

THE DEFINITIVE LIST OF CORPORATE U.S. LEADERS OF IRISH HERITAGE

# IRISH AMERICA

CANADA \$4.95 / U.S. \$3.95

WINTER ISSUE 2024

“Financial market structure changes are causing institutions to review operating models, invest in technology, innovate and grow.”

– Brian Ruane - BNY

*Business*  
**100**  
2024

## FEATURES:

Irish Eye on Hollywood

The Real Annie Moore

Winterval in Waterford

**Goody Glover:**  
The last person to be hanged in Boston as a witch

# 4 Seasons & Reasons

To Visit the Island of Ireland All-Year Round

## Winter

In 2024, Waterford proudly claims its title as the European City of Christmas, its enchanting Winterval markets bustling with festive cheer and local delights. In Belfast, the City Hall glitters with its vibrant Christmas market that captures the holiday spirit.

Galway buzzes with festive energy, highlighted by its lively Christmas market that draws visitors from near and far. Meanwhile, Dublin offers a buzzing musical celebration during its annual TradFest from January 22 to 26.

This winter, embrace the charm and beauty of Ireland, where every corner reveals a new adventure waiting to be discovered.



Saltee Island, County Wexford

## Spring

With milder temperatures and longer days, it's the perfect time to explore the island of Ireland. While the world awakens from winter, nature bursts into bloom, offering some of the most stunning wildflower displays, from the first snowdrops of February to the vibrant bluebells of May.

One of the highlights of spring is the return of the adorable puffins along the coast in April, captivating birdwatchers and wildlife enthusiasts alike. The Great Saltee Island in County Wexford is just one great location for this. St. Patrick's Day on March 17 is another fantastic reason to visit, as the streets come alive with colorful parades and lively Irish music.



TradFest, Dublin City

Dunlewey, County Donegal

Plus, the quieter spring months mean more affordable travel and accommodations, allowing you to explore popular destinations without the crowds. Embrace the awakening of nature, the warmth of the locals, and the enchanting beauty of the landscapes. This spring, discover why Ireland is a must-visit destination, where every moment offers a chance for new adventures and lasting memories!

## Summer

Escape the bustling tourist spots and immerse yourself in the quiet charm of West Cork, where rolling green hills meet the Atlantic Ocean. This idyllic getaway boasts charming villages like Baltimore, known for its vibrant houses and relaxed vibe, along with mouthwatering local seafood and artisan cheeses. Take a ferry to Sherkin Island or Cape Clear for scenic walks and a taste of authentic Irish culture.

Continue your adventure in County Clare, where the rugged beauty of the Loop Head Peninsula awaits. Marvel at the stunning cliffs and the historic Loop Head Lighthouse, all while keeping an eye out for dolphins and basking sharks. Explore the quaint fishing village of Carrigaholt, indulge in fresh seafood, and discover hidden trails along the dramatic coastline.

Venture north to Fermanagh, home to the enchanting Marble Arch Caves and the shimmering lakes of Lough Erne. Whether you're boating, fishing, or enjoying high tea at Florence Court, this region offers a perfect blend of adventure and tranquility.

In County Leitrim, visit The Shed Distillery, the birthplace of the award-winning Drumshanbo Gunpowder Irish Gin. Take a guided tour to learn about the unique distillation process, then explore the serene landscapes surrounding Lough Allen.

Finally, embrace the wonders of Sligo, where world-class surf meets rich literary heritage. Ride the waves at Strandhill, watch a traditional sheepdog demonstration, and pay homage to poet W.B. Yeats at his gravesite beneath majestic Benbulbin. Finish your day with a delightful meal at Eala Bhan in Sligo Town.

Each of these hidden gems invites you to experience an authentic summer in Ireland—where every corner holds a story, and every visit feels like home.



Gleniff Horseshoe, County Sligo



Derry Halloween

## Fall

Immerse yourself in the enchanting spell that Halloween in Ireland will have on you, where ancient traditions come alive in the vibrant celebrations! Join the legendary Derry Halloween Festival from October 27 to 31, featuring dazzling parades, electrifying fireworks, and captivating live performances. Discover Dublin's spooky side with ghost tours and the Bram Stoker Festival from October 26 to 29, or celebrate at the Púca Festival from October 27 to 29, showcasing music, storytelling, and more.

From the warmth of cozy pubs to the breathtaking golden landscapes, the island of Ireland promises a truly unforgettable experience this season.



Loop Head Lighthouse, County Clare

Start planning, visit  
 **Ireland.com**



## 34 **Winterval in Waterford**

For the first time, an Irish city has been named The European City of Christmas, and Waterford, in the Sunny South East, is taking its annual celebrations to a whole new level. *Photos by P.J. Browne.*

## 38 **The 2024 Business 100**

Celebrating the Irish in corporate America – rising stars and seasoned leaders – who excel at business and share a love of Irish heritage. Brian Ruane (p. 58) and Helen Doody (p. 60), will serve as Keynote Speakers at our annual gala.

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A look at the life and death of Mairéad Farrell, an Irish Republican Army Volunteer, who was shot dead by the SAS in Gibraltar in 1988. *By Rosemary Rogers*

## 82 **Window on the Past**

Goody Glover was the last witch (alleged) to be hanged in Boston (November 16, 1688). Over three centuries later, in 1988, the Boston City Council declared the conviction unjust and named November 16th as Goody Glover Day. *By Mike Tuohy*

## 86 **The Real Annie Moore**

For over a decade, genealogist Megan Smolenyak researched the roots of Annie Moore and discovered that Annie, the first immigrant to pass through Ellis Island, wasn't who we thought she was.

## 90 **Listen Now Again**

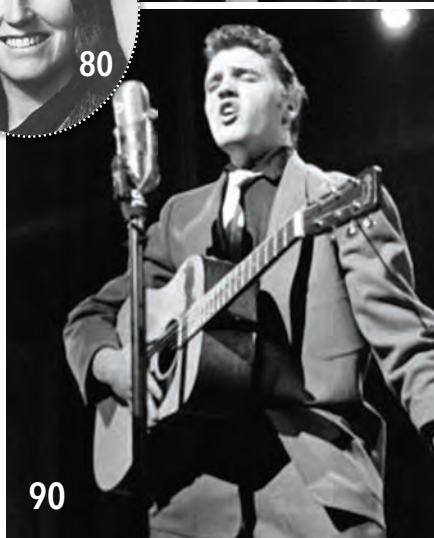
“That’s Alright!” is the song that made Elvis famous 70 years ago. Noel Shine writes about guitarist Scotty Moore, who played on the original recording, while Richard Purden talks to Duff McKagan of Guns N’ Roses, who is making a comeback as a solo artist.



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## HIGHLIGHTS

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Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal are to play Shakespeare and his wife, and a trio of Irish documentaries worth looking out for. **p. 10**

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A multi-cultural celebration by Edythe Preet. **p. 100**

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50 years after the IRA bombings in Birmingham, victims’ families still seek justice. **p. 104**

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*Congratulations to*

**Helen Doody**

**&**

**Brian Ruane**

*and all of the*

**Business 100 Honorees**

.....

***The Ruane Family***



PHOTO: JAMES YARDLEY

Turbot island is pictured between Aird Mhór Peninsula (foreground) and Inishturk (background).

## *The Death and Resurrection of Inisturbot*

Is aoibhinn liom an t-alt seo.

D'fhoghlaimíos scata. Go raibh maith ag an údar. Oidhreacht iontach do Mhuintir Thurbot. Tá súil agam go dtabharfad cuairt ar Thurbot sa toadhcháil.

I love this article. I learned a lot. Thanks to the author. It's a great legacy of the Thurbot family. I plan to visit Turbot island in the future.

– Emma Verling-Ní Mhurchú

My grandmother, Delia Wallace, was born in 1894 to parents Patrick and Honor (Nora) Wallace and left Turbot Island when she was 16. She settled in Brooklyn, New York. Unfortunately, she died at age 49 from a heart attack when my father, James Gregory White, was 17 years old.

This article and some recent intriguing genealogy has heightened my interest in the life and families of this Island.

If anyone remembers the Wallace family or could shed some light on life on the Island, please email me.

– Joyce Randolph: Mjdolph5@gmail.com

## Rome, Italy: Retracing the Footsteps of Hugh O'Neill

Hugh O'Neill and Hugh O'Donnell should be remembered and honored for trying to uphold Gaelic Ireland.

– Eileen Keane

I have fond memories of growing up around Lough Swilly. I propose that advocates preserving this overlooked history consider staging Brian Friel's "Making History" in this hallowed space. The play artfully captures (albeit somewhat fictionally) the tale of O'Neill and O'Donnell and their heartbreaking departure from Rathmullan. Following O'Neill's exile in Rome, the play skillfully portrays his time there and eventual death. You tell the rest of the story by enshrining his final resting place in the church of San Pietro. Appreciate your insightful article!

– Turlough McConnell

An ancient bard captured the sad chapter of the Flight of the Earls in 1607:

*Rory, our darling and our most gracious Hugh:*

*And tho' we named no names beyond the two,*

*Yet in this sailing have we lost a host,*

*Of men that fainting Ireland needed most.*

(Translation by Frank O'Connor)

The departure of the two Earls, Rory O'Donnell of Tyrconnell and Hugh O'Neill of Tyrone, set the stage for England's aggressive Plantation conquest of Ireland, the consequences of which remain today in Ulster.

– Robert F. Lyons



Dungannon, Co. Tyrone is the home of the ancient Hill of the O'Neill site, with spectacular views of seven counties. The center tells the story of Hugh O'Neill and the Flight of the Earls. So perhaps not a true commemoration, but certainly not a forgotten leader.

– Marie Martin



The Hill of O'Neill

Our Community Group, Rathmullan The Way Forward, would be pleased to welcome all interested parties to Rathmullan in County Donegal to celebrate our history and heritage and commemorate The Flight of The Earls from Rathmullan in 1607.

– Michael McGlynn  
mimcglynn@eircom.net.

Thank you for this article. I am a very close descendant of the O'Neills. Hugh, who died in Rome, was my many times great-grandfather. I live in New Zealand, and there are a whole lot of us here whose ancestral line go back to Lisbon and Cork. I am very proud of this family; we must do everything possible to preserve their memory.

– Denise Jennings

## Roger Connor: The Irish Bambino

Great story and read, and perfect for Irish Americans at World Series time of year!

– Rich Finn

I was incredibly interested to discover that Roger Connor's father Mortimer was from Tralee in County Kerry, and that's where I am from.

Catherine Sullivan, Roger's mother, is also from County Kerry, and she has the same surname as me, so there is a possibility that we may even be connected. I will have to do some research to find out. Thank you for this fantastic read!

– Ella Sullivan



## The Irish of Barbados

I was born in Barbados and was aware of these light-skinned people, but I had no idea about their [Irish] background. Barbados is a small place that has

dramatically influenced the world. That Barbadians have not embraced these people pains me. I wish the dead could come back and give us a first-hand account of their lives..

– Clem Griffiths



PHOTO: SHEENA JOLEY.

The Irish in Barbados have a long and troubled history. Pictured above are Erlene Downie (left) and Betty Fenty, who is the great aunt of singer Rihanna.



Artifacts uncovered during an archaeological excavation of Seneca Village in 2011.

## The Life and Death of Seneca Village

My grandmother told me about her family being scammed out of their ownership in what is now Central Park. She was Irish. Legal teams asked all the family members to sign off on any rights. The family never received the compensation money.

– Julia McCarthy

Seneca Village's history serves as a powerful reminder of the contributions of African Americans to the development of New York City and the United States. The village played a vital role in its residents' cultural and social life, offering a place for education, worship, and community gatherings.

– Traveler Lives

## Breaking the Code of Silence: The Irish and Drink

Fantastic story. Many years ago, I read an article saying that the English drank much more than the Irish and that the Australians drank more than anyone. From experience, I learned never to spend a weekend in Temple Bar, Dublin due to the English hen parties!

I have been sober for 43 years and am happy to say I come from a CIA (Catholic Irish Alcoholic) family with one brother and many cousins who are now enjoying long-term sobriety.

– Richard Miller

Visit us online at [Irishamerica.com](http://Irishamerica.com) to leave your comments. Visit: [Irishamerica.com](http://Irishamerica.com) to read any of the mentioned articles, and to sign up for Irish America's weekly digital issue.

## IRISH AMERICA

### Mortas Cine

Pride In Our Heritage

#### Founding Publisher:

Niall O'Dowd

#### Co-Founder/Editor-in-Chief:

Patricia Harty

#### Art Director:

Marian Fairweather

#### Vice President of Marketing and Special Events

Mary Cucinell

#### Writers

Tom Deignan

Brian Dooley

Darina Molloy

Michael Quinlin

Rosemary Rogers

Megan Smolenyak

#### Editorial Assistant:

Emily Moriarty

#### Financial Controller:

Kevin M. Mangan

## IRISH AMERICA

112 West 34th Street,  
18th Floor New York  
NY 10120

#### Subscriptions and inquiries:

1-800-582-6642

#### E-MAIL:

submit@irishamerica.com

www.irishamerica.com

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## the first word | By Patricia Harty

# Hope, Heritage and Hard Work

"Growing up in an Irish household, I learned the importance of connection and community. My fiercely Irish mother instilled in me a relentless work ethic, the ability to find joy in the face of adversity and a zest for life – qualities that have been indispensable in navigating both life and business."

- Kathleen McQuade Ellmore, Business 100 honoree

The Business 100 list of honorees we celebrate in the following pages represent some of the most talented Irish and Irish Americans working in corporate America today. From executives, managers, partners, and directors, from young, inspired entrepreneurs to those working in long-established corporate entities, our honorees are a major driving force behind the economy's growth. Not only are they fundamental to the prosperity of the U.S., but they also play a significant role in building business bridges between Ireland and the U.S. and, increasingly, representing Ireland on a global scale.

What is most heartening is how much our honorees give back to their communities here and in Ireland. Look closely at the pages of events that have taken place on this side

of the Atlantic over just the past two months, and you will see not only how the Irish love a good get-together but how funds raised at these events are helping to change lives.

There's the 10K high altitude run to help GOAL, an Irish aid organization, do fantastic work in Ethiopia; The African American Irish Diaspora Network finding a shared heritage and culture; The Ireland Funds and the Flax Trust working for economic peace and justice on the island of Ireland; and the Irish American Partnership's commitment to supporting education in rural Ireland, ensuring that the next generation will be well-equipped as the digital age continues to evolve.

Two of our honorees founded Women With Ambition, a support network for entrepreneurial women in the tri-state area, and others are doing what they can to help our newest, brightest generation – Irish graduate visa holders who want to live and work in the U.S. – gain a foothold in corporate America.

I look forward to meeting our honorees in person at our Gala Dinner on December 16, one week away as I write this. I anticipate a vibrant, lively gathering filled with laughter, great music, and delicious food, where guests create a contagious sense of joy as they chat with friends, make new connections, and enjoy each other's company.

In honoring those on our list, we remember those who went before, and their experience in *an tír nua* – the new country. There's an account of Goody Glover, an Irish woman hanged as a witch in Boston in 1688, and a look at the life of Annie Moore, the first immigrant to pass through Ellis Island on January 1, 1892. There's a story about a family who left County Down for Chicago in 1925 when the War of Independence and the Civil War had taken their toll on Ireland, and 50 years later, a report on the victims of the Birmingham pub bombings of 1974, and a look at the life and death of Mairéad Farrell, a young woman caught up in the Troubles in Northern Ireland in the 1980s.

Make the holidays a time for stories and songs, and bring out the photo albums. There is comfort in knowing the history and the depth of the Irish experience, as well as the resilience that comes from tragedy. Let your children know all the wonderful stories that came out of the Irish American experience but also that should hard times come again, they are the descendants of survivors of a people who took a chance and made the best of things.

Happy Holidays. Sign up for our weekly digital newsletter on [www.irishamerica.com](http://www.irishamerica.com).

*Mórtas Cine*







## Congratulations to Gene McQuade, Chair of The Ireland Funds America & all of the Business 100 Honorees.

The mission of The Ireland Funds is to harness the power of a global philanthropic network of friends of Ireland to promote and support peace, culture, education and community development across the island of Ireland and among Irish communities around the world. Together, we've supported over 3,200 outstanding Irish organizations and causes.

Let us help you connect with Ireland and realize your philanthropic goals.

The Ireland Funds America, 200 Park Ave, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10166 T 212.689.3100



Screenshot from *Say Nothing* shows Lola Petticrew as Dolours Price and Hazel Doupe as Marian Price, her younger sister and fellow IRA member.

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR SAY NOTHING CAST?

The nine-part Northern Ireland drama *Say Nothing*, based on Patrick Radden Keefe's book, is a massive hit for Hulu's streaming service.

"In setting, subject matter, and theme, the series stands refreshingly apart from most American programming . . . it is one of the year's finest shows," raved *New Yorker* magazine.

Vulture.com put it more simply: "Tell everyone about *Say Nothing*."



Anthony Boyle in *Manhunt*.

So, what's next for the show's sprawling, impressive cast of Irish talent – most of whom are unfamiliar to American audiences until now?

**Anthony Boyle** – who plays the IRA operative Brendan Hughes in *Say Nothing* – has the most interesting, and probably most Irish, project on tap.

Boyle leads the cast for *House of*

*Guinness*, a series about the famous brewing family written by Steven Knight, the creator of *Peaky Blinders*.

Currently planned as an eight-part series for Netflix, *House of Guinness* will explore the family's history, and take the viewer on a journey of "the pint," from the founding of the brewery in Dublin in 1759 to the billion-dollar global brand we know today.

Boyle, now playing John Wilkes Booth on Apple TV's *Manhunt*, will star alongside English actor **Louis Partridge** as brothers Arthur and Edward Guinness, respectively. **David Wilmot, Jack Gleeson, Niamh McCormack** and **Fionn O'Shea** are also in the cast.

However, the undisputed breakout stars of *Say Nothing* are Belfast native **Lola Petticrew** and Dubliner **Hazel Doupe**, who played the IRA-linked sisters Dolours and Marian Price.

Doupe starred in the 2023 Thadeus O'Sullivan film *Miracle Club*, while Pettigrew turned heads alongside James Nesbitt in *Bloodlands*. She also played an Irish Traveler/boxer in *Float Like a Butterfly* after winning the 2019 Galway Fleadh New Talent Award.

Doupe, a regular performer at Dublin's Abbey and Gate theatres, will appear in the movie *Down to Business* next.

## IMMORTAL MEN

Netflix, meanwhile, can't seem to get enough of the Irish – especially as imagined in the work of British writer and director Stephen Knight.

Best known for the stylish gangster series *Peaky Blinders*, Knight turned a bunch of Irish, English, Welsh, and Scottish baddies into captivating characters.

So why stop now?

**Barry Keoghan** – who recently earned raves in the critics' darling film *Bird* – will star with Oscar winner **Cillian Murphy** in a *Peaky Blinders*' movie called *The Immortal Man*, to be directed by Tom Harper and written by Knight.

Also, look for Barry Keoghan down the road in *Crime 101*, a movie based on the work of celebrated Irish American crime writer Don Winslow. Keoghan is also set to appear in a project called *Hurry Up Tomorrow*, based on the music of Abel Tesfaye, better known as The Weeknd. (Yes, that's how it's spelled.) But showbiz watchers might recall another Weeknd project from HBO starring Lily Rose-Depp called "The Idol" that received, um, tepid reviews.

## THE ABANDONS

The Netflix Irish theme reappears in a forthcoming Western drama starring **Gillian Anderson** and Len Headey.

Entitled *The Abandons*, this will be "a lavish new Netflix drama set in Oregon in the mid-eighteen-hundreds," as a recent magazine profile of the *X-Files* icon Anderson put it.

Anderson will play Constance Van Ness, described as a strong-willed matriarch who inherited a mining fortune. She wants to turn it into a family empire on the American frontier.

Enter **Fiona Nolan**, an Irish immigrant and mother of four who is simply trying to survive on the frontier. Nolan (*Game of Thrones* star Lena Headey) will cross paths with the Van Ness, and nastiness will presumably ensue.

So far, most of *The Abandons*' drama has occurred behind the scenes, where show creator Kurt Sutter – best known for his sweeping biker epic *Sons of Anarchy* – has clashed with Netflix executives. There is no word yet on whether tensions will delay the film's release, which is slated for late next year.

## JESSIE BUCKLEY IS "THE BRIDE!"

Jessie Buckley has two very different productions in the works.

There's the star-studded *The Bride!*, written, directed, and produced by Maggie Gyllenhaal. The Oscar-nominated Buckley – born in Kerry – will star in this film inspired by Mary Shelley's acclaimed 1818 novel and Hollywood's broad array of Frankenstein flicks.

**Christian Bale**, **Penelope Cruz**, and **Annette Bening** are also billed to appear in the Fall 2025 movie, which is sure to generate lots of Academy Award buzz.

Buckley will also star alongside Mr. Gladiator – Kildare native **Paul Mescal** – in a film version of *Hamnet*, based on Northern Ireland writer Maggie O'Farrell's best-selling historical novel.

Buckley plays the wife of William Shakespeare, while Mescal is the Great Bard himself.

This story explores the death of their



Jessie Buckley on the opening night of *Wild Rose*.

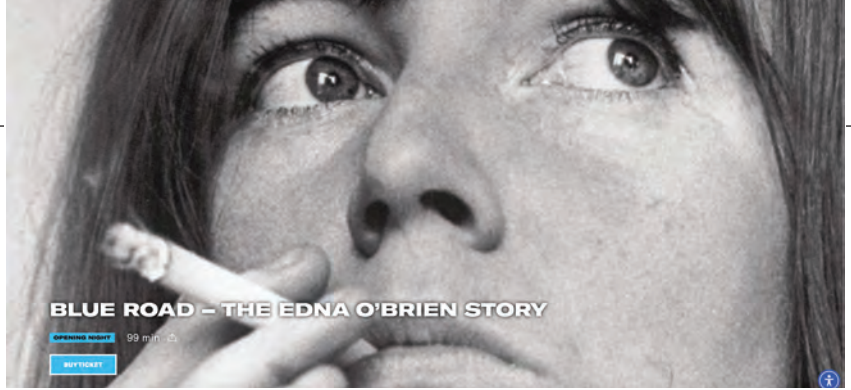
PHOTO: MONTCLAIRFILMFEST

child, *Hamnet*, which might make you think of a certain Danish prince.

For all of the history and emotion here, *Hamnet* finally proves the old saying that a great writer like Shakespeare must have been Irish.

At least in this movie, the writer and his wife are.

Until then, you'll be able to catch Paul Mescal very much in the flesh. Beginning in February, he will star in a revival of Tennessee Williams' epic play *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Mescal will sweat shirtless and shout "Stella" at the top of his lungs alongside co-stars Patsy Ferran and Anjana Vasa during a five-week run.



## BLUE ROAD, SPACE-WOMAN & BREXIT

Finally, a trio of powerful – and very diverse – Irish documentaries are worth looking out for.

*Blue Road: The Edna O'Brien Story* explores the life and times of the groundbreaking Irish novelist who (as some folks have suggested for two decades) should have gotten at least more consideration for a Nobel Prize.

*Blue Road* opens with this 1967 diary entry by O'Brien (read by Jessie Buckley): "Ah, the trees, how tortured they are. If anyone asks me about the Irish character, I say look at the trees. Maimed and stark and misshapen but ferociously tenacious."

And that's Edna O'Brien and Ireland for you.

Directed by Sinéad O'Shea and including fascinating interviews with O'Brien, it's a reminder of what we lost when she died in July 2024 – and one more reminder to read and re-read her novels.

*Blue Road* will be released in Irish cinemas on January 31.

*A Fragile Peace: Northern Ireland and Brexit* is a compelling look at more recent history. Just when it seemed as if the Good Friday Agreement would usher in an era of stability in the North, the 21st Century encouraged England to leave the European Union. One of the enormous questions lost in emotion and rage that followed, was how this British exit would impact the North, from daily imports and exports to crucial details of the peace agreements. Written and directed by New York-based Rory Duffy, *A Fragile Peace* reminds us that we should always



TOP: Poster for *BLUE ROAD – The Edna O'Brien story*.

ABOVE: Eileen Collins, the first woman to pilot the Space Shuttle and the first to command a Space Shuttle mission, pictured with her daughter, Bridget.

be careful whenever we believe history has reached an endpoint. More likely, BREXIT will cause a wildly unpredictable new chapter in Irish history.

Then there is *Spacewoman*, a look at the extraordinary accomplishments of Irish-American astronaut Eileen Collins, the first woman to pilot and command the space shuttle.

From small town beginnings, Collins had a trailblazing career at NASA, culminating in four space shuttle missions. Through archival materials and informative interviews, Hannah Berryman's documentary, based on Collins' bestselling biography *Through the Glass Ceiling to the Stars*, raises profound personal and cosmic questions while showing us a whole new side to Eileen Collins, who turned 68 in November.

(Watch out for a shot of *Irish America* cover featuring Eileen, which made it into the film.)

If you are looking for some good reading to complement *Spacewoman*, grab a new book by Loren Grush called *The Six: The Untold Story of America's First Women Astronauts*. It includes Kathryn Dwyer Sullivan, a New Jersey-born geologist and oceanographer who went on to become a NASA astronaut and fly Space Shuttle missions.



A FRAGILE PEACE: Brexit and Northern Ireland. (Screenshot).

## AIF CELEBRATIONS

The Ireland Funds 43rd Boston Gala took place on November 4. Over 650 guests celebrated at The Westin Copley Place. **Ronald P. O’Hanley**, Chairman and CEO of **State Street**, and Massachusetts Governor **Maura Healey** were guests of honor.

In accepting his Leadership Award, O’Hanley highlighted his pride in his Irish heritage and praised the Fund for its “spirit of generosity, commitment and connection to Ireland.”

Caitriona Fottrell, President & CEO of The Ireland Funds, offered a special thanks to the dinner committee and Gala Chair Jim Rooney of the Greater Boston Chamber, who **proudly announced** at the end of the evening, that \$1.8 million had been raised to support Fund’s mission.



PHOTO BY MAURA WAYMAN AND BILL BRETT

BOSTON: John Capone, KPMG, Jim Rooney, Greater Boston Chamber, Declan Lee, KPMG, Jean Hynes, Wellington Management, and her husband, Mark Condon.

Meanwhile, the Ireland Funds Women in Leadership Luncheon was held at the Four Seasons Hotel in San Francisco on December 6. Guest speakers included **Sarah Friar**, Chief Financial Officer at OpenAI; **Amy Roberti**, Head of Public Policy at Stripe; and **Lorraine Twohill**, Chief Marketing Officer at Google.



PHOTO BY DEIRDRE O’NEILL

SAN FRANCISCO: Lorraine Twohill, Google, Sarah Friar, OpenAI, Marjorie Muldowney, Ireland Funds, Amy Roberti, Stripe, Janet Reilly, journalist publisher.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW CAPOWSKI

## ARTS CENTER GALA RAISES \$3.25 M

**I**rish Arts Center (IAC) New York City honored 3-time Academy Award winner **Meryl Streep** on Friday, November 15, at its **25th Annual Spirit of Ireland Gala** at Pier 60.

IAC also celebrated longtime KPMG executive **Shaun Kelly** at the conclusion of his five-year tenure as IAC Board Chair, during which the organization completed and opened its \$60 million landmark new facility amid a global pandemic.

Special Guest Senator **George Mitchell** – architect of the Good Friday Agreement – gave a moving speech reinforcing the links between America’s immigrant traditions and its spirit of innovation and heralding IAC’s role as a bridge between Ireland and the U.S.

By the end of the night, the Gala had raised \$3.25 million to support the organization’s annual programming, its operations, and its next phase of growth.

The event’s Honorary Chairs were **Liam Neeson**, **Loretta Brennan Glucksman**, and **Gabriel Byrne**, and its Lead Sponsors were **Kea Capel**, **Bob McCann**, **Kate** and **Bob Devlin**, and **Kathleen** and **Mike Dowling**.

**Performances by Declan O’Rourke**, known for his expansive musical storytelling, and singer/songwriter **Sean Kiely** with **Sean Kiely and Friends**.

The festive event was attended by notable guests including actor and IAC Honorary Chair (and Honorary Gala Co-Chair) **Liam**



PHOTOS BY NIR ARIELI



TOP: Irish Arts Center Executive Director **Aidan Connolly**, **Meryl Streep**, **Liam Neeson**, and Irish Arts Center Vice Chair **Pauline Turley**.

MIDDLE: **Meryl Streep** and **Shaun Kelly**. ABOVE: **Declan O’Rourke**.

**Neeson**, actors **Aidan Quinn**, **Bill Irwin**, **Justin Theroux**, and **Nicole Brydon Bloom**, novelist **Jean Hanff Korelitz**, poet **Paul Muldoon**, CNN broadcaster **Donie O’Sullivan**, and many more leading lights.

The evening was co-hosted by IAC Executive Director **Aidan Connolly** and Vice Chair **Pauline Turley**. The Gala celebrated three full years of programming in the new Irish Arts Center. In that time, the institution has presented, as Turley noted, “more than 600 artists to more than 50,000 audiences, including two Presidents and two Taoiseachs.”



# Congratulations from CIE Tours to this year's Business 100 Honorees

CIE Tours is proud to sponsor the Irish America Magazine Business 100 honoring the best and brightest Irish-American and Irish-born leaders representing some of the most innovative and influential companies and corporations in the world.

For over 90 years, CIE Tours has welcomed more than three million travelers to Ireland, Britain, and beyond, establishing a reputation for excellence rooted in our signature Irish hospitality. CIE Tours is committed to bringing many more generations of guests to experience the beauty and wonder of Ireland.

[cietours.com](http://cietours.com)

IRELAND | SCOTLAND | ENGLAND | ICELAND | ITALY | SPAIN

## THE GREAT ETHIOPIAN RUN



The GOAL USA Great Ethiopian Run team celebrates after finishing the 10km course in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

On Sunday, September 17, a team of runners from the **U.S., Ireland and Ethiopia stepped up to the starting line for the Great Ethiopian Run** in Addis Ababa. They were the GOAL team, there to participate in a road race named **'the world's best 10k'** by *Runner's World*.

This was more than a chance for the runners to test their athletic prowess in high altitude. Led by Irish Olympian and former 5,000-meter world record holder **Eamonn Coghlan**, the team were committed to raising \$200,000 to support GOAL's vital work in Ethiopia and beyond.

The road to Addis Ababa began in July 2024. At a kickoff event in New York hosted by Eamonn Coghlan, GOAL USA board chair Ronan Ryan, and fellow GOAL board member Conor Twomey. Ryan is the founder and COO of IEX, and the event was held at EIX headquarters, 3 World Trade Center.

Ryan and Twomey, managing partner of AI One, are avid runners. They **used the event to introduce more than 120 attendees to GOAL** and its mission, and to recruit a team to take on the **Great Ethiopian Run Challenge**.

Soon, ten runners answered the call, reaching out to friends, family, and colleagues to support the effort while training in earnest for the course, which covers approximately 6.2 miles at an altitude above 8,000 feet.

The team included GOAL USA Board Member Tony

Chambers, Disney's EVP of Theatrical Distribution, GOAL USA CEO Eamon Sharkey, and New York-based executives Mark O'Toole, Alfie Tucker, and Ed Louie. They were joined by fitness and lifestyle coach, founder and content creator Amie Wiley, who captured the journey's every step.

**Ethiopia is one of GOAL's largest, most comprehensive, and longest-running country programs**, currently staffed by a team of nearly 800, it reaches families and commu-

drought, conflict, and displacement.

The team landed in Addis Ababa on Wednesday morning, November 13. While some took a training run in the Entoto Mountains above the city, others rested, preparing for a series of visits they would make to GOAL programs across the country.

Over the next two days, the team met with GOAL staff, partners, and the communities they work with. They visited a child protection center in Addis Ababa, initiatives focus-

fundraising efforts.

The Great Ethiopian Run brought together some **50,000 runners** this year.

While the run is a competitive race for serious runners, most people are there to take in the raucous celebration of life, community spirit, and Ethiopian pride, with music, dancing, and a scenic tour of the vibrant city of Addis Ababa.

The run also highlights important social causes. This year's theme was **"For Every Child, Nutrition,"** which held special meaning for those aware of GOAL's work with malnourished children.

Runners from GOAL Ethiopia and GOAL USA finished the course at a range of times, from competitive to casual. Reuniting at the finish, jubilant and humbled by the experience, they spoke of being more committed than ever to GOAL's mission.

Eamon Sharkey remarked, "When Ronan and Conor charged us with making this happen back in July, we had no idea how it would turn out, but I am confident we'll surpass our \$200,000 goal, and we have all the momentum we need to bring back a bigger team and generate even more support next year."

Plans are underway for **GOAL USA's Great Ethiopian Run 2025**, which will also be the event's 25th anniversary. **IA**



ABOVE: GOAL Ambassador and Irish running legend Eamonn Coghlan with boys participating in the organization's ChildSPACE project.



LEFT: Eamonn Coghlan with good friend and fellow running legend Haile Gebreselassie, founder of the Great Ethiopian Run.

nities across 60 districts and eight regions, including Afar, Amhara, Gambela, and Tigray. GOAL's work there provides critical support in nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) livelihoods, food security, health, and protection – bringing relief to communities facing extreme crises such as

ing on food security and managing acute malnutrition in infants in Harergehe, and comprehensive emergency response activities aiding displaced populations in Gambella and Tigray.

They returned to Addis Ababa to take part in the Run with an added commitment to spread awareness of GOAL's work, and motivated to future



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ENRICHMENT THROUGH RESPECT FOR DIFFERENCE

The Flax Trust held its **34th New York Event on October 10 at The Links**, located at 36 East 62nd Street in New York City between Madison and Park Avenues – a stunning four-story Georgian townhouse.

This year’s guests of honor included **Ambassador Fergal Mythen**, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, **Pauline Turley**, Vice Chair of Irish Arts Centre New York, and **Robert**

people of the local area on both sides of the religious divide. He gathered a group of equally determined trustees, Maura Lundy, John Patterson, and Sr. Mary Turley, with the **goal of reducing community tensions and religious prejudices** through creative engagement in economic and social development, education, music, and culture.

Since its founding, the Trust has lived up to its mission. From starting with nothing, it

played a part in the peace process.

Under the determined efforts of Non-Executive Director of The Flax Trust **Sister Mary Turley**, contributions from Flax Trust America helped develop such programs as an international arts center – theatre, art gallery, dance studio, and the Pittsburgh Bar & Steelers’ Restaurant. It also initiated a community association and health and social programs,

passed away on November 10, 2024.

He is remembered here by **Professor Ken O’Neill, former Head of School in the Ulster University Business School:**

“Fr. Myles was a true visionary and a supreme entrepreneur – a man who could both dream the future and make it a reality. This rare combination of foresight and action set him apart.

It began in the early days of

PHOTOS: BEN ASEN



ABOVE FROM LEFT: Coleen Tucker, Paul O’Hara, Marty Tuohy, Frida Maiorana and Alfie Tucker.

Brigid and Ed Kenney pictured with (center)Loretta Brennan Glucksman

Honorees, Ambassador Fergal Mythen, Pauline Turley, and Robert J. Reilly.



Sister Mary Turley, Jim Quinn, Diane and Fr. Myles Kavanagh in 2019.

**J. Reilly**, Assistant Dean (retired) Fordham Law School.

Monies raised at the New York event will **support the Trust in furthering development and education in Northern Ireland.**

The Flax Trust was formed in Belfast in 1977 by **Fr. Miles Kananagh**, a Dubliner and a member of the Passionist congregation who thought that job creation could be a powerful force for peace.

Passing the derelict Brookfield Mill on the Crumlin Road in his parish of Holy Cross almost daily, Fr. Miles decided that with investment, the site could be used to help the

transformed the former linen mill into a business center accommodating over 70 small businesses. Over the years, it’s become a business incubator for all of Belfast, **creating over 400 companies and providing training and personal development for several hundred people each year** through the Brookfield Business School.

In 1982, Flax Trust America was set up, with support from Mutual of America’s powerbrokers Bill Flynn, Tom Moran, and Ed Kenney, all of whom

which have served thousands of Meals on Wheels in addition to day-care center meals; built a medical center housing Ardoyne Community Healthcare Centre, Ardoyne / Shankill Healthy Living Centre, medical and dental surgeries, and an elderly day care center; built a shopping center including a supermarket, post office, pharmacy, fancy goods store, florist, community-based organizations, café, offices and workshops providing services, and more.

Regrettably, Fr. Miles

the Troubles, as he slept in his room in Ardoyne, a loud explosion woke him up. Simultaneously the ceiling of the room fell in on him. It was a bomb. As he struggled outside to the street, angry and opposing mobs had gathered.

These moments in the early 1970s changed his life. He saw opportunity in adversity, convinced that job creation could be a powerful force for peace. His belief that idle hands were the devil’s workshop fueled his determination to create jobs and foster prosperity in North Belfast – for all the people, no matter what side of the divide. And so it began. From his Crumlin Road base he set about developing a plan of action to generate employment by any means possible. The result is the Flax Trust – arguably the largest and most diverse social enterprise in Northern Ireland.

His legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.”





## THE NEW YORK IRISH CENTER AT 20

The New York Irish Center hosted a 20th anniversary benefit dinner on Saturday November 9, headlined by the comedians **Maureen Langan** and **Colin Quinn**.

There was lots to celebrate as NYCIC, a hub for culture and community enrichment in the heart of Long Island City, is entering a period of substantial growth, both in the services it provides and the cultural programming it presents. Executive Director **George C. Heslin**, who has led the Center since 2020, detailed a number of exciting new programs, including the Crossroads Concerts series that pairs Irish folk with the traditions of numerous ethnic communities in Queens, and the just-launched "Finding Home" literacy program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, with 18 events in all.

Jane McCarter O'Dowd, Invest Northern Ireland, NYC Executive Director George Heslin, Aidin McCarter Head of Culture for Derry & Strabane District Council, and Rob O'Dowd, husband of Jane.

sented on behalf of New York City Council Speaker **Adrienne Adams**, and the Council's Irish Caucus. Board Chair **Sean Mackin** read the

proclamation before he and his wife **Philomena Mackin** were thanked for their unwavering support to the center and its numerous programs. On hand for the festivities was former NYC Council Member **Danny Dromm**, a stalwart friend of New York's Irish community.

During dinner, and after the presentations, the evening transitioned into its entertainment phase which featured **Colin Quinn**, and **Maureen Langan** who rocked the house with exquisite comedy and satire. There was also dancing with music by **Cathy Maguire** who wrestled up an A-list



ABOVE: Philomena and Sean Mackin (center) enjoying the entertainment.

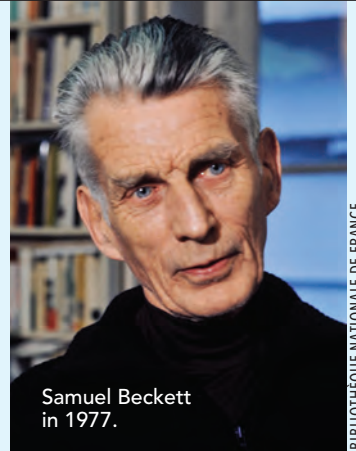
LEFT: Cathy Maguire and her band members.



Heslin also previewed the upcoming holiday concert "NY Croons for Christmas," on December 13. This year, joining cabaret stars **Colm Reilly**, **Carolyn Montgomery**, **Sean Harkness** and **Kathy Keafer** will be the captivating **Madelyn Monaghan**, whose exquisite sean-nós (old style) singing is catapulting her to fame.

A 20th Anniversary Proclamation was pre-

band playing jaunty country-Irish fusion. Among the star-studded attendees were the Emmy-winning actress, producer and stuntwoman **Donna Keegan**, the dashing boxer and actor **John Duddy**, Invest Northern Ireland's **Jane McCarter O'Dowd**, and Ireland's Consul General **Helena Nolan** (who shared heartfelt insights into the strength and diversity of the Irish community in New York). She was followed by the recently elected State Assembly Member **Clair Valdez**, who received a most warm welcome from the Center.



