



WORKING TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH AN IRISH CULTURAL CENTER IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Irish Center of Southern California Inc., is a 501 c (3) Not for Profit Corporation Tax ID No. is 95-4442397

We are a fundraising group with no "paid" staff. Our primary aim is to acquire a multi- purpose facility including a theater, library, social hall, meeting rooms, etc. Please send news re graduations, births, weddings, deaths, relocating, etc., to eirebt@yahoo.com **Our new mailing address is Post Office Box 901, La Canada, CA 91011.**

You will find the newsletter and updated information on our website at www.irishcenter.org It is not always possible to distribute information regarding death notices and events timely. However, if you have access to a computer chances are you can find the website. Check it a few times a week for updates and for the newsletter.

If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter and who does not have a computer we will send a copy by U.S. mail. Let us know. This distribution is over 2800 e-mail addresses. We would like to thank those people who donated to the Irish Center to help us with expenses (including ink and postage for this newsletter)

MONTHLY EVENTS

IRISH CENTER OF SO. CALIFORNIA "get-together" (first Sunday of the month) at 1 p.m. lunch at Hill Street Café, 3301 N. Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank. Easy to find, between Hollywood Way and Buena

Vista on Glenoaks (right next to St. Leon's Cathedral). Hill Street Café telephone number is 818-845-0046.

Order what you want – a cup of coffee to full breakfast or lunch – and pay separately. **SEPTEMBER MEETING CANCELED**

FRIENDS OF IRELAND Breakfast meeting (1st Tuesday of the month) Tuesday, at 9:00 a.m. at Katella Restaurant, 4470 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, CA 90720. RSVP (Pete Walsh, 714-200-7365) pbeireanua@att.net CA. **SEPTEMBER MEETING CANCELED**

ST. CORNELIUS CHURCH HALL, IRISH SOCIAL, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 5500 E. Wardlow, Long Beach, CA 90808. Good food, good music, good conversation, singing and dancing. Music by Dennis Murray. Thanks to the organizer, Sister Alicia from Castleblaney, who says "Please come and bring a friend and a dish." **CHECK W/ SR ALICIA**

DRAWING FOR TRIP TO IRELAND FOR TWO OR \$2,000

The Drawing for the Trip to Ireland for two, or \$2,000, will be held at a public event later in the year. An announcement will be distributed regarding the event.

CAREGIVER NEEDED: I am looking for a weekend caregiver for my mother. She lives in Encino. She requires assistance with preparing meals and light conversation. Please contact me if interested and have experience. Stacey Nicklas (310) 271-8787-----8 hours a day/\$18 hour



BINGO every
Tuesday at 6.30
p.m. in St. Robert
Bellarmine Church,

143 N. 5th Street, Burbank. CA 91501.

Info: 818 846 3443. [Check the schedule.](#)

CELTIC ARTS CENTER, see Notice re
meeting in this newsletter.

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FACEBOOK CONCERTS BY YOUR FAVORITE IRISH ARTISTS

On their facebook page

Andy Cooney Live Concert Monday night
from 7-8PM New York time! It will happen on
Andy Cooney and his Band FB page.:

<http://Facebook.com/Andy.cooney.band/>

Patrick D'Arcy

John Whelan, Irish Button Accordion
(facebook Mondays)

Ken O'Malley, facebook Sundays at 2 p.m. .

<http://kenomalley.com>

John McKenna, Accordion
Terry Casey (The Fenians)
Dennis McNeil, facebook
and others

You can support your favorite musicians/artists'
online facebook concerts. Remember that they
lost their March through July income due to the
Coronavirus.

KEN O'MALLEY



calendar:<https://kenomalley.com/shows>

WEBSITE:

The home page <http://kenomalley.com> shows all
performances in a convenient monthly calendar
format. information. For last minute schedule
updates, "Like" Ken O'Malley's Artist Page
<https://www.facebook.com/kenomalleyirishmusic>

Contact John McNally at
mcnally.realtor@gmail.com(805) 804-
7558 More great online events
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LA Cougars GAA Irish Community COVID-19 Support



With a relatively young, fit and healthy community, the Cougars are in a privileged position of being at low risk to COVID-19. In line with the GAA's and our own club's culture, we are committed to being a force for good during this extraordinary (and stressful) time!

If you are a vulnerable member of the Irish in LA community, Cougars GAA is here for you! With members spread out all over Los Angeles, we will work to match anyone who needs help with one of our volunteer members who can support you.

We can:

- Do grocery runs for you helping you stay safely isolated at home
- Pick up any prescriptions and run other essential errands
- Make a socially distant visit to your home just to give you some company
- Help you connect with family back in Ireland via video technology
- Connect you with other Irish community members for more social support

And we'll consider helping in other ways just let us know!

How to Contact Us:

(Make sure to tell us your name, contact info, what you need and whereabouts in LA you're located!)

 : Call or Text Eoghan on +14243547967  : Call or Text Eoghan on +1424354  :

hello@cougars.la  :

www.facebook.com/CougarsGFC7967

To: tomirishhour@msn.com

Mailing address is Post Office Box 901, La Canada, CA 91012 --Vol.122, SEPTEMBER 2020



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Subject: Hitching for Hope: A Journey into the Heart and Soul of Ireland

Hi Tom,

[*Hitching for Hope*](#) is an *Irish Times* #1 bestseller written by County Clare’s popular social campaigner and podcaster Ruairí McKiernan. His book aims to engage, uplift, and inspire people, when it comes to the power of individuals and communities to create positive change. It also celebrates and showcases Ireland’s culture, heritage, and beauty to an international audience. Written as a reflection of a hitchhiking listening tour McKiernan undertook around Ireland—while also reflecting on his 20 years’ work in the community sector, which includes 7 years as a Presidential appointee to the Council of State—McKiernan taps into a truly Irish sense of liberation, possibility, and hope for the future at this moment, a major crossroads for people and planet.

