



THE IRELAND NETWORK

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# *15th Annual Ball*

FEBRUARY 17, 2018



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## WELCOME TO IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO'S 2018 ANNUAL BALL

Welcome to the Ireland Network Chicago Annual Ball 2018.

According to a recent Clinton Institute study, Irish America is at a stage of "late generational ethnicity" - an ethnic community in the US that has existed for generations but is no longer replenished by new immigrants.

It is important now more than ever for associations like ours to be able to thrive, continue to move forward and not merely exist. We are a link to the New Irish traveling to these shores, it is up to us to make sure this generation is helped to establish a foothold in Chicago, because without them all this falls away.

Since our 14th Annual Ball we have hosted many great events. From our new summer cruise fixture to our booming IN Socials that have seen attendance increase by 250%. Please show up to the next one, it is included in your membership after all.

Continuing to collaborate as an association, we have events lined up with the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland Funds, Chicago Council of Global Affairs, Concern, Chicago Irish Film Festival, National University Ireland Galway, Irish Fellowship Club and Rose of Tralee, to name a few.

In 2018, we wish to continue raising funds for our charities of choice. Both Concern and Chicago Irish Immigrant Support continue to do stellar work and need all of our generosity to keep doing what they do best.

I would like to welcome our Consul General of Ireland, Brian O' Brien, and the Vice Consul General, Justin Dolan, to tonight's dinner. Both have been tremendous friends to the IN and we look forward to their continued support.