Samuel Beckett in 1977.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE

## BECKETT BRIEFS

In January 2025, Irish Rep will present **Beckett Briefs** by Samuel Beckett, directed by Ciarán O'Reilly and starring Academy Award winner F. Murray Abraham (*Amadeus*). The Play, the first program for the company's 2025 season, will run from January 15 to March 9.

*The Play*, written by one of Ireland's most legendary playwrights, is actually three in one, stitching together three short plays that run the gamut of existence from birth to the afterlife, presented on a single bill.

The first, *Not I*, is the story of a non-verbal woman, abandoned by her parents at birth, who suddenly hears voices after living an uneventful life until the age of 70 and realizes it's herself speaking. The second, *Krapp's Last Tape*, follows an aged man as he reviews his life with the assistance of his younger self heard on autobiographical tapes recorded in his earlier years. The third and final *Play* sketches out the eternal afterlife of a man, his wife, and his mistress as they relay the sordid details of their love triangle from their urns as they rest side by side.

For tickets: [www.irishrep.org](http://www.irishrep.org)

Meanwhile, **Keanu Reeves** and **Alex Winter** – who were surfer stoners in *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* and several sequels – are now teaming up for a Broadway performance of Beckett's absurdist, existential classic *Waiting for Godot* in the fall.

▶ **WOMEN WITH AMBITION AND IRISH FEMALE FOUNDERS TAKE OVER BRYANT PARK HOTEL**

The Bryant Park Hotel buzzed with excitement on Saturday, November 16, as shoppers flocked to the **Second Annual Female Founder & Entrepreneur Expo** hosted by Women with Ambition.

Women with Ambition (WWA) is a vibrant community of professional Irish and Irish-American women in New York City and the Tri-State area. Led by **Founder & CEO, Jane McCooey**, and **COO, Ciara Gormley**, (two of *Irish America's* Business 100 honorees) along with a Board of passionate volunteers. The organization empowers women through networking, mentorship, and educational events.

The WWA Expo showcased the creativity and passion of **over 30 Irish and Irish-American** entrepreneurial “founder” women based in NYC. The vendors displayed a unique array of goods and services, ranging from jewelry and stylish clothing, to books and innovative health and beauty products.

Shoppers had the opportunity to connect with these inspiring women, learn their stories, and discover hidden gems.

By the end of the day, many vendors were sold out, leaving shoppers with full bags and happy hearts as they kicked off the holiday season.

The Expo also provided a chance for the **diverse women founders to support** to each other and develop meaningful connections. The following day, the women gathered for a Founder Celebration Brunch, during which they each had a chance to pitch their businesses.

As Consulate General Helena Nolan noted: “The energy in the room was absolutely electric! It was incredible to see so many Irish businesses represented alongside amazing American enterprises, all driven by powerhouse women who are redefining ambition and innovation.”

**Learn more about Women with Ambition**

*Follow WWA on LinkedIn, Instagram, and [www.womenwithambitionny.com](http://www.womenwithambitionny.com)*

▶ **THE IRELAND-U.S.COUNCIL GALA 61**

The Ireland-U.S. Council’s 61st Annual Dinner took place at the New York Metropolitan Club on November 14. **Aengus Kelly, CEO of AerCap** was presented with the Ireland-U.S. Council Award for Outstanding Achievement. **AerCap is Dublin-based and is the world’s largest aviation leasing firm.**

Tom Higgins Council President & Executive Vice President FiServ, Inc., said in his welcoming remarks: “We cherish the shared commitments that connect us to our Council mission. During the past year, the Council has enjoyed outstanding support from members and from many benefactors, patrons and sponsors. On behalf of the Council’s Board and the entire membership of the organization throughout the United States and in all parts of Ireland, we offer thanks for the support we continue to receive.”

**The Ireland - U.S. Council for Commerce & Industry** was founded in 1963 to build business links between America and Ireland. In pursuit of its mission, the Council hosts frequent events in Ireland and in the U.S., operates a variety of scholarship and student internship programs, and promotes activities that develop communications, dialogue and improved understanding between leaders in business and government on both sides of the Atlantic.



ABOVE: WWA: Anna Horner, Mary Gallivan, Jane McCooey and Eireann McCusker.



LEFT: Carly Colgan and Niamh Montano King.



ABOVE: Kevin Fegan with Siobhan Mullen.

ABOVE RIGHT: Ireland-U.S. Council honoree Aengus Kelly.



CENTER RIGHT: Aine Kennedy, Claire Walsh and Marty Tuohy.

BELOW: Violinist Gregory Harrington (center) with cellists Ian Lum, and Sara Scanlon (seated) performing Ravel’s “Boléro” on one cello.



▶ **AFRICAN IRISH NIGHT AT THE HARVARD CLUB**

The African American Irish Diaspora Network held its 5th annual Gala dinner at the Harvard Club, New York City on Thursday November 7.

After a welcome and greetings by AAIDN's founder and chair, Dennis Brownlee, and gala co-chairs, board members Christian Bolden and Fionnghuala "Fig" O'Reilly, two award winners were honored:

Loretta Brennan Glucksman, Chair Emerita, Ireland Funds America, received the Inspiration and Vision Award, which was presented by Geraldine Byrne Nason, Ambassador of Ireland to the United States.

Dr. Ben Vinson III, President of Howard University, received the Transformative Leadership Award, which was presented by Barron Harvey, Associate Provost for Academic Innovation and Strategic Initiatives, Howard University.

The mission of AAIDN is to foster relationships between African Americans and Ireland through shared heritage and culture, and that is the sentiment that was expressed throughout the evening. It was an exchange of identity and connection and an engagement with African and Irish culture. Nowhere was this connection more deeply felt, in this extraordinary coming together, than when the Ghanaian Irish Fusion group of musicians, Colin Harte, Dylan James, Amos Gabia, Ray Odai Laryea, and Issac Alderson took the stage and performed a riveting harmonic set, featuring Irish bodhrán, Ghanaian kpanlogo hand drums, and uilleann pipes that met with thunderous applause from the appreciative guests.

"It was a wonderful evening that **created a framework for people to strengthen their identity and connection,**" said founding board member Miriam Nyhan.

"Together, the Black and Irish communities can champion unity and opportunity to build a new future for generations to come," said Dennis Brownlee, founder of African American Irish Diaspora Network. [www.aidnet.org](http://www.aidnet.org)

▶ **KELLY RECEIVES AIHS AWARD OF COURAGE**

The American Irish Historical Society's annual Gala was held on November 6, 2024, honoring the vice chairman of the Board, **Tom Higgins**, and astronaut **Captain Scott Kelly**, who received the **Award of Courage**.

The Society's chairman James Normile, hosted the Gala in the beautiful AIHS mansion at 991 5th Avenue

"The Society is about more than simply preserving the past; in sharing our story, we learn about context and see patterns that every immigrant group goes through," Dr. Elizabeth Stack, the Society's executive director, said in her opening remarks.

Honoree Tom Higgins talked about **growing to understand the "struggle, hard work, and achievement"** of earlier generations and drew parallels with today's immigrant experience.

Astronaut, Scott Kelly, a veteran of four space flights, and a year-long mission to space, credited the "leadership, discipline, and focus" he learned at NASA for his success, and his **Irish roots for instilling an appreciation for the value of civil service.**

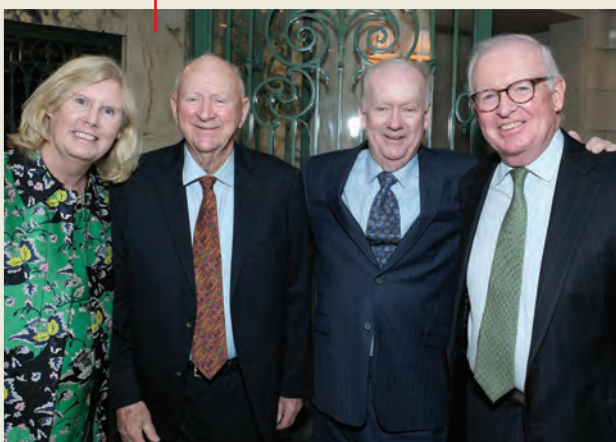
*For more information on the American Irish Historical Society see: [www.aihsny.org](http://www.aihsny.org)*



ABOVE: The Ghanaian Irish Fusion group of musicians..  
LEFT: Gala Chairs: Fig O'Reilly and Christian Bolden.  
BELOW LEFT: Miriam Nyhan founding board member of AAIDN, with Amb. Geraldine Byrne Nason.  
BELOW Right: Dennis Brownlee with Loretta Brennan Glucksman.



RIGHT: Capt. Scott Kelly, Dr. Stack, and Tom Higgins.  
BELOW: Dore Normile, Woody Crouch, Jim Cunningham, and James Normile.



### ► CHILDREN'S MEDICAL RESEARCH

The Children's Medical Research Foundation's (CMRF) Emerging Leaders Board held their highly anticipated sixth annual End of Summer Gala at the stunning Bryant Park Grill this October. The sold-out event, attended by over 200 guests, was a celebration of philanthropy, connection, and commitment to advancing pediatric research.

The group honored **Feargall Kenny** for his commitment to bridging entrepreneurship between Ireland and the U.S. and fostering connections across the global Irish diaspora.

Alison Stapleton, Chair of the Emerging Leaders Board, reflected on the success of the event, which raised over \$185,000. "We were so humbled by the generosity displayed leading up to and on the evening. Thank you to the many generous donors and supporters who joined us."

Guests were treated to performances by renowned violinist **Gregory Harrington** and acclaimed comedian **Joanne McNally**, who added a touch of humor and artistry to the evening.

Funds raised by the gala will directly support new clinical trials dedicated to discovering tomorrow's cures for children, and represent a critical step forward in CMRF's mission to provide hope and healing to children and families facing pediatric illnesses.

### ► ALICE McDERMOTT O'NEILL AWARD

The 2024 Irish American Writers & Artists Eugene O'Neill Lifetime Achievement Award event on Monday, October 21, at The Ellington on Broadway, honored the award-winning author **Alice McDermott**.

McDermott's latest novel, *Absolution*, was an instant *New York Times* bestseller, a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award, and named one of the best books of 2023 by *Time*, NPR, *LA Times*, *Vogue*, *Esquire*, and others. McDermott's eight previous novels have been finalists for the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the PEN/Faulkner Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the Kirkus Prize, and the Dublin IMPAC Award.

Her novel *Charming Billy* won the National Book Award for fiction. Her stories and essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harpers*, *The New York Times*, *Commonweal*, and elsewhere.

Formed in 2008, Irish American Writers & Artists celebrate the achievements of Irish American writers and artists, past and present, supporting artistic freedom, human rights, and social justice.

Named for the playwright whose body of work garnered four Pulitzers and the Nobel Prize for Literature, the **Eugene O'Neill Award** is handcrafted and etched in optic glass by Tiffany and Company.

Novelist William Kennedy received the first Eugene O'Neill Award in 2009, and since then such outstanding talents as Brian Dennehy, Judy Collins, Charlotte Moore and Ciarán O'Reilly, John Patrick Shanley, Pete Hamill, Malachy McCourt, Phil Donahue, Joanie Madden, Peter Quinn, Kate Mulgrew, Larry Kirwan, Dan Barry, and *Irish America's* co-Founder and Editor Patricia Harty, have been recipients.

IAW&A helped save St. Brigid's Famine Church, raised funds for Haitian earthquake victims, and inaugurated the annual Frank McCourt Prize for high school students with a flair for creative writing.

For more information see: <https://iamwa.org>



LEFT: Alison Stapleton CENTER: Applause for Feargall Kenny's remarks. BOTTOM: Feargall Kenny, Alison Stapleton, Eoin Duane.



BELOW: Alice McDermott receiving the Eugene O'Neill Award from Irish American Writers and Artists.



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# WALL STREET 50 AWARDS

The 2024 Wall Street 50 were celebrated at the magnificent New York Yacht Club on Wednesday, October 9. It was an evening filled with laughter, music and chat as leading lights in the financial industry – Irish-born from different counties, and American Irish from different generations – gathered to celebrate history and heritage, renew friendships, and make new connections.

Consul General Helena Nolan congratulated the honorees and noted that in addition to the Irish gaining traction in corporate America 650 Irish companies are now operating in the U.S.

Keynote speaker **Andrew McMahon, CEO and President of Guardian**, was welcomed to the podium by **Eileen Murray, former co-CEO of Bridgewater Associates** and Guardian board member. They shared humorous stories of growing up in no-nonsense Irish American families where you learned to be responsible early – both worked through high school and college.

The evening began and ended with music. Legendary singer/songwriter **Judy Collins** kicked off the program with “Send in the Clowns,” leading tenor **Ciaran Sheehan** sang “You Raise Me Up,” and **The Narrowbacks**, whose founding member Barry Walsh is a Wall Street 50 honoree, ended the evening with a rousing “Streets of Woodlawn.”



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**1** 2024 Irish America Wall Street 50 keynote speaker Andrew McMahon with Patricia Harty, Editor-in-Chief  
**2** Genealogist and *Irish America* contributor Megan Smolenyak and her husband Brian Smolenyak **3** Broadway performer and singer Ciaran Sheehan  
**4** Wall Street 50 honoree Kay Ryan Booth (seated left) with her guests celebrating at the 2024 Wall Street 50 Awards Gala. **5** Wall Street 50 honorees Fergus Keenan, Scott Mullins, Conor Twomey, and Galvin Colm are joined by Conor Twomey's wife, Triona, at the Gala Awards Dinner. **6** Wall Street 50 honoree Kathleen Lauster with Patricia Harty, Editor-in-Chief.



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**7** Wall Street 50 honoree Gerry McGinley with his wife, Debbie.  
**8** Wall Street 50 honoree Rob Cleere with Patricia Harty, Editor-in-Chief.  
**9** The 2024 Wall Street 50 honorees with *Irish America* founders, Patricia Harty and Niall O'Dowd, Keynote

speaker Andrew McMahon, and Consul General Helena Nolan. **10** *Irish America* Publisher, Niall O'Dowd with keynote speaker Andrew McMahon. **11** Honoree Ciaran O'Brien (3rd from left) celebrating with his guests at the Wall Street 50 Gala. **12** Singer/Songwriter Judy Collins and her husband Louis Nelson with honoree Kay Ryan Booth. **13** Eileen Murray introduces Andrew McMahon. **14** Keynote speaker Andrew McMahon celebrates the evening with his wife, Jennifer (center), his sons Andrew, Ryan, and Alex and daughter-in-law, Samantha. **15** Members of The Narrowbacks, Dan Foster, Seamus Keane, and Wall Street 50 honoree Barry Walsh.



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Marina Bay, Quincy



PHOTO: DISCOVER QUINCY

## THE IRISH DISCOVER QUINCY

**Q**uincy, Massachusetts has become the go-to place for thousands of Irish expats who have settled in the Boston area over the past 25 years.

With beautiful outdoor amenities plus plenty of history, culture, and ethnic cuisine, **this coastal city of 100,000 residents** offers a less expensive, more expansive lifestyle for Irish and like-minded immigrant groups seeking a mid-sized alternative to congested Boston.

**Mayor Thomas Koch says Quincy is proud of its "27 miles of coastline and beaches,** acres of beautiful parks, the most interesting and diverse dining scene outside of Boston, rock-climbing and hiking at the Blue Hills Reservation, and world-class golf courses."

The rugged coastline and multi-cultural dining especially resonate with Ballyshannon native, Seamus 'Slim' Langan, a musician with the popular band Devri who also does solo gigs around Boston.

"What I like about Quincy is how close I am to the water, as I come from Donegal. **I also like how it has an Irish-American scene. I can have American friends but never feel too homesick because of all the Irish here.**" He also loves the vast array of food available, "Chinese, Thai, Japanese, American, and Irish."

Langan plays regularly at Quincy's popular Paddy Barry's Pub, established in 1998 by Corkman Gerry Hanley. One reviewer says the pub is like "the lively atmosphere of a pub in Cork City. The energy is infectious; laughter and conversation fill the air."

Sara Stanton from Mayo says: "I moved to Quincy 24 years ago after living in Washington, D.C., and Chicago. The Irish community warmly welcomed me, and I immediately felt at home."

Stanton formed Cara Group Travel in 2012 and credits its success to support from friends, neighbors, the Mayor's office, South Shore Bank, and the Quincy Chamber, saying, "Quincy is so like Ireland because it takes a village, and Quincy looks after its own."

**Quincy Chamber President Tim Cahill has established strong business ties with Cork County Council** and, more recently, with Kildare Chamber of Commerce, "based on mutual interests in furthering economic development through education and tourism."

Quincy **celebrates its 400th anniversary in 2025,** and preparations are underway. Dagny Ashley, the city's director of tourism, takes pride in the new Visitor Center that opened this past summer and reminds sports fans that Quincy is home to the Free Jacks, New England's professional rugby team, which won the U.S. Rugby Championship, the past two years.

Quincy's diversity is best exemplified by the Lucky Shamrock Store on Beale Street, the ultimate one-stop market for imported Irish tea, chocolate, sausage, beans, and other favorites. The Indian family that runs the Shamrock quickly learned how to thank its happy customers with 'Slan abhaile' (safe home) in a surprisingly good Galway accent.

*Discoverquincy.com*

## BOSTON'S IRISH CULTURAL CENTRE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

**T**he Irish Cultural Centre of Greater Boston has abundant reasons to be joyful this holiday season, as it celebrates an important milestone.

In 1989, a group of Irish and Irish-Americans came together to discuss a **year-round headquarters for Irish culture in greater Boston and New England.**

After a decade of fundraising, scouting for and then purchasing land in the Town of Canton, the group enlisted hundreds of volunteers, who pitched in on weekends and after work to clear the land and build the facility. On **October 17, 1999, the Irish Cultural Centre** officially opened its doors.

This 25th anniversary milestone is being celebrated on December 14 at the Centre's Annual Open House, when members will congregate to reflect upon their remarkable journey.

Since 1999, the Centre has blossomed as a dynamic and vibrant cultural hub for the Irish community, offering year round programs in education, entertainment and sports, celebrating holidays from St. Patrick's Day to Christmas, and being a place **where everyone, from seniors to children, families and friends,** loves to congregate.



PHOTO: ICC

This year the Centre purchased additional land, **increasing its total size from 46 to 61 acres,** ensuring that future generations can enjoy this superb facility.

Executive Director Jerry McDermott and Board Chair Martina Curtin have assembled an outstanding Board of Directors, sponsors and staff. The Centre has a pub, a library and several function rooms, plus an authentic thatched Irish cottage on the grounds. The local Gaelic Athletic Association play their home games on the well-manicured playing fields of the Centre.

Several of the original committee members such as Mike O'Connor and Noel Connolly are still active at ICC. When the Centre was about to open in 1999, a reporter asked Connolly when the Centre would be fully finished.

"At no point should anyone consider the Centre a finished product," Noel said. "It is not finished, never will be. This is a milestone."

Here's to many more milestones at the Irish Cultural Centre.

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



# EMMET

EMMET, MARVIN & MARTIN, LLP

Emmet Marvin would like to congratulate all the distinguished honorees of Irish America's Business 100. Your accomplishments highlight the extraordinary impact of the Irish-American community in shaping the future of business.

## HIBERNIAN HOOPS: FROM CITY GYMS TO THE WORLD STAGE

**W**hen the **National Basketball Association (NBA)** tipped off its 2024-2025 season in Abu Dhabi, the world saw a team with close ties to Roscommon, Clare, and one of America's great Irish cities.

Then there was the other team - the Boston Celtics.

Most people don't think of the Irish when considering Denver, Colorado.

And yet, **Denver Nuggets coach Mike Malone** is one of several prominent NBA figures with ties to Ireland.

So, when millions of Americans gather around their TV sets on Christmas Day to watch some holiday hoops, they should also celebrate the Irish Americans who've helped move the game from asphalt playgrounds to the world stage.

### MALONE'S CHAMPS

The global appeal of basketball now gives soccer a run for its money.

Forbes' latest annual list of best-paid athletes features American hoopsters LeBron James, Steph Curry, and Giannis Antetokounmpo alongside big-time footballers like Ronaldo, Messi, and Mbappe.

That's one reason the NBA opened its season with a much-hyped weekend of events in Abu Dhabi.

The main event was a matchup between last year's **NBA champion Celtics and Mike Malone's 2023 title-winners**, led by Serbian superstar Nikola Jokic.

Abu Dhabi might seem worlds away from the days when immigrant priests and nuns presided over overcrowded Irish parishes in

Boston or Brooklyn.

That's where Brendan McCann grew up.

One of seven children, **McCann became a star at St. Bonaventure University**, serving as team captain in 1957, earning an A.P. All-American Honorable Mention.

He was also a first-round draft pick for the New York Knicks, where he played for two seasons.

**McCann died this past November at 89**, and it's tempting to think his sepiationed generation is no longer contributing to the game.

However, McCann also had a long post-Knicks career as a coach and educator.

He was just one of many 20th-century gym rats and playground stars whose legacy is in the middle of basketball's push for global domination.

Let's start in Denver.

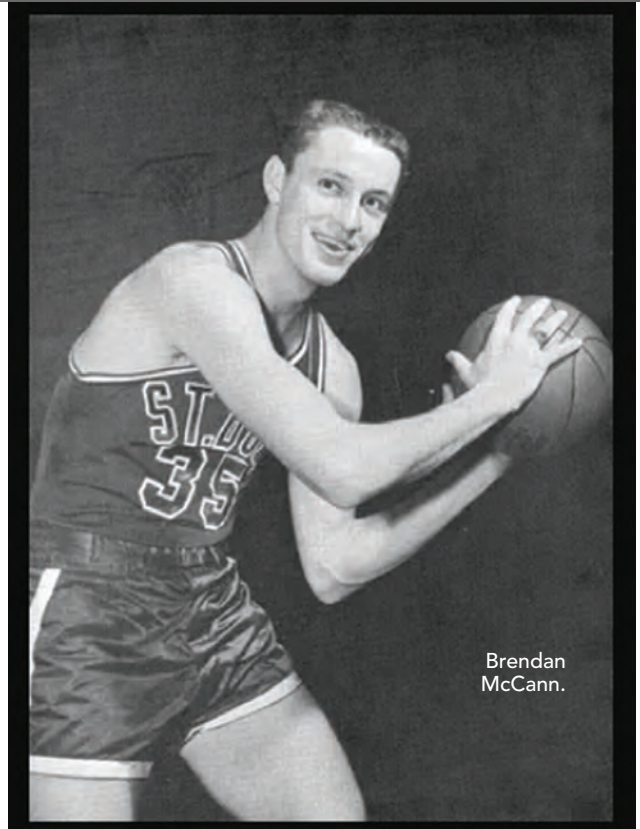
### HARLEM AND JERSEY CITY

Head coach Mike Malone's father grew up in New York, the son of immigrants from Roscommon and Clare. He attended Harlem's Rice High School, run by Irish Christian Brothers, before playing for the Gaels of Iona College.

The elder Malone - who died in 2023 at 88 - began his coaching career at another Christian Brothers school, Power Memorial. It counts NBA legends like Kareem Abdul Jabbar and Irish American Chris Mullin among its alums.

Meanwhile, alongside

RIGHT: Jack McCloskey.  
FAR RIGHT: *Irish America* cover story on Pat Riley.  
Interview by Patricia Harty.



Brendan McCann.

coach Mike Malone, Nuggets team president Tim Connelly - raised in Baltimore with brothers Kevin, Pat, Dan, and Joe, all of whom are also basketball professionals - is widely credited with drafting the great Nikola Jokic, who nearly led his native country to a summer 2024 Olympics victory over the U.S. squad.

And it was LeBron's L.A.

Lakers who earlier this year offered what ESPN called a "massive long-term" coaching contract to Danny Hurley - another Irish American product of "the city game."

Hurley opted instead for a \$50 million deal from the University of Connecticut, which he guided to a national championship last year.

### SECOND GENERATION

Hurley - like Mike Malone - is a second-generation basketball lifer.

Danny, and his brother Bobby, played high school ball at powerhouse St. Anthony's Catholic in Jersey City, where their legendary father - Robert Emmet "Bob" Hurley - was one of America's top amateur coaches for nearly 50 years.

And none of these 21st-century NBA movers and shakers would have a global stage to step upon without earlier **Irish American legends like Pat Riley or Jack McCloskey.**

McCloskey's daughter



## TOM COUGHLIN'S LONG JOURNEY

Coaching legend **Tom Coughlin** may finally be inducted into the **National Football League Hall of Fame** in 2025.

But even if the complicated voting system doesn't quite work out for the legendary New York Giants and Jacksonville Jaguars coach, Coughlin has added a new chapter to his illustrious career – as an advocate for families taking care of terminally ill loved ones.

As 2024 drew to a close, more and more big-time sports names were lobbying to get Coughlin elected into the NFL Hall of Fame, possibly alongside fellow **Irish American Super Bowl winner Mike Shanahan**.

"There is no doubt in my mind that you belong in the Hall of Fame," fellow Giants legend **Michael Strahan** wrote in *People* magazine. "But ... please know you are already a Hall of Famer to so many you've touched on and off the field."

That now includes many people who know nothing about football, but a lot about what it's like to care for – and even lose – a loved one to long-term illness.

Coughlin's wife, **Judy**, died in 2022 after a long fight against progressive supranuclear palsy.

The famously-no-nonsense Coughlin has since spoken candidly about the physical and emotional challenges of serving as her primary caregiver.

These experiences were just as crucial as various Super Bowl wins in a recent book Coughlin published entitled *A Giant Win*.

Meanwhile, a new generation of Irish American coaches are vying for their shots at a Super Bowl win – and maybe even NFL immortality.

They include head coaches such as **Dan Quinn** (Washington Commanders), **Sean McDermott** (Buffalo Bills), **Sean Peyton** (Denver Broncos), **Brian Callahan** (Tennessee Titans), **Kyle Shanahan** (Mike's son, San Francisco 49ers), and **Mike McCarthy**, whose contract with the Dallas Cowboys is up at the end of the year.

Midway through the 2024-2025 NFL season, **the Minnesota Vikings' Kevin O'Connell** had been getting the most praise.

"The Minnesota Vikings' Kevin O'Connell is [my] midseason choice for Coach of the Year," **Mike Sando** wrote in the *New York Times*. "We tend to focus on coaches perceived to be doing more with less in a given season. O'Connell fits that profile. ... The Vikings have [succeeded] after losing their starting quarterback to a season-ending injury during preseason." – **Tom Deignan**



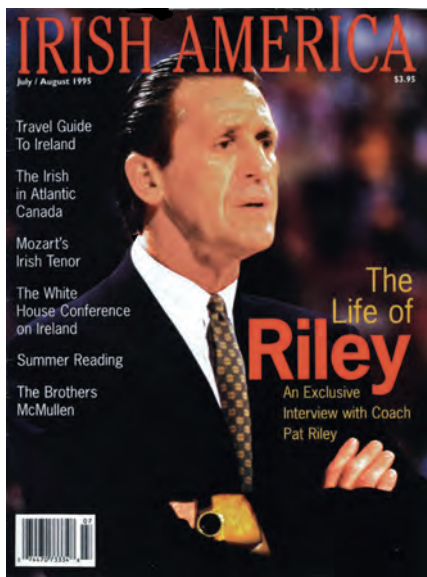
The New York Giants won Super Bowl XLII in 2008, and Tom Coughlin was the head coach. He is pictured here at the White House with President Bush on April 30, 2008.

Molly – a longtime Sligo resident – just published a touching memoir of her father's basketball days.

"I grew up the youngest of six, all of us obsessed with basketball,"

Molly McKloskey wrote in *The New Yorker*. "There was a feeling of fun, of constant tumult, in our house, but my father could be a hard-ass, too. He'd grown up in eastern Pennsylvania – his father and grandfather were coal miners."

**Jack McCloskey** went on to help build the great **Detroit Pistons** teams of the late 1980s.



### NEW RILEY STATUS

The Irish-American Godfather to all of these figures is legendary player and coach **Pat Riley**, whose many accomplishments include winning five NBA titles as a coach and, most recently, having a statue in his honor erected outside of the L.A. Lakers home arena.

"I'm just a kid from Schenectady, New York, and here I am going to have a statue with the Lakers. My god," Riley said.

So, if you watch **Mike Malone** and the Denver Nuggets on Christmas Day, you might see a lumbering Serb on his left and the long shadow of the Irish diaspora on his right.

– **Tom Deignan**

## IRISH AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP INVESTING IN IRELAND'S FUTURE

For the Irish American Partnership, the future of Ireland is all about its youth.

The belief that Ireland's future is all about its youth was on full display this fall when the Irish American Partnership (IAP) distributed \$600,000 in grants to primary schools, universities, and community groups over a three-day Leadership Mission to Ireland. This year, the Partnership focused particularly on rural schools in counties Galway and Mayo. The grants brought the Partnership's year-to-date funding for Ireland to over \$2.5 million.

In addition to targeted grants to primary schools through the O'Neill Schools Grants Program, monies were distributed to Atlantic Technological University Mayo campus in Castlebar, University of Galway, Druid Theatre, and The Mary Robinson Centre in Ballina.

Partnership President and CEO Mary Sugrue said the Leadership trip "allowed us to evaluate our funding and gave us a vital understanding of the great impact giving has on youth and communities across Ireland. We had the chance to meet the young people benefiting directly from Partnership investment, gaining insight into the grassroots efficacy of our work."

An integral part of the Partnership's mission is allowing donors to witness firsthand the impact of their donations. Targeted giving at 100 percent efficiency lets donors determine how and where their money goes – most often, grants are directed to schools in the giver's ancestral counties, provide teachers and



U.S. Ambassador Cronin with students at Scoil Eoghain in Moville, Co. Donegal, in May 2024. The Partnership granted \$10,000 to the school in honor of Ambassador Cronin's forebears, who hailed from the Inishowen Peninsula.

students with tangible resources to succeed locally and in the global economy.

Witnessing firsthand their investments at work in Irish classrooms and educational programs inspires donors and enhances their commitment and connection to the Partnership. Since its launch in 1986, the Boston-based non-profit organization has distributed more than \$57 million across the island of Ireland.

While the Partnership has supported various programs in jobs and investment, peace initiatives, and cultural enrichment, education has emerged as the main appeal for thousands of Irish Americans who contribute yearly to the organization. "In Ireland, education has always been central to many of our ambitions," says Sugrue. "And at the Partnership, we believe in the power of education to open

doors for individuals."

Sugrue deserves the credit for helping center the Partnership's focus squarely on education.

The native of Cahersiveen, County Kerry, was a primary school teacher for several years in Ireland before emigrating to Boston in 1989, where she joined the Partnership. When President Joe Leary stepped down and became president emeritus in 2016, Sugrue took over and has spearheaded the organization ever since.

### BEING PART OF IRELAND'S FUTURE

Job creation, economic investment, and education were undoubtedly needed when the Partnership began during the 1980s, a tumultuous decade on the island of Ireland. The North was wracked by political turmoil, economic instability, and violence in the streets. The Republic had the highest unemployment rate in Europe, a struggling economy, and rampant emigration by an entire

RIGHT: The Nollaig na mBan event is hosted annually by the Irish American Partnership in Boston, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. This women's leadership celebration has featured former U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power (left) seen here in conversation with Samantha Barry, Global Editorial Director of Glamour.

FAR RIGHT: Irish American Partnership Chairman Michael T. Clune (left) and Brian Ruane (right) Partnership board member and senior executive at BNY, present Paul Geaney, Avolon's president and chief commercial officer with the Business Leadership Award at the Union League Club of New York on April 18, 2024





generation of young Irish.

As Irish Americans wondered aloud how they could help, the Partnership put forth the premise that economic development and education would be the most effective way for Americans to help the people of Ireland.

Its original message, "Ireland: It's Part of your Past – be Part of its Future," became a direct appeal to Irish Americans who sincerely wanted to help.

The Partnership's philosophy has since evolved to read, "Honoring Our Heritage – Investing In Ireland's Future," says Clodagh Boyle, vice president of external engagement.

U.S. House Speaker and Congressman Thomas P. 'Tip' O'Neill of Cambridge, MA was an early supporter of the group, writing, "I am convinced that the Partnership is on the right track. After many years of observing Ireland, I believe that the best

and surest way to resolve that country's problems is to help build a strong, dynamic Irish economy with opportunities for all. I urge you, in the strongest terms, to become a member of the Irish American Partnership."

### A NATIONAL NETWORK IN AMERICA

From its headquarters in Boston, the Partnership has cultivated a national profile, receiving donations from all 50 states through ongoing campaigns. In places such as New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington, DC, Albany, and Newport, active Partnership committees help to organize networking events, speakers series, and golf tournaments throughout the year.

The Golf Championship Series has been a staple of Partnership fundraising for 35 years, bringing donors together through top-level

golf tournaments at Newport Country Club in Rhode Island, Beverly Country Club in Illinois, and Schuyler Meadows Club in New York.

In addition, the Partnership's Irish Invitational Golf Tournament is a three-day outing at world-renowned golf courses in Ireland. In 2025, the Invitational includes rounds at Royal Portrush Golf Club in County Antrim, Royal County Down Golf Club, and Ardglass Golf Club, also in County Down.

A popular initiative is the Young Partners Program, which encourages young professionals to connect to modern Ireland and continue the generosity of previous generations. Throughout the year, Young Partners chapters in Boston and New York host social and networking events that bring together like-minded Americans interested in Ireland.

Also popular on the Partnership calendar is the Nollaig na mBan Women's Leadership Celebration, held each January in Boston, Chicago, and Washington, DC. The inaugural Chicago event in 2024 featured Ireland's former President Mary Robinson, a seminal figure in Irish leadership and international diplomacy. In 2025, the featured speaker is slated to be U.S. Ambassador Cronin, who recently called the Partnership "an organization that has become

ABOVE LEFT: U.S. Special Envoy to Northern Ireland for Economic Affairs Joseph P. Kennedy III met with Partnership President & CEO Mary Sugrue, FIT CEO Peter Davitt and Board member Sir Bruce Robinson at the Portview Trade Centre. They presented a tailored digital skills initiative for disadvantaged young people in Belfast.

ABOVE RIGHT: Mary Robinson, Ireland's former president, pictured here with students of St. Murdach's College, Ballina. The Mayo town, Robinson's birthplace, is now home to The Mary Robinson Centre, Ireland's first Presidential Library, which was built with support from the Irish American Partnership.

very near and dear to my heart since I became U.S. Ambassador to Ireland. The Irish American Partnership's impact is felt where it is needed."

Education remains central to its mission as the Irish American Partnership approaches its 40th anniversary in 2026. President Robinson has called education a human right and has spoken enthusiastically about the essential role of preschool, schools, and universities "to give young people the capacity for leadership." By helping to shape the next generation of Irish leaders, the Irish American Partnership is investing in Ireland's future, which will pay dividends for years to come.

– By Michael Quinlin

For more on the Irish American Partnership, see: [www.irishap.org](http://www.irishap.org)



## BILLY LAWLESS, champion for immigration reform, passes in Chicago

In every march for immigration reform, amid all the Mexican and Central American marchers, you could always depend on one ruddy-faced Irishman leading a multiracial contingent of true believers behind the banner of "Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform."

Billy Lawless became such a dependable voice for reforming United States immigration laws that he caught the attention of U.S. President Barack Obama, Irish President Michael D. Higgins, and other national and world leaders.

In 2016, Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Enda Kenny appointed the Galway native-turned Chicago Restaurateur to the Irish Seanad (Senate) to

represent the Irish Diaspora around the world.

Lawless focused attention on the lesser-discussed problem of undocumented Irish immigrants, but he worked with other groups to advocate for a path to citizenship for all immigrants.

"It has got to be resolved," Lawless said. "Politicians have been elected to make decisions, Well, it's about time they rose up and made those decisions. Solve this issue of the undocumented, and this country will thrive."

Lawless chaired the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. He lobbied for a bill that allowed undocumented immigrants to apply for driver's licenses.



As an Irish senator, Lawless fought hard for the right of Irish living abroad like himself to be allowed to vote in Irish elections. His efforts won him an honorary doctorate from NUI Galway and a Presidential Distinguished Service Award for Irish Community Support from President Higgins.

"Billy was a stalwart of the Irish community ... and his tireless efforts on behalf of the undocumented Irish were widely acknowledged," President Higgins said. "Billy's role in fostering the sister city relationship between Galway and

Chicago was rightly recognized by Galway City Council in his being made a Freeman of Galway in 2015."

Lawless passed away unexpectedly due to kidney failure at age 73 on November 8 in Chicago, mourned by friends and admirers on both sides of the Atlantic is survived by his wife, Anne (née O' Toole); his children, Billy, Clodagh, Amy, and John Paul; eight grandchildren; his brother Gerald Lawless and his sisters, Helen Brennan and Mary Loughman.

- By *Abdon Passasch*

## DENNIS P. LONG, a passionate advocate for soccer, passes in St. Louis

Dennis P. Long, a successful businessman, public servant, and tireless supporter of sports, passed away on Monday, October 28, 2024.

Long's professional career began humbly as an office boy at Anheuser-Busch in 1953. But it was the start of a lifelong commitment to the company that would eventually see him rise to president and chief operating officer at 41.

In 1986, under his leadership, Anheuser-Busch became a sponsor of the Irish Derby, an annual event at the ancient Curragh racetrack in County Kildare and one of Europe's top horse races.

Born in Chicago and raised in an Irish neighborhood in St. Louis, where his great-grandparents, originally from County Kerry, had initially settled, Long attended the local St. Columbkille parish school

where he learned more about his Irish cultural heritage, solidifying a life-long appreciation for his roots. The tight-knit working-class community also gave Long the tools to succeed in business. As president of Anheuser-



Busch from 1977 to 1987, Long nearly doubled the company's beer sale volume, adding 35 million barrels and giving them a 33.6 million barrel lead over their nearest competitor. He did that by doubling the marketing staff, greatly expanding the advertising campaign, reaching out to specific groups, and taking the brand overseas, much to Ireland's benefit.

Long also used his position at the world's largest brewery to support his other passion – soccer. As president, he chaired the committee that developed the St. Louis Soccer Park (originally the Anheuser-Busch Center), made Anheuser-Busch a major supporter of the United States Soccer Federation bid for the 1994 World Cup tournament, and later became a global sponsor of the FIFA World Cup.

In 2011, as part of the 35th annual CBC High School Soccer Tournament celebrations, the St. Louis Soccer Park hon-

ored Long for his commitment and vision over the years, officially naming the complex's main soccer pitch the Dennis P. Long Field.

Outside of his professional life, Long served as president of the United Service Organizations from 1984 to 1987, which helps over 10 million military service members and their families. In 1987, he received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the highest honor that the Department of Defense can award to a civilian.

Long and his wife of 53 years, Barbara, who died in 2010, have three children, Tammie, Kelly, and Patrick, with whom he co-owned the successful fine-dining restaurant Sam's Steakhouse in St. Louis. They also have several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Denny was preceded in death by his wife, his parents and six siblings.

- By *Irish America staff*



# ALTA

American Land Title Association



**Diane Leneghan Tomb**  
CEO  
*American Land  
Title Association*



The American Land Title Association congratulates CEO Diane Leneghan Tomb on being named to Irish America's prestigious 2024 Business 100 List.

The American Land Title Association extends heartfelt appreciation to Irish America for recognizing dedicated, influential leaders like Diane. Your ongoing celebration of Irish heritage and business excellence is invaluable, and we are honored to be part of this year's Business 100 recognition.

**ETHEL KENNEDY,**  
remembered for her lifetime of service

**E**thel Kennedy, the wife of former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, died on October 10, 2024, at age 96 in Boston following complications from a stroke.

President Joe Biden and former Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama delivered remarks in celebration and remembrance of Ethel's life and legacy during her memorial service at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, D.C.

Ethel was laid to rest beside her husband in Arlington National Cemetery.