[**Ruairí McKiernan**](#) is the host of the popular *Love and Courage* podcast, founder of the pioneering SpunOut.ie national youth charity, and a founding member of the Uplift organization. In 2017, the global social entrepreneur foundation Ashoka, named McKiernan one of the top ten people leading social change in Ireland.

Please let us know if you are interested in bringing *Hitching for Hope* to the attention of your members, and if you’d like to discuss scheduling a virtual event with him for your organization; Ruairí is an experienced public speaker and has recently done virtual events for Amnesty Ireland, Creative Mornings Dublin, and Culture Ireland.

“*Hitching for Hope* demonstrates that, despite a diversity of backgrounds, we all want the same things: to find peace, to flourish and to help our families and communities thrive.”

—Lynn Ruane, Independent Senator; activist; author of *People Like Me*

“Ruairí McKiernan takes time to look behind the stone walls of Ireland. Travelling from pillar to post, he takes note of what many of us sometimes fail to see. Always revealing, always caring and compassionate.”—Christy Moore, legendary folk singer

Thank you,
Hannah Aronowitz -

Hannah Aronowitz
Marketing Assistant

Chelsea Green Publishing
(802) 295-6300 ext.123

Mailing address is Post Office Box 901, La Canada, CA 91012 --Vol.122, SEPTEMBER 2020

From: [Brenda Welsh](#)
To: [Undisclosed recipients:](#)
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 6:04 PM
Subject: ART EXHIBIT

Dear Friends,

I am pleased that one of my India ink paintings was selected to be included in the most recent the Los Angeles Art Association's **Gallery 825** online exhibit called **EXALTED ONE**. It is an all-media exploration of contemporary portraiture as viewed by various Los Angeles artists. My painting, shown below, is entitled **Ethiopian Priest** and references previously published National Geographic historic articles and photography on Ethiopia. The medium is India ink on canvas with water based washes to achieve a variety in tone and value. The exhibit is available for viewing online from **August 12 -28, 2020** and can be accessed by going to the website www.laaa.org and clicking on "featured programming" and selecting **EXALTED ONE**. The exhibit includes an eclectic selection of portraiture that hopefully you will enjoy viewing.

I hope you are doing well during these challenging times.

Take care,

Brenda



REST IN PEACE

John Hume, Nobel Laureate for Work in Northern Ireland, Dies at 83

The politician's campaign for peace was seen as a driving force behind an end to 25 years of sectarian conflict in the territory.



John Hume, second from right, and the Northern Irish Protestant leader David Trimble, second from left, in Oslo in 1998. Credit...John Eeg/Associated Press

By Alan Cowell
Aug. 3, 2020 (New York Times)

John Hume, a moderate Roman Catholic politician who was [awarded the Nobel Peace Prize](#) for his dogged and ultimately successful campaign to end decades of bloodshed in his native Northern Ireland, died on Monday in the northern city of Derry. He was 83.

His death, at a nursing home, was announced by his family in a statement, which did not give the cause, though his wife, Pat Hume, had earlier acknowledged that he was struggling with dementia. "It seems particularly apt for these strange and fearful days to remember the phrase that gave hope to John and so many of us through dark times: We shall overcome," his family said.

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Mr. Hume, a former French teacher who was known for a sharp wit but rarely for rhetorical flourishes, rose from hardscrabble beginnings to become the longtime leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party and a towering figure in the grinding and oft-thwarted drive to end [25 years of “The Troubles,”](#) as Northern Ireland’s strife was known.

In his campaign for peace, inspired by the example of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he employed a winning combination of public exhortation against the violence of the Irish Republican Army and secret diplomacy with its political leadership, sitting down for talks in his modest rowhouse over coffee. Deftly and persistently he enlisted the White House to help him reach his goal.

His efforts were recognized when he shared the Nobel with the Protestant leader David Trimble in 1998, the year of the [Good Friday peace agreement](#), which crowned his commitment to ending the unrest that had claimed more than 3,000 lives.

A television poll in the Irish Republic in 2010 proclaimed Mr. Hume “Ireland’s Greatest,” ahead of prominent contenders like the rock star Bono. In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI awarded him a papal knighthood.

Paradoxically, in bringing more radical Roman Catholic figures to the negotiating table — notably Gerry Adams, the head of the I.R.A.’s political wing — Mr. Hume undermined his own party’s appeal to voters. Battling poor health, he resigned in 2001 as leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, which he had led since 1979, without enjoying the high office that might normally reward an architect of historic change.



Mr. Hume, right, receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo in 1998 from Francis Sejersted, chairman of the peace prize committee. Credit...Pool photo by Bjoern Sigurdsoen

In 2004, he said he would no longer seek election to the European and British Parliaments, which he joined in 1979 and 1983, respectively. In late 2015, his wife, who was also his political manager, told the BBC that he was experiencing “severe difficulties” with dementia.

Throughout a career in Northern Ireland politics, in which finger-pointing and recrimination amplified a drumbeat of bombings and killings, Mr. Hume stood as a voice of reason, counseling against the cycles of bloodshed between the Protestant majority and the Roman Catholic minority.

“An eye for an eye leaves everyone blind,” he said, attributing the comment to Dr. King.

