero Stanislaus Tully declares, “Until the citizens realize that their children should be brought up in the most beautiful and favorable surroundings the city can afford, and

PHOTO: THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, IRELAND.



ABOVE: Oliver St. John Gogarty, pictured driving one of his many cars.

LEFT: Portrait of the Irish poet Oliver St. John Gogarty painted by Sir William Orpen, currently housed at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

not in the most squalid, until this floundering Moloch of a Government realize that they must spend more money on education than on police, this city will continue to be the breeding ground of disease, vice, hypocrisy, and discontent.”

In 1922, during the Civil War, Joyce’s partner Nora and their children Georgio and Lucia visited Galway (the place Joyce called “her native dunghill.”) When they were caught in crossfire, Joyce was convinced that he himself was the target, even though he was not there.

That was the year Gogarty’s home in Renvyle Connemara was looted for three days and then burned down by anti-treaty republicans. Most of the furniture and artifacts were carried off, but the books and paintings were all incinerated.

And it was the year Gogarty’s heart was broken by the death of his personal hero, Arthur Griffith, the founder of Sinn Féin and, 10 days later, the assassination of his dear friend, I.R.A. Commander-in-Chief Michael Collins.

## GOGARTY IN AMERICA

**W**ith WWII in prospect, Dr. Gogarty, who was a licensed pilot, tried to join the RAF, but was rejected because of his age (61).

On September 14, 1939, he flew to the United States for a lecture tour that never really ended – although in the following years, he did occasionally return to Ireland to visit friends and family.

He took a New York City apartment on 61st Street between Madison and Park.

He lectured constantly at universities across America and continued to publish prolifically: 11 books between 1940 and his death in 1957, including two further memoirs, fiction, and poetry. As a famously witty conversationalist and literary lion, he was a most sought-after dinner or weekend guest.

Then, in the spring of 1950, Gogarty went too far.

In “They Think They Know Joyce,” a piece for the prestigious *Saturday Review of Literature*, he wrote, “When I think of anyone’s hailing *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake* as all the world’s erudition in disguise, the question of the sanity, or even the literacy, of the Joyce enthusiast arises.”

This was heresy, by the reckoning of the burgeoning

American-Joyce-Academic-Industrial-Complex. (Stuart Gilbert’s *James Joyce’s Ulysses: a Study*, had appeared in 1930; Harry Levin published his critical introduction in 1941; the James Joyce Society been founded in 1947.)

Although he was no longer the toast of New York’s high (brow) society, the great man’s company was still appreciated, for instance in the Irish bars on Third Avenue.

An example of his perennial wit was given to me by the late, nonpareil playwright Mark Connelly, who was present on the occasion.

Gogarty was in mid-anecdote to a rapt audience when someone interrupted, demanding directions to “the john.”

“Downstairs and to the left,” Gogarty immediately informed him. “There’s a sign that says ‘gentlemen,’ but don’t let that stop you.”

Gogarty suffered from heart complaints during the last few years of his life, and in September 1957 he collapsed in the street on his way to dinner.

He died on September 22, 1957; his body was flown home to Ireland and buried in Cartron Church, Moyard, near Renvyle, County Galway.



CREDIT RTE ARCHIVES

Oliver St. John Gogarty and W.B. Yeats following the releasing of two swans into the River Liffey.

Dr. Gogarty embalmed both bodies.

Following the Anglo-Irish Treaty, Gogarty served in the Senate (Seanad Éireann) of the Irish Free State (Saorstát Éireann) from 1922 to 1937.

He was most passionate on the subject of sanitation in schools and in urban and rural housing. “The slums are really out-patients’ departments of 19 Dublin hospitals. The slums are that and disease factories . . . Unchanged for 30 years! Let our indignation become effective now!” He opposed a prudish censorship bill on the grounds that “it is high time the people of this country found some other way of loving God, than by hating women.” For fun, he objected that the statue of a phoenix in Phoenix Park was excluded from the “Wild Birds Protection Bill.”

The Anti-Treaty IRA singled out Free State senators for attacks and intimidation. In January 1923, armed republicans, using a woman as a decoy by pretending that she was a patient, entered Gogarty’s home and kidnapped him.

Gogarty was taken to a safe house on the banks of the Liffey, where he convinced his captors that, in Ulick O’Connor’s words, “his bowels were loosening with fright.” Once outside, Gogarty threw his coat over the head of a captor and jumped into the river Liffey. “Up to his neck in its ice-cold water he

. . . promised two swans to the Liffey if permitted to land in safety.” (Yeats, preface to “An Offering of Swans”).

The senator was an experienced swimmer (cf *Ulysses* pps 16-23) but only just made it to the far shore. (He later denigrated his achievement. Since Dublin’s toilets emptied into the river, he said, “I was only going through the movements.”)

In 1924 he fulfilled his promise and released a pair of swans into the Liffey.

*Keep you these calm and lovely things,  
And float them on your clearest water;  
For one would not disgrace a King’s  
Transformed, beloved and buoyant daughter.*

The birds’ descendants grace the river yet.

“An Offering of Swans” was followed by seven more books of poems, and two marvelous memoirs, both still in print: *As I Was Going Down Sackville*

*Street: A Phantasy in Fact* (1937), and *Tumbling in the Hay* (1939) and one, sadly, no longer in print: *It Isn’t This Time of Year at All* (1954).

Eamon de Valera (whom he held responsible for the deaths of Griffith and Collins and characterized as a “sixpenny Savonarola” and “a cross between a cormorant and a corpse”) came to power as Taoiseach in 1937. Gogarty immediately decamped to London and, in 1939, to New York City, his home until he died, in Beth Israel Hospital, on September 22, 1957. No doubt he did so with his customary courage.

*Our friends go with us as we go  
Down the long path where Beauty wends,  
Where all we love forgathers, so  
Why should we fear to join our friends?*

The speaker of W. B. Yeats’s poem “High Talk,” “Malachi Stilt-Jack,” is likely a representation of Gogarty.

At Joyce’s death in 1941, a copy of Gogarty’s book *I Follow St. Patrick* was on his bedside table.

Gogarty planned to publish a collection of bawdy ballads entitled *Ditties of No Tone* or *Cockcrows* – the title undecided. The manuscript reposes in a Harvard library. One hopes the custodians will someday do the right thing. IA



# Celebrating A Legacy of Irish Art at Sotheby's

Highlights from the Brian P. Burns Collection of Irish art went on preview at Sotheby's New York for one weekend. The Collection, which includes works from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present, will go on auction in London on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Brian and his wife Eileen gathered with friends and family for a farewell celebration in New York.

