



Mayfair Messenger

A publication of the Mayfair Civic Association
Neighbors making a difference since 1945

February 2019
Volume 22, Issue 1

Monthly meeting on February 14 - Planning

Our next meeting will be at 7:30 on February 14 at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox. It will serve as a planning session to identify important issues to be addressed during the upcoming year. We hope that you will attend and provide guidance and direction, especially if you are willing to support as a volunteer on matters important to you and your family. And be sure to bring your Valentine!



Civic Association Officers

- President:** Ron Duplack, rduplack@rieckcrotty.com
- Vice President:** Tom Keating, keatingtj@gmail.com
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- Beautification:** Tom Keating, keatingj@gmail.com

Letter from the President

Ron Duplack

We begin 2019 with a lot on our plate. You are receiving this new newsletter as a result of the valiant efforts of Ryan Kinderman, Tracy Kellner, and Jean-Marie Minton, with help from Chris Lambesis to update our website. We hope you all enjoy and use these communication tools to keep abreast of community developments and MCA activities, and can't thank Carol Kroskey and Chris Lambesis enough for their past efforts.

Holiday Party

Many thanks to all that volunteered to coordinate another successful and enjoyable Holiday Party in December, with special thanks to Nadine at Marie's Pizza and to Marianne and the Imaginary Band for rousing musical entertainment. Congratulations to our raffle winners and donors. Your raffle contributions help fund the Party and our operations during the year. We encourage you all to patronize all Mayfair-area businesses.

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2019 MCA Meetings

Membership meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave. No meetings are held in January, July, or August. These are the rest of the dates scheduled for 2019, with proposed discussion topics.

March 14 Kedvale Playlot/Gardens	June 13 To Be Announced	November 14 Annual Party Planning
April 11 Zoning & Development	September 12 Traffic & Parking	December 12 Holiday Party
May 9 Mayfair Park	October 10 Elections	

Our Board generally meets during the intervening months.

Letter from the President

Ron Duplack

Holiday Party Photos



Triangle Park

As I'm sure you know, through a concerted effort backed by Alderman Laurino, Mayfair Park Advisory Council and the many volunteers, residents, businesses and others who supported our efforts, we were able to finally secure the Kedvale Playlot for community use and enjoyment. Our successful four-month fundraising drive secured the \$25,000 matching grant from a private family foundation, bringing our total community project contribution to \$50,000, enabling closing on the acquisition through our team member and representative, Openlands. As noted during meetings over the fundraising period, this is really just the beginning of efforts to identify the specific community vision for this space, including the types of improvements, programming and activities to occur on the site. We encourage everyone to attend upcoming meetings so we may establish a consensus for moving forward with the Park District.



Letter from the President

Ron Duplack

Elections for Local Government

Hopefully you were able to attend the 39th Ward Aldermanic Candidate's Forum that we proud to support as a co-sponsor with Hollywood North Park Community Association, North Mayfair Improvement Association, Old Irving Park Association, and several other neighboring civic organizations, with Eric Zorn as moderator. Turn out was substantial and candidates were asked to tell us how they would move our Ward forward following Alderman Laurino's retirement. We are also proud to have been one of the many civic groups supporting the North River Commission's Mayoral Candidate Forum, held on February 5 at Roosevelt High School.



Around the Neighborhood

Independence Library Grand Opening

On January 22, the new Independence library opened at 4024 N. Elston Avenue. The newly-constructed building that houses the library, which will also include senior housing, has been in the works for the past 4 years. For more information, visit:

- <https://www.chipublib.org/locations/37/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/NewIndependenceLibrary/>
- <https://www.dnainfo.com/chicago/20170519/irving-park/race-is-on-build-independence-library-before-funding-door-slams-shut/>
- <https://blockclubchicago.org/2019/01/21/after-more-than-a-century-independence-library-is-getting-a-home-of-its-own/>
- <https://www.rejournals.com/independence-branch-library-opens-in-chicago%e2%80%99s-irving-park-neighborhood-20190131>

Unique Forest Playschool Causes Concerns for Neighbors

The Forest Playschool, located in the wooded area near North Park Village Nature Center at 5801 N. Pulaski Road, has been in operation for 5 years, and provides an all-outdoors classroom experience for preschool-age children. It is the only school of its kind in Chicago. Recently, the school's operation has caused concerns for some neighbors who live nearby, and continued operation is being negotiated. For more information, visit:

- <https://blockclubchicago.org/2019/02/05/outdoor-preschool-in-peterson-park-sparks-neighbor-complaints-but-others-are-fans-of-the-forest-based-school/>
- <https://chicago.cbslocal.com/2019/01/17/winter-day-camp-on-north-side-called-unattractive-by-neighbors/>
- <https://www.forestplayschoolchicago.com/>

Irish American Heritage Center 4626 N. Knox Avenue Kathy O'Neill

The Fluid History of Irish Whiskey Class



Go back in time and learn how the oldest known whiskey on Earth got its start and explore its history, production and legacy with long-

time whiskey educator Martin C. Duffy. Duffy will pour a tootful of 6 styles of Irish whiskey to help and sharpen your knowledge of "uisce beatha".