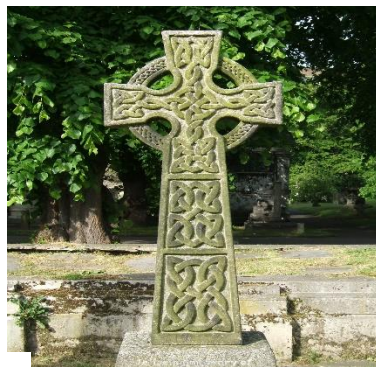
He argued instead for dialogue and reconciliation to still the furious conflict that pitted the I.R.A. against Protestant paramilitary groups and thousands of British Army soldiers. “We have to start spilling our sweat, not our blood,” he declared.

In the parlance of Northern Ireland, Mr. Hume was a “nationalist” whose dream of a reunited Ireland had no place for the violence embraced by “republicans” like the I.R.A., with its armed fighters and networks of financiers, bomb-makers and sympathizers in the region and in the United States. Rather, he foresaw a time when Northern Ireland’s divide would give way to peace and economic self-interest.

Mr. Hume was so concerned about multimillion-dollar funding for the I.R.A. by Irish Americans that he traveled frequently to Washington to convince American leaders, from President Jimmy Carter onward, that a majority of Northern Irish people rejected the I.R.A.’s violent methods. It was a message that culminated in a more active role in Northern Ireland adopted by President Bill Clinton.

In one of three of visits to the Clinton White House by Mr. Hume, Mr. Clinton lauded him as “Ireland’s most tireless champion for civil rights and its most eloquent spokesman for peace.” Back home, Mr. Hume had a parallel reputation as a man who did not suffer fools gladly.

“Question: What is the difference between John Hume and God?” one joke asked. “Answer: God doesn’t think he is John Hume.”



Pete Hamill passes at 85: the heart and conscience of Irish New York
Irish American journalist Pete Hamill is remembered fondly by his friend Dermot McEvoy.

Dermot McEvoy

@IrishCentral

Aug 05, 2020

GETTY IMAGES



Journalist Pete Hamill, the son of Belfast immigrants, passed away in New York City this morning, August 5, 2020. He was 85.

*A note from Dermot McEvoy: I've interviewed Pete many times over the years and although Pete had been in failing health for years, the news still hit me hard. If it wasn't for Pete I would have never had a book published. But because of his generosity and a helpful blurb I was able to get my fantasy novel about Michael Collins, *Terrible Angel*, published. One of my proudest moments was when I spied a copy of the book on his bookshelves in his apartment on Walker Street. God speed, Pete, you will be missed.*

The following is an excerpt from Dermot McEvoy's new book, "Real Irish New York," published by Skyhorse:

The one thing that strikes you about Pete Hamill when you read his writings or get to know him personally, is his profound sense of decency. It had to come from his parents, Billy Hamill and Anne Devlin. Anne was born in New York but returned to Belfast as a child. "Once [my grandfather] had his second child," Hamill told me, "my mother and her brother, he decided he couldn't live in Belfast as a Catholic. He had seen the world and he wanted to live—where else would you live?—in New York where nobody is going to say, 'what are you?'; 'what church do you go to?' So he came to New York when my mother was a little girl. She was five when he got killed in an accident falling off a ship in Brooklyn." Young Anne returned to Belfast to be brought up by relatives. She would return to New York in 1929 with an omen ringing in her ears—it was the day the stock market crashed.

Billy père was born in Belfast, and was a member of Sinn Féin. After a British soldier was blown up, according to Pete, "he went on the lam to Liverpool, and from Liverpool he came here." Soon after arriving in America, Billy lost a leg in a football accident. Despite his handicap, he worked hard to support his wife and seven children. In 1933 Anne and Billy would meet and marry the next year. Pete was born in 1935.

Mother Anne had a great influence on the way the young Hamill learned to think. "I remember once we went to Times Square from Brooklyn," Hamill told me, "because my brother Tom and I loved going to visit the Normandie [sunk in the north river by fire in 1942], which was on its side. Each time we got there, there was less of it because they were dismantling it. We were on our way there from Times Square and we passed what we called in those days a 'bum'—he would now be called homeless—and he had a cup and he was begging, and my brother Tommy and I made some remarks about a 'bum.' And I must have been nine and Tommy was 7 and she got furious and said, 'don't you ever look down on anybody unless you're giving

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them a hand to get up.’ I don’t think she was a saint. I think it was that whole generation of Irishmen and Jews and Italians and everybody in this town who felt you don’t look down on people. Help them because if you don’t help them who the fuck is going to help them? And it stayed with me all my life.”

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The Writer as Mensch

In contrast to Breslin, you have Hamill, a mensch of a man, as they say at the corner saloon. Like many of the people they wrote about, both Breslin and Hamill came out of poverty, but Hamill was not tainted by it. His brother Denis, also a writer, perhaps put it best, “Poverty was not a sin.” Pete is honest in his progress as a man. His relationship with Robert Kennedy was remarkable and, in a way, tragic because he sent him a letter that convinced Kennedy to run for President. He was there when RFK was murdered and said he made a “terrible mistake as a journalist.”

“Pete’s a complicated man as well,” said Steve McCarthy, one of the director/producers of the HBO documentary “Breslin and Hamill: Deadline Artists.” “His stories about stickball and bars in Park Slope reminded me of my own childhood in Bay Ridge,” McCarthy told me when the documentary premiered. “We weren’t wealthy but had food to eat and clean clothes. And, our parents valued education. Pete’s relationship with RFK had a major conflict in it. He, like many progressive Irish-Americans, fell in love with the Kennedys. They saw that this dynasty proved the Irish made it in America. They also saw how they didn’t forget where they came from. Instead of kicking the next guy coming up the ladder they extended a hand to help bring them up. The fact that both Pete and Jimmy were right there when RFK was shot is amazing. It makes for one of the most interesting parts of the film.”