By Turlough McConnell

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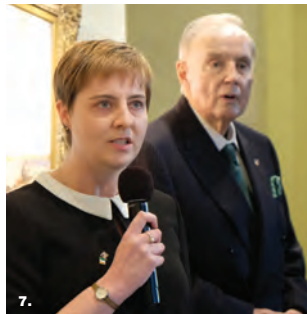
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7.



8.



9.

Brian P. Burns has “made it a personal mission to inform the American Irish diaspora about the beauty... that Irish art has bequeathed the world.” When he began collecting, Irish art was little known and under-appreciated. Today, thanks to Burns, it has broad international appeal.

“Some have asked why Eileen and I have chosen this time to return a large group of paintings to the market. Years ago, I was advised to remember that no matter how many paintings I might acquire, I was only a custodian of them during my lifetime. Now, with a collection of more than 200 works, the time seemed right.”

The Burns' family epitomizes the American dream. Brian's Irish immi-

grant grandfather worked as an \$18-a-week motorman in Boston until a trolley-car accident left him crippled. Yet the family persevered. John, Brian's father, won a scholarship to Boston College; he went on to Harvard Law and a distinguished legal career. In tribute to his father, Brian and his siblings founded the John J. Burns Library at Boston College, a repository of over 250,000 books and Irish cultural material, including the largest collection of W.B. Yeats papers outside of Ireland.

A graduate of Harvard Law, Brian Burns is an attorney and philanthropist who has served and promoted Irish culture throughout his career. The Brian P. Burns Collection will be seen in all its glory for the last time together at Sotheby's London from November 16 to 21.

1. Partygoers turn out to celebrate the Burns Collection at Sotheby's. 2. U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and his wife Hillary Geary Ross join friends Bill Finneran and Brian Burns. 3. Eileen and Brian P. Burns welcome friends and family. 4. Dinner co-host Lucy Musso welcomes Wilbur Ross. 5. June and Timothy J. Rooney, President of Empire City Casino, Yonkers Raceway with Eileen and Brian and Bob Corroon (far right). 6. Sean Burns with friends Julia and Michael Daly. 7. Eimear Friel, Deputy Consul General salutes the Burns Collection on behalf of the Government of Ireland. 8. Ambassador William vanden Heuvel at the 21 Club dinner following the preview. 9. Dinner co-host Tom Quick (standing at left) with Eileen Burns and Michael Domell. (Seated) Bill Finneran, Chairman of EXOL and Estber Murray. Photographs by James Higgins

## Anna Burns Wins Man Booker Prize

Novelist Anna Burns won the 2018 Man Booker Prize for her third book, *Milkman*. Burns is the first writer from Northern Ireland to ever win the award, and the first woman since 2013 to do so. The experimental novel takes place in Northern Ireland during the Troubles, the armed conflict in the region in the late 20th century. It is narrated by an unnamed 18-year-old girl who tells of how a much older paramilitary figure called “the milkman” use notions of loyalty to manipulate her into sexual relations. The chairman of the judges, Kwame Anthony Appiah, said that the book “is commended for giving us a deep and subtle and morally and intellectually challenging picture of what #MeToo is about.” Telling of how *Milkman* was inspired by her own experience, Burns said, “I grew up in a place that was rife with violence, distrust, and paranoia, and peopled by individuals trying to navigate and survive in that world as best they could.”

The Man Booker Prize for Fiction awards the best original novel written in the English language and published in the U.K. and its winners generally receive international renown and success. This year the prize is celebrating its 49th anniversary. The eligibility was controversially widened in 2014 from only considering authors from the British Commonwealth, Ireland, and Zimbabwe to including all English-language novels. Since the change, two American authors have won the award: Paul Beatty in 2016 for his novel *The Sellout*, and George Saunders last year for *Lincoln in the Bardo*. After the ceremony where Burns won the award, Graywolf Press announced that it will publish *Milkman* in the United States on December 11, 2018.

– Maggie Holland



write my novel once my paid work was done. I know that cleaning is some people’s vision of hell, but it works for me. The bills must be paid, and until that six-figure sum comes a-knocking, everyone needs a day job.”

It was while unemployed and wandering around Dublin in 2011 looking for “staff wanted” signs that Lally came up with the idea of her main character in *Eggshells*, Vivian, who’s “just looking to belong, to connect with someone.” Ironically, just as Lally’s art imitated her life, her life is now imitating art, specifically, the film *Good Will Hunting*. Hopefully, like Matt Damon in the film, this won’t be the last we hear of Caitriona Lally. Meanwhile, she will continue in her day job. – Maggie Holland

## Martin McGuinness: The Man I Knew

Jude Collins, author of *Martin McGuinness: The Man I Knew*, gave a lecture about the book at New York City’s American Irish Historical Society in October. On the night, the journalist and former educator spoke about his own relationship with McGuinness, the late Northern Ireland politician who played a huge role in the peace process, whom he called “a man of the people.”

The book is a collection of interviews that Collins conducted with people who represent all sides of the Northern Irish political spectrum, including Gerry Adams; Eileen Paisley, wife of Ian Paisley; former Assistant Chief Constable Peter Sheridan from the RUC, peace process chairman, Senator George Mitchell; and *Irish America*’s founding publisher, Niall O’Dowd. As Collins talked he touched on these interviews, which reveal McGuinness to be a complex man. He ended his talk with a single quote from Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*: “He was a man, take him for all in all, I shall not look upon his like again,” which brought applause from the many McGuinness fans in the audience, who were ready to tell their own stories of the great man at the after party. – Dave Lewis

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Another book on Martin McGuinness making the rounds is Henry McDonald’s *Martin McGuinness: A Life Remembered*. It is a precisely curated book of photographs that capture his journey from I.R.A. leader to Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland, and features all the milestones in McGuinness’ life. From harrowing scenes of Bloody Sunday to the Good Friday Agreement, the book gives the reader the full scope of a personal but collective journey that began with anger and strife, but ended in peace.