**PRESIDENT BIDEN**

Bobby Kennedy was one of my political heroes. But Ethel Kennedy was a hero in her own right, full of character, integrity and genuine empathy.

*"We saw how she picked up Bobby's cause and stamped her own mark on the country. Marching for civil rights, and working to end poverty at home, attempting to secure peace abroad, and so much more."*

She once said, "For anyone to achieve something, you have to show a little courage. You're only on this Earth once. You must give it all you've got."

Four years later, after she lost her beloved Bobby, she invited me and my boys to her home after the accident that left my family broken, having lost my wife and daughter, my boys barely making it.

Along with Teddy, she got me through a time when I didn't want to stick around. But Teddy and Ethel Kennedy would hear none of it. Ethel helped my family find a way forward with principle and purpose.

- President Joe Biden

**PRESIDENT CLINTON**

I can't even begin to say how grateful I am that [Ethel] lived to be 96 and that she had her energy, and her brain power, and her love power right through. And it would be wrong to dredge up every memory, **but I am telling you, even on sad occasions when we observed anniversaries of her husband's death, I never saw her when she didn't have her game face on, even when her heart was heavy.**

"I think the lesson of those 96 years and all those children and all those grandchildren, all those great-grandchildren, is that the God she worshiped wanted all of us to be more other-directed, to think more about how our words impact other people, how our deeds impact other people, how our lives show what we are for or against.

Every time I think of her, and I have thought of her ever since she passed. I think she was the embodiment of the definition of love that St. Paul wrote about in First

Corinthians.

Not romantic love, but agape love for your fellow human beings. The total immersion in the wonder that every human life possesses.

- President Clinton

**PRESIDENT OBAMA**

Most Americans got to know Ethel as the woman who, standing alongside her husband Bobby, helped tap the idealism of an entire generation. The matriarch who instilled a commitment to justice in her children, and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and helped raise a legion of change-makers and public servants. And she was proud of



PHOTO: PAUL HILL

Ethel watches as Saoirse, her granddaughter, is about to place a flower on Bobby's grave.

those roles. She loved family just as she loved friendship. But as anyone who ever met Ethel knows, she was a lot more than that. She was a big dose in a small package... She was a spitfire. Some of you have heard the stories. The school yearbook describing her as "alive with mischief" in college demerits for a long list of infractions, including chewing gum and "disorder in the tea room."

Her life was marked by more tragedy and heartbreak than most of us could bear. And she would have been forgiven if, at any point, she had

*"In the same way that her joy possessed her life, her love for people helped feed in her a righteous anger towards the many injustices in our world."*

stepped away from public life or allowed bitterness to fester after all she and her family had been through. But that is not

what Ethel did, because that's not who she was.

We live in a time of such rancor and division and suspicion and loneliness. We isolate ourselves with gadgets and diversions, and we're encouraged to chase after things that don't last. And we have

trouble distinguishing what is true from what is false. And we succumb to those voices that find it profitable to stoke anger and grievance. And even in resisting such voices, we so often find ourselves succumbing to cynicism or despair. What better time then to remember the life that Ethel Kennedy lived? She understood that our salvation comes from turning towards each other, not turning away. Someone who reminds us, by her example that life goes on no matter how deep the grief, that there is joy and purpose to be found no matter what hand we've been dealt, that each of us has the power, if we so choose, to make our

world a little better and to make somebody else's life a little better, and that we can have some fun and make some mischief in the process. What a gift. I sure did love Ethel Kennedy. I miss her. I miss her smile. I miss her warmth. I miss her generosity, and I miss her grace. May God bless her, and may she rest in eternal peace. - President Obama

**NOTE: The above are short excerpts of the remarks made.**





**FinTrU congratulates the  
Irish America 100 honorees,  
including our own  
founder & CEO,  
Darragh McCarthy**



**Darragh McCarthy**  
FinTrU Founder & CEO



# WINTERVAL IN

# Waterford

*European City of Christmas*



**RIGHT:** *Waterford City on the opening night of Winterval.*

**FAR RIGHT TOP:**  
*The vintage Ferris Wheel is a big attraction for adults and children alike.*

**FAR RIGHT BOTTOM:**  
*The Glenveagh Christmas Market, located in the City's oldest streets and squares, has over 100 food and drinks producers and creators of Christmas craft stalls featuring local, regional and national products.*



P.J. BROWNE  
PHOTOGRAPHY.



Waterford, once called the hidden gem of Ireland, is now a tourist destination known for its extravagant festivities.

Its annual harvest festival in September attracted upwards of 40,000 visitors.

The Samhain festival in October saw the City's streets awash with a fusion of spooky, spectral, and fascinating events under the watchful eye of An Dearg Dua, a 2,000-year-old female vampire as the award-winning street spectacle creators, Spraoi produced a stunning shadowy procession and finale performance.

But at Christmas time, the City goes all out with Winterval, which this year promises to be the biggest Festival ever hosted in Waterford, with over 700,000 visitors anticipated. This year, for the first time in Ireland's history – following an extensive judging process and visits by the European Christmas Cities Network – Waterford was named European City of Christmas, a title it shares with the Czech City of Brno.

The 'Gateway to Brno' is one of the Winterval festival's top features. It is a live portal that con-



# WINTERVAL IN *Waterford*



**PHOTOS CLOCKWISE:**  
Mount Congreve House.

*Santa Claus and Hugh Cowman at Santa's Grotto in the Medieval Museum.*

*An Dearg Dú, a 2,000-year-old female vampire (by street spectacle creators Spraoi), flies over the crowd at the Samhain Parade in October.*

*The opening night of Winterval 2024, on November 20, 2024.*

*A visit to The Gingerbread House.*

nects the two Cities of Christmas.

The Winterval festival opened on November 22 and is open every weekend through December 23.

A vast array of events, including the Winterval Illuminates Lightshow, the ice rink on the City's Quayside, the vintage Ferris wheel, a vintage carousel, the Port of Waterford Eye, and the Winterval Mini Express train, the Elf workshops, Polish Christmas, Santa's VR sleigh ride in Cathedral Square, helter-skelter and more, are on offer.

There is something for everyone; best of all, over half the program is free of charge.

While Santa takes center stage in the City's medieval caverns underneath the Medieval Museum in the Viking Triangle, this year, a new after-dark program for adults, 'The Winterval Big Top Live,' will host a series of live performances throughout the Festival with artists like Gavin James, Mick Flannery, Stereo MCs, EMF, and 30 Years of House Music with Tasty Choons for Tasty People. **IA**



Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann | Nua-Eabhrac  
Consulate General of Ireland | New York

**HELENA NOLAN**  
CONSUL GENERAL OF IRELAND IN NEW YORK

WARMLY CONGRATULATES

**IRISH AMERICA'S  
BUSINESS 100**

ON THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND  
EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS.

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**COMHGHAIRDEAS LIBH GO LÉIR**

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# 37th ANNUAL IRISH AMERICA Business 100

The 2024 Business 100 honors a new generation of trailblazers—executives, entrepreneurs, and innovators—who are driving progress across every industry sector. Whether born in Ireland or raised in the diaspora, they embody the ambition and resilience that define the Irish spirit.

This talented and diverse group of leaders, including **Keynote Speakers Helen Doody of Abbey Capital and Brian Ruane of BNY**, are passionate about making an impact as they forge new territory in AI, navigate complex cyber security and healthcare developments, protect our natural resources, and educate future leaders. Their dedication to excellence in business is matched by their commitment to positively impacting the world by generously committing their time and expertise to charitable and community organizations.

A testament to their ancestors, each honoree is resourceful, resilient, and creative and shares a common and deeply held conviction in their Irish heritage.

The *Irish America* magazine team is privileged to recognize these exceptional individuals whose contributions enrich our country and heritage and inspire us all.

Congratulations to the 2024 Business 100 honorees.

Beir Bua!



**“Being Irish has inspired me** in so many ways, and one of the most important ways is how to face adversity with humor and optimism.”

-Diane Lenegahn Tomb

“I am a marketer. Marketing is all about storytelling, creativity, and innovation. The **Irish culture has such rich traditions of storytelling** and a spirit of community that it is inherent in who we are.”

-Carol McNerney

**“The Irish have a long-held, earned reputation as fantastic storytellers. Whether it’s literature, music, or the silver screen, the Irish have always shared stories that captivate, inspire, and connect us.”**

-Robert Carpenter



“Despite the proliferation of technology in our industry, **brilliant human storytelling remains at the heart** of everything we do, and I believe that there are no better storytellers in the world than those who come from Ireland.”

-Phil Gaughran



**Top Counties:**

- Dublin • Cork • Mayo
- Sligo • Cavan • Donegal
- Clare • Kerry

**Top Colleges Mentioned:**

- Trinity College Dublin,
- Iona University, Fordham University, University College Dublin, Boston College, Providence College

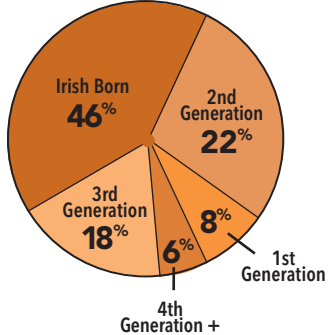
“In the Irish culture, no matter how much success we enjoy, **we learn not to take ourselves too seriously.** And if we do, there are plenty of people who are willing to remind us.”

-James E. Rooney

**“I am inspired by Seamus Heaney’s poem ‘Postscript,’** Letting the ‘big soft buffetings’ take the heart off guard and blow it open, mirrors how I have embraced change, allowing the winds of adventure to steer my career across the world, but always grounded in the rich heritage of my Irish roots.”

-Conor Looney

**Ancestral Links:**



“Growing up in an Irish household, **I learned the importance of connection and community.** My fiercely Irish mother instilled in me a relentless work ethic, the ability to find joy in the face of adversity and a zest for life—qualities that have been indispensable in navigating both life and business.”

-Kathleen McQuade Ellmore

**DEE AHEARN**

**Barretstown**

Dee Ahearn is the Chief Executive of Barretstown, Ireland’s largest provider of medically endorsed therapeutic camps and programs for children affected by cancer and other serious illnesses. This year, Barretstown celebrates its 30th anniversary and the milestone of serving over 125,000 campers since opening its gates in 1994.

Barretstown is a member of the Serious-Fun Children’s Network, which was founded by legendary Hollywood actor and philanthropist Paul Newman in 1988 and now comprises over 30 camps and programs globally.



Under Dee’s leadership, Barretstown has experienced extraordinary growth, with an increase of almost 1,000% in the number of children and family members served.

Dee oversaw the establishment of Barretstown Foundation USA in 2018, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, to help ensure children with cancer from the U.S. could also benefit from Barretstown’s life-changing programs. Over 20 children a year are currently traveling across each summer, and the ambition is to increase this number to 50. Barretstown Foundation USA has also launched a summer placement program for US college students to allow them to work at camp for the summer season.

Dee, who is from Tipperary, has a background in strategic and creative marketing and has held senior leadership positions at Black & Decker, the Gunne Group, CBRE, and Treasury Holdings.

**ANTOINETTE BEHAN**

**EdgarAgents**

Antoinette Behan is the Chief Revenue Officer for EdgarAgents, facilitating regulatory filings with the Securities & Exchange Commission and subsequent shareholder communication on behalf of public entities.



Over the past decade, Antoinette has spent most of her time in the asset management industry, in particular, the burgeoning ETF ecosystem. She is an

avid supporter of the Irish Funds and their remit of encouraging U.S. asset managers to domicile their ETFs in Ireland. Antoinette is currently on the steering committee of KPMG Women in Mutual Funds and an early member of Women in ETFs, a now 10,000-plus worldwide ETF member group.

Prior to EdgarAgents, Antoinette held a number of positions with NASDAQ, Oracle Netsuite, IntraLinks, and RR Donnelley and worked in London with Dun & Bradstreet and Ulster Bank in Dublin prior to her move to New York City over 25 years ago.

Antoinette is a native Dubliner and wears that badge proudly, in addition to living the American dream on a near-daily basis with her two teenage girls, Catherine and Emily, and husband, Billy.

**PAUL BOSKIND**

**Deer Oaks EAP Services**



Paul Boskind is the founder of the health-care company Deer Oaks EAP and holds a PhD in clinical and school psychology from Hofstra University. He is a successful businessman and psychologist who built a nationwide behavioral health practice that included psychology, counselors, social workers, psychiatrists, and nurse practitioners.

At the age of 21, Paul was diagnosed with an inherited retinal disorder and was told he would go blind. This prognosis motivated him to complete his education

and strive for financial success.

A determined and vibrant gay man, Paul has worked diligently for LGBTQ+ rights. In the past decade, Paul has seen a significant decline in his vision, creating much emotional distress and adjustment problems. He has a definitive approach to coping with loss and grief, which stems from his experience as a psychologist in treating patients and his willingness to embrace the sadness and struggles with losing his eyesight. Paul grew up poor in a household of dysfunction and chose to extricate himself from his family of origin to create a new and healthy surrogate family and friends. His is a story of hope and determination.

Paul, who discovered his Irish heritage through DNA testing, went on to buy and restore Clonbrock Castle, a 15th-century tower house near Ahascragh in Co. Galway, where he now spends much of his time. His soon-to-be-published book, *The Blind Man Game, a Memoir of Art Activism and Adaptation*, is available for pre-order at Amazon.com. His story compels and motivates readers to overcome burdens.

**ELAINE BRENNAN**

**Northwell Health**

Elaine Brennan is Executive Director, Global Strategic Partnerships at Northwell Health, where she is responsible for developing collaborative and strategic relationships and creating new and innovative programs.

In addition, Elaine manages several strategic network and individual relationships on behalf of Northwell that drive value across many cross-functional areas of the health system.

Previously, Elaine was the CEO of Socrates, a health care information technology company, where she led the development and launch of its platform in the U.S. Prior to that, she headed up Life Sciences for Enterprise Ireland, managing life science companies entering the U.S. market, screening them for market readiness, assisting with fund raising and commercialization path ways. Elaine also founded





Gastroenterology Ireland, which combined a cluster of companies, research and development, and Irish opinion leaders in Ireland and the U.S. with the purpose of creating a niche competency for the country, driving funding and innovation.

Elaine, whose pharmaceutical career at Roche, Bristol Myers Squibb, and AbbVie included marketing/sales and clinical roles launching blockbuster products in the virology sector, has published scientific articles on genetic engineering and biodegradable polymers applications and patented many products in the same area. Born in Ennis, Co. Clare, she earned her science degree in the United Kingdom and her early education in Ireland and Belgium.



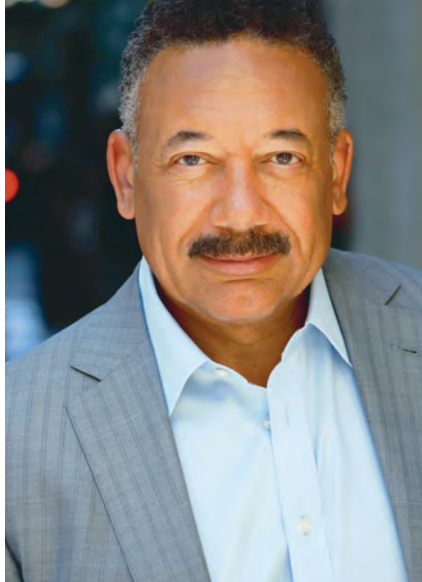
**JAMES BRETT**  
*New England Council*

James Brett serves as the President and CEO of the New England Council – the Nation’s oldest regional business organization representing businesses throughout the six New England states since 1996.

Before joining the Council, James served for more than 15 years as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Throughout his career, James has been an outspoken and tireless advocate for People with Intellectual Disabilities. President Biden appointed him Chairman of the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities in 2023. James has been awarded Papal Honors, being named a Knight of Malta and Knight Grand Cross of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

He is a Trustee of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and a former recipient of the Friends of the Kennedy Library “Irishman of the Year” award and the Gold Medal Award from the Eire Society of Boston. He is also a recipient of nineteen honorary degrees.

James is a first-generation Irish American with his parents from Tubbercurry, Sligo. He and his wife, Patricia, reside in Boston.



**DENNIS BROWNLEE**  
*AAIDN*

Dennis J. Brownlee is the founder and president of the African American Irish Diaspora Network (AAIDN). He became connected with Ireland after researching his family’s roots in recent years and discovering that he had Irish and Scots Irish ancestry.

Dennis has had an extensive career as an entrepreneur and business development executive in media and entertainment and retired from iHeartMedia as the senior executive in charge of urban syndicated networks. Prior to that, he developed a cable TV network with Quincy Jones and David Falk that led to the launch of TV One. He was a pioneer in satellite television, and he served as chairman of the industry’s Direct Broadcast Satellite Association.

Dennis is an Emmy Award-winning executive producer of the documentary *On Hallowed Ground: Streetball Champions of Rucker Park*. He began his career with IBM and then developed an IT management firm that became one of Black Enterprise Magazine’s top 100 companies.

Dennis received his AB degree in economics from Princeton University. He is a trustee emeritus of Princeton and a trustee emeritus of Deerfield Academy.

**JAMES CAHILL**  
*Anthem BlueCross BlueShield*



James Cahill is the Vice President of Labor Accounts and the NY Public Sector for Anthem BlueCross BlueShield. In this role, he supports union labor and TPA-based businesses in all of Anthem’s markets.

James was raised with deep roots in the Irish-American community

of Manhattan’s West Side, where his immigrant ancestors from County Cork settled in the early 1900s.

James earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Fairfield University. In his free time, he coaches a youth hockey team that won the USA Hockey 16U AAA National Championship in 2021.

He lists his family as his greatest accomplishment – his wife, Kelly, and their three young sons, Jimmy, Daniel, and Matthew.

**ALISON CANAVAN**  
*The Aly Code*

Alison Canavan was born in Dublin, Ireland, and was one of five girls who grew up in the suburb of Castleknock. Her professional journey began at 15, when she represented Ireland in the Supermodel of the World competition, launching a 20-year international modeling career that spanned London, Paris, New York, and beyond. Despite her glamorous success, Alison faced profound personal struggles, including mental health challenges and addiction. Her determination to heal and transform her life has made her an inspiring force for change worldwide.

Now an internationally renowned speaker, wellness coach, and mindfulness expert, Alison blends over 25 years of meditation practice with evidence-based techniques to help individuals and organizations unlock their potential.

Her groundbreaking “Full 360” wellness events, the first of their kind in Ireland, introduced thousands to transformative practices such as mindfulness, gratitude, sound healing, and energy management.

Named one of *USA Today’s* Top 8 Transformational Coaches, Alison is a UCLA-trained mindfulness facilitator, HeartMath coach, and award-winning author of *Minding Mum*.

Alison believes energy is the currency of the future. She empowers people to create lasting, positive change, inspiring them to thrive and live with intention.



**ROBERT CARPENTER**  
*Granite Digital*

Robert Carpenter is the Co-Founder and Chief Commercial Officer of Granite, Ireland's largest independent marketing agency. Granite is making strides in expanding its global presence, with a strong focus on the U.S.



Under his leadership, Granite has completed 14 acquisitions in 14 years, earned multiple Deloitte Fast 50 Awards, and been recognized as one of the "Greatest

Places to Work in Tech." Granite works with global brands, including Red Bull, Intel, Audi, and Concentrix.

Robert spearheaded Granite's expansion into the U.S., acquiring an agency in Pearl River, New York, and securing notable clients like the New York Metropolitan Museum, CIE Tours, and New York State Tourism. A planned eight-figure investment in 2025 will create over 50 jobs in New York.

Recognition by *Irish America* marks a milestone for both Robert and Granite. Robert is grateful to his exceptional co-founders, global team, clients, partners, and the Irish-American community for making 2024 a groundbreaking year.

Born in Carlow and raised in Kilkenny, Robert lives in Cork, Ireland and Rockland County, New York. A graduate of South East Technical University, he balances his commitment to business growth with his family life. A proud husband to Siobhan (an Irish Dance champion) and father of four, Robert loves Irish sports and is dedicated to supporting the broader Irish-American community.

**ELIZABETH CLARK**  
*Emmet, Marvin, & Martin, LLP*

Elizabeth Marie Clark is a partner of Emmet, Marvin & Martin, LLP, the oldest continuously operating law firm in the United States, founded in 1805 by Thomas Addis Emmet, the renowned Irish patriot, and brother of Robert Emmet. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the Firm and is the Chair of the Firm's Corporate Trust Department.

For over 30 years, Elizabeth has been representing major financial institutions acting as indenture trustee, in agency capac-



ities and as lenders in corporate and municipal financings involving secured and unsecured debt, project finance transactions, securitizations, and syndicated loan transactions. She also regularly counsels clients in workout, restructuring, and bankruptcy matters.

A proud third-generation Irish American, Elizabeth's grandparents emigrated from County Kerry and County Leitrim to New York City. She graduated from the University of Richmond with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and received her Juris Doctorate from Fordham University School of Law. She and her husband, Davin, reside in Chatham, New Jersey, and have three children.

**JAMES COLEMAN**  
*Houlihan-Parnes*

James K. Coleman has been active in the commercial real estate business since 1982. As a partner at Houlihan-Parnes Properties, Jim has been involved in all aspects of real estate in the New York area.

Jim, the eldest of five children, grew up in the Woodlawn section of the Bronx. His parents, James and Catherine Coleman, emigrated to the U.S. from Ireland: his father from Co. Roscommon, and his mother from Co. Cavan. Jim played Gaelic football for the Fordham Celtics and the Roscommon Club.

Jim attended St. Barnabas Elementary School, Mt. St. Michael Academy, and Manhattan University. He is the chairman of the school board at Mt. St. Michael and their annual Golf/Tennis Invitational. Jim is on the Board of Governors of the Bronx Chapter of HGAR and also chairs the annual bowling event.

An active supporter of all things Irish, Jim is a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Ireland-U.S. Council and is the First Vice President of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Westchester.

Jim lives with his wife, Mary, in Ridgefield, C.T., and Spring Lake, N.J. He is the father of



three adult children and the grandad of George and Jack!

**KEVIN CONWAY**  
*Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, LLC*

Kevin Conway is the Vice Chairman of Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, a global private equity firm known for blending investment skills with operating capabilities to build great businesses. CD&R's portfolio of 45 companies has revenues in excess of \$120 billion and over 475,000 employees. Over his thirty-year career at CD&R, Kevin has held several leadership positions, including Chairman of the Investment Committee for over 23 years and Managing Partner and member of the Management Committee.

Prior to joining CD&R in 1994, Kevin held several senior leadership positions with Goldman Sachs & Co., where he was elected a partner. A magna cum laude graduate



of Amherst College, Kevin also has a joint degree from Columbia University, with an MBA from Columbia Business School and a JD from Columbia Law School.

Kevin is a trustee at Carnegie Corporation of New York, a board member of the New York Catholic Foundation, and a vice chairman (former chair) of Student Sponsor Partners, a charity that provides scholarships and mentoring to inner-city high school students. Together with his wife, Dee, Kevin is a long-time supporter of many charitable and civic causes, including Catholic Charities, Adventures in Learning, the Irish Arts Center, City Harvest, Little Flower Children's Services, and other organizations addressing education, social services, the arts, and the needs of the disadvantaged. He is a former member of the Board of Catholic Health Services. He also has held several volunteer positions working with the leadership and alumni of Amherst College, and is currently co-chair of Access for All, a scholarship initiative at Chaminade High School aimed

# *Congratulations to*

**James K. Coleman**

Senior Director  
Houlihan-Parnes Realtors, LLC

*&*

**Meghan McEvoy**

Vice President & Team Leader  
Aon Cyber Solution Group

And All Of  
Irish America Magazine's  
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**Houlihan-Parnes Realtors, LLC**  
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**GHP**  
We Own. We Manage. We Lease.

at providing full scholarships for students and families in the most underserved communities on Long Island.

Kevin, who traces his heritage to immigrants from Leitrim and Cork in the 1800s, served as the Grand Marshal of the New York St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2023. He helped raise over \$1.5 million to combat food insecurity.

**MARTIN COTTINGHAM**

**Avison Young**

Martin Cottingham joined Avison Young as a Principal to help launch its New York office in early 2012. A real estate veteran with over 30 years of experience, Martin's success in leading major initiatives at Avison Young results from his dedication, and



deep industry expertise. He has a proven history of delivering successful client outcomes, completing millions of square feet in transactions, and is recognized as one of Avison Young's top-producing office leasing brokers.

In Cottingham's spare time, he focuses much of his energy on supporting his community, particularly his endless hours and strong ties to the Irish community. Cottingham's Irish roots can be traced back to his paternal grandparents: John Cottingham, hailing from Clifden, Galway, and Nora Cottingham, from Swinford, Mayo. At the age of 18, Cottingham became a member of the Brooklyn Irish American St. Patrick's Day Committee. His involvement and passion for his heritage later paved the way for him to become a strong proponent of keeping Irish American culture and traditions at the forefront. Cottingham dedicates much of his time to several organizations as an advocate to help raise funds for Catholic education in our local communities and those in need. In 2017, he was awarded the Pontifical Cross by Pope Francis, recognizing his work with Catholic schools. Cottingham is the Former President of the Emerald Society and Cathedral Club of Brooklyn, current President of the Irish American Building Society, Knights of Saint Patrick Secretary, Futures in Education Vice-Chairman, LaSalle Academy Vice-Chairman, Chairman of the Great Irish Fair since 2007 and former honoree of the Irish Studies Program at Lehman College, to

name a few.

Both his work and community involvement grow from his love of Brooklyn and New York, the endless support of his wife, Kathleen, and two children, Brendan and Genevieve, and his unwavering desire to always find the best solution for those around him.

**GERALD CROTTY**

**Weichert Enterprise LLC**

Gerald C. Crotty is President of Weichert Enterprise LLC, a private equity concern with over \$1 billion in AUM. The firm has created thousands of jobs, contributed to economic growth, and achieved top-quartile rates of return for over a decade.

Previously, he held various executive positions with ITT Corporation, including Chairman and CEO of ITT Information Services, where he partnered with Telecom Éireann.

Prior to joining ITT, Gerry was in public service as Counsel and then Secretary to the Governor of New York. He began his career with Hawkins, Delafield & Wood upon his graduation from New York Law School and earned his BA from Fordham.

Gerry was nominated by the Republic of Ireland as Visiting Fellow of the European Union. He is the recipient of the Flax Trust Award, the Ireland U.S. Council Outstanding Achievement Award, the Spirit of Kylemore Service Award, the N.Y. Citizen Budget



Commission Public Service Medal, the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor Corporate Heritage Award, and N.Y. Law School's Groundbreaker Award.

Gerry and his wife Lucy have six children and fifteen grandchildren. All four of his

grandparents – the Crottys and McMahons – hail from County Clare.

**BRIAN CULLEN**

**VICO Infrastructure Company**

Brian Cullen is the President & CEO of VICO Infrastructure Company, a firm specializing in advisory, investment, and management of sustainable infrastructure. VICO helps clients achieve their sustainability goals, manage risk, and maximize financial outcomes, helping ensure continued access to clean water and renewable energy.



Brian Cullen

Brian co-founded VICO in 2018 to leverage his experience, his industry relationships, and innovative approaches to sustainable infrastructure developed over his extensive career.

Prior to co-founding VICO, Brian was President, Co-Owner and Board Member of PERC Water Corporation for 17 years. He was instrumental in completing over 20 mid-sized water infrastructure projects valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Most notably, Brian led the first water recycling public-private partnership in the US.

Before joining PERC Water, Brian was Vice President, CFO, and Board member of TRC Alton Geoscience, Inc., an environmental and engineering consulting firm that specializes in the assessment and remediation of contaminated properties, principally for major oil companies.

Born and raised in Dublin, Ireland, Brian was educated at Griffith College, Dublin, and the University of West London with an emphasis on economics, quantitative methods, and accountancy. He is a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) through the Institute of Management Accountants in the United States.

**SHARON CUNNINGHAM**

**Shorla Oncology**

Sharon Cunningham is CEO, Co-Founder, and board member of Shorla Oncology, a pharmaceutical company headquartered in Ireland with an office in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The company has developed and commercialized a portfolio of oncology drugs focusing on women's and children's cancers.

In 2015, Sharon graduated from University College Dublin Smurfit School with an

# May the Road Rise to Meet You

Extending our  
heartfelt congratulations to  
**Gillian Howell, Head of Client Advisory Solutions**  
at Foundation Source, and all the  
Irish America Business 100 honorees.

**FOUNDATIONSOURCE**

**[foundationsource.com](http://foundationsource.com)**



MBA, and in January 2018, she co-founded Shorla Oncology with Orlaith Ryan.

A Chartered Accountant by profession, Sharon graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Finance from University College Cork, and trained with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Ireland and New York.

The many awards that Sharon has earned include Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur in 2019, the Worldwide Association of MBA's Best Entrepreneurial Venture Award in 2020, and the *Irish Tatler* Women of the Year Business Award in 2023.

Prior to Shorla, Sharon led the finance function at EirGen Pharma (acquired by OPKO Health Inc.). Sharon is a current board member of MassBio and the Young President's Organization ('YPO') Healthcare Business Network.

She was born and raised in a coastal rural village in Co. Waterford and is married to Stephen. They have three hurling-obsessed sons; Rónan, 12, Oisín, 10. and Tadhg, 8.

**ANITA DALY**  
**Daly Communications**

Anita Daly is the founder and president of Daly Communications, a company that promotes Irish entertainment in the U.S. The company thrives on its ability to pinpoint Irish-American audiences on a national, grass-roots level and create marketing campaigns explicitly geared to this consumer. Now in its 28th year with Anita at the helm, its client roster includes Celtic Woman, Van Morrison, Riverdance, The



Chieftains, The Pogues, The Saw Doctors, The High Kings, and Finbar Furey to name a few. Corporate clients include Live Nation, HBO, A&E, PBS, Sony, and Universal Music.

This year, Anita oversaw Public Relations and marketing for an 82-date, nonstop, sold-out Celtic Woman 20th Anniversary tour, and The Saw Doctors' come-back show at Summer Stage in Central Park, which had a sell-out crowd of over 5,000. She recently chaired a panel discussion at the new Celtic World Conference in Dublin on the Global influence of Irish culture.

A fifth-generation Irish American, Anita was raised in an Irish Catholic household with six siblings in Queens. Her Irish roots are in counties Clare and Cork, and she says: "My Irish roots mean more to me than I can ever express. My love of the music and culture of Ireland and its legacy is everything to me."

Anita has won numerous awards, including 'Most Influential Business Women' and the 'Irish American Small Business Excellence Award.' Daly Communications has voluntarily mentored many students from business colleges in the U.S. and abroad, and Anita is a founding member of Women in Music, and a long-time member of the Irish Business Organization of NY.

**THOMAS DEELY**  
**Box Software**

Thomas Deely is the Senior Customer Community Manager at Box, a SaaS platform focused on intelligent content management, serving 67% of the Fortune 500. In his role, Thomas manages a global user base, focusing on driving digital adoption and engagement, delivering scaled education, and building the partner ecosystem. He is also the co-founder of the Knowledge Graph Conference, a leading tech conference held annually at Cornell Tech in N.Y.C.

Before Box, Thomas worked at Stack Overflow, the leading developer community platform, and Unqork, a fintech startup in N.Y.C., and previously directed the Masters in Applied Analytics at Columbia University.

Thomas spent 19 years at Goldman Sachs, rising to Senior Engineer and leading the Adoption Strategy for Enterprise Platforms.



Thomas also partnered with the Irish Government to support Irish startups in the U.S. market.

Beginning his career at JP Morgan in London, Thomas completed the CFA, a Master's from Columbia University, and a Bachelor's in Electronic Engineering from University College Dublin. Born in Limerick and raised in Kerry, Thomas now lives in Manhattan with his family.

**JOHN DOOLAN**  
**Heineken USA**

John Doolan serves as Vice President of Sales Operations for HEINEKEN USA, the world's most international high-end brewer and brewer of some of the world's



most popular beers and ciders.

In his 20-year tenure, John has led and managed sales strategy and key-stakeholder engagement for the company's 16 beers and ciders within its portfolio, including Heineken, Heineken Light, Amstel Light, Dos Equis, Tecate, and many more.

John, who began his career at the Guinness Import Company in 1995, has a track record for strong business results, most notably via his term as Regional Vice President, Northeast, which remains one of the company's strongest and most vital revenue streams.

John grew up on Long Island, N.Y., with parents from Cork City and Longford. He earned a B.A. in English from Iona College and a certificate in Business Management from the University of Notre Dame. He lives in Connecticut with his wife Mary and daughters Cate and Elizabeth, is active in the Gaelic-American Club of Fairfield, CT, and is a member of the Knights of St. Patrick.

## EDDIE DOWLING

### *The Padded Wagon*

Eddie Dowling is the President and CEO of The Padded Wagon, a premier moving and storage company with a strong presence in the U.S. and Ireland. For the past 70 years, the company has been headquartered in New York City and provides luxury residential and commercial moving, climate-controlled storage, and international shipping services.



Under Eddie's leadership, The Padded Wagon has grown into a multi-national provider, operating six locations in two countries, owning a fleet of 80 modern vehicles, and employing more than 200 skilled professionals. His commitment to quality, innovation, and customer service continues to set The Padded Wagon apart.

Eddie attended Terenure College in Dublin, before moving to the U.S in 1986 with his wife, Aine. His roots in Ireland remain strong, symbolized by the distinctive Dublin blue paint on all the company's trucks. Eddie's philanthropic endeavors, including his work as a fundraiser for Maynooth College, the Gaelic Players Association (GPA), and Project Children, a peace initiative that has united over 23,000 children from both Catholic and Protestant families in Northern Ireland.

Outside of his professional and philanthropic pursuits, Eddie enjoys time on the golf course and cherishes his moments with his four children – Conor (35), Erin (33), Kelly (26), and Sinéad (23) – and his growing number of grandchildren.

## MICHAEL DOWLING

### *Northwell Health*



Michael Dowling, born in County Limerick, is president and CEO 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.

Michael has received numerous awards, including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, an honorary degree from Queen's University Belfast, and his selection as grand marshal of the 2017 New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. In 2020, he released the book *Leading Through a Pandemic: The Inside Story of Humanity, Innovation, and Lessons Learned During the COVID-19 Crisis*.

Prior to joining Northwell in 1995, Michael was director of health, education, and human services and a chief adviser to Governor Mario Cuomo. Earlier, he 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 caseworker in New York City schools.

Michael and his wife, Kathy, have two adult children, Brian and Elizabeth.

## NOREEN DOYLE

### *Hudson River Park Trust*

As President & CEO of the Hudson River Park Trust, Noreen Doyle oversees the development, management, and programming of a beloved urban park that stretches along four miles of Manhattan's west side and that attracts an estimated 17 million annual visits. Under Noreen's leadership, the Trust has completed the construction of nearly 10 acres of new public open space, delivered high-impact environmental educational programming to 30,000 children and adults each year, and completed two large habitat enhancement projects that have reintroduced 35 million oysters to the Hudson River. Throughout her tenure at the Trust, she has championed direct access to the Hudson River, working with local communities and organizational partners to expand water programming and environmental research.

Previously, Noreen was a Vice President at AKRF, Inc., a leading environmental and planning consultant, where she helped manage projects like the Second Avenue Subway. She has a BA from Smith College and completed her coursework towards a doctorate in Comparative Literature from New York University. Her mother



came to the U.S. from Kilcar, County Donegal, and she is fortunate that many family members still live there. Her Irish-American father hails from the Bronx.

## JAC DUNNE

### *Dimply*

Jac Dunne, a first-generation Irish woman born in County Dublin and raised in County Laois, is the CEO of Dimply, an innovative, no-code, new-generation customer experience platform designed specifically for financial services. Dimply allows organizations to leverage any data source available to deliver hyper-personalized digital experiences, regardless of complexity, at scale. Under her leadership, Dimply is currently expanding into the United States.

She brings over 30 years of expertise in financial services and fintech, backed by an MBA from Dublin Business School. Throughout her career, Jac has held senior roles at prestigious institutions, including HSBC, Bank of New York (BNY), Bank of America (BOA), and Confluence Technologies, where she held global positions and developed and executed transformative strategies. Her international perspective and diverse sector experience enable her to deliver innovative solutions and foster meaningful growth.

Jac's leadership philosophy is rooted in empowerment. She balances the needs of clients and teams to build solid and lasting relationships. Her dedication to social progress extends beyond her professional life to her charity and volunteering work, where she actively champions equal opportunities. This commitment to making a difference inspires those around her.

Jac now resides in County Offaly with her husband, Damien, their three children, Megan, Holli, and Dylan, and their dog, Cooper.



Jac Dunne

**TONY DUNNE**  
*Bank of Ireland*

Tony Dunne is the Bank of Ireland’s U.S. Country Manager; he joined the Bank in 2011 after moving to New York.

Bank of Ireland Group operates in the U.S. through its branch in Stamford, CT, representative offices in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, and NYC Hub office in Manhattan, which acts as a landing spot for Irish businesses while in New York. As Country Manager, Tony has overall responsibility for all of the Group activities in the U.S. He is based in Stamford and also holds the positions of the U.S. Branch’s Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer. At a Group level, Tony sits on the Corporate and Commercial division’s executive leadership team.

Tony has almost 30 years of global banking and financial services experience in the U.S. and Europe, having previously worked for DZ Bank, Merrill Lynch and Halifax Bank of Scotland. Tony is a qualified accountant (FCCA) and CFA charterholder and holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from University College Dublin.

Tony is vice-chairman of the Institute of International Bankers, as well as chairing its Small/Medium Sized Banks Forum and Membership Committee. Tony also serves as chair of the U.S. Board of Barretstown, a Paul Newman Foundation residential camp based in Kildare, Ireland, that runs therapeutic recreation programs for children with serious illnesses.

Born and raised in Athlone, Tony graduated from University College Cork. He and his wife, Andrea have two children.

**CONNOR FARRY**  
*Glen Echo Group*

Connor Farry serves as a Director at the Glen Echo Group, a public affairs firm based in Washington, DC. He assists a range of clients with policy work, press relations, advocacy, and podcast production. Before joining Glen Echo, he worked for various PR, media, and advocacy organizations. He served as a deputy communications director for an elected official in



New York. Additionally, he held positions at the D.C.-based communications firm Precision Strategies, CBS News, and worked as an intern on Capitol Hill.

Connor currently serves as a board member for the nonprofit organization Pay It Forward 9/11, which works to perform acts of kindness through education and service to honor those who lost their lives during the 9/11 attacks. It’s an organization close to his heart as he was among the 7,000 passengers and crew diverted to Newfoundland on 9/11 as he flew from Dublin to New York.

Conor graduated cum laude from the School of Media and Public Affairs at George Washington University with a degree in Political Communication. He is first-generation native of Rockland County, N.Y., whose mother hails from County Longford. His paternal grandfather was born in County Sligo. Much of Connor’s family including his grandfather, aunt, uncle, and cousins still reside in Ireland.

**ANTHONY FINUCANE**  
*L’Oreal*

After starting his career with L’Oréal in Dublin in 2004, Anthony worked in the U.K., France, and the United States. Most recently, he was based in New York, where he worked on large-scale organizational transformation projects. L’Oréal is the world’s largest beauty company and is launching several multi-year global projects to maintain its position as the industry leader.

Anthony specializes in Supply Chain, Operations, Trade Compliance, and cross-border trade. His previous experience focused on data quality, customer relationship management, and business and technical projects across the Group. Most recently in New York, as Director of Trade Compliance, he implemented new systems and methods to improve and ease trade and allow the com-



pany to benefit from Free Trade Agreements by ensuring compliance and data quality.

He’s passionate about music and for several years, held resident DJ slots at clubs in Dublin, including Ireland’s largest LGBTQ+ venue, The George. He has also DJ’d for the Consulate General of Ireland in the New York Pride Parade.

**JOHN FITZPATRICK**  
*Fitzpatrick Hotel Group*

As President and CEO of the Fitzpatrick Hotel Group, North America, John Fitzpatrick is at the helm of the only Irish-owned and managed properties in New York. For over two decades, he has overseen the operation of two iconic hotels in New York City, The Fitzpatrick Manhattan and The Fitzpatrick Grand Central, which have become known for their uniquely warm and inviting brand of Irish hospitality.