Jimmy Wechsler Gives Hamill a Break

Until he was 25 Hamill made his living as a graphic artist. He wrote a letter to James Wechsler, editor of the New York Post, lamenting the lack of “working class” journalists at the paper. Wechsler invited Hamill to come in for a tryout—and the rest is history.

Hamill knows that in today’s world he couldn’t get inside the front door without the sheepskin. “I think that goes back to this immigrant mentality,” he told me, “that this is America and you can do anything. And I believed it! Today, in my case, with two years of high school, it’s not that you’d wouldn’t get to the editor, you’d never get past the personnel directors, who are making decisions based on resumes, which is insane. Jimmy Wechsler was a great man. He made my life possible.”

By the mid-’60s he was a columnist and that led to him writing books. His first novel was *A Killing for Christ* about an assassination plot on the Pope. He soon had a book of his collected columns called *Irrational Ravings*. Ironically, the title was suggested by then-Vice President and media basher and Nixon hatchet man Spiro T. (Nolo Contendere) Agnew, who had held up a Hamill column and exclaimed, “Listen to these irrational ravings!” Thanks, Spiro.

New York Is the Star of Hamill’s Books

Many of Hamill’s novels have New York at the center of the plot. *Forever*, *Snow in August*, *North River*, and *Tabloid City* are all located in New York. Once again, Anne Devlin was the great influence. “I think it goes back to the way I grew up,” said Hamill. “My father couldn’t move around New York because he only had one leg. So we knew New York—when I say New York I mean Manhattan because we were living in Brooklyn—we knew because our mother took us by the hand. When I say ‘we’ I mean me and my brother Tommy. She would take these two kids and show them and explain what Trinity Church was and that there

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were people called ‘Protestants,’ ” said Hamill with a laugh. “She never made comments making fun of anybody like that. So she would take us around to Chinatown and the west side piers because her father had worked for the Cunard Lines.”

I asked him about his urge to write fiction. “Before me and Jimmy [Breslin] there was very little tradition of American journalists writing novels. The instinct to make fiction was always there, even after I started to have some successes at journalism.”

He also has written nonfiction books that go in different directions, *Why Sinatra Matters* about Old Blue Eyes and *A Drinking Life*, a memoir of the young Hamill and his battle with drink. *A Drinking Life* has become an inspiration to many battling alcoholism and the book tells us a lot about the young Hamill and the maturation process that went into Pete’s life.

A Drinking Life is autobiography from afar because it traces Hamill’s life only until the time of his great alcoholic quenching, stopping in 1973. “It’s the kind of book about drinking that you can give a friend with the problem,” Hamill told me when I interviewed him for *Publishers Weekly* when the book came out. “It’s not saying: ‘For Chrissakes why don’t you get with the program?’ Here’ a guy talking honestly about it, as straight as he can, about facing your life. How do you want to live? Do you want to get old, or do you want to die?”

“One of the things I didn’t want to do with the book,” Hamill continued, “was to make it into a sermon. I was saying, ‘this is how you begin to get into the culture of drinking.’ Because I think it is, in a sociological sense, a culture. What I have come to learn is that you can’t solve something like a drinking problem or a drug problem without examining the entire life.”

Hamill stopped drinking on his own. For him, there was no Betty Ford Clinic, AA meetings, or, as the Irish put it, “whiskey school.” “Somehow I knew that if I went to encounter groups, or to 12-steps, or to a shrink, or whatever, no matter what, I had to do it. It’s all up to you in the end, it’s your will that’s involved and our determination. It wasn’t a conscious thing: ‘I will not go to AA.’ I just said I’m going to stop.

“And I then began to use what I had,” he continued, “I was a writer. I began to keep a journal in which I tried to analyze the problem, which was the equivalent of standing up in front of a group. There were things I couldn’t figure out, or I thought I’d figured out, and didn’t realize until much later that I was wrong. But it ended up a benefit. I ended up kicking this thing.

“After the first year,” Hamill emphasized, “you get a point where you say, ‘Jesus Christ, I can’t even think about doing it again.’ The first year was far and away the hardest, the first six months in particular.”

Hamill, begrudgingly, even gives thanks to Lord Mountbatten—of all people—in inspiring him to stay on the wagon. “I remember a party in London where the guest of honor was Lord Mountbatten and the only other Irish person in the place was Edna O’Brien. It was one of these long, formal dinner tables with Mountbatten in the middle. And Mountbatten starts telling jokes. He’s one of the most boorish people I’ve ever met. And he starts to tell Irish jokes. And he starts to tell Irish drunk jokes. And at one point I lean back like this, and Edna leans back like this and looks at me and we laughed. He had no idea. To him, I was a Yank and Edna O’Brien was someone who lived in London. But I did have a feeling: I’ll never give these bastards the satisfaction of getting drunk in front of them.” I asked him if he sees any connection between writing and drinking. “I think newspaper writers and drunks share a similar need for the instant reward. You’re attracted to the newspaper because your story will be in the paper tomorrow. Sometimes that night. You finish, you go to the bar, the first edition comes in and there it is. You get the instant kickback. You get the same thing with drinking.”

“My feeling was that if I was going to be any kind of a writer, it was going to take me a long time. I’d probably have to wait until my 50s to write my best stuff. Maybe 60s. But I couldn’t do it unless I could

remember. Writers are rememberers or they're nothing. And that remembering means remembering the pain and the grief and lousiness along with all the joys and triumphs and everything else.'