– Dave Lewis

(Blackstaff Press / 144 pp. /\$20.92)

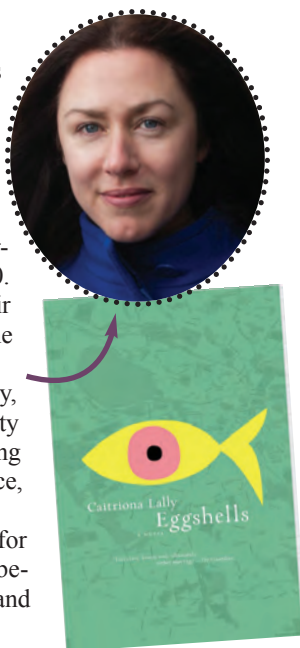
## Real-Life Good Will Hunting

Caitriona Lally has been awarded €10,000 as this year’s winner of the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature for her book *Eggshells*.

Intended for emerging artists, the prize was created in 1976 by the late Dan Rooney, owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers and former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, and is one of the most important prizes given annually to Irish writers under 40. “It is for writers moving out of promise into their own light,” said Gerry Dawe, co-chair of the Rooney prize selection committee.

Coming into her own light, for Caitriona Lally, meant up at 4:45 a.m. each morning to go to Trinity College – to her cleaning job – and then returning home to care for her 14-month-old daughter Alice, and putting in some writing time.

Lally says that her janitorial job is a great fit for writing. She said, “I’ve had copywriting jobs before, but it was hard to sit down at the computer and



**FICTION**

***Normal People***

By Sally Rooney

There is something quietly knowing in the title of Sally Rooney's second novel. Perhaps the reader is lulled into a false sense of security by the reassurance that these are characters just like us.

And for the most part, they are. But anyone who read her first book – *Conversations with Friends* – would be acutely aware that Rooney specializes in anything but normal.

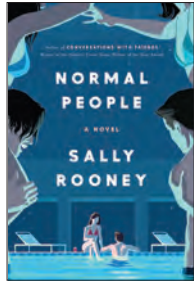
Marianne and Connell have known each other for years. They're at school together, and they meet regularly after school as Connell's mother cleans house for Marianne's mother. Both are intelligent, well-read, and academically gifted. They get on reasonably well and can chat easily about all manner of things. But at school they ignore each other. He's a popular jock, she's an excluded weirdo; and that teenage obsession with never stepping outside your circle keeps them decidedly apart.

When they eventually start a secret relationship, the reader knows that things can't end well for them. A love that has to be hidden from the get-go is never going have a fairytale ending. True to form, there is an unforgivable betrayal and a parting of the ways. Fast forward a few months and the erstwhile lovers are now in college together, with quite the reversal of roles – he's an outsider who struggles to fit in, while she is Ms. Popular on campus.

With a lightness of touch that is to be admired (and envied!) in one so young, Rooney expertly brings her main characters to life – introducing weighty themes in the process – to the extent that the reader can see and hear them, and really understands what makes them tick.

It is above all a love story, but with such a trail of loss and sadness throughout that we finally understand how broadly the word "normal" can be meant. It's a thought-provoking, discussion-engendering book that would be perfect for book clubs. Not yet 30, Rooney seems set to have a very bright future, and this reader, for one, will be watching with interest to see what she does next.

– *Darina Molloy*  
(Hogarth / 272 pp. / \$23.40)



***People Like Me***

By Lynn Ruane

In having this title for her first book (there's no doubt there'll be another – the author is only in her 30s), Irish senator Lynn Ruane seems to be claiming she's just like everybody else from the West Tallaght neighbourhood in which she grew up. Dabbling in drugs and alcohol from a very young age, running wild as her parents drove around at night looking for her, pregnant at 15, and on a destructive path that

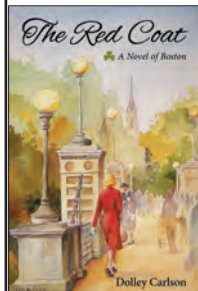
could well have seen her in an early grave, Ruane proved herself to have a tenacity that marked her out as very different from everyone else, despite the book's title.

Determined to keep herself healthy to give her baby its best shot at survival, Ruane turned her back on illicit substances, and even returned to school. A neighborhood project for troubled youth proved the turning point in her young life, and she subsequently went on to help others in similar circumstances as a community worker.

The next step in her rehabilitation was the Trinity Access Programme – which helps people from under-represented groups to achieve a third-level degree – and eventual degrees in philosophy, political science, sociology, and economics. While at Trinity, she entered the world of student politics, a continuation of the activism she had practiced in her own community. By 2016 she was a senator, working from inside the rarefied confines of Seanad Eireann to further her ambition, to give a voice for the under-represented in Irish politics, and to continue on the path of challenging inequality, and passionately defending education.

Her love for her two daughters and her parents lights up the pages of the book, and the grief over her older daughter's occasional struggle with mental health issues is palpable. From that, to Ruane's recent revelation of a rape, there are no topics off-limits in this searingly honest memoir. *People Like Me?* We can only hope for many more like her; just imagine the Ireland we could end up with. – *Darina Molloy*

(Gill Books / 288 pp. / \$16.92)



***The Red Coat: A Novel of Boston***

By Dolley Carlson

In her first novel, Dolley Carlson, author of four non-fiction books, creates a wealth of characters, and a rich storyline that crosses cultures and generations, and leaves the reader hoping that *The Red Coat: A Novel of Boston*, is just the first installment of what will become a series of several books.

In real life, Carlson is a third-generation South Boston Irish American, the daughter of Boston Police Department cop, and she sets her novel in Boston, in the pre- and post-WWII era of the 1940s and 1950s.

The story is based around Norah King, an Irish domestic, whose love for her children gives her the courage to ask her wealthy employer, Caroline Parker, for an elegant coat belonging to her daughter Cordelia, that she had been planning to give to the poor. This simple exchange will impact their respective daughters and families for years to come. Carlson shows us the contrasting lives of the Kings and Parkers as both families struggle with the realities of life, the joys and tragedies. The less-privileged Kings, despite their lack of wealth, are rich in love and family pride, the privileged Parkers are poor by contrast.

Carlson introduces us to Norah King and Caroline Parker early in the novel and they remain with us to the very end, impacting the lives of their children, body and spirit. What comes through in Carlson's writing is the profound influence of a mother on her family, especially an Irish mother. I was gratefully reminded of my own mother, and her words of wisdom, which we continue to lovingly pass on to the next generation.