Classes are **March 2 or March 9 at 4pm and are \$35.**

Dervish in Concert

Dervish have been bringing Irish traditional music to the world for more than 25 years. Described by the BBC as "an icon of Irish music", the band have toured the world from their own streets of Sligo to the Great Wall of China and festivals from Rio to Glastonbury. This March, the band brings its renowned penchant for live performances, which match dazzling sets of tunes with stunning interpretations of traditional songs.

Dervish is Cathy Jordan on vocals and bodhran, Shane Mitchell on accordion, Liam Kelly on flute and whistle, Brian McDonagh on mandola and mandolin and Michael Holmes on bouzouki and fiddle player Tom Morrow.

Dervish in Concert is **Friday, March 8 at 8pm. Tickets are \$30 for IAHC members and \$33 for general admission.**

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Celebrate all things Irish with the **Irish American Heritage Center** at the annual **St. Patrick's Day celebrations** this **March 2019**. These celebrations are some of Chicago's largest St. Patrick's Day events and are all under one roof at the IAHC. This year, we expect more than 10,000 visitors to the IAHC during March.

On **Saturday, March 16**, join us for the **St. Patrick's Festival** following the downtown Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. The festivities are from **1pm to midnight** and this large-scale, family-oriented celebration features traditional and contemporary Irish music, dance, children's dance lessons, food and drink for purchase, children's activities and an Arts and Craft Fair, with vendors selling Irish gifts. Visit the Library, Art Gallery and Museum for programming and exhibits, Irish language lessons, genealogy workshops and a book sale. **Confirmed performers include Irish Heritage Singers, The Chancey Brothers, In Spite of Ourselves, Tim O'Shea and Pat Quinn, The Great Whiskey Project, Trinity Irish Dancers, O'Hare School of Irish Dance, Academy of Irish Music, Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band, Shepherd School of Irish Music, Mulhern School of Irish Dance, Rebecca McCarthy School of Dance, Mullane Godley Irish Dance Academy and Wiggleworms.**

Tickets are **\$15 for adults, or \$12 for advance purchase if bought by the end of the day on March 14. Children 12 and under are free.** Tickets can be purchased by visiting www.irish-american.org, calling the IAHC office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or visiting the IAHC Office.

On **Sunday, March 17**, the fun continues with the annual **St. Patrick's Day Celebration** in the Fifth



Province Pub. Mass is celebrated at 10:30am and the party begins at Noon in the Pub. Join us for food and drink for purchase and face painting for kids.

Confirmed entertainment includes **Trinity Irish Dancers, O'Hare School of Irish Dance and Tim O'Shea and Pat Quinn, The Dooley Brothers and St. Stephen's Green.** The party is from **12pm-11pm** and tickets are **\$10 for adults and children 12 and under are free.**

Irish American Heritage Center 4626 N. Knox Avenue Kathy O'Neill

Author Mary Pat Kelly returns

Author Mary Pat Kelly returns to the IAHC with a sequel to her bestselling books, *Galway Bay* and *Of Irish Blood*, for an afternoon of readings and music. This program is presented by Celtic Women International.

Chicago Irish Save the World: Songs and Stories from *Irish Above All* features readings from Kelly's new book, *Irish Above All* and a Q & A. She is joined by singer **Catherine O'Connell** for songs from the era.

In *Irish Above All*, Kelly draws upon family heritage to continue the story of Nora Kelly--begun in *Of Irish Blood*--with a striking novel of historical fiction set in the turbulent years from 1923 to 1960. When Ed Kelly becomes mayor of Chicago in dramatic fashion, he and cousin Nora are thrust onto the world stage as the Depression and WWII threaten total destruction.

Chicago Irish Save the World: Songs and Stories from "Irish Above All" is Sunday, March 3 at 1pm and is free.

Order tickets

All tickets for events at the IAHC can be purchased by visiting www.irish-american.org, calling 773-282-7035, ext. 10, or visiting the IAHC office.

No Stone Unturned Documentary

Critically acclaimed 2017 documentary, *No Stone Unturned* comes to the IAHC this February. Directed by Academy Award winning director, Alex Gibney (*Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*), the film examines the brutal and unsolved murder of six men in a bar in Northern Ireland during the 1994 World Cup. Producer Trevor Birney and journalist Barry McCaffrey will attend the screening and host a post-film Q & A. Both were arrested and questioned by police for their investigation of this crime.

The *No Stone Unturned* Screening is Saturday, February 23 at 7pm. Tickets are \$5 in advance through 2/22 and \$7 at the door.

Seniors' Circle

Jean-Marie Minton

Welcome to our "Seniors Circle", where we will be posting information we think will be of interest to the 65+ young-at-heart Mayfair Residents. Let us know what you'd like to learn about and we'll do our best to oblige.

Seniors' Meetings

Seniors' Meetings will be held at the 17th District Police Headquarters at 4650 N. Pulaski. Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 11:00am-12:30pm in the community room. Mark your calendars for Feb. 20, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19 and July 17. Tony Watrobinski is the organizer and always has interesting guest speakers.