Hamill—Irish Ladies' Man

Steve McCarthy and his partners in Breslin and Hamill: Deadline Artists dared to go where many fear to tread—Pete Hamill's famous love life. He's had dalliances with Jacqueline Onassis and Shirley MacLaine. (For the record, I once saw Pete in the Lion's Head one night with Mary Tyler Moore—not bad for a kid from Park Slope, Brooklyn!) So, how did McCarthy do it? "As talented and handsome as Pete is, he is also modest. He did not boast about the glamorous women he went out with. He actually didn't tell us much. When we asked him if he loved Jackie Onassis he replied: 'I'd really agree with Garcia Marquez who said once, that everybody's got three lives—a public life, a private life, and a secret life. Private life is by invitation only. A secret life is nobody's business.' "

One of the highlights of the film is Breslin commenting on the love life of Hamill in a column, no less. "One of the funniest parts of the film," says McCarthy, "was when Jimmy wrote a column about Pete going out with Jackie O and Shirley MacLaine at the same time. Shirley hit the roof, Jackie O laughed, and Pete was pissed off. He called Jimmy about it and Jimmy said, "I needed it" —meaning he needed something for a column that day." Another funny Breslin-Hamill encounter was when Breslin said that the Son of Sam wrote so well he thought "Hamill wrote it!"

Read more about it in "Real Irish New York," which is available in hardcover and Kindle from [Amazon](#).

IrishCentral Book Club

Looking for Irish book recommendations or to meet with others who share your love for Irish literature? Join IrishCentral's Book Club on Facebook and enjoy our book-loving community.

*

Dermot McEvoy is the author of the recently published "Real Irish New York: A Rogue's Gallery of Fenians, Tough Women, Holy Men, Blasphemers, Jesters, and a Gang of Other Colorful Characters." He is also the author of "The 13th Apostle: A Novel of Michael Collins," and the "Irish Uprising and Our Lady of Greenwich Village," both now available in paperback, Kindle, and audio from Skyhorse Publishing. He may be reached at dermotmcevoy50@gmail.com. Stay up-to-date on his [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Related: [Irish American, New York](#)

REST IN PEACE

Anne Jane Finnerty Bates

January 2, 1936 – July 26, 2020



Anne Jane Bates (née Finnerty)
Tulsk, Roscommon

Anne Jane Finnerty "Annie-Jane" was born in Tulsk, Co. Roscommon, Ireland on January 2, 1936. As a child she petitioned her mother to change her birthdate to New Year's Day, because the 2nd felt "anti-climactic". At four she taught herself to read from Caesar's Gallic Wars. Her uncles were reading it to her, and she was anxious to find out more. Three things sprang from this: a lifelong love of history, reading, and a running joke about words she mispronounced as a child, because she worked them out phonetically, and missed. Pic-tur-ess-que-ee for picturesque, etc. She was a sickly kid who swore that playing football with the boys saved her life. As a teenager she rode her bike to school in Elphin rather than be sent to the convent school

because she "...would die of loneliness." She read Shakespeare on her handlebars, claiming to know the potholes by heart. She was a character. She had a tremendous sense of humor, especially about herself. At age 21 Anne and her brother Andy started their greatest adventure and moved from their beloved Ireland to Montreal, Canada to join her sister Bridget. Breege's two young boys, Fintan and Paul never failed to delight their Auntie. I liked to tease her and say that they were her first and favorite children. "The lads." She worked at Canadair, quickly rising to chief executive secretary (she met Chuck Yeager!), and was active in the Irish community. She loved theatre, ballroom dancing, bowling, Irish football and the beauty and cuisine of Montreal. When her Mother unexpectedly passed away in 1959, she decided to stay in Canada.

In 1965 Anne married and moved to the United States. She lived in Washington, Maryland, Georgia and California. Her home for over 40 years was Long Beach. There she raised her children, Shivaun and Aileen, and was active in Church, the Irish community (sensing a theme here), school, St. Mary's Hospice Auction and was even an extra once in Long Beach Grand Opera's production of Carmen. Anne learned to drive and to swim in her late forties. (I think Mom would like me to clarify that those events were unrelated.) She devoted herself tirelessly to advancing the health and success of her children. A great joy in her life was that her brother Andy, his wife Ann and their children Kevin and Sinead lived nearby. She always loved visiting with them and especially loved celebrating the holidays together. In 2005 her daughter Aileen married, and Anne became mother-in-law to Steve. In 2008 Aileen and Steve provided her with a granddaughter and her favorite co-conspirator, Charlotte. Oh, what a pair. Anne was an indulgent and doting Grandma. Charlotte adored her and always will. They spent many hours together at Disneyland. Charlotte would like you to know that whenever we left Grandma on a bench, (while we waited in line) we would always come back to find her with a group of new friends she had adopted. "Oh Anne, I will go back to school!" "Anne, I think God told me to sit next to you today." She never met a stranger. She loved everyone and they reciprocated.

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In 2010 Anne had several hospitalizations, nursing home stays and met an adoring throng of doctors and nurses who eventually successfully diagnosed her Parkinson's disease. They estimated that she had been suffering with it at least seven years already. This is a testament to her plucky, just power through it, approach to life. Parkinson's is a big umbrella disease, and Anne got an oversized dose. Quickly she lost her ability to use her legs, developed severe speech problems and yet never lost her intellect or sense of humor. It is important to note that no matter how much her speech became impaired, Charlotte could always understand her. Anne lived for years in a home for the chronically ill. The staff there treated her like family, and she loved them all very much. Till the end she loved going out. If OCTA paratransit went there, Mom was game to go. Off to mass every Sunday at St. Irenaeus until the shutdown began. She was mad for Italian, Chinese and Mexican cuisine. Nothing stopped her from going out. It was pouring rain on our last outing before the Covid-19 shutdown, but Mom declared it "Just a soft day." She liked to dye her still very thick hair black and was never seen without a bit of lipstick and her nails painted. She spent 63 years away from Ireland but never forgot her country, family and friends she loved so much. Thankfully they never forgot her either. A card or letter was cause for celebration. If you visited Mom over the years, you know what joy you brought her. You could rely on hearing a story about or news from home every day.