*The Red Coat* is an enduring legacy, to enduring women. – *Mairead Bresnan*  
(Skyhorse Publishing / 480pp. / \$16.50)

# New Wave Greens

The therapeutic benefits of seawater and seaweed baths, as well as seaweed as an important food source, are explored by Edythe Preet.

I've got this thing about immersing myself in water. I like it body temperature or better. Thus, although Ireland has beaches aplenty, plunging into its frigid sea is out of the question, and I usually limit my adventuring to manor houses, monasteries, and ancient Celtic sites. On one auspicious journey, however, a tiny red notation on the road map caught my attention. It read Hot Seaweed Baths. I made a detour.

Perched on a windswept cliff that overlooks six miles of pristine North Atlantic beach, Kilcullen's Bath House in Enniscrone, County Sligo was built at the turn of the century during the elegant Edwardian Age. When Michael Kilcullen (great-grandson of the original owner) ushered me into my private bathing room, it was apparent that in all the intervening decades, not a faucet nor shower pull had been changed.

Cheery flowered tiles lined the walls. Bright red

water turned golden ochre and the brown wrack became vibrant emerald green. Instructing me to have a steam and then soak as long as I wished, Michael pointed to an immense showerhead positioned over the tub, and with a merry gleam in his blue eyes, said, "Now don't go forgetting to have a cold shower after. It'll seal in the seaweed's healthful iodine and natural oils."

I did it all – well, almost all. I stepped into the cabinet, sat on its wooden bench, pulled the ancient lever, and let the steam whoosh about me until I was cooked like a lobster. I slid into the tub, floated like a cork, and let the wrack's rich emollients soak through to my road-wearied bones. I dunked underwater, blowing bubbles like a great big fish. I traced patterns in the sand at the bottom of the tub. I draped ropes of slippery seaweed all about me and pretended I was a beautiful mermaid. I had Michael take my picture. He said he'd seen it all before.

I skipped the cold shower part, of course. Nothing on earth could tempt this woman to splash herself with ice water. But did I miss the moisturizing bonus? Not at all. I emerged from my soak with silky smooth skin, and it stayed that way for days.

Seawater and seaweed baths, known as thalassotherapy, are famous for their therapeutic benefits throughout Europe. Greek and Roman records from the first century B.C.E. mention herbal medicines and cosmetic preparations made with seaweed. Modern preparations include soaps, lotions, shampoos, conditioners, shower gels, and even packets of powdered seaweed that can be mixed in bathwater to create home thalasso-treatments.

More importantly, seaweeds have been an important food source for thousands of years, as indicated by the Chinese writer Chi Han, who noted their importance in 300 B.C.E. China is now the world's largest producer of mixed purpose seaweeds, with an annual crop of 2.5 million tons, and Japan nets nearly \$1 billion on its harvest of nori, which is used extensively in sushi preparation.

More than 500 varieties of seaweed can be found in Ireland's pristine waters, especially along the indented western shore, where mild temperatures, good wave action, and a varied rocky substrata provide an excellent growth environment. Most harvesting occurs in the Gaeltacht regions of counties Galway, Mayo, and Donegal. In 1994, the crop weighed in at 34,600 tons, securing Ireland's position as one of the world's important seaweed producers.

During the Great Famine of 1845-50, fortunate coastal dwellers supplemented their meager diets with a variety of seaweeds which are rich in iodine,



Dulse / Dillisk - Organic Irish Seaweed from AlgAran Seaweed Products, County Donegal, Ireland

wooden decking covered the floor. An age-checked beveled mirror hung on one wall. A large window looked out to the endless sea. An antique steam cabinet filled one corner. But the room's most amazing piece of equipment was the bathtub. Claw-footed, massive, and eight feet long if it was an inch! I could easily have moored a boat to the drain stopper's iron ring.

Michael turned the heavy brass tap, and as heated sea water began pouring into the tub, he dumped in a bucketful of fresh cut seaweed. Immediately, the

magnesium, calcium, potassium, and many vital trace minerals. Several types of seaweed have long been important Irish dietary components.

Dulse, a reddish-brown seaweed unique to North Atlantic and Pacific Northwest waters, is found all around the Irish coast and has been eaten since the 12th century when the “Hymn of Columba” recorded dulse-picking as one of a monk’s daily chores. “A while gathering dulse from the rock, a while fishing, a while giving food to the poor, a while in my cell.” It is often eaten plain or served as an accompaniment to bowls of steamed mussels. Dulse and yellowman (a bright yellow toffee) are traditional snacks sold at the annual Lammas Fair in Ballycastle, County Antrim. Customarily given by a boy to his sweetheart, they appear in the song lyric “Did you treat your Mary Anne to dulse and yallaman at the great Lammas Fair, oh!”

Carrageen, also called Irish Moss, grows in clusters of purple-brown fan shapes. It is found on stones and rocks all along the Atlantic coast, and although it can be used fresh, most people prefer using product that has been bleached and dried by rain and sun. When reconstituted in water, carrageen releases a gelatinous substance that makes an excellent thickener in soups, drinks, jellies, and milk puddings. The plain gel is also a tried-and-true home remedy for soothing the inflamed membranes of mouth and throat when irritated by a cold or flu.

Sloke is also known as sea spinach or laver. It has thin, translucent, purple-green fronds and can be found on rocks and stones up and down the beaches all around the Irish coast. After being washed, soaked, and simmered for several hours, it is traditionally served as a vegetable with fish or ham.

Sea-kale and samphire are two delicate seaweeds which both taste somewhat like asparagus. Unfortunately neither can be dried and you will have to travel to Ireland to experience their exotic flavor. Sea-kale, known as strand-cabbage, can be found growing wild on the sandy beaches of Donegal and in select greengrocers. Samphire grows in muddy salt marshes, particularly on the east coast and when picked young is tender enough to be eaten raw.

Since ancient times, seaweeds have been used to cure what ails, within and without, but this is the information age and like so many other things, even these venerable gifts of the sea have gone high-tech. Further information on Ireland’s seaweeds can be found on the internet (<http://seaweed.ucg.ie/seaweed.html>) courtesy of Chris Hession, who runs the Irish Seaweed Industry Organization, and Michael Guiry, professor of marine botany at University College Galway. Adventurous cooks can order additional recipes, a tasty snack called Sea Chips, and a selection of seaweeds, including dulse, from Maine Coast Sea Vegetables, Franklin, ME 04634, telephone: 207-565-2907. Sláinte!