In 2014, John was appointed Chairman of the American Hotel & Lodging Association, which represents more than 52,000 member hotels across the United States, encompassing over 4.5 million guest rooms and generating \$137 billion in sales. That same year, he was named Chairman of The American Ireland Fund, a role in which he served two terms until concluding in 2019. He remains an active AIF board member today.

In 2008, Queen Elizabeth awarded John with an honorary OBE for his contributions to peace in Northern Ireland. In 2011, he received an Honorary Doctorate from Queen’s University, Belfast, and in 2013, he received an Honorary Doctorate from Dublin City University. In 2022, he became the Chairman of the Queen’s University Foundation.

Most recently, in November 2024, John was presented with the Distinction in the Mérite Culturel of the Principality of Monaco, a prestigious honor to be bestowed by SAR la Princesse de Hanovre.

John is also deeply committed to philanthropic work, especially helping children in need and promoting peace in Northern Ireland. Over 25 years ago, he established the Eithne and Paddy Fitzpatrick Memorial Foundation in memory of his late parents. The foundation has raised over \$5 million for a variety of charitable causes, including Barretstown Gang Camp in County Kildare,





Imvax would like to extend  
its congratulations to our CEO  
**John Furey**  
and every one of the  
2024 Irish American Business  
100 honorees

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the Corrymeela Reconciliation Centre in County Antrim, the O’Hanlon Park Boxing Club in Dundalk, and the Integrated Education Fund – all of which have been funded through The American Ireland Fund.

In his personal time, John is an avid aviator, flying both helicopters and airplanes. He also enjoys water sports, snowboarding, skiing, kitesurfing, and golf.

**JOHN P. FUREY**

**Imvax**

John P. Furey leads Imvax as Chief Executive Officer and serves on the Board of Directors.

Prior to Imvax, he was Chief Operating Officer of Spark Therapeutics, where he led the successful U.S. launch of the first FDA-approved gene therapy for a genetic disease and contributed to the build-out of

Spark as a fully integrated company.

John previously served as Senior Vice President and Head of Global Operations at Baxalta, where he led a 14,000 employee manufacturing organization. He oversaw the spinout of Baxalta from Baxter Healthcare and was also the General Manager of Baxter Vaccines. For 20 years prior to joining Baxter, John held various global commercial and operations roles at Wyeth and Pfizer, having started his

career with Wyeth at their Newbridge, Co. Kildare facility.

John also currently serves on the board of directors of Vaxcyte (NASDAQ: PCVX), an innovative clinical-stage vaccine company; Adaptimmune (NASDAQ: ADAP), a leader in T-cell therapy; and Sensorion (Euronext: ALSEN), a clinical-stage company developing therapies for the ear.

He earned an executive MBA from the Haub School of Business, St Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, a B.Sc. from Trinity College, Dublin, and a Diploma in Environmental Health from the Technological University, Dublin. John is originally from Dublin and now resides with his wife Linda and their children, Jack and Emma, in Bryn Mawr, PA.



**JOHN GARVEY**

**Castlebar Ventures**

John Garvey, founder of Castlebar Ventures, is a seasoned executive in the financial services business, strategy, operations, and risk. He retired from PwC in 2024 after a 35+-year career, serving as the Global Financial Services Industry & Digital Assets Leader for the last 8 years. In this role, he led the firm’s biggest industry, with client revenues exceeding \$14 billion and a 60,000+-person talent pool of consulting, tax, and accounting professionals in over 150 countries.

John has devoted his career to growing and transforming businesses, from start-up enterprises to multi-billion dollar institutions. By applying a laser focus on clients and talent and fiscal discipline, he has created and improved existing businesses and their financial performance. Through his new company, Castlebar Ventures, he is using his experience to advise clients on enterprise sales and marketing, alliances, technology, products, and talent.

He is a frequent visitor to Ireland, both for personal and business reasons. His father, also named John, was born in Castlebar, Co. Mayo and emigrated to the U.S. to attend university. John is married to Gloria and has four daughters: Katherine, Alexandra, Christina, and Juliette.



**PHIL GAUGHRAN**

**Dentsu Group**

Phil Gaughran is Global President of Creative Product, Growth & Strategy at Dentsu, a 70,000-person global advertising network. Phil ensures that Dentsu’s creative brands – Dentsu Creative and Tag – are built to bring the best marketing services and insights to clients across a myriad industries. Dentsu’s client roster includes American Express, Subway, GM, T-Mobile, Adobe, Lowe’s, and 7-Eleven.

In a fast-changing industry, it’s Phil’s job to make sure that the capabilities, talent

and technology that dentsu offers are best-in-class and built to tackle the challenges CEOs and CMOs face around the world. That includes Gen AI, where Phil has become a leading voice in the industry. His knowledge is based on over 24 years of proving to clients how creativity can be an engine for growth.

Born and raised in Shannon, Co. Clare, to parents both from Limerick, Phil earned a bachelor’s degree at the University of Limerick. He, and this wife, Alison, split their time between New York City and their home in the Catskills.

**PAUL GEANEY**

**Avolon Aerospace**

Paul Geaney is the founder of Avolon Aerospace, the world’s second-largest aircraft leasing company. The company now has \$31 billion in assets and 1,137 aircraft in its fleet or on order. As President and Chief Commercial Officer, Paul guides the company’s commercial strategy and leads the teams that manage its global customer and manufacturer relationships.

Paul was born in Blanchardstown, Dublin, and went to school at St. Declan’s College in Cabra before completing a BA in Economics and Politics at Trinity College, Dublin.

His career started in investment banking at Merrill Lynch in New York before returning to Dublin to join the fledgling aircraft leasing company RBS Aviation Capital.

Following periods running private jet and yacht finance businesses for RBS and as a partner in private equity firm Claret Capital, Paul returned to his real love – aviation – and worked as part of a small team to start Avolon. Launched in 2010, the business was listed on the NYSE in 2014, in what was then the largest IPO of an Irish company on the exchange. The business was brought private again in 2016.

Earlier this year, Paul received the Irish American Partnership’s Business Leadership Award in recognition of his contributions to Irish American business and global aircraft leasing industry.



His philanthropic efforts include serving as trustee of his beloved Celtic FC's charitable foundation and remaining involved in various initiatives with Trinity College. He has also played an active role in promoting Avolon's CARE philosophy, which involves providing substantial support each year to a wide range of charities in communities where Avolon and its customers operate, particularly in the developing world.

**MARYANNE GILMARTIN**  
**MAG Partners**



MaryAnne Gilmartin is the Founder and CEO of MAG Partners, a WBE-certified real estate development company she founded in 2018. Today, the company has a \$1B development pipeline in New York, including RUBY at 243 W. 28th Street, a mixed-income residential building designed by COOKFOX that reached 98 percent occupancy in Summer 2024. Two other luxury residential buildings, 335 Eighth Avenue and 300 E. 50th Street, are currently under construction and will begin leasing up in Summer 2025. In partnership with Sagamore Ventures – the family office of Under Armour Founder and CEO Kevin Plank – Goldman Sachs Asset Management, and MacFarlane Partners, MAG Partners is leading the development of Baltimore Peninsula, a 235-acre master plan in Baltimore, MD, and is also managing the lease up and operations of 1.1M SF of office, retail, and residential development located on a prime waterfront location.

MaryAnne previously served as President and CEO of Forest City Ratner Companies, where she spearheaded the development of some of the most high-profile real estate projects in New York City.

MaryAnne is a civic leader in the New York metropolitan area, serving as Chair Emeritus of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, member of the Board of Trustees of The Brooklyn Academy of

Music, member of the New York Public Radio Board of Trustees, and a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Governors of The Real Estate Board of New York. At Columbia University, MaryAnne is part of the Industry Advisory Board of the MS Real Estate Development Program as well as a member of the real estate advisory board in the Center for AI in Business Analytics & FinTech.

MaryAnne's maternal grandmother, Mary Anne Brogan, was born in Donegal in 1909 and immigrated to the U.S. in 1934. Her maternal great grandparents were Michael and Bridget Brogan who resided in Donegal until their passings in 1950 and 1954.

**DAVID GLIDDEN**  
**Liberty Bank**

David Glidden is President and CEO of Liberty Bank of Middletown, Connecticut and a member of the Board of Directors and President & CEO of the Liberty Bank Foundation. With \$8 billion in assets, Liberty is the oldest (Established 1825) and largest independent mutual bank in the United States, a Top Workplace for 13 Consecutive Years, and Best-in-State Bank in Connecticut by *Forbes* magazine. Previously, David was Regional President with TD Bank for Northern New England and Upstate New York.

His family is devoted to fundraising and volunteerism with the American Cancer Society. David is chairman of their Southern



and Western New England area board and received their highest volunteer awards: St. George National Award and Omar T. Pace M.D. Recognition Award.

David's accolades include the 2020 Holyoke St. Patrick's Committee JFK

National Award; 2021 National Conference for Community and Justice's Human Relations Award; 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award from Boy Scouts of America; Middlesex United Way's 2022 Tocqueville Society Philanthropy Award; and the 2022 Civic and Community Engagement Award by the NAACP.

David, a proud Irish American, is a graduate of Providence College. His great-grandparents hail from Belmullet, County Mayo.

**CIARA GORMLEY**  
**Justworks**



Ciara Gormley is a Search Engine Optimization Manager with eight years of experience in marketing agencies in New York

City, working with brands ranging from startups to conglomerates like L'Oreal U.S. She is currently the head of in-house SEO and content marketing for Justworks, an organization that provides PEO, payroll, and global HR solutions for small businesses. She also sits on the leadership team of Justworks' Square1 ERG, which aims to celebrate the contributions and achievements of women at Justworks, while also advocating for their needs and interests.

Ciara is the Chief Operating Officer for Women with Ambition (WWA), a professional network for Irish and Irish-American women in New York. WWA provides a space for women of all industries to connect deeply and form meaningful networks, with aspirations to grow across the U.S. WWA's offerings include a peer mentorship program, large networking events, and opportunities to learn from expert guest speakers through its special "Speaker Series" and unique "Education Series." WWA has pioneered the Female Founder Expo, which draws both Irish and U.S. entrepreneurs, and a women's Golf Society.

Originally from Monaghan, Ciara has a Bachelor of Arts in English and Irish from University College Dublin. She lives in New Jersey with her husband, Kevin, and their son, Noah.

**SEAN GRANAHAN**  
**The Floating Hospital**



Sean is a regulatory and corporate attorney by trade, and he has worked in businesses and in global law firms, where he developed both an expertise and a passion for healthcare policy and operations.

Sean left Epstein Becker & Green in the spring of 2003 to become The Floating Hospital's general counsel and took over as president in 2005 growing the organization

ten-fold to become the largest provider of healthcare to families living in homeless shelters and domestic violence safe houses.

The Floating Hospital manages healthcare within a framework of relief, providing food, clothing, and hygiene products as well as sustainable solutions to poverty, such as health education and life-skills training. It maintains its status as a charity and provides care regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

Sean enjoys giving talks to various groups about the rich history of Irish immigration and the founding of the hospital, which is documented in its incredible archive of thousands of photographs. Sean was the keynote speaker for the 2023 Irish America Business 100 Awards.

A graduate of the University of Scranton (Communications) and the Quinnipiac School of Law, Sean credits his drive to help others to his time at both Jesuit and monastery schools while growing up in Pennsylvania.

Sean's paternal great-grandfather emigrated to the U.S. in the 1890s from Cool-Na-Binna (Crossmolina), County Mayo, where the family still resides.



**DANIEL HALLISSEY**  
**AHEAD**

Daniel Hallissey, from Blarney, County Cork, has risen through the ranks of technology firms and is now a director of sales at AHEAD, spearheading the evolution of Artificial Intelligence, Cloud and data security, and digital

transformation for some of the world's most prominent global enterprises.

Daniel started in the technology world on the manufacturing floor at EMC – since then he moved into the business and sales divisions in Cork, Dublin, and now New York City.

In 2022, Daniel made a pivotal move to AHEAD, a global technology integrator, where he orchestrates key decisions and strategies related to technology procurement for major corporations. He provides value to customers in their technology transformation initiatives ranging from complex IT enterprise Data Centers to software-defined cloud applications. And more recently, AI for major Wall Street banks.

Daniel graduated from Cork Institute of

Technology and further honed his skills with a degree in Business Accounting and Finance from Griffith College.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Daniel's commitment to fostering positive change is evident through his role on the First Tee Youth Development Board. In his youth, Daniel won three national golf titles in Ireland, and now, alongside his wife, both accomplished golfers, he travels to participate in various tournaments.

**OISIN HANRAHAN**  
**Keychain**

Oisín Hanrahan is the co-founder and CEO of Keychain, a manufacturing platform for the packaged goods industry that is backed by \$18 million from Lightspeed Venture Partners, BoxGroup, and SV Angel.

Prior to founding Keychain, Oisín served as the CEO of NASDAQ-listed Angi Inc. Before becoming CEO, he served as Chief Product Officer of Angi, where he was responsible for all product and technology strategy. He joined Angi in 2018 when Handy, the company he co-founded and led as CEO, was acquired by the company. He had built Handy to hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue and raised over \$100 million in institutional capital.

From 2016 to 2017, Oisín served as the U.S. Commerce Secretary on the Digital Economy Board of Advisors. While working on worker classification, he addressed unions, congressmen, and senators, including the U.S. Senate Democratic Caucus.

Major media outlets, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, and *Forbes*, have extensively covered his work. He has appeared frequently on CNBC, MSNBC, Fox, and Bloomberg and has given talks at conferences, including Milken Institute and Web Summit.

An active angel investor and advisor with a portfolio of over 50 companies, Hanrahan studied for his MBA at Harvard Business School, earned a Masters in Finance from the London School of Economics, and a Business and Economics degree from Trinity College Dublin.



**AUDREY HENDLEY**  
**American Express Travel**

As President of American Express Travel, Audrey Hendley leads one of the largest multi-channel consumer travel agencies in the world. She is responsible for delivering premium travel and lifestyle services to



Global Card Members through a global digital travel booking experience and a network of over 6,000 global travel advisors. She oversees premium Card Member travel benefits and programs, a global network of 1,400 lounges, supplier partnerships, and marketing and engagement strategies for the premium Card Member base.

Over the past three decades at American Express, Audrey has distinguished herself as an influential, innovative leader who has driven record results for various businesses across the company. She has accomplished this by delivering products and services that exceed customer expectations, innovating for long-term growth, developing and retaining outstanding diverse talent, and leading efforts that drive ESG initiatives.

Audrey is an advocate for women in business, proudly serving as Chair for the New York Women's Interest Network (WIN). She is also Chair of the Board for World Education Services (WES), a social enterprise that helps international students and professionals to achieve their educational and professional goals in the United States and Canada, and on the Executive Committee of the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC). She has earned many of the top awards from American Express and was inducted into the company's Hall of Fame.

Audrey is an honors graduate of Trinity College in Dublin, where she received her Master's in Marketing Management. She enjoys spending quality time with her family in her hometown of Westchester and trying new local restaurants. Audrey is an avid traveler and is always planning her next trip!



At Hofstra University's **Frank G. Zarb School of Business**, distinguished faculty combine innovative technology with experiential learning to ensure lifelong success. With the help of nationally recognized programs, cutting-edge labs, and an alumni network of more than 40,000, the Frank G. Zarb School of Business has prepared graduates to become agile leaders in a dynamic global environment for more than 50 years.

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Hofstra University joins  
***Irish America Magazine*** in honoring

**Brian Ruane, MBA '96**

*Member, Dean's Advisory Board, Frank G. Zarb School of Business*

and

**Dr. Janet A. Lenaghan, MBA '92**

*Dean, Frank G. Zarb School of Business*

for their leadership and contributions to business education  
at Hofstra University and beyond.

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2024 Business 100 honorees.***



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**DAIRE HICKEY**

**150Bond**

Daire Hickey is a co-founder and Managing Partner of 150Bond, a strategic communications firm with offices in New York and Dublin. Leading a team of 30 seasoned professionals, Daire advises C-level executives, empowering them to amplify their messages and expand their networks. 150Bond works with some of the largest names in AI, fintech, venture capital, and Fortune 500 companies to drive impactful storytelling and brand visibility.

As a co-founder of Web Summit, Daire led content and media, collaborating closely with many of the organization's largest partners. He is also a successful investor in crypto and numerous startups and venture funds. Daire currently serves on the board of RTÉ, Ireland's national broadcaster.

A graduate of Trinity College Dublin and named to both Forbes 30 Under 30 and Friends of Europe 40 Under 40, he brings a unique perspective to strategic communications and thought leadership from his background in journalism.



**MATT HIGGINS**

**RSE Ventures**

Matt Higgins is the Co-Founder and CEO of private investment firm RSE Ventures. He rose to prominence across politics, sports, education, and television. At 26, he became New York City's youngest mayoral press secretary, navigating the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. He later served as COO of the agency tasked with rebuilding the World Trade Center and creating its memorial.



After a decade of leading business operations for the New York Jets and serving as Vice Chairman of the Miami Dolphins, Matt followed in his entrepreneurial grandfather's footsteps. He co-founded RSE Ventures with Stephen M. Ross, America's largest developer, creating a multi-billion-dollar portfolio of beloved brands like Magnolia Bakery and Momofuku.

Today, Matt is an Executive Fellow at Harvard Business School, where he co-teaches the acclaimed "Moving Beyond Direct-to-Consumer" course. A recurring Shark on the Emmy-winning Shark Tank, he made history as the first to appear in both the U.S. and Dubai editions of the show. His debut book, *Burn The Boats*, became a *Wall Street Journal* bestseller in 2023.

Matt traces his lineage to County Leitrim native Charles M. Higgins, a self-taught Irish immigrant who invented Higgins Ink in 1880. A century later, with the family fortune long squandered, Matt began selling flowers as a boy on the street corners of Queens. At 16, he dropped out of high school to care for his disabled mother, setting the stage for one of America's most remarkable modern rags-to-riches stories.

**PADDY HOGAN**

**ORIX Group**

Paddy Hogan is a Senior Managing Director and Global Head of Investor Relations at ORIX Group, overseeing teams in New York and Tokyo. He joined the firm in 2020 from Deutsche Bank in Japan, where he was Managing Director, Head of Japan Equities, and Head of Asia Pacific Equity Sales. He is currently based in New York.

Prior to Deutsche Bank, Paddy spent 24 years at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, where he held various sales and management roles, including Head of Japan Equities in Tokyo and Head of International Equity Sales in New York. He began his career with Nomura Securities Group in London.

Born in Dublin, Paddy attended St. Michael's College and University College Dublin. He received a Bachelor of Commerce, focusing on Finance and banking. Paddy is also a CFA Charterholder. He lives in New York with his wife, Lien, and their three children, Conor (19), Aidan (17), and Elaine (15).



**GILLIAN HOWELL**

**Foundation Source**



Gillian Howell is the Head of Client Advisory Solutions and a member of the Foundation Source executive team. She brings 30+ years of executive and philanthropic management experience to Foundation Source, where she oversees and enhances the Client Services and Philanthropic Advisory Services functions. In this role, she leads teams of seasoned client management and philanthropic advisory specialists as they help individual, family, and corporate foundations achieve their charitable objectives more efficiently and effectively.

Previously, Gillian served in multiple philanthropic leadership roles during a 31-year tenure at Bank of America, most recently as Managing Director and Philanthropic Market.

A native of Bishopstown, Co. Cork, Gillian attended secondary school at Mount Mercy College, and received her bachelor's degree from University College Cork. She is active in the local nonprofit community, is a board member, and sits on the investment committee for the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. She also serves as Treasurer on the Everyday Democracy board and is a longtime member of the board and past president of the Trustees of the Colt Bequest Inc., which provides residence and support for senior women in Hartford and surrounding areas of Connecticut.

**MAGGIE HYLAND**

**SompoRE**

Maggie Hyland is the President of North America for SompoRe, the global reinsurance business of leading worldwide (re)insurer Sompo. With over 30 years of experience in the North American (re)insurance industry, she has held leadership positions at various companies, including Allied World, CNA, Axis Capital, and Willis Re.

Maggie holds an MBA from the Gabelli School of Business at Fordham University and a BA in Literature and Speech from St. John's University.

Born in Queens, NY, but was raised from a young age on her parents' farm in Co. Leitrim,



Maggie returned to the U.S. in the late 1980s to attend college and pursue a career. She now lives on Long Island, N.Y., with her husband and son, while her older daughter is pursuing a medical degree at the University of Galway.

Maggie recently was recognized as one of Business Insurance's 2024 Women to Watch at their Awards and Leadership Conference in New York City.

## DES JOHNSON *Waystone*

Des Johnson is the Global Chief Revenue Officer and a Global Executive Committee member at Waystone. He is responsible for defining sales strategies and overseeing the global commercial and marketing team.

With more than 25 years of experience, Des has extensive knowledge of offshore



and onshore financial sectors. He previously served as CEO of Centaur Fund Services U.S. and was an Executive Team member at SS&C, managing over 600 employees across 12 countries. He has also held senior management roles at other leading financial services firms in the U.S., Ireland, Bermuda, and Australia including Citibank, BISYS, and IFS/State Street.

Des holds a Bachelor's degree in Business from Dublin Business School. He serves on the U.S. board of the Children's Medical Research Foundation, the U.S. affiliate of the Children's Health Foundation in Ireland.

Born and raised in Dublin, Des has lived in the U.S. for 15 years and resides in Wyckoff, New Jersey, with his wife, Jo, and their children: Alex, Dexter, and Lily. Des is proud of his Irish heritage and regularly visits Ireland with his family.

## FERGUS KEENAN *AI One*

Fergus Keenan is an accomplished technology executive with extensive experience delivering next-generation software solutions for world-leading financial institutions. As Co-founder and Managing Partner of AI One, Fergus helps CEOs and senior leaders navigate the fast-moving world of AI and capitalize on this transformative technology. With over 17 years working in capital markets, Fergus has built a broad spectrum of experience across strategy, software delivery, sales, and general management with the largest financial institutions in the world.

Playing a pivotal role in the growth of a multi-national trading technology business, one of his key achievements was establishing the New York office for Adaptive, a multi-award-winning consultancy, growing it from the ground up to over 60 employees and significantly contributing to the company's expansion to over \$50 million in revenue.

While serving as the Chief Strategy Officer, Fergus spearheaded a strategic initiative to transform the business from a majority professional service model to a recurring revenue model, which significantly increased enterprise value. He also built key relationships with AWS and Google Cloud to drive innovative solutions for major customers.

An Irish native, Fergus holds an MBA from Warwick Business School and a Bachelor of Commerce from University College Dublin, where he continues to mentor undergraduate students.

## ALFRED F. KELLY, JR. *Berkshire Partners*

In February 2024, Al Kelly retired from Visa after ten years as chairman and CEO. During those years, Visa's revenue grew more than 2.5 times to \$33B, and its market cap more than four times to \$580B. Today, he serves as an advisory director at Berkshire Partners, a leading private equity company based in Boston.

Kelly spent most of his career at American Express, where he worked from 1987 to 2010. He held several senior positions, including President from July 2007 to April 2010. Prior to joining American Express, Kelly was the head of information systems



at the White House from 1985 to 1987.

He is a Trustee of Iona University, New York Presbyterian Hospital, Boston College and Saint Joseph's Seminary and College. Additionally, he serves as the Chairman of the Board of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation and is a member of the Archdiocese of New York's Finance Council.

From April 2011 to August 2014, Kelly was the President and CEO of the 2014 NY/NJ Super Bowl Host Company, which was created to raise funds for and host Super Bowl XLVIII. He was Chair of Pope Francis' visit to New York City in 2015 and was named a Knight in the Pontifical Order of Saint Gregory the Great by Pope Francis in 2016.

Kelly holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Computer and Information Science and a Master of Business Administration degree from Iona University. He is a second-generation Irish American with roots in Cork.

## WILLIAM (BILL) KELLY *CAIA Association*

William (Bill) J. Kelly, CAIA, has worked in the financial services sector for over forty years and is currently the CEO of the Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA) Association. Previously, Bill was the CEO and founding partner of Boston Partners and the CFO and COO of The



Boston Company Asset Management, a predecessor institutional asset management firm.

In addition to his current role, Bill is also the Chair and lead independent director for the Boston Partners

Trust Company and serves as an independent director and Audit Committee Chair for the Artisan Partners Funds.

He is of proud Irish heritage and currently sits on the Advisory Board of the Certified Investment Fund Director Institute program within the Dublin-based IOB. Bill, along with his five siblings, is actively pursuing Irish Citizenship through the Foreign Birth

Registration process and hopes to one day be a gentleman farmer amidst his O’Neill ancestors in Bantry Bay, County Cork.

**RAYMOND F. KERINS, JR**  
**Next Solutions Group**

Raymond F. Kerins Jr. is CEO of Next Solutions Group (NSG), a top-rated crisis and reputation management corporate consultancy.

Ray’s paternal grandparents, who lived in the Bronx, NY, came from County Cork and County Fermanagh, respectively. His maternal grandmother came from County Carlow. Ray’s father-in-law was born and raised in Leixlip, County Kildare.

The Kerins family travel often to Ireland to visit family and their three children are in daily contact with their cousins via social media.

Ray is the former SVP of Corporate Affairs for Bayer, VP of External Affairs and Worldwide Communications at Pfizer, and Executive Director of Public Affairs for Merck & Co.

He is a board member of the U.S. Chamber of

Commerce and the Congressional Award. He is chair of the CDC Business Roundtable on Global Health Threats. Ray is an advisor to the National Press Foundation and the Association of Foreign Correspondents and a member of the National Press Club. He is an adjunct professor at NYU.

Ray, a recipient of *Irish America* “Top 50 in Healthcare and Life Sciences” (2018 & 2019), holds a BA and an MS degree from Iona University and has attended executive leadership training at Harvard Business School

**COLUM LANE**  
**Pfizer**

Colum Lane is Vice President of Treasury at Pfizer, overseeing global risk management, pensions, and digital finance initiatives. With over three decades in finance, he is known for his steady leadership, decisiveness, and dedication to talent development.

Colum was raised in Dublin with family roots in Kerry, Cork, and Roscommon. His parents, Tim and Helen, met while working for Aer Lingus and instilled in him and his siblings the values of integrity, kindness,

and a commitment to learning that enabled them to excel in their chosen careers. Colum’s late brother, Mark, was a journalist with RTÉ; his brother Philip is the Chief Economist at the European Central Bank; and his sister Cloda is a professor of economics at Imperial College London.

Colum has been with Pfizer for 20 years, including 15 at the company’s headquarters



in Manhattan. While in New York, he met his wife, Elaine, and they welcomed their son, Ronan, in 2018. In 2023, they decided to base themselves in Ireland, balancing family values with a global outlook.

Drawing from personal experience, Colum advocates for neurodiversity and is an executive sponsor of Pfizer’s Neurodiversity Colleague Community Group.

His dedication to family, colleagues, and community reflects the values instilled by his parents and his connection to both Ireland and the United States.

**JANET LENAGHAN**  
**Hofstra University**

Janet Lenaghan became the first female Dean of the Frank G. Zarb School of Business at Hofstra University in January 2019. Under her leadership, the school has achieved significant milestones, including securing a historic \$35 million donation for undergraduate scholarships – the largest in Hofstra’s history – and launching innovative, technology-driven degree programs tailored to emerging business and workplace trends.

The Zarb School is one of an elite group of business schools worldwide to hold dual AACSB accreditations in both business and accounting, a distinction that underscores its commitment to academic excellence and high standards in teaching, research, and student outcomes.

Dean Lenaghan has prioritized strategic industry partnerships that enrich Zarb students’ educational experiences, enhance career readiness, and foster lifelong mentorship opportunities. With a robust alumni network of over 40,000 professionals worldwide, Zarb students gain access to diverse career and academic opportunities, including a



Janet Lenaghan

study abroad program in Ireland, supported by Zarb alumni.

Through these initiatives, the Zarb School continues to earn recognition as a leader in undergraduate and graduate business education. It is celebrated for its forward-thinking curriculum and commitment to student success.

Janet holds a bachelor’s degree from Adelphi University, an MBA from the Zarb School of Business, and a doctorate from Pace University.

A proud Irish American, Janet traces her roots to County Clare.

**DIANE LENEGHAN TOMB**  
**American Land Title Association**

Diane is the Chief Executive Officer of the American Land Title Association (ALTA), a national trade association representing the \$22 billion title insurance industry. Earlier in her career, she founded a public affairs firm and served as President and CEO of the National Association of Women Business Owners.

Diane graduated from Mount St. Mary’s University in Emmitsburg, Md., with a B.A. in Political Science and later served on the Board of Directors. She began her career working at the White House for then-President George H.W. Bush. In 2024, Diane was recognized in *Washingtonian Magazine* as one of the Most Influential People Shaping Policy; she also was named one of *HousingWire’s Women of Influence* in 2017.

A native of Philadelphia, she is a first-generation Irish American. Her parents,

Sally (nee Newcombe) and Anthony Lenaghan both hail from County Mayo. Diane

grew up doing Irish dancing and playing the accordion with her father, who ran Lenaghan’s Irish Inn in Philadelphia for over 50 years. Diane and her husband

Mark have three young adult children and live in Arlington, Virginia.



Diane LenaghanTomb



# HONORING HERITAGE, ADVANCING HEALTH

Northwell Health recognizes **Irish America** for uplifting the Irish-American community. We share a commitment to improving health and advancing medical knowledge through exceptional care, education, research and global health initiatives.

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## **MICHAEL J. DOWLING**

President & CEO,  
Northwell Health

## **ELAINE BRENNAN**

Executive Director,  
Global Strategic Partnerships  
Northwell Health



**Margaret Crotty**  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
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**Ralph Nappi**  
Executive Vice Chair, Board of Trustees  
Northwell Health

# Brian Ruane

**B**rian is a Senior Executive Vice President, with responsibility for Global Clearing, Corporate Trust & Credit Services, and a member of BNY's Executive Committee. He was born in the U.S. raised and educated in Dublin, Ireland, before qualifying as a Chartered Certified Accountant. He earned his MBA from the Zarb School of Business, New York. Brian's father is from County Mayo and his mother is from County Longford. He and his wife Anna, who is from Dublin, live in New York with their four children. Brian is a previous Wall Street 50 Keynote Speaker.

## BNY

Founded by Alexander Hamilton in 1784, BNY is the nation's oldest bank. BNY is a global financial services company that oversees more than \$50 trillion in assets for its clients – managing it, moving it and keeping it safe.

Today BNY services over 90% of Fortune 100 companies and nearly all the top 100 banks globally. BNY supports governments in funding local projects and partners with over 90% of the top 100 pension plans to safeguard and manage investments for millions of individuals, and so much more.

## Why is 2024 an important year for BNY?

This year we are celebrating BNY's 240th Year Anniversary as well as our 30th year operating in Ireland. We are proud of our history and how we have contributed to the global financial industry, creating new solutions that benefit businesses, communities, and people everywhere. As we look to the future, we are continuously transforming to make our clients' businesses faster, smarter and more efficient. In Ireland, BNY is the leading provider to the Funds and Investment management industry where we administer and act as trustee for in excess of \$1 trillion of Irish regulated investment funds. In addition to this, our Irish operation is an important location for servicing the bank's clients and sourcing exceptional talent. Recently we announced the addition of a new team specializing in artificial intelligence, data, and analytics, and the establishment of a new trading desk to service our Irish & European clients.

## What are some of your key focus areas?

BNY plays a central and unique role in the US Treasury market, as we are the primary settlement





participants. It is expected to make the U.S. Treasury market more resilient. This change also helps reduce the risk of losses for market participants if a dealer or other market participant fails. We outlined these changes in our recent thought leadership papers Reassembly Required and The Importance of Safety and Liquidity in the U.S. Treasury Market. As an industry leader, we are working with clients through this transition and helping them to find new ways to access the market, clear transactions, and manage collateral and margin.

### What are some of the organizations you are involved in within the Irish American community?

There are several organizations in the Irish American community that I have been proud to support over the years. I am a Board Member of The Irish American Partnership. This organization connects Irish and American communities directly with education and community programs in Ireland, North and South. I am also privileged to be an advisory board member for The Ireland for Finance Industry Committee. This is an industry body established to assist the Irish Government in the development of the financial services sector strategy. In our free time Anna and I also enjoy attending The Irish Repertory Theatre and The Irish Arts Center.

### What does your Irish Heritage mean to you?

Family, history, literature, arts, sports and resilience.

### What advice would you give someone starting their career today?

I would encourage people to pursue areas that leverage their interests and strengths along with offering opportunities to learn and grow. Being positive and curious are important to success in any career and can lead to new opportunities. Lastly, I would always encourage people to reach out to others, seek career advice and avail of mentoring opportunities. **IA**

**ABOVE:** Brian Ruane pictured at BNY corporate headquarters in New York.

**LEFT: BNY Archives:** As the early principle means of recording the monetary transactions of account holders, these beautifully handwritten journals documented the finances of such notable BNY clients such as William Seaton, John Jay, Aaron Burr, and of course, the bank's founder, Alexander Hamilton.

provider for the market. We have the largest triparty financing platform for institutions and over \$10 trillion in U.S. Treasuries in custody. Since Alexander Hamilton signed the first U.S. Treasury bill in 1789, the U.S. Treasury market has innovated, evolved, and grown. The first U.S. Treasury warrant for \$20K in 1789 was a loan by The Bank of New York to the U.S. Treasury. Today, the \$28 trillion U.S. Treasury Market is the safest and most liquid market in the world.

The U.S. Treasury market is undergoing one of the most significant changes in recent years, as the Securities Exchange Commission has mandated central clearing of U.S. Treasuries by 2026. This rule will require the market participants to centrally clear a significant portion of their U.S. Treasury repo and reverse repo financing transactions, as well as many of their U.S. Treasury purchase and sale transactions. This will represent a significant change for market

# Helen Doody

**H**elen Doody is the Head of Abbey Capital (U.S.) LLC and an Abbey Capital (U.S.) LLC board director. Abbey Capital is an alternative investment manager. She and her team are responsible for business development and investor relations in North America, working with many of the largest private banks, institutions, and pension consultants.

Helen was born in Dublin to parents John and Clare McDonald and has five siblings. She graduated from University College Dublin with a Bachelor of Commerce Degree and Dublin City University with a Certificate in Investment Management.

Helen moved to the U.S. with her husband, Derek Doody, in 2006. They have three sons, Gavin, JJ, and Christian, and live in Connecticut. Helen, who volunteers in her children's school and church, has coached her son's basketball team for the past two years and helps out with various charitable causes.

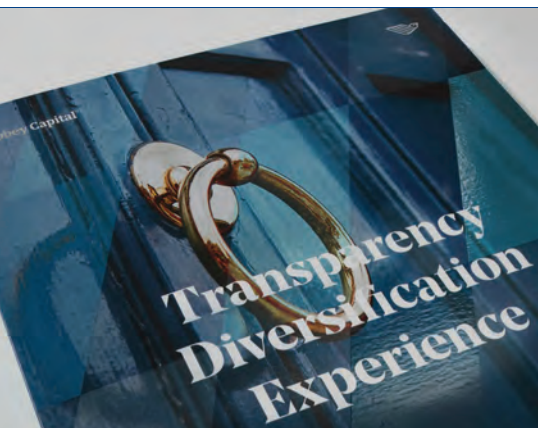
## Tell me about Abbey Capital

Abbey Capital is an investment manager specializing in liquid alternative strategies. Founded in 2000, the firm currently manages (as of October 31, 2024) approximately \$7.5bn.

We are a community of thoughtful individuals with the conviction that the funds we manage can make a difference to investors' portfolios.

We are experts in what we do. The funds we manage have been trusted by global investors since 2000. We seek to diversify portfolios and mitigate against downside risks with funds that are constructed with a focus on compounding returns over time.

At Abbey Capital, we believe we can make a difference.



## What organizations within the Irish American community are you involved with?

I have been on the North American advisory board of the UCD Michael Smurfit Business School in the U.S. for the past couple of years. I've also been on the American Ireland Fund's New York Gala Committee. The team at Enterprise Ireland has been kind enough to invite me to several events they arrange during the year that I attend if my schedule permits.

## What does your Irish heritage mean to you and how does it help your business?

I am so proud of Ireland and to be Irish. We have a rich history of character, persistence, and humanity. Heritage means connections, relationships, family, music, literature, and spirituality.

Abbey Capital is an Irish business, and that is incredibly beneficial for us. It helps us stand out from our peers in the U.S. marketplace.

The majority of investment firms a U.S. wealth advisor, pension consultant or investment board engage with, are U.S. providers, so being Irish is different.

It's not uncommon for a meeting or presentation to begin with the other person quickly telling you about their Irish ancestry or the Irish golf courses they played! Being Irish helps us to connect with so many, as there is such a massive Irish diaspora in the U.S. They are extremely warm to us, helping us to engage in building relationships and in the asset management or wealth business, like in most companies, trust matters and relationships help with that.

### What advice would you give someone starting their career today?

Pursue what interests you, and keep challenging yourself on what provides meaning and creates value and that you enjoy. I encourage someone who is starting out and has the option to work with others in an office environment to be in there as much as possible, to listen, and to go the extra mile. Building relationships is essential, and this is done more effectively in person. Make the effort to seek advice from those more senior to you – you will most likely gain some pearls of wisdom and have supporters within the company.

### Why did you choose the financial sector, and how did your UCD and Dublin City University studies prepare you for that world?

In Secondary school (high school), I really liked the business studies classes I took, so I chose them at UCD for my third-level studies. It was a great choice, as it's well-rounded and gives exposure to many areas of business. Some I really enjoyed and often found easy, and others not so much! My time at DCU was post-graduate. I took those classes at night while employed at ABN Amro as a junior equity analyst supporting several sector analysts in Pan-European Equities.

I chose business because I always wanted to run my own business. I adored playing "Shop" when I was a kid. I remember selling biscuits (cookies) to my older sisters who were studying for exams and making a tidy profit but not doing so well with the onion sandwiches – learning a valuable lesson that although onions were cheap, they weren't necessarily desirable.

### How did your job at Abbey come about?

Experience and relationships are the short answer.

It was a fortunate one for me, and hopefully for Abbey Capital too. It's been the most fulfilling part of my career to date.

Before starting my journey with Abbey Capital in 2008, I had almost 10 years of experience in financial services, working for the stockbroker ABN Amro in Dublin, first in equity research and then moving into trading.

ABN Amro moved me to London to become a market maker in FTSE 250 stocks in 2002 and I left there in 2004 to move back to Dublin. In Dublin, I once again worked in trading for Anglo Irish Bank. This was my first time working in Wealth Management rather than investment banking or asset management, and it was an experience I really enjoyed. In 2006, my fiancé, now husband Derek, got the opportunity to relocate to Connecticut for two years with Bank of Ireland, and we both jumped at the chance to start our married life with an adventure. The benefit of being the spouse meant that when my visa came through, I had the ability to work with any employer. Meanwhile, as I waited for the visa and networked for an equity trading role, I started a small travel

to Ireland business to keep me occupied. I began working for a U.S. Hedge Fund as their European trader, working two a.m. to mid day each day, so the offer to join Abbey Capital and work daylight hours was very welcome.

I had a connection to the founder of Abbey Capital, Tony Gannon, through my family. Abbey Capital's CEO Mick Swift had previously hired my husband Derek at the Bank of Ireland, and Aodhagan Hurley, another member of the team in Ireland, was in my class at UCD. It goes back to my earlier comments on Irish heritage and the connections and relationships that stem from that – this was a true example of that!

Abbey Capital wanted to build its presence in the U.S. market, and my experience in trading markets, my small foray with creating a U.S. business, the existing relationship, and the understanding we had for each other was the jumping off point to grow the business from about \$700m in Assets under Management to \$7.5bn today.