She survived so many things and with great courage and love. On July 22 she showed symptoms of and tested positive for Covid-19. On July 26, 2020 she passed away In a nursing home in Upland, CA. She had contracted the virus from an asymptomatic caregiver. Mom would like you to all wear masks and think of others. Stay home if you can. Aileen, Steve and Charlotte would like to extend their love and thanks to her caregivers, the staff at the nursing home and the hospice team that were at her side till the very end.

Anne leaves behind more friends and family than we can name here, but we will try. If I miss you in this list, I apologize. We are a huge family.

Anne is proceeded in death by: Her parents: John Thomas and Anne (Flynn) Finnerty, her brothers and sisters and their spouses: Michael and Phyllis Finnerty, Peter and Josephine Finnerty, Mary and Lou Ruocco, Bridget and Brendan McCabe, John Finnerty, James Finnerty, Patrick Finnerty, Andrew Finnerty, brother-in-law Augustine Fagan and her niece and nephews: Anne, Gerard and Michéal Finnerty.

Anne is survived by: Her husband Philip and daughter Shivaun Bates. Her daughter Aileen, son-in-law Stephen and Granddaughter Charlotte Joines. Her sister Carmel Finnerty Fagan and sisters-in-law Ann McPaul Finnerty and Ann (Babs) Flanagan Finnerty. Her nieces and nephews:

Paul (her Godchild) and Fintan McCabe, Sinead (her Godchild) and Jason Pyne, Kevin and Katy Finnerty, Andrew and Adrienne Finnerty, Mary and Patrick Carton, Martina and Tom Keating, Maureen and Dan Frink, Vincent and Claire Finnerty, Kevin and Teresa Finnerty, Mary and Sean Tuohy, Oliver and Barbara Finnerty, Carmel Finnerty, Noel and Margaret Finnerty, Pascal Finnerty, Therese Campbell, Kieran Finnerty, Peter Finnerty, Jarlath Finnerty, Colm and Bernadette Finnerty, Imelda and Thomas Larkin, Finbarr and Natalia Finnerty, Dermott and Eithne Finnerty, Kieran Finnerty, Margaret Pauline Finnerty and Rüdiger Lenort, and Barbara and Kenneth McAuley...and all their wonderful children! Countless friends, especially the Lane, Dufficy, Noone, Harris, Devine, D'Arcy, Joines, Beirne, McGlynn, Higginbotham and Gingras families.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

Famous famine letter once owned by Rita Hayworth's family returns to Skibbereen

The letter described the grim situation in Skibbereen and inspired countless famine fundraising appeals and was once owned by Rita Hayworth's family.

Irish Central

Shane O'Brien

[@shamob96](#)

Aug 18, 2020

GETTY



A famous Irish Famine letter that had a huge impact on the Great Hunger has returned to Skibbereen, one of the worst-hit areas in Ireland during the crisis.

The letter was once owned by the family of Hollywood actress Rita Hayworth and was written in December 1846 by Cork magistrate Nicholas Cummings, who described the horrors in Skibbereen, which had emerged as the epicenter of the crisis.

Cummings addressed the letter to the Duke of Wellington and additionally sent a copy to the Times of London who published it on Dec. 24, 1846.

The vivid descriptions of the horrors of the Great Hunger inspired countless famine fundraising appeals and the letter undeniably helped to raise vast sums of money for victims of the famine, arguably saving thousands of lives.

As many as 10,000 people died in Skibbereen during the Great Hunger, and Cummings' letter described the utterly bleak situation in the town.

"At Skibbereen, the Dispensary Doctor found seven wretches lying unable to move under the same cloak. One had been dead many hours, but the others were unable to move either themselves or the corpse," Cummings wrote in the famous letter.

A handwritten copy of the letter made its way to America with Patrick Aloysius O'Hare, a distant ancestor of Rita Hayworth, who emigrated to America with his mother shortly after the Great Hunger.

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The letter eventually fell into the possession of Vinton Hayworth, Patrick O'Hare's grandson and Rita Hayworth's uncle, who sent the letter back to Cork in 1963.

An established actor in his own right, Vinton Hayworth sent the letter to the Lord Mayor of Cork because "it would please grandpa" to see it returned to Ireland.

The letter has been held by the Cork Public Museum but was loaned to the Skibbereen Heritage Centre this year to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the centre.

Staff at the Skibbereen Heritage Centre have verified that the letter is an original copy of the famous letter, most likely written by Cummings or his clerk.

[West Cork People](#) report that the Skibbereen Heritage Centre has reached out to Princess Yasmin Aga Khan, Rita Hayworth's daughter, to tell her about her ancestor's role in preserving the famous letter.

Aga Khan said she was fascinated by the letter and extremely proud of her family's role in saving it. She also said she plans to travel to Ireland to see the letter in-person and learn more about the Great Hunger that forced her ancestors to move to America.

Related: [Great Hunger](#), [Inspiring](#), [Movies](#) (

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Financial Moves for Widows and Widowers

Article 13 – Sept. 21, 2020

If you've recently become a widow or widower, you're obviously dealing with an enormous emotional burden, and coping with your grief can seem like a full-time struggle. Unfortunately, the business of life must go on – and the financial moves you make at this time can have a big impact on your life.