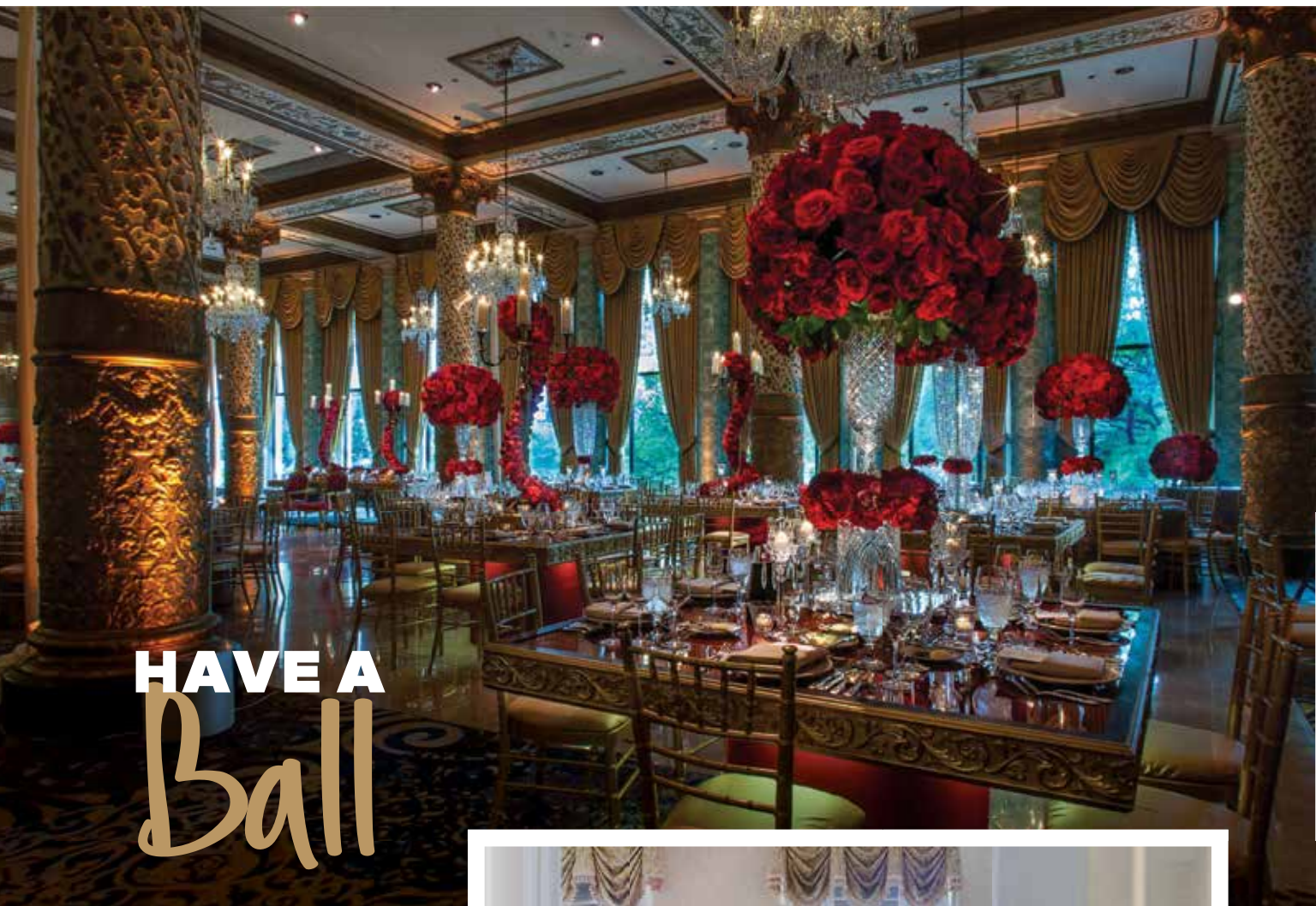


A massive thanks to my colleagues on the IN committee. They work tirelessly to bring you great events and without them none of this would be possible. Please take an interest in their bios and thank them individually for their commitment.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors for digging deep and supporting. The sponsorship raised tonight goes a long way in subsidizing our great events, please don't forget to support their businesses whenever the opportunity arises.

Last but by no means least, I would like to thank you, our members and guests alike for joining us in what will be a night to remember. Have a great evening!

Sincerely,  
James Sheehan  
President, Ireland Network Chicago



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## ORDER OF THE EVENING

- 6:30 P.M. CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION – PALM COURT
- 7:45 P.M. WELCOME – MASTER OF CEREMONIES: ADAM BURKE
- 7:45 P.M. IRISH AND AMERICAN NATIONAL ANTHEMS – PADDY HOMAN
- 7:50 P.M. WELCOME ADDRESS  
IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO, PRESIDENT, JAMES SHEEHAN  
CONSUL GENERAL OF IRELAND, BRIAN O'BRIEN
- 8:00 P.M. DINNER SERVED
- 9:15 P.M. COMEDIAN ADAM BURKE
- 9:30 P.M. BAND AND DANCING: "THE PARTY FAITHFUL"
- 12:30 A.M. AFTER PARTY: FARMHOUSE CHICAGO  
228 West Chicago Avenue

## MENU OF THE EVENING

- SOUP Butternut Squash Bisque, Curried Apple Chutney
- SALAD Spinach and Roasted Apple with a Smoked Walnut Cider Vinaigrette
- ENTRÉE 72-Hour Red Wine Braised Short Ribs, Served with Savoyard Potatoes and Asparagus  
Vegetable Wellington over a bed of Cous Cous with Asparagus and Heirloom Carrots
- DESSERT Bailey's Irish Cream Cheesecake and Vanilla Ice Cream



**THANKS TO ALL OF OUR FOOD AND DRINK DONORS. WE COULD NOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!**



# The evening would not be complete without a varying amount of entertainment!



## LISA MARIE KAHN

Chicago Harpist ([www.chitownharp.com](http://www.chitownharp.com))



## PATRICIA TREACY

Ireland's Premier Violinist ([patriciatreacy.ie](http://patriciatreacy.ie))



## TONIGHT'S EMCEE - ADAM BURKE

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

Thank you to **PADDY HOMAN** for leading us in the American and Irish National Anthems! ([paddyhoman.com](http://paddyhoman.com))

And, dance the night away with our band

## THE PARTY FAITHFUL!

([beatmixmusic.com/our-music/bands/the-party-faithful](http://beatmixmusic.com/our-music/bands/the-party-faithful))



AND THROUGHOUT THE EVENING, BE SURE TO STOP BY THE FRENCH ROOM (connected to the Ballroom) for more fun activities and a perfect glass of **IRISH COFFEE!!**

## PHOTO BOOTH FLIPBOOKS

Don't miss this fun and memorable takeaway! The Photo Booth is located in the French Room. ([www.bespokeflipbooks.com](http://www.bespokeflipbooks.com))

Be sure to stop by the **GUINNESS ETCHING STATION** and pick-up your personalized Guinness Glass! A takeaway to be used forever!

And, don't forget to visit [www.theirelandnetwork.com](http://www.theirelandnetwork.com) soon for all of the photos shot tonight. You'll be able to download these photos at no charge!

And, thank you to tonight's photographer **KEVIN PANACCHIA**.



Thanks to FREEMAN EXPOSITIONS, INC. for donating the signs you see throughout the event.



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## 2018 IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO BALL RAFFLE

100% OF PROCEEDS DIVIDED BETWEEN CONCERN WORLDWIDE & CHICAGO IRISH IMMIGRANT SUPPORT



TICKETS ARE \$20 EACH, OR 6 FOR \$100

### RAFFLE PRIZES INCLUDE

#### BASKET 1

- Dinner for ten at Ocean Cut (value \$2000)
- (4) tickets to Irish Fest at Gaelic Park (\$60 value)

#### BASKET 2

- (2) tickets to Chicago Cubs game (date TBD)
- Three Course Dinner for two at Farmhouse (\$200 value)
- Night for two with breakfast at the Princess Diana Suite at The Drake
- (4) tickets to Irish Fest at Gaelic Park (\$60 value)

#### BASKET 3

- A night stay at a Hyatt Centric Loop Chicago
- (2) tickets to Riverdance Show at the Rosemont
- (8) VIP Seating for the Duhallow Choral Society Concert at Old St. Pat's
- (4) tickets to Irish Fest at Gaelic Park (\$60 value)