### Is working for Abbey Capital the most fulfilling part of your career?

Yes. The answer is two-fold. One is the daily connection to the team in Ireland – the firm is headquartered in Dublin, and the second part is that I enjoy building relationships, engaging people on their investment portfolios, and helping them achieve their financial goals. Showing them the importance of diversifiers and that a different source of return to traditional equities and bonds can be helpful when those markets struggle.

In the first ten years of my work in financial markets, I experienced the dot-com correction and, subsequently, the global financial crisis in 2008. This was impactful firsthand knowledge in realizing the importance of diversification, especially coming from an equities background.

### You coach your son's basketball team. How did that come about? Is basketball a passion of yours?

Basketball was the part of my secondary school experience that I enjoyed the most. We played daily at school and participated in Loretto Schools Leagues and South Dublin and All-Ireland competitions.

Thanks to our mutual basketball coach, Ed Randolph, I met my husband, Derek, while attending a basketball camp in my early teens. Ed moved to Ireland in the 80s from Florida and has been a considerable part of South Dublin basketball from the '90s to today, greatly influencing the lives of so many kids and teens.

I was a teen in the early 90s, coinciding with the Michael Jordan era – a very exciting time in American Sports with the Bulls/Pistons/Celtics, and even Knicks rivalry. Jordan's hard work, tenacity, and creativity were inspiring.

I coached my son's team for the past two years and enjoyed it a lot. My own son was a bit more challenging, since he thought if his Mum was the coach, he'd be getting the ball whenever he wanted, and it didn't work like that!

## CONOR LOONEY

### EXO Edge

Conor Looney is a business owner and senior leader with a three-decade career working in the U.S., Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, and Central America, spanning the Real Estate, Legal, Telecom, and CPG industries.

Born in Ireland, and married with three children, Conor has lived in seven countries and is now based in Florida.

As the owner and Group CEO of EXO Edge, the leader in offshore staffing for Real Estate and Legal clients, Conor has overseen its rapid expansion, including the increase in headcount from 30 to 900 associates in seven years.



Previously, Conor held leadership positions with Digicel, including Regional CEO across 18 countries and CEO in two Caribbean markets.

Conor's early career was with Mars Inc., where he worked across business units and in various European markets. He also co-founded and exited two online businesses.

His educational background includes a Commerce degree from University College Dublin and leadership development from the Wharton School.

Conor is an avid reader, particularly about Irish history and culture. He also is a Liverpool FC fan and strives to be an "intelligent" investor.

## KATHLEEN MAGUIRE

### First Contact NYC

Kathleen Maguire, known as Cathy to many, founded First Contact NYC, an award-winning, women-owned boutique Real Estate brokerage specializing in Relocation and Global Mobility.

A recognized leader in the industry, First Contact NYC has earned a reputation for delivering tailored, premier service to C-suite executives, VIPs, and dignitaries relocating to the New York Tri-State area.

The firm proudly serves an elite roster of clients, including IBM, LVMH, EY, BMW, Bayern Munich FC, Ralph Lauren, Google, and other Fortune 500 companies. As a licensed broker in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Tennessee, Cathy combines her extensive expertise with an unwavering commitment to excellence,



making First Contact NYC a trusted name in executive relocation.

Outside the corporate world, she is a celebrated singer, TV presenter, and viral sensation. Her performances have garnered over 10 million views on YouTube, and she has had the honor of performing for three American presidents. Her musical talents have graced iconic venues such as Madison Square Garden, Carnegie Hall, and St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, earning her widespread acclaim for her unforgettable renditions.

Cathy seamlessly blends professional excellence with artistic achievement, leaving a lasting impact on both industries. She is an avid animal lover and splits her time between New York City, Nashville, and her hometown of Dundalk, Ireland.

## MICHAEL MAHONEY

### Guidewire Software

Michael Mahoney is Head of Services for Guidewire Software, the P&C platform that supports the entire insurance life cycle for leading insurers in 38 countries. Prior to joining Guidewire in 2022, Michael was head of North America Services for SAP, the world's largest provider of enterprise application software. Earlier in his career, Michael worked for Xerox Healthcare Provider Services, where he led Cloud and BPO services and brought Xerox-PARC innovations to healthcare systems across the U.S. He was also with Deloitte Consulting.

Michael was born in Philadelphia, where his great-grandparents arrived from Counties



Cork and Galway in the late 1890s. His great-grandfather, Maurice Mahoney, was a schoolteacher who found work in the shipyards of Philadelphia. These hard-working roots have been central to Michael's pride in his Irish heritage.

Michael earned a BS in Economics and Finance from Boston College and holds MBA and JD degrees from Cornell University. He lives in Seattle with his wife, Dawn, and their children, Victoria, Michael, Matthew, and Grace.

## ÚNA MARLEY

### J.T. Magen & Company

Úna Marley is a Construction Project Superintendent at J.T. Magen & Company, where she has been a key member of the team since 2020. With over eight years of experience in the construction industry, Úna specializes in overseeing commercial interior fit-outs for leading firms across New York City.

Her diverse career – spanning roles as an architect, estimator, and now superintendent – has equipped Úna with a comprehensive understanding of the entire construction process. From the initial planning/design phase, bidding processes, and on-site construction, right through to punch-listing, she brings a holistic approach to project management.

Úna holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Architecture from University College Cork and has furthered her expertise with a post-graduate Project Management certification from NYU.

Outside of her professional work, Úna is an active member of the O'Donovan Rossa Ladies Gaelic Football team in Queens and is also involved with the Kerry Association of New York. A passionate runner, she has completed the New York and Chicago marathons, raising over \$6,000 for Solace House and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Based in Astoria, NY, Úna hails from Ardfert, County Kerry.



## JIM McCANN 1-800-Flowers

Jim McCann is an entrepreneur, author, and philanthropist renowned for transforming a single flower shop into the billion-dollar omnichannel retailer, 1-800-[FLOWERS.COM](http://FLOWERS.COM).



Jim's entrepreneurial journey began with a deep belief in the importance of social connections, which inspired him to create a company dedicated to helping people build meaningful relationships.

The company's portfolio includes well-known brands such as Harry & David, PersonalizationMall.com, Cheryl's Cookies, The Popcorn Factory, Things Remembered, and SmartGift Inc., along with its newest additions, Card Isle, an innovative greeting card company, and Scharffen Berger, a premium chocolate company.

Jim is dedicated to philanthropy, focusing on supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. He founded Smile Farms, a not-for-profit organization, in 2015, which provides meaningful work opportunities for people with disabilities.

In addition to his role as Founder and Chairman of 1-800-[FLOWERS.COM](http://FLOWERS.COM), Jim McCann serves as Chairman of Worth Media Group. He also holds various other positions, including Vice-Chairman and Lead Independent Director for International Game Technology PLC, and serves on several private and not-for-profit boards.

Jim's family emigrated from County Armagh to New York in the 1800s.

## DARRAGH McCARTHY FinTrU

Darragh McCarthy founded FinTrU in 2013 and serves as the company's CEO. He is a member of the Executive Committee and is responsible for managing overall operations and setting the company's strategic direction and objectives.

A highly experienced leader with over 30 years in the Financial Services industry, Darragh founded FinTrU



while identifying Global Investment Banks' increasing demand for first-class resources to navigate the regulatory landscape. The company supports several large U.S. Financial Institutions with technology-enabled Client Lifecycle Management solutions.

FinTrU employs over 1,500 people and has offices across the UK, the Republic of Ireland, Portugal, and the United States. Under Darragh's leadership, the company expanded to New York in November 2020, establishing FinTrU Inc. in Manhattan.

Prior to FinTrU, Darragh spent 18 years at Morgan Stanley and lived in New York for stages of his career. He performed roles as Head Fixed Income Sales – North America and Global COO for ISG (Institutional Securities Group) while based in New York.

Outside of FinTrU, Darragh is the Vice President of the Belfast Chamber Board and a member of the Innovation and Growth Advisory Board for the City of London. He is also the Chair of the Fellowship Programme Advisory Board for the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building in Northern Ireland.

Darragh has a First Class Honours BComm International from University College of Dublin, Ireland. Originally from County Cork, Darragh lives in Belfast and is married with three children.

## F.J. McCARTHY Site Selection Advisory Group

F.J. McCarthy, CCIM, is President of the Site Selection Advisory Group and is a Principal of Genesis Real Estate Advisors. F.J. has been in the real estate business for over 35 years, specializing in retail and multifamily investing. In addition to his real estate activities, F.J. is a General Partner of Eastman Dillon Oil, which owns and operates 365 oil and gas wells in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas.

A graduate of Fordham University Gabelli Business School, F.J. has a degree in finance and is a member of the CCIM Institute, where he has served on the National Designation Committee and is a former treasurer and vice president of the New York State Chapter.

A Knight in Obedience in the Sovereign Order of Malta, a 950-year-old religious lay order, in 2022 F.J. was appointed to a provisional government by Pope Francis for the Worldwide Order of Malta in Rome. In 2023, he was elected to the Sovereign



Council, the governing body of the Order. In addition to his responsibilities in Rome, F.J. is the Magistral Delegate of the Order's Irish Association, where he acts as co-chair of the governing board of the Order of Malta Irish Association.

He is a board member of Tomorrow's Hope Foundation and a former Trustee of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Rockville. F.J. served as Trustee of the Northwell Health System for over 20 years and, for the past 18 years, has been Chairman of South Shore University Hospital's Community Board. His family has long been supporters of Maynooth University, and F.J. looks forward to continuing to support the university as it develops its new School of Nursing in collaboration with Northwell.

An avid boater and angler, F.J. enjoys golf and cooking but, most importantly, spending time with his family. F.J. resides with his wife, Kelly, in Bay Shore, New York. They have two children, Meaghan and Connor.

F.J.'s father was born in Dublin, and his grandfather was a captain in the Irish army.

## MICHELLE McCARTHY MCC Marketing

Michelle McCarthy is the visionary force behind MCC Marketing Group. With over 15 years of unparalleled experience in strategic marketing for global entertainment giants, McCarthy has redefined live entertainment's marketing landscape. Her expertise spans iconic brands, venues, and festivals worldwide, from Madison Square Garden and Radio City Music Hall to Boston Calling, Ireland's Electric Picnic, and the Dublin Theatre Festival.

Michelle combines an artist's passion for music, performance, and live events with a marketer's strategic precision. She balances creativity and tactical execution, whether promoting performances, organizing



festivals, or building collaborative partnerships. This unique blend is evident in her success with monumental projects, including David Gilmour’s sold-out U.S. Tour in 2024 and the inaugural “Rock the Country” festival series, uniting country music legends Kid Rock and Jason Aldean. McCarthy’s previous roles include leading successful campaigns with high-profile artists such as Billy Joel’s record-breaking residency, the historic Katie Taylor vs. Amanda Serrano boxing match, celebrated as the “biggest women’s fight of all time” at Madison Square Garden, the launch of the GRAMMY Museum Experience and a 3-night sold-out run with iconic country star Garth Brooks at the Prudential Center.

As founder of MCC Marketing Group, Michelle leads a powerhouse consultancy specializing in strategic marketing for live music, comedy, festivals, fine arts, and sporting events. Originally from Co. Cork, Ireland, Michelle’s career began with pivotal roles in esteemed organizations such as *Hot Press* magazine, Rubyworks Records, Dublin Theatre Festival, Cork Midsummer Festival, the Festival of World Cultures, and the RTE Concert Orchestra.

Pollstar nominated Michelle as ‘Marketing Executive of the Year’ and she was named ‘Cork Woman of the Year’ by the Cork County Association of New York.



**KEVIN McCARTY**  
*The Cigna Group*

Kevin McCarty is a distinguished cyber risk executive recognized for his innovative strategies and unwavering commitment to protecting digital landscapes. He has spearheaded numerous initiatives that have fortified the cyber defenses at the

Cigna Group as the Chief Information Security Officer of U.S. Healthcare. He’s also earned a reputation as a cyber trailblazer in leadership roles at Marriott International, Sungard, AT&T, and Verizon.

Under Kevin’s leadership, his team has achieved remarkable milestones, setting new standards for cybersecurity practices. His dedication to fostering a culture of innovation and resilience has not only enhanced the security posture of his clients but also contributed to the broader cybersecurity community.

Beyond his professional achievements, Kevin proudly embraces his Irish-American heritage. His great-grandfather Andy Leonard, from Co. Cavan, holds a special place in history as the first Irish-born professional U.S. baseball player. This legacy of breaking barriers and pioneering new paths is a source of inspiration for Kevin, driving his relentless pursuit of excellence in cybersecurity and honoring his heritage by supporting the Irish American Baseball Society and the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

**JANE McCOOEY**  
*Morgan Stanley*

Jane McCooley is an Executive Director and COO for the Global Technology & Data Legal Group at Morgan Stanley. She also co-chairs the company’s Community & Giving Back Pillar of the Women’s Business Alliance at Morgan Stanley. Before joining Morgan Stanley, Jane was a Senior Associate at the international law firm Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP.

Jane is the Founder & CEO of Women with Ambition (WWA), a professional network for Irish and Irish-American women in New York. WWA provides a space for women of all industries to connect profoundly and form meaningful networks with aspirations to grow across the U.S. WWA’s offerings include a peer mentorship program, large networking events, and learning opportunities from expert guest speakers through its special “Speaker Series” and unique “Education Series.” WWA pioneered the Female Founder Expo, which draws Irish and U.S. entrepreneurs and a women’s Golf Society.

She is currently a Fellow of the Centre of Democracy & Peace Building Leadership Fellowship, which brings political, business, and civic leaders together to support the peace process and enhance Northern Ireland’s prosperity. Jane serves as Co-Chair of the Young Partners Board of the Irish American Partnership and is the Founder of Liberty Gaels Camogie Club.

An Armagh native, Jane studied Law with French Law at University College Dublin and Université Toulouse Capitole, a Master of Law at Cambridge University, and an Executive MBA with Quantic School of Business.



She worked in Brussels, at the European Commission, and at Freshfields.

Jane was an honoree of the *Irish Echo* Community Champion Award 2022 and an honoree of *Irish America’s* Business 100, Wall Street 50, and the Irish Voice Legal 100 2023.

**MARY M. McEVOY**  
*PepsiCo*

Mary M. McEvoy, Vice President, Strategy and Transformation, has held positions across R&D, Procurement, and Supply Chain during her 26 years at PepsiCo. She has a successful track record leading global supply chain initiatives, spanning commodity risk management, sustainable sourcing, and global business services, as well as managing multi-billion budget responsibilities. She currently leads business process transformation with a focus on supply chain digitalization and automation.



As an energetic and visionary leader, Mary is a trusted advisor to C-suite executives and global colleagues, with a proven track record in driving strategic initiatives across various domains, including market dynamics, emerging technologies, commodities hedging, shared services, and business process transformation.

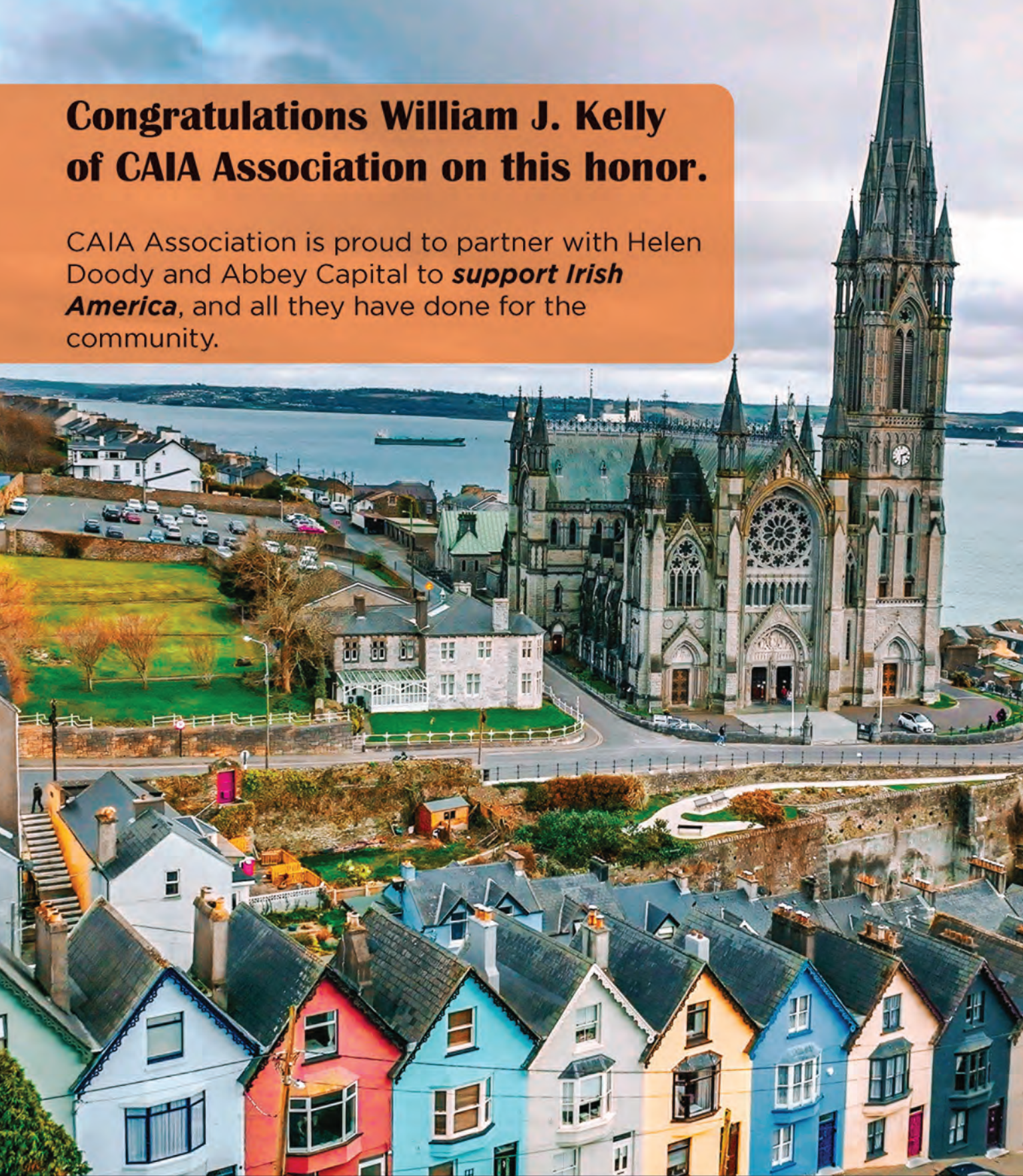
Mary is also involved in non-profit organizations. She serves as Board Chair of WBEC METRO NY, an affiliate of the Women’s Business Enterprise National Council, the nation’s leading advocate for women-owned businesses, and on the board of directors for WBENC. Mary also serves on the advisory board of Self-Help Africa and is the co-founder of LEAP, a novel leadership acceleration program that links young female professionals with community organizations to solve real business challenges.

A native of Kilkenny, Mary was an avid camogie and Gaelic football player in her day and is a committed Kilkenny hurling fan. A graduate of Trinity College Dublin, she currently resides in Greenwich, CT, with her wife Lisa, and her two children, Clodagh, 21, and Conal, 13.



# Congratulations William J. Kelly of CAIA Association on this honor.

CAIA Association is proud to partner with Helen Doodu and Abbey Capital to **support Irish America**, and all they have done for the community.



The CAIA Association, a global professional body, pioneers a new era in investment management. A Member-driven organization representing professionals in more than 100 countries, the organization seeks to prepare investors for a dynamic future, disrupting traditions, creating opportunities, and fostering long-term sustainability. To learn more about the CAIA Association and how to become part of a professional network that is shaping the future of investing, please visit <https://caia.org/>

**CAIA**  
ASSOCIATION®

**MEGHAN McEVOY**

**Aon**

Meghan McEvoy is a Vice President and Team Leader at Aon, specializing in cyber risk management. With a background in communications and experience in various roles, including human resources, real estate, and marketing, Meghan brings a unique perspective to her work.

Recognized as a Technology Power Broker



Finalist by Risk and Insurance for her client servicing philosophy, industry knowledge, and unwavering ability to overcome headwinds her clients face in the constantly evolving cyber landscape, Meghan is a trusted advisor to Fortune 100 technology companies around the world. She assists clients in navigating complex Cyber, Errors & Omissions, and Media Liability exposures. She manages a team of brokers in New York and is a mentor for brokers nationwide with a specific focus on women within the cyber insurance space.

Meghan attended the Ursuline School and received a Bachelor's in Communications from Fairfield University. Originally from NYC, Meghan enjoys spending time with family and friends, staying active, exploring the world of wine, and traveling.

Seamus McEvoy, Meghan's late father, was born and raised in Co. Cavan and moved to the U.S. to play Gaelic football; her maternal grandparents immigrated to the Bronx from counties Cavan and Westmeath.

**ERIN McGOVERN**

**Microsoft**

Erin McGovern is a Strategic Global Account Executive at Microsoft. In this role, she manages and expands the relationship between Microsoft and Citigroup, one of the world's premier financial institutions. Erin also serves as a Lead for the Women at Microsoft NY/NJ Chapter's Mental & Physical Wellbeing Committee, and is a recurring panelist and Mentor for Microsoft's Summer Mentee Program.

Erin is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State



University, where she earned a degree in Security & Risk Analysis. She has also contributed to the Penn State community by serving on the College of Information Sciences & Technology Alumni Board.

A proud second-generation Irish American from Pearl River, New York, Erin's paternal grandparents emigrated from Co. Leitrim (Ballinamore) and Co. Cavan (Glangevlin), while her maternal side hails from Co. Galway (Ballymoe).

Beyond her professional responsibilities, Erin is a passionate advocate for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. In 2023, she ran the New York City Marathon with the Foundation and annually organizes a team of 75 runners for their NYC 5K race, fundraising more than \$16,000 to date. Erin is also a member of O'Donovan Rossa Ladies Gaelic Football Club and St. Joseph's Parish. She resides in Manhattan.



**LAURENCE McGRATH**  
**CVS Health**

Larry McGrath is the Executive Vice President, Chief Strategy Officer, & Chief Strategic Advisor to the CEO

of CVS Health. He oversees enterprise strategy, the Office of the CEO, and Investor Relations. Larry is integral in communicating growth strategy to investors and has extensive experience in health care and financial services. With more than 20 years of financial services experience, he has deep industry knowledge and many connections to the analyst community.

Larry joined the company in July 2022 as Senior Vice President, Business Development & Investor Relations. His responsibilities included overseeing communications with the investment community and corporate development and mergers and acquisitions functions.

Before joining CVS Health, Larry was a global healthcare portfolio manager at J.P. Morgan Asset Management in New York City. In this role, he spent several years as a core investing analyst in the global healthcare space, managing a \$7 billion product for J.P. Morgan clients. Prior to J.P. Morgan, Larry was a healthcare analyst at Pioneer Investments in Boston and Setanta Asset Management in

Dublin, Ireland.

Born in Galway and raised in Sandyford, Co. Dublin. He was a student at St. Mary's College in Rathmines before earning a commerce, banking, and finance degree from University College Dublin and a master's degree in investment and treasury management from Dublin City University.

When he's not discussing health care and stocks, Larry enjoys spending time with his wife and three children, playing social tennis, and skiing.

**KEVIN McLAUGHLIN**

**Merrill Lynch**

Kevin is a Managing Director with over 35 years of investment experience at Merrill Lynch, where he has been his entire career. He advises non-profits, institutions, private foundations, family offices, and high-net-worth individuals.

Kevin holds a degree in Finance from Boston College and completed the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania High Net Worth Investment Program. Kevin met the Harvard Business School requirements for a certificate in Sustainable Investing. Forbes has named Kevin to numerous annual "Best of Advisors" lists, including for 2024. Kevin, a past President of the Boston College Alumni Association, is on the Executive Committee of BC's Wall Street Business Leadership Council. Kevin is an alumnus of Xavier High School, New York, where he is a past Trustee.



In September 2022, Kevin received the David Brady Award at Merrill Lynch. The award is named for David Brady, a New York-based Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor who died in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. David was highly respected for his client-first ethos and for giving back to the community.

In 2023, Kevin was *Irish America's* Keynote Speaker at the Wall Street 50 Dinner. His paternal grandfather, Joseph McLaughlin, emigrated from Kilrea, Co. Antrim, to New York, where he met and married first-generation Nora Donovan, whose parents emigrated from Croom, Co. Limerick. Maternal Grandparents Patrick McLaughlin and Molly Curtin both emigrated to New York from Cork City.



For nearly 200 years, **Liberty Bank** has helped to improve the lives of our customers, teammates, and the communities we serve.

We are delighted to partner with organizations like **Irish America Magazine** that share our commitment, and help make our communities great places to live and work. We are proud to sponsor the **Business 100 Awards Dinner** and help support this powerful vehicle for expression to the Irish communities.

Congratulations to all of the evening's honorees! Your leadership and innovation help make our communities thrive! *Sláinte!*



  
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**KIERAN McLOUGHLIN**  
*VentureWave Capital*

Kieran McLoughlin is Managing Partner of VentureWave Capital, which established one of Ireland’s first Impact Investing funds. The firm aims to deliver a commercial return for its clients by scaling high-growth technology companies from Ireland that benefit society. VentureWave’s Global Advisory Council, chaired by former Taoiseach Enda Kenny, promotes the case for Ireland becoming a global center of Impact Investing. Investments are underway in several highly innovative Irish Technology for Good enterprises.

Previously, Kieran served as CEO of The Ireland Funds. During his ten years at the helm, \$300 million was raised, half of the total amount The Fund has raised since the organization was established in 1976. Annual grant-making increased by a factor of five, and Charity Navigator awarded the organization four stars (the highest level available) for its efficiency, transparency, and governance.

Kieran serves on the North American Advisory Board of the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, Glucksman Ireland House, and the John and Pat Hume Foundation. He is the Strategic Advisor to Endeavor Ireland.

A graduate of Trinity College, Kieran lives in Dublin with Sarah and their three children.

**KEVIN McMANUS**  
*Method 360*

As the CEO of Method360 Group, Kevin McManus leads a company with three unique divisions focused on Mergers & Acquisition Consulting, Staff Augmentation, and Executive Search.

Previously, Kevin was Head of Services for SAP America,



where he developed SAP Services into one of its largest professional services organizations. His passion is to enable clients to purposefully utilize technology and understand the impact of bias and behavior and, in this way, improve the lives of all people.

Kevin serves on the board of directors for Engage Hope and is actively involved in their outreach and relief work in Uganda. He is also on the Advisory Board for Dottid, a real-estate technology startup.

With roots in Fermanagh and Sligo, Kevin is a fourth-generation Irish American who takes pride in the McManus line of hard-working, honest people full of grace and grit. Kevin was born in Rochester, New York, and obtained a B.A. in economics and finance from the University of Texas at Dallas. He lives in Dallas with his wife, Alexia, and three sons, Ian, Gavin, and Donovan.

**CAROL McNERNEY**  
*Walker & Dunlop*



Carol McNERNEY, Chief Marketing Officer at Walker & Dunlop, oversees all aspects of Marketing and External Communications. Carol has more than 30 years of global marketing experience, spanning various industries, including commercial real estate (CRE), technology, and financial services.

Carol earned her BA in International Relations and French from the University of Virginia and her MBA from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Outside of her professional accomplishments, she is also a Chairwoman of the Kelly O’Hara Scholarship at the University of Virginia. Carol is a competitive USTA tennis player and has completed nine marathons. Carol, her husband, and two sons, Finnegan and Dermot, live in Larchmont, NY.

Carol’s maternal great-grandmother was from County Cork, and her great-grandfather

was from Donegal. Her paternal great-grandmother was from Kilkenny.

Carol is married to a first-generation Irish American (Dermot Kearns), an FDNY Captain whose parents are from County Mayo and Galway City.

**GENE McQUADE**  
*The Ireland Funds*

Gene McQuade is the Chair of The Ireland Funds America. He is Governor of the



Boys & Girls Club of America and Chair of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York.

He has a distinguished career in prominent leadership roles at Citibank, Freddie Mac, Bank of America,

FleetBoston Financial, Merrill Lynch Bank, and Promontory Financial Group.

Gene is a Certified Public Accountant, earning a degree in accounting from St. Bonaventure University and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate. He has served on the Boards of Directors of Merrill Lynch Banks (Chairman), Bank of America, and FleetBoston and as Chairman of XL Group Ltd. Prior to his career in finance, Gene served as a Captain in the U.S. Army.

His father’s family hails from County Monaghan, and his mother’s family from Cork emigrated in the late 1800s. His grandmother was the youngest of 11 children and one of only two born in the U.S.; his grandfather worked as a stable hand in New York City.

**KATHLEEN McQUADE ELLMORE**  
*Engagys*

Kathleen McQuade Ellmore is a nationally recognized patient and consumer health engagement expert. She has spent over two decades helping healthcare organizations transform their companies to drive consumer behavior change, lower costs, improve health outcomes, increase revenue, and improve experience.

As the Co-founder and Managing Partner of Engagys, a healthcare consultancy focused on optimizing consumer health engagement and experience, Kathleen brings the best consumer marketing, behavioral science, data-driven methodologies, and clinical research to consumer health engagement.



A consultant to the first-ever FDA Patient Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC), Kathleen, who spent the first 20 years of her career in brand marketing at leading companies, including General Mills, P&G, and Digitas, is frequently quoted in both national and trade press for her expertise. She received two Stevie awards for highlighting the most significant challenges and opportunities for improving the lives of people with chronic conditions.

Kathleen, who has an undergraduate degree from the University of New Hampshire and an MBA from the Kellogg School at Northwestern, says her Irish heritage has greatly influencing her work ethic, values, and approach to building strong, lasting relationships.

Her mother's and father's families hailed from counties Clare and Cork. On a recent visit to Ireland, the first stranger she met took one look at her and said, "Welcome Home!" She knows that if her two Irish grannies were still alive, they would be over the moon about this award.

## JAMES McVEIGH *CDX Advisors*

James McVeigh is the founder and CEO of CDX Advisors LLC and Cyndx Networks LLC. CDX Advisors is a leading investment bank that offers strategic advisory and private placement services in the technology, media, and telecom sectors with global execution capabilities.



Cyndx Networks is a leading search and discovery platform that leverages AI and machines to organize all global corporate information to offer our users unmatched reach and precision in discovering and connecting growth opportunities. Cyndx's technology is utilized to better inform and power M&A activity, fundraising, and general business growth.

Prior to founding CDX, Jim worked at Salomon Brothers, DLJ, Credit Suisse, and Bank of America. He focused on the Internet and Cable sectors, advising leading global companies, including TransPerfect, Comcast,

TimeWarner, Charter, AOL, eBay, Expedia, Facebook, Fanatics, Getty Images, Google, LinkedIn, Priceline, and Monster. He earned his bachelor's in business administration from the University of Notre Dame and an M.B.A. in finance from the Columbia Business School. He also served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy and was deployed to the Persian Gulf during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

## DEAN MOLLOY *Network Partners Group*

Dean Molloy is the CEO of Network Partners Group (NPG), a Philadelphia-based company making waves in the life sciences industry. Under Dean's leadership, NPG has become a go-to partner for medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and biopharma organizations aiming to advance life sciences for a healthier tomorrow.

While also serving on NPG's Board of Directors, Dean helps steer the company's growth and strategic vision. One of the things Dean is most passionate about is mentoring the next generation of life sciences professionals. Through NPG's Leadership Programs, he helps up-and-coming talent in regulatory affairs, packaging, and quality engineering fast-track their careers, giving them valuable experience and connections to succeed in this ever-evolving field.

Before taking the helm at NPG, Dean built his career by growing professional services firms. He was instrumental in expanding Validant Consulting's presence on both coasts of the U.S. and across Europe, including a key hub in Ireland. Dean was pivotal in driving growth in the East Coast office, generating 50% of the revenue. He also holds two patents for a stent delivery device from his time with Boston Scientific – an example of his hands-on expertise in medical devices. From his time with Bayer Diagnostics and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, he has a broad industry perspective.

Dean has led NPG through an incredible growth journey – boosting the company's



revenue by over 400% in the past six years, landing NPG on the Inc. 5000 list four years in a row. Along the way, Dean spearheaded the acquisition of FlexPro and launched Indeio, a talent acquisition firm focused specifically on life sciences.

Born and raised in Hollymount, County Mayo, Dean holds an MBA from Liverpool St. John Moore's University and a Bachelor of Technology Degree in Electronics Manufacturing from the University of Limerick. Dean moved to the U.S. with his family in 2010, and in 2023, they became U.S. citizens.

## TOM MONAGHAN *Charter Communications*

Tom Monaghan is Executive Vice President, Field Operations for Charter Communications. He joined Charter Communications in 2014 and has held multiple roles in operations management. He played a pivotal role in several high-profile initiatives, including the largest cable systems integration in history following the 2016 merger of Charter with Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks.

Tom oversees the entire Field Operations organization of more the 30,000 employees across 41 states, and he directs key operations such as Charter's multi-year Rural Construction Initiative, an investment of approximately \$9 billion that will ultimately connect approximately 1.75 million new homes and small businesses nationwide to gigabit broadband.

In addition, Tom and his team are also engaged in evolving Charter's network to deliver symmetrical and multi-gigabit speeds that will enable the high bandwidth applications of the future.

Inducted into the Cable TV Pioneers in 2023, Tom serves on the Board of Directors for the Syndeo Institute at The Cable Center and is a member of the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers (SCTE). He is a graduate of Cable & Telecommunications Association for Marketing's (CTAM) Cable Executive Management program at Harvard Business School. He received a B.S. in business management



and economics from Empire State University.

Tom was born in Manhattan to first-generation Irish Americans, hailing from Goleen, Co. Cork, on his father's side and Carrickmore, Co. Tyrone, on his mother's side. One of five siblings, his childhood was filled with a love of sports, specifically football which he played through High School, and his proud Irish heritage led him to study at the Verlin School of Irish Step Dancing, where he was a championship dancer from the ages of 5 through 22.

Tom and his wife are the proud parents of five children and reside in Fairfield, CT.

**JENNIFER MULDOWNEY**

**Muldowney Memorials**

Jennifer Muldowney is a journalist, author, speaker, and positive advocate for the funeral profession.

Jennifer is an expert Modern Memorial Planner and Chief Celebrant (Master of Ceremonies). In 2010, she created Farewell Funeral Planners in Ireland, which later evolved into Muldowney Memorials, now based in Florida and New York City. In 2016, Jennifer wowed on stage in her thought-provoking TEDx Talk, *Grief: As Unique as Your Heartbeat*. She has become the house facilitator of the New York State Funeral Directors Association Annual Remembrance Service, officiating for the last four years.

Jennifer's media moniker, The Glam Reaper, given to her by the British Media, conveys just how much she has done to change the stereotypical view of the funeral world as dark and antiquated. She hosts The Glam Reaper Podcast and Blog, contributing regularly to media discussions on funerals and memorial planning. Jennifer is dedicated to mental health, both in grief and in the funeral profession, as an advisor to the Board of Funeral Professionals Peer



Support (FPPS). Born in Dublin, Jennifer graduated from Dublin City University with a Bachelor of Business Studies Degree. She is currently working on her fourth book. Her first book – *Say Farewell Your Way* was released in 2013.

**KEVIN MURPHY**

**DXC Technology**

Kevin M. Murphy serves as the General Manager for the Telecommunications, Media, & Technology portfolio of clients in DXC Technology, a Fortune 500 global IT services leader with over 130,000 people in 70+ countries. Prior to joining DXC,



Kevin worked for IBM Corporation, serving in various executive leadership positions, including Managing Director in Japan from 2012 through 2019 and VP of Global Cloud Sales before that. Kevin also spent several years as an executive in IBM's Communications Sector, serving Telecommunications, Media & Entertainment clients.

Kevin's family traces back to County Cork for the Murphy clan with John Dennis Murphy and the Bowen clan with Johanna Bowen. He is married to Katie Murphy (née Ryan) and the father of three grown sons, Thomas, Michael, and Ryan. He is a proud grandfather to McKayla Ryan Murphy. Kevin visits Ireland often to enjoy the beautiful countryside, classic golf, and Ireland's various nectars.

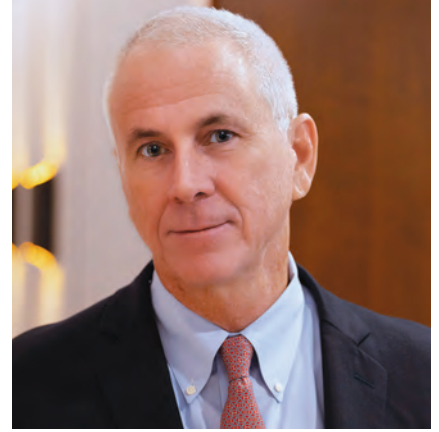
He holds a B.S. in Management and Marketing from Monmouth University and has several experiences in executive education at Harvard, University of Pennsylvania, and Stanford.

**JOSEPH R. NOLAN, JR.**

**Eversource Energy**

Joseph R. Nolan, Jr. is Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Eversource Energy, New England's largest utility. Eversource serves approximately 4.4 million electric, natural gas, and water customers across Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

Joe joined Eversource in 1985 and served in various senior customer service, government affairs, and business strategy positions before becoming Chairman & CEO. Through-out his career, he was



instrumental in obtaining support for company policies and positions from state and federal government and oversaw Eversource's innovative strategic investments in offshore wind, battery storage, electric vehicles, smart grid modernization, and other transformational initiatives.

Joe also serves on the Chairman's Council of Boston Children's Hospital, the boards of directors of the Edison Electric Institute, the New England Council, the Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund, the Camp Harbor View Foundation, Needham Bank, and the Intercontinental Real Estate Corporation.

Joe holds both a BA and an MBA from Boston College. Joe was the recipient of the 2021 Boston Irish Honors Award, and he maintains a dual citizenship with Ireland as his grandparents hailed from Rassaraun, County Mayo. He and his wife Therese are the proud parents of their four daughters, Olivia, Hannah, Isabelle, and Claudia, who enjoy their family visits to Ireland together.

**DENIS O'BRIEN**

**Communicorp**

Denis O'Brien is an Irish entrepreneur who has founded several businesses. Among his ventures are Communicorp, Ireland's largest independent radio network, and Esat Telecom, which rapidly



became the country's second-largest telecommunications company before being acquired by British Telecom. He also co-founded Saon Group, a prominent online recruitment business that expanded into 12 markets worldwide. In 2000, Denis founded Digicel, which provides telecommunications services across 32 markets in the Caribbean, Central America, and the South Pacific, serving 14 million customers and generating revenues exceeding US\$2 billion annually.

Denis has diversified investments across various sectors, including technology, leisure, property, utility services, and renewable energy. He is a former recipient of



# CONNECTING CAPITAL WITH CUSTOMERS



Congratulations to our President and Chief Commercial Officer Paul Geaney for being a 2024 Irish America Business 100 Honoree, and to all the other 2024 Honorees for their achievements.

the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award. In 2003, he chaired the Special Olympics World Summer Games. He is the founder and patron of the DigiCell Foundation, which has been instrumental in building schools throughout the Caribbean, including 193 schools in Haiti that accommodate 60,000 children. For his charitable work in Haiti, he has received accolades such as the Clinton Global Citizen Award, the National Order of Honour and Merit, and the title of Goodwill Ambassador.

Additionally, Denis serves as a United Nations Broadband Commissioner for Sustainable Development. He is also the founder of The Repair Campaign, a social movement advocating for reparatory justice in the Caribbean. This campaign is part of a broader effort to urge British and European governments, institutions, organizations, and individuals to acknowledge their historical roles in the transatlantic trafficking of enslaved Africans.

**NUALA O’CONNOR**

**Walmart**

Nuala O’Connor is Senior Vice President and Chief Counsel, Digital Citizenship at Walmart.

She leads the Digital Citizenship team, which advances the ethical use of data and responsible use of technology. This team of lawyers, compliance professionals, policy experts, and technologists is responsible for policies and corporate programs in the fields of data privacy and data governance, digital identity, emerging technologies, including ethical

AI and biometrics, and information management.