So, as you attend to your affairs, consider the following suggestions:

- **Don't make hasty decisions.** Even though you will need to make some moves in the near future, don't feel rushed into decisions that may prove to be ill-advised. For example, don't immediately sell your home or liquidate all your stocks.

- **Consult with your estate planning professional.** If you and your spouse created an estate plan involving a will, living trust or other documents, you'll want to consult with your estate planning professional to determine what steps should be taken to implement these arrangements.

- **Address life insurance issues.** If your spouse had a life insurance policy, you'll want to contact your insurance agent for help in navigating the paperwork necessary to receive the death benefit. Of course, some financial advisors also sell life insurance within the context of your overall financial strategy, so, if this is your situation, you'll want to speak with your advisor about how to handle the insurance proceeds.

- **Apply for Social Security benefits.** If you are 60 or older, you may be entitled to Social Security survivor benefits, along with a one-time death benefit. Contact your local Social Security office to stop the benefits your spouse received and apply for the new ones for yourself.

- **Change the name on financial accounts.** If you and your spouse had jointly held accounts with "right of survivorship," the assets will typically pass automatically to you, the surviving spouse. However, for legal purposes, it's still a good idea to retitle these assets in your name. This usually only requires filling out some simple documents, which are available from your financial institutions – bank, credit union, investment firm, etc. But you also may need to change the beneficiary designations on accounts held only in your name, such as your 401(k). These designations are powerful and can even supersede instructions in your will or living trust.

- **Go over bills and debts.** Review all your bills, automatic payments and outstanding loans. If they are in your spouse's name, or in both your names, contact the merchant or financial services provider to change all correspondence and account information to your name only. For any outstanding accounts in your spouse's name, you may need to notify the business that all payments will be handled by your spouse's estate, if you choose to go that route. You may need to provide these businesses with the contact information of your estate planning professional.

- **Plan for your future.** Once you've handled the immediate financial needs described above, you'll want to think about your own future. This means you may have to update your estate plans and insurance policies. You'll also want to consult with your financial advisor to see what changes, if any, you might need to make to your investment portfolio.

Only time can ease the pain of losing a spouse. But by taking care of the mundane matters of daily living, you can at least alleviate the feelings of being overwhelmed – and that, in itself, has value.

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The Celtic Arts Center needs your energy, enthusiasm, and especially your can-do attitude, to shape and direct the future. There is much work to be done and the Center needs strong leadership now.

We Want You!

We are now accepting candidate nominations for the Board of Directors.

The Center needs your experience and skills in planning and implementing its future. Please consider being a part of our team.

Dear Celtic Arts Center Members:

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the future of An Claidheamh Soluis/The Celtic Arts Center.

The Center needs your experience and skills in planning and implementing its future. It's time for you, the members, to decide from within your ranks the leaders who will guide the Center into its exciting future. You can do that by joining its Board of Directors. The Board member job description is included below to give you a better understanding of the expectations and the responsibilities such a position holds in this non-profit, member supported and managed cultural arts organization.

According to our by-laws, 3–12 Board members will serve a term of two consecutive years. When that term is up, the Board member must either seek re-election or let their term expire so that they can be replaced by a new candidate. We currently have up to 9 positions available on the Board in the upcoming election.

The following Board members are in ‘mid-term’ and remain on the Board until the fall of 2021: Larry Brown, Douglas R. Dean, and Tom Louie.

The following Board members have reached the end of their terms and have the option to either seek re-election or retire from their seats: Denise Ovaldson-Louie, Larry Malley, and Karl Klein. (There are currently six vacant seats too.) The maximum number of open positions on the Board available in this election is 9 positions.

Only current ACS/CAC members may serve on the Board of Directors, nominate members, or vote in the election. If you are interested in running for the Board or voting in the election, now would be a great time to become a member or renew your membership, if applicable. Please check your membership expiration date which is displayed next to your name in the header at the top of this email.

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If you are interested in running, please submit in writing your name, a brief biography, and vision statement (300 words max) to this year's election committee.

We request that submissions be received via an email message to elections@celticartscenter.com by **midnight, August 31, 2020**. The election committee will then compile the list of candidates for the forthcoming election ballots which will be made available to current members on September 17th, 2020. There will be opportunities for anonymous online voting and for in-person voting.

Nomination Submission due by: 08/31/2020 Midnight
 Voting Ballot Submission due by: 09/17/2020 Midnight
 Election Results announced our Online Membership Meeting:
 Tentatively set for Monday evening, 09/28/2020

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Also, our organization's by-laws are available for review on our website, www.celticartscenter.com.

*Thank you for your consideration,
 The 2020 Elections Committee for the ACS/CAC Board of Directors*
 — Douglas R. Dean
 — Tom Louie

== ACS/CAC Board Member Job Description ==

Board member responsibilities include: attendance and participation at board meetings; voting on Board actions, contributing to discussions, and serving on at least one committee and/or assisting in Center projects and events. Member ad-hoc responsibilities, when appropriate, include representing the organization to the membership and the community at large at functions and events; helping when and wherever possible. Skills required: Commitment and adherence to the organization's mission statement and our [Code of Ethics & Conduct](#); written and oral communication skills, and strong and effective organizational skills. Leadership experience in non-profit organizations is beneficial though not required.

The standard of behavior at An Claidheamh Soluis / The Celtic Arts Center is that all staff, volunteers, and board members scrupulously avoid any conflict of interest between the interests of the organization on one hand, and personal, professional, and business interests on the other. This includes avoiding actual conflicts of interest as well as perceptions of conflicts of interest.