IA

## RECIPES



### Mussel, Dulse & Rice Broth

(Gerry Galvin, chef:  
Drimcong House, Moycullen,  
County Galway)

- 48 mussels, rinsed and beards removed
- 1 cup white wine
- 1 cup water
- 1 ounce dried dulse, washed and shredded
- 1 cup cooked rice
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh dill
- 2 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese

Place mussels in a large stock-pot with wine and water. Cook over medium heat until all the mussels have opened. Remove mussels, shell, and set meat aside. Discard the shells.

Strain stock into a clean saucepan. Add rice and dulse. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to simmer and cook until dulse is tender, about 10 minutes. Add mussels and stir in chopped dill. Spoon into large bowls and sprinkle on grated parmesan. Makes four servings.

### Carrageen Jelly

(Irish Traditional Food -  
Theodora Fitzgibbon)

- ½ ounce carrageen
- 1 pint water
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- sugar to taste
- small wine glass of sweet sherry
- whipped cream

Soak the carrageen in water for a few hours, then rinse well and drain. Put in a pan with one pint of water and simmer for about 20 minutes. Strain and discard the carrageen. Add the sugar, lemon juice and sherry to the strained liquid and stir. Pour into four small heatproof dishes and refrigerate until set. Serve with whipped cream. Makes four servings.



## MURPHY'S SAW: *Surgery with Irish Flair*

The extraordinarily gifted **John Benjamin Murphy**, who turned surgery into performance art.



Dr. John B. Murphy standing in an entrance of Mercy Hospital and Medical Center. Theodore Roosevelt was taken to Mercy Hospital after being shot on October 14, 1912 before a campaign speech in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Mercy Hospital was located at 2537 South Prairie Avenue in the Near South Side community area of Chicago.

TOP RIGHT:  
The Murphy-Lane bone skid.

**L**ike other influential doctors, John Benjamin Murphy saved and improved lives with his medical advancements. But he also managed to turn surgery into a performance art. As a maestro with surgical tools, he welcomed – indeed, thrived on – the added pressure of operating before spectators inside an amphitheater. However, Murphy’s performances offered far more than operative entertainment: he was perhaps the finest medical educator of his age.

The son of famine refugees from Limerick, John Murphy was born in Wisconsin in 1857. He was the youngest of five children in a poor farming family that greatly valued education. His mother was fond of making the declaration: “If you are educated, there is no man’s achievements which you cannot equal or excel, provided you have industry and integrity and are temperate.” Young Murphy heeded her advice.

As a teenager, he worked at a nearby pharmacy. He also gave himself the middle name “Benjamin” and adopted the snappier appellation of “J.B. Murphy.” Like the transformation of James Gatz to Jay Gatsby, Murphy was reinventing himself.

After graduating from Appleton High School in 1876, he worked briefly as a schoolteacher and received medical instruction from a local doctor. During this time, he not only submerged himself in medical literature, but also began stalking the fauna on and around his family’s farm. An August 2015 article in the *Journal of Vascular Surgery* relates how Murphy, seeking to better understand anatomy, “regularly trapped birds, rabbits, and squirrels for dissection.”

He attended Rush Medical College (Chicago), from where he graduated in 1879. He then began an internship at Cook County Hospital, also in Chicago. In 1882, he went abroad to receive medical instruction in Germany and Austria from some of the world’s leading surgeons. Returning to the U.S. in 1884, he settled in Chicago, where he became a lecturer on surgery at Rush Medical College and emerged as a highly assertive surgeon who brought innovation to multiple specialties of medicine.

An enthusiastic self-promoter, he made sure to

lend his surname to his surgical contributions, and so we have such medical terminology as “Murphy’s button,” “Murphy’s punch,” “Murphy’s test,” and even the “Murphy drip.” Evidently, he agreed to share his name for a device known as the “Murphy-Lane bone skid.”

An article in the May 2005 edition of *Clinical Medicine & Research* describes some of his other important accomplishments in a medically precise way: “performance of end-to-end anastomosis of hollow viscera, early surgical intervention in cases of appendicitis, use of pneumothorax to treat pulmonary tuberculosis, surgical intervention for prostate cancer, and reconstruction of ankylosed joints.”

He spent his whole career in Chicago, where he would serve tenures as a professor of surgery at the city’s three top medical schools. “Holding such professorships at various institutions probably reflects not only his significant abilities as an educator but also his difficult personality, which caused him to transfer from one medical school to another,” according to an August 2002 article in *JAMA Surgery*.

Whatever interpersonal flaws Murphy might have possessed, medical students from all over the world came to attend his clinics. One of the finest testimonials to his gift for teaching came from the British neurologist Rickman Godlee, who said of Murphy: “He made the most simple subjects exciting and the most abstruse subjects clear.” The British abdominal surgeon Berkeley Moynihan said point blank that “Murphy was beyond question the greatest clinical teacher of his day.”

At Chicago’s Mercy Hospital, where Murphy reigned as chief of surgery from 1895 until his death, his surgical performances – also known as “wet clinics” – commanded a sizable and enthusiastic fan base. And the star doctor pursued increased exposure by launching a publication called *The Surgical Clinics of John B. Murphy*.

Such an endeavor may sound rather like a vanity project. However, with Murphy, the content was always substantive and effectively rendered, so, in that sense, it’s no huge surprise that his self-named journal would serve as the basis for the *Surgical Clinics of North America*, a publication which endures to this day, spreading news about the latest

developments in surgical techniques.

Realizing the importance of creativity as a surgeon, Murphy found unusual ways to improve patients' quality of life. A 1916 article in the *New York Times* tells how he used a man's finger to build him a new nose and additionally constructed a new jaw for a girl by using heavy silver wire with a metal frame. After positioning this contraption on the girl, "the flesh was quilted through the wire frame and the mucous membrane was sutured down on top of the tissue and the skin closed over the whole...The result was that the new jaw worked as well as the old."

Murphy was a founding member of the American College of Surgeons, which now has the J.B. Murphy Memorial Auditorium at its Chicago headquarters. He also served as president of the American Medical Association for the year 1911. A sure sign of his lofty reputation was manifested in 1912, when Theodore Roosevelt was shot in Milwaukee. Immediately after the assassination attempt, Roosevelt was placed on

a special train bound for Chicago's Mercy Hospital, so that Murphy could attend to him.

