



Preserving Our Heritage, Sharing Our Stories

The Newsletter of the
Irish American Archives Society of Cleveland & Northeast Ohio

Volume 24, Number 1, Winter 2021

Save the Date!

Virtual Fundraising Event

Live Premier Zoom Performance/
Raffle
Sunday, February 28, 2021, 2 pm

Event ticket: \$25

Raffle tickets: \$25/ticket, \$100/5
tickets

Details on pp. 1 and 3

IAAS Commissions “Home” by Kevin Toolis

In place of the Walks of Life dinner—this year only!--IAAS will be presenting a unique virtual fundraising event on Sunday, February 28, 2021, 2:00 pm, and we’d love to have your participation!

Irish American Archives Society is commissioning writer Kevin Toolis, best-selling author of *My Father’s Wake*, to create “Home”—a multi-media reflection on Ireland’s “long bleeding into exile,” filmed in an abandoned house in Ireland and incorporating spoken poetry, keening, and music. A post-performance conversation with Toolis will follow, focusing on the inspiration for the piece—the mass immigration of more than a million people—nearly a third of Ireland’s population—from Ireland in the 1950s through today. The film presentation and post-performance discussion will take place live over the Zoom platform on Sunday, February 28, 2 pm. Support and participation levels for this unique fundraising event are detailed on a separate page.

Across the northwest coast of Ireland, abandoned houses are scattered throughout the countryside—the roofless ruins of 19th century stone houses and more recent houses left empty through immigration or death. Since Kevin Toolis spent his childhood summers on Achill Island, these abandoned houses have fascinated him:

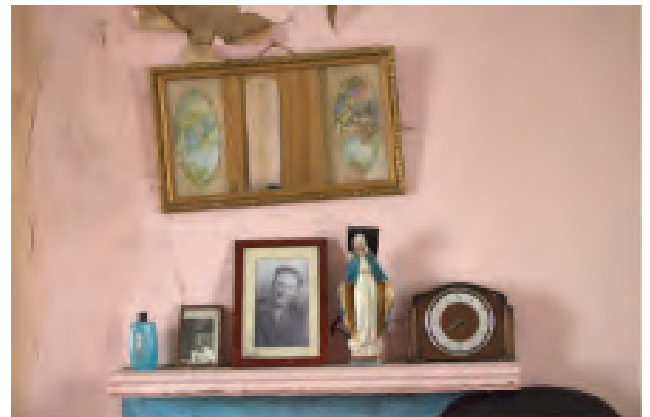


Photo of an abandoned house interior, taken by Kevin Toolis

“In other parts of the world after the death or flight of the house owner such houses would be re-purposed, sold or even swiftly looted. But in Mayo and throughout the west of Ireland they remain inviolate, almost sacred forbidden shrines, slowly mouldering into ruin. Testaments to a unique Irish pattern of emigration and distant but still intimate connections to family members living thousands of miles away in cities and suburbs in places like Cleveland. Waiting, waiting sometimes for the return, and sometimes waiting for that which will never happen. And yet different lives are born from another past.”

Taimid ag suil le do comhlúadar
We look forward to your company!



Where Are They Now?

The 2021 Walks of Life dinner is canceled but former WOL honorees continue to excel. The year 2020 brought new honors to a couple of Walks of Life honorees: **Thomas J. Scanlon**, a 2004 Walks of Life Honoree and longtime IAAS Board Member, was chosen as Grand Marshal for the 2020 St. Patrick's Day Parade. Unfortunately, the 2020 Parade was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. In December, **Terry Joyce Jr.**, a 2015 WOL Honoree, received the 2020 Irish Labor Award from the Irish Echo. **Matt Zone**, 2015 recipient of the Thomas F. Campbell Award, left Cleveland City Council to become Senior Vice President of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy and Thriving Communities Institute.

Marguerite "Peggy" Campbell, wife of IAAS founder Tom Campbell, supported IAAS since its infancy; she passed away in April. **Patrick A. Sweeney**, a 2016 Walks of Life honoree, died on Labor Day. A longtime state legislator, Sweeney championed such major civic projects in Cleveland as Playhouse Square, The Gateway District, Cleveland State University, Cuyahoga Community College, and The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

Two other former honorees also passed away in September. **Neil Raleigh** was honored, along with his wife Kathleen, with a Walks of Life award in 2006. Both played an active role in the initiative to restore St. Patrick's Church on Bridge Avenue. **Mary Ellen Czelusniak**, who was honored in 2009, was the first deaf pastoral worker for Catholic Charities in the United States and a devoted member of St. Augustine Parish on W. 14th Street.

2007 Honoree **Thomas C. Sullivan** led coatings company RPM International and, with his wife Sandy, was a well-known Cleveland philanthropist and longtime, behind-the-scenes supporter of the Irish American Archives Society. Sullivan's father, Frank C. Sullivan, founded RPM International—which stood for Republic Powdered Metals—in Cleveland in 1947. When his father died in 1971, the 34 year-old Tom Sullivan had to assume responsibility for an \$11 million company. The younger Sullivan had ten years in the family business at that time. Part of the company's growth under Tom Sullivan's leadership came from acquisitions. By 1997 RPM had acquired the three largest companies in the coatings business-- Carboline, Rust-Oleum and Tremco. Sullivan retired as CEO in 2002. When he retired from the RPM Board in 2016, the company had grown to a \$2 billion company. RPM reported \$5.5 billion in sales in 2020. Tom Sullivan's eldest son Frank Sullivan currently serves as the company's chairman and CEO.