#### BASKET 4

- Party for 20 - 2 hour premium bar with Hors' d'oeuvres - Vaughan's Hospitality Group
- (4) tickets to the Chicago Irish Film Festival Opening Gala on 4/1 (\$200 value)
- Museum Tour for Six at the Art Institute of Chicago (\$400 value)
- (4) tickets to Irish Fest at Gaelic Park (\$60 value)

#### BASKET 5

- A night stay at the Courtyard River North by Marriott
- (4) tickets to Riverdance Show at the Rosemont
- (2) tickets to the Chicago Irish Film Festival Opening Gala on 4/1 (\$100 value)
- (2) tickets to the Liz Carroll Concert at the Beverly Arts Center
- (4) tickets to Irish Fest at Gaelic Park (\$60 value)

#### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Ann Riordan (The Drake) | Beverly Arts Center | Chicago Irish Film Festival | Courtyard River North by Marriott  
Duhallow Choral Society | Egan's Whiskey | Ferdia Doherty (Farmhouse & Farm Bar) | Gaelic Park | Hyatt Hotels  
Matt Moore (Ocean Cut) | Nora Gainer (The Art Institute of Chicago) | Riverdance | Stuart Dean | Vaughan's Hospitality Group



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CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND  
CHICAGO

**Message from Consul General Brian O'Brien**

**Consul General of Ireland to Chicago and the US Midwest**

A Chairde, Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Irish Government, I want to recognise with great appreciation, the work that you do for the Irish in Chicago; from your outreach to the newly arrived Irish to your ongoing efforts in maintaining strong ties within the Irish community here. The outstanding work of the Ireland Network goes from strength to strength, offering opportunities to establish business and economic links as well as cultural and social engagement.

2017 has been a busy year for the Consulate. We hosted a number of high level visitors from Ireland including numerous Government Ministers and politicians. We also hosted our former Taoiseach, Enda Kenny T.D. on his last visit to the United States as Taoiseach. Chicago remains a popular destination for high level visitors precisely because of the strength of its Irish Community.

2017 has also been a busy year for Ireland Network Chicago with IN socials, IN conversations and of course the IN national conference in September which you hosted so excellently. This was one of the first events that the then newly arrived Ambassador Dan Mulhall attended after presenting his credentials in Washington the previous week. He was very impressed; you set the bar very high for all other visits!

I know that organising these event requires an incredible amount of work behind the scenes and I salute all of those who give their time, energy and creativity so generously.

I am delighted that the Irish Government, through the Emigrant Support Programme, continues to partner with the Ireland Network Chicago to help you continue to deliver your important programming.

On a personal level, I want to thank you for your friendship and support. Our job at the Consulate is to build and maintain bridges between our global island and this global city. IN Chicago makes that job a lot easier. I wish you every future success in continuing to create a positive and vibrant future for our diaspora.

Maith sibh.

Le gach dea-guí,

Brian O'Brien

Ard-Chonsul na hÉireann, Consul General of Ireland





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Ireland Network for all that they do  
for the Irish community in Chicago.*

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If you're looking for a good reason to come home this year, look no further. As well as the buzzing festivals, music and sporting events, we've also got incredible discoveries around every corner when you go on an Ireland road trip!

Take to the Wild Atlantic Way, an epic 1,500 mile touring route that hugs the untamed west coast of Ireland. Explore the charming Dingle Peninsula, savor the majesty of the Cliffs of Moher and watch the Northern Lights dance over the Inishowen Peninsula. Then, continue on to Northern Ireland's Causeway Coastal Route "one of the world's great road journeys" where beauty, history and adventure greet you at every turn.

So make plans today - and we're fairly certain the road will rise up to meet you on the way.

Find out more at [Ireland.com](http://Ireland.com)

Jump into   
Ireland



## Making Connections

*Irish Network USA congratulates  
President, James Sheehan  
and Ireland Network Chicago  
on a successful 2018 Ball.*

*-Steve Lenox, President INUSA*

## Across the United States

Irish Network USA is proud to support chapters and their members across the United States. INUSA helps Irish and Irish-American professionals across the United States to connect with their peers and to develop relationships that will foster success in their business, economic and social ventures.

### Connect With Us

[irishnetwork-usa.org](http://irishnetwork-usa.org)  
[facebook.com/IrishNetworkUSA](https://facebook.com/IrishNetworkUSA)  
[twitter.com/IrishNetworkUSA](https://twitter.com/IrishNetworkUSA)

**The 2018 INUSA Conference will be held in New Orleans this fall. Stay tuned for more details!  
We hope to see you in the Big Easy later this year!**





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Ken Dooley is a proud member of the Ireland Network and is grateful to the many members that have become clients.



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Thank you to the members of the Ireland Network who work with me as their trusted advisor when purchasing and selling their real estate assets.