At age 58, Murphy died of inflammation of the aorta on August 11, 1916. Multiple accounts say that, at the time of his death, he was in the company of doctor friends and his wife (this is one of the few mentions of his personal life; information about whether or not they had children has proven difficult to ascertain). Two days before his passing, Murphy had issued a written prediction of the specific findings at his autopsy. He was proven correct.

Some persons, though compelled to acknowledge Murphy's talents, found his style too ostentatious, and European colleagues were generally more fond of him than his U.S. colleagues were. At least one prominent American doctor, however, was willing to pay tribute: William J. Mayo, a U.S. surgeon who helped establish the Mayo Clinic, regarded him as "the surgical genius of our generation." One might assume Murphy would agree. IA

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## William "Bill" Barry

1927 - 2018

**B**ill Barry, who grabbed Robert F. Kennedy's assassin's gun and prevented many other deaths on that fateful night in 1968, passed away on October 9, at age 91 in his New York suburban home.

To the end of his life, Bill unfairly blamed himself for what happened to Robert F. Kennedy on the dreadful night of June 5, 1968, at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

Back then, presidential candidates had no secret service protection and former NYPD and FBI Agent Bill Barry was the only bodyguard for the senator.

The crowd at the Ambassador that night was hugely excited. Kennedy had just won California and the Democratic race against Hubert Humphrey was suddenly neck and neck.

When his speech finished, Kennedy leaned over to his bodyguard and friend Barry and stated, "Look after Ethel," his notoriously crowd-shy wife, who was pregnant at the time and being swamped by well-wishers.

Barry did so and seconds later Kennedy exited through the kitchen where the killer Sirhan Sirhan was waiting. The Palestinian refugee opened fire. The second Kennedy in five years received fatal wounds. There was mass hysteria.

Barry alone kept his cool. On hearing the shots, Barry, a few yards behind Kennedy, rushed Sirhan and saved many lives by knocking Sirhan's gun out of his hand. As the crowd tried to attack Sirhan he handed him over to two supporters, footballer Rosey Grier and aide Jack Gallivan, saying, "Take this guy. Get this guy off in a corner where people can't hit him."

He was devastated by Bobby's death and found it hard to talk about. He was among the closest non-family member friends the Kennedys had. He believed if he had been beside Kennedy he might have seen the gun as he was trained to do and saved Kennedy.

He met Bobby when he was an FBI agent detailed to meet and protect the then-New York Senator when he traveled around the state.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was enraged Barry was getting so friendly with the hated Kennedys. He ordered him to Mobile, Alabama. Barry quit. He opened his own successful security firm and was soon a Kennedy confidant. He remained close to the family after R.F.K.'s death.

Courtney Kennedy, Robert and Ethel's daughter, spoke to *Irish America* about the relationship between the Kennedy family and Barry. "He was a great and much-loved friend of our family. Bill was extra special to me as he was my godfather. He was always there

whenever any one of us needed him. He was an enormous comfort to my mother after my father died. He went through all of the struggles and great joys of our lives with us, and when my father used to recite the St. Crispin's Day speech by King Henry V, and he said the words, "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers," we knew he had Bill in mind. We will always love and miss him."

"He's a substantial guy – very, very highly regarded and well-liked by people in law enforcement and government," then-D.A. Robert Morgenthau said in an interview some years back.

Barry expanded his own security firm and worked for a time as CEO of the New York racing authority. He became a close friend of Governor Hugh Carey.

In the early 90s, he encountered another famous Irish American: Bill Flynn, Chairman of Mutual of America, and they became fast friends. When Tom Moran took over as CEO the relationship continued. Ironically all three have died in 2018 within months of each other. Flynn had become deeply involved in peace efforts in Northern Ireland and was often on dangerous ground during visits there. Barry became his de facto bodyguard, but eventually much more than that, a trusted advisor to the small group seeking to bring American involvement to the peace effort.

In the phase leading up to the I.R.A. ceasefire, Barry was a key member of the Irish-American group. There is a historical photograph of Adams telling the Americans that the I.R.A. ceasefire was about to be announced. Sitting next to Adams is Bill Barry.

"Bill Barry was one of the silent contributors to the N.I. peace process. Relying upon his longtime relationship with Senator Ted Kennedy, he brokered the introduction of the senator to Bill Flynn which led to Gerry Adams being allowed into the U.S. for the first time in 1994," said Ed Kenney, a retired FBI officer who was part of the Mutual of America team working on the N.I. peace process.

He died on October 9, after a life well lived. He was one of a kind but always gentlemanly, with a great Irish sense of humor and fun.

I was privileged to know him. May he rest in peace.

– Niall O'Dowd



Robert Kennedy and Bill Barry hit it off when they met in the FBI office in New York.

*Note: Bill Barry died within days of Juan Romero, 68, who was a teenage busboy working in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel in June 1968 when Kennedy, moments after giving a victory speech in the California Democratic primary, came walking through and was shot in the head by an assassin. Romano rushed to Kennedy and held him as he lay on the floor mortally wounded, uttering his last words: "Is everybody okay?" He later said he had struggled to keep the senator's head from hitting the floor.*

*Mr. Romero died on October 1, from an apparent heart attack.*

## John Conheaney

1928-2018

Irish-American Merrill Lynch executive – and husband to best-selling author Mary Higgins Clark – John Conheaney died in October, aged 89. While he was mainly publicized as the beloved, supportive companion of Clark’s literary career, Conheaney made his own mark on the world in the finance industry, being inducted into the Future Industries of America Hall of Fame in 2006.

Born to Rita and Thomas Conheaney in 1928, Conheaney was raised in an Irish-Catholic neighborhood of Jersey City, with a close-knit extended family of dedicated tea-drinkers and bagpipe players. He attended St. Cecilia’s High School in Englewood, where he received training from legendary football coach Vince Lombardi. Conheaney went on to earn his bachelor’s degree from Manhattan College, and then his M.B.A. from Tulane University.

More than 40 years in the futures industry saw Conheaney as CEO and chairman of Merrill Lynch Futures, as well as husband of 45 years to Jean Conheaney. However, this role sadly came to an end with Jean’s death in 1994, just after John’s retirement from Merrill Lynch.

