



IAAS Walks of Life 2010

Mary Jordan

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Mary Jordan is a correspondent for the Washington Post who writes about American politics. For the last 14 years, she has reported from dozens of countries, including Tokyo, Mexico City and London. Prior to returning to Washington this year, she was the newspaper's London bureau chief from 2005 to 2009. As part of that assignment, she covered numerous stories in Ireland including one about the closing of more than 1,000 rural pubs in recent years due to rising prosperity, smoking bans and changing lifestyles.

Jordan graduated from St. Joseph Academy in Cleveland in 1979. Her mother, Nora, who emigrated from County Mayo in 1957, and her sister Maggie and brother Tom still live in Cleveland and remain members of the West Side Irish American Club. Mary spent much of her childhood days at the club at dances that invariably ended with the Siege of Ennis and practicing with the pom-pom unit and drill team for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. She also was the 1979 Ohio Rose of Tralee.

Jordan graduated from Georgetown University and won a scholarship to study Irish poetry at Trinity College in Dublin. She earned a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University and was one of 12 American journalists to win a Nieman fellow at Harvard University.

With her husband, Kevin Sullivan, who also works at the Washington Post, she won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for international reporting for a series on justice -- or lack of it -- in Mexico. That research led to her co-authoring a book, "The Prison Angel," about an American nun who voluntarily lives inside a Tijuana prison to help the poor.

Jordan is a frequent radio and TV commentator. She and her husband have two children, Kate and Tom. The family lives in Washington, D.C.

Irish American Archives Society
P. O. Box 91756
Cleveland OH 44101-3756
info@irisharchives.org