A Cháirde,

Warm greetings from Seanad Eireann in Dublin. I wish you all well tonight and hope that the Annual Ireland Network Chicago Ball is a great success. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the Irish people for all that you do and for maintaining the deep economic and cultural links between Ireland and the United States of America.

I have long been impressed by the Ireland Network USA and its associated local chapters, but I must admit to a certain bias in thinking that nowhere in the USA quite compares to the Ireland Network Chicago. You are a shining example of social and business networking today and continue to foster a vibrant sense of community in Chicago. You bring together Irish and Irish American business people from every field to celebrate Irish identity and develop meaningful bonds in the Midwest and beyond.

I feel a particular affinity with Chicago's Irish, as I made my own mark in the USA when I moved to Wrigleyville 20 years ago to open an Irish themed pub. It was there that I encountered first hand some of the estimated 50,000 Irish undocumented who call America home and witnessed the pain caused by a broken immigration system that hurts businesses and divides families. Over a decade ago, I began championing meaningful immigration reform and I continue that work today in my new role as Senator.

As we all know, this is once again a hot button issue in America's national discourse. But I am confident that a nation founded by immigrants and forged in the ideals of liberty and fairness can find a solution that is fair to the rule of law and to those seeking a better life.

In an era of global citizenship, where people are more mobile and nations more interdependent, Ireland has made her choice to look outward and to embrace not only her place among the nations but her diaspora living overseas.

The revolutionaries of 1916 called on us to 'cherish all the children of the nation'. Today, Ireland is fulfilling the marker set down by the architects of our Republic by redefining the meaning of nationhood in reaching out to our diaspora anew. My appointment as Senator for the Diaspora is proof that your voice is being heard in the corridors of power in Leinster House.

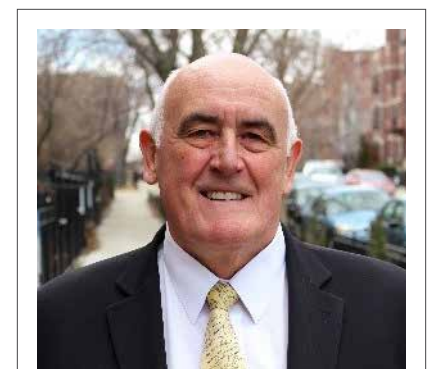
In fact, the Irish government recently announced that it will hold a referendum next year on Voting Rights for the diaspora in Irish presidential elections. This is an important first step in enfranchising all Irish passport holders living overseas and in Northern Ireland. If 25 of the 28 countries in the EU can do it, then so can we. I commit to working on this and other issues that matter to you, such as access to drivers licenses, education and banking services for returning emigrants.

Thank you again for your service and for your work in deepening the ties between our two great nations.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

*Billy Lawless*

Senator Billy Lawless



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would like to congratulate  
Ireland Network Chicago on their  
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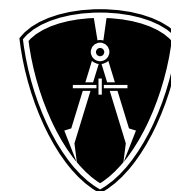
*Regina Rathnau congratulates  
Ireland Network Chicago on hosting  
another great gala event!*

Attorney at Law & Certified Public Accountant  
The Law Office of Regina L. Rathnau LLC  
53 West Jackson, Suite 862  
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The Kerryman would like to congratulate the Ireland Network Chicago on their 15th annual ball.

**Congratulations to the Ireland Network on Their 15th Anniversary in Chicagoland, and for Connecting Newly Arrived Irish With the Chicagoland Business and Irish Communities**

# A Look Back at Ireland Network Chicago Events in 2017

IN-Chicago is continually grateful for the support of the Irish Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs for their generous grant which makes many of our events possible! In 2017 we renamed our beloved 'First Friday' events to "IN-SOCIALS" to better reflect that they're not always on Fridays nor are they always in the first week of the month. Attendance at the Socials has grown every month this year and we had almost 100 people in attendance at our Christmas gathering in December! As always, we continue to let our members know about events we think may interest them through our IN-Chicago Supported event emails and promotions.



## "IN-SOCIAL" GATHERINGS

*Informal gatherings of members and friends each month*

- 06 JAN** IN Conversation & First Friday: Prelude to Chicago Irish Film Festival - Farmhouse
- 03 FEB** Fado Irish Pub
- 03 MAR** The Ambassador Pub
- 07 APR** The Kerryman
- 09 JUN** Annual Members' Meeting and June IN Social - Ocean Cut
- 10 AUG** Lady Gregory's Irish Pub
- 15 SEP** INUSA Chicago River Boat Evening Cruise
- 06 OCT** The Dearborn
- 09 NOV** The Dawson
- 01 DEC** Christmas Celebration in partnership with NUIG - Emerald Loop

## IN CONVERSATIONS

- 14 MAR** EU Ambassador to the US, Irishman David O'Sullivan at CCGA
- 19 MAY** An appreciation of writer Maeve Brennan at the American Writers Museum
- 14 JUN** Irishman Thomas Wright at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