He met celebrated suspense author Mary Higgins Clark at a St. Patrick’s Day party in 1996 – arranged by Clark’s daughter, Patricia, who told her mother beforehand, “I’ve found him!” The two married in late November of the same year after a whirlwind courtship. “He’s got great strength and humor and kindness,” Clark praised her groom to the *New York Times*, citing the words of one of John’s colleagues on their marriage, “Tell Mary, now she really has everything.” Clark has referred to Conheaney as her “spouse extraordinaire” in all her novels’ acknowledgements since the start of their relationship, and he happily accompanied her on many book tours as her proudest supporter.

Predeceased by Jean, his parents, and his sister Rita, Conheaney is survived by Clark, children John, Barbara, Patricia, and Nancy; stepchildren Marilyn, Warren, David, Carol, and Patricia, and 17 grandchildren and step-grandchildren. – M.G.

## Coleman O’Toole

1976-2018

Coleman O’Toole, who was featured in Irish America’s 2013 Profiles In Courage issue, passed away on June 29 at the age of 42. Cherished son of Robert Edward O’Toole and Frances Rita (Doherty) O’Toole, Coleman was born on April 25, 1976 in Dorchester, M.A. and was named after his grandfather Coleman Francis O’Toole and his uncle Coleman Vincent O’Toole.

Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis at 16, Coleman dedicated the rest of his years to living life to the fullest and spreading joy and laughter to everyone he met.

Coleman attended Milton Academy from kindergarten through high school and then Skidmore College, where he was a gifted sculptor, radio DJ and actor. Graduating in 1998, he went on to become a founding member and senior vice president of Fovea Floods, an independent avant-garde theater company, appearing in a variety of productions, from the original work *Paul Pry*, to Bertolt Brecht’s *Baal*.

An avid reader and world traveler, Coleman always had time to devote to helping and caring for others, especially his three beloved nephews, Owen Ulysses O’Toole, Callum Flynn O’Toole, and Rory Sean O’Toole.

Coleman is survived by his parents and by his one younger brother Christian Liam O’Toole. – C.O.

## Patsáí Dan Mag Ruaidhrí

1944-2018

King of Toraigh Patsáí Dan Mag Ruaidhrí (known as Patsy Dan Rodgers) died in October at the age of 74. In his capacity as ruler of the tiny island off the coast of Donegal, Rodgers operated as an ambassador, greeting visitors as they arrived and putting in a great deal of effort to make sure that the island received proper attention and support from the mainland.

Born in Dublin, Rodgers was adopted at the age of four and taken to live on Toraigh, where he soon became fluent in Irish and enthusiastic about all the customs and history that made up his new home. Encouraged in his artistic endeavors by English artist and frequent Toraigh visitor Derek Hill, Rodgers became a respected painter, whose works showcased the hidden beauty of the island year-round. In 1993, he was nominated by the children of the previous king, Pdraig Óg Rodgers, to assume their father’s role, and after being elected, he did, serving as Toraigh’s protector, advocate, greeter, and a whole host of other functions for about 25 years.

Rodgers was presented with an honorary master’s degree by the University of Ulster in 1997. Earlier this year saw the publication of a book on his life, entitled *Rí Thoráí – From City to Crag – Patsy Dan Rodgers*, by Dr. Art Hughes, a professor at the school. The most recent exhibition of Rodgers’ artwork, held in Donegal this past summer, celebrated his 50th year as an artist and completed the portrait of the complete Renaissance man.

Toward the very end of his life, Rodgers maintained a passionate dedication to the home where he was raised, if not born. “I love the place so much,” he told BBC News NI in an interview while he was being honored in Donegal for his work. “I pray the culture and this island lives on because it’s my passion.”

Rodgers is survived by his wife Caitlin and their four children. – M.G.



FROM TOP:  
John Conheaney,  
Coleman O’Toole, and  
Patsáí Dan Mag  
Ruaidhrí

*On behalf of the team at Irish America magazine, we would like to publicly apologize and to extend our condolences to Joan Moran, wife of Tom Moran, whom we eulogized in the previous edition of the magazine, as we neglected to mention that she survives Tom.*

# Kilcar, My Donegal

**W**hen we were children, my brother and I spent our summers in southwest Donegal in the village of Kilcar, with my mother's people. Our parents sent us there so they could build their business in Buncrana, a tourist town 100 miles north. For me the journey southwest was an opportunity to switch one thriving location for another that was wild and a bit mysterious.

Harry Percival Swan has called Donegal "a most fascinating playground." In his 1949 book, *Twixt Foyle and Swilly*, he writes that, "Whoever

than where we lived. Even the language was foreign; it is a Gaeltacht village, so they spoke Irish. Today about a quarter of the locals remain native speakers.

In those days of the late 1950s Kilcar was a hinterland, but today it's a tourist destination, attractive for its scenery, rock climbing, surfing, family bathing beaches, and cultural traditions, especially music. Outside the village are the Slieve League cliffs, with beautiful coastal landscapes. Though less famous than the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, Slieve League's cliffs are almost three



Back row, left to right: Evelyn (born 1914), Anne (1913), Bridie (1908), Michael (1911), Mary (1905), Marguerite (1909), John (1916).

Front row, left to right: Frank (1918), Michael O'Donnell (father), Leila (1925), Patrick (1924), Genevieve (1923), Margaret (Doogan) O'Donnell (mother), Philip (1920).

spends one holiday amid its varied scenes will come back and spend another . . . Its sheltered landlocked bays, towering sea cliffs, and dark lonesome sea caves; its streams, and lochs, glens, and hills, will attract the lover of wild romantic scenery, the naturalist, and the wearied worker who desires to obtain a pleasant, quiet, invigorating place." Swan had it right. Stillness and silence assure Donegal its integrity.

It was my good fortune to spend childhood summers with my widowed grandfather Michael O'Donnell and my uncle John's family, who lived with him. For me, Kilcar was a different Ireland

times higher. They are described as the most varied group of alpine in Ireland.

As children we were unfazed by the scenery but quietly influenced by nature's beauty. The village consisted of a main street with a Catholic church at one end and two textile factories at the other, with shops and pubs in between. The village still has the principal tweed facility in Donegal, with shops selling tweed and woolen products, a big part of the Kilcar economy. The raw materials for that industry were and still are abundant in the area. Sheep, bred for wool, thrive in the hills and bogs of Donegal, and indigenous plants such as

# Playground



PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREAS F. BORCHERT.

blackberries, fuchsia, gorse, and moss provide dyes.