Before joining Walmart, Nuala served as President and CEO of the Center for Democracy and Technology. She has served in a variety of privacy leadership and legal counsel roles at Amazon, GE, and DoubleClick.

Originally from Belfast, Nuala holds a B.A. from Princeton University, an M.Ed. from Harvard University, and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. She lives in the Washington, D.C. area, with her husband Peter Bass, their six children, and three dogs.



**JIM O’DONNELL**

**Citi**



Jim O’Donnell is currently Vice Chair of Citi. In this role, he is a member of Citi’s Senior Coverage team, responsible for developing strategies to significantly deepen client relationships.

Jim is focused on creating a unified vision of how to best work with institutional and wealth clients to ensure Citi provides complete solutions across their business and personal banking needs.

Previously, Jim served as Citi’s CEO of Citi Global Wealth, and prior to that, he was Managing Director and Global Head of Investor Sales and Relationship Management at Citi Markets and Securities Services, where he was responsible for client distribution of equities, fixed income, currencies, and commodities.

Jim joined the Citi as Head of Equities, EMEA, in July 1999. Before joining Citi, he was President and CEO of HSBC Securities Inc. in New York. He was responsible for all equity, debt, futures, and investment banking operations for HSBC in the U.S. and was CEO of HSBC James Capel, HSBC’s global equity business.

Prior to HSBC, Jim was President and CEO of NatWest Securities in the United States. From 1986 to 1990, he held various roles at Drexel Burnham Lambert, including Head of Sales and Trading for International Equities and Co-Head of Global Equity Trading.

Jim holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in comparative religion from Princeton University. He is a second-generation Irish American, with his father’s family hailing from Dublin and his mother’s from Galway. He credits his Irish heritage, along with his family and his faith, as being the foundation of his life.

**RUTH O’FARRELL**

**NBCUniversal News**

Ruth O’Farrell serves as Senior Vice President, Legal at NBCUniversal News, where she leads a global team managing complex commercial transactions across all NBCU News brands. An accomplished attorney, Ruth has expertise in leading negotiations for high-profile media and

technology transactions. She previously worked at Reuters and Major League Baseball, supporting MLB Advanced Media’s \$1 billion streaming business sale to Disney. Qualified to practice law in New York, California, Ireland, and England & Wales, Ruth began her career as a trainee solicitor at Matheson in Dublin, where she subsequently worked as a corporate finance associate. Before relocating to New York, she worked at The Walt Disney Company and AMC Networks International in London.



Originally from Dublin with strong ties to Mayo, Ruth holds law degrees from Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin and studied law as an Erasmus exchange student in Salamanca, Spain.

Living in Westchester with her wife, Olena, and their two young sons, Felix and Jasper, Ruth is active in the Irish Community in NY and serves on the U.S. Advisory Council for Barretstown – an Irish charity offering camps and residential programs for children with serious illnesses.

**KEVIN PHELAN**

**Colliers**

Kevin Phelan is Co-Chairman at Colliers’ Boston office, a full-service commercial real estate firm providing Brokerage, Development and Consulting Services, Valuation and Advisory Services, Capital Markets, and Real Estate Management Services to a broad range of clients. Kevin joined the firm in 1978 to create the Capital Markets group, which is now one of the two largest in the region. He was appointed president in 2007





and then co-chairman in 2010. Throughout his career, he has been involved in several billion dollars in financings across the U.S., representing all property types.

Kevin has both a bachelor's degree and an honorary degree from Providence College and a master's degree from Boston College.

Kevin has had leadership roles on numerous boards and committees for organizations such as Providence College, Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, Archdiocese of Boston, Boston Municipal Research Bureau, Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, The Clover Club, Crossroads, and Catholic Charities.

Kevin, who traces his Irish ancestors to Sligo, was the recipient of The Counselors of Real Estate® James Landauer/John White Award in 2016, and in 2018 he received the Crossroads Change Everything Award. *Boston Magazine* has also acknowledged Kevin as one of "Boston's 100 Most Powerful People" (2000, 2001, 2023).

## DAVID QUIGLEY

### McKinsey & Co

David Quigley is a Senior Partner with McKinsey & Co based in New York. Over the last 25 years, David has advised private equity groups and their portfolio companies, and publicly listed healthcare companies. At McKinsey, David has led both the Private Capital (PE) and Life Sciences practices.

His practice areas include corporate



strategy, mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures, commercial performance, and operating models.

In addition to his client commitments, David has been closely involved with the development of the Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC), an organization that works to protect civilians in times of war and conflict and prevent civilian harm.

Prior to joining McKinsey, David held a variety of line management positions in the energy industry.

Born and raised in Dublin, David's father's family originally hailed from County Tipperary, while his mother's family moved to Dublin from the country. David holds an MBA from INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France, a Master of Science from the Queen's University of Belfast and received his bachelor's degree from University College Dublin.

## RACHEL QUIGLEY

### CNN Underscored

Rachel Quigley is Managing Editor of CNN's commerce and product review site Underscored, where she manages a team of 30+ people who test thousands of products every month, all in the name of service journalism. Prior to CNN, she spent four years at Conde Nast as global audience development and analytics director, managing teams in the U.S., U.K., Europe, and LatAm, and was responsible for driving and growing engaged audiences to iconic brands like Vogue, GQ, and Glamour.



She is a journalist at heart, having started her career as a newspaper reporter in Belfast and then London more than 15 years ago before making the leap from print to digital media, working on brands like the *Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday*, *InTouch*, *Life and Style*, and *Closer*.

Rachel is an experienced social media marketer and is the proud owner of a Daytime Emmy from a brief period spent as an on-air news correspondent for Daily Mail TV in the US.

Originally from County Tyrone, she graduated from Queen's University Belfast before moving to Japan and then traveling the world before completing her Master's in Journalism at Cardiff University.

## COLETTE AND MICHAEL QUINLIN

### Boston Irish Tourism Association

Michael and Colette Quinlin are co-founders of the Boston Irish Tourism Association. A cultural tourism company that connects the Irish community to New England's tourism industry while promoting travel between Boston and Ireland.

The company celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2025. It represents more than 50



marketing partners in the New England market, including Tourism Ireland, Aer Lingus, Delta, Newport, RI, Live Nation, and the John F. Kennedy Library, while promoting dozens of grassroots Irish cultural venues and retail stores in New England.

The Association publishes *Travel & Culture* magazine three times a year, and its website, [irishboston.org](http://irishboston.org), is a portal for tourists seeking travel ideas for New England and Ireland. It oversees Boston's Irish Heritage Trail, a three-mile walking tour of the city's history. It is currently creating a statewide initiative to feature 140 public landmarks relating to the Irish experience in Massachusetts. Other initiatives have included a Gaelic Gourmet Chefs Series and a Genealogy Guide to Family History.

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, Mike's mother is from Charlemont, Co. Armagh, and his father's family emigrated from Ireland to Pennsylvania in the 1850s. Mike began his career in scholarly publishing in New York City and Cambridge and has led communication projects for MIT's Advanced Engineering Studies, Boston City Hall, the Boston Harbor Cleanup, and the state's tourism division. He studied at LaSalle University, the School of Irish Studies in Dublin, and Boston University. Serving on the National Democratic Ethnic Coordinating Council (NDECC) and U.S. Department of Commerce District Export Council, Mike is the author of several books, including *Irish Boston* and *Classic Irish Stories*.

Colette is originally from Borrisokane, Co. Tipperary. She spent several years in the hospitality and tourism industry in Sydney, Australia, before moving to Boston in 1991, where she worked in public relations at John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company. She later joined John Hancock's sports marketing team, where she worked on the Boston and New York City marathons, the Olympic Gymnastic pre-trials, and various sports marketing events. Colette studied at Maynooth College, Emerson College, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Simmons College, and Northeastern University, where she completed a web master's program. She manages several websites and is the project director of *Travel & Culture* magazine.

**ÁINE QUIRKE**  
*Mason Hayes & Curran, LLP*

Áine Quirke is a Technology Partner with Mason Hayes & Curran LLP, a leading Irish law firm with offices in San Francisco, London, and New York. MHC’s technology lawyers are the ‘go-to’ outside counsel for many of the world’s leading tech and data-driven companies established in Ireland.

Based in New York, Áine advises on the privacy aspects of launching new and emerging technologies on the European market. She acts as lead European privacy counsel for WhatsApp and advises clients on regulatory investigations and enforcement actions taken by data protection authorities. Áine has been recognized twice as a ‘Rising Star’ in the Legal 500 rankings for Ireland.

Áine is also part of MHC’s Invest Ireland team, which works with organizations seeking to set up operations in Ireland by helping them to navigate the required legal steps smoothly.



Born and raised in Camp village on the Dingle Peninsula, Áine graduated with First Class Honors from Business and Law (International) at University College Dublin. She was called to the Bar of Ireland in 2013 and received her LL.M. from the University of Chicago Law School. She is also qualified as an attorney-at-law in New York.

Áine lives in Hoboken with her husband, Paul, and son, Sandy.



**JAMES E. ROONEY**  
*Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce*

James E. Rooney is President & CEO of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.

With Jim’s leadership, the Boston Chamber is now the leading convener, voice, and advocate for the region. Strategizing with government leaders, private companies, and public institutions to strengthen the state’s competitiveness, Jim advances the future of commerce with public policies and legislation that champions dynamic and resilient people, communities, and workplaces.

Before leading the Chamber, Jim served as executive director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA), overseeing the development and construction of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC) while leading the management teams of four MCCA-owned facilities. Jim also served as Chief of Staff to Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, chairing the Mayor’s cabinet to move forward with all aspects of city governance. He also led one of the nation’s largest transportation projects, the \$15 billion “Big Dig” Central Artery highway project.

Jim received the City of Boston Lifetime Achievement Award for advocacy of the immigrant community, and he was honored with the PCMA Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the global meetings industry.

Born and raised in South Boston, he attended the prestigious Boston Latin School, graduated from Harvard College with a bachelor’s degree in economics, and attended the Boston University Graduate School of Management.

Jim’s maternal grandparents, Michael and Delia Corliss, emigrated from Co. Mayo in 1900 and met in Boston.

**KATHRYN ROONEY VERA**  
*StoneX*

Kathryn Rooney Vera is Chief Market Strategist at StoneX, where she is responsible for formulating investment strategies across asset classes for institutional clients globally based on her macroeconomic analyses and forecasting. She is a high-frequency contributor to television networks Bloomberg Television, CNBC, Bloomberg, CNN en Español, and Fox Business, and is a frequent keynote speaker at major conferences in

both the English and Spanish-speaking world.

Prior to StoneX, Kathryn served as Head of Global Macro Research and Chief Investment Strategist at Bulltlick, where she was responsible for the firm’s overall capital market investment strategy. Before this, she was an economist and strategist at Bear Stearns in Emerging Markets Fixed Income Research. She has worked on the buy-side as a sovereign analyst at MetLife Investments.



Kathryn holds a Master’s in Business degree specializing in Economics and Finance from New York University’s Stern School of Business. She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics

and Spanish Literature from Rutgers University in New Jersey, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude. She also studied at the University of Valencia in Spain.

Kathryn serves on the Advisory Board of the University of Miami’s Department of Economics – where she taught Global Economics as an adjunct professor.

Her mother’s side of the family hails from County Mayo and her father’s from County Armagh.

**TIM RYAN**  
*Citi*

Tim Ryan joined Citi in June 2024 as Head of Technology and Business Enablement and is a member of Citi’s Executive Management Team. He works closely with Citi’s Transformation and Operations teams to drive cross-firm process simplification and modernization.

With over 30 years of diversified experience in the financial services industry, Tim has served clients both in the U.S. and internationally. He is adept at leading large-





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Courtesy  
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scale transformation, evolving organizational culture, and bringing workforce and business operations into the digital age across the front, middle, and back offices.

A champion of diversity, equity, and inclusion, Tim co-founded CEO Action for Diversity and Inclusion. He serves on the Board of The Brookings Institute and on the Trustees of the Financial Accounting Foundation, where he co-chairs the Standards Oversight Committee.

Tim is a certified public accountant in Massachusetts and New York and graduated from Babson College with a focus on accounting and communications. He is the proud father of six children and is passionate about spending time with his kids, hockey, running, and reading. He is a first-generation Irish American with roots in Counties Galway and Cork.

**KELLEY SPILLANE**

**Castle Brands**

Kelley Spillane is the Senior Vice President of Global Sales for Castle Brands. He joined Castle in 2000 as an original partner in the start-up, which sold to Pernod Ricard in 2018, and continues in that role today. He has spent 37 years in the spirits business in various leadership roles, including starting and building many Irish brands from the Castle office in Dublin. Today, he is building Method & Madness, the latest offering from the famed Midleton Distillery.

Kelley takes enormous pride in his Irish Heritage.

“I have been fortunate enough to have visited Ireland 75 times in both business and personal capacities and have had the pleasure of researching and visiting my ancestral homes in Dingle and Kerry.

He says that growing up with eleven brothers and sisters made for an extraordinary experience and gave his children an extended family of over fifty members to form bonds with. “I look forward to continuing my close ties with Ireland and continuing to build on a wonderful personal and professional bond.”

Kelley is a third-generation Irish American with his father’s family originating in Ballyspillane, County Kerry, while his mother’s family comes out of Ballyferriter in Dingle.



**MARY SUGRUE**

**Irish American Partnership**



Mary Sugrue is the President and CEO of the Irish American Partnership, an organization to which she has dedicated over 35 years of service. Joining the Partnership two years after its inception, she has taken on various roles, each one contributing to the organization’s growth and helping shape its mission.

Appointed CEO in 2016, Mary has overseen a period of remarkable growth while maintaining the Partnership’s grassroots nature. During her tenure, the Partnership has raised over \$57 million to support educational initiatives across the island of Ireland. With a belief that strong relationships are key to fostering trust, Mary has ensured the organization’s impact remains embedded in local communities. This leadership has expanded educational support at all levels across Ireland, from early childhood programs to university scholarships and vocational training.

Passionate about connecting people back to their ancestral home, Mary has also introduced Partnership events across the United States that celebrate Irish culture and strengthen ties to Ireland.

Originally from Cahersiveen, County Kerry, she earned a degree in education from the National University of Ireland, Carysfort College Dublin, before moving to Boston. Mary is the proud mother of two children, Eileen and Liam McAleer. “My story is a transatlantic one for sure, rooted in two countries I am privileged to call home.”

**BRENDAN SULLIVAN**

**Farley-Sullivan Funeral Homes**



Brendan J. Sullivan is a third-generation funeral director for his family’s funeral home, Farley-Sullivan Funeral Homes. The funeral home has been family-owned and operated for over 80 years, with locations

in Wethersfield and Glastonbury, CT. Brendan, who graduated from the

American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service, also serves as a firefighter for the Glastonbury Fire Department. He is a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 2 Hartford, the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick, the Irish American Home Society, and a player for the Irish Wolfhounds, which is the first All-Irish baseball team and includes players who are citizens of Ireland.

The Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home was named the top family-owned business in the State of Connecticut by the *Hartford Business Journal* in 2017. Brendan was named to the *Hartford Business Journal*’s 40 Under Forty Class of 2018 and to the *Irish Echo* Forty Under 40 Class of 2021.

In 2022 Brendan was the Parade Marshal for the 50th annual Hartford Saint Patrick’s Day Parade.

Brendan traces his family roots to Sneem, County Kerry, Adrigole County Cork, Killanena, County Clare, and Athlone County Roscommon.

**TED SULLIVAN**

**Sand Technologies**

Ted Sullivan serves as the Managing Director, Global Head of Industry leading the Media and Entertainment practice for Sand Technologies, and enterprise AI solutions with expertise in AI and Data Sciences. With more than 20 years of experience focusing on strategy and operational consulting, Ted previously held executive positions at SAP, PwC, IBM, and KPMG.

Ted traces his mother’s ancestors to County Tyrone, and his fathers to County Cork. He is a founding member of the Metro Atlanta Police Emerald Society and has served as the Georgia president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, as well as on the national board. He has served twice as parade chairman of the Atlanta St. Patrick’s Day Parade. He also serves on the boards of Wildlife Aviation Group and Adaptive Learning Center. Ted visits Ireland every year to reconnect with friends in Navan, Cork, and Northern Ireland, where he has participated in various political forums. He holds a B.S. in accounting and finance from Troy State University and currently lives in Atlanta. In his spare time,



Congratulations to Joe Nolan,  
our Chairman, President and CEO,  
and to every one of the  
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to shared solar and networked geothermal,  
Joe is leading the way to New England's  
clean energy future.

*Sláinte!*

The Eversource logo features the word "EVERSOURCE" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by a stylized globe icon consisting of a blue upper half and a green lower half, separated by a white horizontal line. The logo is positioned at the bottom of the page, above two horizontal bars: a blue one on top and a green one on the bottom.

**EVERSOURCE**

he enjoys playing golf with his daughter, Mary Lois, and attending her play performances.

**RHONA TARRANT**  
**CBS News Confirmed**

Rhona Tarrant is Executive Editor of CBS News Confirmed, a team dedicated to visual verification, combating misinformation, and fact-checking for CBS News and Stations.

Before joining CBS, Rhona served as the U.S. Head of Editorial at Storyful, where she worked on award-winning investigations with outlets including *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. She began her career in broadcast journalism, working in current affairs with RTÉ in Dublin and WNYC in New York.

Rhona is a two-time Assembly Fellow at Harvard's Berkman Klein Center, where she focused on disinformation and artificial intelligence. She has

also trained journalists worldwide through initiatives with the Google News Initiative and the Facebook Journalism Project.

From Listowel, County Kerry, Rhona holds a Bachelor's Degree in New Media and English from the University of Limerick and a Master's Degree in Journalism and Media Communications from Griffith College Dublin.

**MAGGIE TIMONEY**  
**Heineken USA**

Maggie Timoney is the President & CEO of HEINEKEN USA, based in White Plains, New York. During her 20+ year tenure with the HEINEKEN Group in the US, Netherlands, Canada, and Ireland, Maggie has been recognized as a transformational leader, as demonstrated by her drive for results and her high impact on cultural and social change. Prior to joining HEINEKEN, she worked for Gallo and Anheuser-Busch.

Throughout her career, Maggie has been a trailblazer, breaking barriers as a senior female executive in the traditionally male-dominated beer industry. She is the first woman to lead a major beer company in the United States, marking a significant milestone in her professional journey.



A native of Ballina, County Mayo, Maggie moved to the United States via her athletic endeavors. She studied

at Iona University and became a standout player on the women's basketball team while pursuing her academic goals. While at Iona, she excelled both on the court and in the classroom, earning a bachelor's degree and an MBA.

Maggie has often spoken about the profound impact Iona University had on her life, crediting her time there with helping to shape her leadership skills. This connection is particularly meaningful given Iona University's deep-rooted Irish heritage. Known as "Irish America's University," the institution was founded by the Congregation of Christian Brothers in 1940. Its origins trace back to the Irish monk St. Columba, who established a monastery on the Isle of Iona in 563 A.D.

Earlier this year, Maggie made history by serving as the Grand Marshal of the NYC St. Patrick's Day parade, becoming only the sixth woman to hold this prestigious position in the parade's 263-year history. Her journey to leading one of America's most celebrated cultural events is a testament to her remarkable leadership and connection to her Irish roots.

**CRIONA TURLEY**  
**Capella**

Criona Turley is a dynamic leader and visionary entrepreneur with a proven track record of scaling businesses and driving innovation. As the CEO of Capella, she combines strategic foresight with hands-on leadership to create impactful solutions that transform workplace efficiency for Capella's clients. Known for her ambition and forward-thinking approach, Criona consistently translates bold ideas into practical strategies with measurable impact.

With 20+ years at the Managing Director/CEO level and an exceptional ability to identify market opportunities and build high-performing teams, Criona



has been instrumental in turning startups and scale-ups into thriving enterprises. Her expertise in navigating complex challenges and competitive markets is complemented by her commitment to empowering people and businesses to achieve their full potential.

Criona's academic credentials include advanced degrees from UCD, Harvard, TU Dublin, and the Irish Management Institute, specializing in Strategic Management, International Sales, Marketing, and Workplace Experience. Her blend of expertise, ambition, and leadership makes her a driving force in transforming vision into reality and scaling companies to unparalleled heights.

Criona is a native of Dublin and has a huge family spread throughout Ireland.

**CONOR TWOMEY**  
**AI One**

Conor Twomey is an executive leader with over 15 years of experience solving complex data challenges for leading global organizations. As Managing Partner of AI One, he helps businesses unearth hidden efficiencies and modernize their operations. AI One provides outcome-based solutions that enable clients to rethink their approach to technology and achieve lasting results.

Formerly Head of AI Strategy at KX, Conor transitioned the company into a leading Enterprise AI platform, forging key partnerships with Microsoft, with his wife and three children, playing social tennis, and skiing. Databricks, and Snowflake.

An Irish national, Conor has a technical background as a developer and architect, working with major real-time and historical data analytics systems in Tier 1 investment banks. His expertise spans capital markets, Formula One, manufacturing, life sciences, and IIoT.

He holds an MSc in Computational Finance from the University of Limerick and a BSc in Financial, Mathematical, and Actuarial Sciences from University College Cork. Conor is a sought-after speaker and thought leader who frequently writes and consults on AI technology advancements.

Conor has also served as a World Economic Forum Global Shaper, a University College Cork Alumni board member, and a US board member for GOAL Global. **IA**





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## **PROVIDENCE COLLEGE**

Congratulations to Providence College alumni **Kevin Phelan and David Glidden**, 2024 Irish America Business 100 honorees. Kevin and David exemplify the leadership, commitment, and faithful service that are among our most cherished ideals, and we are proud of their accomplishments.

# Mairéad Farrell

# A Fanatic Heart

“To the people of Falls Road she was a patriot. To the British she was a terrorist. To her family she was a victim of Irish history.”

- *The New York Times*

On March 3, 1988, in the shadow of the rock of Gibraltar, British Special Air Services (SAS) gathered behind IRA members Sean Savage, Daniel McCann, and Mairéad Farrell as they were ascending the rock. When the three victims, all unarmed, turned around, saw the soldiers, and saw their guns, they put their hands up, the universal signal of surrender and “for the love of God, don’t shoot.” The soldiers disregarded the gesture, military protocol, and international law and, without identifying themselves, proceeded with the execution.

Heavy fire rained on the three, much of it so close-up gun muzzle marks were on one victim’s face; bullets kept pumping into their bodies long after they were dead. The woman was shot twice in the face, three times in the body, and then shot three more times in the back for good measure. One bullet passed through her, grazing an onlooker standing on, ironically, Winston Churchill Avenue. The three bul-

But it was PM Thatcher’s policy of Illegal Internment that led Mairéad, in the parlance of the IRA, “to go active.” She joined up at age 14, keeping it a secret from her family and friends. The 1962 British Army’s massacre of peaceful protesters, known as Bloody Sunday, radicalized many civil rights activists and forever defined Mairéad Farrell’s life.

Just a few years after Bloody Sunday, she was planting bombs, most fatefully in Belfast’s Conway Hotel, a favorite of British soldiers. The bombing attempt failed, two of her partners escaped, another was killed and Mairéad, never particularly lucky, was arrested within hours.

At her trial, she took a traditional IRA stand: She refused to recognize the jurisdiction of the court as it was an institution of Great Britain. She was sentenced to a shocking 14-year sentence in Armagh Prison for “possession of explosives” and “belonging to an illegal organization.”

On March 1, 1976, Thatcher introduced her policy of “criminalization”: IRA inmates, according to the



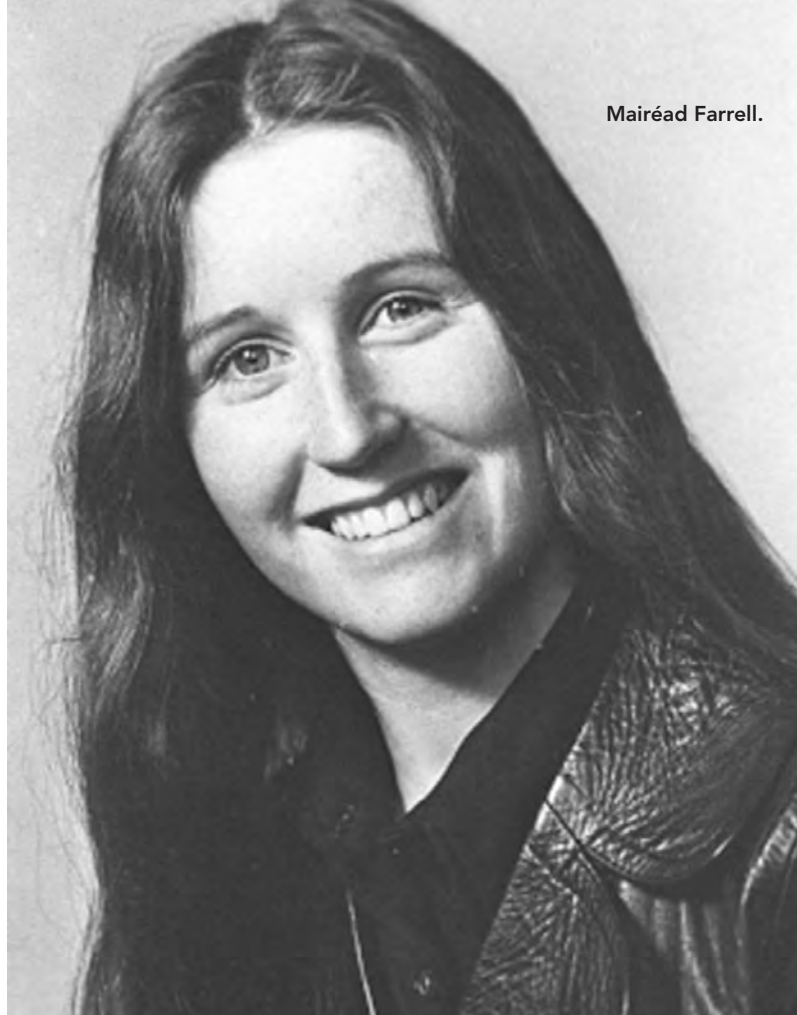
let-ridden bodies were shipped home to Ireland without the police taking any forensic evidence from the scene. Mairéad Farrell was just 31.

Mairéad hardly looked the part of a badass terrorist. She presented as a kind kindergarten teacher – softspoken, attractive, convent-educated – an appearance that belied her defiant and passionate nationalism. Born into a middle-class Belfast family in 1957, she became politicized when the British Army began occupation in Northern Ireland and curfew was imposed on her Falls Road neighborhood, a situation she likened to the Warsaw Ghetto. A friend later claimed, “It was the curfew that started Mairéad on the road to Gibraltar.”

posturing PM, were “hoods” and no longer recognized as political prisoners. Their Special Category Status was revoked. Mairéad’s bad luck struck again; she entered Armagh Prison the following month, April 1976 – she was the first woman prisoner to be denied political status and the first to be denied the rights allowed previous IRA prisoners.

Mairéad became the leader of the IRA women. As Officer Commanding, she was determined to see the women recognized as political prisoners. She ordered her band of women to ignore the authority of the prison staff, reject uniforms, and refuse to do prison work.





Mairéad Farrell.

Retribution was fierce. The women were locked in their cells and denied bathroom facilities; Mairéad told them to empty their chamber pots on the floor. The No-Wash protest began and went on for over a year. When the H-Block men were holding their hunger strike, Mairéad and two of her comrades started their own hunger strike. It lasted 18 days, ending when the British government agreed to broker their demands, a promise they proceeded to break.

Armagh Prison gave Mairéad an awareness of the dismissive attitude toward women in the male-dominated IRA. “We were ‘the girls in Armagh,’” she lamented. A fierce feminist, Mairéad conflated Ireland’s freedom with gender equality. “I am oppressed as a woman, and I’m also oppressed as an Irish person...we can only end our oppression as women if we can end the oppression of our nation as a whole.” In the 1981 general election in the Republic of Ireland, Mairéad was the only woman prisoner to stand as a candidate.

Released from prison after 10 ½ years, she was 30, living with her parents, yet Britain feared her. Her voice and image were banned on British airwaves, as was any documentary featuring her. Mairéad attempted a ‘normal life’ by attending University, but sitting on the sidelines of the struggle proved impossible for her.

She was soon back in the IRA and assigned a dangerous, doomed mission to the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar.

The IRA gave Savage, McCann, and Farrell or-

ders to set off a car bomb during a ceremonial gathering. But, from the beginning, their activities were monitored by M16, Spanish police, and the SAS.

The SAS were a trained killing squad with shoot-to-kill in their DNA. They were now dispatched to Gibraltar on a mission whose name, Operation Flavius, was grandly borrowed from the Roman Empire. The Gibraltar 3, as they came to be known, never had a chance.

News of the “Slaughter on the Rock” wrought a feeding frenzy in the British tabloids; WHY THE DOGS HAD TO DIE, screamed *The Sun*. The government coverup was immediate. The press was fed blatant lies claiming a massive shootout between the IRA and the SAS, ignoring the many eyewitnesses who saw the truth and soon revealed it. The public’s euphoria dissipated when it was revealed that the “dogs” were shot in cold blood. Northern Ireland, in turn, had erupted in outrage and protests.

Violence begat more violence as soon as the bodies arrived in Ireland. The police assaulted those attending the remains, even killing one for aggressive behavior. Tragedy continued. The funeral of the Gibraltar 3 was attacked by a Loyalist paramilitary armed with a gun and grenades. Three mourners were killed not far from the three fresh gravesites in Milltown Cemetery.

The funeral of one victim of the Paramilitary’s attack was three days later when a car drove into the cortege. Thinking it was another attack (it wasn’t), the crowd dragged two British Army corporals from their vehicle and summarily executed them – another senseless killing.

When Amnesty International took up the cause of Savage, McCann, and Farrell, they posited two questions: “Had the authorities planned in advance for the three to be shot dead?” and most importantly, “Since no terrorist act had yet occurred, why weren’t they simply arrested and imprisoned?” Those questions have remained unanswered. The families of the victims, in turn, brought the case to the European Court of Human Rights. Seven years after their deaths, in 1995, the court ruled that Mairéad, Danny, and Sean were illegally assassinated in violation of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Sadly, Mairéad didn’t live to see the progress of women in Ireland but another Mairéad Farrell, her niece and namesake, has been the Sinn Féin TD for Galway West since 2020. Her efforts continue Mairéad’s advocacy for Irish nationalism and women’s rights. In 2024, as the main speaker at the National Hunger Strike Commemoration in Derry, she spoke of her aunt’s murder and the importance of memory in the ongoing struggle for equality in Northern Ireland.

The Derry crowd loved her.



ABOVE FROM LEFT: Mairéad Farrell’s dead body on Winston Churchill Avenue.

From the documentary: Mairéad Farrell: An Unfinished Conversation.

London tabloid, *The Sun*, March 5, 1988.

# New England's Irish “Witch”

By Mike Tubridy

**Goody Ann Glover was hanged as a witch on November 16, 1688. Could it have been that it was because she was a Catholic whose first language was Irish?**

**H**ad one not known the dour Puritans of this New England town better, one might have thought they were celebrating a holiday but, in fact, they had come out to witness the hanging of a witch. From jail to the gallows they followed the convicted wretch, a tired, crazy old woman, heaping abuse, mockery, and rage upon her.

Belief in witchcraft was universal in the Old World, and the first colonists carried it to America. Even the tolerant William Penn served as judge in a Pennsylvania witchcraft case, but what was unusual in this case was that the accused witch was not a Puritan, but an outsider – an Irish Catholic named Goody Glover.

We do not know which part of Ireland Goody Glover came from, only that she and her husband were sold into slavery and transported to Barbados during the reign of Oliver Cromwell. Around 1680, by this time widowed, she arrived in Massachusetts with a daughter, Mary, in tow – part of a clutch of servants and Indian slaves brought to the colony from Barbados. (Several of this group were bought by the Reverend Samuel Parris, the minister who “discovered” the first Salem witches in his household.)

Although no specific incident has been recorded, Goody Glover evidently acquired the reputation of “an ignorant and a scandalous old woman,” in the words of the unsympathetic Reverend Cotton Mather, who has left the fullest account of her case in *Memorable Providences, Relating to Witchcrafts and Possessions* (1689).

Perhaps the Glovers would not stand for the Puritans’ intolerance and proselytizing attempts; perhaps, as an unlettered woman, Goody Glover could not communicate with the educated, ambitious Puritans. In any case, one common rumor was that her husband on his deathbed had accused her of practicing witchcraft. Such scuttlebutt still did not prevent her and her daughter from securing work as nurse and maid to several Boston families, including John Goodwin, a mason living in the north end of town. Four of his six children, ranging in age from five to thirteen, would ruin the lives of Goody Glover and her daughter.

One day in midsummer 1688, the Goodwins’ 13-

year-old daughter, Martha, accused Mary Glover of stealing linen. Overhearing the altercation, Goody Glover, by all accounts possessed of a ferocious temper, unleashed a torrent of “bad language” upon the girl.

Soon after, Martha began to have fits. Three other Goodwin children began to show similar symptoms, often simultaneously: being stricken deaf, dumb, or blind; odd movements of shoulder blades, elbows, wrists, and joints; lying together as if they were attached; cries that they were being cut with knives and hit by blows nobody else could see; and sudden head twisting. Yet, curiously enough, their sleep remained undisturbed, and afflictions rarely took place after 10 p.m.

Doctors consulted by the Goodwin parents, faced with such inexplicable phenomena, resorted to the usual explanation of 17th century Puritanism: “nothing but an hellish witchcraft” could be involved. Now the case began to attract serious attention from the Boston establishment, as five ministers were summoned to pray for the children and magistrates began inquiries. By this time, John Goodwin was recalling the incident immediately preceding the fits, ready to identify the main participant in that event as the woman who had bewitched his children: Goody Glover.

Despite the fact that Goodwin could produce no clear evidence implicating the old woman, Goody Glover was summoned for questioning. Dissatisfied with her answers, the magistrates ordered her and her daughter jailed. Goody Glover was about to learn firsthand the dangers of a criminal justice system driven by fear and vengeance.

The Puritans may have regarded the proceedings as just, but in the cold light of posterity her trial looks like a horror show of superstition, bigotry, and iniquity. The first obstacle she faced involved communication: as a peasant who only knew the Irish language in which she spoke and the Latin in which she prayed, accordingly, she could not recite the Lord’s Prayer in English and this understandable failure counted heavily against her in the minds of the highly literate Puritans.

Goody Glover was also a social fringe dweller in



A black and white image of a portion of the 1869 painting, "Witch Hill (The Salem Martyr)", by Thomas Satterwhite Noble. The painting shows a convicted witch, soon to be executed by hanging during the Salem witch trials.

a tightly knit community. Besides the fact that she was one of only a handful of Roman Catholics throughout the English colonies, she was also an indigent widow. As Carol Karlsen in *Devil in the Shape of a Woman* has shown in analyzing colonial witchcraft cases, this latter fact placed her in the demographic group most likely to be executed for witchcraft. Being poor, she could not frighten away potential accusers with the thought of economic retaliation; being a woman, she automatically had fewer rights than any man; and being a widow, she did not even have a husband who could rally support for her in the community.

The Reverend Cotton Mather admitted that Goodwin (later his parishioner) "had no proof that could have done her (Glover) any hurt." Yet, suffering from the poor memory common to the aged and surely mentally unbalanced by the attention given to the children's tall tales, Goody Glover offered rambling answers that the five judges regarded as a confession.

The tribunal ordered a search of her home by town constables, who soon hauled into court evidence that appeared to clinch the case for the prosecution: "several small images, or puppets, or babies, made of rags and stuffed with goat's hair, and other such ingredients." It never occurred to the Puritans that these images might be evidence of crude local folk beliefs.

Also damaging to Goody Glover was the testimony of a woman named Hughes, who claimed that six years previously a neighbor named Howen, just before being "cruelly bewitched to death," had identified Goody Glover as her tormentor. Just as Hughes was ready to give testimony, she claimed her son began to exhibit the same behavior as the Goodwin children.

It should not be surprising that the Goodwins and Hughes, both neighbors, should accuse Goody Glover of doing them wrong. The "City Upon a Hill" envisioned by Massachusetts founder John Winthrop was now being fractured by acrimony be-

tween neighbors.

In the wild, harsher climate of Massachusetts, the old English tradition of helping one's neighbor was yielding to more individualistic imperatives. In the Goody Glover case, as in the later Salem outbreak, this breakdown in community feeling had devastating results. As John Putnam Demos demonstrates in *Entertaining Satan*, the charge of witchcraft was often preceded by an incident involving the exchange of goods and services. When the person making such requests was rebuffed, he or she would respond by threatening or cursing – leaving "a residue of bitterness on both sides."

Reading accounts of the Glover trial is like entering a foreign country: one can easily be confused by an alien language and culture. The Puritan judges, too, appeared to have this problem. A witness testified that Goody Glover had complained the night before the trial that her "Prince" had deserted her. Upon being asked by the judges if she had any "to stand by her," Goody Glover answered that she had one, who was her "Prince."

To modern ears, these mutterings are ambiguous: was she praying to the Prince of Darkness or the Prince of Peace, and could she have been reproaching God for forsaking her, as her Saviour had assailed his Father on the cross? Yet, in a case of listening only for what they wanted to hear, the judges never considered these possibilities.

There remained only one way for Goody Glover to escape a death verdict: a determination of insanity by six doctors appointed by the judges. Yet their acid test for mental competency – whether Glover was "craz'd in her Intellectuals" – could hardly pass muster with modern psychiatrists. Their question to Goody Glover about the state of her soul brought the reply, "You ask me a very solemn question, and I cannot well tell what to say to it."

Moreover, as in the trial, her memory failed her, this time when she could not recite one or two clauses

*The story of Goody Glover originally appeared in the January 1994 issue of Irish America Magazine.*

in the Lord's Prayer. Quick to seize upon difficulty with language and a memory lapse by an illiterate, distraught, perhaps senile woman as evidence, the doctors declared her of sound mind. Goody Glover was then sentenced to death by the judges (one of whom was Deputy Governor William Stoughton, who four years later would also condemn several Salem "witches" to the gallows).

Before she went to her death, however, Goody Glover had to endure two more visits from the implacable fanatic Cotton Mather, who was probably

Since Goody Glover was in league with the Devil, this summary of his reasoning states, she must be as committed to spreading lies as her Prince, so why believe her? Yet these seem like highly unlikely scruples for a minister so hell-bent on saving individual souls and preserving God's Puritan Commonwealth intact from evil. Instead, even while grasping at straws, he was forced to admit that the insane widow "confessed very little about the Circumstances of her Confederacies with the Devil."

On November 16, 1688, Goody Glover was marched to the gallows, with only Boston merchant Robert Calef, who had stood by her throughout her prison ordeal, accompanying her. According to one historian of this incident, George Francis O'Dwyer, the procession ended at ground which is now occupied by Holy Cross Cathedral, where she mounted a scaffold "built directly where now stands the holy water font in the present Cathedral."

Samuel Sewall, later a judge at the Salem witchcraft trials, noted the execution in his diary, "About 11 o'clock the Widow Glover is drawn by to be hanged. Mr. Larkin seems to be Marshal. The Constables attend and Justice Bullivant there." Yet this terse entry does little to recapture the sense of horror, dread, and loneliness the widow must have felt. A convicted witch would be as hated in 17th-century New England as a convicted rapist or serial killer would be in our time. Surely this solitary Catholic was subjected to taunts, insults, and catcalls by these self-righteous Puritans who had never really admitted her into their community.

The crowd clamored "to see if the Papist would relent," or forsake her faith, according to one observer. "Her one cat was there, fearsome to see. They would to destroy the cat, but Mr. Calef would not permit it."

Accounts of Goody Glover's final moments vary, except for her correct prediction that her death would not end the Goodwin children's afflictions. According to the above chronicler, the old woman died forgiving those who had persecuted her and protested that it was not she who had persecuted them. Mather, however, not only contended that she claimed that others "had a hand in" the witchcraft, but implied that the old woman named her daughter as one confederate ("one ... whom it might have been thought Natural Affection would have advised the concealing of").