Refreshments are always served. **NOTE:** The meeting on March 20 will be at Fairmont Nursing Home. Be at the 17th District parking lot by 10am on March 20 and a free shuttle will be provided to the Fairmont. **NOTE:** Both April and May meetings will have attorneys talking with seniors about legal documents such as Powers of Attorney.

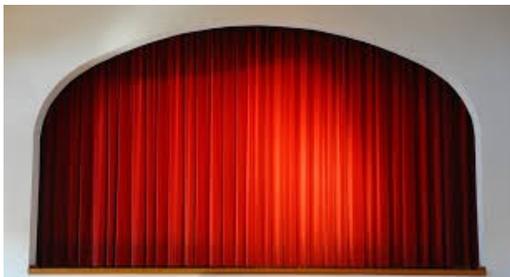
CAPS Meetings (Beat 1722)

CAPS meetings for Beat 1722 are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for **February 20** and **March 20**. Meetings are held at the 17th District Police Station Community Room located on **4650 N. Pulaski Road** at **7:00pm**.

Dates are subject to change, so please contact the CAPS office to confirm a date at 312-742-4588, or email caps.017district@chicagopolice.org.

Arts in the Mayfair Area

Tracy Kellner



Chicago Theater Week 2/7-17

Check out these events near our part of the city!

“NOISES OFF”

With just hours until opening night of NOTHING ON, this amateur theater troupe has plenty of work to do. Between mistaken props, forgotten lines, inner-cast discord, and a torrent of awful acting, one wonders... Will these eager thespians successfully stage their sex farce script, or will they end up running around with their pants (quite literally) at their ankles?

Performances from February-April. For more info and to purchase tickets, visit <https://windycityplayhouse.com/noises-off/>.

"If laughter is the best medicine, this flawless show is capable of curing double pneumonia."

The Wall Street Journal

Workshop Performances of: "OFFENDED! or THE STRANGE CASE OF DR. FRANKEN & THE FRANKENZONE MONSTER", a living newspaper with songs

The Story: It's about Dr. Al Franken (not THAT Al Franken) and his journey through "offensive" fairy tales and safe places into the Frankenzon. What happens when people allow their emotional responses to determine what they will and will not think about? Perhaps the Bible says it best: "A time will come when people will not listen to facts. Instead, they will selfishly surround themselves with sources who tell them what they want to hear. When no one has an ear for the truth, they end up with a head full of lies." (2 Timothy 4:2 and 4:3).

Performances on February 28 and March 1, 2, 7, and 8 at 7:30pm; March 2 and 9 at 2:00pm. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.neiu.edu/university-life/stage-center-theatre/current-season>.

“How I Learned to Drive”

Rural Maryland, 1960s. From behind the wheel of a '56 Chevy, a woman named Li'l Bit navigates the tangled boulevards



of her adolescence, reflecting on her complex and troubling relationship with her family. But old secrets and fresh discoveries abound as she struggles to accept her past and the demons that live there. Paula Vogel's Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece makes its return to Chicago, featuring Eliza Stoughton as Li'l Bit. An artful, surprising, and often-funny memory play that explores how we are shaped by the people who hurt us.

Performances from February 7 through March 24. For details and tickets, visit <https://www.raventheatre.com/stage/drive/>.

Check out other productions in the area

- <https://www.cornservatory.org/on-stage>
- <http://www.filamenttheatre.org/forts/>
- <https://www.raventheatre.com/on-stage/>
- <http://thegifttheatre.org/shows-events/doubt-a-parable>

Go Green: Get the *Mayfair Messenger* via e-mail

Reading a paper copy of this newsletter? Have access to the Internet? Please consider reading an e-mail version instead (we won't share your e-mail address with anyone else). To receive the *Mayfair Messenger* via e-mail, please send an e-mail to mayfair-civic-newsletter@googlegroups.com. Thanks for helping us stretch your membership dues!

A note from membership

To keep your membership current for the following year, renewals will be billed in January and July. If you joined the association between May and October, your renewal will be billed in July. If you joined between November and April, you'll be billed in January.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation!

A note from the editor

Please submit articles of interest or announcements of upcoming public and community events to mayfair-civic-newsletter@googlegroups.com (the editor reserves the right to edit submissions for space and content; items may not appear if they're past the publishing date).

If you're already a member, please pass this on to a neighbor.

Mayfair Civic Association Membership Application
\$10 per household; \$6 for senior citizens

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Please fill out the above information, and return with your check to:

Mayfair Civic Association
c/o Margie Scannell
4731 N. Kilbourn Avenue
Chicago, IL 60630

Credits

This newsletter and its contents have been planned, composed, and edited by members of the Mayfair Civic Association, including **Tracy Kellner, Ryan Kinderman, and Jean-Marie Minton.**

Special thanks to Ron Duplack, MCA president, Chris Lambesis for website updates, and Carol Kroskey, the previous newsletter editor, who set the bar for quality.