My grandfather was a weaver and he had a handloom in an outbuilding of his yard. My uncle was a contractor, also busy making concrete bricks there. The family managed the local dance hall, which I loved most. Our house controlled the electric lighting system of the village. The flow was turned on and off with the lever in the front hall. I'm not sure if my brother and I ever pulled it, but the lever was a definite temptation. Granddad was also a fiddler and in the evening he would take his violin and play as we danced around the kitchen. All my uncles were in St. Cartha's Pipe Band, formed in Kilcar in 1934. The band continues strong and competed in the All-Ireland Pipe Band Championships.

A precious reminder of that time is a photo of my mother and her siblings, as village children who later left to start families in Ireland, England, and America. My mom, Bridie, third from left in the back, wearing a tie, was the second eldest and always a fashionista. One of the first women to be trained to run a post office in Ireland, she herself was posted to Buncrana, where she met my father. A few years later, they started their own retail business.

The tow-haired lad in the middle front row is my Uncle Paddy, who emigrated to New York to

join his three siblings. I attended Paddy's "American Wake" in Kilcar when he emigrated back in the 1950s. No doubt he left from Derry, where I was told that young people a generation earlier made the journey on foot to catch the boat to Scotland, England or North America. Donegal was called the "emigrant nursery."

Uncle Paddy owned O'Donnell's Pub in Astoria, Queens. His sister Leila, the youngest girl, who sits on the lap of her father, my grandfather, became a nurse in England and from there emigrated with her husband Jim Dolan to the U.S. They too settled in New York, where she became head nurse at Boulevard Hospital in Queens.

I have beautiful summer memories of the Kilcar of my youth. My uncles and aunts are gone now. But many of their children and grandchildren still reside and have summer homes in the area. It's a lively summer spot where one might run into celebrities Matthew Broderick and Sarah Jessica Parker at the local library with their brood on a rainy day. But not to worry – the village has not gone Hollywood. Broderick is practically a native, having spent his childhood summers in Kilcar with his parents. He too is fortunate to have found his playground there, and like my family, passes it down to a new generation.

– By Turlough McConnell

View from the monastic site at the old church down to the village, looking east. The main road is seen as it leaves Kilcar in direction to Killybegs.

Please send photographs along with your name, address, phone number, and a brief description to Patricia Harty at *Irish America*, 875 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1606, New York, N.Y. 10001. If photos are irreplaceable, then please send a good quality reproduction or e-mail the picture at 300 dpi resolution to [submit@irishamerica.com](mailto:submit@irishamerica.com). We will pay \$65 for each submission that we select.

## ACROSS

- 1 (& 12 down) Hit crime drama, starring Liev Schreiber as a “fixer” from Southie (3)
- 3 See 10 across (7)
- 9 See 30 across (5)
- 10 (& 3 across) One of two female candidates for President of Ireland in October (4)
- 11 See 26 across (8)
- 14 Private Ivy League research university in Cambridge, Massachusetts (7)
- 15 See 37 across (2, 4)
- 18 The newest Justice on the US Supreme Court (9)
- 20 Fall, by any other name (6)
- 21 See 34 across (8)
- 23 (& 5 down) Latest health care scandal to hit Ireland involves this disease which affects women (8)
- 24 See 44 across (6)
- 26 (& 11 across) *Author of Fear: Trump in the White House* (3)
- 30 (& 9 across) The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_: Sinead O’Connor’s first album (4)
- 32 The Irish electorate voted on whether to remove the clause making this illegal from the constitution on the same day they voted for their newest president (9)
- 34 (& 21 across) Former Irish

- Minister for Communications who stepped down after recent broadband controversy (5)
- 35 In charge or in command: at the \_\_\_\_\_ (4)
- 37 (& 15 across) Monaghan author of *The Butcher Boy* and *Carn* (7)
- 40 See 33 down (4)
- 42 See 4 down (5)
- 43 Co. Mayo town is also a Co. Tipperary town! (7)
- 44 (& 24 across) Providence is the capital of this state (5)

## DOWN

- 2 Galway islands (4)
- 3 Anthology T.V. series focusing on the long-running dispute between Joan Crawford and Bette Davis (4)
- 4 (& 42 across) This businessman and humanitarian, who died in August 2018, was also the Chancellor of Queens University Belfast (3)
- 5 See 23 across (6)
- 6 (& 28 down) This Irish actor plays General Hux in the *Star Wars* sequel trilogy (8)
- 7 Entry point (4)
- 8 (& 17 down) Institutions of confinement, usually run by Roman Catholic nuns, which operated in Ireland from the 18th to the late

- 20th centuries (8)
- 12 See 1 across (7)
- 13 Mrs. Michael D. Higgins (6)
- 16 A frequent feature of the Irish sky – at all times of the year! (5)
- 17 See 8 down (9)
- 19 Establishment that provides paid lodging on a short term basis (5)
- 22 Any standard used for comparison in measurements (4)
- 25 What’s the missing word from this Cranberries classic hit: “And I’m in so deep / You know I’m such a fool for you / You’ve got me wrapped around your finger / Do you have to let it \_\_\_\_\_?” (6)
- 27 New movie about

- the Irish Famine shares its name with Larry Kirwan’s NYC Celtic rock band of the late 1990s and early 2000s: \_\_\_\_\_ ‘47 (5)
- 28 See 6 down (7)
- 29 The given name of Irish mythological figure Cú Chulainn (7)
- 31 This James is the new “old” manager of the Mayo senior football team (5)
- 33 (& 40 across)

- Giant of Mutual America and leading advocate for the Northern Ireland peace process who died in June 2018 (4)
- 36 Animal flesh that is eaten as food (4)
- 38 Irish \_\_\_\_\_: company that controls train travel in Ireland (4)
- 39 Unit of currency (4)
- 41 Affirmative head movement (3)



## September / October Solution



## Win a subscription to Irish America magazine

Please send your completed crossword puzzle to *Irish America*, 875 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1606, New York, NY 10001, to arrive no later than November 23, 2018. A winner will be drawn from among all correct entries. If there are no correct solutions, the prize will be awarded for the completed puzzle which comes closest in the opinion of our staff. The winner’s name will be published along with the solution in our next issue. Xerox copies accepted. Winner of the June July crossword: **Allan Goldberg, Brooklyn, NY**

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