## SPECIAL EVENTS THIS YEAR

- 18 FEB** 2017 Ireland Network Chicago Ball - The Drake Hotel
- 14 SEP** INUSA National Conference-Chicago

## IN CHICAGO SUPPORTED EVENTS

*Events and Performances we promote and attend with our members*

- 20 JAN** CIIS Casino Night
- 02 MAR** Chicago Irish Film Festival
- 04 MAR** AIF Chicago Young Leaders' Annual Green Gala
- 05 MAR** Polar Plunge - Ireland Network Team
- 10 MAR** Irish American Partnership's Annual St. Patrick's Day Breakfast
- 10 MAR** Irish Fellowship Club's 116th Annual St. Patrick's Dinner
- 08 APR** Chicago Rose of Tralee 2017 Dinner & Selection
- 02 NOV** The Ireland Funds' 33rd Annual Chicago Dinner 2017
- 10 NOV** Concern Worldwide US 2017 Thanks-for-Giving Gala
- 01 DEC** Irish Fellowship Club's 2017 Annual Christmas Luncheon



# IN Chicago hosts INUSA National Conference

Irish Network USA (INUSA) is the national umbrella organization integrating the Irish Networks that exist in various cities across the United States. It allows members of the networks to connect with their peers and to develop relationships that will foster success in their business, economic, cultural and sports ventures.

The mission of INUSA is to bolster business opportunities and economic development between the US and Ireland, to support and encourage Irish Arts and Culture through film, literature, theater, dance and language; to encourage and promote the missing and expansion of Irish sports, throughout the US; to support the efforts of local Irish organizations and associations; to serve as a conduit between newly arrived Irish immigrants and their communities in Member cities and states.

IN Chicago is one of the INUSA Chapters and was proud to host the 5th Annual INUSA National Conference September 14-17, 2017. IN Chapters around the country attended the program which took place at The Drake Hotel and included engaging speakers, high-impact networking, workshops and social events.

The speakers included:

- Ambassador Daniel Mulhall: Irish Ambassador to the US
- Senator Billy Lawless: Seanad Éireann
- Brian O'Brien: Consul General of Ireland, Chicago
- Professor Liam Kennedy: Director of the Clinton Institute for American Studies, UCD
- Sean Conlon: Conlon & Co, and CNBC's "The Deed: Chicago"
- Ted Smyth: Former Irish Diplomat, Communications Strategist
- Lord Mayor of Belfast: Nuala McAllister

During the Conference, networking and social events included:

- Launch Party: The Pinnacle
- An Evening Cruise: on the Chicago River Lake & Lake Michigan aboard the "Fort Dearborn" hosted by IN Chicago
- INUSA Mini Film Festival co-hosted by the Chicago Irish Film Festival
- Farewell Brunch at Farmhouse Chicago

The event successfully achieved the objective of bringing those people who have an interest in Ireland or Irish culture together to network and develop and broaden their business and social connections. IN Chicago was delighted to partner with INUSA for this wonderful event. Thank you to all the IN Chicago members who made this event so successful!



Professor Liam Kennedy



IN Chicago President James Sheehan and Lord Mayor Nuala McAllister



Ambassador Daniel Mulhall



Consul General Brian O'Brien



NIB Director Norman Houston, Lord Mayor Nuala McAllister and IN guest.



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[WWW.RIVERDANCE.COM](http://WWW.RIVERDANCE.COM)



Please join us for...

**The Duhallow Choral Society Concert**  
**From**  
**Kanturk, Ireland**  
**Wednesday, March 14, 2018**

Old St. Pat's Church  
 700 W. Adams, Chicago

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.  
**Concert begins at 6:30 p.m.**

Tickets:  
 \$10.00 for Ireland Network Members  
 \$15.00 for Non Members

Purchase your tickets: [www.theirelandnetwork.com](http://www.theirelandnetwork.com)

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Solace House  
**SUNRISE WALK**

Starting at **4:15 am**, and crossing the finish line as dawn is breaking, the Solace Sunrise Walk, is an annual 5km walk/run that raises funds and creates awareness for suicide prevention.

**Solace Sunrise Walk Chicago**  
 Date: May 19th  
 Location: TBC

Email for more information - [mary@solacehouseinc.com](mailto:mary@solacehouseinc.com)

**SOLACE HOUSE**  
 Suicide Prevention Center

**What is Solace House?**

Solace House provides **FREE one-to-one** therapy for people who are in suicidal distress, those who engage in self-harm and for people who have been bereaved by suicide.

**In 2015**, we brought this life saving service to the people of New York and our goal is to expand our service right across the U.S. Our flagship fundraiser, the 'Solace Sunrise Walk' – formerly known as 'Darkness into Light' first came to the U.S. in 2015 to raise much needed funds for our service.

To begin, we had three venues. **In 2017**, we had eleven venues in the U.S. from New York right across to the West Coast, with thousands of people walking in solidarity to create awareness and fight the fight against suicide.