And what of Goody Glover's daughter, whose argument over a piece of linen had precipitated this communal outburst of superstition and bigotry? She, too, had been clapped into prison to await trial, but her mind cracked under the strain. She died in the spring of 1689, a madwoman victimized by a mad society.

As Goody Glover anticipated, the Goodwin case was far from over. Seeing how eagerly Cotton Mather had accepted her charges, Martha Goodwin and her two bedeviled siblings continued to play upon his credulity, albeit in more spectacular fashion. They would bark like dogs, purr like cats, cry out that



The hanging of Bridget Bishop, Salem, 1692. The first woman to be hanged in the Salem Witch Trials. Nineteen people were hanged in all. Illustration by Joseph Boggs Beale, circa 1885, via the History of Massachusetts Organization.

disposed against her because of suspicions that a witch had caused his own son's death.

After the 25-year-old minister asked twice for permission to pray for her, the condemned woman answered that she could not grant it "unless her spirits (or angels) would grant her leave." (Mather expressed frustration with their language difference, grousing that in the Irish language the same word represents "spirits" and "angels.") The intransigent minister, refusing to stop his badgering, prayed for her anyway – but, at the end of this interview, she used her finger and spittle on "a long and slender stone." Though Mather wrote that he left to others what this might mean, the implication seems clear that she had spells in store for him now, too.

The young Puritan divine was equally disappointed by Goody Glover's refusal to inform on her alleged confederates. He claimed that she "never denied" her own guilt and that she even identified four others besides herself who attended meetings with "her Prince." Some historians have pointed to Mather's unwillingness to reveal these four as evidence of his relative liberalism on the witchcraft issue.

they were in a red-hot oven, then that they had been doused with cold water. Above all, they gave grief to their parents: taking more than an hour to dress or undress, contorting their bodies when performing uncongenial menial tasks, and breaking into “the most grievous woeful heart-breaking agonies” upon the slightest criticism from their parents, according to Mather.

To a modern observer, the Goodwin children’s hysterics seem like an early and particularly outlandish form of adolescent rebellion against parental authority. But to the Puritans, and particularly Cotton Mather, the hand of the Devil was in every groan and roll of the eyes. Deciding to observe Martha in isolation from the other children, the Puritan minister — a former medical student who still prided himself on his powers of scientific observation — took her into his home for a closer look and was rewarded for his pains within a few days when she began to act even more erratically. One sign that must have surely convinced him that Satan was at work was that Martha could read from Quaker or Catholic books, but was “immediately struck backwards, as dead upon the floor” the second she opened *Mystery of Christ* written by Increase Mather.

A year after Martha Goodwin’s torments began, she and the other children must have tired of these games, for the afflictions finally ceased. Naturally, Mather ascribed this happy turn of events to the beneficent effects of his unceasing prayers, in addition to the providential death of another old woman suspected of sorcery. “I am resolved after this,” he wrote, “never to use but just one grain of patience with any man that shall go to impose upon me a denial of devils or of witches.”

With the abrupt end of their troubles, the Goodwin family faded out of history. John Goodwin, grateful for Mather’s tireless efforts to eradicate the Devil from his daughter, became a member of the minister’s congregation. After his death in 1712, his widow remarried two years later and died in 1728.

According to Thomas Hutchinson, historian and later colonial governor of Massachusetts, the Goodwin children grew up to “make profession of religion,” evidently inspired by their torments. One that he knew, who “had the character of a very sober, virtuous woman,” never made “any acknowledgment of fraud” about the incident. Hutchinson did not name the woman, but since he wrote that he knew her many years later, he must not have been referring to Goody Glover’s principal accuser, Martha. The latter became a member of Mather’s church in January 1691, married in 1693, and died at the age of 25 in 1699 as a result of complications in the birth of her fourth child.

As for Mather, he used the Goodwin incident to expound his opposition to skeptics about good and evil spirits in his first major book-length publication, *Memorable Providences, Relating to Witchcrafts and Possessions*, which circulated throughout New England and the mother country. It won its author acclaim as an especially perceptive observer of the disturbing witchcraft phenomenon and soon caused other Puritan ministers to begin noticing unexplained occurrences in their communities. About 18 months after its appearance, the tribulations of some other young girls in Salem Village who “were in all things afflicted as bad as John Goodwin’s children at Boston” were mentioned by the Reverend John Hale. In June 1692, a Bostonian named Brodbent wrote that “young Mather spoke pretty true when he preached a sermon about two years ago that the old landlord Satan would arrest the Country out of their hands.”

In that same year, the consequences of Mather’s folly began



PHOTO: JESS OLSEN, WIKIMEDIA.

A photo of the Goodwife Ann Glover plaque in North End, Boston, Massachusetts.

to be felt at last. The Reverend Hale, now a pivotal figure in the Salem witchcraft trials, noted that among the wide variety of documents that judges consulted for precedents during those infamous proceedings was Mather’s tome on the Goodwin case. In his sermons and in *Wonders of the Invisible World*, Mather played a high-profile role warning Massachusetts of the dangers abroad in the land, all of which he had seen four years before.

When the Salem hysteria finally died out, Mather received a jolting reminder of his sorry part in that time from Robert Calef, who had accompanied Goody Glover in her last lonely moments. Mather’s account of the Goodwin children’s fits, Calef charged, had “conducted much to the kindling of those flames” at Salem that “threatened the destruction of the country.”

Calef’s attack, sarcastically titled *More Wonders of the Invisible World*, damaged Mather’s reputation so badly that it still has not fully recovered. Mather has had some apologists among historians, who correctly point out that belief in witchcraft was the rule rather than the exception in the 17th century. Nevertheless, even one of the fanatic’s stoutest defenders, Samuel Eliot Morison, was grudgingly forced to concede, “...just as newspaper stories of crime seem to stimulate more people to become criminals, so Memorable Providences may well have had a pernicious power of suggestion in that troubled era.” Another historian, E.W. Taylor, directly assigned the responsibility of witchcraft hysteria to Mather, writing that the Goodwin case was “the direct forerunner of the Salem outbreak,” and that Mather’s “connection with it throws light upon later attitudes.”

Goody Glover resembles the initial victims of the Salem witchcraft trials because she was old, poor, and widowed. Although she did not die strictly because she was a Catholic, her religion made her vulnerable: It reminded the Puritans that she was an outsider in their jealously guarded community. In a year when the Catholic King James II was being removed from his throne, her faith could only inspire misunderstanding and hostility.

A final comparison with the Salem victims reinforces the poignancy of her isolation. In January 1697, Massachusetts held a day of repentance for wrongs committed in the Salem trials. Fourteen years later, the colonial government made amends to surviving defendants and children of victims in those cases. Since Goody Glover had no recorded descendants alive by this time, however, the colony never made any attempt to clear her name. In death, as in life, nobody spoke for the Irish Catholic peasant in Puritan Massachusetts. **IA**

# Annie Moore's Long Lost Irish Cousins

The decade-long search that finally discovered the Irish and American cousins of Annie Moore, the first immigrant to pass through Ellis Island.

**T**hanks to improved access to a variety of resources, Irish genealogy is gradually becoming easier, but challenges remain, and one of the most daunting is finding living relatives.

When Annie Moore, the Irish teenager who was the first immigrant to ever arrive at Ellis Island tripped down the gangplank, she walked into the pages of history. Forgotten during her lifetime, she would undoubtedly be stunned to learn that she has become a poster child for immigration in a nation of immigrants and of the diaspora in a country known for its emigrants scattered to all corners of the globe, and that there are statues of her in both New York and Cork. Like so many immigrants of her time, Annie lived a hard scrabble, tenement-based life in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Half of her children would die by the age of three for reasons attributable to poverty, and she would join them in an unmarked grave at 50. But those who survived flourished, and her descendants today are a living testimony to Annie's courage and sacrifices.

Back in 2006, I tracked down Annie Moore. In what amounted to a historical case of identity theft, experts had latched on to another young woman of

the same name, but four years of sleuthing led me to the correct one. Within days of discovering the true Annie, I located most of her living American relatives, so then set my sights on finding her Irish kin. That's when things came to a screeching halt.

Over the ensuing years, I've been sporadically inspired to have another go at ferreting out her elusive Irish cousins, but never had any luck. January 1, 2017 marked the 125th anniversary of Annie's ar-



rival, so I resolved to smoke out her family before that milestone. It took ten weeks, considerable digging, and a dash of good fortune, but this decade-long search finally met with success, and her new-found relatives were delighted.

Meeting cousins in Ireland tends to be high on the wish list of Irish Americans interested in their roots, so I thought I'd share a digest version of my research trail in the hope of providing guidance for others' quests. The example I'll walk through pertains to the maternal side of Annie's family tree.

## Cork and New York

I had the advantage of knowing that Annie's family came from County Cork, which should have given me a running start, but this was counterbalanced by the prevalence of her parents' surnames. Moore is widespread on both sides of the Atlantic (ranked 9th in the U.S. and 20th in Ireland), but her mother's maiden name of Cronin which sounds somewhat distinctive turned out to be wildly common in Cork. Genealogists dread such names because they mean extra





ALL PHOTOS COURTESY MEGAN SOLMENYAK

work sifting through contenders, so I wasn't thrilled to learn how rampant it was.

To help cope, I enlisted the aid of a Cork-based friend, Tim McCoy, to round up baptism records for Annie and her siblings. Since baptismal sponsors are often aunts or uncles, any Cronin godparents might be siblings of their mother, Julia. Two emerged – Mary and Anne. I would have preferred Priscilla and Genevieve, but at least I had a pair of names to vet any Cronin families I might investigate. It bears mentioning that this research would be much easier to do now with the freshly released Catholic parish index (on Ancestry.com and Find-MyPast.com), but they're not comprehensive. In this case, old-fashioned gumshoeing turned up one more baptism than the online collection. Also, slogging through digital parish images, as I did, without an index can be time-consuming, but sometimes produces more accurate results. For instance, within days of the index becoming available, I tripped across a John from Annie's family transcribed instead as Julia, so there's still occasional benefit to doing things the hard way.

While Tim dug around Cork, I focused on New York. Annie's mother's death certificate indicated that her father's name was Constantine. Since Annie had a brother named Cornelius who went by "Con," I surmised that this was more likely. Fortunately, another U.S.-generated document gave Julia's parents' names as Cornelius Cronin and Anne Cronin. I initially thought that the mother's full identity was masked by her married name, but then considered the possibility that two Cronins had married each other. As a Smolenyak who married another Smolenyak, I regard such couples warmly. Plus, a Cronin-Cronin couple would stand out.

Equipped with names for Julia's parents and two probable siblings, I plunged into both civil registration (government) and church records to try to unearth a family that fit this profile. Imagine how pleased I was to spy a Cronin-Cronin couple with

daughters named Mary and Anna. I finally had traction. Continuing to ping-pong between the two record sets, I steadily assembled a more complete list of Julia's siblings.

## Annie's Uncle Tim

Julia's brother Timothy caught my eye. Men are easier to follow since they retain their birth names, but more importantly, Timothy married in the same church as Julia just a year later. Tracing his family forward, I noticed that some of his children were born in the same neighborhood as Annie's big brother. This seemed promising, so I ordered his civil registration marriage, and as anticipated, it gave his father's name as Cornelius.

I continued to piece together a family for Timothy through birth and baptism records, which proved more difficult than expected because he married a woman with the annoyingly common name of Mary Murphy. Worse yet, there were two Timothy Cronin-Mary Murphy couples in the area. Ah, the joys of Irish genealogy.

This unhappy coincidence made it necessary for me to do my best to assign a number of youngsters in the records to the correct pair of Tim-Mary parents. I did this by fast-forwarding to the 1901 census ([www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie)) to get a list of some of the children (along with their approximate birth years) for each couple. Due to the timing, some would have moved out or died, but this gave me most and showed that, say, couple A had a son named John around 1881, while couple B had a son of that name around 1886.

Differences like this helped me sort the majority of Cronin offspring, and while I couldn't be certain about every single child, I caught a break with a particular son. The Tim-Mary couple I was pursuing had a son named Richard in the 1901 census, and there was only one suitable Richard in the birth records.

ABOVE: Annie Moore and her brothers Anthony (l) and Philip (r) at Ellis Island (colorized).

LEFT TOP: Could Julia's mother have been a Cronin by birth and by marriage?

LEFT BOTTOM: Several generations of Annie Moore's Irish relatives gather at her statue at the Cobh Heritage Centre to celebrate their famous cousin.



PHOTO: BRIAN SMOLENYAK

ABOVE: Annie Moore's Irish cousin Paul Linehan, genealogist Megan Smolenyak, and Annie's American cousin Michael Shulman.

BELOW: Megan Smolenyak's new book on her quest to discover the real Annie Moore, is available on: [www.megansmolenyak.com](http://www.megansmolenyak.com)

## Annie's Cousin Richard

Richard was a slightly more unusual name than the ubiquitous Patrick and Michael, but I became more intrigued when I realized that he was with his parents in 1901, but not in the 1911 census. He could have died or emigrated, but I suspected that he had married, so looked for him in 1911 and one fellow stood out. Wed around 1905, he was working in Cork as a blacksmith – the same occupation as the Richard who had attracted my attention. Since so many were listed as “laborer,” this blacksmith designation was a bit of a tell. Wanting confirmation, I ordered his marriage certificate. His place of origin, occupation, and father’s name all fit. This was the right man.

Now I had Richard and Lizzie Cronin with children named Timothy, Norah and Mary as of 1911, but how to traverse the last century? Once more, I turned to government indexes – this time for deaths. Seeking Richard Cronins who died between 1911 and 1964 (the most recent year available) revealed 28 men. I narrowed the field by location and age at death, and homed in on a fellow who died in 1954.

## Homestretch

In Ireland as elsewhere, privacy restrictions kick in around the 100-year mark, so I had reached the cross-your-fingers stage. Turning to online newspapers is an iffy prospect. If your family was prominent, you can find yourself fire-hosed with material, but for others, it’s a type-and-pray situation. Luck-

ily, my prayers were answered and I found what I was looking for in Irish Newspaper Archives ([www.irishnewsarchive.com](http://www.irishnewsarchive.com)): an obituary.

It was brief, but I was optimistic because this Richard was a blacksmith. I mentally thanked him for his occupational choice, but sought more proof. Survivors’ names were not given, but his address was, and entering it in the search field surfaced obituaries for Elizabeth and Norah, his wife and daughter. This jibed with the 1911 census, so I was sure that this was the correct Richard.

Still, I wasn’t done yet. Norah had died in 1988. How was I to bridge this gap of the last 28 years? Two churches in northern Cork were mentioned in the obituaries, so I asked Tim to visit. I was hoping for long memories. Tim met with Pat O’Leary, the sacristan at Our Lady Crowned, who kindly agreed to ask around and browse through their records.

Days passed. Just as one year in a dog’s life is the equivalent of seven human years, one day to an expectant genealogist feels more like a month. I tried to sit tight, but the church’s Facebook page was too tempting. After a week, I could no longer resist the urge to repeat the inquiry by posting there.

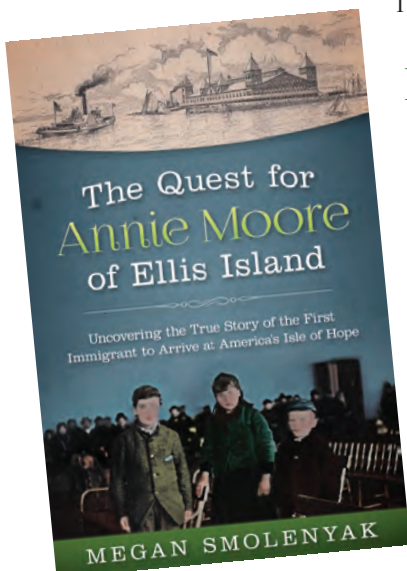
The double nudge produced a reply three days later. Mr. O’Leary provided fresh details, including the revelation that one of Richard’s grandsons, Tom Long, still lived in the area. After all this time, I was so close!

Mr. O’Leary had prudently passed my email to Tom to allow him to reach out to me, but this time, I only lasted a day before caving to the impulse to use phone directories to find Tom’s contact information which I shared with Tim. The next day, Tim was in his living room explaining that he was the first cousin twice removed of Ellis Island’s Annie Moore – a connection previously unknown, but enthusiastically welcomed.

## Reunion Time

It only took a decade, but Annie’s American and Irish relatives were finally found, so all that was left now was an international family reunion. What perfect timing that it happened just in time for them to jointly celebrate the 125th anniversary of Annie’s crossing to Ellis Island. Perhaps that’s the way it was meant to be. Even so, should you embark upon your own cousin hunt, here’s wishing you a far shorter reunion journey than Annie’s! IA

**NOTE:** In March 2017, Paul Linehan, an Irish tenor and one of Annie’s cousins, performed “Isle of Hope, Isle of Tears” at an Irish America Hall of Fame luncheon in New York City, where he was joined by his new-found American relatives. On March 17, 2023, CNN featured a story on Megan Smolenyak, which showed how she traced Annie Moore’s roots, discovered her final resting place, and brought Annie’s descendants, Irish and American, together for the first time.





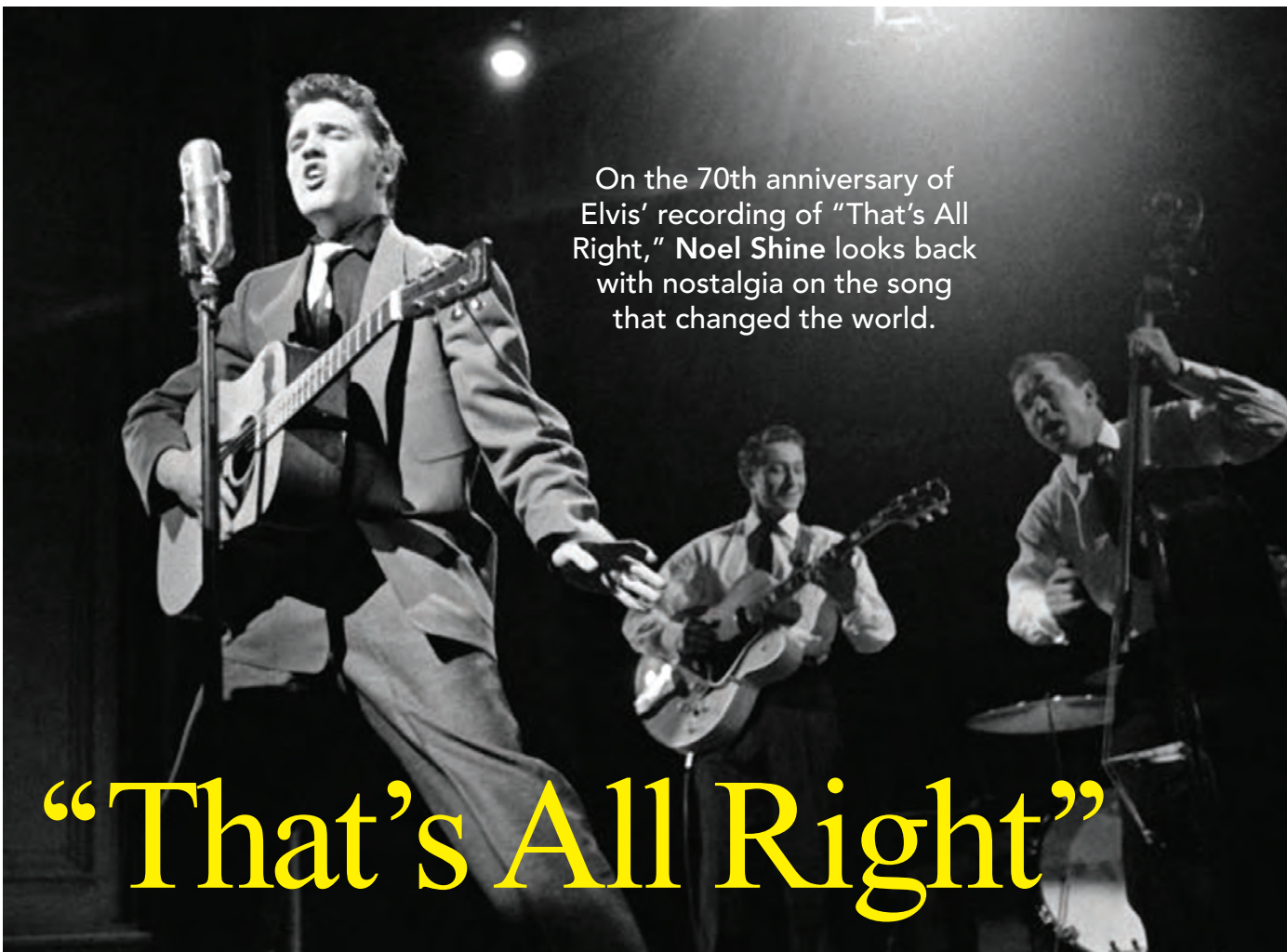
# Generations of inspiration

When your great-grandfather was the first Irish-born professional baseball player, breaking barriers and pioneering new paths are in your DNA. Kevin McCarty, Chief Information Security Officer of U.S. Healthcare at The Cigna Group<sup>SM</sup>, has brought this spirit to life throughout his career, earning him the reputation of a cybersecurity trailblazer. By developing innovative strategies and relentlessly protecting digital landscapes, Kevin has achieved remarkable milestones and set new standards for cybersecurity practices. Kevin, your contributions to the cybersecurity and Irish American communities are an inspiration for all.



**Congratulations on being named a 2024 Business 100 honoree in *Irish America* magazine.**





On the 70th anniversary of Elvis' recording of "That's All Right," Noel Shine looks back with nostalgia on the song that changed the world.

# "That's All Right"

**T**he seventieth anniversary of the recording of Elvis' first record, "That's All Right," a seminal moment in music history, happened this past July 5. Sam Phillips, proprietor of Memphis Recording Studios, was at the control desk on that fateful night in 1954. A pioneer in the music business, he recorded acts from across the racial divide of the segregated Deep South. In 1951 he produced Jackie Brenston's "Rocket 88" before licensing it to Chess Records for national distribution. When it hit the top of Billboard's R'n'B charts, Sam decided to launch his record label, Sun Records, to capitalize on this emerging market. The logo on the iconic label – a rooster heralding a new dawn – tells you all you need to know about the scope of his ambition.

When 19-year-old Elvis entered the Memphis Recording Studio on July 5, 1954, it was more in hope than expectation. Over the previous year, he had paid for two demo sessions at the studio in the expectation of impressing his talent as a balladeer upon Sam Phillips. Marion Keisker, who produced Elvis' first demo in July 1953, championed Elvis' cause with Sam, prompting him to invite Elvis back to record another ballad in June 1954. This session proved fruitless, with Phillips suggesting that Elvis team up with guitarist Scotty Moore and bassist Bill

Black before returning for the next session. The three men met at Scotty's house on July 4 without finding common ground, musically speaking. With the benefit of hindsight, it seems almost providential now that these three young hopefuls should first meet on Independence Day before going on to create that most American of all music genres – rock 'n' roll.

The session on July 5 started with Elvis rendering his version of "Harbor Lights," a song composed by Irishman Jimmy Kennedy. This was followed by "I Love You Because," but Elvis' delivery was uninspired and lacking in emotional intensity.

Unable to coax anything of merit from his young protégé, Sam suggested that the boys take a break. Elvis, Scotty, and Bill could feel this opportunity ebb away from them. Then Elvis began playing his guitar more upbeat, offering his take on Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup's "That's All Right." Bill Black, the joker in the pack, entered into the spirit of this seeming parody, slapping on his stand-up bass while Scotty picked out the chords. Sam's ears pricked up in the control booth. **It was the eureka moment that he had long intuited but dared not articulate**, namely, that if he could find a white boy who could sing with the soul of an R'n'B artist, his fortune would be made.



Elvis had inadvertently stumbled upon the sound that would become the hallmark of his best work at Sun Records and pre-army RCA.

Presley would become, both figuratively and literally, the poster boy for rock'n'roll. A natty dresser with a gravity-defying pompadour, he came packed with the iconography that best defined that golden era: The guitar, the Shure 55 microphone, the tail-finned Pink Cadillac, and later, the antebellum mansion. **He shook America from its post-war stupor and made all the young girls cry.** Elvis's rise needs no further rehearsal here. Suffice it to say that while Scotty and Bill may have been integral to the sound that skyrocketed Elvis to fame, they never shared in the generosity that came Elvis' way. They were paid *per diem* and effectively employed as hired hands. Their unique sound faded into the mix as Elvis gravitated towards Hollywood.

In 1957, Scotty and Bill quit in a very public spat. Scotty may have returned, but "the scales had fallen from his eyes." He continued to work with Elvis right up to and including the Elvis' 1968 "Comeback Special." At this juncture, Elvis sought to create a more

contemporary sound, necessitating a clean sweep of all the old personnel and relocating to the famed American Sound Studios in Memphis. Scotty put aside his guitar and returned to Nashville to run his own recording studio. He never saw Elvis again.

**The influence of Elvis' Sun Record phase on popular culture is invaluable.** When Scotty started touring again in the late 1990s, the likes of Paul McCartney, Keith Richards, Ronnie Woods, Robert Plant, and Jimmy Page all came to pay homage.

McCartney bought Bill Black's stand-up bass at auction, and recorded "That's All Right" with Scotty and drummer, DJ Fontana in 2001.

Jack White of the White Stripes similarly purchased the original demo acetate of Elvis singing The Inkspots' "My Happiness" and "That's When Your Heartaches Begin."

That influence pervades every frame of Jim Jarmusch's film *Mystery Train* (1989) and, to a lesser extent, David Lynch's *Wild at Heart* (1990). I could go on, but as impressive as these reference points are, they are faint echoes of that original blue note. In recent times Sony/BMG have remastered Elvis' entire back catalogue, including all known Sun material. Stripped of artifice and "electronically processed" reverb, they sound as good today as when first recorded.

In March 2004, I caught Scotty Moore at 'The Village' club in Dublin. It was the realization of a dream that began when I first heard "Elvis, The Sun Collection" in the 1980s. A dapper gent of 72 years, **Scotty had lost none of the talent that set him apart as a guitar virtuoso** five decades earlier. Ably supported by a group of handpicked musicians Paul Ansell, Liam Grundy, Pete Pritchard, Dave Briggs, and Jim Russell, they dovetailed perfectly with Scotty's trademark guitar licks to recreate such Elvis classics as "Good Rockin' Tonight," "Baby, Let's Play House," "Heartbreak Hotel," "Don't Be Cruel," "King Creole" and "Such a Night," among others.

There is nothing quite like a live gig to revive a drooping spirit. When the artist is a pioneer in their field, there is an added frisson of excitement. That night, there were many ghosts in the building, not least those of a teenage Elvis and Bill Black.

Consequently, any joy I experienced at this gig was tempered with regret that I never got to see Elvis on this side of the Great Divide.

They say never meet your idols lest they prove to be too mortal and disappoint. On August 16, 1977, Elvis proved all too mortal without ever deigning to grace our Irish shores. In the trek to Dublin, Scotty made good on a promise that Elvis could not. If that is as close as I will ever get to experiencing an early Elvis stage show, well, "That's All Right." **LA**

**NOTE:** Elvis' great-great-great-great-grandfather, William Presley, left his farm in Stranakelly, County Wicklow in 1775 and moved to Tennessee. A court document from 1775 proves his Irish ties.

FROM LEFT: Elvis Presley performing with Scotty Moore and Bill Black in 1956.

Guitar virtuoso Scotty Moore performing at The Village Club in Dublin in 2004.

Noel Shine with Priscilla Presley.

# Duff McKagan of Guns N' Roses

Duff McKagan reflects on his childhood, songwriting, why he's called "Duff," and his recent solo albums.

By Richard Purden

At one point, Guns N' Roses was known as "the most dangerous band in the world." They were mostly a danger to themselves, with drug and alcohol problems being well publicized.

The band's image and attitude lived up to "Reckless Life," the opening track on their 1986 EP *Live ?!★@ Like a Suicide*. At 6 foot 3 inches, McKagan loomed large over his bandmates with long blond hair, black streaks, a black bike jacket, a Harley Davidson t-shirt, and sunglasses.

Michael "Duff" McKagan recently celebrated being sober for 30 years and is now a committed family man. His wife, Susan Holmes McKagan, is a model and fashion designer, and they have two daughters, Grace and Mae Marie. During our conversation on Zoom, he talked about his Irish childhood growing up in Seattle, where he still lives today.

"The Catholic church was on the top of the hill, and everyone had huge families, so there were five Michaels born within months of each other.

You'd have five moms yelling for Michael, so my Irish grandfather named me 'Baby' when I was seven months old.

"I had seven older brothers and sisters calling me that nickname, and my mom didn't want that to stick, so she called me Duff. Nobody has called me Michael since unless it's a customer or the bank.

He added that his grandfather's move from Cork began the family line in America. "My grandfather John Harrington came from Cork in 1915-ish and fought for the U.S. in World War I. As in: 'You want to be an American kid? You can join the army.' I still have family in Ireland, and when I go over we meet for dinner in Dublin.

Guns N' Roses emerged as a breath of fresh air in 1985, blending punk, hard-rock, and New York Dolls style glam in Regan's recession-hit America. After leaving in 1997, McKagan rejoined the band in 2016 and took part in the "Not In This Lifetime" tour, which remains the ninth highest grossing tour of all time.

Bass player McKagan, now 60, is, for many, the beating heart of the group. I asked him about the early U.K. shows that helped break the band, ex-

plaining my uncle traveled to Newcastle City Hall in 1987 to see them perform. Even now, the sense of anticipation those early live dates with the band produced is still tangible. They appeared on the cover of *Kerrang* magazine in June of that year, just weeks before the release of their album *Appetite For Destruction*.

"We broke the U.K. first with the three nights at The Marquee with all its notoriety and played to 280 people in this small club over three nights. For us, it was the coolest thing in the world." Duff's estimate is modest, with many more cramming into the sweat-drenched Soho nightclub than the allowed number.

"We'd gotten semi-big," explains Duff of the first five nights in Newcastle. "We were able to come back and do theaters. I remember we got hotel rooms; it was like, 'this is cool.'"

He remembers, too, that there was a cool bar that sold Newcastle Brown Ale. The bartender's accent was such that it sounded like he was saying, "[This ale] is so thick it's got twigs in it."

At this time, the band was mostly living together in "The Hell House" in West Hollywood, where they wrote and rehearsed.

One of the critical ingredients that gifted *Appetite For Destruction* its power was the creative alchemy of the five original members and the shared songwriting process.

Duff "Rose" McKagan, as his name appeared on the album's sleeve, played a vital part in the writing of songs such as "Paradise City," "Nightrain" and "Welcome to the Jungle."

Whether it's his driving intro to "It's So Easy," which he co-wrote with West Arkeen, the musical notes on "Sweet Child O'Mine," or his playing slightly behind the beat to great effect alongside Steven Adler on "Rocket Queen," his creative spirit is all over *Appetite For Destruction*.

"One of the great things about Guns N' Roses is that we learned how to be a songwriting band, and that's not always how it goes. We would listen to each other's ideas. If your idea didn't work, no one took offense. Well, maybe a little bit, but it didn't break up the band, and in the process, we would have this killer song."

The 'live-fast die young' mentality almost be-

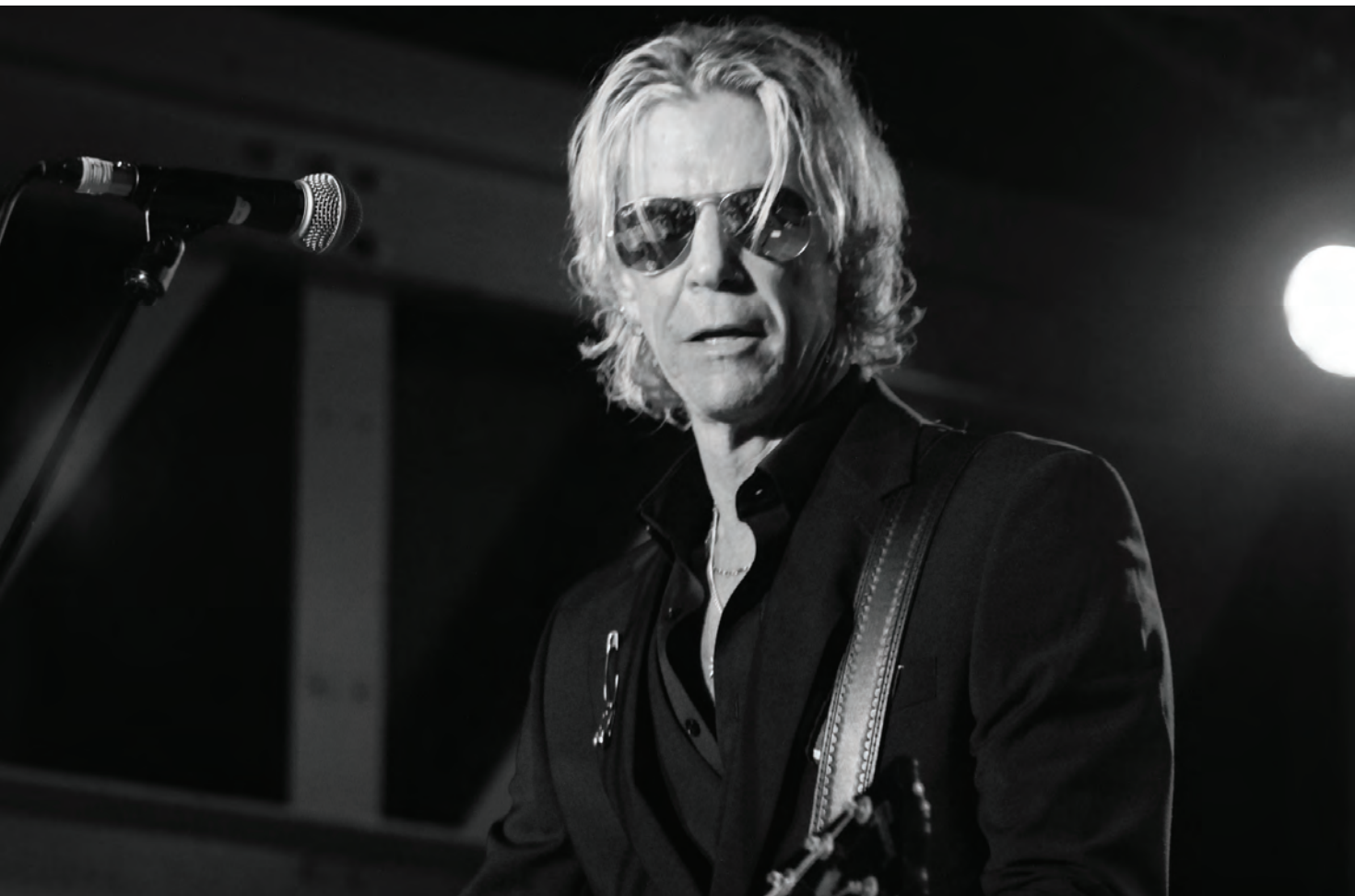


PHOTO: RICHARD PURDEN.

came a reality for McKagan after a near-death experience in 1994 when he suffered acute alcohol-induced pancreatitis; it was a life-changer.

It had been a year since the band's mostly punk covers and older songs album, *The Spaghetti Incident*, and Duff's solo debut "Believe in Me," were released within months of each other and did poorly compared to earlier releases. McKagan was thinking about a change. At 30 years of age, he decided to put Guns N' Roses' classic era and the rock 'n' roll lifestyle that went with it, behind him.

He enrolled in an introductory course in finance to help him comprehend the band's finances and "misleading" contracts. He also took up mountain biking and martial arts. *Playboy* hired him to write a personal finance column, and he wrote a couple of books.

"I read a lot of great authors like Cormac McCarthy; he cuts through all the fat in five words, and he will tell you the whole story and rip your heart out. 'I found a new avenue expressing myself through the written word,'" says McKagan.

He has always kept one foot in Seattle. On a flight home, he was one of the last to see Kurt Cobain alive. After resettling in the town where he was raised, he attended Albers School of Business and Economics. In 2011, he founded his Meridian Rock, a wealth management firm for musicians.

Since he reunited with Axl Rose and Slash in Guns N' Roses in 2016, the band has been touring on the

live circuit, but its studio output has been sparse. Meanwhile, McKagan has been prolific with two strong solo albums. His songs, "Holy Water" on his 2023 *Lighthouse* album and "God on 10th Street" [released as a single in April 2024], show him baring more of his artistic spirit than ever before.

"I'm in touch with my maker. I can read the gospels and know about Lazarus rising from the grave, but I'm not overly religious, he says. "Holy Water" and "God on 10th," are about the disappointment factor, like preachers here in America stealing money and doing bad stuff."

When writing a new song, McKagan will run it past Jerry Cantrell of Alice in Chains or Mike McCready from Pearl Jam, who is a regular visitor.

Of his new folky style of songwriting and folky ballads, he adds, "I've always written on acoustic guitar, but it's just in last ten years I hold the acoustic against my chest cavity, and it tells me where to sing. I've written a lot of songs that way."

I ask a final question. "Will Guns' N' Roses ever put out another long-player with Slash and Duff back in position?"

"Whose to say we haven't been in the studio?" McKagan answers with a wry smile. "I didn't say it," he adds quickly, "but I'm putting the question out there. I love recording, the creative process, and playing live shows, but that 'a-ha moment' [in the studio] with Slash.... He always finds the right thing that guy, and Axl is a master."

Duff McKagan at the Garage in Glasgow in October, 2024.

IA

# The Good Sport

In this excerpt from his memoir *The Good Sport*, **Kevin White takes us on his journey** as an Irish Catholic kid growing up in “blue-collar” Amityville on Long Island while scrambling to help his parents make ends meet, to the position of “the best of the best” among intercollegiate athletic directors of his generation.

**N**avigating the winding roads, with endless rotaries, up to Dungloe, I found myself reflecting on the summer of 1963 when I took part in the pre-seminary program with the Graymoor Friars up in Montour Falls, New York.

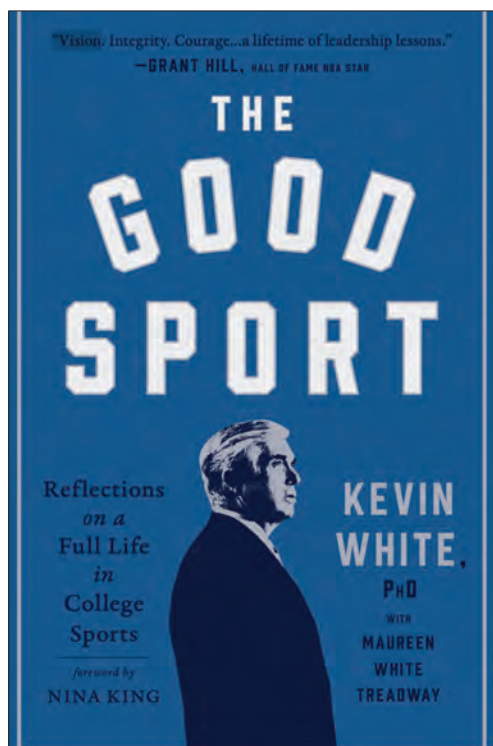
As a young boy within a classic Irish Catholic family, when the pastor comes to your home and tells both your parents and immigrant grandparents that he thinks you have a holy vocation, you are not a part of the decision-making process. Once Father Fuchs made that proclamation, it was a foregone conclusion.

Within our home, as well as in all the homes of my extended family, there were many portraits depicting the honorable and beloved Monsignor Hugh O’Donnell, my mother’s cousin. This provided serious implied pressure, to be sure. Given that, before I could renegotiate my fate, I found myself on a bus to upstate New York with forty-five other pre-seminarian prospects.

Instantly, upon being treated to an overdose of tranquility and prayer, I recognized that I was squarely out of my element. Most days, we would be in Chapel, while I was totally consumed with the great outdoors, peering at the ball fields, hoping to be allowed to escape a prayer session.