Tom Sullivan

With his wife Sandy, Tom Sullivan also focused his energies on philanthropic commitments, born of the couple's shared faith and belief in the adage, "to whom much is given, much is expected." Together they established the Thomas C. and Sandra S. Sullivan Family Foundation in 1991, with a priority on funding educational initiatives in the inner-city. Metro Catholic School and Urban Community School were recipients of their generosity. Urban Community School's library is named after the couple, and a science wing is named after RPM. The Boys Hope Girls Hope of Northeast Ohio; the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the West Side Catholic Center and Malachi House also received their generous support. Sandy Sullivan passed away last year; the couple married in 1960 and had six children. Tom is also survived by 16 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.



Irish American Archives Society

Live Zoom Performance 2/28/2021/ Raffle

EVENT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Live Zoom Premier 2/28/21: Home and Q & A with Kevin Toolis

Post-show: Slideshow and music session with The Portersharks

Sponsors at the \$5000 and \$2500 level will receive a credit line in the film credits
All sponsors will be recognized with a credit line on a commemorative print item.
All sponsors are invited to attend pre-performance session with The Portersharks.
Recognition credits will be grouped by sponsorship levels:

\$5000, \$2500, \$1500, \$750, \$350, \$150

Sponsorships at each level will entail log-ins from separate devices and raffle tickets

Share participation with family members in Cleveland or around the world!

Circle participation choice and fill out form below:

\$5000: up to 8 log-ins and 8 raffle tickets

\$2500: up to 5 log-ins and 5 raffle tickets

\$1500: up to 4 log-ins and 4 raffle tickets

\$750: up to 3 log-ins and 3 raffle tickets

\$350: up to 2 log-ins and 2 raffle tickets

\$150: 1 log-in and 2 raffle tickets

EVENT ONLY: \$25/ticket or \$40/ticket for event + raffle

Log-in on one device to Live Zoom Premier of *Home* and Q & A with Kevin Toolis. Fill out form below. Those who cannot attend live will receive a link for viewing a recording after the event.

RAFFLE: 4 Baskets of Cheer \$25/ticket \$100/5 tickets

ONLINE ONLY

<https://rafflecreator.com/pages/44857/iaas-baskets-of-cheer>

This "Basket of Cheer" drawing enables Irish American Archives Society, a non-profit organization, to sponsor a podcast, talks, displays, and an informative website and newsletter.

The raffle prizes are 4 "baskets of cheer"--filled with spirits, glassware, and Irish biscuits and other treats. Each one revolves around a different "spirit"--whiskey, wine, beer, and non-alcoholic.

The first ticket pulled will choose the first prize, second ticket pulled next prize, and so on. Raffle will be conducted entirely online, and the winning tickets will be pulled the afternoon of the "virtual" IAAS fundraiser on Sunday, February 28.

Raffle ticket purchases are permitted until 1 pm on February 28, and the 4 winning tickets will be pulled at approximately 3 pm the same day. The winners will be contacted in pull order the same day so that each winner can make a basket choice in turn.

Recognition name*: _____

**Can include "in honor of . . ."—up to 150 characters total*

Contact name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email*: _____

**Needed for zoom invitation*

Check payable to the Irish American Archives Society in the amount of _____.

IAAS is a not-for-profit 501 c 3 organization (Tax ID #34-1772611)

IAAS will confirm and acknowledge charitable donation amount.

Donations in any amount are also welcome!

Names/emails for logins—per list above, emails needed for zoom invitation

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Etc.

Please return this form by February 15, 2021, to ensure sponsorship recognition.

Address: Irish American Archives Society, P.O. Box 91756, Cleveland, OH 44101-3756.

Direct questions to iaasadmin@gmail.com or Margaret Lynch 216-789-2105.



Irish American Archives Society Inc.
 P.O. Box 91756
 Cleveland, OH 44101-3756

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About Kevin Toolis

Kevin Toolis, author of the 2018 best-selling book, *My Father's Wake*, is a Bafta- and Emmy-nominated filmmaker, poet, TED speaker, and performer. Based in the UK most of his life, he now lives in his family's home on Achill Island. As a performer, he developed and performs an Irish Trad show called Wonders of the Wake. As a filmmaker, he won Best Single Drama BAFTA for *Complicit*, a drama about torture in the post 9/11 world starring Selma star David Oyelowo. As a documentary director, Kevin was nominated for a US Emmy for his masterpiece terrorism series *Cult of the Suicide Bomber*. In theatre, Kevin wrote and directed the London West End stage hit *The Confessions of Gordon Brown*. His harrowing 1997 non-fiction book, *Rebel Hearts*, investigated the lives of IRA soldiers and families during the "Troubles." After graduating from Edinburgh University, Kevin worked as a magazine writer and investigative reporter, publishing in the *New York Times*, *The Observer*, and *The Guardian*.



Kevin Toolis

Irish American Archives Society has commissioned Toolis to develop a multi-media reflection on immigration—"the long bleeding into exile"—from an Irish perspective. IAAS will premier his new work, "Home", at a live Zoom-based fundraising event on Sunday, February 28, 2021, 2 pm. See details inside.

Trustees: Ken Callahan Jr., Dan Conway, Thomas D. Corrigan, John Coyne, Ray Daull, Margaret (Meg) McGarry, John Myers, Erin O'Toole, Kevin O'Toole, Jim Proctor, Colleen Reali, Thomas J. Scanlon. **Trustees Emeritus:** Rosemarie Feighan DeJohn, Helen C. Malloy, Mary Karen O'Neil, Gerald Quinn, J. Gerard Sheehan **Executive Director:** Margaret Lynch, PhD.