**In 2018, the walk will take place on May 19th in the early hours of the morning.** Participants will cross the finish line just as dawn is breaking, symbolizing the journey of many people who attend our service, coming to us in their darkest hour as we carry them into a brighter future - offering hope.

Our **ambition** is to raise enough money to support our service in New York and to contribute to our expansion in the U.S.. We are going to give back to each City that hosts a walk this year by **offering 'Mind Ur Buddy' workshops** throughout the year. These workshops train the public to learn and identify the signs & symptoms of **suicidal distress**.

**Join us on May 19th and help support your Community!**

Our **vision** is a world where suicide, self harm and stigma have been replaced by hope, self-care and acceptance.

Our **mission** is to support people and communities in crisis by providing freely accessible, professional services to all.



# IRELAND NETWORK CHICAGO COMMITTEE MEMBERS



**BARBARA ANDREWS (Treasurer)**  
barbaraandrews@gmail.com

A proud Dubliner, Barbara has lived in her beloved adopted city of Chicago for over 22 years. She graduated with a BSc from University College Dublin and a HDip from St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. She recently switched careers after spending 20 years in the field of Software Quality Assurance and is now a Real Estate Agent with Conlon/Christie's International Real Estate. Outside of work she satisfies her creative side by performing in Chicago a cappella group 'Faces For Radio'! She has been a loyal member of Ireland Network Chicago since its inception and is currently enjoying her third year on the committee.



**KRISTEN CURNYN**  
kmcurnyn@gmail.com

Kristen Curnyn is an American-born, yet Irish faithful, new member to the committee. She is a hospitality Executive managing congresses and tradeshow on five continents throughout her twenty-three-year career in event management. She is a Certified Meeting Professional and recently secured her Certification in International Tour Management. Kristen also enjoys spending her time volunteering at the Irish American Heritage Center, Meals-on-Meals and for CurePSP.org. Having grown up in Atlanta, Georgia and only recently moving to the mid-west, in her (very rare) spare time, she is enjoying getting to know Chicago and embracing the winter.



**GARRETT DIAMOND**  
garrettdiamond78@gmail.com

Originally from Co. Meath, Garrett has lived in Chicago on and off for nearly 15 years. A DIT hospitality and Tourism Graduate, Garrett initially spent a number of years in the hotel and bar business in Chicago. He is now working as a Sales and Business Development Representative for Stuart Dean Company in Facilities Services. Garrett spends his time living in Oak Park with his wife Katie and three children, Ciara, Liam and Fiona. He also is a member of the local AOH Chicago Branch.



**IMELDA GALLAGHER**  
imeldagallagher@gmail.com

Imelda grew up in Galway and lived in Dublin before returning to her native Chicago. She was a Barrister in Ireland and also worked in Belgium with the College of Europe in Bruges and the European Commission in Brussels. Since returning to Chicago, Imelda worked with St. Xavier University before working in the wireless industry for 10 years specializing in leasing/licensing and zoning/ permitting for major wireless network carriers in several States. She is a Senior Manager, Quality Control and Training in Mobilitie, designing programs and systems nationwide for the wireless infrastructure company. Imelda has served on the Committee for over nine years.



**PAUL GILLEN**  
paulgillen1@me.com

Paul was born in New York City and raised in Ridgewood, NJ. His Irish roots extend to Sligo, Fermanagh, Longford and Kerry. He holds a bachelor's degree from Baldwin Wallace University, Berea, Ohio. He has a background in b2b media sales having spent the majority of his career with Cahners Publishing and Washington DC-based Hanley Wood Business Media. He is now a licensed insurance agent and Health Benefit Consultant with Healthcare Solutions Team, Lombard, IL. He is a resident of Evanston; is a working committee member of Evanston Ambassadors, serves as an ESL tutor through Volunteers in Teaching Adults (VITA) and volunteers with the VA at Evanston Veterans Center. In addition to his Irish heritage and citizenship he is proud of his three adult children Mallory, Connor and Cameron.



**TIM GROOME**  
timgroome1@outlook.com

Originally from Carbury Co. Kildare, Tim moved to Chicago in 2013. Tim is a recent graduate of Loyola University Chicago School of Law and has a Bachelors in Corporate Law from N.U.I Galway. Since graduating from law school, he works at Rock Trade Law LLC specializing in International Trade Law and Customs regulation. A new member to the committee, Tim lives in Ravenswood. For his sins he is a proud Kildare G.A.A and Newcastle United supporter.



**MARY KAY MARMO**  
mkmarmo@gmail.com

Mary Kay was born and raised in Chicago. She has worked in the academic field on the Administrative end for over 20 years, most recently at St. Xavier University in the capacity as Division Coordinator for Arts & Humanities. Mary Kay also runs The Chicago Rose of Tralee Center and is the Founder of The Professional Irish Women of Chicago Organization. She writes a monthly article in the Irish American News, entitled "Look of the Lass." March is a busy month for Mary Kay as she is also on the South Side Irish Parade Committee. She was named an Ambassador of Kerry, Ireland by Jimmy Deenihan, TD in March, 2010. Mary Kay has five children and three Grandchildren.