Near the end of the summer, just before the group was going to be sent home prior to commencing seminary high school in a few short weeks, we were all gathered in the cafeteria. A resident Friar conveyed the details of our break, highlighting the start of high school matriculation, and then transitioned to “If any of you are not sure that

you want this life, I’ll be in my office after dinner.” Immediately, I dropped my fork to ensure that I would be first in line, which I was, whereby I most respectfully delivered the “I am out of here” message. The priest indicated that he understood and offered to



drive me back downstate the next day.

About three hours, or so, into our drive, the priest asked if I was hungry. Of course, I jumped at that invitation. He then asked if a Howard Johnson’s might be appealing, and I quickly let him know that any food was appealing to me. As we pulled off the interstate, it was clear that this Ho Jo was jam-packed – customers were standing in

line out the door. The priest pressed forward to speak with the hostess, and my impression was that he was most confident that he would be provided a table in short order. No sooner than the hostess suggested that it might be a 45-minute wait, a handsome man in a gray flannel suit stood up and waved us over to his table.

The man kindly invited the good father and the kid (me) to join him for lunch. With little delay, the gentleman asked about the nature of our travel. The priest, who had been trying to re-recruit me all morning, indicated that I had been attending the Graymoor Friar pre-seminary program; he had to explain that this young man (me) thought he wanted to become a priest but has now pivoted.

The gentleman jumped in and said something like, “Perhaps God has yet another plan for this young man. Not to worry, these things tend to work out for the best.” Then, in a heroic effort to stop my berating, he shared that he was a product of parochial education, and that he attended the University of Notre Dame. His name was none other than Jim Crowley, one of the legendary “Four Horsemen.” The priest, not unlike me, almost ate his fork.

In 2000, when I was introduced as the Director of Athletics at Notre Dame, I seriously wondered if Jim Crowley was looking down, and whether he’d remember our prophetic meeting. IA

**Note:** Kevin White started as a track and field coach before beginning his journey in athletic administration. Eventually, he served as the athletic director at Notre Dame from 2000-2008. He then became the Vice President and Director of athletics at Duke, where he led the athletics program to success and implemented diversity and inclusion efforts from 2008 to 2021. White currently teaches a sports business course at Duke’s Fuqua School of Business. In 2017 Kevin was inducted into the Irish America Hall of Fame.

*The Good Sport* will be available on Amazon in January. For more information visit: [www.Meetkevinwhite.com](http://www.Meetkevinwhite.com)

What  
fills my  
heart?

*The warm  
welcomes!*



# Fill your heart with Ireland

Ireland transforms into a winter wonderland during the festive months, with cobbled streets lit by twinkling lights, cozy pubs offering warmth by roaring fires, and stunning landscapes dusted with frost.

Whether you're strolling through festive Christmas markets in Belfast or enjoying a traditional music session in a charming country pub in Cork, the warmth of Irish hospitality is the perfect antidote to the winter chill.

Embrace the festive traditions and fill your heart with Ireland this season...

 **Ireland.com**

# The Enchanted Bay

It is a little-known fact that Ernie O'Malley, renowned for his role in Ireland's revolutionary struggle, was also a passionate collector of Irish folklore.

**"The Enchanted Bay: Tales and Legends from Ernie O'Malley's Irish Folklore Collection,"** by Cormac K. H. O'Malley and Patrick J. Mahoney, is a testament to O'Malley's multifaceted legacy.

**E**arnie O'Malley (1897-1957) is usually associated with his significant military role in the Irish War of Independence and civil war and his memoirs about that period (*On Another Man's Wound and The Singing Flame*), but he was also an art critic, a military historian, and now as the newly published book, *The Enchanted Bay: Tales and Legends from Ernie O'Malley's Irish Folklore Collection* shows us, he was also a gatherer of legends, myths and stories.

The tapestry of tales in this book, which centers on O'Malley's native Clew Bay and its environs were transcribed by his son Cormac. They maintain the unique voices of local communities, conjuring an arcane, fascinating world that is slipping further from memory.

These tales are linked to local people and places and cover interactions with fairies on land and sea, fishermen's drownings, landlords' abuse of power, evictions, the Great Hunger, communal resistance and rebellion, and historical figures from Cromwell to Lord Lucan.

Some of the tales are told in the first person as the storyteller recalls incidents such as a family's eviction, An Fear Gorta, or dealings with a local doctor. In many, it is the little man versus the big man, and often the little one, wins out by cunning.

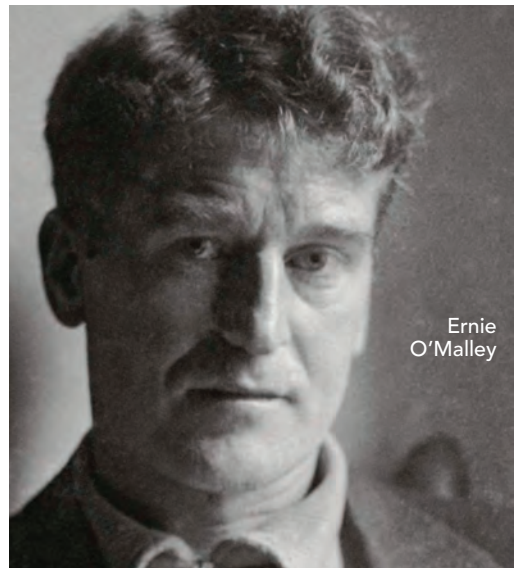
Tales like these abound all around Ireland, but in this book, the addition of maps and photographs helps recreate a vivid impression of life in rural Ireland in the past and the oral tradition that is the heart of Irish storytelling.

In the following tale, we encounter An Féar Gorta, whose name means "the Hun-

gry Man." This ethereal being is associated with the darkest times in Irish history when hunger stalked the land.

## An Féar Gorta

Me daddy, when he was a young man, and me mammy was married to him then, bought a cow at the Westport fair from a man by the name of David Brown of Seaview, near Kilmeena. After the fair, himself and me mammy were coming home to Inish-



Ernie O'Malley



*The Enchanted Bay: Tales and Legends from Ernie O'Malley's Irish Folklore Collection.* By Cormac K. H. O'Malley and Patrick J. Mahoney is available on Amazon.

nakillew, and it happened to be evening when they got as far as Lishen Ruadh in Rossakeeran, near Moyna, and begorra, he suddenly got weak, and he called on her for help to keep him from falling.

'William,' says she, 'what's wrong with you?'

'Well,' says he, 'I don't know, but I've lost the walk.'

She often told me that she never got it harder than to bring him from there to Claggan. His legs gave from under him in Claggan, up above by Willie Gibbons's house. She went in to Gibbons and told him what was the trouble. She was a young woman at the time and didn't know what was wrong.

'You have an féar gorta, boy,' says Gibbons, the minute me daddy went in and sat down. Gibbons went over to the cupboard, and there was a bageen of oatmeal within.

'Here,' says he, 'hold out your hand,' and he held his hand out and some of the oats dropped in to his hand. 'Eat on that and chew it well,' and he threw the rest of it in the fire.

They remained there till they had their supper, and then they walked in here to Inishnakillew with their cow comfortable and hearty.



Begin

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Tania Sheikh, NYC Hub Manager  
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[tania.sheikh@boi.com](mailto:tania.sheikh@boi.com)



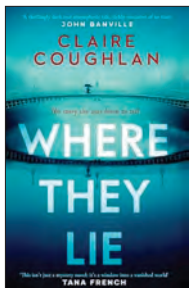
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## Where They Lie

By Claire Coughlan

This atmospheric thriller is slightly reminiscent of John Banville’s Quirke series, but with a junior reporter at the center of events rather than a pathologist. Nicoletta Sarto might be young, but she’s fiercely ambitious.



When she happens to be on duty around Christmas 1968, just as the discovery of bones in a Dublin garden is reported to Gardaí, she is quick to realize the significance of the story. Particularly as the skeleton would seem to be that of Julia Bridges, who disappeared

some 25 years earlier. Disgraced midwife Gloria Fitzpatrick was subsequently convicted of Julia’s murder. The anticipation as Nicoletta uncovers more truths, and the flashbacks to the 1940s and various relationships then, are both well handled by the author in this very accomplished debut, but there is perhaps just one or two coincidences too far towards the end.

## The Playdate

By Clara Dillon

First-time author Clara Dillon brings us deep into the world of bullying and exclusion in a well-to-do Dublin suburb. Sara and her family have just moved back from London – she’s English

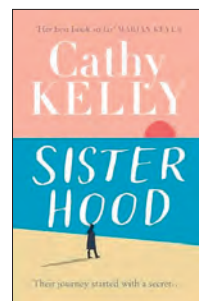


but agrees to give Ireland a go at the request of her husband. His parents are nearby, and he’d love their daughter Lexie to have the same childhood freedoms he enjoyed. But the school gate is dominated by a circle of mums, and one in particular, who show no interest in widening their group to welcome Sara or Lexie. And when a social gathering leads to a misunderstanding between the two women, they are frozen out even more. Desperate to rescue the situation for Lexie, who is starting to struggle with anxiety, Sara offers to mind Vanessa’s daughter one afternoon when she is stuck. If the playdate goes well, she reasons, everything will be back on track again. Dillon’s characters are insightfully drawn and the story is a complete page-turner from start to finish.

## Sisterhood

By Cathy Kelly

Lou has spent years of her life putting other people first, and if she’s ever had doubts, she’s managed to talk herself out of them. But when the night of her fiftieth birthday rolls around, she is devastated by the behavior of her mother, her husband, and her bosses. In a fury, she leaves the party and resolves to do something for herself for a change. Her sister Toni, who lives a very different life, and who is going through her own trauma, makes an off-the-cuff suggestion: why don’t the two of them take themselves off somewhere, and just leave everyone else to it. Lou protests at first, but then sees the wisdom in putting herself first. A trip to sunnier climes follows, and there are some family revelations on quite a few fronts that give the sisters much food for thought. It’s not Kelly’s best offering, but it is still a must-read for her legions of fans, as much for the poignant acknowledgements as for the book itself.



## The Hunter

By Tana French

This is a follow-up to French’s *The Searcher*, and while I didn’t massively enjoy that first instalment – this newer book is a page-turner of the highest order. We’re back with Cal Hooper, the former Chicago police detective, and his new life in a fictional village in the west of Ireland. Teenager Trey, still trying to escape her troubled background, has honed her woodwork skills under his tuition. When her troublemaker father turns up out of the blue with some harebrained buried gold recovery scheme, Trey wants him gone. Her older brother, whom she adored, has been missing for years and she blames her father for the village’s antipathy towards the family. French’s descriptions of the locale are sublime, and she manages to draw out the relationship between the stubborn teenager and the older man in an utterly captivating way. As the author has alluded to, she has basically written a Western and set it in Ireland. Fans of Westerns, thrillers, and whatever you’re having yourself will thoroughly enjoy.



## Whatever Happened to Birdy Troy?

By Rachael English

Stacey Nash’s relationship didn’t work out, and now it looks as though she will have to leave her rented home. Unwilling to think about either of those things too deeply she throws herself into her podcast instead – “Whatever Happened To ...?” After a bit of guidance, she decides to focus on an Irish band of the 1980s – a group of young women who seemed poised on the brink of greatness before quietly disappearing, never to be heard of again. Their songwriter, Birdy Troy, seemed to be guaranteed a successful life in the music business she adored so why is she proving so difficult to track down? This is another great read from novelist and radio presenter Rachael English. Fans of Daisy Jones and the Six will enjoy.



## *He Used to Be Me*

By Anne Walsh Donnelly

There isn't a town in Ireland that doesn't have a Daft Matt of its own, whatever name he or she happens to go by. And this beautifully written debut novel by Anne Walsh Donnelly offers plenty of food for thought – who is that instantly recognizable marginalized character seen so often around the town and what is their back story? In the case of Matt, who wanders the streets of a Castlebar (Co. Mayo) that will be very familiar to the reader, his personal story is a resounding tale of loss and tragedy, and the reader can't help but be drawn into his confidence as he shares his memories. Worse again, he knows he's a figure of fun – "Sometimes I lie on the grass in the Mall and the school kids laugh at me and their parents pretend not to hear." The beauty of Walsh Donnelly's writing is no doubt due in part to her well-established reputation as a poet, but this slender volume is proof that she has a lot more than poetry to offer.



## *A Portrait of the Piss Artist as a Young Man*

By Tadhg Hickey

Anyone familiar with Tadhg Hickey's amusing videos on social media over the past couple of years will have him pegged as a funny lad, full of craic and devilment. In his recently published memoir, he lays himself bare on the altar of self-revelation – describing with searing honesty the difficulties he had with his unwell mother, and his own struggles with alcohol and drugs. He doesn't spare the horses in his graphic description of all-nighters, and the resulting fallout for relationships, particularly the one with his young daughter. It's a salutary read, but a very generous gesture from Hickey to share it all so openly.



## *Day*

By Michael Cunningham

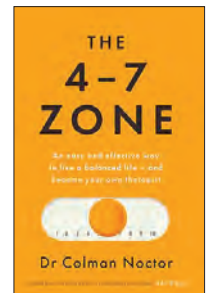
There is something so, so satisfying about a book that has you plotting how quickly you can get back to it, so deeply has it hooked you. Michael Cunningham's *Day* is just gorgeous. It's really three days, the same day in three consecutive years. If we tell you the middle year is 2020, you'll immediately get the significance – it's a lockdown novel of a sort. But the lockdown in question isn't just linked to the Covid pandemic, it's related to a complete emotional lockdown festering in some of the main players. There's husband and wife Dan and Isabel, their two kids, and Isabel's younger brother Robbie who lives on the top floor of their Brooklyn brownstone. The five occupants of the house are codependent to varying degrees, and Cunningham's masterful unfolding of the bare bones of family dysfunction is a thing of beauty.



## *The 4-7 Zone: An Easy and Effective Way to Live a Balanced Life – and Become Your Own Therapist*

By Dr. Colman Noctor

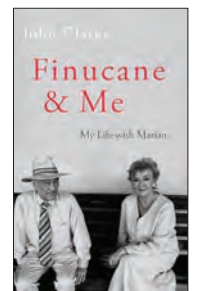
There's lots to nod about in this eminently readable new book. It's self-help but with not a woo-woo or airy-fairy notion in sight. The idea is simple. Noctor explains that too often we buy into the premise that we have to be remarkable or extraordinary, or that true happiness only comes when we are achieving and thriving – living life in the top percentile. The 4-7 zone is where life is average. But contentment in that mid-zone is not only possible, it comes highly recommended, according to Noctor. And we should be more focused on modelling this for our children, too – particularly given the stratospheric rise in childhood anxieties over recent years. It's a very thought-provoking read and is delivered in Noctor's trademark straightforwardly accessible way.



## *Finucane & Me: My Life with Marian*

By John Clarke

When Marian Finucane died suddenly in early 2020, her loss was felt by a generation of Irish radio listeners who felt like they knew her very well. But as this book makes clear, there were large parts of the broadcaster that she kept very hidden – even from her life partner and husband, John Clarke. He goes back through their years together – from their first chance meeting, through the life they built together, the devastating loss of their young daughter Sinéad, and Marian's ability to cut through the chaff and ask all of the right questions in some of the standout interviews in Irish broadcasting. There's also the charity work she did quietly, only seeking publicity when it was needed to raise much-needed funds. It's an engrossing read, although at times it feels as though Clarke is recounting from a slight remove, as an observer rather than a participant.



# A Universal Christmas

By Edythe Preet

All around the world, the holiday season is a time to gather with family and friends, to share abundance, to feast, to reflect on the memories of joyful times past, and to make every effort to ensure that the future will be peaceful and prosperous for all. Here in the United States, the holiday season is celebrated in a myriad of ways bequeathed us by the thousands of immigrants who have flocked to our shores.

My own story is a case in point. My father's mother was born and raised in Northern Ireland. A woman of mingled heritage herself, Margaret McCaffery was

the place where a secret midnight Christmas mass would be celebrated.

Like the potato, the Christmas tree was an import. Actually an ancient German tradition, elaborately decorated evergreen trees first became popular in England in the nineteenth century during Queen Victoria's reign, but they quickly found a place in Irish hearts. A few days before Christmas, Dad and I would trudge through the snow to buy our tree. After clearing all the furniture out of the sun porch, we set a big platform up on milk crates, stood the tree in the center, placed a sparkling star on the very top, draped it with lights, and trimmed it with ornaments and strands of shimmering tinsel. A nativity set had the place of honor under the lowest branches, and around it we built an entire village with trains, cottages, cars and people.

The rest of the house was decked with ancient Celtic decorations. Garlands of greenery threaded around and through the stair banister. A big bunch of holly adorned the front door. Clumps of mistletoe hung in every archway. Sacred symbols all of the Druids who celebrated the long night of the Winter Solstice phenomenon eons before Christianity reached Ireland.

Plants that remained green all year were thought to be magical. Because holly bore red fruit in the midst of winter's snow it was considered a symbol of fertility. Mistletoe which thrived in the bare branches of mighty oak trees was so revered that when enemies chanced to meet beneath it they laid down their arms and embraced in peace.

Our Christmas food traditions were where the real intermingling of customs took place. Fruitcakes were the season's first project. On Thanksgiving weekend Mom and I mixed bits of candied citron, cherries, and citrus peels with golden raisins, covered it all over with Irish whiskey, let it steep overnight, then stirred the mixture into a spicy batter, and added loads of chopped walnuts. When the dozen or so cakes had baked and cooled, we wrapped them in cloths that had been soaked in more whiskey, and tucked them away to mature until Christmas just as Irish cooks have been doing since the Middle Ages.

The next big baking event was Italian: sliced biscotti and thin crisp waffles called pizella, both flavored with anise seeds, a licorice-flavored spice that has been used for baking since the days of the



Christmas Alleyways,  
Cathedral Quarter,  
Belfast City Centre.

Scots-Irish. Dad's Da was a product of Scots-English-Irish-French stock. Mother's parents immigrated from Italy, her ancestry encompassed Greece and Albania. The mix makes me a true blue American, with roots in more than half a dozen European nations. And as a result Christmas at our home was a real American cultural melting pot.

The Irish-Anglo traditions were most obvious. Every window in the house had its own slim electric candle, which I had the honor of dusting off and stringing one to another with a collection of extension cords at the beginning of the season. The custom dates from Ireland's tyrannical Cromwell times when Irish Catholics were forbidden to practice their faith and a candle burning in a home's window signaled it was

# RECIPES


Roman Empire. Then we turned to Irish recipes and made batches of macaroons and butter cookies, both studded with almonds, a nut that was introduced to Ireland by the Normans who had discovered it in the Middle East during the Crusades.

Italian food surfaced again on Christmas Eve when my mother's sister, Matilda, prepared the traditional Feast of Seven Fishes. One year stands out in memory. On December 24, 1963, Philadelphia was hit with a rip-roaring blizzard. Driving anywhere was out of the question. Wrapped from head to toe in foul weather gear and loaded down with presents, my high-school chum Bonnie, my parents and I set out on foot for Aunt Tilda's house. What would have been a seven-minute drive turned into an hour-long trek. I remember laughing so hard we could hardly walk.

And what a feast it was! One by one the Seven Fishes appeared. Smoked oysters. Stuffed calamari sautéed in garlic and parsley. Deep-fried smelts. Crisp flounder filets. Angel hair pasta tossed with olive oil, garlic, bread crumbs and bits of anchovies. Fusilli swimming in a white wine clam sauce. Just when we felt we couldn't eat another bite, Aunt Tilda carried in the night's special treat, a savory stew of salt cod and prunes that had simmered for hours in a rich tomato gravy.

Christmas dawned dazzlingly white. For breakfast, we had the first slices of our whiskey-drenched Irish fruitcake with cups of strong Italian coffee. In the afternoon the whole family gathered at our house for turkey and all the trimmings including, thanks to Dad's influence, a big platter of oven-browned potatoes. Friends in Ireland tell me the American bird now stars at many a Christmas feast there as well, having replaced the traditional goose or spiced beef. Dessert was a bi-cultural extravaganza: creamy ricotta cheese pie that has been made in Italy since Caesar's time, spicy mincemeat pie that has been an Irish favorite since the 16th century, all those Irish-Italian cookies, more fruitcake, sweet Italian vermouth, and Irish coffee.

That night Bonnie and I talked for hours. It had been her first Christmas. Just days before I had been a guest for Chanukah dinner at her home where a Chanukah Bush looked very much like my own Christmas tree except that it was trimmed in Israel's colors of blue and white. Both families had exchanged holiday gifts, a custom which has its roots in ancient European Winter Solstice rituals. We decided that although the events we honored were different, traditions had become so intertwined through the ages that the result was a universal period of feasting and rejoicing.

The older I become the more firmly I hold to the decision Bonnie and I reached more than thirty years ago. Regardless of heritage, the December holiday season brings people together in a spirit of peace and promise, joy and renewal. We were very young, but we were very wise. Sláinte! 

## Irish Fruitcake

- 1 pound candied citron, minced
- ¼ pound candied cherries, minced
- ¼ pound candied orange peel, minced
- ¼ pound candied lemon peel, minced
- 1 pound golden raisins
- ¼ cup Irish whiskey
- ½ pound walnuts coarsely chopped
- 1 cup soft shortening
- 2 cups brown sugar, packed
- 4 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 cups sifted flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ cup milk
- ½ cup crabapple jelly
- extra Irish whiskey

Combine candied fruit and raisins with whiskey and let sit overnight. Add walnuts to the fruit mixture. In a large bowl, cream shortening and brown sugar until fluffy. Beat in eggs and vanilla until thoroughly combined.

Set aside. In another bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, salt, and cinnamon. Add dry ingredients to the sugar-egg mixture alternately with milk and jelly. Stir until well combined. Blend in candied fruit and nut mixture.

Line two 9x5x3-inch loaf pans with greased parchment paper. Fill prepared pans almost full and cover with another piece of parchment paper cut to size. Bake at 300 degrees for 2 1/2 to 3 hours or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Remove from oven and cool for 10 minutes. Take fruitcake out of pans, peel away parchment paper, and cool on wire racks overnight. Wrap each fruitcake in a dishcloth that has been dipped in whiskey and wrung until it is just damp. Wrap each cloth-covered fruitcake in aluminum foil and store in an airtight container for one month.

Makes two fruitcakes.

## Italian Ricotta Pie

- 3 eggs
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 pounds ricotta cheese
- pastry for a single-crust pie

Beat eggs with sugar until thick and lemon-colored. Stir in vanilla.

Place ricotta cheese in a large bowl and stir in egg mixture until well blended. Pour into a deep dish pie pan fitted with an uncooked single-crust pastry shell. Fill to within one inch of the fluted edge.

Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 50 minutes. Filling will puff up during cooking. Remove from oven and let rest at room temperature for several hours before serving. As the pie cools, the filling will settle. Makes 8 servings.

## Irish Mincemeat Pie

- ½ pound dark raisins
- ½ pound golden raisins
- ½ pound currants
- ¼ pound almonds
- ¼ pound candied orange peel
- ½ pound Granny Smith apples
- 6 ounces shredded beef suet
- ½ pound light brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- grated rind and juice of 1 large lemon
- ¼ cup Irish whiskey

Chop the dried fruit and almonds coarsely. Peel, core and grate the apples and mix with the dried fruit. Stir in the shredded suet, sugar, spices, lemon rind, lemon juice, and whiskey. Cover and leave for 6 hours. Spoon into sterilized dry jars, top off with more whiskey, cover and store in a cold dark place for one month. Makes enough filling for two or three pies.

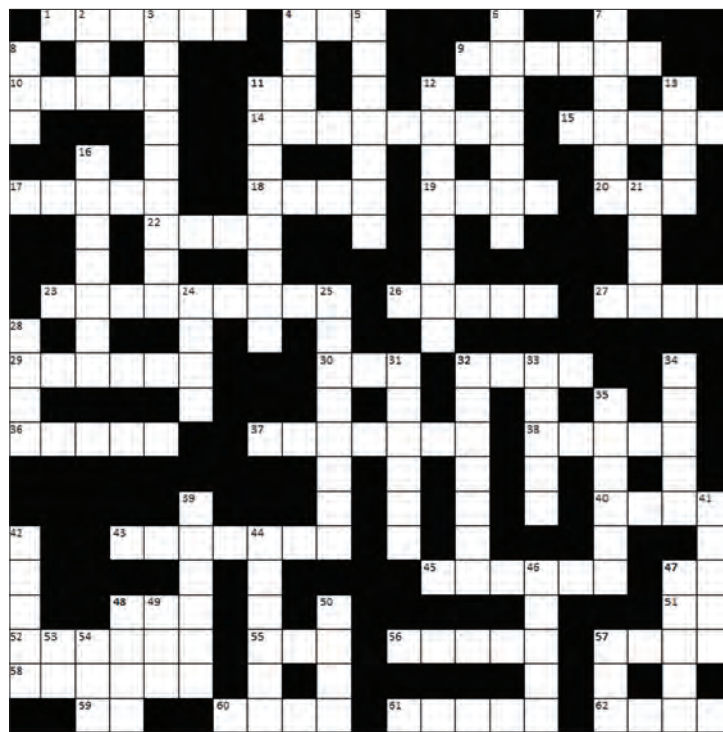
When ready to make pies, fill prepared pie shells almost full. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour, or until crust is golden.

Recipes: *Traditional Irish Food:*  
Theodora Filtzibbon

## ACROSS

- 1 This saint's day is now marked as a public holiday in Ireland (6)
- 4 The mighty \_\_\_\_ (3)
- 9 (& 34 down) Irish American labor organizer, born Mary Harris (6)
- 10 Small town in Wicklow, situated on a river of the same name (5)
- 11 What some in Ireland call their mom (2)
- 14 Iconic Irish ring with Galway roots (8)
- 15 Perfectly suitable (5)
- 17 Ireland's national rugby stadium (5)
- 18 "I am woman, hear me \_\_\_\_" (4)
- 19 \_\_\_\_ meeny miney moe (4)
- 20 (& 6 down) This N.I.-set book by Patrick Radden Keefe is now an acclaimed TV series (3)
- 22 If it's not false, it must be \_\_\_\_ (4)
- 23 Much-loved Irish butter (9)
- 26 See 39 down (5)
- 27 To change something from straight to curved (4)
- 29 Town in Tipperary with a famous rock (6)

- 30 Literary term for neither (3)
- 32 The \_\_\_\_: nickname of 9 across (4)
- 36 (& 32 down) Well-known Irish chef (5)
- 37 See 48 down (7)
- 38 This Irish political party was effectively wiped out in recent General Election, retaining only one seat (5)
- 40 A long, deep cut or wound (4)
- 43 Social media site that seems to be the main choice for those tired of X, formerly Twitter (7)
- 45 See 55 across (6)
- 47 Connecticut, in short (2)
- 48 Just a small amount (3)
- 51 A colloquial contraction of the world old (2)
- 52 (& 35 down) Writer of 48 across (6)
- 55 (& 45 across) Bono's daughter stars in 8 down (3)
- 56 (& 44 down) The Irish Arts Center recently honored this actress at its 25th Annual Spirit of Ireland Gala (5)
- 57 Wacky (4)
- 58 Player who uses a ball and stick in a



- fast-moving Irish game (6)
- 59 Train line found in Chicago, among other places (2)
- 60 Apple tablet (4)
- 61 (& 42 down) Convicted Irish criminal who came close to winning a seat in recent election (5)
- 62 Surname of a musical Irish family (4)
- comedy drama, set in Ireland, is now airing on Apple TV (3)
- 11 See 47 down (8)
- 12 Area of Spain that was devastated by recent floods (8)
- 13 The Irish version of this girl's name is Máire (4)
- 16 See 8 down (7)
- 21 The Irish version of this girl's name is Áine (4)
- 24 Loudly shout (4)
- 25 This replica Famine ship can be seen in New Ross, Co. Wexford (8)
- 28 Person or thing widely admired (4)
- 31 See 46 down (6)
- 32 See 36 across (7)
- 33 Follows day (5)
- 34 See 9 across (5)
- 35 See 52 across (6)
- 39 (& 26 across) This presidential relative received a pardon in early December (6)
- 41 In a passionate, intense or angry way (5)
- 42 See 61 across (5)
- 44 See 56 across (6)
- 46 (& 31 down) This Mayo writer recently scooped the Library Award at the An Post Irish Book Awards (5)
- 47 (& 11 down) This mixed martial arts fighter was recently convicted of assault in Dublin (5)
- 48 (& 37 across) Main character in Small Things Like These, played by Cillian Murphy in the film version (4)
- 49 Anger (3)
- 50 Button pressed after composing an email (4)
- 53 Character in Irish mythology who was the father of Cú Chulainn (2)
- 54 "The Boys \_\_\_\_ Back in Town:" Thin Lizzy hit (3)
- 57 \_\_\_\_ Efron (3)

## DOWN

- 2 Friend of Winnie the Pooh (3)
- 3 Blockbuster starring Paul Mescal (9)
- 4 Many histories can be written or \_\_\_\_ (4)
- 5 The Irish roots of Bruce Springsteen can be traced to this county (7)
- 6 See 20 across (7)
- 7 Word is that this US fast food chain might be opening its first outlet in Ireland (6)
- 8 (& 16 down) The second season of this

### FALL ISSUE 2024 SOLUTION



### Win a subscription to Irish America magazine

Please send your completed crossword puzzle to *Irish Media Enterprises*, 112 West 34th Street, 18th floor, New York, NY 10120, to arrive no later than December 29th, 2024. 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 FALL Issue 2024 crossword: **John Hayes, New York.**



# The spirit of giving lasts a lifetime

Bring joy and support to families most in need—this holiday season and beyond

Candy Cane Lane is more than a winter wonderland—it's a lifeline of joy for families living in homeless shelters and domestic violence safe houses. Every December, volunteers like you help transform lives, creating a festive retreat where families can "shop" for their children with dignity, and kids experience the warmth of the season.

The magic doesn't stop there. By volunteering with The Floating Hospital, you can continue the spirit of Candy Cane Lane throughout the year—helping us uplift families with programs that provide healthcare, education, essentials and comfort.

Make 2025 your year to make magic.



Step into a legacy of care and compassion that spans nearly 160 years. Learn more about volunteering: scan the code, visit [TheFloatingHospital.org/volunteer](https://TheFloatingHospital.org/volunteer) or email us at [volunteer@thefloatinghospital.org](mailto:volunteer@thefloatinghospital.org)



**At The Floating Hospital, we create opportunities to make a difference:**

**Candy Cane Lane** (December): our signature winter wonderland

**Women's Wellness** (spring and fall): empowering mothers with care and support

**Camp Rise Up** (summer): inspiring teens through growth and mentorship

**Education and drives** (year-round): from reading to kids to organizing essentials, there's a role for everyone



**THE FLOATING HOSPITAL**  
Keeping families afloat

## BIRMINGHAM PUB BOMBINGS

Families of the victims of the 1974 Birmingham bombings are still campaigning for the truth.

**F**amilies of the victims of the November 1974 IRA Birmingham pub bombings say that British authorities are deliberately obstructing their search for the truth about what happened that night and denying their rights to accountability.

Between March 1973 and November 1974, the IRA exploded hundreds of bombs across Britain, including several attacks on Birmingham. In 1974, Britain saw an average of one attack – successful or otherwise – every three days.

The security forces were under enormous pressure to find those bombing Britain, and they framed the innocent. **Judith Ward, a homeless English woman, was wrongly convicted for the February 1974 bombing of a bus of British soldiers and their families, when 12 people were killed. She was freed by the Court of Appeal in 1992. Five people were killed in the October 1974 Guildford pub bombings, and 11 wrongful convictions followed.** Their convictions were quashed between 1989 and 1991.

On November 29, 1974, 21 people were killed and 220 others injured when two bombs destroyed the Mulberry Bush and Tavern in the Town pubs in Birmingham city center. **Six Irishmen – Hugh Callaghan, Patrick Joseph Hill, Gerard Hunter, Richard McIlkenny, William Power, and John Walker –** were abused and tortured by police after their arrest and wrongly convicted for the bombings. Some were forced into signing false confessions,

and flawed forensic evidence was used against them.

The Birmingham Six were finally freed in 1991 when their convictions were overturned. They had spent 17 years in prison for crimes they didn't commit.

As now, Birmingham in 1974 had a large Irish community. Many of the casualties of the pub bombings had Irish parents. Two Birmingham brothers – 22-year-old Desmond and 23-year-old Eugene Reilly – whose parents were from Donegal, were killed in the explosions. Their father, John, was called by police to a mortuary to identify the body of one of his sons. The Irish Post newspaper reported at the time that “He believed the body would be that of Eugene and that his other son Desmond was 200 miles away in Durham. But the two brothers had been having a reunion drink in the Tavern in the Town [pub] when the bomb exploded, and a heartbroken John had to



Judy Ward, wrongly convicted in 1974. She is pictured on her release in 1992.



identify the first body as that of Desmond. He was called again to the mortuary by police and found the body of Eugene.”

An estimated 35 of the injured had Irish parents, including 20-year-old junior solicitor Peter Long, whose father was from Cork; Bernadette O'Connor, aged 17, whose parents were from Athlone and Kerry; and 17-year-old Yvonne Donnelly, whose parents were from Kildare and Laois.

After the bombs, British Prime Minister Harold Wilson made a plea for no acts of retaliation against Irish people or people of Irish descent. Still, within hours of the Birmingham pub explosions,

**bombs were thrown into an Irish-run Prince of Wales pub in Ealing's Boston Road, an Irish tobacconist's in Streatham, south London, and an Irish pub in Kingstanding in Birmingham.**

The Irish Community Centre at Digbeth in central Birmingham was petrol bombed, and St. Gerard's Catholic School in Castle Vale to the north of the city was hit by an arson

attack. Workers at Liverpool and Manchester airports refused to handle flights bound for Belfast or Dublin.

Historian C. Desmond Greaves noted, “The disastrous bomb outrage in Birmingham did the Irish movement in Britain more harm than a regiment of cavalry.”

Following the 1991 release of the six wrongly convicted men, survivors and bereaved families assumed the police would reopen the investigation into who had been responsible for the bombs. But nothing happened. Around 15 years ago **Julie Hambleton joined her brother Brian in campaigning for the truth about what happened to their sister Maxine, who was 18 years old when she was killed in the bombings.**

“I started wondering why there was no public inquiry into the biggest mass murder of the Twentieth Century in Britain,” she said. “So in 2009, I wrote to the Chief Constable of the West Midlands Police to ask what he was doing.”

It was, she says, the beginning of a long and painful realization that the families were being fobbed off, obstructed, and underestimated by the British establishment. “It took the





LEFT: The action is being taken on behalf of the victims, including Desmond Reilly, his brother Thomas, and Maxine Hambleton.

Chief Constable five years to respond to the letter," she said. "They thought if they ignored us, we'd go away. They were wrong."

The victims' families began to find each other and joined together in a Justice for the 21 campaign. The families applied for and obtained the resumption of the inquest, which had stopped because of the conviction of the Birmingham Six in 1975. But they had to fund a legal action to challenge restrictions placed by the coroner on that inquest investigation, a challenge that was successful in the High Court but was overturned by the Court of Appeal.

"The families applied for but got no legal aid. We were denied it 14 times," said Hambleton. "We had to raise the costs ourselves – fundraising concerts, donations from groups of football supporters, wherever we

could. People have been amazing in helping us, but they shouldn't have to."

**The inquest was finally reopened, but with such strict limits that the families dismissed it as a farce.**

Hambleton said: "The rules were that the issue of [British State] informants in the IRA couldn't be discussed, and nor could the issue of who had done the bombings."

A witness whose identity was protected at the inquest – a convicted IRA bomber known as Witness O – testified that the IRA had told him he could reveal the names of four alleged perpetrators: Mick Murray, James Francis Gavin, Seamus McLoughlin, and Michael Hayes. Another man, Michael Patrick Reilly, was separately named in a 2018 TV documentary, and it was suggested he might have been one of those who planted the bombs.

**Maxine Hambleton's mother, Margaret Smith, has taken a civil court case against Reilly,** and is also suing Sir David Thompson, chief constable of West Midlands Police, claiming the force's investigation was conducted negligently.

Julie Hambleton says the British authorities continue to cover up the truth, that officials knew the bombings would happen but deliberately let them go ahead, for three possible reasons. "First, although a Prevention of Terrorism Act giving police greater powers had been discussed, it hadn't become law. It was passed within a week after the bombings. Second, Birmingham was a lucrative place for IRA fundraising in Irish pubs and clubs. The horror of the bombings ended that; and third, the British were and are protecting informants they had in the IRA."

Some of the families' frustration is also directed at Chris Mullin, the journalist (and former Member of Parliament) whose research did much to expose the false convictions of the Birmingham Six. While the families applaud that work, they are angry that he refuses to name those he says are guilty of the bombings, citing promises to protect his sources.

Lawyer Christopher Stanley of KRW Solicitors represents some of the families. **"The way the families see it, this is an unsolved murder case with no justice for the victims,"** he said. "They've been left in limbo because there has been no active investigation since 1991."

Last year, Britain's Crown Prosecution Service said there was insufficient evidence to bring charges following a re-investigation into the deaths of the 21 people killed in the bombings. But the campaign for a full public independent inquiry continues. "I'm not interested in an apology or compensation," said Hambleton. "This isn't about money; it's about truth and accountability. The authorities are delaying and denying, and dismissing us, waiting for us all to drop dead. If they've got nothing to hide, why are they trying to block us at every turn – what are they scared of the public finding out?" **IA**



From left: John Walker, Paddy Joe Hill, Hugh Callaghan, Chris Mullin (the British journalist who helped prove the innocence of the Six) Richard McKenny, Gerry Hunter and William Power, outside the Old Bailey in London in 1991.

# "Give Me a Wee Step"



In this photograph taken in 1925, my mother Kathleen (far left), her mother and father Sam and Ellen Bell, and 10 other siblings pose as they leave their home in Crossgar, County Down. They journeyed to the United States and settled in Chicago, where, after only four years, my granddad died, leaving Grandma Bell to raise a family of 11. She was a woman of tremendous faith in spite of suffering this devastating loss. Their home was near the Chicago Stockyards on the south side of Chicago, and she took in borders, feeding them twice a day as they toiled at "the yards," saving money for their families to come over. She went to Mass every morning, leaving the older girls to fix breakfast for the borders before they went off to school. She became a friend to anyone who needed help or a warm meal and became a legend on the south side of Chicago.

Grandma Bell lived to be 94 years old and left a legacy rich in faith, love, and Irish heritage.

My mother, Kathleen Bell Downs, was the 2nd youngest of the 11 Bells who immigrated in 1925. She passed on Grandma Bell's legacy to her own family of seven children, 24 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. She and our dad John Downs were devoted to each other.

Our mother was quite a woman, she lived to be 94, and left us with a strong love of faith and family.

She loved Irish music and dance. Many of her grandchildren danced here in Chicago and were very successful. She loved to see them and would often say, "Give me a wee step."

Today, three of her great-grandchildren are dancing and carrying on the Irish heritage she loved so much.

We miss her daily, but we know she guides us from above. Our family has been blessed to return to her birthplace in Crossgar, Co. Down. The most recent was her son Michael and his family this year. There was a big Bell reunion!

We are planning a big celebration in the summer of 2025 to commemorate the Bell family's immigration from Crossgar, Northern Ireland, 100 years ago.

It is a huge milestone, and there are at least 100 more descendants of Sam and Ellen Flanagan Bell.

Times were not easy in 1925, but they had the things that mattered and passed on those gifts to us.

*Submitted by Maureen Foster, the eldest of Kathleen Bell Downs' seven children.*



Macaire Monahan great-granddaughter of Kathleen Bell Downs, with her teacher Ann Lavin Cassidy and proud grandmother Maureen Foster, looking on as she just recently came in 3rd in the Midwest.

Please send photographs and story to [submit@irishamerica.com](mailto:submit@irishamerica.com)

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