Currently ACS/CAC Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month and are open to the members. Attendance is required of all sitting Board members. Discussions generally include fiscal management; facilities management; organizing and planning of classes and events; grant writing and fundraising; coordinating of volunteers; and exploring new programming and new directions within the scope of our mission.

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Sleeping Giant

Wake up sleeping giant
There's trouble in the air
For someone's gotten in your fields
Who has no business there.

Grab your axe and lock your doors
There's someone on the loose
Hear him searching through your barn
Was that the Golden Goose?

Quickly now he's reached your home
Your harp's been strummed upon
He's taking all your treasures there
But search no more – he's gone.

Down the stock the thief did climb
With golden goose in hand
But don't follow or he'll chop the stock
And who knows where you'll land.

Now wake up foolish peasant boy
There's lots of work to do
And drop those silly magic beans
Or I'll take a strap to you.

Ron Wetmur --(2020)

For updated news from Ireland
via e-mail:

IrishCentral
newsletter@enl.irishcentral.com

REMINDER

If you have an article of interest, a story, a poem, an event of interest to the Irish community please forward it to me for inclusion in the newsletter.
(eirebt@yahoo.com)

If you need to contact the Irish
Consulate in Los Angeles
please:

Phone: 310-424-5538 or e-mail
losangelescg@dfa.ie (preferred)

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NEXT GET-TOGETHER**

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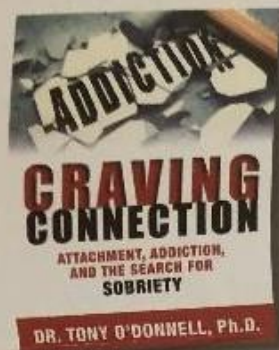


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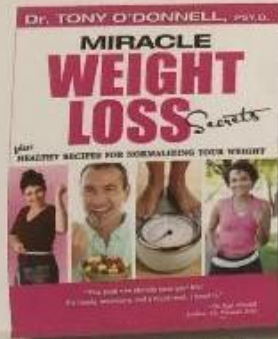
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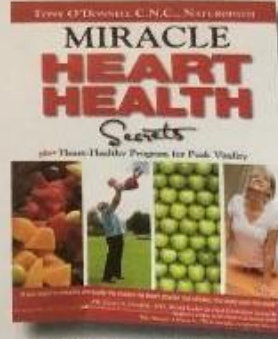
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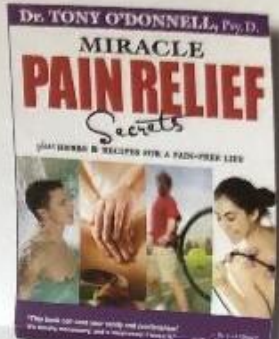
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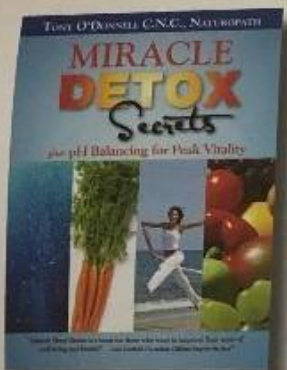
"35 pounds came off fast using Miracle Weight Loss Secrets."
- F. Crowder, Esmeralda to Hollywood Star



"Virtually eliminate the chance for heart attacks - read this book!"
- Gary F. Gordon, M.D., World leader in Oral Cheekion Research



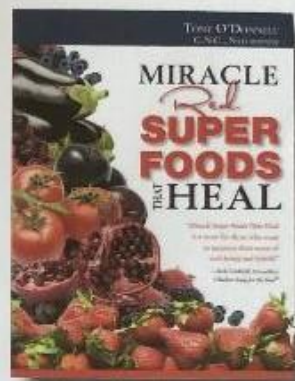
"This book truly takes healing to a new, healthy & safe level with its many modalities and holistic solutions."
- Cate J. Noss, Chiropractor, Author, Magnetic Miracles



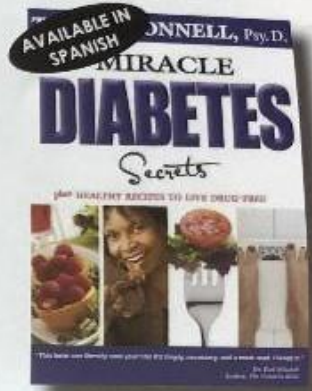
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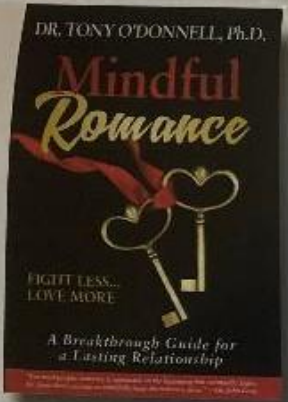
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- Jack Cornfeld, Co-author, Chicken Soup for the Soul



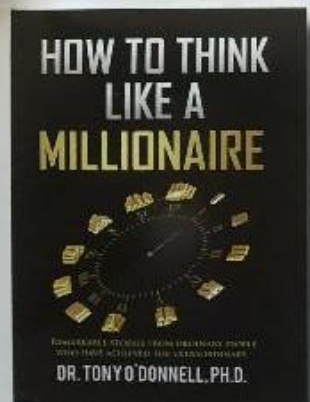
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"For most people romance is automatic in the beginning but eventually fades. Dr. Tony shows us how to mindfully keep the romance alive."
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Dr. Tony's Compilation Book
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DECEMBER 2015

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