**MOLLY MCGRAIL**  
mmcgrail@facc-chicago.com

Molly was appointed as the Communications Officer for Ireland Network Chicago in December 2017. Since graduation, she has served as the Event Manager at the French-American Chamber of Commerce, Chicago. Molly received her M.A. in Arts Policy and Practice from N.U.I. Galway, and her undergraduate degrees in Art History and French from Dominican University in River Forest, Illinois. Fluent in French and Italian, and currently learning Irish in order to better understand her own heritage, Molly has lived in six different U.S. states and two foreign countries, and is delighted to call Chicago "home".



**MAIREAD O'RIORDAN (Secretary)**  
mairead\_o\_riordan@yahoo.co.UK

Mairead, originally from Cork, is a B.Eng graduate from UCD, with 20 years' experience in technology, and more than 10 of those in Telecommunication Software Program and Engineering Management, she currently works for US Cellular. Mairead and her husband moved to Lincoln Park in 2016 from Sydney, Australia.



**JAMES SHEEHAN (President)**  
jsheehan@conlonrealestate.com

James hails from Dublin where he studied Economics in University College of Dublin and has been living in Chicago since the summer of 2000. He hangs his Real Estate License at Conlon Real Estate where he works with developers and first time home buyers alike. Prior to real estate, James traded equity options for 10 years in the Chicago Board of Trade. He lives in Lincoln Park with his wife, Adrianna and his newborn son Ollie.

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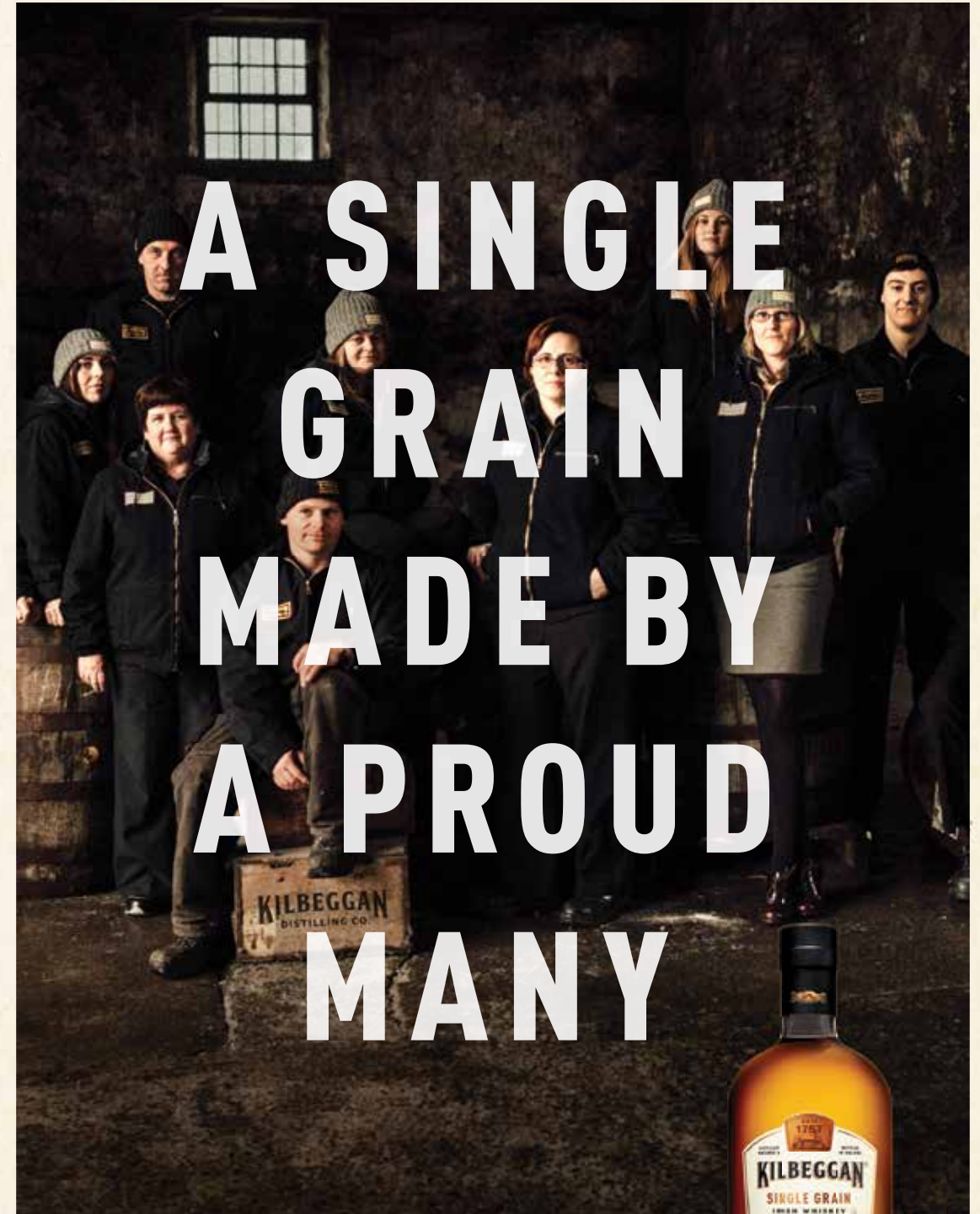
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*cheers to you!*

To the proud members of Ireland Network Chicago,

Thank you for your continued support.  
We look forward to serving you in 2018!

All the best,  
Amy, Clodagh  
and the entire Lawless family



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# Ireland Network Chicago Committee 2017-2018 Strategic Plan

## PURPOSE OF STRATEGIC PLAN:

- Articulate goals and priorities for 2017-2018 IN Chicago and beyond
  - Provide a roadmap by which new IN Committee members can deliver on the organization's mission and objectives for the coming year
  - Demonstrate a stronger ROI for members and strategic partners
  - Enable a 5-10 year strategic vision
  - Complement and contribute to the efforts of INUSA
- 1. Attract new members and participants**
    - Goal: Deepen reach within community through culture of inclusivity
  - 2. Retain current members**
    - Goal: Encourage sustained and meaningful participation among all members
  - 3. Re-engage lapsed members**
    - Goal: Build on existing relationships with former IN Chicago members
  - 4. Develop a proactive events program**
    - Goal: Leverage a 4-pronged approach to interact and engage a diverse set of interests
  - 5. Refresh the IN Chicago brand and website**
    - Goal: More effectively articulate and promote the organization's mission
    - IN-Chicago is the bridge for newly-arrived Irish, and those connected to contemporary Ireland, to the established business community and the established Irish community.
  - 6. Cultivate strategic partnerships**
    - Goal: Strengthen ties to the local community and elevate profile among active Irish in Chicago
  - 7. Grow revenue**
    - Goal: Ensure sustainability and long-term health of the organization
  - 8. Empower IN Committee**
    - Goal: Increase capacity of IN committee to fulfill the mission and objectives
  - 9. Launch an all-member survey**
    - Goal: Better understand the needs and interests of current, lapsed and potential members



**2018  
UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MARCH 17:**  
St. Patrick's Festival

**APRIL 28:** Irish American Hall of Fame Gala

**JULY 6, 7 and 8:** Irish Fest

**OCTOBER 26-28:** 2018 iBAM!  
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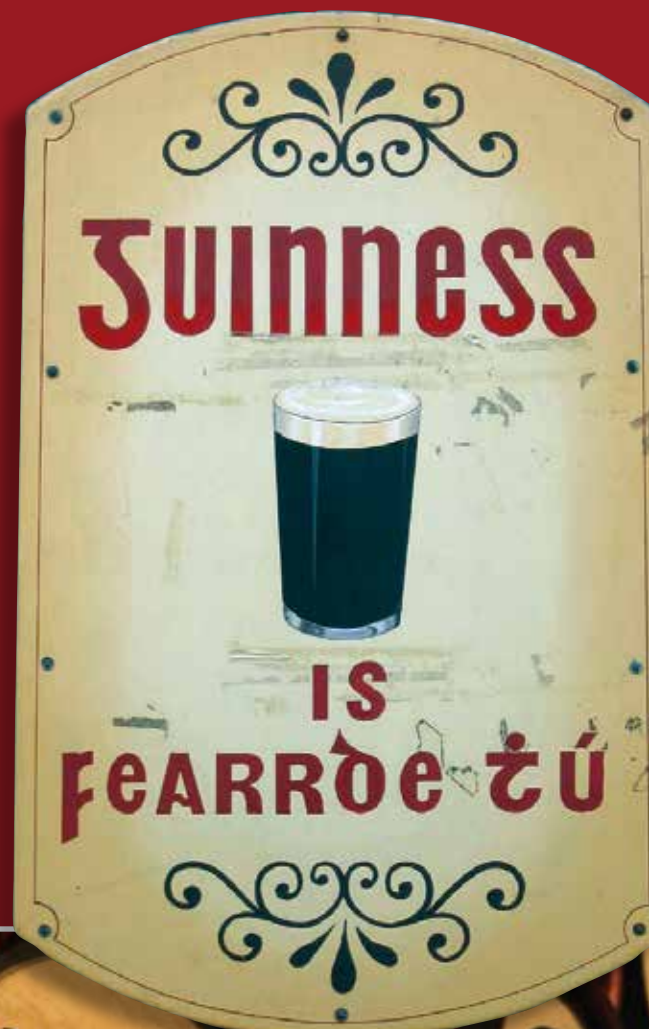
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